

POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

DEVELOPING A SPIRIT OF PRIDE AND SHARING OF POLISH CULTURE, TRADITIONS AND HISTORY

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August/September 2019



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UPCOMING EVENTS

July 26–28 – Pierogi Fest, Whiting, Indiana, www.pierogifest.net

August 8, 6:00 PM – PHS Board Meeting
Perkins, 2800 S Oneida, Green Bay, WI. You are invited!

August 24–25 Saturday 10:00 AM TO 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM – Green Bay Art Street: <http://mosaicartsinc.org/artstreet/>
Stop at Polish Heritage Society tent on Cherry Street!

August 30–September 2 – Taste of Polonia Festival 2019
Copernicus Center, 5216 West Lawrence Ave, Chicago, <https://copernicuscenter.org/taste-of-polonia-festival/>

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh will host a 31 panel exhibit about the Auschwitz Death camp in the Steinhilber Art Gallery in Reeve Union several weeks in September. The gallery is open MWF, from 10-4 PM. The panels are provided by the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Museum in Poland. The panels show the evolution of Nazi policy and war that lead to over 1.1 million people being murdered there. This exhibit will be accompanied by several panel discussions about Auschwitz and the Holocaust by scholars from around the region. This exhibit is provided by the Polish Heritage Society of Northeastern Wisconsin and supported by funding from the PAC and UW Oshkosh. For more information, please contact Karl Loewenstein at loewensteink@uwosh.edu or 920-424-2462.

September 12, 6:00 PM – PHS Board Meeting, Perkins, 2800 S Oneida, Green Bay, WI. You are invited!

September 13 – Newspaper article deadline. Submit articles to Malgosia at malgosiaadagherty@yahoo.com.

September 16, 2019 – Dozynki Harvest Festival
The Moose Family Center, 1025 2nd St N, Stevens Point, WI. Phone: 715-344-3224.

September 24, 7 PM – “JJ Hof and the JJ Hof Land Company,” Pulaski High School, 1040 S St Augustine St, Pulaski, WI, LGI room. Free for members of PHS. For more information see class description from Mike Brzezinski (page 3).

September 23, 6:30 PM – Newspaper distribution meeting
255 Terraview Dr, Green Bay, WI.

October 7, 7 PM – “Polish Genealogy”
Pulaski High School, 1040 S St Augustine St, Pulaski, WI. Free for members of PHS. LGI room. For more information see class description from Mike Brzezinski (page 3).

October 11-13, 10 AM – American International Czech and Slovak Voice Competition
Fort Howard Hall, Weidner Center, University of Wisconsin -Green Bay Campus. Application deadline **September 23, 2019**.

Would you be interested in helping with housing Hanna Okańska, a Polish singer from the Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz, Poland? She will be competing at the Weider Center on **October 11-13**. She will need a place to stay and help with transportation from **October 7-14**. We are also looking for help with expenses for her application fee \$115, or portion of it. If you are interested or would like more details, please contact Sarah at merediths@uwgb.edu. This is a great opportunity for Hanna, and any help would be most appreciated.



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mated 11 million of Jews within their reach.

The war's end stopped the Final Solution in the tracks but the evil plan still led to the death of 6 million Jews. About one in every six of them was killed in Auschwitz – many shoved into the gas chambers straight from

the boxcars, while others died later through starvation, public executions, forced labor or infectious diseases. One by one the exhibit's panels systematically detail the camp's gruesome conditions, facilities of mass murder, the cruel punishment sys-

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Remembering Auschwitz

On the 75th Anniversary of Its Liberation

IRENA FRĄCZEK

In a few short months, the world will observe again the International Holocaust Remembrance Day commemorating the genocide of about 6 million Jews and 11 million of other victims of the Nazi regime during the World War II. Observed on January 27 of each year since 2005, this solemn memorial day is set to coincide with the date of liberation of Auschwitz, the largest of the extermination camps operated by the Nazi Germany. The Auschwitz “death factory” became a symbol of Holocaust because it killed about 1.1 million Jews from all over Europe. Extending this ghastly death tool, the Auschwitz victims included also about 150 thousands of Poles, 25 thousands of Gypsies, 12 thousands of Soviet POWs and about 10 thousands of others.

