



## World marks WW2 anniversary in Poland

BY ROBERT STRYBEL

At the start of September, the international media focused on Poland where some 250 world leaders had gathered to mark the 80th anniversary of mankind's most horrific conflict. Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki took part in pre-dawn ceremonies in the Baltic port of Gdańsk, where on September 1st, 1939 the German battleship "Schleswig-Holstein" attacked a Polish military depot at Westerplatte, firing the first shots of World War II.

As regards Poland's sufferings at the hands of the German invaders, Morawiecki said: "We need to talk about those losses, we must remember, demand the truth and demand compensation." Not only was one-fifth of the nation annihilated, but Warsaw estimates that Poland lost the equivalent of \$1.1 trillion in terms of destroyed infrastructure, stolen art works and potential revenues lost because of the war.

At roughly the same time, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier apologized for Germany's war crimes as he spoke in the central town of Wieluń. There, Hitler's Luftwaffe first tested its Blitzkrieg bombardment, slaughtering a thousand civilians as they slept. In halting Polish, Steinmeier made a valiant attempt to say: "Chyłę czoła przed ofiarami ataku na Wieluń. Chyłę czoła przed polskimi ofiarami niemieckiej tyranii i proszę o przebaczenie". (I bow before the victims of the attack on Wieluń, I bow before the Polish victims of German tyranny and ask forgiveness.)

In the afternoon, the main ceremonies took place at Warsaw's Piłsudski Square according to the protocol for high-level commemorations: wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, 21-gun salute and a military march-past. US Vice-President Mike Pence delivered a keynote speech as a

**"You never lost your spirit and couldn't be broken"**

**U.S. Vice President Mike Pence**

stand-in for the president who had postponed his planned visit to monitor Hurricane Dorian as it approached Florida. His address fully reflected the pro-Polish rhetoric of Donald Trump who in his memorable 2017 Warsaw speech held Poland up as a model for other nations to emulate.

„Today, in the heart of Warsaw and before the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, we have gathered to bear witness to the courage of a great people, to the spirit of a great nation, and to the profound and lasting strength of a great civilization." He called Poland "a homeland of heroes" which "had endured a campaign to demolish your freedom, laws, history, identity and faith. Yet you never lost that spirit. Your oppressors tried to break you, but Poland could not be broken."

In a hard-hitting address, Polish President Andrzej Duda not only recounted the horrors visited on Poland by both Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia but openly criticized the cow-

ardice and "business as usual" approach of Poland's Western Allies. "There may have never been a Second World War if the Western powers had opposed Hitler's Annschluss (annexation) of Austria and the mistreatment of Jews in Germany and had defended Czechoslovakia," Duda said.

In a clear reference to Putin's Russia, he added: "Today, in Europe imperialistic tendencies have re-emerged to change borders and subjugate citizens. There must be sanctions. There must be a response to every aggression. Turning a blind eye is no prescription for peace. It simply encourages further attacks."

Near the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, guests of honor took turns ringing a Peace Bell specially cast for the occasion. When its last peal ended, church-bells resounded all over Warsaw. In the evening, guests attended a state banquet at Warsaw's resplendent Royal Castle which had been destroyed by the Germans and was painstakingly restored in the 1970s. At the nearby Great Theater, they attended a performance of Krzysztof Penderecki's "Polish Requiem", an oratorio devoted to the victims of Stalin's 1940 Katyń Massacre.

Meanwhile, from the White House came word that President Trump would be visiting Poland in the near future for the US-Polish talks that were to have taken place on September 2nd. Several two-way agreements have been completed and only need to be signed by both countries' presidents.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 2, 6:00 PM** – Polish Heritage Workshop  
St Norbert College, 100 Grant Street, De Pere, WI 54115. This class is designed to deepen the community's understanding of Polish culture and perfect for those who plan to travel to Poland or learn more about their Polish heritage! Registration contact Kristina Reignier at (920) 403 4075 or [kristina.reignier@snc.edu](mailto:kristina.reignier@snc.edu) and <https://www.snc.edu/outreach/cultureworkshops/>

**October 6 (1st Sunday of the month), 5:00 PM** – Polish Mass in Wisconsin Dells, Saint Cecilia Catholic Church, 603 Oak St, Wisconsin Dells, WI.

**October 7, 7:00 PM** – Polish Genealogy Class  
Pulaski High School, 1040 S St Augustine St, Pulaski, WI. Free for members of PHS. For more information see class description from Mike Brzezinski on page 3.

