

“Together – We Can and We Will”

ZGODA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE **POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE** OF THE U.S. OF N.A.

WINTER **2020** | www.pna-znp.org

1882-2020 Vol. 165; No. 4



*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!*

*May Your Holidays Be Grand,
Your New Year Even Better!*

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As 2020 comes to a close, let us all be grateful for the good things we have in our lives. Family and friends are one of those things, they make a big difference, especially now during the holidays. The upcoming year will bring us challenges that may sometimes seem too difficult but don't give up. It is through the most trying of times when you conquer the impossible you recharge yourself and those who are most important in your life. Be thankful when you wake up in the morning and look forward to doing the impossible. Celebrate Christmas and the New Year, and remember, tomorrow will be better than today!

Cover: Stock Photo

(USPS 699-120)
Published Quarterly
The Official Publication
of the Polish National Alliance

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Articles and Photographs in Zgoda are: Credited to authors, creators, stock photos, public domain or others, efforts are made to credit source.

Periodicals—Postage Paid at Chicago, Illinois and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Zgoda, c/o PNA
6100 N. Cicero Avenue
Chicago, IL 60646-4385

Contents



President's Corner

December 2020

Dear Members,

We are nearing the end of one of the most chaotic years any of us have ever experienced. The Covid-19 pandemic has thrown our lives upside down. It has kept us away from our loved ones. Many of us have had to navigate challenges such as job loss and childcare as schools switched to remote or hybrid learning. Tragically, some of us have lost loved ones to this pandemic. Since the founding of the Polish National Alliance over 140 years ago in 1880, we have worked to support the Polish American community through good times and bad. I want to assure you that no matter what this pandemic throws at us, we will continue to honor that legacy and support our members to the best of our ability.

The safety of PNA employees and visitors has always been my top priority. As President of this organization, I am incredibly proud of our Officers and team of Employees for how they have all remained diligent, professional, and dedicated to providing the best service for our Members, despite the uncertainties and pressure that this pandemic has brought. We have remained operational while taking strict safety precautions within the building. We have been having more virtual meetings than ever before, and have had to postpone several key events.

Despite these challenges, there are several pieces of good news to share. The Polish National Alliance continues to do well financially. These times are already challenging enough. Living expenses continue to rise, as does the possibility of loss of income. In this time of great uncertainty, consider giving yourself and your loved ones the gift of peace of mind that life insurance provides. As a token of appreciation during our 140th,

we are contributing \$24.99 to a new annuity plan on each permanent application we receive, to applicants between the ages 0 through 85, during the months of November and December.

The Christmas season is the time of holiday spirit that inspires giving, hope, and togetherness. We need this spirit, and each other, now more than ever. I encourage you to open your hearts to someone who may be in need. Something as simple as a quick phone call, or a caring text message, can make someone's day. I am confident that we will persevere through these challenging times as a community and a nation.

Thank you for your membership with the Polish National Alliance. I wish you, your family and loved ones a very healthy and Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Wesołych Świąt i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku 2020!

Sincerely,

*Frank J. Spula, FLMI
President*



From the Editor

Wesołych Świąt!

2020 has been a memorable but not stellar year and the many events may have not always brought you cheer but I hope that this issue of *Zgoda* brings a little warmth and happiness to your home. Inside you'll find updates, stories and helpful information that will bring a smile to your face. As always we bring you news about our newest members, to members we say goodbye and to our rising PNA stars. We welcome our new contributors Malgorzata Bondyra and Michael Carnahan with their culinary skills as well as Prof. Dominc Pacyga with his tribute to Aloysius Mazewski. Of course Teresa Struziak Sherman shares her expertise on health, Prof. Don Pienkos, author and PNA historian deluxe, highlights women's roles in the PNA and the changes they inspired, and Dan Pogorzelski profiles the Malopolska region. Make sure to share this issue of *Zgoda* with your family and friends, they will certainly see that the Polish National Alliance is the organization they, too, would like to be a part of.

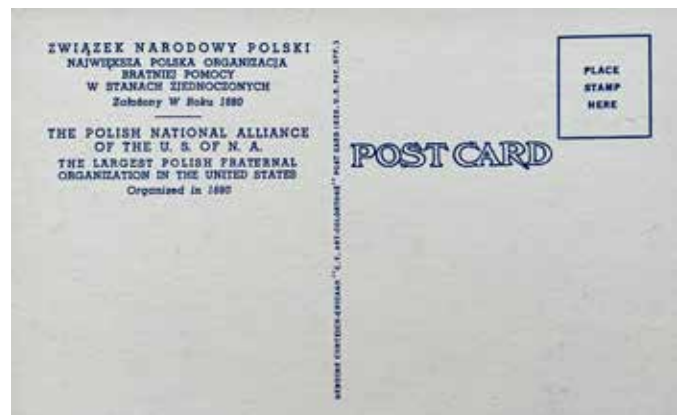
I wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all *Zgoda* readers.

Mark S. Dobrzycki
Editor in Chief

Reader's Respond!

Ms. Rose Carlson sent this picture postcard photo from the late 1930's. The card shows the second PNA Headquarters building on Division Avenue surrounded by streetlights, automobiles and topped off with Polish and American flags. The angled parking on the west end of the building is full and once again shows the popularity and importance of the PNA.

Rose, thank you for the memory!



THE FLU SHOT AND COVID-19



As I was preparing to visit my health care provider to receive my flu shot, I thought about informing our Zgoda readers about why, especially this year, it is very important for everyone older than six months to get a flu shot. Although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends getting the flu vaccine before the flu season starts, or by the end of October, anytime during the flu season can help prevent or lessen flu cases in the community. It is extremely helpful to people who have chronic diseases, such as diabetes, heart or kidney disease or respiratory problems to name a few. The flu is a respiratory disease caused by several different viruses. It can be mild or serious. It can cause complications, such as pneumonia, or

even death. A flu shot reduces your chances for getting the flu, getting a milder case if you happen to get the flu, and decreases your chances of spreading the flu to others. The flu vaccine causes your body to develop antibodies in about two weeks after getting the vaccine. The antibodies help your body to fight off the flu viruses.

This year the flu shots have 3-4 components. This year approved flu vaccines include Fluzone HD (high dose) with 4 components for people age 65 and older, and Fluvad with 4 components and a compound that helps improve the immune response in people needing such a component for those age 65 and older. The flu shot is covered by Medicare and most other health insurance plans.

Check with your healthcare provider as to which flu shot is right for you. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice strongly recommends getting the flu shot this year. Generally, flu vaccines are 50% effective in preventing the flu for a particular season due to changes that occur in the virus itself during the flu season, usually November to May. Flu shots are offered to the public annually because flu strains change year to year and flu immunity gradually diminishes to zero by the following flu season. Please know that the flu shot does NOT, and cannot, cause the flu. If someone tells you that they got the flu from the flu shot, it could be related to the person having been infected prior to getting the shot. It takes about 2 weeks before the flu shot becomes fully protective.

On March 11, 2019, a pandemic was declared, called coronavirus disease (COVID-19). When COVID-19 hit the United States in early 2020, most of the flu season was over. This year will be quite different. The COVID-19 virus is



still with us and we are about to embark on the flu season. The severity of both viruses may overwhelm the healthcare system. The deaths for COVID-19 are far greater than that for seasonal flu.

Seasonal Flu. Most of us are familiar with the seasonal flu. As the cold months approach, so does the flu. The flu has a season, cold weather. COVID-19 does not have a season. Cold, warm, wet or dry, COVID-19 remains with us. We need to get our annual flu shot and ride out the storm. Seasonal flu remains a serious issue in and of itself. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), up to 650,000 deaths occur globally from the flu each year.

Differences between the Flu and COVID-19

Signs and symptoms of flu: fever/ chills; cough; difficulty breathing; feeling tired; sore throat; nose congestion; body aches/muscle pain; headache, and some people, especially children, may also experience vomiting/diarrhea.

Signs and symptoms of COVID-19: Same as for flu with an addition of change or loss of taste or smell.

When do symptoms appear after exposure to the flu: From 1-4 days after being exposed to the flu.

When do symptoms appear after exposure to COVID-19: Most often 5 days after exposure, but can appear from 2-14 days after exposure.

How long can an infected person spread the flu virus: About one day before

symptoms appear, 3-4 days during the course of their disease, lasting up to 7 days. Infants and persons with problems with their immune systems can be contagious even longer.

How long can an infected person spread COVID-19: Basically unknown, but it is possible that it can be spread for 2 days before symptoms appear and for at least 10 days after signs and symptoms appear. If a person has no symptoms, or mild symptoms disappear, s/he may remain contagious for at least 10 days after testing positive for COVID-19.

The Second Wave of COVID-19. Reports throughout the United States have increasing numbers of COVID-19 infections. Early indicators suggest that we are entering a second wave of COVID-19 and health officials are preparing for it to happen. Unlike the flu, which emerges during the winter months, COVID-19 does not seem to have a certain time for infecting people. It has continued through all seasons thus far. We will all see how COVID-19 behaves during the winter season. The COVID-19 vaccine, although in the process of being developed, will not be available for everyone until sometime in 2021. The flu vaccine should be a critical part of preparing for the increase in COVID-19 cases, especially for pregnant women, people with chronic diseases and those who are immune compromised, the elderly and health care providers caring for ill and disabled individuals.

Prevention: To help maintain good health and safety from the flu

and COVID-19, get the flu shot to provide some immune response to COVID-19, follow the CDC guidelines and those of your state, wear masks and other protective equipment as required, maintain proper hygiene, keep social distancing, isolate yourself if exposed to the virus and stay home if you are sick.

Conclusion: All persons six months or older should receive a flu shot, unless you have egg allergies, have had reactions to prior flu shots that are medically proven to be the cause of the reaction, have Guillain-Barre Syndrome or have a fever. The season for the flu and a possible resurgence of COVID-19, is a red flag that we should all get the flu vaccine. It may keep the flu away, and make for a less case of COVID-19, should you be in the path of either of the two, or both. You are the decision maker for getting the flu shot. I know that I made the decision, got the flu shot and had no ill effects from the vaccine. Good health is wished to all our Zgoda readers.

Teresa Struziak Sherman,
RN, BSN, MS
PNA National Director

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1. Brody, J.E. [Sept. 16, 2020]. *How flu shots can help in fight against COVID-19. The republican, Springfield, MA. From the New York Times. P. 1-2.*
2. Maltezou, H.C. et al. [Sept. 3, 2020]. *Influenza immunization and COVID-19. Science Digest. Vaccine. V. 38, Issue 39. P. 6078-6079.*
3. Rittle, C. & Carpenter, H. [October 2020]. *Flu vaccination and COVID-19. American Nurse Journal. P. 27.*
4. Winzeler, D. [Sept. 2020]. *Preparing for the upcoming flu season. Provider. P. 41-42.*



From the Manager of Sales

Dear PNA Members,

The year 2020 is finally coming to an end. For the PNA, it was a year of celebrating our 140th anniversary, starting on February 15th. For all of us, it was a year of pandemic distress and unexpected circumstances that made us reflect on our health, wellbeing of our families, and financial situation. Since 1880, PNA has stood with its Members in good and bad times, and this year was no different. In appreciation of your membership, and with future members in mind, PNA has created two exceptional offers for this holiday season:

- 1. For Kids - a Single Premium Whole Life** certificate would make a thoughtful, life-lasting gift for your child, grandchild, godchild, niece or nephew. At the young age of the insured, a low one-time premium can buy a substantial coverage amount with growing cash value and access to the fraternal benefits we pride ourselves with. As a token of our appreciation, PNA will open an annuity account in the amount of \$24.99 for your child. This is a limited time offer. Don't miss this unique opportunity to set your child on the right financial path to the future!
- 2. For Adults – a Life Paid up at Ninety** whole life plan of insurance with the lowest, most affordable premiums available by the PNA. Make sure your family is adequately protected without putting a strain on your current budget, and accept our new annuity plan with \$24.99 on it, for a good start to a lifetime of savings and protection.

This year, as a token of our appreciation, between November 1st and December 31st, 2020, PNA will set up an annuity in the amount \$24.99 with every permanent plan of insurance.

Enjoy the Christmas season to the best of your ability in these trying times. Make sure you let your loved ones know you care. Please wear face coverings and practice social distancing when out.

Lastly, let us provide you with the security of life insurance.

Thank you again for your membership.

Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Fraternally yours,

Jolanta Walaszek



An annuity with the PNA

- Allows you to save money for the future and defer paying taxes
- Provides additional funds when you decide to retire to supplement social security, pension, or retirement plan
- Provides flexibility in the distribution of funds
- Provides financial security for your loved ones
- Attractive interest rates and no service charges

Special Gift for Christmas

LIMITED TIME OFFER

'2020 Special Deal'

- * With a Single Premium Plan (ages 0-15) purchase, PNA contributes **\$24.99** towards an annuity plan.

The Single Premium Whole Life provides:

- * A lifetime of protection for one low payment
- * Cash value increase
- * PNA membership entitling your child to fraternal programs such as: scholarships and various contests.

OFFER AVAILABLE UNTIL

December 31st, 2020

Please, contact your local Sales Representative or call PNA Membership Department at:

1-800-621-3723

ext. 325, 330, 344



www.pna-znp.org

 Facebook.com/PNAZNP

SINGLE PREMIUM WHOLE LIFE				
AGE	BOY		GIRL	
	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,000
ONE TIME PAYMENT		ONE TIME PAYMENT		
0	831.30	2,033.25	748.10	1,825.25
1	858.10	2,100.25	772.10	1,885.25
2	886.00	2,170.00	797.30	1,948.25
3	915.00	2,242.50	823.50	2,013.75
4	945.10	2,317.75	850.60	2,081.50
5	976.40	2,396.00	878.60	2,151.50
6	1,008.70	2,476.75	907.60	2,224.00
7	1,042.20	2,560.50	937.70	2,299.25
8	1,077.00	2,647.50	968.80	2,377.00
9	1,112.90	2,737.25	1,001.00	2,457.50
10	1,150.00	2,830.00	1,034.30	2,540.75
11	1,188.40	2,926.00	1,068.70	2,626.75
12	1,227.80	3,024.50	1,104.40	2,716.00
13	1,268.20	3,125.50	1,141.30	2,808.25
14	1,309.30	3,228.25	1,179.00	2,902.50
15	1,350.90	3,332.25	1,217.40	2,998.50

Higher amounts available. Subject to underwriting. One annuity per member.



**APPLICATION FOR
INDIVIDUAL LIFE
INSURANCE**
Amounts \$30,000 and below

**POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE
of the United States of North America**
A Fraternal Benefit Life Insurance Society since 1880
6100 N. Cicero Avenue
Chicago, IL 60646-4386
pna-znp.org

Lodge No. _____

Certificate No. _____
For office use only

1. Name of Proposed Insured:		2. Sex M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Date of Birth	4. Age	5. Email
6. Address				7. Phone	8. Place of Birth
9. Social Security No.	10. Marital Status <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced		12. Occupation		13. Employer
14. Owner: (if other than insured):		Relationship:	Social Security No.	Email	
Address		City:	State	Zip	
15. Primary Beneficiary:		Relationship:	Social Security No.		
Address		City:	State	Zip	
16. Contingent Beneficiary:		Relationship:	Social Security No.		
Address		City:	State	Zip	

17a. Plan of Insurance _____ 17b. Amount of Insurance _____

18. Would you like to add the following riders: Disability waiver of premium Yes No; Accidental Death Benefit Yes No

19. Select a mode of payment: annual semi-annual quarterly monthly Payment Submitted: _____

20. Select a dividend option: Left on deposit Cash Purchase Paid up additions Reduce Premiums

21. Would you like the automatic premium loan option? Yes No

22. Does the proposed insured have any existing life insurance or annuity contracts now in force? Yes No

23. Is this insurance intended to replace or change any insurance now in force? Yes No

If "Yes" provide Company and Policy # below

INSURABILITY QUESTIONS

	Yes	No
1. Height _____ 2. Weight _____ 3. Have you smoked or used any form of tobacco within last 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Within the past 10 years has the proposed insured ever been treated for or diagnosed by a medical professional with:		
a. Disease or disorder of heart, kidneys, stomach, liver, lungs, bones or joints?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. High blood pressure, chest pain, diabetes, cancer or tumor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Nervous or mental disease, alcoholism or any drug habit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Currently taking medication? (If yes, indicate type and dosage below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Has the proposed insured been treated by a medical professional for any other physical disease or deformity or consulted or been examined by any physician for other than a symptom-free check-up or had an electrocardiogram, x-rays, blood studies or has been hospitalized during the past five years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Has any application for life insurance been declined, withdrawn, postponed, or modified in any way by any insurance company during the past 5 years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Has the proposed insured had a driver's license suspended or revoked in the past 5 years? If "Yes" provide DL #	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FOR QUESTIONS 3 THRU 8 ABOVE, PROVIDE DETAILS TO "YES" ANSWERS. Attach another sheet if you need more room

Question:	Name and address of physician and hospital	Specific reason consults and results

Fraud warning notice

Any person who knowingly presents a false statement in an application for insurance may be guilty of a criminal offense and subject to penalties under state law.