Many events and programs taking place this year will create ample opportunities to honor and reflect on this landmark anniversary. One of them might be exhibit “Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away.” recently opened in the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York. The largest-ever exhibition of this type in North America arrived from Europe, where it attracted over 600 thousand visitors. On display are hundreds of photographs, drawings and artifacts from the camp – a boxcar used to bring in the prisoners, their bunk beds, canisters for storing the poisonous gas used to kill them and hundreds of their personal belongings. There are also the anti-Semitic propaganda materials used to incite the flames of hatred in German society and the helmet and dagger

of Heinrich Himmler, the main architect of the Holocaust.

Short of making a trip to NYC, an exceptionally informative exhibit will be on display within the next few months on UW-Oshkosh campus and potentially other Wisconsin locations. It consist of 31 panels on loan from the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum presenting the somber history and legacy of the camp in chilling

“Thus for the time being I have sent to the East only my ‘Death’s Head units’ with the order to kill without pity or mercy all men, women, and children of the Polish race or language. Only in such a way will we win the vital space that we need. Who still talks nowadays of the extermination of the Armenians?”

German Chancellor Adolf Hitler, Obersalzberg speech (August 22, 1939)

detail. Its title, the Konzentrationslager Auschwitz, follows the name used by the camp’s German Nazi founders. Today, however, we know it as the Auschwitz-Birkenau German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp. This name was formally approved when the camp was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2007.

Leaders of the notorious SS formations created the Auschwitz camp in April 1940 on lands annexed into the German Nazi state (the Third Reich) based on the Hitler’s decree of October 8, 1939. The camp’s original purpose was to deal with the increasing numbers of Polish prisoners captured during the first of six years of barbaric terror unleashed by German occupiers on the Polish society. Executions, forcible pacification campaigns, mass arrests and expulsions followed the genocidal policies that Hitler articulated well before invading Poland in September 1939.

The first transport of 728 Polish prisoners reached the camp on June 14, 1940. They included mostly the members of resistance movement and people listed in books prepared before the war (*Sonderfahndungsbuch Polen*). These included Polish intellectuals, politicians, economic leaders and veterans of struggles for Polish Independence. In addition to violations of numerous prohibition orders and compulsory labor laws, reasons for the imprisonment in Auschwitz listed on the exhibited card files could include the “hostile attitude toward Germans” and most

notably, the “aid to Jews.” In the fall of 1941, German occupiers of Polish lands stepped up the punishment for the latter “offense” to the death penalty applied collectively to the entire family of Poles aiding the Jews.

Changes instituted in 1941 reflected a drastic shift in the Nazi Germany attitude toward solving the “Jewish question.” Between 1933 and 1941, the Nazi racial theory portrayed Jews, Poles and other Slavs as “sub-humans” that should be wiped off the face of the earth. For example, the master plan called the Generalplan Ost envisaged a complete annihilation of ethnic Poles in about 15-20 years. The Jews, however, were seen as the lowest kind in the Nazi racial hierarchy and given much less time. After the intense anti-Jewish propaganda campaign and then isolation of Jews in the ghettos, the Third Reich embarked on putting in action The Final Solution, a plan to rapidly exterminate an esti-

POLISH NEWSBYTES

COMPILED BY ROBERT STRYBEL

Young Polish workers under 26 will not have to pay income tax; the measures is meant to halt youth exodus to the West

The Polish government has endorsed a bill that would abolish personal income tax for employees under the age of 26. The aim of the move is to halt the emigration of young people to Western Europe. Speaking at a press conference, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said the government’s priority was to make Poland “an increasingly friendly and attractive place to work and live for young people, so that their prospects are better every year.” He expressed the hope that the tax exemption will encourage young Poles living in Western Europe to return home, According to the draft legislation, the tax exemption will apply to those under-26 Poles with an annual income lower than 85,528 zlotys (about \$23,000).

The average Pole’s annual net earnings are less than \$7.000.

Blonde PolAm streaker hopes to retire at age 30; her stunts gave her wide popularity in Spain and Britain

Polish American Kinsey Wolański, who sprinted across the pitch in a racy swimsuit during the Champions League soccer final between Liverpool and Tottenham, has pledged to continue streaking. “By the time I’m 30, I plan on making enough money to retire, and streaking at the Champions League will only help me achieve that. I plan to do a lot more streaking to raise my profile,” the 22-year-old model told *The Sun*, Britain’s bombastic tabloid. The blonde bombshell, whose Instagram following on social media skyrocketed following the incident, revealed that she was inspired by the response she got following her stunt in Madrid, noting

one “can’t buy that kind of publicity.”

