



December | Grudzień 2021 No 12 — Vol. CXXXVI

NARÓD POLSKI *Polish Nation*

IN THIS ISSUE:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
page 2

BUSINESS pages 3-6

CULTURE pages 7-21

VP Column - 8-9, 13

Kids' Activity - 21

Higher Perspectives - 22

MEMBER NEWS page 23

POLISH SECTION
pages 24-29



Merry Christmas! Wesolych Swiat!

**It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven’s all gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.**

This simple message of Christmas, taken from the first verse of “It came upon a midnight clear,” first appearing in 1849, reminds us of the reason for this Holy Season. It is His peace that we so desperately seek and need in this time of continuing uncertainty, for He is the Prince of Peace! Thus, it is my prayer for all of you that the Newborn Savior bring His peace into your hearts, home, and our world this Christmas and in each day of the New Year.

*A very Merry and Peaceful Christmas to All!
Wesolych i spokojnych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia
i błogostawionego roku 2022!*

Very Rev. Canon Walter J. Ptak
National Chaplain



...protecting *Life* through all its stages!

PRCUA.ORG |     

NARÓD POLSKI

Polish Nation

ISSN 0027-7894

Official Publication of the
Polish Roman Catholic Union
of America

FREQUENCY: Published Monthly

NARÓD POLSKI CONTACT INFORMATION:

(including materials for publications)

Executive Editor:

Lidia Kowalewicz

773-782-2639

Toll-Free: 1-800-772-8632

Ext. 2639

lidia-kowalewicz@prcu.org

Publisher:

PRCUA President

James J. Robaczewski

Publication Dept. Administrator:

PRCUA Vice President

Micheline I. Jaminski

Graphic Design:

PRCUA Marketing Department

POSTMASTER, SEND ADDRESS CORRECTIONS TO:

Narod Polski

984 N. Milwaukee Avenue

Chicago, IL 60642-4101

Change of delivery address or
other newspaper related inquiries:
narod-polski@prcu.org

PRCUA CONTACT INFORMATION:

Due to COVID-19, the PRCUA
Home Office will operate
on a modified schedule until further
notice, and is closed to the public
unless an in-person visit is
necessary (by appointment only).

Temporary Hours of Operation:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,
and Friday – 8:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Closed on Wednesday.

Telephone: 773-782-2600

Toll-Free: 1-800-772-8632

Fax: 773-278-4595

prcu.org



DECEMBER

4 CHICAGO, IL – PRCUA OPLATEK on Sat., Dec. 4 at
Polish Highlanders Banquet Hall, 4808 S.Archer Ave., Chicago,
IL. See details on pg. 4

**5 WYANDOTTE, MI – PRCUA SOCIETY #162 KIDS
DRIVE-THRU CHRISTMAS PARTY** on Sun., Dec. 5 from
1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at PRCU #162 Lodge Parking Lot, 1430 Oak St.,
Wyandotte, MI. Post cards will be sent out with all the details for So-
ciety #162 members 10 and under. For more information, contact
Mary Ann Davis at 734-341-2242.

6 ST. NICHOLAS DAY

**11 WYANDOTTE, MI – PRCUA SOCIETY #162 POLKA
CHRISTMAS NIGHT** on Sat., Dec. 11 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.
at PRCU #162 Lodge, 1430 Oak St., Wyandotte, MI. For additional in-
formation, see pg. 15 or contact Stan Pasko at 313-815-5230.

**19 WARREN MI – DETROIT LIONS SECOND ANNUAL
POLISH HERITAGE DAY** on Sun., December 19 at 1 p.m.,
coordinated by the St. John Paul II Society #1593. The Detroit Lions
will play the Arizona Cardinals. See additional information on pg. 12.

**WYANDOTTE, MI – PRCUA SOCIETY #162 GENERAL
MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS** on Sun., Dec. 19 at
1 p.m. at PRCU #162 Lodge, 1430 Oak St., Wyandotte, MI.

23 PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

**24 CHRISTMAS EVE – PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED**

25 CHRISTMAS

**31 NEW YEAR'S EVE – PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED**

JANUARY 2022

1 NEWYEAR'S DAY

**8 STERLING HTS., MI – ZAJACZEK DANCE ENSEM-
BLE GRADUATION PRESENTATION BALL** on Sat.,
Jan. 8, at Century Banquet Center, 33204 Maple Lane, Sterling Hts., MI.
Doors open at 6 p.m., program at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 6:45 p.m. For
more information, contact Colleen Bonkowski at zajaczekdance@
yahoo.com.

**19 WARREN MI – ST. RITA #1368 ELECTION OF OF-
FICERS AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** on
Wed., Jan 19, at 7 p.m. at Metro Bar & Grill, 30860 Ryan Rd, Warren,
MI. Anyone interested in becoming officer or coming to meeting,
please call Mike Ozog at 248-943-9687 (mozog69@gmail.com).

**22 HICKORY HILLS, IL – WESOŁY LUD POLISH FOLK
DANCE CO. 45TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE
& SHOW** on Sat., Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. at Camelot Banquets, 8624 95th
St., Hickory Hills, IL. See pg. 4 for more details.

For updates on any of the PRCUA events, please con-
tact your local PRCUA districts, societies and schools,
and check **Naród Polski**, PRCUA social media
platforms and www.prcua.org.

Polish Roman Catholic Union of America Operating Results for the Quarter Ending September 30, 2021

	Sept. 30, 2021	Sept. 30, 2020
INCOME:		
Life and Annuity Sales	29,619,888	12,020,578
Investment Income	7,709,438	7,226,663
Other Income	167,070	193,354
Total Income	37,496,396	19,440,596
EXPENSES:		
Life and Annuity	32,704,417	14,969,301
General Expenses	3,965,502	4,205,559
Insurance Fees	179,252	344,821
Total Expenses	36,849,171	19,519,681
Net Operating Income	647,225	(79,085)
Dividends to Members (deduct)	113,896	(113,829)
Net Capital Gain (loss)	1,220	(18,147)
Net Income (loss)	534,549	(211,060)
SURPLUS ACCOUNT		
Beginning Bal-Dec.31, prior year	10,056,718	11,043,206
Net Income (-loss)	534,549	(211,060)
Change in Reserves	7,110	(66,496)
Ending Balance		
as of Statement Date	10,598,377	10,765,650

GO GREEN! GO PAPERLESS!

Subscribe to the digital **NARÓD POLSKI**
and get PRCUA news conveniently
delivered to your inbox every month!

Contact marketing@prcu.org
with your request (email address required)
and get your subscription in a
SAFE, FREE & GREEN way!



The **LEADERS OF THE POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF
AMERICA** column will be continued in the
future editions of the **NARÓD POLSKI**

'Tis the Season for the Gift of Financial Security & Protection!



PRCUALife
2021

through
January 31, 2022

Christmas Special

SAVE 10% when you purchase

\$5,000 • \$10,000 • \$25,000 • \$50,000

or greater

PRCUALife Single Pay Whole Life Insurance

Available for little ones age 2 weeks to 15 years and 5 months. Applicants will receive a free gift and a chance to WIN one of three Grand Prizes. Applications with face amounts of \$25,000 or more will receive 2 raffle tickets per application! The Grand Prize drawing will take place February 15, 2022. Winners will be announced in the March 2022 *Naród Polski* and on PRCUA.org.

Call for details or visit **PRCUA.org**

(773) 782-2642

Michael Dziadkowiec
Sales Coordinator

(773) 782-2644

Marge Grzeszczuk
Sales Associate

Highlights of the **Single Pay Whole Life** Insurance Plan

- 🍓 One payment for a lifetime of security for your loved one
- 🍓 Builds cash value
- 🍓 Dividend participating
- 🍓 Eligibility for membership benefits such as educational scholarships & sports tournaments

Sample Rates for Females

Age	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
0	\$661.95	\$1,098.90	\$2,409.75	\$4,594.50
5	\$728.42	\$1,231.83	\$2,742.08	\$5,259.15
10	\$806.63	\$1,388.25	\$3,133.13	\$6,041.25
15	\$896.99	\$1,568.97	\$3,584.93	\$6,944.85

Sample Rates for Males

Age	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
0	\$717.84	\$1,210.68	\$2,689.20	\$5,153.40
5	\$792.77	\$1,360.53	\$3,063.83	\$5,902.65
10	\$881.06	\$1,537.11	\$3,505.28	\$6,785.55
15	\$981.86	\$1,738.71	\$4,009.28	\$7,793.55

All applications for the **PRCUALife 2021 Christmas Special** are subject to underwriting and must be postmarked by **January 31, 2022**

POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA | (800) 772-8632 | PRCUA.ORG

202112-EN-CS-NP

Worry Free at 70!



- ✓ Coverage minimum \$5,000+
- ✓ Plan issue ages 0 to 65
- ✓ Payments end at age 70
- ✓ Builds cash value
- ✓ Dividend participating*
- ✓ Guaranteed premium rates
- ✓ Guaranteed lifetime coverage**
- ✓ Benefits are paid tax-free to beneficiaries
- ✓ Reduce your financial obligation at retirement age



COMING SOON TO PRCUALife

*Dividends are not guaranteed. **When schedule of premiums are made.



The WESOŁY LUD Polish Folk Dance Company

of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America

cordially invites you to attend its

45th ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE & SHOW

Camelot Banquets

8624 W. 95th St, Hickory Hills, IL 60457

Saturday, January 22, 2022

Entrance 7:00 PM Dinner 7:30 PM

Donation \$45.00 (children 3-8 \$22.50)

CASH BAR

RSVP by January 12, 2022

KOŚCIUSZKO FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Kościuszko Foundation Tuition Scholarships support American students of Polish descent for graduate level studies, such as masters and

Ph.D. studies, at colleges and universities in the United States. Scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,000 are awarded on a competitive basis for one academic year. Funding is for full-time studies. Scholarships are for the Fall 2022-Spring 2023 academic year.

All fields and majors are eligible for scholarship funding.

Deadline for application and

supporting materials - January 31, 2022

ELIGIBILITY: United States citizens and permanent residents (green card holders) of Polish descent who are beginning or continuing their graduate studies and who have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Scholarships are awarded for full-time studies only. Only one member per immediate family may receive a

tuition scholarship during any given academic year. Applicants may re-apply, however, scholarship renewals are not guaranteed. Awards are limited to only two tuition scholarships per individual during the period of his/her studies.

For additional information, contact: tuitionscholarships@thekf.org.

Available in
January



Is your
**Tournament
Special**
expiring?

We've got
"THE NEXT BEST THING"
10-Year Renewable Level Term Insurance
(minimum face amount \$25K)
For details, contact the PRCUA Sales Department

**— OFFER —
EXTENDED!**

ELITE⁺ [8 YEAR]
3.75% APY

STAR⁺ [5 YEAR]
3.00% APY

EDGE⁺ [3 YEAR]
2.50% APY

1 YEAR GUARANTEE
MIN. GUAR. 2.00%

MINIMUM DEPOSIT
\$500

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE
GREAT RATES
WHILE THEY LAST!



PRCUALife
2021 ANNUITY SERIES

- ✓ EARN MORE MONEY
- ✓ LOWER your INCOME TAX BILL
- ✓ BOOST your RETIREMENT INCOME
- ✓ JOIN **PRCUALife**

by opening a new PRCUALife Annuity
or transferring your existing account

For more information:
(800) 772-8632
PRCUA.ORG

202106-EXT-ESS-AN-EN-NP

Financial security for your family
if the unexpected happens...



2106-NP-JFR-EN

PRCUALife

Protect your loved ones for just

\$11⁴³ per month*

*20 yr. Renewable Level Term life insurance for \$100,000
female (30 years old, non-tobacco, preferred rate)

(800) 772-8632 | PRCUA.ORG



You are invited to

Oplatek

hosted by
District 8
of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America

Saturday, December 4, 2021

Polish Highlanders Banquet Hall, 4808 S. Archer Ave., Chicago, IL
Doors open at 6:00 p.m., Artistic Program at 7:00 p.m., Dinner to follow
Visit by Santa at 9:00 p.m.

Adults \$40.00 • Children (3-10) \$20.00 • DJ • Cash Bar

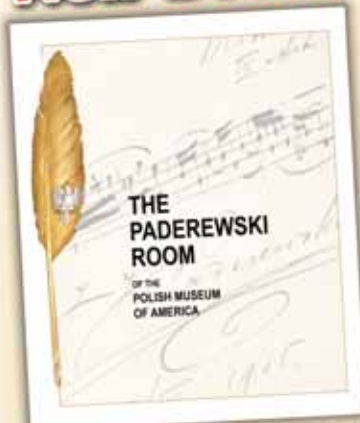
RSVP by November 29, 2021
Krystyna Lech (708) 341-6781 or Danielle Kroplewski (312) 718-0169



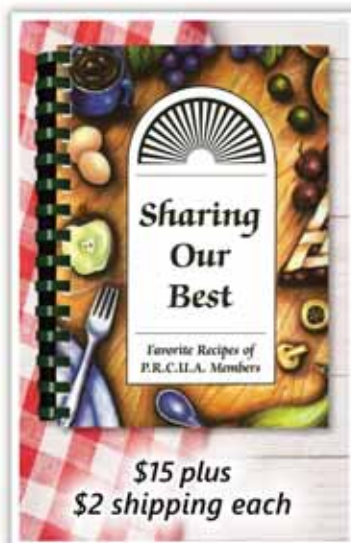
PRCUA Christmas Publications



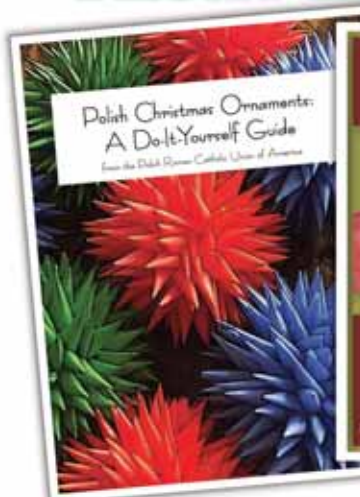
New Book!