ICC18 SHORT AP (2018)

Please complete reverse side

Acknowledgement

Please mark the following box, if applicable

I acknowledge that an illustration conforming to the life insurance certificate applied for was not provided. I understand that an illustration will be provided no later than at the time of certificate delivery

To the best of my knowledge and belief the statements and answers in the application are true, complete and correctly recorded. I agree that this application will be the basis for any certificate issued on this application. I further agree that this insurance applied for shall be subject to the conditions and provisions of the contract of insurance and will not take effect until the policy is issued by the Polish National Alliance of the U.S. of N.A. (PNA), the full first year premium has been paid to the PNA and the Proposed Insured's health and other conditions are as described in this application.

THE POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THE U.S. OF N.A. IS LICENSED TO DO BUSINESS AS A FRATERNAL BENEFIT SOCIETY. AS SUCH, IT IS NOT INCLUDED IN ANY STATE'S LIFE AND HEALTH GUARANTY ASSOCIATION (OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION). THIS MEANS THAT FRATERNAL BENEFIT SOCIETIES CANNOT BE ASSESSED FOR THE INSOLVENCY OF OTHER LIFE INSURERS OR OTHER FRATERNAL BENEFIT SOCIETIES. BY LAW, A FRATERNAL BENEFIT SOCIETY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS OWN SOLVENCY. IF THERE IS AN IMPAIRMENT OF RESERVES, A POLICYHOLDER MAY BE ASSESSED A PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE IMPAIRMENT. THIS PROCESS IS DESCRIBED IN THE POLICY ISSUED BY THE SOCIETY.

on

Signed in _____
City/State Date Signature of Proposed Insured

Signature of Agent Signature of Owner

Authorization for Release of Health-Related Information

This Authorization complies with the HIPAA Privacy Rule

I hereby authorize any licensed physician, medical practitioner, pharmacy benefits manager, hospital, clinic or other medical or medically related facility, insurance company, MIB Inc. or other organization, institution or person, that has any records or knowledge of me or my health to give to the Polish National Alliance of the U.S. of N.A., or its reinsurers, any such information. I authorize the Polish National Alliance of the U.S. of N.A., or its reinsurers, to make a brief report of my personal health information to MIB. A photographic copy of this authorization shall be as valid as the original.

I understand that the information in my health record may include information relating to sexually transmitted diseases, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). It may also include information about behavioral or mental health services and treatment for alcohol and drug abuse.

I also understand that when my medical records are disclosed pursuant to this Authorization, my medical records and the information contained in those records may be subject to re-disclosure by the recipient and may no longer be protected by federal privacy laws.

I understand that I may revoke this Authorization, except to the extent that any healthcare provider or the Polish National Alliance of the United States of North America has acted in reliance upon this Authorization. My revocation of this Authorization must be submitted in writing to:

**Polish National Alliance of the United States of North America
Attn. Privacy Compliance Officer
6100 N. Cicero Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60646**

This Authorization will expire twenty-four (24) months after the date the Authorization is signed or for the time limit, if any, permitted by applicable law in the state where the policy is delivered or issued for delivery.

Signature of Individual Whose Information is to be Disclosed Date

Print Name of Individual

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian Print Name of Parent or Legal Guardian

Life Paid Up at Ninety



LIFE INSURANCE IS ABOUT TAKING CARE OF YOUR LOVED ONES.

It gives you peace of mind and helps achieve long term goals.

Choose the best one for you.

LIFE PAID UP AT NINETY

- ✓ Permanent Life Insurance Plan
- ✓ Low fixed payments to age 90
- ✓ Allows you to leave financial legacy

LIMITED TIME OFFER

Until December 31, 2020, PNA contributes \$24.99 towards an annuity plan with each purchase of permanent life insurance.

Contact your local Sales Representative or call

PNA Membership Department at: **1-800-621-3723**
ext. 325, 330, 344

\$15,000 FACE AMOUNT		
AGE	MALE	FEMALE
	MONTHLY PREMIUMS	
50	\$28.23	\$25.79
51	\$29.42	\$26.84
52	\$30.67	\$27.93
53	\$32.00	\$29.09
54	\$33.41	\$30.31
55	\$34.91	\$31.60
56	\$36.57	\$33.16
57	\$38.35	\$34.82
58	\$40.27	\$36.60
59	\$42.32	\$38.50
60	\$44.52	\$40.54
61	\$46.89	\$42.73
62	\$49.42	\$45.08
63	\$52.15	\$47.60
64	\$55.08	\$50.31
65	\$58.24	\$53.24
66	\$61.75	\$56.39
67	\$65.57	\$59.79
68	\$69.73	\$63.49
69	\$74.25	\$67.53
70	\$78.21	\$70.65



Rates provided above are for non-smokers. Higher amounts available. Subject to underwriting. Medical examination may be required.

Team PNA for Polish Independence



For the third year in a row, the WPNA 103.1 FM, Polish American Mix organized The Polish Independence Run (Bieg Niepodległości) 10K/5K Run/Walk. This event is to commemorate Poland gaining back its independence after 123 years from the Russian, Prussian, and Austro-Hungarian Empires on November 11th, 1918.

The 2020 Run/Walk is quite different from previous years. The run was originally scheduled to take place on the Chicago lakefront at Montrose harbor, but these plans had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19

Pandemic. So the WPNA organized a virtual run instead! This year, runners who registered online could run or walk their selected distance wherever and whenever they choose. Registrants were mailed a runner's bib, a custom finisher's medal, event T-shirt, and other goodies. Since the race was virtual, this means that people from all over the country could sign up. Polish Americans from all over the United States found and are continuing to find ways to run, walk, or race the distance in their own ways, whether that be in their own neighborhood, their favorite park, or on a treadmill.

On Saturday, October 24th, 2020, a group of Polish National Alliance employees came together as a team and participated in the walk together! It was a lovely event that also came at the end of Polish Heritage month.

Dressed up in their warm running gear, event T-shirts, and while waving Polish flags, the team walked 5K in the scenic Sauganash neighborhood and trail. All participants wore masks, used hand sanitizer as needed, and practiced social distancing. After the walk, the team enjoyed coffee, s'mores, Polish chocolates, and some delicious kielbasa around a small bonfire.

The next run/walk is scheduled for November 2021. Hopefully, all participants will be able to run or walk in-person together next year. But no matter what the state of the world is, we know that the enthusiasm of Polish Americans will find a way to celebrate our heritage together, whether physically or in spirit.

*Story by Magdalena Biedroń
PNA Photos*



Women, the Centennial of the 19th Amendment, and the PNA

Our fraternal ahead of the times!



Vice President Helen Szymanowicz takes the oath of the office of PNA President from PNA Censor Hilary Czapliski following the sudden deaths of President Aloysius Mazewski in August of 1988.

The year 2020 marked the centennial anniversary of one of the most momentous actions ever taken by the Government of the United States. This was the final approval of the 19th Amendment to our country's Constitution. It was mid August in 1920, when the Tennessee legislature voted to approve the amendment, thus making it the required 36th state of the Union to ratify the right of women citizens to vote (and hold elective public office) throughout our land.

This was truly amazing and for two reasons. For one thing, the 19th Amendment gave political participatory rights to fully half of our nation's citizens. And two, its

passage came only after more than seventy years of strenuous, frustrating lobbying by women "suffragettes" and their men friends and allies. Indeed, the task was incredibly difficult for it called on them to persuade two-thirds of the members of the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives and majorities in three-quarters of the state legislatures in America to approve this measure!

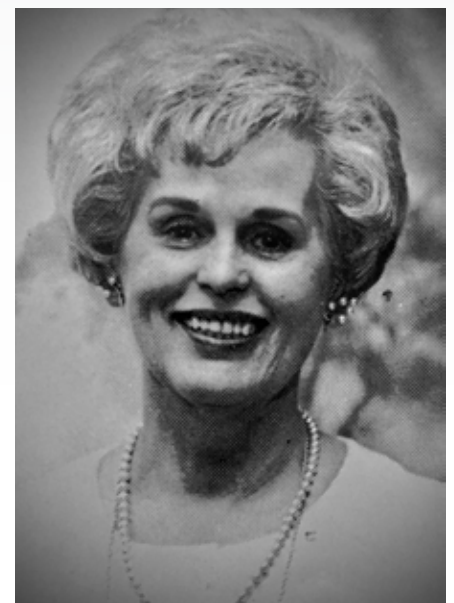
In the November 1920 presidential election held soon after the 19th amendment's passage, 26 million women citizens were enfranchised. And indeed the total overall vote in that election rose dramatically – to 26.8 million in 1920 from 18.6 mil-

lion four years before.

Today, a woman's right to vote and to hold public office is taken for granted. How easy it is to forget those "good old days" when most men (and many women too) held fast to the opinion that politics and government was "man's work"!

Not surprisingly, when our Polish National Alliance was founded in 1880, women were not initially granted membership. This was despite the appeals by women activists like **Teofila Samolinska** of Chicago, a staunch supporter of the PNA idea from the start. Already in 1883, however, the PNA did put into effect a motion to allow women to be insured through their husbands.

By the late 1890s PNA thinking



Lottie Kubiak



PNA Vice President Teresa Abick and President Bill Clinton

was changing as growing numbers of men in our fraternal were coming to agree with women activists in advocating full membership rights for women. But in October 1899, at the 13th PNA convention, a speed bump appeared. There the delegates voted down a resolution to grant full membership rights to women.

Soon after, however, the Alliance reversed course 180 degrees. Here it was greatly influenced by the action by disappointed women who decided to create their own fraternal, the Polish Women's Alliance, an organization whose aims were much the same as the PNA.

In response, PNA Censor Leon Sadowski called an extraordinary convention for Chicago and for the sole purpose of amending the PNA Constitution. At this gathering in March 1900, the delegates voted 187 to 10 to grant full membership rights to women. The resolution in support of the vote rightly recognized "women as a formidable force able to work even more effectively for Poland's good and for ... our young people."

This extraordinary action came twenty years before the ratification of the 19th amendment.

Led by longtime activist **Valerie Lipczynska** of Grand Rapids, Michigan women immediately made their presence felt. Indeed, insured PNA membership jumped in one year's time from 15,000 to 29,000; In 1913, when the PNA membership surpassed 100,000 for the first time, 35,000 were women. And so it has been ever since. Today, half of the insured membership of the Polish National Alliance is made up of women.

In 1906, through Valerie Lipczynska's initiative, the Women's Division of the PNA was established. From the start it proved to be



Valeria Lipczynska

a powerful force in the PNA and the entire Polish American community. Its activities included its energetic and inspiring volunteer work in a host of areas, including those involving sports, youth and educational programs, its humanitarian efforts on behalf of Poland and the Polish American community's needy, and of course its members' dedication to enrolling new members into the Alliance.

In 1909, 30 year old **Maria Sadowska** was elected to be the very first woman to serve on the PNA Board of Directors. **Casimira Obarska** became a vice president a few years later although she did not have a vote on Board decisions. This changed in 1921 with the election of **Magdalena Milewska**; by this time at least four of the 15 members of the PNA Board of Directors were always women.

In 1935, the PNA re-organized its network of District Commissioners into a body of 32 members, the Supervisory Council, composed of two Commissioners from each of the 16 regional PNA districts across the country. Made responsible for working with the Board of Directors in promoting the PNA mission, the re-organized Supervisory Council was mandated to have one man and one woman to be elected from each regional district.

Women PNA members, like **Helen Moll**, also became prominent journalists and editors in the publications of the Alliance, *Żgoda* and the *Dziennik Żwiązkowy*. Today's *Żgoda* features an informative health



Magdalena Milewska



Maria Sakowska, a Polish American born in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, in 1909 was the first woman elected to the PNA Board of Directors. She was deeply involved in helping to organize the Polish Saturday school movement in America and a number of PNA libraries throughout the country.

and wellness column by **Teresa Sherman.**

There have been so many dedicated women PNA activists over the years who have contributed to its mission over the years that it is impossible to even begin to mention them here! Suffice it to say that between 1909 and 2015, when the PNA underwent its administrative restructuring, forty women were elected to serve on its national Board of Directors. They came from all over the country – from New Jersey and Maryland, Pennsylvania and Ohio, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts, from Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin, to Texas and California. What is more, no fewer than 131 women have been district commissioners of the Alliance over this same period of time. Their names are listed

in the publications below. Their service has been nothing short of awe-inspiring!

In Addition, seven women have served as Vice President and one, Indiana’s **Lottie Kubiak** was National Secretary for two terms.

Currently, Alicja Kuklinska, who was born in Poland, is serving her first elected term as National Secretary.



Casimira Obarska

Two women who were elected to be First Vice President of the PNA have served as president, too. This has happened in the wake of the death of the incumbent president. In August 1988, Vice President **Helen Szymanowicz** of Erie, Pennsylvania became president on the death of President Aloysius Mazewski. She served until the special election to fill the office was held that October. In February 2005, Vice President **Teresa Abick** of Detroit, Michigan became president on the passing of President Edward Moskal.

In 1996, Vice President Abick organized a series of events to

celebrate the entry of women into the PNA in 1900 and the creation of the Women’s Division in 1906. In connection with these historic anniversaries, she invited three former PNA national directors, **Catherine Dienes, Melanie Winiecki,** and Don Pienkos to create a special publication for all to read. This wonderful, richly illustrated photographic work is titled, “Women Make A Difference” – which was Abick’s favorite saying.

And as President Moskal wrote in the preface to the book, “The decision to give women equal rights within our organization has proven to be one of the best the PNA ever made.” Rightly so!*

*For the PNA women officers in the PNA of today one needs only look at our current Zgoda. These fine individuals carry on our mission to the fullest and in the spirit of all who have preceded them. Sources for this piece: Donald E. Pienkos, PNA: A Centennial History of the Polish National Alliance of the United States of North America (1984), chapters 2-3, 10; Pienkos, Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow: The Story of the Polish National Alliance (2008); Catherine Dienes, Melanie Winiecki, and Donald Pienkos, Women Make a Difference: On the 95th and 90th Anniversaries of Women’s Involvement in the PNA (1996).

By Don Pienkos

A retired University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee professor, he is a published author of several books and an expert on PNA history.

Polish National Alliance Scholarship Program

Deadline is April 15th, 2021



The Polish National Alliance is pleased to announce the PNA's Annual College Scholarships. The program is available to all PNA members who are currently enrolled as full-time College or University students and who will be continuing their undergraduate studies in the Fall 2021 semesters.

Full-time students who will be Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors in the Fall 2021 semester qualify for scholarships. Incoming freshmen do not qualify.

Please check Community/Scholarship Program tabs for Rules, Regulations, and Application. You may also request the Application by e-mailing:

fraternal@pna-znp.org

or calling: **1-800-621-3723 ext. 312**

www.pna-znp.org



The Polish National Alliance is proud of this program. It is not only a substantial demonstration of our organization's dedication to fraternalism but is also keeping with our historic commitment to support the intellectual and educational aspirations of our members.

PNA West End Pulaski Lodge 1052 2020

Raymond S. Twardy Scholarship Awards

The PNA West End Pulaski Lodge 1052 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania has selected their 2020 Raymond S. Twardy Scholarships recipients. These five outstanding members of the West End Pulaski Lodge were each awarded a \$500 scholarship to be used for their college expenses.

The recipients were selected based on their academic achievement and PNA lodge participation. The Twardy Scholarships are normally awarded at the annual Communion Breakfast held during the Easter season, however due to this year's pandemic the awardees were notified by mail.

2020 marks the seventh year of the Twardy Scholarship Awards. The money is given to college students who have shown remarkable scholastic achievement and their fraternal participation in our lodge and community. The PNA West End Pulaski Lodge has provided in total \$55,500 to 111 deserving recipients.

The 2020 Raymond S. Twardy Scholarships recipients are the following students: Isabella Bogdan attending James Madison University, Elizabeth Dayton at Auburn University, Erica Pawlos studying at Duquesne University, Kevin Smith at Indiana University, and Taylor Smith of Gannon University.

Congratulations to all!

*Submitted by **Jeff Twardy**,
PNA Director*

2020 PNA Photo Contest

On Tuesday, November 3, 2020 a committee of three members (James Gura, CFO Polish National Alliance; Lukasz Dudka, General Manager of Polish Daily News; Jacek Niemczyk, General Manager WPNA Radio103.1 FM &1490 AM) met at the PNA Home Office to choose the winners of the 2020 Photo Contest. This year's theme was, "The PNA Portrait".



The contestants each submitted an 8 x 10 photo. This year, 26 entries were received. The committee carefully looked at each entry and chose 10 photos based on originality and technique.

Winners of the 2020 PNA Photo Contest (in alphabetical order)

Aniela Babiarz
Muskegon, MI
"Stare Dobre Czasy"

Ted Chapa
Cocoa, FL
"My Golden Years"

Hiacynta Babiarz
Muskegon, MI
„Wiła Wianki”

Kazimierz Dudzik-Ducut
Los Angeles, CA
"COVID Childhood"

Kristine Babiarz
Muskegon, MI
"Wujek Lesiu"

Isabella Kowalinska-Manalac
Los Angeles, CA
"Self-Portrait"

Marzena Babiarz
Muskegon, MI
"Hey! Góraleczko"

Josephine Kowalinska-Manalac
Los Angeles, CA
"Dziewczynka z Pieskiem"

Joanna Bojarzynska
Buffalo Grove, IL
"Emily"

Wiktor Lechwar
Burbank, IL
„Fall Outdoor Fun"

On behalf of Polish National Alliance Officers and Directors, we would like to extend a Thank You to everyone who took part in this contest. We look forward to seeing your entry in 2021!