**October 10, 6:00 PM** – PHS Board Meeting  
Perkins 2800 S Oneida, Green Bay, WI. You are invited!

**October 12, 4:00 PM** – Duo Klavitarre concert  
Harper Hall in the Music-Drama Center, Lawrence University, 420 E. College Avenue, Appleton, WI. Free to Public. Event is sponsored by Polish Heritage Society. For more information see below.

**October 11-13, 10:00 AM** – American International Czech and Slovak Voice Competition  
Fort Howard Hall, Weidner Center, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Campus. The competition features a first prize of \$5,000. Free Admission. Questions can be directed to Prof. Sarah Meredith at [merediths@uwgb.edu](mailto:merediths@uwgb.edu)

**October 16, 7:00 PM** – Cold War (Poland, 2018)  
Neville Museum, 210 Place, Green Bay, WI.  
Set against the backdrop of 1950s and 60s Poland, Cold War tells the love story of Wiktor and his muse Zula. Shot in sumptuous black and white, the story moves back and forth between the communist East and Western Europe and recounts history through folk music and jazz. From the director of *Ida*, Cold War was Poland's nominee for Best Foreign Film at the Academy Awards. Shown in conjunction with the Polish Heritage Society of Northeastern Wisconsin.

**October 27, 11:00 AM-2:30 PM** – Polanki's Annual Polish Soup Festival  
Blessed Sacrament Church, 3100 South 14th Milwaukee, WI. Reservation Required. <http://www.polanki.org/soupfestival.html>

**November 3 (1st Sunday of the month), 5:00 PM** – Polish Mass in Wisconsin Dells, Saint Cecilia Catholic Church, 603 Oak St, Wisconsin Dells, WI.

**November 14, 6:00 PM** – PHS Board Meeting  
Perkins, 2800 S Oneida, Green Bay, WI. You are invited!

**November 15** – Newspaper article deadline. Submit articles to Malgosia at [malgosiaaugherty@yahoo.com](mailto:malgosiaaugherty@yahoo.com)

## Polish Duo Performing

This October, music-lovers of the Fox Cities will be in for a treat. On Saturday, October 12, the Polish duo DuoKlavitarre is giving a concert at Lawrence University, which is free and open to the public. The concert is part of the duo's American tour. As one of the events dedicated to the Heritage

Frederic Chopin, Astor Piazzolla, Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Luigi Boccherini, Vittorio Monti, Johannes Brahms, and other composers from around the world.

Jolanta Ziemska and Maciej Ziemiński maintain a busy performing and teaching schedule. They have been performing together for fifteen years, and have toured in the USA, Poland, Bulgaria, Spain, Romania, Italy, Denmark, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Czech Republic, Austria, Venezuela, Canada, and South Korea. They have participated in many international master classes and have taken part in national and international competitions.

The two musicians currently live in Germany, but originally hail from Poland. Both Jolanta and Maciej graduated with honors from the Music Academy in Lodz, Poland, where Jolanta studied piano under the guidance of Prof. Tadeusz Chmielewski and Joanna Kaczmarek, and Maciej was a student of Prof. Jerzy Nalepka. While in Poland, they were the creators and artistic directors of the International Guitar Festivals that took place in Grotniki and Jarosław. Currently, they serve as organizers of the International Guitar Festival in Bremen, Germany, as well as work as directors and founders of the private music school "ConTakte."

More information on DuoKlavitarre can be found here: <http://www.klavitarre.com/>



month, this concert is organized and sponsored by the Polish Heritage Society of Northeastern Wisconsin and the Lawrence University Russian and East European Club.

DuoKlavitarre consists of Jolanta Ziemska (piano) and Maciej Ziemiński (guitar). The unusual combination of piano and guitar creates a unique, clear and beautiful sound.

The duo's repertoire includes Baroque, Classic, Romantic and modern pieces. The program of the concert is very diverse; musicians will perform their own arrangements of works by

## POLISH NEWSBYTES

COMPILED BY ROBERT STRYBEL

### Visa-less travel to America in 2020

During visits to the US, successive Polish presidents and other senior officials had pressed the White House to withdraw Poland's visa requirement but were routinely told that only Congress could change the law. The law clearly stated that only countries that fall below a 3 percent visa-rejection level could qualify for visa-less travel. Poles posing as tourists were notorious for illegally working in the US, Polish visa applications therefore had a high rejection rate, and only recently be-

gan approaching the 3 percent target. Poland is one of only five European Union countries whose citizens require a visa to travel to the US. The others are Croatia, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Romania. During his recent visit to Poland, US Vice-President Pence said visas for Poles would most likely be lifted in 2020.