\$3 each plus
\$3 shipping for one—\$1 each add'l



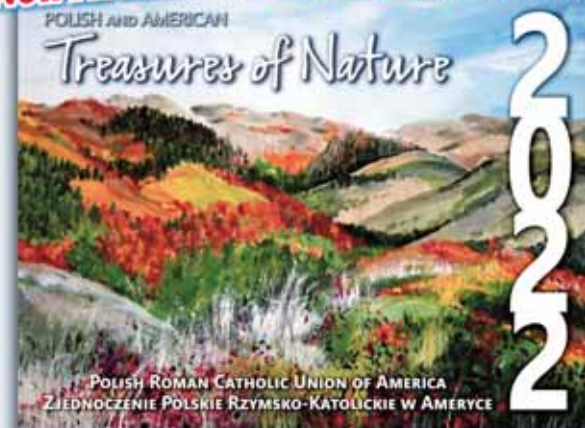
\$15 plus
\$2 shipping each



Carol Brochure
FREE up to 10

Christmas Books
FREE with \$3 shipping for one—\$1 each add'l

Now Available! PRCUA CALENDAR



FREE OF CHARGE TO PRCUA MEMBERS!
—with free shipping up to 5 copies—



\$10
each

Free
shipping
up to
5 masks

To order, contact the PRCUA Marketing Department with your order information: (773) 782-2630 – OR – marketing@prcu.org – OR – pay online at PRCUA.org (scroll down on main page) – OR – complete the form below and mail (with your check payable to PRCUA) to:
PRCUA Marketing Dept., 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642

ITEM DESCRIPTION	PRICE	QUANTITY	SHIPPING CALL FOR ADD'L QUANTITIES	TOTAL
2022 PRCUA CALENDAR POLISH AND AMERICAN TREASURES OF NATURE	FREE		FREE SHIPPING UP TO 5	
SZOPKA CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT	\$2 EACH	X	\$2 FOR FIRST ORNAMENT \$1 EACH ADD'L ORNAMENT	
POLISH CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS: A DO-IT-YOURSELF GUIDE ACTIVITY BOOK	FREE		\$3 FOR FIRST CHRISTMAS BOOK	
POLISH CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS, CAROLS & CUISINE BOOK	FREE		\$1 EACH FOR ANY ADD'L CHRISTMAS BOOK	
BIRTH OF JESUS CHRISTMAS COLORING BOOK	FREE			
POLISH & ENGLISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS BROCHURE	FREE		FREE SHIPPING UP TO 10	
THE PADEREWSKI ROOM OF THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA BOOK	\$3 EACH	X	\$3 FOR FIRST BOOK \$1 EACH ADD'L BOOK	
SHARING OUR BEST – FAVORITE RECIPES OF PRCUA MEMBERS 130TH PRCUA ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK	\$15 EACH	X	\$2 EACH	
PRCUALife FACE MASKS BLUE OR RED, WHITE & BLUE	\$10 EACH	X BLUE	FREE SHIPPING UP TO 5 MASKS	
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED				

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

202112-ORDFRM-NP

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY AT PRCUA HOME OFFICE

PRCUA staff and the Executive Committee celebrated an annual employee Appreciation Day on Friday, October 31 with a lunch and entertainment featuring a magic show.

President Robaczewski welcomed everyone on behalf of the Executive Committee and thanked the employees for their hard work and effort throughout the year. He also remarked that even though Employee Appreciation Day is officially observed on the first Friday in March, the PRCUA

Home Office celebrations were moved to October because March is a very busy month for the PRCUA with the observance of Pulaski Day, St. Patrick's Day, St. Joseph's Day and sometimes Easter.

This Home Office annual event is also a perfect opportunity to recognize those employees who have reached significant milestones with the PRCUA. This year, three employees were acknowledged: Claudine Wicker from the Treasury

Department who celebrated her 40th anniversary; Kevin Ryba, the head of the IT Department, who celebrated his 30th anniversary; and Mateusz Bomba, who currently works in the New Business Department and celebrated his 5th anniversary with the PRCUA.

Congratulations to Claudine, Kevin and Mateusz!

After lunch, which was delivered by the Fat Shallot food truck catering, the employees were presented with a very entertaining magic show. Some of the employees were even able to successfully try their magic skills as they assisted the magician.



40-year PRCUA employee Claudine Wicker (l), 30-year PRCUA employee Kevin Ryba (c), and 5-year PRCUA employee Mateusz Bomba (r) with the PRCUA Officers Agnieszka Bastrzyk, James Robaczewski and Micheline Jaminski



A line to the food truck



Employees enjoying the levitating table trick



Klaudia Grzeszczuk, Judy Hoffman, and Emily and Julie Prado helping with the magic



The Open Door Otwarte Drzwi

Micheline "Misia" Jaminski

Vice President | wiceprezes

micheline-jaminski@prcu.org

Welcome to the "most wonderful time of the year!" Although it seems that each month has its own special events, the month of December seems to gather all the best of the previous 11 months, wrap it up with colorful memories and gift us happiness and cheer to last us through the next year! The birth of the Baby Jesus not only places Christmas front and center, but seasons it with the hope of a healthier, joyful and happier tomorrow.

Decorating for the Christmas season in our house begins with a gift of a fresh evergreen wreath for our front door. It's a "tradition" from my forever friend, Gosia Niemiec. Every time the front door opens, the scent of fresh pine fills the air and is a gentle reminder to slow down, enjoy the season and be in the moment. The reason for the season is truly powerful and contagious in the best way possible. Let's keep the feeling in our hearts every day of the coming year.

It seems that the "new normal" is moving right along and assuming its place with the many events planned and those realized. Take November, for example, from the get-go, it "served" another dynamic PRCUA Volleyball Tournament, this year hosted by District 8 with its National Directors, Mirek Cislo and Liz Dynowski, at the helm. 56 players and 15 teams from Michigan, North Carolina and Illinois came "stressed, blessed and volleyball obsessed." Romeoville, Illinois was the place to be on November 5-6. Check out the details and photos of the teams and champions on p. 10-11. I want to

thank Deann Kujawski from St. Rita's Society for suggesting PRCUA Volleyball Tournaments in 2015, organizing the first one and attending all since.

Meanwhile in Westland, Michigan, the PRCUA Tetry Dancers (Gail Esker, School Director; Karen Lubiarz, Dance Instructor) held their Graduate Presentation Ball honoring 2021 and 2022 graduates: Elise Lubiarz, Erin Delcotto, Leah Esker and Joseph O'Neill. National Director (D-10) Colleen Bonkowski attended the event on behalf of the Executive Officers of the PRCUA. Also attending were past PRCUA Presidents Wallace M. Ozog and Joseph A. Drobot Jr. with their lovely spouses. Congratulates to the graduates and wishing you a successful future!

On November 7, while President Robaczewski attended the Polish American Congress – Wisconsin Division celebration of POLISH INDEPENDENCE DAY/VETERANS DAY LUNCHEON at the Polish Center of Wisconsin, in Franklin, Wisconsin,



PRCUA participants of the 10K/5K Independence Run/Walk

Secretary-Treasurer Agnieszka Basztryk led the PRCUA athletes at the Polish Independence 10K/5K Run/Walk 2021 at Montrose Harbor in Chicago.

The 2021 PRCUA Michigan Cultural Workshop was also held on Sunday, November 7. There were over 100 participants at the PRCUA 162 Hall in Wyandotte, Michigan. Coordinating the event was Tommy Lisiecki, choreographer and dance instructor of the PRCUA Halka Dancers and Zakopane Dance Ensemble as well as past National Director (D-10), together with many of the Michigan school directors. The 4 classes that were offered were COOKING (pierogi making taught by Lisa Brandt from the Rogalin Dancers), CRAFTS (Paper poppies with Jessica Wendt from Gwiazda Dancers), LANGUAGE (bilingual bingo with Kristi Mihalic from the Wieliczka Dancers), DANCE taught

by Donna Skurski from the Opole Dancers. A continental breakfast and lunch were arranged by Laura Hejza from the Halka Dancers and Maria Jalkiewicz from the Polskie Maki Dancers was in charge of registration and sign in. Congratulations on your successful efforts and to all participants! Details and photos will be in an upcoming issue of the *Naród Polski*.

Consul General Małgorzata Bąk-Guzik hosted a reception at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago

on November 10 celebrating the 103rd Anniversary of Polish Independence Day. The program was both patriotic and artistic with speeches and awards of distinction presented to those who served in the Polish

armed forces. The exquisite balance of classical and traditional music performed by the extraordinary talents of pianist Maralguia Darjas and soprano Kasia Dorula enhanced the Polish spirit of those present. Bravo! Bravissimo! Attending the event on behalf of the PRCUA was President and Mrs. Robaczewski, Richard and me.

Maria Konopnicka Polish School hosted a singing contest on Friday November 12 in honor of Polish Independence Day (11/11). It was held at the school's new location, St. Gerald's School in Oak Lawn, Illinois. The Polish National Anthem sung "a capella" was the "star" of the evening and the criteria was more than just knowing the words, but also stance, dress, and musicality. Each grade of classes performed to the best of their ability and it was a magnificent effort on the part of the students as well as the teacher. The program was conducted by teacher Urszula Jarończyk. Principal Elżbieta Żeglen together with the School Board President Danielle Kroplewski and Vice President Joanna Niedzielski extended an invitation for me to serve as one of the judges which was a great honor for me. Richard served as the sound engineer. As a product of the Saturday Polish School system, it was a trip down memory lane – albeit, Polish school was different in my day. My classes were an hour of each: language, singing and dancing every Saturday afternoon from noon to 3 p.m. What hasn't changed was the importance of learning Polish songs, especially the Polish anthem, a symbol of patriotic pride. Back to the contest, it was a very difficult decision as all the students gave it their best shot, but here are the winners: First Grade/Class A – Teresa Kaczmarzyk, teacher; Fourth Grade/Class A – Anna Szczec, teacher; High School Freshmen Class



Tetry Dancers Graduate Ball



Polish Independence Day at the Consulate



Mirek Cislo and Liz Dynowski with Jim Robaczewski in the background



Misia Jaminski and Deanna Kujawski at the volleyball tournament



Mr. and Mrs. Dariusz Winski

– Katarzyna Ziemianin, teacher; honorable mention to the High School Sophomore Class (2LO) – Jan Oprzędek, teacher. Congratulations and thank you for this opportunity to be with you.

The 2021 wedding season for the Jaminski's came to a close as Wesoły Lud alumna Ursula Marszałik and Dariusz Winski said "I DO" at Our Lady Mother of the Church in Willow Springs, IL. Although the brisk weather on the 13th day of November gave pause, the love of these newlyweds warmed those present. The reception was held at Belvedere Chateau in Palos Hills, IL, where in the company of many dear friends, Richard and I enjoyed the festivities. The bride's twin sister, Monica, shared some secrets during her maid-of-honor speech and gave some sound advice to her "younger" sister ("every minute counts"). Four alumni couples from Wesoły Lud performed a Polonaise for the new Mr. and Mrs. including them and their parents in the finale. All the best, Mr. and Mrs. Winski!

The Polonia Ensemble of the PRCUA participated in the Polish Independence Mass and Program at St. John Brebeuf Parish in Niles, IL on November 14.

The Polish Museum of America hosted several guests during the month of November including the Mayor of Chicago and other digni-

taries during the Chicago-Warsaw Sister Cities Committee Polish Heritage Breakfast (11/16); representatives of the Polonika Institute from Poland which commissioned Tytus Brzozowski to create 12 renderings of 12 cities in which the Institute assists in the preservation and conservation of art collections; as well as the painter himself whose exhibit is on display at the PMA from October 23-December 11, 2021. President Robaczewski attended the Meet and Greet with the painter on November 12.

The 49th Cinderella-Prince Charming Ball was held on November 20, 2021 at Belvedere Chateau, Palos Hills, IL. Established in 1976, the Adult Culture Group of PRCUA is a credit to Polonia for its dedication to young adults as well as to multi-generations of its membership. This year, 22 young adults (high school age) were presented by their parents and each had the opportunity to be selected Cinderella, Prince Charming or Runner-ups, as the selection is by lottery. An absolutely stunning waltz choreographed by the incomparable Richard Jaminski was perfectly executed and it seemed the dancers were floating in the clouds. It was truly a work of art. Among the many dignitaries attending this event: Consul Agata Grochowska from the Polish Consulate in Chicago; Most Rev. Andrew P. Wypych, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago – Vicariate 5; Kathy Lesny-Evans, President of the Legion of Young Polish Women; Małgorzata Kot, Managing Director of the Polish Museum of America; Jolanta Wisnicka, Branch Manager of the PSFCU as well as Board Member Bogdan Ogorek and his wife, Katarzyna; and from the PRCUA, President and Mrs. James Robaczewski; Sec-Treas. Agnieszka and Daniel Bastrzyk; National Directors: Andrew Lech (D-6), Ewa Cholewinski (D-7), Liz Dynowski and Mirek Cislo (D-8), Beth Sadus (D-9); and of course, yours



Royal couple, candidates and dignitaries (photo: courtesy of JBVideo)

truly with my multi-talented husband, Richard. Congratulations to all who made this another enchanting evening – candidates, Adult Culture Group members with Edward Muszalski at the helm, and the guests. Photos and details will be provided in an upcoming issue of the *Naród Polski*, but in the meantime, permit me to introduce 2022 Cinderella Natalia Bafia, Prince Charming Marcel Duda, and Runners-up Weronika Kaczmarczyk and Jakub Niedzielski.

Thanksgiving came upon us as it usually does on the fourth Thursday of November and yet, I feel it caught us by surprise. I believe this is one of the aftermaths of the pandemic – with all events cancelled or postponed in 2020, 2021 tried to catch up quickly and so are many of us. I do have an excuse this year, as Richard and I had a guest from Poznań, Poland during Thanksgiving – Piotr Kulka - his paternal grandmother and my maternal grandfather were siblings. Piotr is also the Artistic Director and Choreographer of the Wielkopolskie Polish Folk Song and Dance Ensemble in his home city.

While in our town, he choreographed a suite for Wesoły Lud, for which we are grateful. Piotr came at the invitation of the Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas in cooperation with a grant from Stowarzyszenie Wspólnota Polska to host a three day workshop on the sub-regions of Wielkopolska (Macro or Greater Poland ethnographic region of Poland). The workshop was held from November 26 through 28 in Milwaukee, WI and



2022 Cinderella Natalia Bafia and Prince Charming Marcel Duda

hosted by our friends, the Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble (Duane Tomka, Artistic Director and Choreographer). Attending the workshop from the PRCUA Choreographers were Richard Jaminski (who was Piotr's accompanist, translator and chauffeur), Konrad Bialas, Michael Dziadkowiec, Dominika Górnikowski, Danielle and Emilia Kropiewski, Jakub Niedzielski, Basia and Nicholas Nowakowski, and Emilia and Conrad Wiecek.