Brown bear spotted in Poland’s primeval Białowieża forest for the first time since 1963; will a reintroduction program be launched? Scientists and foresters have spotted a brown bear roving about eastern Poland’s ancient Białowieża forest for the first time in over half a century. The animal, believed to be a male, was also filmed by a movement-triggered camera. The bear is believed to have wandered into Poland from neighboring Belarus. Ever since Stalin redrew eastern Poland’s border to the Soviet Union’s favor, Białowieża has been split between Poland and Belarus. “We hope this will be the beginning of the restoration of the [brown bear] population,” one forestry official remarked.

Poland among the countries opposed to EU’s currently negotiated free trade accord with South America

In a joint letter, Poland, France, Belgium and Ireland have voiced objections to the EU’s currently negotiated free trade accord with South America. Those countries believe the agreement may flood the market with imported agricultural products of inferior quality. Polish PM Mateusz Morawiecki said that Poland supported free trade but had a firm stance on protecting its agriculture. He added that the letter’s signatories had serious doubts concerning the quality of South American agricultural produce. The free trade agreement with the Mercosur (South Market) trade bloc comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela has been under negotiation for the past 20 years.

100 richest Poles richer than last year, but their combined fortunes are still only a third of that of Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, the world’s wealthiest man

According to Polish news weekly *Wprost*, Poland’s 100 richest people have a combined worth of 153 billion zlotys (nearly \$45 billion), up by 10 billion zł compared to last year’s ranking. Polish business mogul Michał Sołowow is the country’s richest man for the second year running with a net worth of 12.1 billion zł, and Media

baron Zygmunt Solorz-Żak took second place with an estimated fortune of 10.1 billion zł. The Kulczyk siblings Dominika and Sebastian, children of the late Polish energy tycoon Jan Kulczyk, were in joint third place, each with a net worth of 7 billion zł.

Man joyriding in an old army tank in the town of Pajęczno could face up to eight years behind bars

Police in Pajęczno (Łódzkie voivodeship) have detained a 49-year-old man who, drove into town in a T-55 tank while under the influence of alcohol. He faces two years in prison for driving under the influence and even up to eight years for creating a road traffic hazard. He also lacked the proper license to drive a vehicle of that type on a public road. According to the local newspaper *Twoje Pajęczno*, the unnamed driver’s job had only been to load and unload the tank from its trailer. When the trailer collapsed and had to be repaired, he decided to take the 40-ton vehicle on a joyride.

Remembering Auschwitz

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tem, medical experiments and plunder of the victim’s property. Some displays focus also on selected groups of prisoners such as children, women, Roma and Soviet POWs.

The exhibit also tells the story of prisoners’ mutiny and escapes from the camp. Despite abominable penalties (hundreds of randomly selected prisoners were executed with recaptured escapees), attempts to break out from the camp were relatively frequent. Chances for success increased with help from outside and escapees could count on

support of local civilians. One of the last panels of the exhibit carries the message that remembrance is due to local residents who risked their own lives when extending the helping hand and especially so to those who perished in the camp for aiding the prisoners.

Going beyond the immediate help, Poles made major efforts to let the “free world” know about crimes being committed inside the extermination camps. One of the last panels of the exhibit refreshes our memory about reports compiled by Witold Pilecki (the most famous Auschwitz escapee), meetings that Jan Karski held with President Franklin D. Roosevelt (and other politicians, leaders of Jewish organizations and the media) and notes issues by the Polish Government in Exile to other governments. None of these efforts generated any results.

Thank You New members, RENEWING MEMBERS, and Donors!