### Poland is drying up

A second consecutive year of serious drought coupled with unseasonable heat waves has scorched Poland's croplands and lowered water levels to record lows. Lakes and ponds are

drying up and, in places where it once had a depth of 20 feet, the mighty Vistula (Wisła) is now only 15 inches deep and can be easily waded across. All told, Poland has one of Europe's poorest water supplies. The government is now planning to build a network of reservoirs to double water retention by 2026. It has responded to crop losses of up \$490 million by offering a disaster-aid package to drought-stricken farmers. Poles fear food prices will soar due to the crop failure.

### Smog-choked Kraków bans coal and wood burning

The smog-choked southern city of Kraków has banned coal and wood burning in an attempt to reduce the city's serious air pollution. Residents can be fined

for residents and visitors about their Polish heritage and general interest in anything Polish.

New this year, we had Iwona Downs selling a large variety of Polish hand painted pottery in our booth. She was dressed in an authentic Polish formal outfit which livened up the appearance and experience for visitors to our booth.

Again this year, we raffled off two Polish hand painted and crafted pottery items from Bolesławiec, Poland. This year's lucky winners were Monika Fairchild (11" Flowering Peacock Heart Shaped Platter) and Angela Wloszczynski (9" Spring Flowers Pasta Bowl). Congratulations to the both of them!

Overall, this was our most successful year for sales of Polish merchandise, which helps to fund the support of our Polish heritage in northeastern Wisconsin. This event would not have been possible without the assistance of our member volunteers – a special thanks to Cheryl Passel, Mary Drella, Bob Palzewicz, Mike Brzezinski, Fran Czarnecki, Malgosia Daugherty, Scott LaLonde, Stacie Gorecki, Laura Czarnecki and Iwona Downs.

Hope to see all of you again next year.

Thanks again to all for your support!

up to 5,000 zlotys (\$1,280) for using such fuels in their stoves, furnaces, fireplaces, and backyard barbecues. A drone fitted with a thermal-imaging camera is being used to monitor the pollution level. Poland's old royal capital (until 1596) is a major tourist attraction with its venerable old townhouses, palaces, and churches, but visitors often complain of the smoggy, eye-stinging atmosphere. The city is situated to the north of the Tatra Mountains in a depression where air circulation does not readily disperse the pollution.

### World newspapers highlight Poland's wartime history

A number of world newspapers have marked this year's 80th anniversary of World War II by running materials promoting knowledge of recent Polish history. They included articles by Poland's president, prime minister, historians and intellectuals. The main point being driven home was that World War II began in Poland which fought from the first to the last day of the conflict. Russians claim the war started in June 1941 when Germany attacked the Soviet Union, while in the US it was the December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor that brought America into the war. To Jewish circles, the Second World War is mainly the Holocaust. "If we don't tell our own story, others will tell it for us," remarked Eryk Mistewicz, director of the New Media Institute which sponsored the project. The write-ups appeared in the Washington Post and Chicago Tribune, France's Le Figaro and Le Soir, Germany's Die Welt, El Mundo of Spain and Britain's Sunday Express.

### Poland's sextuplets doing well

The Marzec sextuplets, born last May in Krakow's University Hospital, are doing well in their home village of Tylmanowa, some 40 miles from Kraków. Their parents, who already had a two-and-a-half-year-old son, have their hands full looking after the two boys and four girls of their new six-

some. When they were born, the smallest weighed in at only 1.96 pounds and the biggest at 2.9 pounds. The chance of successfully giving birth to sextuplets has been calculated as one in 4.7 billion.

### Poland, Ukraine and US to cooperate on energy security

Poland, Ukraine, and the United States have signed a memorandum, pledging to cooperate on energy security in Central-East Europe. Under the deal, Poland will move closer to becoming a European LNG (Liquid Natural Gas) hub and major regional exporter. "Poland will thus be able to not only satisfy its own energy needs but also help out with deliveries to Ukraine as well as other countries in Central and Eastern Europe that, like Poland, have been dependent on monopolistic practices," said Polish energy official Piotr Naimski in reference to Russia. To lessen dependence on Russian deliveries, Poland has built a LNG base in Świnoujście, the country's westernmost Baltic port, and plans to build a gas pipeline from Norway via Denmark to Poland.



