

## What makes Polish people tick?

BY ROBERT STRYBEL

An anecdote from the time when there was still no Poland back on the map said the Nobel Prize Committee had announced an essay contest about the elephant. The eroticized French submitted a piece titled “The elephant and its loves”. The mega-scholarly Germans – “The elephant and its relationship to the key historiographical problems of the natural sciences” and the ultra-practical Americans – “The Elephant and how to make it Bigger and Better.”

The Polish essay was entitled: “Słoń a sprawa polska” (The elephant and the Polish question). Such Polonocentrism was understandable when Poland was under triple foreign occupation prior to 1918. But in less precarious times? We’ll get to that further down. In the meantime let’s focus on a few Polish virtues:

proverbial gościnność with the saying: “Gość w dom, Bóg w dom” (When a guest enters the home, God enters the home). US-born PolAms visiting Poland for the first time are often overwhelmed by the lavish, can’t-do-enough-for-you hospitality of their Polish relatives. The visitors are feted with more food and drink than anyone could possibly consume, and the householders may well offer their bed to their PolAm cousins while sleeping on air-mattresses themselves.

**PEASANT ROOTS AND PARTITIONS:** Poland’s pre-partition society comprised about 10% szlachta (gentry) and an overwhelming majority of peasant farmers. What was lacking was an indigenous Polish burgher (town-dwelling middle) class. Germans and Jews accounted for the bulk of the artisans, merchants and entrepreneurs of most Polish cities. In the late 1700s Po-



Bóg, Honor, Ojczyzna  
(God, Honour, Fatherland) –  
sign on the Polish Home Army  
monument in Sopot

fot. Wikimedia Commons

**COURAGE, BRAVERY, HEROISM:** The bravery of Polish fighting men actually altered the course of European history. In 1241, the armies of Prince Henryk Pobożny stopped the Mongol invasion of Western Europe, and in 1683, King Jan Sobieski’s forces routed the invading Turks. In 1920, Poland rolled back the Bolshevik hordes attempting to spread the communist revolution across Europe. Tadeusz Kościuszko, Kazimierz Pułaski and many others personified the Polish motto: “For your freedom and ours.” More recently, Poland’s peaceful Solidarity revolution of the 1980s led to the collapse of communist rule across Europe and of the USSR itself.

**PATRIOTISM PLUS TOLERANCE:** Polish patriotism has usually lacked the chauvinistic intolerance often associated with that term. Poland did not engage in the religious wars that gripped Europe in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, and heretics were not burned at the stake. In fact, Poland became a haven for Jews and religious dissidents (Protestants) fleeing persecution in the West. The only denomination ever expelled from Poland were the Aryans, not for religious reasons but because they had disloyally sided with the invading Swedes. Nevertheless, most Poles are fiercely proud of their country and heritage, largely within the familiar traditional context of “God, country and family.”

**HOSPITALITY DEIFIED:** The Polish proverb “Czym chata bogata, tym rada” (Our home is happy to share all it possesses) is roughly comparable to the Italians’ “Casa mia...casa tua” and the Hispanic “Mi casa tu casa” (My home is your home). But Poles are probably the only nation on earth to have actually deified their

land, when it got wiped off the map for the next 123 years by its three aggressive neighbors, that lopsided structure was freeze-framed for more than a century. The industrial revolution did occur on Polish soil, but it was governed by foreign invaders who also imposed their culture on the hapless Poles. It should be remembered that it was largely Europe’s middle class that designed castles and cathedrals, built industry, created great art and composed symphonies. As a result of foreign occupation, Poland was largely forced to sit out the economically and culturally vibrant 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**NOT ONLY VIRTUES:** Even Poles’ worst enemies have never accused them of lacking courage or hospitality but, like all other nations they also have their faults. Poles and PolAms alike are often exasperated by Polish “straw enthusiasm” (“słomiany zapał”). Poles are known to get all fired up about some idea or plan which bursts into flame like a straw fire, only to soon die out for lack of follow-through. Another Polish vice is disinterested envy (“bezinteresowna zawiść”). Resenting rather than rejoicing at a compatriot’s good fortune. But even worse is the divisiveness and discord (“niezgoda”), that has plagued Poles for generations. And, true to form, Poland is now probably Europe’s most politically polarized nation, divided into a majority that backs the present conservative government and a minority that vehemently opposes it. The only recent comparison that comes to mind is America’s antagonistic pro- and anti-Trump camps.