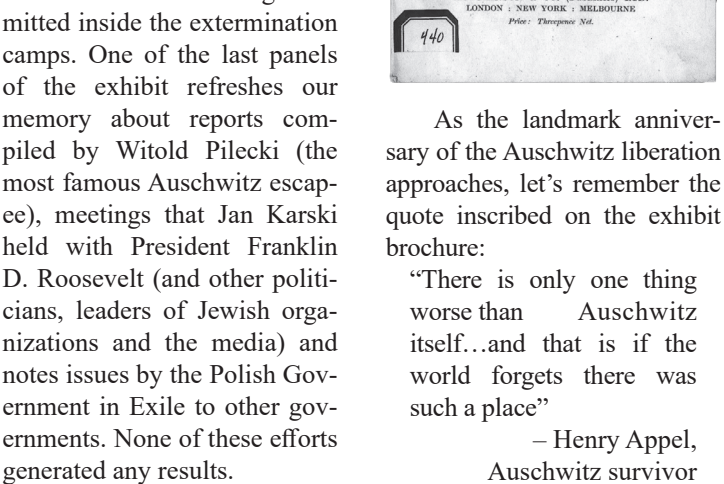
The Polish Heritage Society of Northeastern Wisconsin is pleased to welcome new members: the **Cindy Clark Family** of McFarland, **Rachel Liss** of Riverton, Wyoming (a gift of Cindy Clark), the **Magda & Adam Szewczyk Family** of De Pere (a gift of Rocky Calawerts), the **Ed Jeziorny Family** of Omro and Lakewood, **Stacie Gorski** of Green Bay, the **Paul Drzewiecki Family** of New London, **Kate Javanshad** of Hobart, **Victoria Kononova** of Appleton, and **Kim Dybro** of Sherrard, Illinois. Congratulations and witamy!

A number of members renewing since our previous issue’s deadline are: **Adam & Eugenia Muller** of Wisconsin Dells, **Jan Sergott** of Green Bay, **Gwen Girard** of Green Bay, **Dave Wentland** of De Pere, the **Mary Zipp Family** of Niagara, **Frank Stanaszak** of Green Bay, **Ivan Wadzinski** of Bowler, the **Michael Van Ess Family** of Sturgeon Bay, **Laura Czarnecki** of Appleton, the **Bob & Pat Budz Family** of Green Bay, **James Queoff** of Green Bay, the **Grace & William Zurovitch Family** of Kaukauna, the **Edmund & Lyn Carns Family** of Crivitz, **Gerald Brzezinski** of Green Bay, **Susan Whitney** of Green Bay, the **Chet & Judy Wolniakowski Family** of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, and the **Al & Elizabeth Lilla Family** of Sparks, Nevada. It is wonderful to see that the organization is not only gaining, but also maintaining! Dobrze jest mieć Was z nami!

Thank you to **Paul Drzewiecki** of New London and **Susan Whitney** of Green Bay who included thoughtful donations with their membership or correspondence.

I appreciate the special notes you include with your membership which I appropriately share with the rest of your Board of Directors! Thank you all for your support and interest in our Polish heritage! If you have any membership status or financial inquiries, please feel free to contact me. Also, your board officers’ contact information is listed in this newspaper and on the phsofnew.org website.

Paul M. Zwicker, Treasurer
(zwickerp@aol.com), phsofnew@gmail.com



As the landmark anniversary of the Auschwitz liberation approaches, let’s remember the quote inscribed on the exhibit brochure:

“There is only one thing worse than Auschwitz itself...and that is if the world forgets there was such a place”

– Henry Appel, Auschwitz survivor

POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

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☐ Your date of birth ☐ Where in Poland are you from: City _____ Area _____ I don't know _____

What articles do you like to read the most: ☐ Polish News ☐ Events in WI ☐ Recipes ☐ Traditions/History ☐ Famous Poles ☐ Language info ☐ News from the Board ☐ Polish stories ☐ Other _____

How did you hear about us?: ☐ Website ☐ Social media site like Facebook ☐ Complimentary newspaper at _____ ☐ Friend or family ☐ Other _____

For any address changes please contact:
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GREEN BAY, WI 54301

Please indicate the types of activities in which you might enjoy volunteering:
☐ Arti Gras (Feb)
☐ Paczki Day Party (Feb)
☐ Easter Party
☐ Public Relations
☐ Board Membership
☐ Polish Music event
☐ Website Design
☐ Art Street (Aug)
☐ Input to Newsletter
☐ Polish Mass (Oct)
☐ Christmas Party
☐ Other talents to share: _____

* for PHS use only to send event reminders

Silesian Uprisings

August 17th, 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the first of three Silesian Uprisings. In the years of 1919-1921, Upper Silesia which belonged to Germany before World War I, was

contested by Germany and Poland. Poles were disappointed that Upper Silesia had not been granted outright to newly independent Poland and rose against the Germans.



photo: Wikimedia Commons

The first two uprisings, in 1919 and 1920, were suppressed within a few days, but the third one in 1921, led to the inclusion of the southeastern part of Upper Silesia to Poland. The contribution of Poles in the uprisings impacted the shape of national borders after Poland’s rebirth.