(continued on pg. 13)



PRCUA Choreographers from Wielkopolska Workshop with Piotr Kulka in Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Piotr Kulka with Wesoły Lud



Polonia Ensemble at St. John Brebeuf Parish in Niles, IL



4th PRCUA NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Hosted by District 8

By Myron 'Mirek' Cislo

On the first beautiful sunny weekend of November 2021, PRCUA District 8 hosted the 4th National Volleyball tournament at the Edward Hospital Athletic and Event Center in Romeoville, IL. The Chairpersons for this event were Elizabeth Dynowski and Myron Cislo. 56 participants took the court with a total of 15 teams in all three divisions (Co-ed, Women and Men). The tournament would not have been possible without the support and hard work of our District 8 organizing committee and volunteers. Special thank you to our District President James Rustik and Vice President Krystyna Lech, Secretary Danielle Kroplewski, Treasurer Michael Dziadkowiec, Vice President of PRCUA Micheline Jaminski and our loyal volunteers Janina Wargacki, Elizabeth Wargacki Cislo, Joanna Niedzielski, Richard Jaminski, Edward Muszalski and Walter Dynowski. This tournament also owes a big thank you to our head referee Mark Antkiewicz, for his services in securing other referees and his knowledge of the games. Speaking of the game and brackets, a special thank you to Valerie Brumm, Director of District 10, and her husband for their time and patience crafting our brackets for this tournament and giving us some pointers.

The competition was intense and

the gamesmanship was fair and fun. The tournament began with a Friday evening Coed play followed by the Saturday Women's and Men's play. The tournament ended Saturday afternoon and all participants gathered for a wonderful Awards Banquet that evening at Q Bar in Darien, IL. In addition to all the volleyball players and PRCUA District 8 members, other guests and supporters at the awards banquet included President James Robaczewski and his wife Elaine, Vice President Micheline Jaminski and her husband Richard, Secretary-Treasurer Agnieszka Bastryk and her family, past Vice President, Anna Sokolowska; PRCUA Fraternal coordinator - Conrad Wiecek; PRCUA Marketing Director Elzbieta Sawczuk, PRCUA Sales Director Mike Dziadkowiec. PRCUA District 7 National Director Joanna Ewa Cholewinski and District 9 National Director Elizabeth Sadus, along with District 10 National Director Valerie Brumm, whose teams came to win!

After dinner, awards were announced by National Vice President Micheline Jaminski and presented by District 8 National Directors Myron Cislo and Elizabeth Dynowski. The following winners were recognized: Coed Division Champions: St. Rita's Block Party (whose MVP was Aaron Elowski) and St. Rita's Some Spike It Hot (MVP Mary Jo Vanderbrink);

Women's Division Champions: St. Rita's Balls Up (MVP Amara Karapas) and Men's Division Champions: St. Rita's Hit Men (MVP Keith Kujawski). Allstars - Coed: John Godin (St. Rita's Set to Kill), Mary Jo Vanderbrink (St. Rita's Some Spike It Hot), Eric Wildhirt (The Amigos), Natalia Hatala (The Slammers), Matthew Skrzypiec (Polanie Aces), Patty Johansen (St. Rita's Hard Hitters), and Ryan Hatzung (St. Rita's Block Party); Women: Adella Houle (St. Rita's Dziewczyny), Natalia Bafia (Lud Ladies), Alexandria Cislo (Ladies of Polanie), and Jessie Sanchez (St. Rita's Ball Up); Men: Brian Brumm (St. Rita's Chlopaki), Victor Kuzmiuk (Titans), Dave Wildhirt (Polanie Pierogi Eaters) and Aaron Elowsky (St. Rita's Hit Men). Congratulations to all the champions which by the way, happen to all be from Michigan!!

The tournament was a success, not only on the courts but fraternally. Thank you to the PRCUA Fraternal Department Coordinator Conrad Wiecek for the preliminary preparations and vetting of players, as well as to the Marketing staff for promoting the event on PRCUA social media. We were so pleased to have several Michigan teams participate in our tournament and we must say they were awesome!! It was a blast hanging out with them and sharing stories of our love and interest in

PRCUA and our Polish heritage. Also, a shout out to our young adults (past and present dancers from the Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Company, Polanie Dancers, Southwest Center of Polish Dancing) who participated in the tournament. Thank you for playing and we hope this experience will show you the benefits and values of fraternalism and your PRCUA membership. We encourage you to continue to be active in the PRCUA as you are the future of this organization!

On behalf of Liz Dynowski and myself, I want to thank everyone for participating in this Volleyball tournament be it as a player or volunteer because your presence made the event a great success!!

God Bless! *Bóg Zapłać!*



President James Robaczewski addressing the players



Magdalena Truta singing national anthems



Check-in



Awards Banquet PRCUA and District 8 Officers, Directors and Committee



Coed St. Rita Some Spike It Hot



Coed St. Rita's Set to Kill



Coed St. Rita's Block Party



Coed St. Rita's Hard Hitters



Coed Polanie Aces



Coed The Slammers



Coed The Amigos



Men's Polanie Pierogi Eaters



Men's The Titans



Men's St. Rita Chlopaki



Women's St. Rita's Dziewczyny



Women's St. Rita's Balls Up



Men's St. Rita's Hit Men



Women's Lud Ladies



Women's Ladies of Polanie



← Scorekeepers
(l-r):
Krystyna Lech,
Richard Jaminski,
James Rustik,
Andy Sacinski

NEWS FROM PRCUA ST. JOHN PAUL II SOCIETY #1593

By Joanne S. Ozog

International Federal Credit Union Day

PRCUA St. John Paul II Society #1593 from Warren, MI has been kept quite busy lately participating with organizations to celebrate a number of events. On Thursday, October 21, the Polish-American Federal Credit Union invited the society to take part in International Federal Credit Union Day. The Credit Union gave its members a free item plus the chance of winning ten \$45 gift cards to the Wawel Restaurant located next door to their office in Troy, MI.

St. John Paul II Society promoted its scholarship raffle and at the same time, promoted PRCUA by passing out literature on the organization, as well as various informative books on Polish legends, costumes and famous Polish people compiled by the National Home Office.

Thank you is extended to the Credit Union for inviting us, to PRCUA for their educational booklets and to Harry and Judy Burzynski and Mark and Wally Ozog for volunteering their time.



Ticket sellers at the Polish-American Federal Credit Union

Polish American Heritage Celebration

On Sunday, October 24, the society members worked with the Detroit Central Citizens Committee to celebrate "October - Polish American Heritage Month". The purpose of the Detroit Central Citizens Committee is for all organizations and individuals to unite and act jointly under its direction. It also supports and acknowledges the good works of Polonia's members in the Detroit area with a banquet which honors the memory of General Casimir Pułaski for his leadership and heroism during the Revolutionary War. Each member honored receives a medal in appreciation for their tireless effort to promote their Polish heritage.

The banquet is usually held in October for Polish American Heritage Month, however, due to the coronavirus it was not held last year. This year the



Committee members at St. Faustina Hall



Joann and Wallace Ozog with grandson Ryan

committee decided to replace this annual celebration with an educational event. Guests had the opportunity to learn about Polish history, its culture and its people. There was a Polish exhibit compiled by Joann Ozog and a lollipop game also organized by Joann. Each guest received three complimentary chances to win a variety of prizes donated by PRCUA and the Detroit Lions. Each prize included an informative book on a Polish topic (legends, costumes, famous people, including St. John Paul II, Paderewski, Kościuszko, and Pułaski, PRCUA and the PRCUA dance and language schools).

Rick Lapham, President of the Detroit Central Citizens Committee, prepared a list of questions for a history quiz. Each person who answered the question correctly received one of many prizes. The participants were very enthusiastic. Some knew the answer and those who did not know the answer received a lesson in Polish history. Winners of the at-home history quiz contest were announced. First place winner received \$100 and second place received \$50. Several door prize winners received lottery tickets. PRCUA #1593 member Marcia Lewandowski, with assistance from Mrs. David Ledwon, was in charge of arranging a delicious selection of appetizers for all to enjoy.

The Detroit Central Citizens Committee celebrated Polish American Heritage Month much differently this year compared to other years. Those in attendance showed great interest in the exhibit, the quiz, the lollipop game and at the same time enjoyed an afternoon of socialization, free food and free gift items, many of which pertained to their Polish heritage.



PRCUA members at St. Faustina Hall

Scholarship Raffle

Because of the coronavirus, many of the activities and fundraisers of the society have not taken place. St. John Paul II Society offers scholarships to its members. Things are slowly getting back to normal, including students applying for scholarships. Assistance is needed more than ever because so many businesses were forced to close and employees lost their jobs.

St. John Paul II Society had a Fall Scholarship Raffle on Tuesday, November 23. Everyone's support was greatly appreciated.

Polish American Day at the Detroit Lions

Polish American Day at the Detroit Lions will take place on Sunday, December 19 at 1:00 p.m. Special ticket prices are \$39 in sections 322, 323, 324 and 325 which include a ticket to the game, a Detroit Lions t-shirt and \$5 of each ticket will go back to the PRCUA #1593 Scholarship Fund.

To purchase tickets, go to <https://fevo.me/polishamericanday>. For further information, contact Wally Ozog at 586-519-3775 or wozog@wowway.com. A perfect gift for the hard to find!



NEWS FROM PRCUA PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETIES #2013 AND #2015

By Joanne Zajac
Former Director of District 3
President/Secretary Society 2013

Hannah Dickinson, daughter of Julie and Matt Dickinson and sister of Wyatt Dickinson, all members of PRCUA Society #2013, has been a very busy young lady. Hannah was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society in April. This honor was based on scholarship, leadership, service and character A/B Honor Roll 2020-21. Hannah serves on Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida's CEO Advisory Board. She was also invited and attended Cookies for the Military packing event for forgotten soldiers, donating 283 boxes of cookies.

Hannah also participated and donated 41 pounds of food to Feeding Florida Together. She participated in the BEE Kind 5K. Hannah took part in St. Maximillian Kolbe Respect Life Ministry where she collected and donated to their Baby Infant Supply Drive. She was invited and attended Path to Independence with the Equine Therapy Organization. Hannah is an invited scholar to the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C.

In her spare time, Hannah plays for the North Port U14 Softball team and is working as a babysitter and dog walker within her community.

Wyatt Dickinson, the son of Matt and Julie Dickinson and the brother of Hannah, is a busy guy himself.



Hannah (r) with Girl Scout S. FL CEO

Wyatt is a crossover cubscout from Troop 220 to officially a boy scout since February 2021. Wyatt took part in ATA Black Belt Testing in April 2021 where he earned his first degree blackbelt. He was on the Principal's Honor Roll for 2020-21.

Wyatt was awarded Leader in Me for "Spending time on things that are most important. I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized". In June, he attended Rainey Mountain Boy Scout Camp in Georgia. In November 2021, Wyatt will be taking part as a member of the San Diego 3 Day Susan B. Komen Youth Corp.

Wyatt participated in the Space Coast Rumble Karate Tournament in Melbourne, FL placing 2nd in sparring and 3rd in form. In September, Wyatt was part of the Court of Honor Troop 220, earning 3 merit badges.

In his spare time, Wyatt is working as a landscaping assistant.

Family and friends are so impressed with these two young ones and wish them continued success throughout the coming year.



Wyatt earnig rank to Boy Scouts

Melissa, daughter of Walter and Michelle Schultz and sister to Kelsey, niece and cousin to the Dickinsons and Nicholas Schultz family, was awarded a partial scholarship for the current school year to St. Christopher's Parish School in the north-east part of Philadelphia.

Keep up the good work Melissa; we are all proud of you.

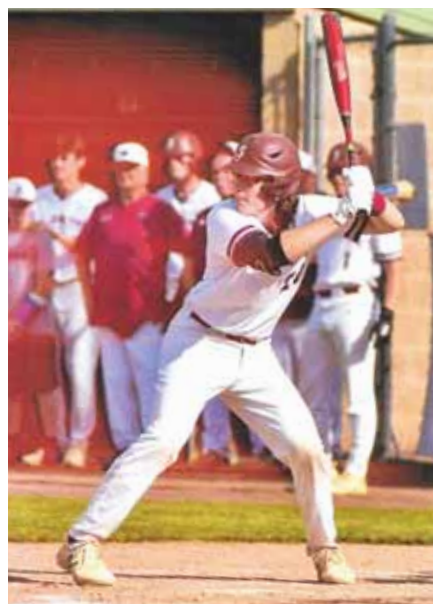


Melissa Schultz presenting her awards

Meanwhile, another cousin and Society #2015 member, Jude Matthew Tomaszewski-Finizio, was named to the All Catholic Baseball Team for 2020-2021 by the Philadelphia Catholic League.

Jude is a senior at St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Philadelphia and resides in Delran, N.J. with his parents Mary Beth and Dennis. He is the grandson of Helena and Michael Tomaszewski of Burlington, N.J.

Congratulations Jude. We look forward to seeing your name in the headlines in the years to come. We are all so proud of you. Your entire family as well as your fraternal family wish you well!



Jude Matthew Tomaszewski-Finizio

Well done!

THE OPEN DOOR (cont. from pg. 9)

Jeanne Ryjewski, sister of former PRCUA First Lady Loretta Dykla who passed away at age 97 on November 7, and to PRCUA Controller Emily Kurda, whose mother Anna Lizak, passed away on Tuesday, November 23 in Poland.

Speedy recovery to my dear friend Evelyn Cedzidlo and past National Director (D-7) Robert Bugielski.

Best wishes to all those celebrating December birthdays and anniversaries, especially Danielle Kroplewski (12/4), Renee Kroplewski and Dr. Katarzyna Rogala-Jacher (12/5); my Chief of Staff and Fraternal Department Coordinator, Conrad Wiecek (12/15); first birthday of District 7 Director Anna Krynski's grandson Lucas Montgomery (12/19); past PRCUA President Joseph A. Drobot Jr. (12/20); Marketing Associate Anne Moschopoulos and Paul Pazdziora (12/26) and Gosia Niemiec (12/31). 30th wedding anniversary wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Kelly and Duane Malinowski (11/23).



Kelly and Duane Malinowski

Congratulations to National Director (D-6) Andrew and Patricia Lech on the birth of their third daughter, Juliette Patricia, on October 29, 2021. Sisters Adeline and Sophie happily welcomed their new little sister with open arms. It seems that Andrew and Patty are following the footsteps of both sides of the family – Danielle and Robert Kroplewski first welcomed three lovely daughters and then three handsome sons, and Patty's parents had three lovely daughters. Time will tell what the future holds for you – in the meantime, enjoy your precious little girls! Congratulations to the grandparents as well – past National Director (D-8) Krystyna and Tadeusz Lech and Ursula and Christopher Zupnik.

We wish you a Merry Christmas!
We wish you a Merry Christmas!
We wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!



LIVING CRÈCHES STRESS TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Robert Strybel, Warsaw Correspondent

WARSAW – If you visited a shopping mall here in Warsaw or in Kraków, Poznań, Gdańsk, Białystok Katowice, Lublin or other Polish cities around this time of year, you'd feel right at home. Multicolored lights and shimmering decorations surround the loads of seductive specials, discounts and sales promotions at every step of the way.

Over the loudspeakers you'd hear *Jingle Bells*, *White Christmas*, *Let it Snow*, *Last Christmas I Gave You My Heart*, and those eternal chestnuts roasting in an open fire. There are stars, elves, snowmen, reindeer and kids queuing to tell that white-nylon-bearded ho-ho-ho character what they want for Christmas.