Have your own personal experiences reflected any of the above situations? Maybe it’s something worth discussing with family and friends.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 23, 30, 6 PM-8 PM** – Polish Workshop with Pierogi Dinner in Appleton, WI  
For more information visit <https://www.airbnb.com/experiences/2556518>

**September 26, 6 PM-8 PM** – Polish Workshop in Pulaski High School 1040 S St Augustine St, Pulaski, WI. Free for members of PHS. \$20 Fee to non-members. More information on page 3.

**September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM** – Conversational Polish for Beginners  
Polish Center of Wisconsin, 6941 S 68<sup>th</sup> St, Franklin, WI 53132. To register contact Polish Center at 414-529-2140.

**October 2, 3 PM** – Polish Mass in Wisconsin Dells  
Saint Cecilia Catholic Church, 603 Oak St, Wisconsin Dells, WI, Fr. Mirosław Szynal.

**October 13, 6 PM** – PHS Board Meeting  
Bay Family Restaurant, 1301 S Military, Green Bay, WI. You are invited!

**October 14, 21, 6 PM-8 PM** – Polish Workshop with Pierogi Dinner in Appleton, WI  
For more information visit <https://www.airbnb.com/experiences/2556518>

**October 26, 6 PM-8 PM** – Pulaski Area Historical Society 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Dinner  
American Legion, 135 N St Augustine, St, Pulaski, WI 54162. Tickets can be purchased at area banks for \$20 each or by calling Norine at 920-822-5775, prior to October 19th.

**November 5, 12 PM-3 PM** – Polish Heritage Annual Meeting  
300 S Adams St, Green Bay, WI. See below for registration and menu information.

**November 6, 3 PM** – Polish Mass in Wisconsin Dells  
Saint Cecilia Catholic Church, 603 Oak St, Wisconsin Dells, WI, Fr. Mirosław Szynal.

**November 10, 6 PM** – PHS Board Meeting  
Bay Family Restaurant, 1301 S Military, Green Bay, WI. You are invited!

**November 11** – Newspaper article deadline  
Submit articles to Malgosia at [malgosiadaugherty@yahoo.com](mailto:malgosiadaugherty@yahoo.com)

**November 18, 6 PM-8 PM** – Polish Workshop with Pierogi Dinner in Appleton, WI  
For more information visit <https://www.airbnb.com/experiences/2556518>

**November 27, 4 PM** – Badger State Women’s Choir with Dominika Zamara concert  
200 Church St, Neenah, WI. See page 4 for more information. For tickets, please visit <https://www.ticketsource.us/badger-state-girl-choir>

**December 3, 11 AM** – Polish Cooking Class BIGOS in Appleton, WI  
\$25 member fee and \$35 to non-members. For more information see article on page 4.

## 2022 PHS Annual Meeting

The 2022 Polish Heritage Society Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 5th from 12PM to 3 PM. All members of the Polish Heritage Society are encouraged to attend. Please make your reservation by Monday, October 31st and call Gloria at 920 660 8245. Our event will be held at Aging & Disability Resource Center, 300 S Adams Street in Green Bay, WI.

This year our event will be catered by **Prince of Pierogi from Ephraim, WI** and our menu will include: 1 Polska Kielbasa (+ cabbage, onion, ketchup, mustard), cabbage roll, bigos and 3 pierogi (1 ruski, 1 with meat, 1 with cabbage and mushroom) and 3 desert pierogi (1 Door County Cherry, 1 Blueberry, 1 Banana Nutella). The cost is \$17/person for members and \$20/person for non-members attending our event. **Please mail your check to Polish Heritage Society at 255 Terraview Dr, Green Bay, WI 54301.**

In order to express your interest or to ask for more details about joining the board please contact Malgosia Daugherty at 920 327 3195. This is an excellent opportunity to join our club and help forge the future of our organization.