Thank you to Iwona Downs and John Laka for making this year Art Street a great event!

## Art Street 2019 – Thank You!

On behalf of the Polish Heritage Society, thanks to all of you that stopped by our

booth at Art Street and supported our organization! It was great to talk to so many ar-

## Thank You New members, RENEWING MEMBERS, and Donors!

The Polish Heritage Society of Northeastern Wisconsin is pleased to welcome new members **Annette Pelegrin** of Pulaski, **Kathy Patrick** of Fort Collins, Colorado, and **Marge Kelly** of Carpinteria, California. Congratulations and Witamy!

A number of members renewing since our previous issue's deadline are **Donna Marciniak Vercauteren** of De Pere, **Marie Revolinski** of Madison, the **Julie Stoeger Family** of Kaukauna, the **Malena and Piotr Dzwonkowski Family** of Oneida, **Ralph & Miriam Pieper** of Oshkosh, **Dawn Sisel** of Muskego, the **Richard Behrendt Family** of Whitefish Bay, the **Sarah & Eric Lipinski Family** of Maribel, the **Jim Kruzitski Family** of Minneapolis, **Mark Wesolowski** of Luxemburg, **Dr. Jill Carter and Sunridge Dental** of Green Bay, the **Joan Zima Van Den Elzen Family** of Green Bay, and the **Leszek Golimowski Family** of Marinette. The **Susan & Marty Kruzel Family** of Grand Chute increased their membership to a Lifetime Membership. It is wonderful to see that the organization is not only gaining, but maintaining too! Dobrze mieć Was z nami!

Grateful thanks to **Ralph & Miriam Pieper (Przepiora)** of Oshkosh and **Dawn Sisel** of Muskego who included very thoughtful donations with their membership. Thank you very much to **Darek Golubiewski** who donated the entire sale of his amber from our Pulaski Polka Days exhibit.

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



**POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY**

### OFFICERS 2018-2019

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malgosiaaugherty@yahoo.com

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john.laka@cummins.com

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submit articles, photos,  
and advertising to:

Monika Pawlak  
PO BOX 286  
Stevens Point, WI 54481-6452  
Email: mdpawlak@yahoo.com

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

**POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY**

PAUL ZWICKER, 255 TERRAVIEW DRIVE, GREEN BAY, WI 54301

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email\*: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP:  Individual per year \$20  Couple/Family per year \$25  Lifetime Member \$200

PAYMENT:  Cash  Check No.: \_\_\_\_\_ New Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Donations to the organization: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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:

**PAUL ZWICKER**  
**255 TERRAVIEW DRIVE**  
**GREEN BAY, WI 54301**

Please indicate the types of activities in which you might enjoy volunteering:

- Arti Gras (Feb)  Art Street (Aug)  
 Paczki Day Party (Feb)  Input to Newsletter  
 Easter Party  Polish Mass (Oct)  
 Public Relations  Christmas Party  
 Board Membership  Other talents to share:  
 Polish Music event  
 Website Design

\* for PHS use only to send event reminders

## GROWING UP POLISH AMERICAN

## Tradition!

HELEN A. SCIESZKA, PH.D.

Every time I hear this word my mind immediately goes to the famous opening song from that incredible show, “Fiddler on the Roof!” As the song and “Tevye” (the lead character) explains in his opening dialogue, they have traditions for everything – from what to wear, to what to eat, to what role each person in the family plays, to how to keep your balance as a ‘fiddler on a roof.’ And because of the traditions, they know who they are and what God wants them to do.

In many ways that was the situation in my family too. As children we may not have been aware that these were “traditions” that were being shared and passed down but we did know that particular things would happen at certain times of the year or at special events.

As in most families, there were gatherings at my grandparent’s home. Being one of the “older” grandchildren I am blessed to have memories of sitting around their large table in the dining room at the home they had before retiring, and of being treated to one of my grandmother’s INCREDIBLE meals! Platters with all kinds of foods filled that large table. Such a cook and baker she was and, of course, she didn’t use any recipes! Gratefully, my mother and one of my aunts were able to learn a couple of her special ones (for pierogi, and all of the fillings, gołąbki, and many of my cousins’ favorite, Poppy Seed Cake) that are now being passed on. Sadly, the one for her special fried chicken has been lost.