Green-clad elves and Santa's girl helper *Śnieżynka* (Miss Snowflake) are on hand to pass out sweets to the kiddies. But despite all the hoopla, razzle-dazzle and commercial overkill, one can still find a touch of peaceful, low-key authenticity as personified by the living Christmas crib.

Live nativity scenes featuring parish volunteers and real barnyard animals have been growing in popularity across Poland in recent decades. Usually set up on parish grounds, they combine the miraculous story of Jesus' birth with the attraction of a petting zoo.

Such living tableaux are eagerly visited by families with children during the holiday season. They first open after Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and run until Candlemas (February 2nd), the official end of Poland's Christmas season. Families come to the *Pasterka* (Shepherds Mass) which still begins at midnight after their celebration of *Wigilia*, said to be the most Polish day of the year. Kids have already received their presents after the meal, so they are no longer distracted by what they will get.

Beyond the donkey, sheep and cattle recorded in the New Testament, the living Christmas cribs sometimes include a llama, Shetland pony, guinea pigs and poultry. The most impressive presentation is found at the Marian Shrine of the Black Madonna in the southern city of Częstochowa. At times a young married couple with their babe in arms portray the Holy Family, but often only a bundled-up doll symbolizes baby Jesus. Recordings of Poland's age-old *kolędy* (carols) can be heard in the background, although at times the parish choir appears to do the honors.

Depending on a given parish's resources and decorative skills, the nativity tableaux may be home-spun and folksy or artistically professional. But however they are done up, to some degree they all help offset the commercial (cont. on pg. 21)

HALKA HAPPENINGS

By Laua Hejza



Adam and Tina Pawlikowski
at 2018 International
Children's Festival in Poland

As the Halka Dancers were preparing to begin their 53rd school year, they were saddened by the news of the passing of one of their parents. Tina Pawlikowski has been involved with the Halka Dancers since 1999 when her oldest son Arthur, and daughter Agatha joined the group and has continued with son Adam that is currently in the oldest group. Adam and Tina traveled to Poland in 2018 to be part of the International Children's Dance Festival with the Halka-Zajęczek group. She will be missed for her beautiful smile, authentic self, and long-standing support of our group.

Our school year began on September 11th and we have been full steam with activity since then starting with a performance at the St. Thecla Fall Festival in Clinton Twp. and providing items for the Michigan Fraternal Alliance annual charity collection.

Polish Heritage Month was kicked off with the annual Polish Heritage Mass at St. Albertus Parish on October 3rd, followed by celebrating National Pierogi Day on October 8th with a performance for the City of Algonac Polish Dinner, and we also participated in the halftime performance for the Detroit City Football Club Polish Heritage Night.

November 7 was the return of the PRCUA Cultural Workshop where several Halka Dancers enjoyed the day meeting new friends from other PRCUA Michigan dance schools and learning more about their Polish culture.

The last event for November was the generous collection of non-perishables and monetary donations to provide gift cards and turkeys for the Thanksgiving baskets for our home base parish, Our Lady Queen of Heaven-Good Shepherd.

As we move into December we are not slowing down! The annual Halka pierogi/kielbasa fundraiser has started and we are set to do a holiday performance at a senior living community, walk in the Royal Oak Jingle Parade on December 11th and perform at Ford Field for the Detroit Lions Polish Heritage game on December 19th. Oh, and add our Christmas party in there too!

As you see, the Halka Dancers of Detroit are highly involved to display their Polish pride and support the community. Our dancer roster is closed for this school year, but if you are interested in joining our group next year, contact Director Laura Hejza at lhejza@comcast.net.



Polish Night



City of Algonac Pierogi Day performance - group in front of VFW building and dancers enjoying dinner



St. Albertus Polish Heritage Mass



St. Thecla Fall Festival



PRCUA cultural workshop



Thanksgiving basket collection



Thanksgiving basket collection

CHRISTMAS EVE PIEROGI

Robert Strybel
The Polish Chef

PIEROGI DOUGH (*ciasto na pierogi*): 1. Sift 2-1/4 to 2-1/2 c flour onto bread board. Sprinkle with 1/2 t salt. Deposit 1 small egg at center and use knife to mix outlying flour into egg. Gradually add about 1/2 fairly hot water in a thin stream and work mixture by hand into a dough, gradually working in 2 T salad oil. Knead well until dough is smooth and elastic and no longer sticks to hand. On lightly floured board, roll out 1/3 of the dough into a thin layer, leaving the remainder under a warm inverted bowl so it doesn't dry out. With drinking glass or biscuit cutter cut dough sheet into rounds. Place a spoonful of filling just off center of each dough round, cover filling with larger dough flap and pinch edges together to seal. 2. Combine 2 c flour, 1 c dairy sour cream, 1 small egg and 1/2 t salt. Work ingredients together to form smooth dough and knead briefly. Roll out and proceed as with the recipe above.

CHEESE & POTATO PIEROGI (*ruskie pierogi*): Cook 2 lbs peeled potatoes in boiling salted water until tender, drain, mash and set aside to cool. Add 1 lb farmer cheese or dry cottage cheese (mashed or processed to a fine consistency in processor), 2 finely chopped onions sautéed in 2 T oil or butter until tender and lightly browned. Mix ingredients well and season with salt & pepper. Toppings may include sour cream or *skwarki* (fried golden-brown pork fatback nuggets).

SAUERKRAUT & MUSHROOM PIEROGI (*pierogi z kapustą i grzybami*): Soak 1/2 - 1 oz dried Polish (bolete) mushrooms in water to more than cover, cook in same water until tender and dice. Drain, rinse and re-drain 1 qt sauerkraut and cook covered in water to cover containing 1-2 bay leaves and 1 mushroom cube for 30 min. Uncover and continue cooking until most of the liquid has evaporated. Transfer to colander and, when cool enough to handle, press out as much moisture as possible, chop rather fine. Add diced cooked mushrooms and their liquid and simmer until absorbed. Press out moisture again through colander. Salt & pepper to taste.

PRCUA #162 SACRED HEART OF JESUS SOCIETY
PRESENTS
THE 17TH ANNUAL
Polka Christmas Night
LIVE MUSIC BY
The KAVALIERS
& FRIENDS
SING ALONG TO YOUR FAVORITE KOLEDY, CHRISTMAS CAROLS,
POLKAS, OBEREKS AND WALTZES
Saturday Night in the Hall!

Saturday, December 11, 2021
7:00 - 11:00 P.M.
PRCU Hall
1430 Oak Street
Wyandotte, MI 48192

Admission - \$10
Proceeds to benefit PRCUA #162 Sacred Heart of Jesus Society
Cash Bar - No B.Y.O.B. - Food Available
Everyone Welcome - Hope to see you there!

ZAJĄCZEK DANCE ENSEMBLE NEWS

By Barb Ozog, Secretary
Zajaczek Dance Ensemble

October was Polish American Heritage Month. On Sunday, October 3, several PRCUA dance groups attended Mass at St. Albertus Church in Detroit, MI to participate in the annual blessing of the Polish dance schools. Several Zajaczek dancers, Ms. Tricia, Ms. Rachael, and our District 10 Directors, Colleen Bonkowski and Valerie Brumm, attended the mass.

One of the dancers favorite practice nights in October is the Halloween party/Parent Watch week. Each

family brings in a special treat for each of the children in their dance group. The kids dress up in their Halloween costumes for dance and show their parents and guests the dances they have learned so far. When their class is over, they get to trick or treat through the parents to fill a Halloween bowl Ms. Colleen had for each dancer, already filled with a coloring page showing the Polish words for Halloween items and other goodies from the teachers.

For more information on how to join this group, contact Colleen Bonkowski, Director at zajaczekdance@yahoo.com.



Mały Zajaczek



Group 1



Group 2



Group 3



Group 4



Group 5



Group 6

POLISH CHRISTMAS LORE

Robert Strybel
Polish/Polonian Lifestyles Writer

Polish Christmas lore includes various local customs, beliefs and practices which differ slightly from region to region and even from family to family. But for centuries, *Wigilia* (Christmas Eve) has been the focus of the celebration, and the *opłatek* or Christmas wafer its central, symbolic artifact.

According to one folk belief, if the first visitor entering a home on *Wigilia* was a male, that was said to bring good luck, but a female visitor foretold misfortune. In the olden days, it was customary for family members to wash in a bucket of cold water brought from the nearby stream. A silver coin added to the bucket was said to ensure robust health all year long.

The “all-year-long” theme ran through many other practices. Children were told to be especially good on *Wigilia*, for that is how they would be all year. And if a child should have to be spanked on Christmas Eve for misbehaving, that was what was in store for him or her throughout the year. Adults too were on their best behavior, refrained from arguments and settled whatever debts they owed in the hope of being debt-free in the year to come.

Christmas Eve supper or *wieczera wigilijna* was no ordinary supper. It was not even a typical festive meal of the kind served at weddings, on namedays or even Easter. Everything about it was special, unique and highly symbolic. It could begin only after the first star of the evening appeared in the sky. Traditionally meatless, it featured the gifts of farm, field, forest and river: pasta, grains, dairy products, fish, vegetables, fruits, nuts, honey and poppy seeds. Courses were ordinarily brought in one by one and tables were set with the family’s best crockery.

Well into the 20th century, many poor peasants ate the food from common serving bowls with wooden spoons. For quite some time, this tradition was also observed in many better-to-do homes, where there was

no shortage of china and cutlery, to emphasize a sense of community. Until the meal was over, nobody was allowed to set their spoon on the table - it had to be held the whole time. Except for the housewife serving the food, no one was allowed to leave the table until the meal was over. Everybody was expected to taste at least a small sample of everything on the table and not to leave anything uneaten on their plate. To do so was said to foretell missing out on various good things in the year ahead.

Various incantations and practices during the meal were meant – as always – to attract good fortune and keep harm away. When pasta or grain dishes were served, someone might exhort: *Mnóż się zboże!* (Multiply, o grain!). *Składaj się kapusto!* (Fold into heads, cabbage!) was uttered when sauerkraut and cabbage dishes made their appearance, and the words *Rodźcie się ziemniaki!* (Grow, potatoes, grow!) was heard when boiled potatoes were brought to the table.

In some areas, the head of the household would fling a spoonful of cooked yellow peas at the ceiling. The more that stuck, the better a harvest could be expected the following year. In eastern Poland the same was done with *kucja* or *kutia*, a thick pudding made of cooked grain and honey. In the mountain areas of the south, a handful of straw from the sheaves standing in the corners was thrown at the ceiling to ensure a good harvest. Since only rarely did a strand or two of straw get caught on a sliver or rough spot, that practice seemed to have been a kind of self-fulfilling prophecy: a bountiful harvest was a rarity in the poor soil of the hard-scrabble mountain areas.

Various forms of fortune-telling usually centered on the marital prospects of the eligible girls of the family. For instance, maidens would draw strands of hay from under the table cloth of the vigil supper table. A green strand meant marriage before the end of *Zapusty* (Mardi Gras), while a yellow one signified that the girl was still in for a wait before someone popped the question. But a dark, withered strand condemned the girl who pulled it out to a life of spinsterhood. Sometimes the girl who chose the longest strand was said to be the first to go to the altar. Another practice was to go into the

front yard and listen for the barking of a dog. Wherever the first bark was heard, that is the direction from which a suitor would come courting. Girls would also count the pickets in the fence saying *kawaler, wdowiec, kawaler, wdowiec...* (bachelor, widower, bachelor, widower...), the last picket determining whom they would marry.

It was said that at the stroke of midnight the water in wells would turn to wine, but there was one, main catch: only those who had never sinned could taste it. That certainly excluded the rough-and-tumble farm hands, village drunks and other unsavory types who would have loved to sample the miraculous tippie. According to another folk belief, farm animals could speak in human voices at midnight, but anyone who heard them would not live to tell the tale.

One peasant was said to have buried himself in a manger full of hay to see if his cattle could really speak. But the cows were not fooled and one of them spoke up: *Leż gospodarzu w żłobie, a wkrótce będzie po tobie* (Lie in the manger, farmer dear, now your end is drawing near). But our Polish ancestors were not really as superstitious as it may seem at first glance. These beliefs and practices were treated only half-seriously.

POLISH NEWS BYTES

Robert Strybel
Warsaw Correspondent

American museum honors Kościuszko airmen – On Veterans Day, which coincides with Polish Independence Day, the New England Air Museum in Windsor Locks, CT unveiled an exhibition dedicated to the legendary Polish Kościuszko Squadron, Poland’s PAP news agency reported. Its pilots fought with extraordinary bravery and skill in the Polish-Soviet War of 1919-1921 that helped stop the Red Army’s march across Western Europe. The Kościuszko Squadron included American volunteers, most notably Merian Cooper who later gained fame as co-director of the 1933 movie *King Kong*. The exhibition showcases memorabilia documenting the squadron’s history – photographs, films, journals kept by the airmen,

Mainly they added a bit of diversion to the otherwise drab rural, winter existence of that bygone era.

After the Christmas Eve supper was over, it was common to gather up the table scraps together with any bits of leftover *opłatek*, the grain scattered on the table and the hay from beneath the tablecloth and take it to feed the livestock. The straw strewn about the cottage floor was tied into roping and used to wrap the fruit trees to ensure a good crop. A farmer that kept bees would also tap the hives and inform their drowsy denizens: *Cieszcie się i wy robaczki, Pan Jezus się narodził!* (Rejoice little insects, for Christ is born!)

After the above rituals were re-enacted, families would return home and sing carols until it was time to leave for *Pasterka* (Midnight Mass). In poor families the singing went unaccompanied and the *kolędy* were sung from memory. In better-to-do homes a *kantyczka* (hymnal) containing a wide array of carols and other hymns was brought out, and the singing was often accompanied by someone playing a musical instrument. But gift-giving was not practiced on Christmas Eve in the Polish countryside until well into the 20th century.

uniforms and replicas of fighter planes. Central Connecticut State University, a bastion of Polish studies, contributed to the project.

World’s only Neolithic flint mines reopen to visitors – Closed for extensive modernization, the Krzemionki Archeological Museum has reopened to visitors. It includes a mile-long underground tourist trail, a new permanent exhibition and a reconstructed New Stone Age (Neolithic) village. Located in south-central Poland’s Świętokrzyskie region, the attraction is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visitors may view the original excavations of Neolithic mines, mining heaps and shaft cavities constituting a unique industrial landscape of 5,000 years ago. An elevator has been installed to make the exhibits accessible to disabled visitors. The Krzemionki site is the world’s only facility of this type open to a wider public. People of the New Stone Age used flint to make tools and weapons and to start fires.