## Poland pays tribute to Queen Elizabeth II

ROBERT STRYBEL

As soon as the death of Queen Elizabeth II was announced, Poles began gathering outside the British Embassy in Warsaw where they lay flowers and lighted votive lamps. In the book of condolence, Polish President Andrzej Duda wrote that she had been “the embodiment of all that had made Great Britain truly Great.” Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki referred to Britain’s longest-reigning monarch as “an icon, a symbol of the power, culture and tradition of the United Kingdom.”

Queen Elizabeth II, who died at the age of 96, had been the titular ruler of the United Kingdom since her coronation in 1952. Her eldest son, Prince Charles, automatically succeeded her as King Charles III. One of the late monarch’s last decisions was to bestow the title of Queen Consort upon his second wife, Camilla Parker Bowles, a divorcee.

Poland’s media commemorated the passing of Queen Elizabeth with copious press commentaries and documentary footage on TV. Especially recalled was the Queen’s three-day 1996 visit to Poland, accompanied by Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. Britain’s First Couple met with Poland’s then ex-communist leaders, President Aleksander Kwaśniewski and Prime Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, and laid wreaths at Warsaw’s Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Holocaust Memorial. At the Royal Castle, they attend-

ed an exhibition titled the Eagle and Lion, devoted to the history of Polish-British relations over the centuries.

Those bilateral ties were also highlighted in the Queen’s address to Poland’s 560-seat National Assembly, a joint session of the Sejm and Senate. There, the Queen indicated that those contacts went back to the very dawn of Polish statehood. “One of my distant ancestors, King Canute,



was the nephew of your King Boleslaus the Brave (Boleslaw Chrobry),” she said without elaborating. The mother of Canute (995-1035) was Polish Princess Świętosława, the daughter of Poland’s first historical ruler, Mieszko I. At the height of his power, Canute ruled England, Denmark and Norway, then known collectively as the North Sea Empire.

Closer to our times, the Queen hailed Poland’s 1791 Third of May Constitution, and on the Second World War said: “Who knows if the flame of freedom would not have been extinguished without Poland standing at our side.” But she also acknowledged that 1945 did not bring freedom to everyone. “That is why we were especially happy when Poland regained its full sovereignty and decided to join the European Union and NATO,” she explained.

The British Monarch evoked a thunderous ovation when she concluded with: “Poland needs Europe, but Europe also needs Poland” and added in Polish: “Żeby Polska była Polską!” (Let Poland be Poland).

## Things to do in Poland this autumn

EWELINA NURCZYK

Autumn presents Poland at its finest. Cities and countryside look great in golden, mauve and orange hues. Due to the country’s climate, September, October and November should not be too hot or too cold and the rainfall is just about the right amount (nothing like the English weather!). Poles have a few activities that can be followed by expats living here, too – have you tried any of these?

### MAKING JAMS, PRESERVES AND PICKLES

Autumn is your last call to get ready for dark winter nights (it is an exaggeration, find out more about wintertime in Poland). Many Polish people think that having a good supply in the pantry is one way to survive the cold and keep the spirits high. And is there anything better than homemade jams, pickles and other kinds of preserves? Throughout the summer and autumn months one will find many Poles stuffing jars with cucumbers, mushrooms, peppers, as well as boiling huge pots of fruit with sugar to make delicious jams or marmalades. Just about right for the arrival of winter!

### MUSHROOM PICKING

We have already covered that one, but it should never be omitted. Mushroom-hunting is a favorite activity of whole families – starting from the young ones and ending with the elderly! Once your fungi are picked, washed and cleaned, they can be pickled (see point 1.), dried or eaten immediately after the afternoon in the forest.

In Poland, there are over 50 edible mushroom species, but it is important to name some

that are real crowd pleasers and therefore are always a big hit on a table. These would include the King Bolete, Sulphur Shelf, Saffron Milk Cup or parasol mushroom. It is very important to gather only those mushrooms that one is sure of their edibility – usually in many Polish families there is an expert who can easily name different species and indicate which mushrooms are better left out. Eating a toxic one may result in death or very serious internal injuries.