The Silesian Uprisings Museum is the place that holds the original exhibits related to the history of the Silesian Uprisings. More information about the museum and the historical importance of the uprisings can be found on their website <https://muzeumpowstanslaskich.pl/> or <http://www.mpsl.pl/en/>

Another exceptional project at the heart of Silesia (in Polish – Śląsk), is the Silesian Museum in Katowice. It’s the largest museum in the region, situated on the grounds of former coal mine. It not only features permanent exhibitions dedicated to the history of Upper Silesia, but

I don’t need Google My Polish Wife Knows Everything

Life Is Better With Polka Music

Special thank you for Kasia Niemczyk from Polish National Alliance for donating humorous picture frames that we will be selling at Pulaski Polka Days and at Art Street this year.

Kasiu, we are extremely grateful for your ideas, time and effort. We are happy you have joined our organization!

Polish Heritage Society

also restored former mine buildings, underground halls and the observation tower, which is a former mine shaft, where visitors can enjoy the beautiful panorama of Katowice. The Silesian Museum has become

an important cultural center and one of the most visited museums in Poland. Please visit <https://muzeumlaskie.pl/en/>
Kasia Niemczyk
Polish National Alliance
Niemczyk.pna@gmail.com

GROWING UP POLISH AMERICAN

Community: The Ties That Bind

HELEN A. SCIESZKA, PH.D.

As I mentioned in my previous article the neighborhood I grew up in included almost as many family members as it did neighbors who were not related. And even if they were not related, very often they were friends of my grandparents, parents, or aunts and uncles. We all attended the same church and public or Catholic schools so our sense of family extended beyond the immediate relatives. The neighborhood was like a small town where everyone knew everyone, even though the population of the city was about 100,000 at the time. There were small neighborhood grocery stores every few blocks, including as I have mentioned, my grandfathers’ and almost all were Polish family owned. In those days my mother could send one of us on our bike with a note saying what kind of cigarettes she wanted and some money to any one of the stores and they would sell us a pack. Things have definitely changed.

Being the third generation in the neighborhood it was not uncommon for us, the youngest set, to be aware of who were friends with our grandparents, who the friends were of their children (our parents) and to be friends with their children. This was especially true, I believe for the eldest among that third generation. And as discussed previously we were also blessed with aunts, uncles and cousins who were neighbors as well as great aunts and uncles and second cousins. Pretty much wherever we went within a half to three quarters

mile of our homes we would know or be known by someone; either a relative or friend of someone in the family. For me personally, I think it gave me not only a sense of the extended family that I belonged to, of knowing where I came from and of security, but also of a world that was broader than the immediate four blocks around my house. Especially when other families began moving in that were immigrant families from other countries like Italy and Lebanon.

So, even as kids we knew who all of these other people were and because we were somehow connected that we were to also help each other. Again, this was all modeled for us. During the Depression my grandfather extended credit to all of his grocery store customers so they would have food for their families. They never forgot. Whenever there was an illness or death in the family my mother made one of her incredible homemade, from scratch, apple coffee cakes. When my father poured our driveway, friends came to help. It is simply the way things were.

However, there is one thing that I have to admit that worried me about this closeness. Good friends of my grandparents were a couple by the name of Frank and Helen. Their son and his wife were good friends of my parents and were also named Frank and Helen! Of course they named their son Frank who was my age....so you can see what is coming. Yes! As a child, I was afraid that I was destined to be

married to him! Even though he and I were friends, we did break that chain of Frank’s and Helen’s marrying!

There was a unique bond among our immigrant families even if they did not know each other prior to arriving in this country. They shared the same foods, traditions, memories and faith and so came together to celebrate those, often at their church. Those in my area went one step further and built what we called “The Polish Hall” (official name: Federated Polish Home) which was the place for wedding receptions, parties, dances, gatherings and all things Polish. And it is still active. Actually it was also the home for the Polish National Alliance, the White Eagle Association and the Polish Falcons of America; all national organizations. As one of the signs in the building states: “Polish-Americans: Proud of Our Heritage.”

It should however be noted that as proud as they were of their heritage there was also this strong drive to become more fully American. (This will be discussed in a later article.) My paternal grandparents were founding members of the Polish Hall and as adults a couple of my cousins were also members so this is where we were able to hold our family reunion celebration a few years back.

So, how did the Polish celebrate? You will have to wait for the next article when we talk about food and traditions.