WINNERS OF THE 2021 PRCUA COLORING CONTEST

Group	Place in Group	Name	Age	Class	Society	School/Group
Ages 3-4	1st	Lucas Urbina	4	PK	1618	Zajaczek Dance School
	2nd	Madelyn Urbina	2.5	PK	1618	Zajaczek Dance School
	3rd	Nicholas "Anthony" Kasperek	4	PK	1618	Zajaczek Dance School
	3rd	Kasper Otworowski	4	PK	693	Kalinowski Polish School
Ages 5-6	1st	Julia Gasienica	6	1	1597	St. John Paul II Polish School
	2nd	Natalia Lucas	6	1	1593	Zajaczek Dance School
	3rd	Abby Szpak	6	1	693	Kalinowski Polish School
Ages 7-9	1st	Natalia Bastrzyk	9	4	1219	Society 1219
	2nd	Gwenyth Voss	8	3	1593	Zajaczek Dance School
	3rd	Amelia Hypta	8	3	693	Kalinowski Polish School
	3rd	Kacper Buksa	9	4	693	Kalinowski Polish School
Ages 10-12	1st	Kevin Otworowski	11	5	693	Kalinowski Polish School
	2nd	Riley Courtney	11	6	1618	Zajaczek Dance School
	3rd	David Dudzik	10	5	693	Kalinowski Polish School
Ages 13-15	1st	Karolina Kroplewski	13	7	1634	Southwest Center/Konopnicka Polish School
	2nd	Jenna Jablonski	13	8	1618	Zajaczek Dance School
	3rd	Kyle Otworowski	13	8	693	Kalinowski Polish School
Ages 16-18	1st	Evelyn Matson	16	10	693	Kalinowski Polish School
	2nd	Kian Desmond	17	12	1618	Zajaczek Dance School
	3rd	Aleksandra Wozniak	16	11	1634	Konopnicka Polish School

Honorable Mentions - non-member winners

10-12	Kevin Pieprzak	11	6	Cholewiński Polish School
-------	----------------	----	---	---------------------------



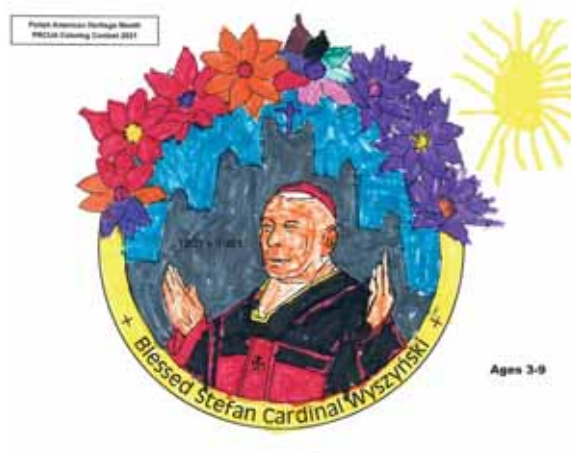
1st place (Ages 3-4)



2nd place (Ages 3-4)



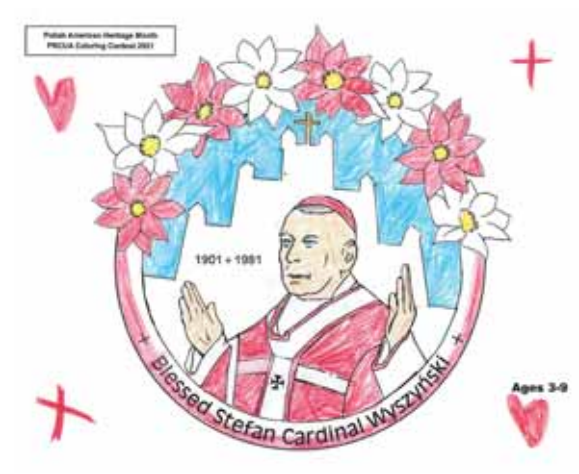
3rd place (Ages 3-4)



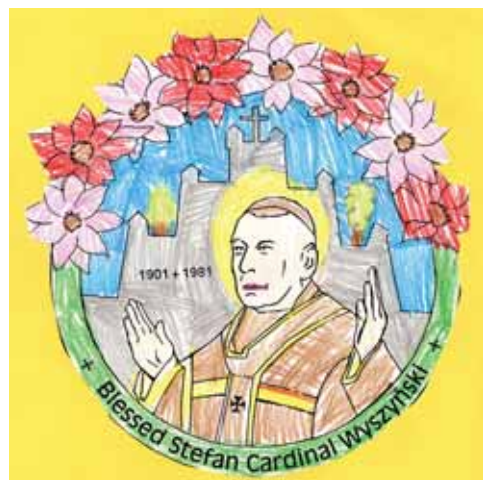
3rd place (Ages 3-4)



1st place (Ages 5-6)



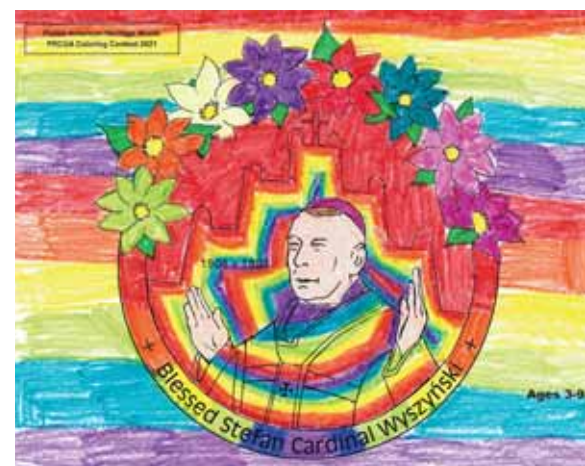
2nd place (Ages 5-6)



3rd place (Ages 5-6)



1st place (Ages 7-9)



2nd place (Ages 7-9)



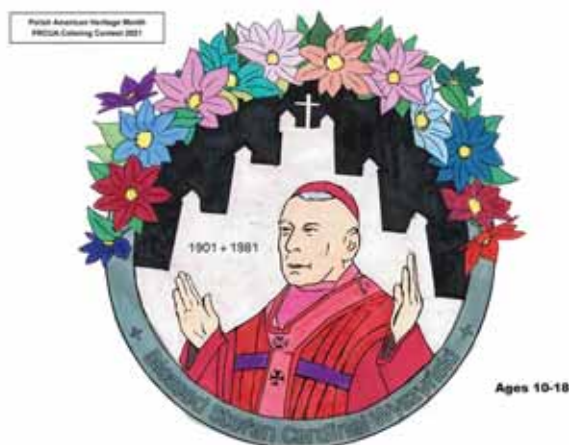
3rd place (Ages 7-9)



3rd place (Ages 7-9)



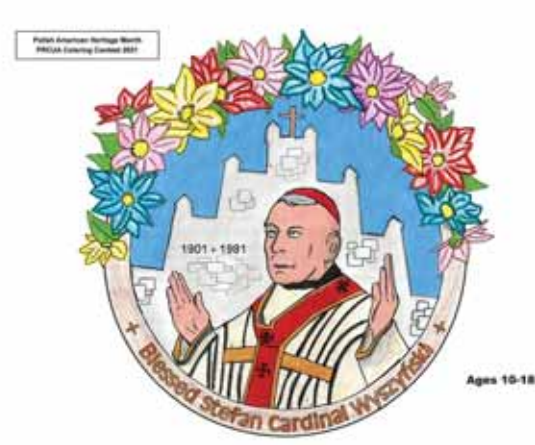
1st place (Ages 10-12)



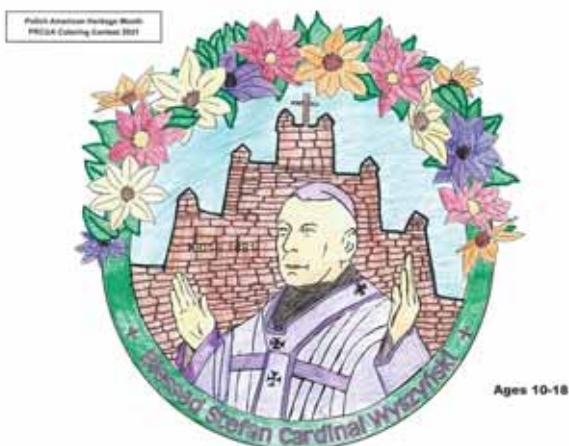
2nd place (Ages 10-12)



3rd place (Ages 10-12)



1st place (Ages 13-15)



2nd place (Ages 13-15)



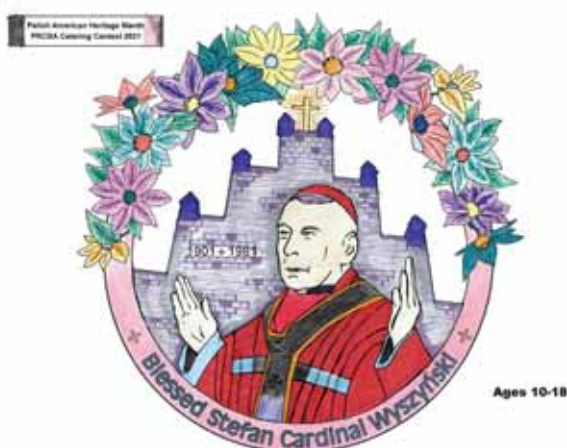
3rd place (Ages 13-15)



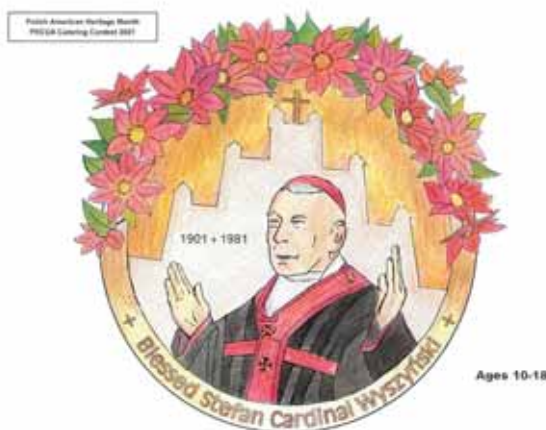
1st place (Ages 16-18)

(continued on pg. 20)

WINNERS OF THE 2020 PRCUA COLORING CONTEST (continued from pg. 19)



2nd place (Ages 16-18)



3rd place (Ages 16-18)



Honorable Mention

GWIAZDA DANCERS' LATEST HAPPENINGS

By Nicholas J. Nowakowski
Gwiazda Secretary & 1997 Alumnus

How time flies! It's hard to believe that by the time this article is published, Thanksgiving will be behind us and we'll be moving full speed ahead toward Christmas. It's been another busy month for the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers.

On October 16, Gwiazda alumna and former assistant teacher Karina Combs (nee Trypus) married Tyler Combs. The reception was held at the Italian American Cultural Center in Clinton Township, Michigan. Karina looked absolutely stunning. Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Combs!



Mrs. Karina Combs with
Gwiazda Choreographer Basia Nowakowski

On November 1, in addition to having their regularly scheduled practice, the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers celebrated Halloween. Dancers were encouraged to come in costume for dance practice. Of course, treats were also involved.

On November 7, several Gwiazda Dancers participated in the Michigan PRCUA Polish Cultural Workshop held at the PRCUA Hall in Wyandotte, MI. Participants in the workshop learned about the Polish language, took a Polish dance class, and participated in a Polish cooking demonstration. Gwiazda directors Jessica Urban led participants in a craft demonstrating how to make poppies (the national flower of Poland) out of paper.

On November 12, the Gwiazda Dancers kicked off their annual Christmas Polish food fundraiser in connection with Srodek's Quality Polish Food in Hamtramck, Michigan. This has become a very popular fundraiser with many of the metro-Detroit area PRCUA Dance Schools participating. Gwiazda wishes to thank the Srodek family for their continued support. If you're interested in picking up any of Srodek's Polish food for the holidays, contact your favorite Gwiazda dancer. Orders are due December 6, 2021.

The Gwiazda Dancers have several events on their horizon and continue to busily prepare for their annual recital to be held in the Spring of 2022. The PRCUA Gwiazda

Dancers wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous 2022. The PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers are on social media.

You can like the group on Facebook or follow them on Twitter (@PRCUA_Gwiazda).



Gwiazda Dancers with Gwiazda Director Jessica Urban at the PRCUA Cultural Workshop



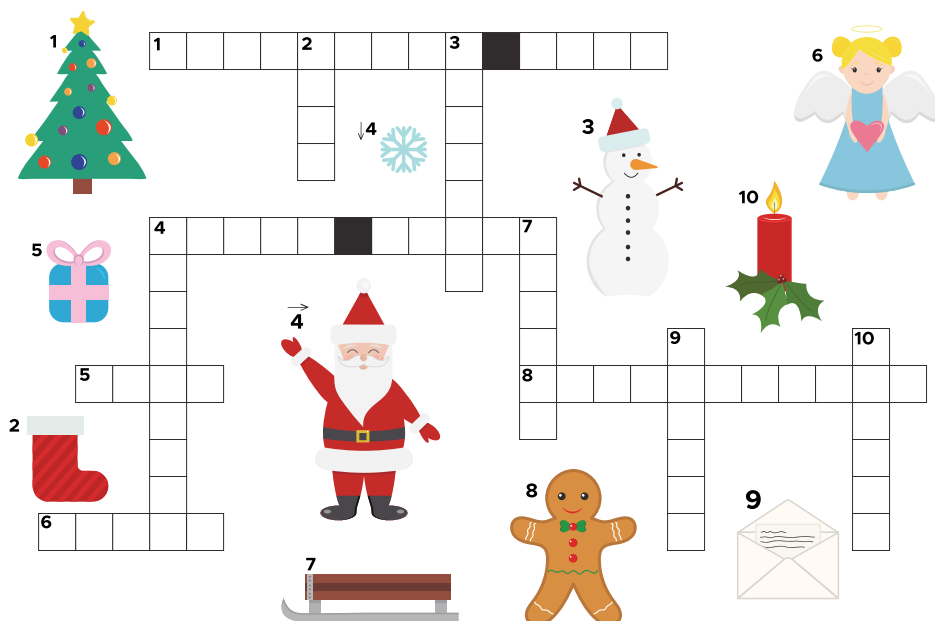
Gwiazda Dancers celebrate Halloween



1. Find 10 differences.



3. Solve the puzzle by writing the names of the objects in the appropriate fields.



2. Color the picture, then glue it on cardboard and cut around the edge. Next, punch a whole on the top, thread a string or a ribbon through the hole and hang the ornament on your Christmas tree.