When going out for mushroom picking, it is advisable to follow some rules. Many amateurs of this pastime stress the fact that humans are intruders in forests and should leave without bringing any serious changes to the ecosystem. The suggested method of gathering mushrooms is cutting them close to the ground with a sharp knife. Another thing is covering the exposed mushroom spawn with forest cover, so as not to let it dry. Finally, even inedible and deadly fungi should be left alone, not destroyed, as they still may be useful to the forest and its inhabitants. If you head out for your first ever picking session, you will definitely learn more from your Polish expert!

Once your mushrooms are picked, washed and cleaned, they can be pickled, dried or eaten immediately afterwards! Everyone knows that they are not too nutritious, but still they make for great pierogi stuffing, sauce ingredient and snack!

### AUTUMN STROLLS

Forests and parks in Poland are at their peak from mid-September onwards. The landscape is truly magnificent and makes for a typical picturesque fall vi-

gnette, full of shades of gold, red, orange, brown and yellow. Polish children are encouraged to use the autumn gifts of nature to enhance their creativity and manual skills – many generations have warm memories of playing with chestnut figures and dried leaves.

### GARDEN WORK

Not many expats decide to buy a house with a huge backyard straight away, but if your Polish friend rejects your invitation for a mulled wine on a late autumn evening, you may suspect they are actually busy with some housework. Winters in Poland can be tough and house-owners want to make sure that their property is guarded against that, especially if they have a garden or an allotment. They need to be cleaned and got rid of dead leaves, branches and trees, and then wrapped or covered where necessary. There is a LOT to do, but many Polish people find these end-of-season activities quite relaxing!



**POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY**

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

Thank you, new members, renewing members, and donors! I appreciate how the Polish Heritage Society of Northeastern Wisconsin (and the World) continues to grow and maintain membership.

Our gratitude to **Steven Karcz & Tracey Brewczynski** of Pulaski for their generous donation included with their membership renewal.

The Polish Heritage Society of Northeastern Wisconsin is pleased to welcome six new members or member households: **Anneliese Brenner** of Painted Post, New York, a gift of member **Cheryl Kaczmarek**; **Jason Drzewiecki** of Parker, Colorado; **Kerry Honrath** of Green Bay a gift of **Jason Drzewiecki**; **Bernadine Williams** of South Milwaukee a gift of member **Jessica Meyer** of Sobieski; the **Terence Maternowski** Household of Howard; and **Joan Spindler** of Luxemburg a gift of member **Jane Dunn**. Witamy!

Society members renewing through this issue’s publishing deadline include the **Julie Stoeger** Household of Kaukauna, **Gwen Girard** of Green Bay, the **Malena & Piotr Dzwonkowski** Household of Oneida, the **Richard Behrendt** Household of Whitefish Bay, the **James Kruzitski** Household of Minneapolis, the **Joanna & Michael Spice** Household of Suamico, the **Elaine & Tim Grygiel** Household of Pulaski, **James Queoff** of Green Bay, the **William & Grace Zurovitz** Household of Kaukauna, the **Trent Torzewski & Jessica Meyer** Household of Sobieski, **Mark Wesolowski** of Luxemburg, the **Steven Karcz & Tracey Brewczynski** Household of Pulaski, the **Chet & Judy Wolniakowski** Household of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, **Dawn Sisel** of Muskego, **Leszek Golimowski** of Marinette, **Anthony Snyder** of Appleton, **Edmund & Lyn Carns** of Crivitz, **Norbert Ryterski** of Pinckneyville, Illinois, who

has become a lifetime member, **Jane Dunn** of Madison, and **Richard Balch** of Green Bay. Miło, że jesteście z nami!

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 Zwicker, Treasurer**

zwickerp@aol.com, phsofnew@gmail.com

## MEMBERSHIP FORM POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

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MEMBERSHIP:  Individual per year \$20  Couple/Family per year \$25  Lifetime Member \$300

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

# The Esteemed Nobel Laureates of Poland Are... (5)

## HELEN A. SCIESZKA, PH.D.

The first of our next three laureates is Jerzy (George) Charpak who received the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1992. He was born August 1, 1924 in Dabrowica, Poland (now part of Ukraine) to Anna (Szapiro) & Maurice Charpak who were Jewish. The family emigrated from Poland to Paris in 1941 where Jerzy began his studies, first in Mathematics. However, WWII intervened and having joined one of the resistance movements he was captured by the Vichy authorities and eventually deported to Dachau where he was imprisoned from 1944-1945. In 1946 he became a naturalized citizen of France. In 1948 he received his Master Degree in Civil Engineering and in 1954 his PhD in Nuclear Physics. In 1992 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics "...for his invention and development of particle detectors..."