Also, as I was told, my grandfather worked his way over from Poland as a cook on a ship. Although I don’t think he helped my grandmother in the kitchen after they were married I do have his special recipe for meatloaf (it is wrapped in cabbage leaves and is made from pork, veal and beef. Which I just learned was the mixture for my father’s gołąbki!) And, as many of my cousins will attest, he enjoyed making homemade wine that every grandchild, whatever the age, got a very small glass of with the meal.

They always seemed to have had a garden with lots of flowers and, of course, vegetables of every type. Once they retired they sold their big house

and moved to a smaller house with some acreage outside of the city. Here their garden at least tripled in size, plus they also had rabbits and chickens. No one ever left their house without bags and containers of something!

One tradition that has remained with me to this day is the breaking and sharing of the opłatek at the Christmas Eve meal. It is something that I remember from my earliest days; my grandfather breaking it and sharing a blessing with my grandmother and then it being passed to each one of us at the table to do the same. I then remember my father doing it at our Christmas table and it is now done at my own.

One of the traditions regarding the opłatek I did not encounter until my adult years was that of it being sent to me in a greeting card by a Polish friend. I thought this a wonderful way to share our heritage and friendship.

My fondest memories of Christmas Eve, though, are of attending Midnight Mass. There is simply something magical and even mystical about it. The church beautifully decorated; the priest in special vestments, the full ceremony of what we used to call a High Mass and, of course, the choir and the music! Our parish was blessed to have my aunt and uncle as organist and director respectively for our adult choir. (My aunt also played for and directed our young girls’ choir.) Of course at that time the Mass was still in Latin which is such a beautiful language when sung. But it was the special recessional hymn they usually sang that took the entire evening to a new level – the singing of the Christmas parts of Handel’s Messiah!

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”

To this day, there are no words to express the memories from my childhood of the feelings of joy that still come when I listen to this piece every Christmas Eve. What a gift to have been given!

When we arrived home from Mass we were thrilled to discover that Santa had made his stop while we were at church. Before we could open any gifts we were to change into our pajamas. While we were doing that, my mother would put some Kielbasa in the oven, so that af-

ter we were done with the gift opening we could have some along with a really good Polish rye bread before heading off to bed. It is still my absolute favorite night of the year!

For Easter, my grandmother would make a beautiful lamb cake all covered in coconut. As much as we hated having to cut into it, we also knew how good it was going to taste. And one of my cousins reminded me the butter for the Easter table was also in the shape of a lamb. Such



Chruściki

fot. Wikimedia Commons

a talented lady my grandmother was.

Another Easter tradition that I don’t remember (I am so grateful for my cousins sharing their memories with me!) is that of dyeing the hard boiled eggs with onion skins which gave them “...a beautiful gold color.”

Of all of my grandmother’s cakes my absolute favorite though was her “Pineapple Upside Down Cake.” I have NEVER tasted another like it. Of course we were taught to always thank and compliment the cook which I never had a problem doing with my grandmother. But after I told her how much I loved her pineapple cake she then started to make two each time – one for me (which she told me I needed to share with my family) and one for everyone else. Aren’t grandmothers the best?

My mother was also an excellent cook and baker. In addition to many of the traditional Polish dishes, she also made one that was unique to the Polish communities in states that were east of Lake Michigan – City Chicken Legs. As chicken was more expensive in the late 1800s and early 1900s this dish was developed using small pieces of pork and veal (sometimes beef is also used) that are placed on a wooden skewer, dredged in flour and then fried. I was surprised to find that no one here in Wisconsin had ever heard of this form of “mock chicken legs” but rather only the one that is made with ground meat until I discovered that this Polish dish originally developed in Pittsburgh and spread among the Polish communities from there only to Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and up into New York.

Kielbasa, gołąbki, pierogi, my grandfather’s meat loaf, city chicken legs, lamb and pineapple cakes – what could top those? That’s easy—CHRUŚCIKI! My grandmother and one of my aunts made the ABSOLUTE BEST! I was even at my aunt’s house one time when she was making them – it was quite

a process. And by the time we were done “helping” her there was powdered sugar EVERYWHERE! I have her recipe but sadly have never been “brave enough” to try to make them as baking and cooking are not one of my talents.