4. Help the shepherd find Baby Jesus.



Answers on pg.16

Higher Perspectives



By Rev. Canon
Walter J. Ptak
National Chaplain,
PRCUA

Advent: A time to prepare for Christmas

It's hard to believe that another year is coming to an end and the season of Advent is upon us once again! After praying for those who have died and await the fullness of the kingdom in November, we now find ourselves in the season of Advent. This is a time of preparation for the coming of the word made flesh, Jesus Christ. Our focus changes from death to life, the life of the one who brings meaning to our lives. Next to the Lent and Easter seasons, the Advent and Christmas seasons are the most important time of the year. Indeed, as the popular Christmas song goes, they are also the 'most wonderful time of the year'. This is because we get ready to celebrate the love of the Father for us in the **Glory of the Incarnation**.

Advent has a twofold nature: the commemoration of the birth of Christ in time some two thousand years ago and the second coming of Christ at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a season that demands our attention. All too often, Advent is bypassed so that the celebration of Christmas can begin. It is good that so many people look forward to celebrating Christmas for it is a special time of the year! However, without Advent's preparation, Christmas loses its meaning and becomes all too commercialized and meaningless and just another hyped up holiday!

Advent prepares us to celebrate Christmas with renewed JOY! John the Baptizer reminds us to prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the path. This can be done in many ways, let me suggest three to you. The **first**, is to take stock of your spiritual life. Make a list of your strengths and weaknesses in your spiritual life. Review the list and use the Advent season to work on the areas that you need to grow in. Give more freely of your time, talent and treasure. The **second**, is to plan to celebrate the beautiful, grace-filled sacrament of Reconciliation. Every parish publishes a list of times that the Sacrament will be celebrated before Christmas. Check the list and make it a point to go and be reconciled with God, experience His divine mercy in your life and you will be ready to show that same love and mercy to others during the Christmas season. Confession is great for the soul and lifts the burden of sin that so often keeps us weighted down. Finally, the **third** way to make Advent more meaningful deals with the family. Prepare an Advent wreath on the table in your home. It is easy to make with fresh evergreens and four candles from the dollar store. Light the corresponding candle each week at the principale meal with the family gathered together. You might want to ask those present to share what they are doing to prepare spiritually for Christmas. As we light the candles each week and the light grows brighter, we are reminded that Christ is coming, and this helps keeps us focused on what we are about to celebrate.

It is my hope that you try these three simple ideas this Advent season. If you do, Advent will take on a new meaning and it won't be lost in the rush to celebrate Christmas. It becomes a season of true preparation and not just something we only celebrate in church. When we take the time to prepare, the main event is always much more spectacular. Advent and Christmas are indeed something to celebrate and one compliments the other. May you and your loved ones enjoy a grace filled Advent and then, a **Christmas season filled with HIS Love! A Blessed & Merry Christmas to All!**

P.S. Remember Christmas is a season and lasts until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, this year on January 9, 2022, and in our Polish tradition until Candlemas on February 2nd. **Enjoy the entire season!**

MAYOR LORI LIGHTFOOT ATTENDS THE CHICAGO SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL EVENT IN THE PMA



Mayor Lori Lightfoot at the CSCI annual breakfast held in the PMA

The Warsaw Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI) Program celebrated Polish American Heritage Month with an annual breakfast held at the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall of the Polish Museum of America on Tuesday, November 16. The program was organized and coordinated by the Co-Chairs of CSCI's Warsaw Committee Iwona Bochenska and Conrad Nowak. The special guest of the event was the Mayor of Chicago Lori Lightfoot. The PMA and PRCUA

leaders attended the event and were able to welcome the mayor in the museum.

Mayor Lightfoot emphasized the strong ties between Polonia and the city of Chicago and the contribution of the Polish community to the history of the city. She remarked on the rich Polish tradition and heritage and strongly recommended that everyone should visit the Polish Museum of America which holds a remarkable collection of artifacts presenting the history of Poland and the Polish diaspora in the United States.

Short remarks were given by Michael Fassnacht, President and CEO of World Business Chicago.

During the event, the CSCI Committee recognized one of the members of the committee, Lieutenant Colonel of the Army National Guard, Simon Wlodarski.

Chicago Sister Cities International is the largest and most active sister cities organization in the United States. It cooperates with 29 cities in the areas of arts and culture, global education, government relations, and international business. Warsaw is Chicago's first sister city, signed by Mayor Richard J. Daley in 1960.



Mayor Lightfoot with the leaders of the PRCUA and PMA and the PMA employees

FORMER HOME OFFICE
EMPLOYEE JEANNE RYJEWSKI
PASSED AWAY



Jeanne B. Ryjewski, age 97, of Chicago, Illinois passed away on Sunday, November 7, 2021. Jeanne was born May 31, 1924.

Jeanne is survived by her children Stephen (Constance) Ryjewski, F. Randall Ryjewski, Renee (Joseph) Moy; her loving grandchildren Jennifer and Raymond (Jenni) Ryjewski, Caitlin Cashman, Eleanor (Eric) Mauthe, Katherine (Jon) Tanski, Daniel and Joseph Moy; fond great grandchildren Meghan and Jarrett, Jude and Eden, Gabriel, Josephine, Theodore and Emily, and Emery; dear great-great grandchildren Mia,

Callahan, and Carson; her sister Loretta (Edward) Dykla. Jeanne is preceded in death by her beloved husband Steven Ryjewski, daughter Kathleen Cashman, and granddaughter Leslie Clark.

Funeral services for Jeanne was held on Friday, November 12. She was laid to rest at St Adalbert Catholic Cemetery in Niles, IL.

Jeanne was a member of PRCUA Society #317 (Królowej Korony Polski). Jeanne worked in the PRCUA Home Office Claims Department for 15 years, she retired on February 1, 1990.

May she rest in God's eternal peace.

PRCUA extends sincere condolences to the grieving family. Please remember Jeanne in your prayers.

DEARLY DEPARTED
PRCUA BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Member	Society	State	Member	Society	State
Bartkowiak, Donald	308	IL	Pylypowicz, Bronislawa	186	NH
Belski, Jean	1486	IL	Rogowski, Joseph	718	MI
Dygdon, Paulina	1027	NY	Rutkowski, Lorraine	1000	PA
Footes, Richard	527	MD	Ryfa, Alice	565	IN
Hollingsworth, Geraldine	1513	MI	Sala, Joseph V.	322	PA
Jarvis, Patricia	2109	OH	Sescourka, John	247	OH
Jasmin, Theresa S.	927	VT	Stampski, Susan	2342	MI
Kaufman, Wanda	1253	WI	Stanerson, Loretta A.	1486	IL
Kieta, Mildred	531	PA	Sulkowski, Daniel C.	1000	PA
Kobylarczyk, Robert	1000	IL	Tabish, Bernard	322	PA
Kretschmer, Deborah	718	MI	Thomas, Mary R.	2109	OH
Krysinski, Janusz	1626	IL	Urbanik, Sophia T.	540	NY
Landgraf, Theresa	1580	IL	Warnock, Deborah	1579	IL
Marchel, Mark	162	MI	Wisniewski, Fred J.	239	FL
McKay, Linda J.	359	MA	Witek, Kathleen	412	IL
Micek, Henry	463	CT	Yanko, Josephine Clara	855	PA
Musial, Joseph	179	IL	Zablocki, Henryk	1593	MI
Nelson, Eugenia	2019	NJ	Zak, Frederick	450	MO
Nowotarski, Douglas	240	FL	Zakrzewski, Barbara A.	850	IN
Olszowka, Edward V.	865	PA	Zaworski, Felicia	880	IL
Pawlowski, Barbara	509	IL	Ziemianski, Patricia	479	PA
Pieciul, Wanda S.	1598	MA	Zoarski, Gregg	463	CT
Pivinski, Shirley A.	1615	PA	Zuchowski, Byron	154	MI
Poliks, David M.	549	MA			

May they rest in eternal peace.

LIVING CRÈCHES (continued from page 14) propaganda working overtime to reduce Christmas to presents under the "holiday tree," epicurean over-indulgence and "shop till you drop."

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US!

Did you become proud parents or grandparents? Did anyone in your family graduate, get engaged or married, receive an award or accomplish something significant? Share your story with our PRCUA family.

Submit your news and photos to: lidia-kowalewicz@prcu.org and we will publish them in the *Naród Polski*.

PROF. TIMOTHY RASINSKI
NAMED ONE OF THE TOP 2%
OF SCIENTISTS IN THE WORLD

Prof. Timothy Rasinski is one of the twenty-nine current Kent State faculty members who have been named to be in the top 2% of scientists in the world based on a recent study published by Stanford University scholars.

Timothy Rasinski is a professor of literacy education at Kent State University and director of its award winning reading clinic. He also holds the Rebecca Tolle and Burton W. Gorman Endowed Chair in Educational Leadership. Tim has written over 250 articles and has authored, co-authored or edited over 50 books or curriculum programs on reading education. He is author of the best selling books on reading fluency *The Fluent Reader* and *The Megabook of Fluency*. Tim's scholarly interests include reading fluency and word study, reading in the elementary and middle grades, and readers who struggle. His research on reading has been cited by the National Reading Panel and has been published in journals such as *Reading Research Quarterly*, *The Reading Teacher*, *Reading Psychology*, and the *Journal of Educational Research*. Tim is the first author of the fluency chapter for the *Handbook of Reading Research, Volume IV*.

Tim served a three year term on the Board of Directors of the International Reading Association and was co-editor of *The Reading Teacher*, the world's most widely read journal of literacy education. He has also served as co-editor of the *Journal of Literacy Research*. Rasinski is past-president of the College Reading Association and he has won the A. B. Herr and Laureate Awards from the College Reading Association for his scholarly contributions to literacy education. In 2010, Tim was elected to the International Reading Hall of Fame. In 2020, Tim was awarded the William S. Gray Citation of Merit by the International Literacy Association, the highest award given by the largest and most prestigious organization devoted to literacy development in the world.

Prior to coming to Kent State, Tim taught literacy education at the University of Georgia. He taught for several years as an elementary and middle school classroom and Title I reading intervention teacher in Omaha, Nebraska. Tim is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces.

Timothy Rasinski is a member of the PRCUA Society #977.

We congratulate Prof. Rasinski on his latest achievement and wish him continued success in the future.

ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLES ON PAGE 14:

1. Find 10 differences:

3. Solve the puzzle:

1. CHRISTMAS TREE; 2. SOCK;
3. SNOWMAN; 4. (across) SANTA CLAUS,
4. (down) SNOWFLAKE; 5. GIFT; 6. ANGEL;
7. SLEIGH; 8. GINGERBREAD; 9. LETTER;
10. CANDLE

4. Help the shepherd find Baby Jesus: C

Nadchodzą Święta – podaruj rodzinie zabezpieczenie finansowe!



Oferta ważna do:
31 stycznia 2022

Oferta Świąteczna

10% ZNIŻKI przy zakupie certyfikatu na sumę
\$5,000 • \$10,000 • \$25,000 • \$50,000
lub więcej

PRCUALife Single Pay Whole Life Insurance

Ubezpieczenie dostępne dla dzieci w wieku od 2 tygodni do 15 lat i 5 miesięcy. Każdy aplikant zostanie nagrodzony prezentem i losem na loterię, w której do wygrania jest jedna z trzech nagród głównych. Aplikacje na sumy 25,000 dolarów lub więcej otrzymają dwa losy na loterię! Losowanie odbędzie się w dniu 15 lutego 2022. Zwycięzcy ogłoszeni będą w marcowym wydaniu *Narodu Polskiego* i na www.PRCUA.org.

Po więcej informacji zadzwoń lub odwiedź PRCUA.org

(773) 782-2642

Michał Dziadkowiec
Koordynator Działu Sprzedaży

(773) 782-2644

Marge Grzeszczuk
Rep. Działu Sprzedaży

Ubezpieczenie na życie
Single Pay Whole Life
oferuje

- ♥ Jednorazową spłatę ubezpieczenia
- ♥ Przyrost wartości gotówkowej
- ♥ Dywidendy dla ubezpieczonego
- ♥ Dodatkowe korzyści członkowskie jak: stypendia czy turnieje sportowe

Przykładowe składki dla dziewcząt

Wiek	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
0	\$661.95	\$1,098.90	\$2,409.75	\$4,594.50
5	\$728.42	\$1,231.83	\$2,742.08	\$5,259.15
10	\$806.63	\$1,388.25	\$3,133.13	\$6,041.25
15	\$896.99	\$1,568.97	\$3,584.93	\$6,944.85

Przykładowe składki dla chłopców

Wiek	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
0	\$717.84	\$1,210.68	\$2,689.20	\$5,153.40
5	\$792.77	\$1,360.53	\$3,063.83	\$5,902.65
10	\$881.06	\$1,537.11	\$3,505.28	\$6,785.55
15	\$981.86	\$1,738.71	\$4,009.28	\$7,793.55

Wszystkie wnioski w *Ofercie Świątecznej PRCUALife 2021* podlegają szczegółowej weryfikacji i muszą być wysłane pocztą do **31 stycznia 2022 r.**

ZJEDNOCZENIE POLSKIE RZYMSKO-KATOLICKIE W AMERYCE | (800) 772-8632 | PRCUA.org

SKORZYSTAJ TERAZ!

PRCUALife 2021 ANNUITY SERIES

— OFERTA PRZEDŁUŻONA —

ELITE⁺ [8 LAT]

3.75%
APY

STAR⁺ [5 LAT]

3.00%
APY

EDGE⁺ [3 LATA]

2.50%
APY

1 ROK GWARANTOWANY

MIN. GWARANTOWANE 2.00%

WYMAGANE MIN. WPŁATY

\$500

* Więcej informacji: **(800) 772-8632** | **PRCUA.ORG**

Beztroskie życie po 70-tce?

Skorzystaj z ubezpieczenia **PRCUA**Life PAID UP AT 70

- ✓ Minimalna suma ubezpieczenia: \$5,000+
- ✓ Spłata ubezpieczenia do 70. roku życia
- ✓ Wiek: 0-65 lat
- ✓ Wzrost wartości gotówkowej
- ✓ Możliwość dywidend*
- ✓ Gwarantowana wysokość spłat
- ✓ Pokrycie do końca życia**
- ✓ Wypłata dla beneficjentów bez podatku
- ✓ Emerytura wolna od finansowych zobowiązań



PRODUKT DOSTĘPNY OD STYCZNIA 2022! PRCUALife

*Dywidendy niegwarantowane **Po spłaceniu należności

*“Podnieś rękę, Boże Dziecię,
Błogosław ojczyznę miłą”*

Zachowując polskie tradycje Świąt Bożego Narodzenia, łamiąc się opłatkiem, uczestnicząc w polskiej Pasterce, obejmując serdeczną myślą wszystkich naszych braci i siostry.

Błogosławieństwo Bożej Dzieciny niech będzie mocą i wsparciem dla całej rodziny Zjednoczenia, Polonii i ludzi dobrej woli.