Jerzy was married to Dominique Vidal and they had 3 children. He died in Paris on September 29th, 2010.

Our second laureate this month is Shimon Peres who along with Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994 "...for their efforts to create peace in the Middle East."

He was born Szymon Perski in Wiszniew, Poland (now Vishneyeva, Belarus) to Sara (Meltzer) a librarian & Yitzhak



Jerzy (George) Charpak

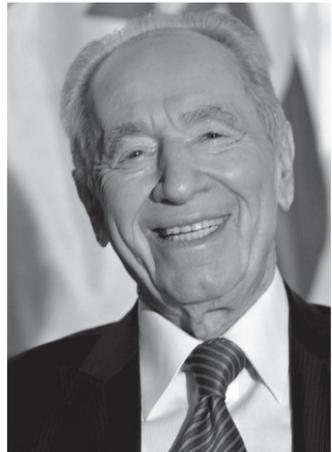
Perski, a timber merchant, on August 2nd, 1923. Being Jewish the family spoke Hebrew and Yiddish but Shimon also learned Russian, Polish, English & French.

His father immigrated to Tel Aviv in 1932 and the family followed in 1934. The Meltzer & Perski family members who remained in Wiszniew were murdered during the Holocaust.

He married Sonya Gelman in 1945 and they had 3 children.

He would later recall that as a boy "... (his) dream...was to be a shepherd or a poet of stars." Instead, his life's track

called him to be Israel's Minister of Transportation, Finance, Defense & Foreign Affairs; its Prime Minister and ultimate-



Shimon Peres

ly its 9th President; helping to build that new nation. However, he did keep his love of the arts and played mandolin, wrote songs & poetry and was an avid reader his entire life.

Shimon Peres died in Tel Aviv, September 28th, 2016.

Our final laureate this month was also awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1995 Jozef Rotblat and the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs were given the award "...for their efforts to diminish the part played by nuclear arms in international politics and, in the longer run, to eliminate such arms."

Rotblat was one of 7 children born to Zygmunt Rotblat and his wife of Jewish descent who bred horses and ran a horse-drawn carriage business. He was born November 4th, 1908 in Warsaw, Poland. Sadly, WWI brought a failed business and poverty to the family. Because of this Rotblat first attended a technical school studying electrical engineering and



Jozef Rotblat

worked as an electrician. As he really wanted to be a physicist, he eventually took an entrance exam, passing with ease and obtained his master degree in 1932 from the Free University of Poland and his doctorate in Physics from the University of Warsaw in 1938. In 1950 he earned a second doctorate from the University of Liverpool and in 1953 a doctorate of sciences from the University of London. Eventually, he even worked on the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos Labs in America where he was falsely accused of being a spy and later shown to be innocent.

Eventually he returned to England where he became a citizen in 1946. Part of his reason for doing this was to help his family immigrate there after they had escaped from the Warsaw ghetto and wanted to leave Poland. Sadly, his wife Tola Gryn was not able to make it out and was murdered at the Belzec concentration camp. Rotblat never remarried.

He was also one who believed that scientists should be very aware of the ethics of their work and its consequences. Very upset that atomic weapons were used against Japan he became a strong critic against nuclear arms and wanted his research to be used only for good and peaceful projects. Thus, he became a proponent of the biological and medical uses of radiation using his knowledge at St. Bartholomew's Teaching Hospital in London as a Professor of Physics.

Jozef Rotblat died in London August 31st, 2005.