You can find information about the 2021 Photo Contest in the Zgoda Magazine and PNA website.

PNA Art Gallery



"Stare Dobre Czasy"



„Wiła Wianki”



"Wujek Lesiu"



"Hey! Góraleczko"



“Emily”



“Self-Portrait”



“My Golden Years”



“Dziewczynka z Pieskiem”



“COVID Childhood”



„Fall Outdoor Fun”

The PNA's Wici Song and Dance Ensemble The Best and Toughest Around!

Although this year has had its difficulties, 2020 did start out with some very successful events, such as our annual Wici Ball. The spectacular evening took place at the beautiful Allegra Banquets in Schiller Park, Illinois, about 600 guests were at the festivities. Each of our groups gave a spectacular performance which was met with thunderous applause. The fun continued into the night when the youngest and oldest guests danced together just like family.

The Wici Dancers were preparing for many more exciting events, such



as the PNA Concert in March and our own end of the year concert as well. We had also been invited to participate in CIOFF Festivals in Moldova, Cyprus, and Georgia in Europe. Just as we had decided to accept the invitation to attend the festival in Georgia and our artists happily begun learning the famous songs of Alibaba, our world was turned upside down when the Covid-19 Pandemic struck. The festival was called off, schools closed, and Wici Song and Dance Theater had to close its doors with the health of the dancers and staff becoming of paramount importance. A cruel fate, in the form of a vile virus,

deprived our artists of the opportunity to pursue their passion. From March 2020, the Wici dancers' only means of communication were via phone or social media. They were left with only video clips of past performances and their memories. Over the summer, as the pandemic reined on, the dancers of the representative group were able to meet for a few practices to prepare dances for private celebrations. The dancers were so thrilled to be reunited with each other and folk dance, that they were practically kissing the dance floor. The longing for dance, however, won. After numerous phone calls from parents with a re-



quest to resume classes, director and head choreographer, Magdalena Solarz, began to work on a solution to this problem. Ms. Magdalena Solarz devoted a lot of time and energy into planning safe and effective procedures and protocols in order for the dancers to return to classes. And the results were good.

At the end of September, Wici Song and Dance Theater resumed its activities! On Mondays and Wednesdays, in the PNA building, with extra precautions and safety procedures, Wici members began instructions in singing and dancing, not in pairs and groups but keeping in mind the situation, good enough to learn and maintain our dance skills. The energy is bursting from within our youngest to our oldest dancers. We have many new faces that joined Wici and we look forward to beginning more classes in the northern suburbs of Chicago again soon. Wici doesn't give up and we continue our strong history and history because we are tough and we are the best. Our new slogan is "We can dance out of this pandemic!"

for updated info visit:

www.pna-znp.org

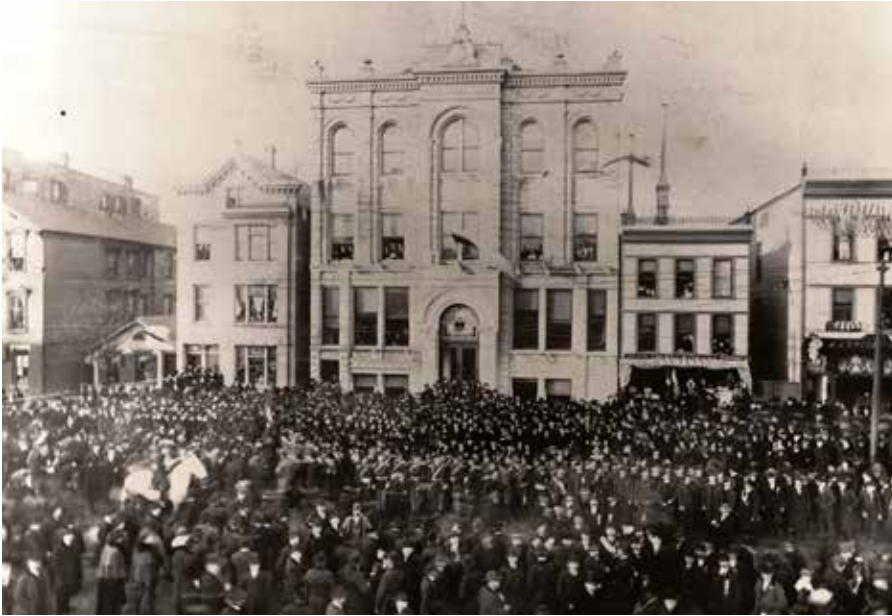
or our facebook page:

<https://m.facebook.com/PNAZNP/>



The Polish National Alliance

Its Origin and Creation



Dedication and opening day of the newly built Polish National Alliance Headquarters at 1404 West Division Street on Thursday, November 26, 1896. Photo courtesy of Dominic A. Pacyga

The origins of the Polish National Alliance predates its founding in 1880. In May 1875, Władysław Dyniewicz, publisher and leader of the Gmina Polska, a nationalist organization in Chicago, reacted to the creation of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), the first Polish fraternal. He called for a rival organization based on nationalist principals and open to all who believed in Polish independence regardless of religious beliefs. His appeal failed, but three years later, Agaton Giller, in Rapperswil, Switzerland called for the establishment of a patriotic organization in the United States. When a famine struck the Prussian controlled Polish Silesia in 1879, American Poles raised money to aid

those affected. Organizers held a meeting in Philadelphia in February 1880 and thus began the new organization, the PNA. In July 1880, at a meeting held in Michał Majewski's tavern, Gmina Polska, organizers called for the first PNA convention to be held in Chicago, the home at that time to the largest concentration of Poles in America.

The convention opened on September 20, 1880 at St. Wenclaus Church, a Czech parish on Chicago's West Side. The church provided a neutral, but Catholic place, for the group sparring with the Rev. Wincenty Barzyński, C.R. (Congregation of the Resurrection) and the fraternal which he founded, the PRCUA. After the Mass,

delegates and non-voting members went to the Palmer House Hotel to conduct the first *Sejm*. Gmina Polska members dominated the meeting. The constitution of the newborn PNA promised support for Polish independence and the establishment of an insurance fund for immigrants. The PNA then established its headquarters in a rented building in Chicago's Loop, the city's center and downtown. Later it moved to the heart of the Polish neighborhood on the Northwest Side, and in 1896 built its own building at 1404 West Division Street (archived photo, opening day) later moving a block west to another PNA built building at 1520 West Division Street (more info, Zgoda, Fall 2020, pages 5-6).

The difference between the two Polish American organizations was how they defined *Polskość*, "Polishness". Nationalists claimed that Jews, Protestants, Orthodox Christians, and even non-believers could be Polish as long as they yearned for an independent Poland. The PRCUA also hoped for Polish independence, but they saw Catholicism as the foremost important factor in the lives of Poles. PNA members, for the most part devout Catholics, however refused to be told who could and who could not be members of their organization and put the object of Polish independence first.

Giller advised the American Poles not to break with the Catholic

Church, but to embrace it as an ally. This became a very difficult thing to do at times given the dispute with Rev. Barzyński and the PRCUA. Many PNA members embraced the romantic ideals of the Polish insurrectionists, while the PRCUA leadership took a different approach calling for “organic” work to rebuild the Polish nation. The two groups also differed on their attitude toward the immigration of Poles to the United States. The PNA originally saw it as temporary and that immigrants would return once Poland regained its independence. The PRCUA saw the immigration as more or less permanent. This clash led to a long-lasting division in Polonia that pulled the community apart in the years before World War One and the restoration of Polish independence. Today’s PNA has become the largest and most successful of all the Polish American fraternals and organizations. It is a direct result of this long-ago history.

By Dominic A. Pacyga

Dominic A. Pacyga is professor emeritus of history at Columbia College Chicago. He has written many books including Polish Immigrants and Industrial Chicago: Workers on the South Side, 1880–1922; Chicago: A Biography; and Slaughterhouse: Chicago’s Union Stock Yard and the World It Made, all from the University of Chicago Press. Pacyga received the 2014 Mieczyslaw Haiman Award for exceptional and sustained contribution to the study of Polish Americans. His newest book, American Warsaw, is a best seller and recently earned the Oskar Halecki Award from the Polish American Historical Association.

The PNA and PNC

In the town of Cheektowaga just east of Buffalo, New York is The Holy Mother of the Rosary Cemetery. It is third oldest Polish cemetery in the region having been purchased in September of 1896 from the Ney family for \$6,000. The cemetery became a shared identity of the Polish parishes in the area, after they all affiliated with the Polish National Catholic Church based in Scranton, Pennsylvania.



Many important religious members of the Polish National Catholic Church are buried here; among them is Julian Lipinski, a founding father of the Polish National Alliance. A veteran of the January Uprising of 1863 living in Philadelphia, Lipinski along with Julian Andrzejkowicz organized a meeting on February 15, 1880. At this meeting, a mission to create a national federation for all the Polish organizations of Polonia that would craft policies for the betterment of Polish America

emerged. Andrzejkowicz proposed they call it “Zwiazek Narodowy Polski”, or the Polish National Alliance. They held their first elections with Andrzejkowicz being elected president of the alliance, John Szoner as vice president, Julian Szajnert as secretary, and Lipinski as treasurer. Within nine months, 20 societies from across the country had joined and on August 10, 1880 a now nationally elected president Andrzejkowicz called for a constitutional convention, marking the official birth of the Polish National Alliance.

Julian would be active in the PNA during its early rise despite his age. He attended five of the PNA sejms, and was chairman of the 1897 National Convention held in Buffalo, where he had been living in retirement. At that convention Lipinski was voted an honorary lifetime member. In 1898, Julian passed away and was interred in a modest grave near the rear of the cemetery.

Due to his importance to this largest of Polish American organizations, the PNA had Lipinski’s grave moved to a more prominent location and commissioned a fitting monument for their founder. On May 30, 1915, his marker bearing the seal of the Polish National Alliance was unveiled following a parade and formal ceremony.

By Mark Dobrzycki

Special thanks to Mary Srodon and Maureen Gleason for the information and photos.

It's COOL to be in Polish school

*...especially if it is affiliated with the
Polish National Alliance!*



Jesienna graduacja klasy VIII



Graduacja absolwentów klasy ósmej Szkoły Polskiej im. Generała Kazimierza Pułaskiego odbyła się 17 października 2020 roku. W uroczystości uczestniczyła dyrektor szkoły Agata Michałkiewicz, prezes Agata Woźny oraz Grażyna Kołtyś, zastępca dyrektora, Jola Plesiewicz nauczycielka w poprzednich latach oraz wychowawczynie Ewa Jabłońska. Na graduacji gościli również rodzice.

„Żegnamy dzisiaj szkołę. Dziękuję rodzicom, że uczycie swoje dzieci ojczystego języka, że kultywujecie tradycje i kulturę Polski. Dopóki Polska będzie istnieć, dopóty my będziemy mówić po polsku. Pamiętajmy o tym. Wierzę, że zaszczepiłam Wam miłość do Polski i świadomość

polskiego dziedzictwa. Mam nadzieję, że tak jak ja, również i Wy będziecie wspominać wspólnie spędzony czas z uśmiechem i wzruszeniem. Ten rok 2020 wszyscy zapamiętamy” – powiedziała wychowawczynie. Na zakończenie dodała: „Nie rezygnujcie z marzeń i planów, każdy z Was ma coś w życiu do zrobienia. Bądźcie dumni, że jesteście Polakami, zachowajcie wiarę, wiarę w dobro i Boga. Dziękuję za lata ciężkiej pracy”. Gratuluję całej ósmej klasie i składam podziękowanie Rodzicom!

Uroczyste pożegnali również ósmą klasę dyrektor i prezes szkoły. Papieskim akcentem był mały program zaprezentowany przez uczniów, ponieważ 16 października

minęła 42 rocznica wyboru kardynała Karola Wojtyły na papieża.

Graduacja, przesunięta na jesienią, słoneczny dzień była miejscem do ponownego spotkania, wspólnych rozmów i zdjęć oraz oczywiście rzucenia w górę niebieskich biretów. Idźcie w świat z podniesioną głową. Godnie reprezentujcie Polskę w świecie, bądźcie jej godnymi ambasadorami. Gratuluję wszystkim!!!

*Ewa Jabłońska
Wychowawczynie klasy VIII*



The Good Maharaja and Polish Orphans



Portrait of Jam Shri Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji Jadeja, Maharaja of Nawanagar, October, 1935. Courtesy of WikiCommons

During World War II, the world bore witness to the horrors that occur when Man's worst impulses are given power. Even though the worst of mankind's depravity seemed endless, there were many examples of selflessness. An Indian Maharaja (King) named Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji Jadeja, the ruler of Nawanagar (now known as Jamnagar), a princely state in British India, became an example of kindness and generosity.

In 1942, the Maharaja took in and sheltered over 640 displaced Polish children that would have otherwise been condemned to some of the bleakest living conditions in concentration, even death. Most of these

children were made orphans because of World War II. Their parents and homes in Poland were killed and destroyed. They were on their way to camps and orphanages in the Soviet Union. There, they would have lived in horrid conditions. Many would have been left to die of illness or starvation. The Maharaja was extremely moved by the plight of these children. He used his influence and connections to save these children. When the children arrived at his palace, the Maharaja greeted them by saying "You are no longer orphans from now on you are Nawangarians, and I am Bapu, father of all Nawangarians, so I'm your father as well".

The Maharaja was determined to give these children of Poland more than just a place to stay. He went to great troubles to create a loving home away from home for them. "Maybe there, in the beautiful hills beside the seashore, the children will be able to recover their health and to forget the ordeal they went through..." he explained in an interview, "I sympathize with the Polish nation and its relentless struggle against oppression".

He built a home where each child had their own bed. When the Maharaja saw that the children struggled to

adjust to the spiciness of Indian food, he hired several Polish chefs to work at the palace. Indian doctors and nurses would travel to give the children regular check-ups, and take care of them when they got sick. The children had a lot of space in the beautiful country of India to enjoy without threat of danger and war. They were walking distance from both jungles and the sea shore.

A large guest house was converted into a school. Polish women who also managed to escape Europe became teachers and taught the children lessons in Polish so that the children did not forget their native language and culture. The Maharaja imported Polish books and traditional clothing so that the children still remained connected to their homeland. A priest named Father Pluta celebrated Mass in Polish every Sunday. The Maharaja also made sure to observe the holidays of Poland. Even though they were far from Poland, he wanted to bring Poland to them, at least in spirit so that it was a special time for each of the children. During their first Christmas in India, a herd of camels with presents on their backs arrived at the palace, along with a man dressed as Santa Claus.

The children returned to Poland at the conclusion of World War II. It was an emotional goodbye for both the Polish children and the Maharaja. He had grown very fond of these children of Poland and the children were very grateful for his benevolence and humanity. The lost and orphaned Polish children had found a person who cared for and loved them as a father. The Maharaja made sure to keep organized documentation of the children's identities so that it would be easier to reunite them with relatives when they returned home. Many were blessed to find that their parents did indeed survive the war!

Today, the Maharaja's actions are remembered in Poland in several ways. The Maharaja insisted that he did not want any compensation in return for taking care





The Maharaja with the Polish refugee children on Christmas Eve, 1943. The photo was made in the city of Jamnagar, in the state of Gujarat, India.

of the children, he only requested that this be remembered in some way, that a street be named after this good deed. So in 2013, the Polish government dedicated the “Skwer Dobrego Maharadzy”, Good Maharaja Square, in the Polish capitol of Warsaw. He was posthumously awarded the Commander’s Cross of the Order of Merit. Poland has also named the Maharaja the honorary patron of Warsaw’s Bednarska High School.

Many of the surviving children still visit the palace decades later. “If not for the Maharaja, we would have been in trouble...I still do not understand that in spite of being a true patriotic Polish, one part of my soul still misses India and thus does not make me fully comfortable in Poland, as I feel that India is still my home too” says Jan Bielecki, who was one of these remarkable children.

More can be learned about this incredible story by reading, “W gościnie u ‘polskiego’ maharadzy (At the ‘Polish’ Maharaja’s)”, written by Wiesław Stypuła, who was one of the rescued children. There is also a film called, “Little Poland in India”, a documentary that was made in collaboration with both the Indian and Polish governments to honor the Maharaja’s efforts.

By Magdalena Biedron

Sources and photo credits:

1. <https://historycollection.com/that-time-the-maharaja-adopted-hundreds-of-polish-orphans-during-wwii/>
2. <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/polish-refugees-in-india>
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Christmas Trees, Science and Industry!

One of my favorite celebrations and sharing of Polish culture to the world is through a longstanding Chicago Christmas tradition. The Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, MSI, famous for its exhibits such as the U505 - a real German WWII submarine, a 13 foot tall human heart that you can walk through, and a coal mine that you descend into and explore, has one more exhibit that shines bright among the many Chicago museum traditions, that’s Christmas Around the World.