**Spokojnych, zdrowych i wesołych
Świąt Bożego Narodzenia!**

ks. Władysław J. Ptak
kapelan naczelny

UBEZPIECZENIA BEZ TAJEMNIC

Robert Sobczak
Specjalista ds. ubezpieczeń

Szokujące zmiany cen w Medicare

Medicare Part A i B - Ceny i pokrycia na 2022 rok

12 listopada 2022 roku Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) podało do publicznej wiadomości wysokości opłat i pokryć (premium, deductible i coinsurance) części A i B Medicare na rok 2022.

Medicare Part A Premium/Deductible

Medicare Part A pokrywa częściowo między innymi koszty związane z pobytem w szpitalu, skilled nursing facility jak również koszty związane z niektórymi usługami domowymi. Około 99% posiadaczy Medicare nie posiada miesięcznej stawki za część A z uwagi na to, że mają przepracowane (oni lub ich małżonkowie) przynajmniej przez 40 kwartałów i płacili składki na Medicare.

Udział własny (deductible) za pobyt w szpitalu w roku 2022 wynosi **\$1,556**. Wzrósł on o \$72 w stosunku do roku ubiegłego. Deductible części A związane z pobytem w szpitalu pokrywa koszty pierwszych 60 dni pobytu w szpitalu usług pokrywanych przez Medicare. W 2022 beneficjenci Medicare części A są również odpowiedzialni za udział wspólny (coinsurance) w wysokości **\$389**

za każdy dzień pomiędzy 61 a 90 dniem pobytu w szpitalu (\$18 dziennie więcej niż w roku bieżącym) i **\$778** (\$742 w 2021) za dzień w tzw. rezerwie życiowej (lifetime reserve).

Dla beneficjentów przebywających w skilled nursing facilities, dzienna dopłata za udział wspólny (coinsurance) za pobyt między dniem 21 a setnym wynosi **\$194.50** na 2022 rok (\$185.50 w 2021).

Porównanie wysokości opłaty własnej i opłaty wspólnej za część A w latach 2021 i 2022 według rodzaju kosztu		
	2021	2022
Opłata własna za pobyt w szpitalu	\$1,484	\$1,556
Dzienna dopłata za odpowiedzialność wspólną między 61, a 90 dniem pobytu	\$371	\$389
Dzienna dopłata za odpowiedzialność wspólną w rezerwie życiowej	\$742	\$778
Dzienna dopłata za odpowiedzialność wspólną Skilled Nursing Facility	\$185.50	\$194.50

Dane na podstawie informacji z Medicare.gov

Osoby wchodzące w 65 rok życia, które nie wypracowały jeszcze 40 kwartałów lub nie otrzymały renty inwalidzkiej (disability) będą odpowiedzialne za miesięczną opłatę za część A Medicare. Osoby, które przepracowały nie mniej niż 30 kwartałów lub są współmałżonkami osoby, która przepracowała nie mniej niż 30 kwartałów będą odpowiedzialne za stawkę miesięczną w wysokości \$259 za część A w roku 2021. Niektóre osoby w wieku powyżej 65 lat, które przepracowały mniej niż 30 kwartałów lub maksymalnie wykorzystwały benefity wynikające z renty inwalidzkiej są odpowiedzialne za pełną opłatę za część A w wysokości \$471 miesięcznie.

Medicare Part B Premium/Deductible

Medicare part B pokrywa częściowo koszty związane z wizytami lekarskimi, poza szpitalnymi

usługami medycznymi, niektórymi domowymi serwisami medycznymi nie pokrywanymi przez część A.

Podstawowa **miesięczna stawka za Part B** Medicare na rok 2022 wynosi **\$170.10**, co oznacza że jest wyższa o \$21.60 niż w roku 2021. **Roczna odpowiedzialność własna (deductible) za Part B** w roku 2021 wynosi **\$233**, \$30 więcej niż w roku bieżącym.

Od 2007 miesięczna stawka z Part B jest również bazowana w zależności od poziomu dochodów beneficjenta. Grupa osób dotknięta podwyżką związaną z wysokim poziomem dochodów wynosi około 5%. Ceny części B dla osób o wysokich dochodach przedstawione są w poniższej tabeli.

Beneficjenci rozliczający się indywidualnie, z dochodami:	Beneficjenci w małżeństwie rozliczający się wspólnie, z dochodami:	Dopłata ze względu na dochód	Całkowita opłata za część B
Nie więcej \$91,000	Nie więcej \$182,000	\$0.00	\$170.10
Więcej niż \$91,000 i nie więcej niż \$114,000	Więcej niż \$182,000 i nie więcej niż \$228,000	\$68.00	\$238.10
Więcej niż \$114,000 i nie więcej niż \$142,000	Więcej niż \$228,000 i nie więcej niż \$284,000	\$170.10	\$340.20
Więcej niż \$142,000 i nie więcej niż \$170,000	Więcej niż \$284,000 i nie więcej niż \$340,000	\$272.20	\$442.30
Więcej niż \$170,000 i nie więcej niż \$500,000	Więcej niż \$340,000 i nie więcej niż \$750,000	\$374.20	\$544.30
\$500,000 lub więcej	\$750,000 lub więcej	\$408.20	\$578.30

Dane na podstawie informacji z Medicare.gov

medicare™
po polsku
844.654.5185
www.medicarepopolsku.com



NA ŚWIĄTECZNY STÓŁ

RYBA PO GRECKU

2 funty filetów ze świeżej ryby (najlepiej dorsza, mintaja lub morskuszka), 1/2 szklanki mąki do obtoczenia; 1 łyżeczka soli, 1 łyżeczka pieprzu, 1 łyżeczka suszonego oregano, olej roślinny do smażenia; oraz: 4 średnie marchewki, 2 średnie pietruszki, 1 średnia cebula, połowa małego pora (biała część), 1/2 filiżanki wody, 4 łyżki przecieru pomidorowego, 1 łyżeczka soli, 1 łyżeczka słodkiej papryki, 2 liście laurowe, 3 ziarna ziela angielskiego, 1/5 filiżanki oleju roślinnego

Marchew i pietruszkę zetrzeć na tarce o grubych oczkach. Filety osuszyć ręcznikiem papierowym, posy-

pać solą, pieprzem i oregano. Na patelni rozgrzać kilka łyżek oleju. Mąkę wysypać na talerz i obtoczyć w niej rybę z obu stron. Włożyć rybę na rozgrzany tłuszcz i obsmażyć z obu stron aż się zrumieni (ok. 3-4 minuty z każdej strony).

Pora i cebulę pokroić w półplasterki i zeszklić na patelni używając 1/5 filiżanki oleju. Dodać starte warzywa, ziele angielskie liście laurowe, słodką paprykę i sól. Wlać 1/2 filiżanki wody, zamieszać, przykryć i dusić na małym ogniu około 20 minut. Dodać przecier pomidorowy, wymieszać i dusić jeszcze chwilę bez przykrycia. Na dnie naczynia, w którym będzie podana ryba ułożyć część duszonych warzyw, następnie rybę i przykryć pozostałymi warzywami. Przykryć i wstawić do lodówki. Przed podaniem można posypać siekaną zieloną pietruszką lub koperkiem.

POMIDORY FASZEROWANE PIECZARKAMI

4 duże i twarde pomidory; 1/2 funta posiekanych pieczarek, 1 mała cebula, 2 łyżki masła, 2 łyżki bułki tartej, 2 łyżki śmietany, sól i pieprz do smaku.

Oстрым nożem odkroić wierzchy pomidorów i odłożyć. Cebulę obrać i drobno posiekać. Łyżką wydrążyć miąższ z pomidorów. Na patelni rozpuścić masło, dodać cebulę i pieczarki. Dusić przez ok. 10 minut. Dodać bułkę tartą i śmietanę, doprawić solą i pieprzem, wymieszać. Nappełnić pomidory, przykryć wierzchami pomidorów. Ułożyć w płytkim żaroodpornym naczyniu lekko wysmarowanym masłem. Piec 25-30 min. w temperaturze 350° F.

PIECZONA KACZKA Z CZERWONĄ KAPUSTĄ

1 cała kaczka (odmrożona), 2 średniej wielkości cebule, 2 średnie

jabłka, 3-4 plastry boczku, 1 filiżanka (cup) wody, sól.

Kaczkę opłukać, osuszyć papierowym ręcznikiem i natrzeć wierzch i wnętrze solą. Obrać cebulę i jabłka. Umieścić kaczkę w naczyniu żaroodpornym i nadziać ją pokrojonymi w ćwiartki jabłkami i cebulą. Ułożyć plasterki boczku na wierzchu kaczki. Na dno naczynia, w którym będzie się piekła wlać wodę (polewać często wypieczonym sosem). Piec w temperaturze 325° F przez 20 minut na każdy funt kaczki. Po upieczeniu podawać z czerwoną kapustą.

Kapusta: 1/4 funta boczku pokrojonego drobno, 1 średniej wielkości czerwona kapusta, 1 drobno posiekana nieduża cebula, 1/2 filiżanki czerwonego wina, 1/4 filiżanki soku z cytryny.

Wysmażyć boczek aż będzie chrupiący, dodać resztę składników. Przykryć i dusić przez 15 min.



Zaproszenie na

Oplatek

organizowany przez
Dystrykt 8

Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego w Ameryce

Sobota, 4 grudnia 2021

Dom Podhalan, 4808 S. Archer Ave., Chicago, IL
Drzwi otwarte godz. 18.00, Program Artystyczny godz. 19.00, Kolacja,
Wizyta Św. Mikołaja godz. 21.00

Dorośli \$40.00 • Dzieci (3-10) \$20.00 • DJ • Bar Płatny

Potwierdzenie rezerwacji do 29 listopada 2021
Krystyna Lech (708) 341-6781 lub Danielle Krolewski (312) 718-0169



Copernicus Foundation zaprasza na
X WIELKI ŚWIĄTECZNY FESTIWAL RODZINNY

MAGICZNE ŚWIĘTA

Niedziela, 12 grudnia,
godz. 15:00

WYSTĘPUJĄ:
Akademia Muzyki PaSO
Warsztaty Teatralne Little Stars
Zespół PiT Polonia PRCUA

ŚWIĄTECZNY KIERMASZ
atrakcje dla dzieci
zdjęcia z Mikołajem

BILETY:
dorośli \$20.00, dzieci \$10.00
copernicuscenter.org
773-467-9000 (biuro PaSO)
773-888-5108 (biuro Warsztatów Teatralnych)
847-529-2555 (biuro ZPiT Polonia PRCUA)

muzyka, teatr, taniec



NA WSKROŚ POLSKI. O FRYDERYKU CHOPINIE

Prof. Piotr Gliński



Profesor zwyczajny nauk humanistycznych. Wicepremier, minister kultury i dziedzictwa narodowego. W latach 2005 - 2011 przewodniczący Polskiego Towarzystwa Socjologicznego. Związany z Instytutem Filozofii i Socjologii PAN. W latach 1997-2005 kierował Zakładem Społeczeństwa Obywatelskiego.

Polskość i zarazem europejskość, swojskość i uniwersalność, emocje i doskonała artystyczna forma – muzykę Chopina rozumieć można na wiele sposobów – pisze prof. Piotr GLIŃSKI

„W Chopinie tkwi wszystko, czego nam wzbraniało: barwne kontusze, pasy złotem lite, posępne czamarki, krakowskie rogatywki, szlacheckich brzek szabel, naszych kos chłopskich połyski, jęk zranionej piersi, bunt spętanego ducha, krzyże cmentarne, przydrożne wiejskie kościółki, modlitwy serc stroskanych, niewoli ból, wolności żal, tyranów przekleństwo i zwycięstwa radosna pieśń” – mówił w stulecie urodzin Fryderyka Chopina w 1910 r. Ignacy Jan Paderewski, jakże celnie opisując znaczenie muzyki Chopina dla zniewolonego, rozczłonkowanego zaborami narodu polskiego i wskazując zarazem na jej zupełnie nadzwyczajne osadzenie w polskiej kulturze.

Silne nasycenie chopinowskich dzieł pierwiastkiem narodowym dla współczesnych kompozytora było jasne od początku. Już w 1837 roku Heinrich Heine, dostrzegając bogactwo tradycji europejskich, z jakich wyrastały kompozycje Chopina (widział w nich zarówno elegancję

i wdzięk cechujące kulturę francuską, jak i wywiedzioną z kultury niemieckiej „romantyczną głębię”), podkreślał: „Polska dała mu rycerskie usposobienie i ból historii”. „W Chopinie mamy dwie istoty – pisał z kolei po jednym z koncertów Polaka paryski recenzent Ernest Legouvé – patriotę i artystę. Dusza pierwszej ożywia geniusz drugiej”, a Wilhelm von Lenz, przez pewien czas uczeń Chopina, wspominając go, stwierdził: „On dawał Polskę; w tym, co komponował, była Polska”.

Myślenie o polskości Chopina często bazuje na swoistym stereotypie: konwencjonalnie kojarzymy ją jedynie z obecnymi w niej echem ludowych stylizacji, jako przykłady podając mazurki. A przecież już autor pierwszej biografii Chopina, kompozytor i wirtuoz Ferenc Liszt, zauważył, że Chopin stał się „wcieleniem poczucia poetyckiego całego narodu”, i to „nie dlatego, że do kompozycji swych wprowadził rytm polonezów, mazurów i krakowiaków i że wiele utworów opatrzył nazwą tańców ludowych” – bynajmniej: „posługiwał się ową formą [ludową] jedynie po to, by w niej

wyrazić pewien sposób odczuwania, bardziej powszechny w jego kraju niż gdzie indziej [...]. Jego preludia, etiudy, a zwłaszcza nokturny, jego scherza i koncerty – zarówno najkrótsze utwory, jak najznamienitsze – przesycane są tym samym rodzajem czułej wrażliwości, wyrażonej w rozmaitym stopniu nasilenia, w tysiącnych odmianach i wariacjach, lecz zawsze tej samej i niezmiennej”.

Cechy narodowe Chopinowskiej muzyki są zatem znacznie głębsze, objawiając się nie tylko poprzez inspirację folklorem. „Dlaczego »mowa dźwięków« Chopina – pytał polski pisarz muzyczny Bohdan Pocię – będąc tak bardzo polską, z polskich źródeł kultury wyrastającą, jest zarazem tak uniwersalną i zrozumiałą we wszystkich krajach i na wszystkich kontynentach współczesnego świata? W czym więc tkwi (substancjalnie) istota polskości muzyki Chopina?”.

Z biegiem lat wrażenie esencjonalnej polskości dzieł Chopina nasilało się. W 1865 roku piękne jego podsumowanie dał w poemacie *Fortepian Szopena* Cyprian Kamil Norwid: „I była w tym (dok. na str. 29)

NAGRODY DZIEDZICTWA NARODOWEGO 2021



Laureaci Nagród Dziedzictwa 2021

Podczas Bankietu Dziedzictwa Narodowego wydział stanowy Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej i po raz pierwszy Fundacja Polsko-Amerykańska oddziału na stan Illinois wręczyli zasłużonym osobom oraz organizacjom prestiżowe Nagrody Dziedzictwa, wyrażając wdzięczność uhonorowanym za ich ważną dla Polski i Polonii działalność.