**NOTE:** Information for this article was gathered from various sites on the Web.

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

## Ask "Our Man" in Warsaw

Kindly airmail all Polish/Polonian queries to:  
Robert Strybel • ul. Heroldów 25/36 • 01-991 Warsaw, Poland  
or e-mail them to: [strybel@interia.pl](mailto:strybel@interia.pl) or [research60@gmail.com](mailto:research60@gmail.com)

**Q: Are cemetery lots in Poland made available on a time-limited lease, not by purchase? I know this is true of my families' plots in Boronów, Lubliniec, Katowice and also in Kielczewice, Bychawa and Lublin. In Boronów, there was not one headstone with a date before 1940. Some are leased for 25 or 50 years according to my family.**

**ROGER LASKE**  
Polish Genealogical Society, of Michigan

**A:** It differs from place to place. In small towns and villages cemeteries usually belong to a Catholic parish. In big cities there are also municipal cemeteries. In Warsaw's Powązki Cemetery, if a grave is left untended after 25 years. it will be used for another burial. That usually occurs when the mourners themselves have passed away and there is no-one left to look after the grave. In general, the plot is leased and the lease must be renewed every 20-25 years or so.

**Q: Why is the Polish flag red and white? Is there Saturday mass in Poland?**

**JOHN SZYMAŃSKI, Troy, MI**

**A:** The color scheme of the Polish flag reflects that of Poland's national emblem: a white crowned eagle on a red shield. White signifies the ideal of immaculate purity, while the red symbolizes courage and valor. Yes, there is a Saturday mass in Poland, because there are masses on every day of the week in Poland. But there is nothing special about Saturday mass. Most people in Poland, myself included, prefer to observe the Sunday Mass tradition.

**Q: I'm in high school and I heard that last names like mine are from royalty. Can I tell my friends that we had counts and barons in the family?**

**EMILY KOWALSKI**  
Pittsburgh, PA

**A:** Royalty refers to kings and queens. You probably meant to say nobility or gentry which in Polish is szlachta. It is true that names ending in "-ski" were the most common among Poland's szlachta. There were 12 nobles lines in the Kowalski family, each with a separate coat of arms. One of them was called "Slepowron" and you can view it here: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%9Alepowron\\_coat\\_of\\_arms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%9Alepowron_coat_of_arms) But that does not mean that every Kowalski was a blue-blood. About 10 percent of Old Polish society enjoyed gentry status, the remaining 90 percent were commoners. Most of our Polish immigrant ancestors were commoners of peasant origin.

**Q: How do you get dual citizenship?**

**JENNIFER MAJCHRZAK**  
[jennpm@hotmail.com](mailto:jennpm@hotmail.com)

**A:** I presume you mean how to obtain Polish citizenship as an American citizen. For information contact: The General Consulate of the Republic of Poland: 1530 N Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, IL 60610; phone: +1 312 337-7772; email: [chicago.kg.sekretariat@msz.gov.pl](mailto:chicago.kg.sekretariat@msz.gov.pl) If you have two Polish parents or four Polish grandparents, that's a big plus in getting Polish citizenship.

## Polish Workshop in Pulaski

Polish Heritage Society and the Pulaski Area Community Education (PACE) office will be presenting Polish Workshop at no cost to members of PHS. The class will take place on September 26th 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 \$20 fee for non-members.

In the workshop, Poland native Malgosia Daugherty will help to create a deeper understanding of Poland today. She will talk about the country's history, traditions, and things you should know about Poland before traveling there. Also, get a recipe for a traditional Polish dish!

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

### PACE REGISTRATION FORM

for Polish Workshop, Monday September 26, from 6:00 to 8:00 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.**  
\$20 Fee to non-members.

Send completed form and the \$20 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Poland – land of the white eagle

BY ROBERT STRYBEL

Anyone coming to Poland and hoping to catch a glimpse of a white eagle in the wild or even at a zoo is out of luck. Such a species does not exist in nature and never has. But there is no shortage of the nation's white eagle emblem on public buildings, monuments and war memorials, on Polish ships at sea, on coins and paper money as well as numerous souvenirs.

One legend maintains that Poland's legendary Prince Lech came upon a white eagle's nest, took it to be a lucky omen and decided to build his castle there. He named the settlement Gniezno (place of the nest), and it was to become Poland's first ancestral capital. His two brothers Czech and Rus went on to set up Bohemia (today's Czech Republic) and Ruthenia (now Belarus and Ukraine)...

Poland's national emblem was patterned on the mostly brown-feathered "orzeł bielik" or White-tailed Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), and is a close relative of America's Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)... Did the legendary Lech see the eagle in bright sunlight that made the bird seem white? Or was it a rare albino specimen? The answer is buried in the mists of lore and legend. The fact remains, however, that for centuries it has been the white eagle that has ruled the roost on heraldic shields, medieval banners and various emblems.