This is the 70th year of Christmas Around the World. Since the first time that this exhibit started in 1951, the Polish community of Chicago has always taken part in presenting our holiday traditions to the many visitors of one of the most popular museums in America. More than 50 different Christmas trees are decorated by the many different ethnic groups that make up our country and are displayed each year at the museum. The Polish Scouts in Chicago, with financial help from the Legion of Young Polish Women, volunteer to dress the Polish Christmas tree in original Polish ornaments at the MSI. It is a tradition that makes Chicago’s Polonia heart and soul stand proud.



Even though the pandemic hasn’t let up yet, you can see the Polish Christmas tree at the MSI through Sunday, January 3, 2021. Registration online or by telephone is required prior to your visit and admission is limited as per Chicago health department regulations. Don’t live in Chicagoland? Google information about your city for Polish Christmas

celebrations and celebrate the holidays in your part of the country.

Visit www.msichicago.org or call (773) 684-1414 for Christmas Around the World registration.

*By Grace Bazylewski
Photo by Ania Ostrowski*

We are proud of...

Bad Parts is a Good Thing! Writing every day for 8 years pays off with a big break.

“The Iron Man” could serve as an excellent source of inspiration for Brandon McNulty of Wilkes-Barre. No, not the superhero of comic book fame, but rather, Cal Ripken Jr., the Baltimore Oriole whose Iron Man streak of playing in 2,632 straight baseball games redefined consistency. The kind of consistency McNulty pursues in his own career. “I have not missed a day of writing since 2012,” McNulty said. “It’s like a streak that I am meticulous about adhering to.”



McNulty’s daily writing habit began his senior year at King’s College, where he majored in English literature and professional writing. The fruits

of McNulty’s labor have included some short stories and a few unfinished novels, as well as his recently published book, “Bad Parts.” However, much like Ripken’s 16-plus-year streak, McNulty’s streak has included some challenges along the past eight years.

McNulty’s streak was perhaps most in danger in 2016. Having been accepted into a workshop the previous year, McNulty, who was writing a novel and feeling pretty good about where his career was headed, applied for a similar workshop only to be turned down. “When I got that rejection letter, it really just gutted me,” he said.

Self-doubt penetrated McNulty’s thoughts, questioning if his idea was

any good and if he had regressed as a writer. McNulty pulled through those challenging times, though, shifting gears and dumping his old novel for what eventually became “Bad Parts.” McNulty finished the first draft within two months. He furthered it along thanks to Pitch Wars and RevPit, contests that allowed him to be mentored by professional writers and editors.

“Rejection is a huge part of being a writer and after a while you just kind of get used to it,” McNulty said. “When you finally get something accepted, it’s like, ‘What?! Really?!’ You’re really blown away by it.”

Author Natasha Raulerson’s critiques included pointers about giving characters more believable motivations, as well as combining multiple characters who serve similar purposes into one. “It was a great learning experience working with her,” McNulty said. “She was like my constant cheerleader in everything.”

Editor Ellen Brock also liked “Bad Parts” enough to help McNulty improve it, even as those improvements amounted to “burning the book to the ground,” McNulty said. “It was frustrating because I thought I was right at the finish line and she was like, ‘No, no, no. We need to make some changes,’” McNulty recalled. “But they were necessary changes. I appreciate her being able to call them out and not being afraid to tell me.”

The final product was released last month, when Midnight Point Press published “Bad Parts,” a 428-page horror/thriller paperback about a

guitarist who lives in a fictional Pennsylvania town called Hollow Hills. After the musician injures her hand, she makes a deal with a demon to continue pursuing her dream with a new, healthy hand. “I wanted to come up with something that hadn’t been done before,” McNulty said. “An organ-swapping demon, as far as I know, hasn’t been done before.”

Like any 21st century author, McNulty’s promotion for his debut novel has included plenty of activity on social media. McNulty has one unique promotional avenue, though, in a YouTube channel he started in 2018. He posts a new video every Thursday, usually offering advice about the craft of writing.

Feeling as though he’s come a long way since his workshop rejection, McNulty, who is a full-time writer, may eventually try rewriting those manuscripts to perfection. “There were some good ones that I want to revisit now that I’m more skilled and more capable of writing novels and I understand the craft better,” McNulty said. “But for now, I’m focused on ‘Bad Parts,’ the sequels to ‘Bad Parts,’ and another series I’m starting up.”

By **Matt Bufano**
The Citizen’s Voice

Photos by **Dave Scherbenco**
The Citizen’s Voice

Editor’s Note: Brandon McNulty is a PNA member, enrolled by his grandfather at childhood, and a PNA Scholarship recipient as well. His debut novel Bad Parts: A Supernatural Thriller, published by Midnight Point Press, is available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble, It has received high praise from prominent authors and great reviews.

The Texas PNA Region H Update

Greetings and Update from PNA Region H

We hope all of you are doing well and holding strong. Many of us are still facing great challenges and we are here to support you. We are all finding new ways to engage with people, work, teach and keep our Polish culture alive and PNA expanding. Our special thanks to Jolanta Walaszek for the great virtual training sessions that featured PNA products; Agnes Szafranski, the new marketing manager, looking forward to working with you and expanding our marketing and social media marketing; and to Mark Dobrzycki, the new Zgoda Editor, on his great work and helping to promote the PNA in Texas.

PNA Region H is working through the difficulties of life with Covid-19. Our fraternal life continues. We adapt and change using Zoom meetings, doing virtual concerts, and supporting those who lost their jobs and helping those who are ill. We come up with new ideas for fund-raisers to assist the people in need. Virtual events and meetings such as our PNA lodge meeting, the Polish history club get-togethers, Polish classes and even Polish cooking lessons are now the norm. Luckily we have some really talented and creative people who don't give up and come up with ways to stay connected. Anderson Texas had a great get-together that was all based on a yearly czarina meal – starting with a duck to make the duck blood soup! It was amazing.

We are sending our prayers of good health to everyone. It is during these challenging times that we become better and stronger people. PNA Region H wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Wesolych Świąt (Happy Holidays) and to all, a definite Happy and Healthy New Year, Szczęśliwego Nowego Rok. May we all have a 2021 with no Covid!

By Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden, Advisor Director – Region H

September 6th – Chappell Hill, Texas - Dożynki Mass and 83rd Homecoming Festival

Dr Jim Mazurkiewicz of PNA Lodge 165 assisted with the organization of the St. Stanislaus Catholic Church 83rd Annual Homecoming Festival and Dożynki Mass in Chappell Hill, Texas, Sunday, September 6, 2020. The parish was established in 1889 by Polish immigrants. The "Dożynki Offertory" consisted of harvest baskets filled with wheat, vegetables, fruits, and flowers. "Dożynk Bread" baked by Paulina Kopeć Mazurkiewicz was presented along with a basket, a wreath with a crucifix of Jesus Christ and a picture of the Black Madonna. The date also marked the 131st anniversary of the establishment of St. Stanislaus (sw. Stanisława) Catholic Church. The first Polish parish established in Washington County Texas was St. Mary's in Brenham, Texas in 1870. The Polish population in Washington County grew to over 2,000 people requiring a second parish. Prior to the establishment of these two parishes, the people in this area were administered to by traveling priests on horseback called Saddle Bag Priests. The priests came from St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Frelsburg, Texas which was established in 1844. The first documented Polish

baptism in Chappell Hill, Texas was on June 23, 1854 by Father Victor V. Gury of Martin Piwonka . Martin was born on May 1, 1854.



Our PNA representatives joined the parish priest for a quick photo.



Dr Jim Mazurkiewicz and the PNA Lodge 165 band played some old time Polish songs to fill the event and entertain the participants.

September 12th - Houston, Texas – Polish School in Houston begins the 2020/2021 Year

The PNA Region H sponsored Nicolaus Copernicus Polish School in Houston, like many other schools, was not able to end their school year with a traditional graduation ceremony but at the start of the new school year in September, the 8th grade class was finally able to receive their diplomas. To protect students and staff, a new hybrid schedule was implemented which included in-class instruction and classes via Zoom. The PNA wishes much success to the teachers and students in this new demanding environment. We know you are up for the challenge.



October 11th , Anderson, Texas – Homecoming Bazaar

The Polish PNA booth and cultural display participated in an outdoor event in the Texas Polish Community. PNA Fraternal Advisor Jolanta Mazewski, Dryden, Erica Dryden and Lukas Bielecki from PNA Lodge 165 were out reconnecting with the community and talking about PNA to the attendees. A great event with some great food, it was wonderful to be out and about in the community while being careful and safe. The son of Mr. Rekieta stopped to try on a Polish Goralski hat.



October 24th , Austin, Texas – Pierogi and Zgoda

PNA Fraternal Advisor Jolanta Mazewski – Dryden was out and about in Austin and stopped in at the Farmers Markets to visit with the fantastic Apolonia Catering. They feature Polish food and highlight their amazingly scrumptious Pierogi. Our discussion was all about the Polish National Alliance and especially about the latest copy of Zgoda. Even Covid- 19 doesn't stop us from meeting with the Polish American community of Texas. Even though wearing masks, we were able to spread the word about our great PNA fraternal while keeping Covid-19 at bay.



October 31st – Houston, Texas – Polish School, Halloween, and Donation

On Halloween, PNA Fraternal Advisor Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden and Erica Dryden, Secretary of PNA Lodge 2336 stopped in at the Nicolaus Copernicus Polish School in Houston to surprise the children and the teachers who were dressed in costumes to take part in the day's fun. All were given Halloween treats plus a little special extra, a donation to the school from Mrs. Dryden.



October, Houston, Texas Slavic Festival – Virtual Celebration



PNA Region H representatives were not able to join Texas' Slavic Community for their wonderful annual Slavic Festival because this year's event, like many others, was cancelled. However, a number of members held virtual events. PNA Lodge 165 members, Jerry and Betty Dorcz, got together with one of their close friends to celebrate in a small way by making Polish food and doing a little virtual festival for their friends. Co-operation between the Polish

and Czech friends was safe and fun. Thank you for being creative and safe while promoting our fraternal and Polish culture!

Check it out! Polish National Alliance Region H has a new Facebook page, please share it and inform your family and friends to Like It. Keep us updated with your projects, ideas, and innovations, send us your information! <https://www.facebook.com/Polish-National-Alliance-Region-H-100688988414554/>

The First Wigilia In America's First Polish Settlement

Many of you know about the Polish glassmakers in Jamestown, Virginia but have you ever wondered where the first truly all Polish settlement in America was and when it was settled? Think tumbleweed, oil wells, longhorns and open prairie. That's right; we are talking about the big state of Texas! A place as far different from Poland's mountains, streams, castles and forests as the earth is from the moon.

Poles from Prussian ruled lands came to America encouraged by Rev. Leopold Moczygemba. They endured a three month journey by train, ocean ship and ox carts to Karnes County, Texas, southeast of San Antonio. Fr. Leopold, a Franciscan missionary, arrived in 1852 to minister to German immigrants but he was ready for Poles, including his brothers, to settle in an area he had chosen to be the first permanent Polish settlement in America. He wrote his fellow Poles back in Europe urging them to come to Texas to seek their fortunes in a land of opportunity. They left a land of poverty ruled by a foreign occupier.



Immaculate Conception Church in Panna Maria, founded Dec. 24, 1854. It is the oldest Polish Roman Catholic Church in America. Photo: Renelibrary. WikiCommons

It was Sunday, December 24, 1854 when the Poles settled on what was to become Panna Maria, Texas. Surrounded by tall grass filled with rattle snakes and tall oak trees, Fr. Leopold gathered the new immigrants and celebrated Midnight Mass under an Oak tree that is still standing to this very day. A far cry from the snow covered cottages and candlelit churches of their homeland; this land was harsh and dry. The 150 faithful saw their first Polish Wigilia in a place that to them must have seemed like heaven but like

no land they had ever seen before. Some descendants of those original Polish settlers still call it home.

By Mark Dobrzycki

More information about Panna Maria, Texas which is on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places can be found at:
<http://polishheritagecentertx.org/> or
<http://www.pannamariatexas.org/>

Baltimore's Polish Independence Day Run

PNA Council 21 Participates In The WPNA-FM Independence Day Run/Walk



Polish National Alliance Council 21 of Baltimore, Maryland took part in the Polish Independence Day Run. Though the current pandemic provides obstacles, the members of several Council 21 lodges got together with certain precautions to take part in the virtual run/walk.



The group assembled at a fitting place when talking about freedom and independence, the imposing Gen. Casimir Pulaski Monument in Patterson Park on Saturday, October 10. The runners and walkers were eager to virtually participate in the WPNA-FM's 2020 Polish Independence 5k/10k Run/Walk.

It was a proud showing of solidar-

ity with all of the other participating Polish Americans and PNA members in Chicago and across America who took part in the race/walk. It provided an excellent opportunity for the participants to safely socialize outside during these trying times while still paying attention to local COVID-19 social regulations and restrictions.



By *Richard P. Poremski*
Photos by *Michael Carnahan*
and *Malgorzata Bondyra*



Pomysł na długie, zimowe wieczory

Rok 2020 stał się dla całego niemal świata rokiem walki z wirusem COVID-19. Pandemia koronawirusa czyni spustoszenia w naszym życiu rodzinnym i towarzyskim. Jest to szczególnie dotkliwe dla seniorów i osób z problemami zdrowotnymi, które obawiają się wychodzić z domu i narażać na niebezpieczną infekcję.

Mimo iż wzrosła wiedza na temat przebiegu i leczenia choroby oraz pojawiła się nadzieja na skuteczną szczepionkę, wygląda na to, że jeszcze przez długie miesiące będziemy skazani na restrykcje.

Jak wypełnić czas spędzany w domu i opanować nudę i zniecierpliwienie? Jest wiele sposobów na przyjemne spędzanie czasu, nawet w samotności. Można czytać książki, rozwiązywać krzyżówki, surfować po Internecie, pracować nad rodzinnym albumem, spisywać wspomnienia, uczyć się obcego języka lub gry na instrumencie muzycznym, obserwować ptaki, gotować, uprawiać ogródek, uprawiać jogę lub Tai-Chi, malować... wybór zależy od upodobań i możliwości.

W ubiegłym tygodniu siedzibę PNA w Chicago odwiedziła pani Irena Śpiewak, wyrażając swoją radość, że może znowu zobaczyć „znajome, przyjazne twarze”. Przy okazji załatwiania spraw finansowych, postanowiła podzielić się z nami pomysłem na twórcze spędzanie wolnego czasu. Z okazałej wielkością torby wyjęła albumy do kolorowania dla dorosłych, wypełnione pięknymi rysunkami. Pani Irena koloruje już od kilku lat, a zaczęła od książeczki PNA poświęconej polskim strojom ludowym.

Moda na kolorowanki rozpoczęła się kilka lat temu, długo zanim koronawirus pozamykał nas w domach. Psychologowie twierdzą, że kolorowanki mają działanie odśrodkujące, relaksują i oczyszczają umysł. Od lat są skutecznym, terapeutycznym narzędziem w pracy zarówno z dziećmi, jak i dorosłymi. Rysowanie jest jednym z naturalnych odruchów: dorośli rysując fantazyjne esy-floresy na kartkach, czy serwetkach w restauracji, starają się zająć ręce, uspokoić myśli, skoncentrować. Kolorowanki są

doskonałą, kojącą i twórczą alternatywą dla niespokojnej głowy. Wydawnictwa mają niezwykle szeroki asortyment kolorowanek, który zaspokoi oczekiwania i gusty najwybredniejszego rysownika. Można je również wydrukować za darmo, z Internetu. Wybór jest przeogromny, każdy znajdzie interesujący temat, który porwie wyobraźnię i uwolni artystyczny talent. Doświadczenie nie jest wymagane, możliwości są nieograniczone.

Pani Irena Śpiewak przyniosła do PNA kilka pięknych kolorowanek, by podzielić się swoim pomysłem na spędzanie czasu z czytelnikami Zgody. Jest z natury bardzo aktywną osobą, zaangażowaną w życie organizacyjne Polonii od czasu przyjazdu do Stanów Zjednoczonych.

Pochodzi z Tarnowa, przez wiele lat była tancerką w reprezentacyjnym Zespole Pieśni i Tańca Ziemi Tarnowskiej, stąd zamiłowanie do ludowych strojów i polskiego folkloru. Do Stanów Zjednoczonych przyjechała jako dorosła osoba. Rodzina poznana w Chicago męża wprowadziła panią Irenę do Związku Narodowego Polskiego (PNA). Od 1975 roku pani Śpiewak aktywnie działa na rzecz organizacji piastując kolejne funkcje od wiceprezeski Grupy 1577 im. Bolesława Chrobrego (obecnie jest prezeską grupy), po wiceprezeskę Gminy 143, wiceprezeskę Okręgu XII, delegatkę do Stowarzyszenia Dobroczyńców Okręgu XII i XII, delegatkę do Stowarzyszenia Domu Młodzieżowego Okręgu XII, Obozu Młodzieżowego w Yorkville, Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej na stan Illinois. Od dwudziestu lat jest również delegatką na Sejm Związku Narodowego Polskiego.

To miło, że pani Irena Śpiewak zechciała zajrzeć do PNA i pomyślała o innych członkach organizacji, którzy podobnie jak ona zostali zmuszeni do pozostania w domach, ograniczenia kontaktów z rodziną i przyjaciółmi. Dziękujemy serdecznie!