As we know, like the Irish, the Polish LOVE a good party and to celebrate special occasions like weddings! In addition to the great food (and drinks of course!) one of the traditions I remember seeing as a youngster

as a Czech dance it became and continues to be one of the most popular folk dances among Germans, Lithuanians, Austrians just to name a few and of course POLISH! It is probably one of the very first dances I ever learned from my parents – who could do a pretty good polka. I so enjoyed watching them and all of the other dancers and loved it when it was my turn to join them.

I know that there are many other traditions and incredible foods, but these are just a few of the special ones that I wanted to share with you. Such wonderful memories of the experiences of growing up in a Polish family and neighborhood. Foods and traditions being passed on that helped us to know our roots, who we were and gave us the foundation to become who we are.

So, as Tevye says at the end of his dialogue, “Without our traditions, our lives would be as shaky as...as a fiddler on the roof!”

Helen A. Scieszka, Ph.D. is a former ad executive, psychologist, college professor, Catholic church pastoral associate, Diocesan marriage & family life director; published author. Please visit her website [drhelenscieszka.com](http://drhelenscieszka.com) to keep up with news on talks, book sale/signings and new releases!

## Genealogy class

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 Oct 7th, Polish Genealogy will 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 ones 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:

\_\_\_ Polish Genealogy, Monday Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**  
2601 Philip Ln, Appleton, WI 54915



## UW Oshkosh student experiences from their Holocaust trip with Professor Karl E. Loewenstein in Poland

### Reflections of Warsaw

My name is Brandon. When I decided to participate on this journey, I initially had only background knowledge of the Holocaust. The desire for more information and a first-hand experience led me to Poland.

In order to better understand the events of the Holocaust, one must understand the nature of people. This is one of the many lessons that I have taken away from this experience. If the Nazis had succeeded, we would not have the Europe we see today: accept-

We got back in the bus and continued on to Majdanek. While Majdanek wasn't exclusively an extermination center, it was one of the most lethal concentration camps. It is also one of the camps that is the best preserved. We walked through the gas chambers, stained with blue from oxidized Zyklon B. We passed the barracks and looked at the exhibitions. Toward the end, we went through the crematorium, which was particularly moving. The sterility and cold efficiency was evident and poignant. After seeing the ovens, we walked up to the memorial monument. I didn't really know what to expect, other than a mention of ashes under the dome. Walking up the steps and seeing the pile of ash (mixed with soil) took my breath away. It was terrible and moving and horrifying. The idea of thousands upon thousands of people having their lives erased, reduced to nothing but ash, is truly heartbreaking.

We had some time to decompress on the bus ride to the Belzec memorial, which was good, because Belzec was even more overwhelming and powerful than I could have imagined. Belzec was an extermination center. Over 500,000 people came through its gates. Two are known to have survived. Two. When the Nazis left Belzec, they completely demolished everything; leveled it to the ground and built a farm on top of it. Now, instead of it being completely erased from memory, an incredible memorial stands on the site. It's hard to describe it exactly, but every artistic aspect of the memorial was intentional and well thought out. We walked into the memorial, to the Wailing Wall portion, and up and around to the museum section. There was a very engaging exhibition with many multimedia exhibits. But the most powerful part was the Contemplation Room. It was a concrete room the size of one of the gas chambers with only two dim lights. It was cold and dark. Absolutely haunting. I walked the length of the room and back towards the door. On my way out, it occurred to me: I get to leave. I get to walk out of this awful place. So many people did not.

Throughout the Belzec memorial, a verse from the book of Job (16:18) was featured. It spoke to me as a plea from the victims: "Earth, do not cover my blood; let there be no resting place for my outcry!" We cannot cover over the atrocities of the Holocaust, we cannot bury their cries for justice, and we must heed their warnings so it never happens again.

— Alexandria Oemig,  
UW-Oshkosh

From the Blog on <http://holocaustcentermilwaukee.org/>



"The Long History of Jews in Poland and the Holocaust" presentation by Karl Loewenstein, professor of history



Organizers of the Auschwitz Exhibit at UW-Oshkosh: assistant professor Emmet Sandberg, professor Karl Loewenstein, and Malgosia Daugherty from Polish Heritage Society

Early in the morning of May 29, our tour group stopped to gaze at the Palace of Culture in Warsaw. It is a tremendous spire that reaches into the sky. Under the orders of Joseph Stalin, the people of Poland were forced to construct the palace in the same likeness of the Seven Sisters of Moscow. The process of construction devastated the city of Warsaw and cost numerous lives. Today it stands as a reminder of Poland's post-war history. A history that would have been lost had the Nazis succeeded in the Holocaust.