The oldest surviving portrayal of the Polish eagle emblem appeared on a denarius coin from the reign of Bolesław Chrobry (Boleslaus the Brave), Poland's first monarch. The crude etching on the coin has led to a debate among schol-

ars to whether it truly depicted an eagle, or maybe a peacock, rooster or dove..

The eagle subsequently appeared on the seals of several Dukes of Poland's founding Piast dynasty) in the years 1222-1236... But it was Przemysł II, Duke of Wielkopolska who first placed a golden crown on the eagle's head and served as Poland's king for one year. All the Polish kings who came after him followed suit, although the designs varied depending on a given century's dominant heraldic style.

When Poland was partitioned in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century by its three aggressive neighbors – Russia, Prussia and Austria – the white eagle was replaced by the emblems of the occupying powers. But it was still seen on the banners of Polish insurrectionists fighting to regain their country's independence throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century and on into the 20<sup>th</sup>. When Poland finally re-emerged as an independent state in 1918, the crowned white eagle became the official emblem of the Rzeczpospolita Polska (Republic of Poland).

The eagle again went underground following the fourth partition of Poland by Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia in 1939. The country emerged from World War II as a Soviet puppet state 20% smaller than before the war. The communist regime stripped the eagle of its crown as if to proclaim that Poland was no longer a fully sovereign state. But the pre-war Crowned Eagle was upheld by Polish communities worldwide and it officially reappeared in Poland in 1989, when Poles finally threw off the Soviet yoke.



White Eagle embroidered on the prayer book of queen Anna Jagiellon

for Wikimedia Commons

## Badger State Women's Choir with special guest DOMINIKA ZAMARA

First Presbyterian Church, 200 Church St, Neenah, WI  
Sunday, November 27, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Renowned Polish soprano, Dominika Zamara, was born in Wrocław. In 2007 she completed an honors degree from Karol Lipinski Musical Academy in Wrocław. Her professor was Barbara Ewa Werner. She received the one-year scholarship to the Italian Musical Conservatory in Verona where she studied voice through the music of bel-canto masters such as: Bruno Pola, Alida Ferrarini, Enrico De Mori, Mario Melani, Alessandra Althoff-Pugliese, Danile Anselmi. She works with numerous artistic agencies across the globe.



From 2008 until the present day, Dominika Zamara has been one of the most prolific performers throughout Europe and the United States, singing major operatic roles and solo recitals. Her diverse repertoire includes classic works for the opera stage and new works, many of which she has been honored to premiere. Through the years she has enjoyed working with many of the world's foremost conductors.

As a champion of the musical arts, Dominika has been honored with awards and prizes across Europe but

in particular in her native Poland and in her adopted and beloved Italy. Most recently in the summer of 2022, she was saluted in Italy with the Golden Microphone Award and the Rome Fountain Award presented by the Vatican.

Dominika is thrilled to make her first appearance in Wisconsin with the Badger State Women's Choir this year. Her November concert will include solo works by Chopin, Vivaldi, and Bellini. In addition, she will perform, with the Women's Choir, Faure's masterwork Messe Basse and other selections under the baton of American conductor Kevin Meidl. Tickets for Dominika's concert will be available online starting September 20th and at the door:

<https://www.ticket-source.us/badger-state-girl-choir>

## Join us for POLISH COOKING Class

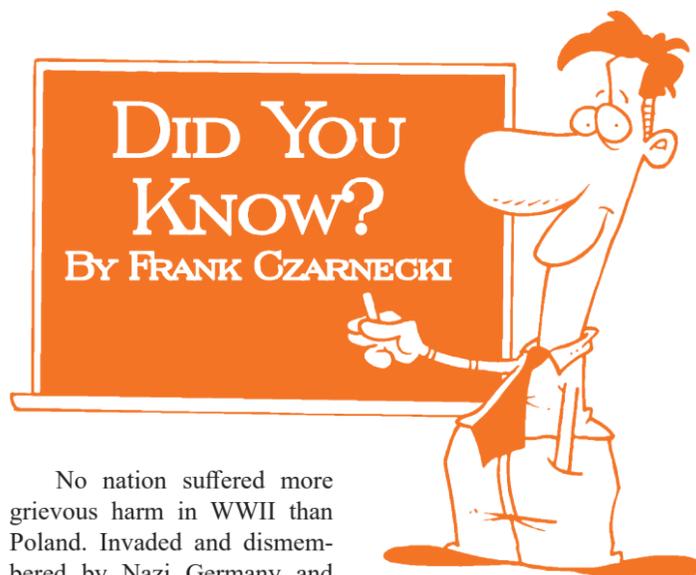
**How to Make Bigos – hunter stew, a Polish dish of chopped meat of various kinds with sauerkraut and fresh cabbage. In Person Class on December 3rd, Saturday at 11:00 am. at 2601 Philip Ln in Appleton, WI.**

Class will be limited to the first 10 people by calling Malgosia at 920-327-3195.

The cost is \$25 for members of the PHS, or \$35 for non-members. Any proceeds from the event will go towards the mission of the Polish Heritage Society of NE Wisconsin. Individuals that register by calling 920-327-3195 will participate in 2-hour class led by Malgosia and her mom Alina. You will also have the opportunity to win prizes at the end of the presentation. A follow up email with a copy of the recipe will be sent to all who register.



for Pixabay



No nation suffered more grievous harm in WWII than Poland. Invaded and dismembered by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union in 1939, Poland languished under the most brutal occupations imaginable only to be abandoned and betrayed by the Western Allies to Soviet domination at the war's conclusion.

Poland had a prewar population of about 35 million. Of these, about 400,000 Polish soldiers died in the war, while 5.2 million civilians (3 million of them Jews who perished in the Holocaust) were killed.

Despite their homeland being crushed between two totalitarian giants, Polish soldiers, sailors, and airmen fought on – in the Home Army in occupied Poland; in the battles of France and Britain; in the battle of the Atlantic at sea; with the Allied forces in North Africa; on the Eastern Front with the Soviets; and in Italy, the Netherlands, and France.

As the Nazis and Soviets completed their destruction of Poland, the Polish government-in-exile was established in London.

In 1941, The Polish government-in-exile began issuing stamps for use on letters and packages posted from Polish

warships and merchant vessels. One set of stamps commemorates the Polish soldiers' crucial participation in the Battle of Monte Cassino in Italy.

A stamp from Poland was voted the most beautiful Europa stamp of 2021 by the Association of European Public Postal Operators. In keeping with the 2021 Europa theme of national endangered wildlife, Poland's 3.30-zloty stamp depicts the Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*). Tomasz Zdzikot, the head of



for Poczta Polska

Poland's post office, said: "Our project symbolically shows the condition of our planet, challenges, threats, and the most urgent needs in the field of ecology. Postage stamps are not only carriers of this important message, but also small works of art of collector's and artistic value." (*Lynn's Stamp News*, Jan. 24, 2022)

Give your kids or grandkids a gift of...

### Personal Polish heritage!

One's family name is a unique possession. It did not just appear out of nowhere but originated for a specific reason. It can show who our distant ancestor's father was, the locality our ancestors came from and what they did for a living as well as indicating the appearance, habits and other traits of those from whom we are descended.

A custom-researched surname analysis will tell your kids and grandkids the meaning of their Polish last name, how it originated, how many people use it, where they are from and whether a coat of arms goes with it. If one is found, the story behind it will be presented.

To order, please airmail a \$19 personal or certified bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding a cut-rate \$15 for each additional surname you wish to have researched) to Polonia's long-standing Warsaw correspondent and onomastician (name researcher); **NOTE NEW ADDRESS BELOW:**

**ROBERT STRYBEL**  
**UL. HEROLDÓW 25/36 • 01-991 WARSAW, POLAND**

YA helpful Genealogical Contact sheet, included with each order, will put you in touch with experienced Polish genealogists able to help you track down your ancestral roots.

Please include your email address if you want the surname report sent electronically. For more information on this service please contact [strybel@interia.pl](mailto:strybel@interia.pl) or [research60@gmail.com](mailto:research60@gmail.com)