Miejmy nadzieję, że wszyscy przetrwamy te trudne czasy, oprzemy się złośliwemu wirusowi i wrócimy do normalnego życia i spotkań bez masek na twarzach.

Życząc spokojnych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia oraz zdrowia i radości w Nowym Roku, z pozdrowieniami z Chicago,

Alicja Kuklińska



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Welcome to our PNA Family



Victoria Teresa Maciejewski, born May 13, 2020 is a new member of PNA Lodge 7013. She is a daughter of Marek and Katarzyna Maciejewski of Mount Prospect, IL. Both of her loving parents are PNA and former employees of the Alliance. Now, they are proud, 100% PNA family.



Quentin Patrick Simons, born December 14, 2019, is a new member of PNA Lodge 1684. Quentin's parents are Cheryl and Sean Simmons. Grandparents, Christine and Stanley Klatka and great-grandparents, Wanda Rocko and Irene and Casimir Klatka welcome Quentin to the PNA family.



Tyler Jack Krawczyk, born May 13, 2019, son of Kevin and Jessica Krawczyk, is a newest member of PNA Lodge 1824, Lemont, IL. The certificate is a gift from his loving grandparents Stanley and Janet Krawczyk. Signed by Jerry Hejna, PNA Sales Representative and former Commissioner of District XII.

*Submitted by
Jerzy Hejna
PNA Commissioner of
District XII*



Sofia Glowacki-Price, born October 9, 2015, is a new member of Lodge 1684. Her PNA membership is a thoughtful gift from loving grandmother Ms. Marie Glowacki of Albany, NY. Sofia was signed up by former PNA Commissioner Marian Wiercioch.

PNA

District 12 Convention Postponed

Due to the concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic and safety protocols, the annual convention of District 12 PNA in Region F which usually convenes in October has been postponed.

All efforts will be made to convene the annual convention as quickly as possible keeping the health and safety of our delegates and members paramount. When the situation in our area improves and/or a vaccine becomes available, the District 12 convention will then be scheduled at some future date in 2021. In the meantime, convention delegates should be reassured that our District is in excellent shape. The officers maintain communications with one another to facilitate openness and cooperation. The District Treasurer presented an accounting of income and expenses for the year. We glad to announce that we are in great financial shape!

We hope that all of Polish National Alliance members in the various lodges and councils are in good health. We urge everyone to follow all the safety guidelines including washing hands, wearing a face mask and maintaining social distance. We look forward to meeting with you in the near future.

Submitted by:
Barbara J. Wesolowski,
Fraternal Advisor Region F

District XII Youth Home Corporation Scholarships

The PNA District XII Youth Home Corporation is happy to announce it has awarded 3 \$1000 scholarships and 5 \$500 scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year for a total amount of \$5500.

The recipients of scholarships for 2020-2021 are: Claudia Baniak, Calvin Hendren, David Mscisz, Andrea Frances Papiernik, Brian Papiernik, Kevin Papiernik, Matthew Papiernik, and David Jeffrey Schulte.

The officers of the Youth Home Corporation District XII are PNA Fraternal Advisor Barbara Wesolowski, President, Arthur Trybek, 1st Vice President, Anna Kokoszka, 2nd Vice President, Shirley Wass, Secretary, and Judith Trybek, Treasurer.

The Scholarship Committee members are Judith Trybek, Chairman and Secretary, Barbara Wesolowski, Arthur Trybek, Anna Kokoszka, Shirley Wass, and Gail Bialas.

Since 1987, District XII Youth Home Corporation has awarded 898 scholarship for a total of \$444,000.00.

Judith Trybek
Secretary of District XII Youth Home Corporation





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In Memoriam

JAN KRAWIEC (1919-2020)



Jan Krawiec, wieloletni redaktor naczelny „Dziennika Związkowego”, pisarz, edukator i działacz polonijny,

zmarł w środę 28 października 2020 r. w wieku 101 lat. Informację o śmierci potwierdziła rodzina Zmarłego i podała, że jego prochy zostaną pochowane w Polsce w grobie rodzinnym.

Jan Krawiec urodził się 15 czerwca 1919 r. w Bachórcu, w małej miejscowości na Rzeszowszczyźnie. Po maturze trafił do podchorążówki, którą skończył w stopniu kaprała podchorążego. W sierpniu 1939 r. został przydzielony do 38. Pułku Piechoty w Przemyślu. Po wybuchu wojny brał udział w kampanii wrześniowej; walczył do 27 września.

W konspiracji najpierw organizował logistyczne wsparcie dla polskich żołnierzy, którzy przez Węgry próbowali przedostać się do Francji, a później redagował biuletyn podziemny. Poszukiwało go gestapo. Był więźniem obozów Auschwitz-Birkenau i Buchenwaldu. W Chicago zamieszkał w 1949 roku.

W latach 1968-1985 Jan Krawiec był redaktorem naczelnym „Dziennika Związkowego”. Codziennie ukazywały się jego komentarze polityczne, które m.in. napiętnowały ówczesne komunistyczne władze w Polsce. Pisał też kolumnę aktualności „Z dnia”.

Po przejściu na emeryturę zajmował się publicystyką i działalnością edukacyjną oraz pisał książki. Przez wiele lat w Muzeum Holocaustu w Skokie koło Chicago regularnie spotykał się z młodzieżą szkolną, by opowiadać o czasach i wydarzeniach znanych jej tylko z podręczników.

W 2015 roku wspomnienia red. Krawca „Od Bachórcza do Chicago” zostały wydane przez Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. W 2016 roku został wybrany na marszałka Parady 3 Maja. Ostatnio mieszkał w Hoffman Estates na północno-zachodnim przedmieściu Chicago.

Jak poinformowała córka chrzestna Zmarłego, Sue Kowall, red. Krawiec od dwóch tygodni zmagał się z COVID-19. Opatrzony świętymi sakramentami zmarł w środę 28 października wieczorem w domu rehabilitacyjnym.

Zgodnie z wolą śp. Jana Krawca, Jego zwłoki zostaną skremowane, a prochy pochowane w rodzinnym grobie w Polsce obok rodziców i brata. Rodzina w USA, państwo Sue i Kenneth Kowall zawiadamiają, że z powodu restrykcji epidemicznych nie organizują miejscowych uroczystości pogrzebowych, a tylko odbędą się one w Polsce.

Sue Kowall poinformowała, że można przekazać donacje w imieniu Jana Krawca na Muzeum Holocaustu w Skokie, Illinois – <https://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/> – gdzie red. Krawiec opowiadał ponad 3 tys. uczniów o swoich przeżyciach z okresu II wojny światowej.

Redakcja Dziennik Związkowy

Pan Prezes and Me

A Personal Recollection of Working Together and Making Polonia Better.

In the summer of 1973, I was a struggling doctoral student in history at the University of Illinois in Chicago. I was not yet sure of my future possibilities and wondering if I should just take my Masters of Art degree and try and find a teaching job in a local high school. Like most grad students I was in dire need of funds to pay the rent, buy groceries, and purchase books. I did not know what I wanted to do. It was at this time that I met Aloysius Mazewski, the president of the Polish National Alliance and the Polish American Congress. Mazewski was looking for someone to take part in a study of poverty in Polonia funded by the federal government. A mutual friend suggested my name, and before I knew it, I was making my first of many visits to the PNA Headquarters then on Division Street in the Polish Downtown area.



Pope John Paul II and former Polish National Alliance and Polish American Congress President Al Mazewski, Photo: Rome, 1981 at the Polish Pilgrims Home.

I remember being ushered into his office and explaining my background to this rather formidable gentleman. We took to each other immediately. He bought me lunch at a nearby restaurant and explained what he saw as the parameters of the project. Mazewski was an astute observer of people and he immediately figured out who I was and my interests. In his office he showed me his copy of Victor Greene's *The Slavic Community on Strike* and encouraged me to write a similar book on the Chicago Polonia. It soon developed into my doctoral dissertation topic and later a book, *Polish Immigrants and Industrial Chicago*. Mazewski often referred to me as his "House Radical." While he and I did not always agree politically, we shared a mutual respect and, I would like to think, fondness for each other. Something that is often missing in the current political culture.

That summer I bought my first summer suit, took my first flight, and visited Washington, D.C. for the first time as Mazewski sent me to the capital to attend a meeting. Later I appeared for the first time on television on the *Bob Lewandowski Show* to talk about our project. Mazewski quickly realized that the other grad student he had hired to also work on the project and I did not get along. So, with Solomon like wisdom he divided the work between the two of us. He told me to talk to residents of Polonia about problems with poverty and report back. I walked the streets of Chicago's Polish Downtown and met with elderly Polish Americans in their

homes. My ability to speak Polish helped even though I spoke the local *Po Chicagosku* dialect. The report was made in two separate documents.

Mazewski then called me in to do another report for the Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation. He was interested in Polish American participation in Chicago area professional schools. I looked at medical, dental, and law schools in the area and fashioned another report. Through Mazewski I met Jerzy Przytuski who also adopted me as a friend and became a mentor. Both encouraged my work. I have very fond recollections of both men. My connection to the PNA through Mazewski opened me up to a whole world that I originally knew little about. The financial support from the PAC Charitable Foundation came at a very important time in my life. In many ways it made my future career as a historian possible.

Al Mazewski was a kind and wise leader of both the PNA and the PAC. When he died, all of American Polonia lost a great leader. I felt a great personal loss even though our paths had diverged in the 1980s. It was one of the great disappointments of my life that we never got a chance to say goodbye.

*By Dominic A. Pacyga
Professor Emeritus
Columbia College Chicago*

The 2020 Kosciuszko Freedom Run in Baltimore, Maryland



To conclude Polish American Heritage Month, Polish National Alliance Council 21 also known as “Team Baltimore” took part in the annual event honoring General Thaddeus Kosciuszko. It was a special way to top

off a month recognizing the achievements and contributions of Poles to America and for the many millions of Polish Americans making a difference in our country every day.

A bright sun greeted the runners and walkers ready to tackle the course. The eager group of participants included Richard Poremski, president of Council 21 and financial

secretary of Lodge 238, Malgorzata Bondyra, president of Lodge 238 and VP of Council 21, Bud Johns, VP of Council 21, June Johns, president of Lodge 339 and financial secretary of Council 2, Bryan Johns, Sgt at Arms of Council 21, Jill Simonaitis, VP of Lodge 339, Michael Carnahan, financial secretary of Lodge 339, Emmett Carnahan, member of Lodge 339 and Lukas Bondyra, member of Lodge 238.

The virtual 5k run/walk was a jointly sponsored event by the embassies of the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Lithuania in Washington, D.C. It is held each year to honor Thaddeus Kosciuszko, an engineer, statesman and military leader. The general is a greatly respected figure and shared by the two countries as a national hero for fighting for their

freedom in Europe.

In America, General Kosciuszko is hailed as “A Hero of Two Nations” because of his great contribution for American independence during the Revolutionary War. A statue of Kosciuszko is found at West Point, New York at the U.S. Military Academy. It is there Kosciuszko built the famed fortress on the banks of the Hudson River. The run and walk was held on the path in Baltimore’s Patterson Park, not far from the Patapsco River, encompassing a statue of another American hero and son of Poland, General Casimir Pulaski.

*Story by Richard Poremski
Photos by Michael Carnahan and
Malgorzata Bondyra*



Małopolska Voivodeship

Much of the heart and soul is found in this part of Poland.
From the snowy mountains to the cobblestone streets,
Polish culture is abundant everywhere!

From the shores of the Baltic Sea to the rocky Carpathians, Poland offers tourist attractions that should not be missed. Rich history, stunning scenery, hidden treasures ...

While Małopolska Voivodeship is often translated as “**Lesser Poland**”, the lands which comprise it are in no way junior to the history of the Polish state and its heritage. From the banks of the **Vistula River** in **Krakow** to the peaks of the **Tatra Mountains** in **Podhale**, Małopolska Voivodeship is a repository of Poland’s essence, without which the country we know is unthinkable.

Historically Małopolska reached all the way from **Siedlce** in the north to the **Beskid Mountains** in the south. A large expanse of territory even during the **Kingdom of Poland**, this land would be broken up into three voivodeships, a division which lasted into the **Polish Partitions**. While the inhabitants of this area today still largely speak the **Małopolska dialect of Polish**, residents of **Lublin** or **Częstochowa** no longer identify with this region. Residents of Małopolska Voivodeship, who inhabit the southwest portion of this historic country, however cling strongly to the traditions of this cradle of Polish culture.



Coat of Arms of Lesser Poland



To further complicate matters, although the Małopolska region makes up the core of this province, lands that were once part of the **comitatus** of **Orawa** and **Spisz** in **Upper Hungary** are also within this territory. These enclaves are home to the proud Góral people whose culture in part traces back to the **colonization of Wallachian peoples** who trace their origins back to present day **Romania**. Successive waves of settlement from Małopolska penetrated into the part of the Hungarian Kingdom we know today as **Slovakia**, an influence which is easy to detect in the area south of Poland's present day border.

The prehistory and protohistory of Małopolska Voivodeship covers a time period of almost a half million years; it unfolds with the first appearance of the genus Homo on the territory of this Polish province until its **incorporation into the nascent Polish state in the 10th century AD**. A plethora of diverse peoples lived in this area over this long period of time. While certain groups are difficult to identify, the influence of **Avar, Celtic, Germanic, and Roman, Scythian, Sarmatian, and Thracian** peoples has been detected here. Scholars estimate that the Slavs arrived in the lands of modern-day Poland towards the end of the 5th century AD. A 9th century chronicle by an anonymous monk known to history as the Bavarian Geographer mentions the Vistulan tribe in the area of Małopolska. A chronicle on the life of Saint Methodius dating from the same time mentions a prince of the **Vistulans** who is conquered by **Great Moravia**.

After the collapse of the Great Moravian realm in the early tenth century, it is generally assumed that the successor Czech state assumed some kind of control over the lands which constitute today's Małopolska Voivodeship. This state of affairs did not last long however. **Cosmas of Prague** had this to say about the conquest of Lesser Poland in the tenth century: *"Polish prince Mieszko, a cunning man, seized by ruse the city of Kraków, killing with sword all Czechs he found there."* The Czech rulers would later raid Małopolska repeatedly, the Czechs would never again rule over this area except for a short period of time in the early 12th century when the Czech and Polish Kingdoms were united under **Wenceslaus II**.

"Magiczny Kraków", which translates into English as **"Magical Cracow"** communicates the special place that the city has in the Polish psyche and a world soul. The capital of Małopolska Voivodeship it was for centuries Poland's seat of government after Gniezno. Even after Warsaw was made the Polish nation's capitol, Cracow's grandeur and deep seated tradition assured it a vibrant center of culture and spirituality. With a

history going back to the 7th century, it predates the first Kingdom of Poland. The city center in the **Old Town** with its **Market Square** and Cloth Hall, **Sukiennice**, sets its past importance on the world stage of commerce and today's historic relevance as a Renaissance masterpiece. Not only is it one of Europe's most beautiful cities it is one of the first places to be recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. The Town Hall Tower is the final remnant of the Town Hall, or Ratusz, which was controversially dismantled. Other changes to the Market Square made during the 19th century included the demolition of the Great and Small Weigh Houses

The strategic point at **Wawel Hill** and the **Wisła River** made this trading hamlet grow quickly in size and importance. In the year 965, Cracow had already made a mark; it was bustling with merchants and traders. **Prince Mieszko I**, by accepting Christianity by way of his Czech wife, **Dobravka Přemyslovna**, brought his promising state into the cultural circle of Europe in 966. By 1038, Cracow became the capital of Poland and held that role until 1596. This city of central Europe was filled with art, business, culture, engineering and learning.

The **Church of the Holy Cross** in the **Kleparz** district of Cracow was the site of an ambitious attempt to bring the so-called **Slavic Benedictines** to Poland. **Saint Hedwig** and **King Ladislaus Jagiełło** funded the construction of the church and monastery in 1390 which would have been home to 30 monks along with a sizable number of servants. The purpose of this project was to foster a local Catholic clergy which could minister to the Orthodox Christian peoples of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania who worshipped in the **Slavic Rite**. Suppressed elsewhere in the Roman Catholic Church, religious services in this archaic tongue and the use of the **Glagolitic Alphabet** persisted in **Dalmatia**. This audacious effort failed however, as Queen Hedwig died in 1399, and though the church was constructed, this undertaking never assumed the massive proportions which were initially planned. The Slavic Benedictines lasted at this church in Cracow until 1470, while the church itself was demolished in 1818. Today **Słowiańska** Street runs over the former site of this sacred space.

Jagiellonian University, named after King Jagiełło, is the oldest university in Poland and the second oldest university in Central Europe. It started in 1364 as the Cracow Academy then undergoing some name changes during the following centuries. Finally, in 1817 the school founded by Polish King Casimir the Great was named in honor of King Jagiełło. His wife, Saint Hedwig, the queen sold her jewelry to pay for the mission of



The medieval courtyard of Collegium Maius of Jagiellonian University

the school when it faced hardship after the death of its founder and almost closed. The monies raised paid for new buildings and teachers that provided it the resources to become one of the respected universities of the times. Students enrolled at the University included astronomer **Nicholas Copernicus** and **Saint John Cantius**. Having survived 650 years, Jagiellonian University has now become a world leading research school with enrollment of more than 50,000 students.