Ułani z historycznego Stowarzyszenia Przyjaciół Ułanów im. Tadeusza Kościuszki wprowadzili flagi narodowe Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej i Stanów Zjednoczonych do sali bankietowej w restauracji Allegra w podchicagowskim Schiller Park.

Hymny narodowe obu krajów zaśpiewała Nina Romek, której akompaniował Mieczysław Dziś – dyrektor muzyczny Zespołu Pieśni i Tańca „Polonia”.

Przybyłych na galę prawie 300 gości – przedstawicieli lokalnych i stanowych władz i administracji

państwowej, organizacji polonijnych, środowisk zawodowych i biznesowych – serdecznie powitał Michael Niedziński, prezes wydziału stanowego Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej. Wyraził radość, że po raz 51. Polonia miała okazję spotkać się i kontynuować piękną tradycję wręczenia Nagród Dziedzictwa, aby uhonorować osoby, które szczególnie zasłużyły na to prestiżowe wyróżnienie.

Wicekonsul RP Agata Grochowska życzyła kontynuacji sukcesów. Zachęciła do przeczytania listu gratulacyjnego wystosowanego z Kancelarii Prezydenta Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej przez sekretarza stanu Adama Kwiatkowskiego, który w imieniu własnym i prezydenta RP Andrzeja Dudy przekazał organizatorom i uczestnikom 51. Bankietu Dziedzictwa Narodowego najlepsze życzenia oraz serdeczne gratulacje wyróżnionym Nagrodą Dziedzictwa

Narodowego.

Zaprezentowano historyczny program słowno-muzyczny o polskich drogach do wolności zatytułowany „Polska Wschodu”. Autorami scenariusza byli Walter Bochenek i Mary Sendra Anselmo.

W przedstawieniu wyreżyserowanym przez Waltera Bochenka wystąpił Zespół Pieśni i Tańca „Polonia” Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego w Ameryce, którym kierują Anna and Jaclyn Krysiński.

Kulminacyjnym punktem Bankietu Dziedzictwa Narodowego było wręczenie nagród.

Anna Wierzbicki – prezes Fundacji Polsko-Amerykańskiej oddziału na stan Illinois, Nagrodę Dziedzictwa Narodowego (Polish American Foundation Humanitarian Award) w imieniu fundacji przyznała po raz pierwszy.

To zaszczytne wyróżnienie, nagrodę za działalność humanitarną (Humanitarian Award) otrzymał dr Willie Wilson.

Nagrody Główne Dziedzictwa przyznawane przez wydział stanowy Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej oraz Nagrody Dziedzictwa za wybitną działalność w różnych kategoriach zostały przyznane następującym osobom i organizacjom.

Wręczali je prezes Michael Niedziński i wiceprezes Bożenna Haszłakiewicz.

Jako pierwszy Nagrodę Główną Dziedzictwa Narodowego (Heritage Award) otrzymał dr Marek Rudnicki uhonorowany za oddaną, wieloletnią służbę publiczną Polonii i ogromne zaangażowanie w działalność medyczną w Stanach Zjednoczonych i Europie.

W uznaniu zasług i oferowanej

pomocy przyszłym studentom medycyny Nagrodę Główną Dziedzictwa (Heritage Award) wręczono celebrującemu 75. lecie istnienia Związkowi Lekarzy Polskich w Chicago, którą odebrał aktualny prezes dr Piotr Brukasz.

Bożena Nowicka McLees – dyrektor Interdyscyplinarnego Programu Studiów Polskich na Uniwersytecie Loyoli i wiceprezes do spraw edukacji krajowego KPA została uhonorowana Nagrodą Dziedzictwa (Academic Award)

W kategorii działalność biznesowa Nagrodę Dziedzictwa (Business Award) odebrali Marek i Agnieszka Kowalczyk, właściciele sklepu meblowego Idea Furniture, znani ze swojej działalności filantropijnej.

Za obywatelską służbę na rzecz polsko-amerykańskiego środowiska nagrodę (Civic Award) otrzymał Krzysztof Wąsowicz, burmistrz podchicagowskiego Justice,

Za 82. letnią działalność filantropijną nagrodę (Philanthropic Award), odebraną przez prezes Kathy Lesny-Evans otrzymał Legion Młodych Polek.

Nagroda Dziedzictwa za służbę publiczną (Public Service Award) przypadła w udziale ks. biskupowi Andrzejowi Wypychowi z Archidiecezji Chicago, który jest również dyrektorem wykonawczym Ligi Katolickiej Religijnej Pomocy Polsce i Polonii. Laureat nie mógł uczestniczyć w uroczystości i nagrodę odebrał następnego dnia.

Nagrodą specjalną Dziedzictwa Narodowego ufundowaną przez prezesa KPA-IL (President's Award) został uhonorowany Andrew Sochaj z Kanady, właściciel Cyclone Manufacturing,

Wydział stanowy Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej nagrodami niespodziankami uhonorował czwórkę zasłużonych z grona organizacji działaczy: Waltera Bochenka, Ewę Cholewinski, Bożennę Haszłakiewicz i Jana Plachtę.

Polonezem wspólnie wykonanym z tancerzami „Polonii” rozpoczęła się celebrazja sukcesu nagrodzonych. Uroczystość prowadził Łukasz Dudka.

tekst: Jola Plesiewicz;
zdjęcia: Dariusz Piłka



Zespołu Pieśni i Tańca „Polonia” w programie artystycznym



Prezes PRCUA James Robaczewski tańczy poloneza z tancerką „Polonii”

Fragmenty artykułu, który ukazał się w „Dzienniku Związkowym” w wydaniu 29-31 października 2021 r.

UROCZYSTOŚĆ Z OKAZJI 42. ROCZNICY WIZYTY OJCA ŚWIĘTEGO W CHICAGO

Aniela Bartoszek

Prezes Komitetu Centrum Św. Jana Pawła II

W dniu 3 października w kościele Pięciu Braci Męczenników uroczystość obchodzono 42. rocznicę wizyty św. Jana Pawła II i odprowadzonej Mszy św. za Polskę. Mszę świętą prowadził i homilię opartą o nauczanie świętego Jana Pawła II, wygłosił ks. dr Marek Duran, profesor teologii w Seminarium Biskupa Abramowicza w Mundelein w asyście ks. Marka Smółki, koordynatora ds. Polonijnego Duszpasterstwa w archidiecezji chicagowskiej i z nowym wikarym, ks. Sebastianem Żebrowskim. Procesję wejściową prowadzili ułani ze Stowarzyszenia Ułanów im. T. Kościuszki, którzy zaciągnęli honorową wartę przy ołtarzu, za nimi szły poczty sztandarowe reprezentujące koła przy Związku Podhalan, polonijne szkoły i Radio Maryja, zespół smyczkowy „Gronik”, duża grupa dzieci ze szkoły tanecznej przy Związku Podhalan oraz przedstawiciele innych organizacji.

Ks. Sebastian Żebrowski powitał wiernych i przedstawił specjalnych gości, a na czele listy była nowa wicekonsul RP, pani Agata Grochowska i 90 letnia pani Esther Mikuta, siostra biskupa Abramowicza, którą z radością przywitano dużymi oklaskami. Po raz pierwszy oficjalnie w rocznicowej mszy papieskiej uczestniczyli członkowie Związku Klubów Polskich z nową prezes, dr Łucją Mirowską-Kopeć, która przybyła z członkami zarządu, Damami Dworu Królowej Parady Konstytucji 3 Maja, Moniką Lebensztejn oraz Agnieszką Daniłowską - Miss Publiczności. Najlicniejszą grupę, jak co roku, stanowili górale z nowym prezesem Związku Podhalan, Stanisławem Sarną, który oprócz członków głównego zarządu, przyprowadził Królową Podhalan Joannę Chlebek i Zbójnika Roku Mateusza Kowalczyka, ich zastępców, szkołę taneczną oraz trębaczów rogów. We mszy uczestniczyli również przedstawiciele Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego w Ameryce, dyrektor krajowy Mirek Cisło oraz Edward Muszalski, prezes Grupy Dorosłych PRCUA; Helena Sołtys i Marek Adamczyk, dyrektor szkoły Jana Karskiego, którzy reprezentowali Instytut Dziedzictwa Narodowego Historia - Przystanek Chicago; a także Bogdan Strumiński z Koła „Solidarność”. Uroczystość uświetnili: zespół smyczkowy „Gronik” Władysława Pawlikowskiego z solistą skrzypiec Bogdanem Pawlikowskim, orkiestrą dętą Jana Jamroza i trębaczów rogów przy ZPPA. W procesji darów do ołtarza oprócz darów liturgicznych przyniesiono kwiaty, różaniec, oscypek, seruszek dożynkowy, owoce, wino i chleb. Mocnym głosem i całym sercem śpiewano „Barkę”, ulubioną pieśń św. Jana Pawła II, ale najgłośniej grali i śpiewali mali członkowie zespołu „Gronik”.

Pod koniec mszy, ks. Marek Duran udzielił specjalnego błogosławieństwa nowej wicekonsul



Ks. dr Marek Duran wygłosił homilię

Agacie Grochowskiej i nowym prezesom z ich zarządami, życząc owocnej pracy dla dobra kościoła, ich organizacji oraz całej Polonii.

Aniela Bartoszek, prezes Komitetu Centrum Św. Jana Pawła II, podziękowała wszystkim za obecność na wspólnej modlitwie i wręczyła cenne DVD z wizyty Św. Jana Pawła II w parafii Pięciu Braci Męczenników, które otrzymali: Esther Mikuta, wicekonsul Agacie Grochowska, dr Łucja Mirowskiej-Kopeć i Stanisław Sarna. Zaprosiła również wszystkich na poczęstunek do Sali Biskupa Abramowicza, gdzie ściany są ozdobione dużymi obrazami przedstawiającymi historyczną wizytę Ojca Świętego Jana Pawła II w dniu 5 października 1979 roku.

Na sali Bp Abramowicza od dawna nie było tak gwarno, miło i serdecznie. Niemal wszyscy robili sobie zdjęcia pod obrazami i portretami Św. Jana Pawła II i Biskupa Abramowicza. Była okazja wspominać czas wizyty Ojca Świętego i nasze pielgrzymkowe z nim spotkania. Miejmy nadzieję, że tak będzie na następnych rocznicowych spotkaniach, które są rokrocznie w pierwszą niedzielę października - w Miesiącu Dziedzictwa Polskiego w Ameryce.



Pani Esther, siostra Bpa Abramowicza otrzymuje od Anieli Bartoszek płytę CD

Zdjęcia - Zbigniew Przeszlowski

NA WSKROŚ POLSKI (dok ze str. 27) Polska, od zenitu/ Wszechdoskonałości dziejów/ Wzięta, tęczą zachwyty”. Zresztą również w kolejnym stuleciu głosił temat Chopinowskiej narodowości słyszalnej w muzyce nie cichły – jedną ze stanowczych wypowiedzi na ten temat sformułował niemiecki filozof, socjolog, teoretyk muzyki i kompozytor Theodor W. Adorno: „Trzeba sobie zatkać uszy, jeśli się nie chce postrzegać *Fantazji f-moll* Chopina jako pewnego rodzaju tragiczno-dekoracyjnej muzyki triumfalnej, mówiącej o tym, że jeszcze Polska nie zginęła i że [...] któregoś dnia na nowo powstanie”.

Polskość i zarazem europejskość, swojskość i uniwersalność, emocje i doskonała artystyczna forma – muzykę Chopina rozumieć można na wiele sposobów. Dziś wykonywana przez najwybitniejszych pianistów świata, słuchana przez dziesiątki milionów nie tylko melomanów od Japonii po północną Kanadę jest najlepszą, nietracącą na aktualności, na polskości i na uniwersalizmie wizytówką polskiej kultury.

Tekst ukazał się w nr 35 miesięcznika opinii „Wszystko co Najważniejsze” oraz w mediach światowych w ramach projektu „Opowiadamy Polskę światu” realizowanego przy współpracy z Instytutem Pamięci Narodowej i Narodowym Bankiem Polskim.



Modlitwa Wigilijna

Maryjo czysta, błogosław tej,
Co w miłosierdzie nie wierzy.
Niech jasna twoja strudzona dłoń
Smutki jej wszystkie uśmierzy.
Pod twoją ręką niechaj płacze lżej.
Na wigilijny ześlij jej stół
Zielone drzewko magiczne,
Niech, gdy go dotknie, słyszy gwar pszczoł,
Niech jabłka sypią się śliczne.
A zamiast świec daj gwiazdę mroźnych pól.
Przyprowadź blisko pochód białych gór,
Niechaj w jej okno świecą.
Astrologowie z Chaldei, z Ur,
Pamięć złych lat niech uleczą.
Zmarli poeci niechaj dotkną strun
Samotnej zanucą kolędę.

Czesław Miłosz

To już pora na wigilię

To już pora na wigilię, to już czas,
A tu jeszcze kogoś nie ma pośród nas,
A tu jeszcze, a tu jeszcze ktoś ma przyjść,
Bo przy stole wolne miejsce czeka dziś.
Gwiazdo betlejemka, prowadź go przez świat,
Żeby razem z nami przy tym stole siadł.
Prowadź go tu do nas z tych dalekich dróg,
Żeby razem z nami kolędować mógł.
Daj mu światło, bo tak łatwo zmylić ślad,
Daj nadzieję, kiedy w oczy wieje wiatr,
Strudzonemu, zmęczonemu pomóż iść,
Bo samotny nikt nie może zostać dziś...

Wanda Chotomska

Merry Christmas

from



LIFE INSURANCE

WHOLE, TERM & FINAL EXPENSE

SAVE 10% – CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

SINGLE PAY WHOLE LIFE FOR AGES 0 – 15 & 5 mos.

ANNUITIES

NON-QUALIFIED & IRAS

2.62% APY (\$25,000 MIN. DEPOSIT)

WITH THE **WHITE EAGLE 2 YEAR ANNUITY**

AVAILABLE THROUGH **DECEMBER 31, 2021**

MEMBER BENEFITS

- ✓ POLISH LANGUAGE & DANCE SCHOOLS
- ✓ SCHOLARSHIPS & EDUCATIONAL LOANS
- ✓ CULTURE & TRADITION
- ✓ SPORTS TOURNAMENTS
- ✓ NARÓD POLSKI & OTHER PUBLICATIONS
- ✓ PERKSPOT & PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNTS
- ✓ AND **MUCH MORE!**