Around mid-day we encountered a fragment of Warsaw's past: a 10 foot high brick wall. Dotting the area around the wall were a number of memorials left by previous visitors. This was the ghetto wall that was created by the Nazis in order to concentrate Jews in a single section of Warsaw. Jews were unable to leave the ghetto when the wall went up. This was a result of Nazi Germany's desire for a racially pure Europe. The memorials near the wall were left by people from all over the world. Their presence has proven Nazism incorrect.

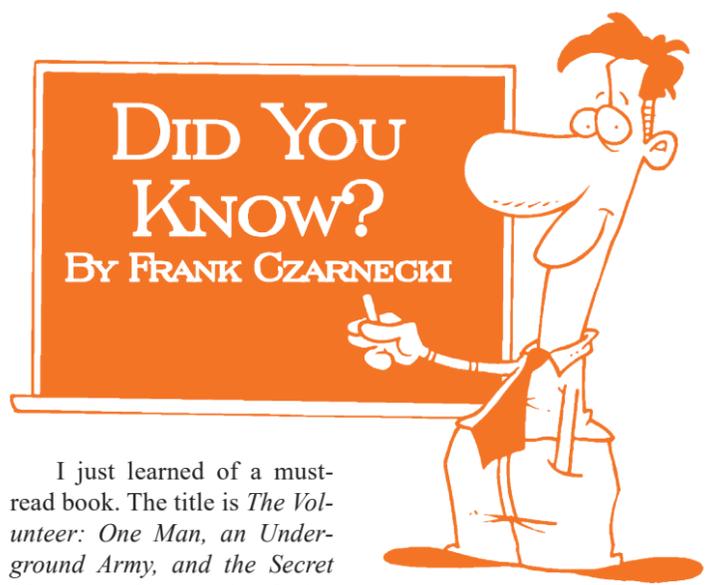
ing, living, and happy. That is something the Nazis never achieved.

— Brandon Dunn,  
UW-Oshkosh

**"Earth, do not cover my blood; let there be no resting place for my outcry!"**

My name is Alexandria Oemig. I am a student at UW Oshkosh and am majoring in Psychology. This trip has already been full of such powerful and memorable moments, but today will be a day I won't soon forget.

We began our day with a bus ride towards the Majdanek camp. On the way, we stopped at a former railway station that served as a deportation point. Approximately 29,000 Jews were deported from the Lublin area to the Belzec death camp. Today, the station is no longer in use, and in its place is a lovely memorial. It was striking how close to the main road it was. It makes sense, because it was a major railway station, but it still surprises me how the atrocities happened out in the open. The camps themselves were a bit farther out of the way, but still fairly close to town, too.



I just learned of a must-read book. The title is *The Volunteer: One Man, an Underground Army, and the Secret Mission to Destroy Auschwitz*. Jack Fairweather is the author.

Neal Bascomb, a book reviewer for *The Wall Street Journal*, wrote, "Few books have enthralled, incensed, and haunted me as *The Volunteer* has. Its subject, Witold Pilecki, was a Polish resistance fighter who in 1940 volunteered to enter Auschwitz as a prisoner so he could alert the world to the slaughter and torture the Nazis were committing inside the camp." Pilecki's unfathomable heroism might have saved a million lives had the detailed reports he produced been heeded, but Allied leaders did nothing. Only decades after the war did details of Pilecki's efforts emerge.

Another reviewer wrote, "This book is not for the faint-hearted." In his first hours in the camp, Pilecki saw guards gun down a line of men as they

stepped off a train. Pilecki's first dispatches reached Winston Churchill and the Polish government-in-exile in London by December of 1940. His reports described the construction of gas chambers and put numbers on the total victims, by then, most of them Jewish. His calls for bombing the camp were rejected by Washington and London. Some officials deemed the reports propaganda. Anti-Semitism also played a role; no one wanted it thought that the war was being fought on behalf of Jews.

Pilecki escaped Auschwitz in 1943, but even after the Nazis' defeat, his work was not celebrated. In 1947, he turned to gathering evidence of Soviet atrocities in Poland, leading to his arrest and 1948 execution.

(from *The Week*,  
Aug 16, 2019)

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