After the Partitions of Poland, the city was occupied by the Austro-Hungarian Empire, but briefly was part of the Napoleonic Polish state of the **Duchy of Warsaw** which lasted until the French Emperor's loss at **Waterloo**. The **Congress of Vienna** reorganized Europe after Napoleon's fall, including the lands which had constituted Poland, and the environs of Cracow became a short-lived republic known as the **Rzeczpospolita Krakowska** between 1815 and 1846. Despite the many limitations placed upon this polity by the three states which had partitioned Poland, the statelet enjoyed considerable economic growth before it too lost its independence when it was annexed by the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1846.

Even though Cracow has almost 30 times more residents, the mountain town of **Zakopane** gives it a run for popularity. A little more than 27,000 residents call Zakopane their home and make it the capitol of **Podhale region**. The town is the home of the **Polish Highlanders**, also known as **Górale**. Located in the valley between the Tatra Mountains and Gubałówka

Hill, Zakopane is not far from the border of Slovakia and is a popular winter and summer destination.

A new comer when compared to other Polish towns, Zakopane obtained its municipal charter in 1933. Historical records show that people inhabited the area starting in the late 1600's. First, the town's fortunes grew with mining and metallurgy but soon its unique climate made it an extremely popular destination as a health resort and then, a sports and recreational center for all of Poland and the surrounding countries. Currently more than 2.5 million annual visitors come to Zakopane to ski, hike, camp and climb.

The Goralskie tradition in Podhale is vast. From the colorful clothes to their dance and strong Polish lan-



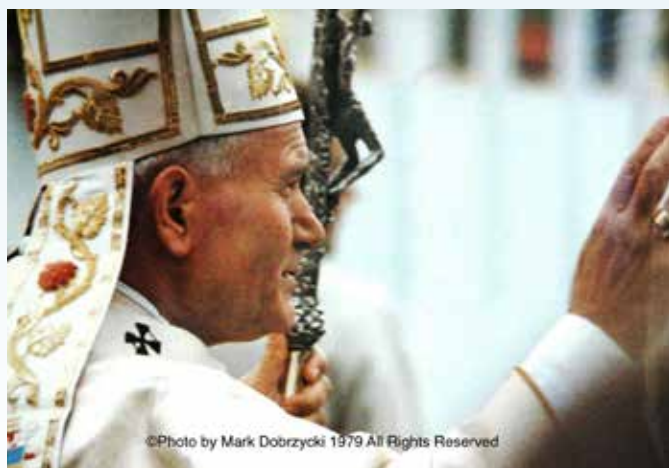
guage dialect, Gorale make an immediate, unforgettable impression. Another instant and familiar example are their buildings. Easily recognizable, the log cabin look is unique, so much so that it has grown in popularity throughout the world. It is called the **Zakopane Style**



of Architecture . It draws its inspiration from the regional art of Poland's Highlands in which tall evergreen trees are used as the basic building material for their homes. This style of buildings was pioneered by Stanislaw Witkiewicz and is now considered a core precept of the Polish Góral tradition in Podhale. Witkiewicz came into his own during the 19th century, a period when Poland ceased to exist as a nation-state. Born in what is now present day Lithuania, he was very creative and excelled in writing, painting and architecture. His cultural synthesis of ancient traditions created a quintessential part of Polish and Góral culture. He, unfortunately, never lived to see a free and independent Poland, a Poland that his artistic style and soul helped to make possible.

A dedicated stream of immigrants from various German lands over centuries into Southern Poland resulted in the formation of **Głuchoniemcy** communities. They are referred to as the **Walddeutsche** in German, these villages settled in a belt which centered on a ridge north of the Carpathian Mountains between **Żywiec** and **L'viv** in today's Ukraine. By the late 19th century, ethnographers report that while the name persisted, knowledge of the German Language by the descendants of these colonists had died out and that they were exclusively Polonophone.

The Polish Pontiff, **Saint Pope John Paul II** is a larger than life figure in Poland and Polish culture. Born as **Karol Wojtyła**, his birthplace and hometown of **Wadowice** celebrate his life and legacy. A must for any visitor to the town is sampling one of the local specialties, **Kremówka Papieska**. The Kremówka is a variant of the Napoleonka cream pie, a puff pastry which is popular throughout Poland. Visitors here can visit a number of locales connected to Wojtyła's childhood, such as the family home and their parish church, now a Minor Basilica. Aside from tourism, the local economy

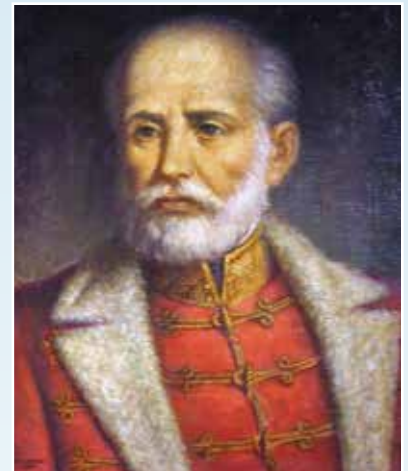


Pope John Paul II in 1979

is aided thanks to Wadowice being the headquarters of Maspex, Poland's largest juice maker.

Małopolska's second city, **Tarnów** is imbued with a wealth of traditions drawn from the diverse places of peoples that have settled here over time, including Scotsmen, Czechs, Germans, Jews, and Roma. An exiled king of Hungary once walked in the city's walls with people of a mix of faiths, from Calvinists to a Jewish population which at one point made up almost half the town's residents. In fact, it was the one of the largest Jewish communities in Poland prior to World War II and the tragedy of the Holocaust. Today, Tarnów is well known as the center of Roma culture in Poland, with the community consisting of about 350 families. The **Muzeum Cygańskie** highlights the role that the Roma community played in Poland over the centuries, while the annual **Tabor Cygański**, an annual trek which commemorates their semi-nomadic lifestyle begins in Tarnów.

The people of Tarnów also take great pride in **Józef Bem**, a general and Polish patriot who fought for the freedom of both Poland and Hungary, known also for his mastery of numerous languages. Forced to flee after the collapse of the **Hungarian Revolution of 1848**, he fled to the **Ottoman Empire** and died in the Syrian city of Aleppo in 1850 where he served as governor. Bem's remains had to wait until 1929



Józef Zachariasz Bem

to return to Tarnów, where they are now interred in a grand mausoleum in **Park Strzelecki**.

Tarnów is also known for being the warmest place in Poland. Summer lasts here from mid-May to mid-September and then some. Little wonder that the enjoyable temperate atmosphere in Tarnów regularly attracts visitors from throughout Poland. The local environment is especially conducive for the **Śliwa Tarnina** plant that grows here, from which **Tarninówka Tea** is derived.

The town of **Miechów** was for centuries the property of the **Canons Regular of the Holy Sepulchre**. The canons built a monastery here, and the Superior at Miechów took on the title of General of the order after the the **Kingdom of Jerusalem** fell in 1291. The Basilica contains the oldest replica of the Holy Sepulchre

in Europe. Miechów became the order's headquarters until 1819 when it was suppressed in the Russian Empire. While the Basilica continues as a Roman Catholic house of worship, the remaining buildings were converted into administrative structures and remain so into the present day.

Nicknamed "the Polish Sahara", **Błędów Desert** is the largest sand-pitch in all of Europe. Located along the border where the Małopolska and Silesian Voivodeships come together, legend ascribes its genesis to the



Poland's Bledow Desert. It has an area of approximately 12 square miles.

Devil trying to hide silver deposits. The desert's true origins are manmade however, and go back to the devastation of local forests in the 13th century for mines in the silver and lead mines in nearby **Olkusz**. Having grown to 5 times its present size in the 1930's, the Nazi Germans

trained their Afrika Korps here in the sands prior to deployment under the leadership of **General Rommel** who was also known as the "Desert Fox".

The **Rakowicki Cemetery** is one of Poland's most historic necropolises. **Jan Matejko**, **Helena Modjeska**, **Marek Grechuta**, **Jerzy Nowosielski**, Nobel laureate **Wisława Szymborska**, Professors **Teofil Modelski** and his daughter **Bożena Strzelecka**, **Wiktor Zin**, as well as Saint Pope John Paul II's parents are all buried here.

Charming **Biecz** is a quaint city full of tall tales of ghosts and knights. However, it is most well known as a macabre tourist attraction because of a legendary institution which likely never existed, and instead sprung from the imagination of a 19th century journalist- a **School of Executioners!** Nonetheless, a whole set of attractions has popped up over the years, resulting in the creation of an Executioner's Trail in Biecz, a testament to the popularity of this grisly fable.

Bochnia is among the oldest settlements in Małopolska. The first written record of its existence goes back to 1198 in a document where the **Patriarch of Jerusalem** confirmed the donation of salt from Bochnia for the Monastery of the Canons Regular of the Holy Sepulchre in Miechów. The discovery of rock salt half a

century later was an economic boon for Bochnia which resulted in the town receiving a municipal charter. The **Bochnia Salt Mine** is one of the oldest in the world, and since 2013 is inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Functioning today solely as a tourist attraction, it possesses the only underground chapel through which a functioning train line runs,

Beginning as a medieval Slavic gord, **Bobowa** would later become a center of the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century, particularly the **Polish Brethren**. One of these Protestants, **Wojciech Bobowski**, would eventually convert to Islam and become the first Polish Dragoman of the Ottoman Empire as well as an accomplished painter and musician. Two hundred years later Jewish settlement began in Bobowa and thanks to the tsadyk of the **Bobov Dynasty**, it flourished as one of the capitals of **Hasidic Judaism**. Although followers of the Bobover Rebbe perished under German occupation during the Holocaust, **Shlomo Halberstam** along with 300 Hasidim who survived World War II reestablished the community in the neighborhood of Borough Park in Brooklyn, New York and number around 10,000 followers in Metro New York alone.

Zalipie was the home of the famous Polish folk artist **Felicia Curyłowa**. She was most noted for having painted the dining room aboard the **MS Batory** steam ship ocean liner as well as the interior of the **Wierzynek Restaurant** in Cracow. Curyłowa revived a tradition of painted cottages in Zalipie which was once customary there and throughout the surrounding villages of the **Powisłe Dąbrowskie** area. Thanks to her efforts, this custom continues into the present day whereby locals decorate their homesteads inside and out in bright floral designs.

Not to be confused with the Lachian language codified by **Óndra Łysohorsky** further east in what is today the Czech Republic, the areas to the north of the Górala are the **Lach** peoples. A transitional group between the lowlanders who comprise most of the Polish people and the Carpathian cultural area, **Lachowie Sadeccy** are the best known representatives of this heritage. Eli Sanders, the father of US Senator **Bernie Sanders**, emigrated from the village of Słopnice in this region in 1921 along with his brother. While the family's home in the Putówka settlement of Słopnice has not survived into the present day, the Senator visited the village in August of 2013 in the company of his brother and their spouses.

Ojców National Park derives its name from the Polish village of **Ojców**, known for its karst topography,



Pieskowa Skala in Ojców National Park

ancient castle ruins as well as a picturesque wooden chapel situated over a brook. **Frederic Francois Chopin** was smitten with the striking landscapes of Ojców, as was **King Stanisław August Poniatowski**. Other artists and authors who visited this vicinity were **Adam Naruszewicz, Franciszek Karpiński, Julian Ursyn-Niemcewicz, Jadwiga Łuszczewska, Zenon Przesmycki, Jan Lechoń** as well as **Adolf Dygasiński**, who even wrote a number of literary works inspired by the vicinity. While it may be Poland's smallest national park, it is home to one of the country's most provocative anthropological discoveries. **Ciemna Cave**, which is located in the park, was recently in the news because of the identification of two small bones belonging to a Neanderthal child dating back to 100,000 years ago.

We return to the fairy tale decor of Cracow's **Marian Basilica**. It blends well with its Gothic aesthetic. The most sacred treasure of this house of the holy renowned for its mismatched towers is the gilded wooden altar by Veit Stoss. Looted by the Nazi's during World War II and thankfully returned and reinstalled in the church after the war, it is the largest Gothic altarpiece in the world. A trumpet call known as the **Hejnał Mariacki** is played from one of the basilica towers every hour, with a now popular legend around it's genesis mentioned in Eric P. Kelly's award-winning young adult historical novel "*The Trumpeter of Krakow*" which was first published in 1928.

Located about 8 miles southeast of Cracow, the town of Wieliczka has a population under 24,000 people. Going back to the middle of the 13th century, the **Wieliczka Salt Mine** was inscribed on the initial list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Before the current COVID-19 pandemic began, nearly 1.2 million visitors came to visit the salt mines annually. The nearly 2 mile tour of the Wieliczka mine's caverns shared chapels,

caverns, and countless carvings all made out of rock salt. The Gothic **Żupny Castle** nearby served not only as the headquarters for the mine, but also guarded this precious resource from those looking to break the law to enrich themselves.

To the east of the Góral's in the Carpathian Mountains are the **Lemkos**, part of the **Carpatho-Rusyn peoples**. Legend traces the name of **Gorlice** in this region back to medieval colonists from the Lusatian settlement of *Zhorjeltc*, now divided into the twin towns of **Görlitz** and **Zgorzelec** along the Polish/ German border. Followers of **Byzantine Christianity**, their churches are either in the Ukrainian Catholic or the Autocephalous Polish Orthodox traditions, in sacred spaces noted for their exotic beauty and craftsmanship. Quite a few prominent visual artists in the 20th century were of at least partial Lemko descent, such as noted American painter **Andy Warhol**. In Poland **Nikifor Krynicki**, an outsider artist who created watercolors in his hometown of **Krynica**, was a fixture in the town associated with Polish opera singer **Jan Kiepura**. **Jerzy Nowosielski**, whose life is closely tied to Cracow, created works inspired by Byzantine iconography in both spiritual and secular works. Some of Nowosielski's icons can be seen in the **Orthodox Church of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary** in Cracow which is located in the former **Ahawat Raim Synagogue**.

There are wealth of details in a province like Małopolska Voivodeship that can fill an entire book, not to mention a brief article. The highlights range from folk tales and legends to heroic figures that changed the world. This land, so rich in history and culture, continues to attract those looking to come to know the land from which gave birth to the many important figures who influenced the course of events not just in Poland, but also across Europe and the Americas.

By Daniel Pogorzelski

A historian and member of PNA Lodge 2514



Wawel Castle upon the Vistula River

PNA Council 54 Recognizes Three Detroit-area Youth Members for Scholarship, Service and Commitment to Polonia

Detroit, Michigan-based Polish National Alliance Council 54 annually awards first year scholarships to eligible high school seniors from lodges 53, 2525 and 2821. Scholarships are offered to qualified members entering their first year at an accredited college, university or technical trade school in the United States or Poland as a full-time student.



All eligible members are encouraged to complete applications that are reviewed by the Council 54 Scholarship Committee for the following award criteria:

- Involvement in PNA fraternal activities and events
- Commitment to preserving and promoting Polonia
- Involvement in church, school and extracurricular activities
- Academic record and educational goals

Three high school seniors from the class of 2020 were awarded scholarships to be applied in the 2020-2021 academic year. These students share a love and dedication for preserving the cultural values and traditions embodied in our heritage. These students are:

Isabella Ciralis, Lodge 2525 | Attending the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan | *Studying architecture and sustainability*

Isabella is a member of the Polish Alliance Dancers and General Pulaski Language School offered through PNA Lodge 2525, where she has participated in numerous performances and events across metro Detroit. In the essay she submitted with her application, Isabella states, “Saturdays at Polish Language School are some of the most special times I can remember. PNA Council 54 has helped build so much of my identity and enriched my life in a unique way. It allowed me to find belonging in a community of kids that were similar to me. I am so thankful for all the experiences and memories provided to me through PNA Council 54. I hope to carry the lessons I have learned at Polish school with me throughout college and the rest of my life.”

Kathryn Gryzelius, Lodge 53 | Attending Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana | *Pursing environmental studies*

Kathryn has been an active member of PNA Lodge 53’s Centennial Dancers where she represented the group at numerous performances and events across metro Detroit. In the essay she submitted with her application, Kathryn shares, “It was an honor to be presented on a state-wide level at the PNA District X presentation ball and in my local lodge’s ball. For me, the PNA Centennial Dancers has been more than just a dance group. It was a way for me to be surrounded with people who shared

a similar heritage. It gave me confidence, challenged me and instilled perseverance. I have dedicated my time to something that helps kids have an identity with their Polish culture. I know that if it wasn’t for the PNA and the Centennial Dancers, I would be missing a part of my life that has made me who I am today.”

Helaina Motts, Lodge 53 | Attending Schoolcraft College in Livonia Michigan

Helaina has been an active member of the PNA Lodge 53’s Centennial Dancers where she represented the group at numerous performances and events across metro Detroit. She was also presented as a debutante at the PNA District X and Lodge 53 presentation balls. In the essay she submitted with her application, Helaina notes, “Polish dancing and Polish culture has been a part of my life since I joined the PNA Centennial Dancers when I was three-years-old. Learning all the dances, connecting with friends and learning about my heritage was an amazing experience. I cannot wait to continue to be a part of the PNA and the Polish community.”