Helen Scieszka, Ph.D. is a former ad executive, psychologist, professor, Catholic church pastoral associate, Diocesan marriage and family life director; published author of four novels and stories in “Chicken Soup for the Soul” books. She loves reading, travel, music, photography, art, sports, and family genealogy. Please visit her website drhelenscieszka.com

Informative sessions

Polish Heritage Society and the Pulaski Area Community Education (PACE) office will be presenting two informative sessions this fall. Both of the presentations will be at no cost to members of PHS and both will be at Pulaski High School at 1040 S St Augustine St in the Large Group Instruction (LGI) room. This is located just inside the front doors of the school. There will be \$10 fee for non-members.

On September 24th, will be ‘JJ Hof and the JJ Hof Land Company’. JJ Hof was colonizer and responsible for establishing the Polish communities of Hofa Park, Pulaski, Sobieski and Krakow in northeast Wisconsin. We will examine Hof’s arrival and activities in Wisconsin and his Norwegian origin.

Hof used several different names, what was his name anyway? He traveled a lot and even claimed to have traveled over 20,000 miles looking for the best farm land in America. While he was very energetic in his land sales, he also helped the Polish settlers recover from

fires that destroyed everything they had and provided land and lumber for churches.

Hof’s Will and Probate revealed the Land companies’ structure, who got what and how much money Hof had.

Next on Oct 7th, Polish Genealogy. This will first cover basic genealogy and how to get started, and what your finished product may be. What tools are on-line and off-line that are available to use. Which one’s cost money and which are free. What tools are at the library? There are specific Polish web sites to help track ancestors in Poland. Many records did survive the wars, and more records are being digitized and available to us every year.

If you have been thinking of getting started on the genealogy trail, this may be a good start for you.

Everyone will receive a printed copy of the presentation which contains numerous WEB links to help in your search.

Complete the below registration form and mail to PACE to secure a seat.

Mike Brzezinski

PACE REGISTRATION FORM

Presentation to Attend:

☐ JJ Hof & JJ Hof Land Co, Tuesday Sept 24th, 7 to 8 PM

☐ Polish Genealogy, Monday Oct 7th, 7 to 8 PM

Participant’s Name

Address

City

ZIP

Member of Polish Heritage Society of NE Wisconsin ☐ Yes ☐ No

Home Phone

Cell Phone

No Fee to members of the Polish Heritage Society.

\$10 Fee to non-members.

Send completed form and the \$10 check payable to Polish Heritage Society to: **PACE Office, P.O. Box 36, Pulaski, WI 54162**

Waiver Statement: The participant / Parent /Guardian assumes all responsibility in the case of injury or harm to participant. The Pulaski Community School District, their employees or agents or any volunteers or organizations associated with this activity will not be held responsible for any personal injury or loss that may occur in conjunction with this activity.

Signature

Polish President Andrzej Duda presents Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta with the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland

It was an event of a lifetime! At a presidential welcome reception at Our Lady of Częstochowa parish in Houston, Texas, on June 13, 2019, President Andrzej Duda and First Lady, Agata Kornhauser-Duda, visited with Texas Polonia and personally honored the Most Reverend Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta with the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. The decoration is awarded to non-citizens and Poles living abroad for distinguished contributions to international cooperation, and was

Center. The Center is nearing completion and it honors the memory of our ancestors and their strong values of faith, family and community."

The reception was co-hosted by Robert Rusiecki, Consul General of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Houston, and Fr. Waldemar Matusiak, pastor of Our Lady of Częstochowa. Many high-ranking Polish government officials were in attendance, along with over 300 representatives from Texas Polish communities, churches, and organizations. President Duda

was the fastest-developing country in Europe. Poland was recently named the 4th fastest developing country in the world.

Bishop Yanta is the great-grandson of Polish immigrants who were part of the founding of Panna Maria. His roots were nourished on a farm by faith-filled parents and grandparents, who instilled in him a deep love for his Polish and Catholic heritage. The bishop's long career as a priest and bishop reflect his commitment to community affairs, marriage, family, and life. Highlights



photo: Jakub Szymczuk/KPRP

presented in recognition of the Bishop's many initiatives in the Polish community, most notably his vision and leadership in founding the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria. Panna Maria was the site of the first and oldest permanent Polish settlement in the U.S. dating from 1854. In addition, the Heritage Center was one of nine Texas Polonia organizations individually honored with the presentation of a Polish flag by President Duda.