Council 54 is known for promoting and encouraging the education and development of youth. To date, Council 54 has awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships.

Chairperson Patricia Sikora, Lodge 53, was joined by delegates Sherry Cauchon, Lodge 2525; Christine Kryszko, Lodge 2525; and Jan Favot, Lodge 53 as members of the scholarship program review committee.

To learn more about the college scholarship program, visit Council 54's website (pnacouncil54.wordpress.com) or contact scholarship chairperson Pat Sikora 248-559-6549. The deadline to request an application for the 2021-22 scholarship program is January 31, 2021. All completed applications must be submitted by March 31, 2021.

Comments on the PNA Council 54 Scholarship Program from former recipients:

Marie (Stawasz) Boyle, Lodge 53 | "I was fortunate to receive college scholarships from the PNA home office and my local council. Beyond the financial assistance these awards provided, I was then – and still am – struck by how Polonia stepped up to support me in my most formative years. The scholarships offered from Council 54 are made possible by hardworking volunteers who tirelessly give their time to raise money for our local Polish youth ... what a beautiful testament to the PNA's mission, "in unity there is strength." When we work together in service for others, we can lift each other up and ensure a brighter future for the next generation of Polonia."

Randall Favot, Lodge 53 | "The scholarships I received from PNA, Council 54 and the National office, allowed me to pursue my bioengineering degree. Today I have a solid career as a hospital biomed tech and my own house. It wasn't easy, and it wasn't supposed to be, but all that hard work really did pay off. The scholarship money covered books and necessary supplies making it easier for me to focus on larger matters in my education and life at the time. Every little bit helped, and the scholarship was definitely valuable."

Submitted by Patricia Sikora and Marie (Stawasz) Boyle

Konkurs z okazji setnej rocznicy narodzin Jana Pawła II

W niedzielę, 25 października 2020 roku, w Parafii Matki Bożej Jasnogórskiej w Los Angeles, odbyła się ceremonia wręczenia nagród dzieciom z polskich szkół w Yorba Linda i Los Angeles, które wzięły udział w konkursie zorganizowanym przez Koło Przyjaciół Fundacji Jana Pawła II w południowej Kalifornii. Tematem konkursu było uczczenie setnej rocznicy narodzin św. Jana Pawła II. W rywalizacji uczestniło dwadzieścioro dzieci, które wykonały prace plastyczne i multimedialne.

Inicjatorką i główną organizatorką konkursu była prezes Koła Przyjaciół Fundacji Jana Pawła II, Bogumiła Doerr. Nagrody i dyplomy wręczył uczestnikom proboszcz parafii i kustosz Sanktuarium św. Jana Pawła II w Los Angeles, ks. Mirosław Frankowski.

Uczestnikami byli w większości młodzie członkowie grup ZNP: „Czytelnia Polskiej” z Los Angeles, jednej z najstarszych w organizacji Grupy 700, oraz dzieci z Yorba Linda, w pld. Kalifornii, gdzie ma siedzibę Grupa 3259 Piast, założona przez imigrantów posolidarnościowych w latach osiemdziesiątych ubiegłego wieku.

W konkursie udział wzięli uczniowie dwóch szkół. Szkołę „Polska Macierz Szkolna” w Los Angeles reprezentowali Helena i Amelia Babiszkievicz, Anna i Kuba Kurpiewski oraz Julia i Piotr Brozda. Uczestnicy ze Szkoły Polskiej im. Heleny Modrzejewskiej w Yorba Linda to: Staś i Franek Kobylecki, Liliana i Adriana Włodarska, Victoria McHenry, Maja Szkurat, Malvina Naylor, Laurencia Chmielarski, Anna Chmielowska, Dominika Doran, Julia Globisz, Michelle Guerrero, Natalia Mizeracki i Alexandra Włodarczyk.



Ks. Kustosz Sanktuarium JPII w Los Angeles Mirosław Frankowski i Prezes Przyjaciół Fundacji JPII w Los Angeles, Bogumiła Doerr



Ks. Kustosz i Kuba Kurpiewski

Elżbieta Rudzińska
Prezes Gminy 73 ZNP

A Taste of Krakow and Malopolska Favorites....

Welcome Malgorzata Bondyra and Michael Carnahan! They bring their talents to one of Zgoda's most popular sections. Malgorzata's culinary skills make Polish cuisine easy to prepare and make. Michael's photographs makes the food come to life. Together they present the food from the kitchens of Poland to your home. Make sure to invite the friends and neighbors because the food is sure to impress.

ZRAZY WOŁOWE (BEEF ROLLS)



Ingredients:

- 1.5-2 pound piece of beef (it needs to be sliced later)
- 1 red or orange bell pepper – cut into thin strips
- 1 onion – cut into strips
- 2-3 cucumbers in brine – cut into long strips
- Smoked bacon – cut into strips
- Salt, pepper
- Toothpicks
- Oil for frying
- 1 chopped onion
- Flour and Water slurry for thickening sauce
- 1 red, orange or yellow pepper cut into long strips - optional

- A few baby carrots or a handful thickly shredded carrots - optional
- Finely chopped dill
- Heavy whipping cream
- Other spices of your choice
- Saran wrap
- toothpicks
- salt and pepper for taste

STEPS:

1. Slice meat into thin slices against the grain.
2. Pound each meat slice on both sides and then salt and pepper both sides of each piece.
3. Place one strip each of bell pepper, onion, cucumber in brine, and bacon on one piece of meat and roll it, tucking the sides inside, and secure the roll with one or two toothpicks.



4. Repeat until all meat is rolled.
5. Heat some oil (enough to cover the bottom of the frying pan) on medium high heat.
6. Carefully place the beef rolls into the hot oil and fry on both sides until browned nicely.
7. Take the meat out, and in the same oil, fry chopped onion until golden brown.
8. Return the meat to the pan, add some water and bring it to boil. Reduce heat to low, cover, and let simmer for 1 hour until soft.
9. Add salt and pepper to taste (and other desired spices). Thicken the sauce with a mixture of water and flour to desired consistency.
10. Add some heavy whipping cream, chopped dill, carrots and fresh bell peppers. Simmer for 2-3 minutes more, and serve.



OBWARZANKI KRAKOWSKIE



Ingredients:

- 100 ml (3.4 ounces) warm water
- 100 ml (3.4 ounces) warm milk
- 50 grams (1.75 ounces) fresh yeast or (2) ¼-ounce packets dry yeast
- ½ teaspoon salt
- Pinch of sugar
- 100 grams (3.5 ounces) softened butter
- 500 grams (about 3 cups) flour, sifted
- 1 egg, beaten
- Poppy seeds or sesame seeds

STEPS:

1. Combine yeast, water, milk and sugar and let stand for 10-15 minutes.
2. Prepare a large pot of water for boiling the obwarzanki.
3. Combine sifted flour, softened butter and yeast mixture.
4. Mix together and knead the dough.
5. Preheat oven to 400° F.
6. Cover it with clean cloth and leave it to rise for 20 minutes in a warm place.

7. After 20 minutes divide the dough into 6 pieces.
8. Roll each piece with your hands into about an 18-inch rope.
9. Grab in in the middle and start twisting both parts together. Shape into a hoop and connect ends together. Repeat with remaining pieces of dough.
10. Place each obwarzanek into boiling water and boil for 1-2 minutes.
11. Place each obwarzanek on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
12. Brush each obwarzanek with beaten egg and sprinkle with your choice of poppy or sesame seeds.



13. Place obwarzanki in the preheated oven and bake for 20 minutes or until golden in color.

KREMÓWKA PAPIESKA (Papal Cream Cake)



Ingredients:

- 1 pack of puff pastry sheets (2 sheets)
- 2 cream-flavored pudding packets (budyń śmietankowy)
- 0.5 liter (2 ¼ cups) milk
- 3-4 tablespoons sugar
- 250 grams (2 sticks + 2 tablespoons) softened unsalted butter
- 250 grams (1 ¼ cups) heavy whipping cream
- 1 packet vanilla sugar (0.18 ounces)
- 3 tablespoons powdered sugar
- Additional powdered sugar to dust the pastry after baking

STEPS:

1. Preheat oven to 400° F.
2. Prepare pudding according to the directions on the package, but use only 2 ¼ cups of milk and add 3-4 tablespoons of sugar. Allow to cool.
3. Prepare puff pastry sheets according to the directions on the package. Before baking, cut each sheet into 12 (or less) equal rectangular pieces.
4. Bake at 400° F for 15 minutes or until golden in color. Allow to cool.

5. Divide each shell into two halves – top and bottom pieces.



6. Beat heavy whipping cream with vanilla sugar until stiff, and at the end of beating add 3 tablespoons of powdered sugar and beat some more.
7. Add butter to the pudding and mix it until nicely combined and smooth.
8. Add heavy whipping cream mixture to the pudding and mix it together.
9. Place filling in a pastry bag (or place in a zip top bag and cut off one corner to make your own pastry bag) and fill bottom part of pastry shells with cream mixture.



10. Cover the cream-filled bottom pastry with the top portion of the shell and sprinkle heavily with powder sugar using a mesh strainer to distribute it evenly.
11. Place kremówki on a platter, and place them in the refrigerator.
12. Remove kremówki from the refrigerator about 20 minutes before serving.



These recipes come from the kitchen of Malgorzata Bondyra of Baltimore, Maryland and PNA Council 21. Michael Carnahan has made videos showing how to prepare and make these tasty Polish dishes. Check out PNA Council 21 website for these recipes and more!

<https://pnacouncil21.com/zgodarecipes>

Smacznego!

*Recipes and preparation by
Malgorzata Bondyra*

Photos by Michael Carnahan

PNA Council 21 and Technology

Secret to our success!

With the future in mind, we have embraced new technology and trends for our advantage. Council 21's Facebook page was created in 2016. It started slow, but we realized that we were missing an opportunity to reach to people. We regularly started posting our events, sharing posts and events of other Polish organizations, and frequently sharing posts of interest, such as those from the PNA's Facebook page.

We updated our website, established an email list via a service called MailChimp. These avenues allow us to share information in an inexpensive, efficient manner. We focus on the two-fold Core Mission of PNA: to recruit new members and to promote our amazing Polish culture. We post links to join our email list, to "like" our Facebook page, and to visit our website. For the greatest exposure, we encourage all members to share our posts, to invite others to like the page, and share them in various Facebook groups, such as "Baltimore Polonia."

It has dramatically increased attention to our efforts bringing in many new members and guests - who we hope to make members! Our Facebook following grows every day, from just a few people to now, more than 500 followers. Our email list has become enormous. We encourage all PNA councils and lodges to do the same, reap the benefits. It's up to us to make it happen and spread the good word about the PNA.

*By Michael Carnahan
PNA Council 21*

Good Saint John Cantius and the Orchard of Babica

Saint from Lesser Poland Teaches a Bigger Lesson



Knowing the value of family, Good Saint John Cantius would often travel back to his native Kety to visit with relatives. One afternoon in late summer, on his way back from the local church, Good Saint John came upon two men brutally fighting in a millet field. Savagely beating one another, the two were rolling around, cushioned by sheaves of grain. Running to stop them, The Good Saint tried to break up the fight when one of the men inadvertently struck the priest while trying to injure his rival.

Shocked by what they had just done, the two men quickly stopped and tried to attend to Good Saint John, who was now bleeding from his forehead. Almost immediately, the men started blaming each other for assaulting the holy man until Good Saint John quieted them. Ashamed at having injured the clergyman, they hung their heads low while Good Saint John composed himself. The Good Saint proceeded to question the men, patiently listening as they lobbed their long list of grievances against each other, airing the many grudges they had accumulated over the years. The two men also pleaded with Good Saint John for his forgiveness. The Good Saint was willing to give it, so long as the men would fulfill an act of contrition.

The Good Saint instructed each of the men to fill a sack full of apples for each one of the wrongs the other had done

to him. They were to walk around with that bag wherever they went for the next two weeks, and then seek out Good Saint John.

Two weeks passed and the two men came to see Good Saint John, each with their apple sacks in tow. The holy man asked both of them “How did you feel while carrying your apples?” The men vented their frustrations and complained of the heavy weight, the constantly seeping rot, as well as the strong stink that they had to put up with while they lugged the apples everywhere they went.

Good Saint John stood by silently and listened to the men’s observations. After they finished, he said to them “This is exactly the same situation when you carry hatred for somebody inside your heart. The stench of hatred will stain your heart and you will carry it with you everywhere you go. If you cannot tolerate the smell of rotten apples for only 2 weeks, can you imagine what it is like to have this rot in your heart for a lifetime?”

Hearing this, the men realized the truth of what the Good Saint had told them and reconciled. Good Saint John was pleased, he instructed the men to bury the apples in the ground. In time, the Good Saint told them, the apples will flower and bloom, providing sustenance for those who will need it. To this day, in the village of Babica, the orchard that these two men planted still blossoms. Its apples are distributed to those in need and want.

By *Daniel Pogorzelski*
St. John Cantius Photo: *WikiCommons*

Dęby Pamięci w Yorkville



W dniu przypadającego 15 sierpnia Święta Wojska Polskiego zasadzeniem kolejnych dębów rocznicowych w Ośrodku Młodzieżowym 12 i 13 Dystryktu Związku Narodowego Polskiego w Yorkville/Plano koło Chicago został zainaugurowany program patriotycznych uroczystości upamiętniających 100. rocznicę Bitwy Warszawskiej. Organizatorem obchodów był działający przy Zrzeszeniu Nauczycieli Polskich w Ameryce Przystanek Historia we współpracy z Konsulatem RP w Chicago i zarządem ośrodka.

Uroczystość ku czci bohaterów historycznych wydarzeń rozpo-

częła się pieśnią „Do Ojczyzny” w wykonaniu Agaty i Beaty Sołtys. Zgromadzonych powitała serdecznie prowadząca jubileuszowe wydanie Helena Sołtys – wiceprezes Zrzeszenia Nauczycieli i inicjatorka „Dębowej Alei Niepodległości”.

Wśród grona osób zaproszonych, ograniczonego z powodu pandemii koronawirusa, znaleźli się: Piotr Semeniuk, konsul Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Chicago, prezes ZNP Tadeusz Młynek, ksiądz Marek Janowski – kapelan zrzeszenia, Andrzej Janczak – komendant Stowarzyszenia Weteranów Armii Polskiej Placówki numer 90 w Chicago, Adam

Bułat – starszy chorąży sztabowy VI Dywizji Powietrzno-Desantowej w Krakowie, Łukasz Dudka – dyrektor generalny „Dziennika Związkowego”, David Guritz – dyrektor powiatowego dystryktu leśnego (Kendall County Preserve District) oraz gospodarze miejsca: prezes ośrodka Związku Narodowego Polskiego Robert Sempoch, wiceprezes Bolesław Pałka, dyrektor Krzysztof Mścisz i sekretarz Agata Mścisz, a także przedstawiciele 5. Kresowej Dywizji Piechoty Reenacted z komendantem Edem Rejowskim.

Konsul Semeniuk serdecznie powitał żołnierzy polskich i amery-

kańskich przy okazji Święta Wojska Polskiego, mówił o idei powstałej w Yorkville historycznej Alei Niepodległości – pięknym projekcie na łonie natury i ważnej misji wychowania młodego pokolenia w duchu patriotyzmu.



Prezes ośrodka Robert Sempoch powiedział, że to wielki zaszczyt, iż ośrodek Związku Narodowego Polskiego jest częścią Polski na obczyźnie. Zapewnił o woli kontynuacji polskich tradycji.

Prezes Zrzeszenia Nauczycieli Polskich w Ameryce Tadeusz Młynek mówił o założeniach projektu

„Dębowa Aleja Niepodległości” i wynikających z niego zobowiązań wobec potomnych.

– Pamięć historyczna, która kryje się w dębach zobowiązuje nas do tego, abyśmy to przekazywali następnym pokoleniom. Jesteśmy tu po to, aby dbać o pamięć o istotnych wydarzeniach, o odzyskaniu niepodległości oraz o Bitwie Warszawskiej.

Marek Adamczyk, koordynator Przystanku Historia, scharakteryzował projekt Dębowej Alei Niepodległości i przedstawił wydarzenia symbolizowane przez nowo zasadzone dęby: Dąb 100. rocznicy Bitwy Warszawskiej 1920-2020, Dąb Golgoty Wschodu 1940-2020, Dąb Pamięci Ofiar Katynia 1940-2020, Dąb Solidarności 1980-2020.

Helena Sołtys zaprosiła gości do zasadzenia czterech nowych dębów, które poświęcił jezuita ojciec Marek Janowski, po czym uczestnicy uroczystości udali się na sąsiednią polanę, gdzie z okazji minionej w



Agata i Beata Sołtys

tym roku, 100. rocznicy urodzin św. Jana Pawła II, przy dedykowanym mu dębie, Filip Czarkowski zagrał na trąbce „Ciszę”.

Na zakończenie, dzięki udziałowi przedstawicieli 5. Kresowej Dywizji Piechoty Reenacted z komendantem Edem Rejnowskim na czele, 100. rocznicę Bitwy Warszawskiej i jej bohaterów upamiętniono uroczystymi salwami.

Jola Plesiewicz
Zdjęcia: *Dariusz Piłka*

Artykuł w całości i pełna galeria zdjęć z uroczystości są dostępne na: dziennikzwiazkowy.com



(l-p) Robert Sempoch, Helena Sołtys, Tadeusz Młynek, Piotr Semeniuk

Dragons & Trumpets – You haven't heard it all!

Smart thinking and fast acting saves the legendary city and its residents.

Krakow is history itself so it is no wonder that so many tales and legends hail from this grand city on the Vistula. The stories range from saints and sinners to heroes and demons, let's explore two.

There are slightly different versions of these heroic tales of saving Krakow. The first is of a fire breathing dragon that domineered over Poland's medieval capitol. The second tale is of a brave bugler sounding his horn to alert the town of approaching invaders. The sound of that hejnal, that call, is synonymous with Krakow to this very day. If you are familiar with these tales, rest assured that the below stories hold true to the main intent of the legends.

Smok Wawelski – The Wawel Dragon Tale tells about Skuba, the humble shoemaker. He was a kind man who was a skilled tradesman and who took pride in his craft of making and repairing shoes. He valued his



clients who were loyal customers. Skuba, like the other residents of Krakow, knew they lived in a special place. The city of Krakow was filled with many people of many talents. From royalty and knights to the bread and basket maker, all made Krakow their home and were extremely proud of their town. Any threat from outside the very well defined defensive walls was treated

with great concern but there was one danger that every one feared and it was from within their glorious city, a cave that lied underneath their safe ground.

An evil fire breathing dragon terrorized the populace. An offering had to be prepared to satisfy the hunger and anger of the dragon every few days. If no offering was ready when the evil creature circled in the sky above, the dragon would descend and snatch a maiden and more to feed its gluttonous desires. Family and friends knew of people who became a meal for the flying monstrosity. His agile flight and flaming breath scared most and consume those who fought against it.

Skuba didn't have the bravura of knights but knew he had to save his beloved city from the flying terror. Sometimes local farmers left their animals to satisfy the dragon. Skuba noticed that the dragon was most satisfied when it devoured Polish lambs. He gathered pieces and scraps of hide from his labors to fashion a look-a-like lamb that the dragon couldn't resist. He stuffed the manmade lamb with pepper, salt and the hottest spices he could get from the local farmers and merchants.

It was a few days since the dragon's last flyover when the creature took a beautiful young Polish girl from the banks of the river when Skuba placed the spice stuffed lamb strategically next to the Vistula. The dragon spotted the treat and soared in for its meal. The flying dragon scooped up the lamb in one big gulp and sailed

high into the sky. All of a sudden, the dragon turned around and dropped quickly back onto the banks of the Vistula. It was tossing its head from side to side as flames were erupting from its mouth and nose like an uncontrolled forest fire. The towns people screamed and ran away to hide before becoming another meal for the viscous beast. The dragon landed on the river shores letting out a thunderous roar. It dropped its head into the Vistula and began drinking water with abandon. The waters dropped and the river's flow slowed as the dragon kept on drinking more and more water. Skuba's plan had worked. The dragon couldn't handle the extremely spicy meal and kept drinking; it drank until finally a loud, wet explosion filled the sky. The dragon burst and was no more! Skuba was hailed as a hero; King Krakus handsomely rewarded the cobbler for his imaginative plan and more so, felt that a man like Skuba earned his place in the court. Skuba married the princess and became a member of the royal household. He was honored and revered by all of Krakow.

Hejnat mariacki - The second legend, (St.) Mary's Bugle Call, describes the sacrifice a trumpeter made to protect the citizens and save Wawel Castle. The story again deals in the heights of Cracow and the musical notes that are simple but strong and are immediately identified by every Pole.

Cracow was founded at one of the most important locations in southern Poland. It was a trading and defensive center like no other in the region.



It was a calm day filled with the usual activities. Suddenly, the merchants trading at Sukkiennice and the faithful praying at St. Mary's were greeted by the warning call! The bugler played his horn loud and strong. The city's sentry immediately closed the drawbridges to stop any of the invaders from entering the city making for a certain defeat and death. The bugler continued playing until an arrow shot by a Tartar marksman pierced his throat. The bugler bled and died but he knew that he saved Krakow.

The Tartars attacked was thwarted and Krakow was safe and secure. The future of the royal city and Poland was preserved. To this very day, at noon of every day the notes of the bugler's call are played on the radio throughout all of Poland to honor that ultimate sacrifice. The music ends mid-note at the same moment the arrow struck the bugler. It is brief but the sound of that trumpet has long remained in the heart of every Polish person who adores Krakow, the soul of Poland.

By Mark Dobrzycki

Wawel Castle and the Barbican were built to help protect this strategic point because if it fell not only would Poland be left vulnerable and open to foreign invaders but so would all of the rest of Europe.

In 1241, the Tartars were on the move. They were fast and agile storming settlements on quick, stealth attacks. The Mongol invaders left nothing undisturbed. Tartars were passionate and skilled; they knew what they wanted and how to obtain it. Several towns to the east, Turusk and Chmielnik, were ransacked and word of their destruction spread throughout the land. The people of Krakow knew that they were soon to see the Mongol Army at the city gates.

St. Mary's Church had the highest point that overlooked the surrounding land; the tower was well suited for a lookout. The king chose the best soldiers from his retinue to be the eyes of Krakow. Constant vigilance was required in order for the bugler to sound the horn at the first sighting of the hoard of attackers. Little time would be available for the city to pull close the drawbridges once the bugler's call was made and stop the invaders from entering the city.



Keeping Safe From Covid-19 During Holidays And When Traveling



Most of us know by now about the seriousness of COVID-19 and the negative impact it has had on our lives for almost a year. We know that COVID-19 is a virus that spreads very easily from person to person, especially if they are within 6 feet of each other; that it spreads more effectively than the flu, but not as well as the measles, which is among the most contagious viruses known to infect people. COVID-19 viruses can linger in the air for minutes to hours. While in enclosed spaces with inadequate ventilation, people can become infected within distances greater than 6 feet. Singing or exercising can also contribute to the virus droplets migrating farther than 6 feet. Scientists believe that COVID-19 spreads more often with close person to person contact than through the air. COVID-19 does not easily spread from people to animals, or animals to people.

Protecting Yourself and Others from COVID-19

The best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 is to:

- Avoid being exposed to the virus
- Keep at least 6 feet away from others
- Wear a mask, or other protective gear correctly and as necessary when near others
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizer to the tune of “Happy Birthday to

- You” or for 20 seconds, include wrists if possible
- Avoid crowds, especially indoors
- Remain at home as much as possible
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces

Selecting, Wearing and Cleaning your Mask.

This is an area where I have seen people having some difficulty, and they may not understand the best practices of wearing a mask. When selecting a mask, here are some recommendations and things to avoid.

Choose masks that:

- Have 2 or more layers of washable fabric
- **Completely cover your nose and mouth**
- Fit snugly against the sides of your face
- **have no gaps**

Do Not choose a mask that:

- Is made of a fabric that makes breathing difficult, like vinyl
- Has an exhalation valve or vents which allow virus particles to escape
- Is intended for health care workers, such as a 95 respirator or surgical mask which are disposable

If you wear glasses, find a mask that fits closely over your nose or has a nose wire to limit fogging. For the best protection, wear your mask correctly and consistently. Wash your hands before **putting on** your mask, and do not touch your mask when wearing it. Do not wear your mask around your neck, on your forehead, under your nose, only on your nose, on your chin, dangling from one ear or on your arm. When removing your mask, untie or stretch the ear loops, handle only the ear loops, fold outside corners of the mask together, and be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth. Wash your hands immediately after removing your mask, or use hand sanitizer. Non-disposable masks should be **cleaned** by washing regularly with regular laundry. Use regular laundry detergent and the warmest water temperature, and the highest dryer heat temperature appropriate for the mask fabric. Disposable masks should be disposed of after each use.

Risks to Consider at Social Events and Holiday Celebrations

Restaurant Dining. Check out the restaurant's COVID-19 practices before you enter the establishment. You should call or check the website for safety guidelines that they are using. Ask if all staff wear masks while working. Wear a mask when less than 6 feet apart, and only remove when eating. Choose food and drink options that are not self-serve to decrease the chances of using shared serving utensils, handles, buttons, or touch screens. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds when entering and exiting a restaurant. A hand sanitizer can be used that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Before using the restroom, make sure that there are enough soap and paper towels or hand sanitizer. Eat outdoors if possible to avoid close contact or exposure to diseases. Avoid contact with commonly touched areas, such as door knobs, elevator buttons, telephones, menus and the like. Think before you touch anything, anywhere, anytime or anybody. The virus may be lurking there.

Social Events and Holiday Celebrations. Celebrating virtually, or with members of your own household who do not show positive signs of COVID-19, or are sick, pose low risk for spread of the virus. If you are planning to host an event or holiday celebration, you need to consider the current COVID-19 levels in your area and be mindful of current restrictions that may be in force during that time. You may need to postpone, cancel, or limit the number of guests that you may invite.

- ◇ **Covid-19 statistics** in your area, and where attendees may be coming from. This information can be found on your Health Department's website. Keep guests local as much as possible.
- ◇ The **location** of the gathering; indoor gatherings pose a higher risk than outdoor gatherings. Good ventilation, like windows that can be opened, is preferred.
- ◇ The **duration** of the gathering is important. The longer the time frame, the more risk.
- ◇ The **number** of people attending the gathering is important. The more people, the greater the risk. The size of the gathering should be determined on the ability to limit contact between attendees, the risk of spread between attendees, the amount of space where the event is to occur, and following the local, state, and health and safety laws, rules and regulations.
- ◇ If attendees at a gathering do not follow COVID-19 protocols, such as social distancing, wearing a mask, hand washing, and other prevention behaviors, they put others at the event at great risk.
- ◇ Before you attend an event or gathering, inquire about what COVID-19 precautions are in effect, especially the cleaning of bathrooms in public places.





Do not attend an event if you, or anyone in your household, have been diagnosed with COVID-19, have not completed a required 14 day quarantine period, have symptoms of COVID-19 or any other illness, are waiting for COVID-19 test results, may have been exposed to COVID-19, or if you, or a household member, are at an increased risk of severe illness if you get COVID-19.

If you are hosting a gathering, consider the risks above, and also inform your guests about the COVID-19 measures that you will provide and the expectation that they will likewise follow your guidelines of prevention to decrease the risks of spreading the virus. Also, encourage guests to bring supplies, such as masks, hand sanitizer that has at least 60% alcohol, and tissues. For more information, go to [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Travel does increase your chances of getting or spreading COVID-19, so it is best to stay home during the pandemic. Don't travel if you are sick. Before you travel, consider:

- What are the levels of COVID-19 in your destination area, and the places you will need to pass through to get there, check each state's cases in the last 7 days;
- If you get infected while traveling, you can spread the virus to loved ones when you return home;
- Are you at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should you contract it during your trip;
- Getting your annual flu shot, whether traveling or not, it may provide you with some COVID-19 protection;
- Does your destination have requirements or restrictions for travelers;
- Will it be realistic to expect that social distancing will be able to be maintained, on a bus, train, air or shuttle;

- Make sure that you have enough protective COVID-19 supplies for your trip;
- When getting gas for your vehicle, use a wipe on handles and buttons before you touch them;
- After fueling your vehicle, use a 60% alcohol hand sanitizer, and wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- What steps to take to protect yourself and others, such as proper distancing, use of personal protective equipment, sanitizer and the like;
- Upon your return, maintain protective behaviors;
- Watch your health for COVID-19 symptoms and report to your health care provider if you are sick and need to be tested for COVID-19, and
- Avoid touching your face, eyes, nose, or mouth during travel and upon return.

Airports, bus or train stations, and rest stops are all places where travelers can be exposed to viruses in the air and on surfaces. These are places where it can be difficult to social distance. The longer you are near a person who may be infected, the more you are likely to also become infected.

Conclusion: Until the pandemic is behind us, we must all take precautions to keep us all healthy and free from exposure to the COVID-19 virus and other contagious illnesses. Unless we all take the necessary precautions, the virus will not be defeated. Celebrations are meant to be with family and friends, but this year, and we don't know exactly how long beyond that, we must sacrifice that need to be able to say, "We made it!"



Author:
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PNA National Director

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We follow CDC guidelines
regarding COVID 19 regulations
as we progress to next year.



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Just a Reminder!

Important days and holidays in the upcoming months

2020

Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 26
Christmas Eve	Thursday, December 24
Christmas Day	Friday, December 25
New Year's Eve	Thursday, December 31

2021

New Year's Day	Friday, January 1
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 18
Valentine's Day	Sunday, February 14
President's Day	Monday, February 15
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday, February 17
Pulaski Day (Illinois)	Monday, March 1
Daylight Savings Time	Sunday, March 14

Attention Union of Poles in America Members!

The Union of Poles in America, a division of the Polish National Alliance of North America (P.N.A.), has moved.

As of Friday, November 6, 2020, the new offices of the Union of Poles are located at 7100 East Pleasant Valley Road, Independence, Ohio 44131.

The new office phone number is (216) 520-0740.

The new fax line is (216) 520-0743

Please direct any questions or concerns to:
David G. Milcinovic, UPA vice president
(216) 299-1407
or Allan Szufłada, director (216) 789-0181.

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Attention High School Seniors Of The Detroit Metro Area! PNA Council 54 Announces 2021-22 Scholarships

To learn more about the college scholarship program, visit Council 54's website:
pnacouncil54.wordpress.com.

The deadline to request an application for the 2021-22 scholarship program is
January 31, 2021.

All completed applications must be submitted by **March 31, 2021.**

Got questions?
Contact Pat Sikora, scholarship chairperson at **248-559-6549.**



Important Announcement from Santa

Attention all parents and grandparents!



Starting **November 1, 2020**, a surprise gift will be coming to every child with a new Single Premium Whole Life PNA Certificate of Insurance.

Change of address or interruption in subscription matters contact:
PNA Address Dept.
(ext. 366) or e-mail:
addresschange@pna-znp.org



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
TO ALL WPNA LISTENERS!

At WPNA 103.1 FM - Polish American Mix, we offer our clients - both businesses and individuals - multidimensional campaigns featuring radio commercials, social media interactions, contests and giveaways, each tailored to our clients' unique needs. Consider WPNA 103.1 FM as one of your powerful marketing tools to attract even more happy clients.

Contact us at **773-654-5500** or **radio@wpna.fm**
to get on the radio and get the results!



WPNA.FM

Our Official PNA Representatives

We are here for you. Our PNA representatives are just like family and we know that sometimes you need to reach out and talk to someone who talks just like you and understands your concerns. Below is a list of directors and fraternal advisors, the districts and regions they represent and their email addresses. Feel free to contact them with your comments and questions; after all, we are here for you!

PNA Directors	State	Region	District	Email
Irene T. Hercik	IL	-	13	irenehercik@comcast.net
Anthony W. Nowak-Przygodzki	CA	-	16	anowak.pna@sbcglobal.net
Val Pawlos	PA	-	8	pawlos1@verizon.net
Teresa Sherman	MA	-	1	terrysherm@aol.com
Jeffrey M. Twardy	PA	-	8	jeff2573@comcast.net

	Fraternal Advisors	Region	Facebook Page Name
1	Barbara Wesolowski	F	Polish National Alliance, South Chicago
2	Bozena Kaminska	C	Polish National Alliance, Mid Atlantic
3	Greg Chilecki	J	Polish National Alliance, Pacific Coast, Nevada and Arizona
4	Irene Grabowy	A	Polish National Alliance, North -East states
5	Jolanta Mazewski - Dryden	H	Polish National Alliance, Region H
6	Joseph Magielski	D	Polish National Alliance, Ohio and West Virginia
7	Magdalena Solarz	G	Polish National Alliance, North Chicago
8	Sean Jackson	B	PNA , Region "B" Fraternal Group
9	Stella Szczesny	E	Polish National Alliance, Michigan and Indiana
10	Teresa Jankowski	I	PNA, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin

Region	Area
A	Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Connecticut
B	Western Pennsylvania, Western New York
C	Eastern New York, New Jersey, East and Southwestern Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, DC
D	Ohio, West Virginia
E	Michigan, Indiana
F	South Chicago
G	North Chicago
H	Texas, Nebraska, Missouri, Florida, Colorado
I	North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin
J	Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, Arizona



Polish National Alliance
of the U.S. of N.A.
6100 N. Cicero Avenue
Chicago, IL 60646-4385

Polish National Alliance

140 years strong!

*Proudly serving
the Polish-American Community
with over 2 million families,
who have entrusted PNA with
protecting their future.*

*Thank you for being
a valued PNA member!*

The Polish National Alliance

is the largest
Polish - American
Fraternal Benefit
Society in the United
States providing
a broad range of
life insurance and
annuity products,
and supporting its
members through
fraternal benefits.

The PNA Product Portfolio is designed to protect its members' financial futures. Its Fraternal Programs support member's wellbeings through civic activities, scholarships, and sports programs, orphan's benefit program and more.

The PNA is a proud owner of the "Polish Daily News" (Dziennik Związkowy) the oldest, and only Polish daily newspaper in the United States, as well as the WPNA Radio Station.

**Founded in 1880,
the Polish National
Alliance operates
solely for the benefit
of its most valuable
asset – its members.**