Bishop Yanta thanked President Duda and the First Lady, stating, "You honor us with your presence—welcome to America and to Texas and its Polonia. I humbly accept this prestigious award in the name of our Polish people living today in Texas and throughout the USA, and in Poland. God's divine providence has inspired us to build the Polish Heritage

Center. The Center is nearing completion and it honors the memory of our ancestors and their strong values of faith, family and community."

This was the first visit by a sitting Polish president to Texas. President Duda's other objectives were to meet with Texas energy leaders to discuss energy security in central Europe and to establish research collaborations with MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Poland received its first shipment of Texas LNG from Sabine Pass in June of 2017, and shipments of LNG have continued. Referring to the current situation of Poles and Poland, Duda described the recent 30 years as a special time "during which an independent and truly sovereign Poland has been built." He also emphasized that Poland

of his leadership include parishes at Sacred Heart and St. James in San Antonio and numerous archdiocesan assignments. He was founder and executive director of the San Antonio Neighborhood Youth Organization, *Today's Catholic* newspaper, Catholic Television of San Antonio, the Polish American Priests Association, the Texas division of the Polish American Congress, and the Polish American Council of Texas among others. Yanta was the first Texan of Polish descent to become a Bishop.

The Polish Heritage Center, a \$14 million facility currently being completed, will tell the stories of the Polish immigrations and settlements in Texas beginning in Panna Maria and spreading to numerous other communities. This high tech state-of-the-art 16,500 sq.ft. Center, with an estimated opening date in early 2020, will be a unique destination for families, educational groups, scholars, researchers, and history buffs. The Center is intended for the benefit and enjoyment of all of American Polonia, all 10,000,000 strong, and our brethren in Poland. It will be a vibrant location for lectures, workshops, classes, movies, and special events.

For further information, contact John Cebrowski (jcebrowski39@gmail.com or (210-370-3953), VP-Director of Development or visit polishheritagecentertx.org

DID YOU KNOW? BY FRANK CZARNECKI



The beloved longtime mayor of the Polish port city of Gdansk died after being stabbed in front of thousands of supporters at a public charity concert. Mayor since 1998, Paweł Adamowicz, 53, championed the rights of gays, Jews, and immigrants and presented Gdańsk as a liberal city that defied the xenophobic nationalism of the ruling Law and Justice party. The attacker, an ex-convict who rushed the stage and plunged a knife repeatedly into Adamowicz's

heart and stomach, shouted that he had been wrongly jailed under a government led by Civic Platform, a centrist party Adamowicz had left last year. Doctors operated for five hours before declaring the mayor dead. Thousands of grieving residents turned out as the Polish government declared a national day of mourning.

(*The Week*, Jan, 2019)

Consider a gift of Polish heritage!

A several-page custom-researched analysis of a Polish surname will make an unusual and memorable Polish-themed gift for a loved one (or yourself).

It will explain the name's meaning, how it originated, how many people share it, where they are from and whether a noble coat of arms accompanies it. If one is found, you will receive its illustration and learn the story behind it.

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Included is a helpful genealogical contact sheet to help check your family records in Poland, track down ancestral homesteads and possibly even turn up long-lost relatives. For more information please contact: research60@gmail.com



Volunteers Needed – Art Street 2019

As many of you know, PHS participates in several fund-raising activities throughout the year as a means to grow and preserve our Polish Heritage. Art Street is one of those events that has served us well in the past, so we will host a booth again this year in Green Bay on Aug 23-25. For more details regarding this event, visit the Art Street website at: www.mosaicartsinc.org/artstreet

This event was very well attended last year, and we experienced strong traffic through our booth. We are need of volunteers to not only help set up/tear down, but more important-

ly, to spend some time in the booth visiting with people of Polish decent and sharing our Polish heritage. Again this year, we will have Polish related items for sale during the event.

This is a good way for our readers and membership to get involved and help strengthen our local Polish Heritage. If you're able to spend a few hours of your time during the event, please contact me directly at 920-366-2921 or via email at jlaka57@gmail.com.

I look forward to hearing from each of you.

John Laka

PHS Vice President

Interested in receiving an Authentic Polish Recipe from Poland?

Just send \$3 (check made out to the Polish Heritage Society of NEW) and we'll mail or email you a special recipe. This month we are featuring a Polish Pork Chop, Kotlet schabowy you'll be sure to enjoy.

**Mail to: Małgosia Daugherty
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