



**December | Grudzień 2022** No 12 – Vol. CXXXVII

# NARÓD POLSKI *Polish Nation*

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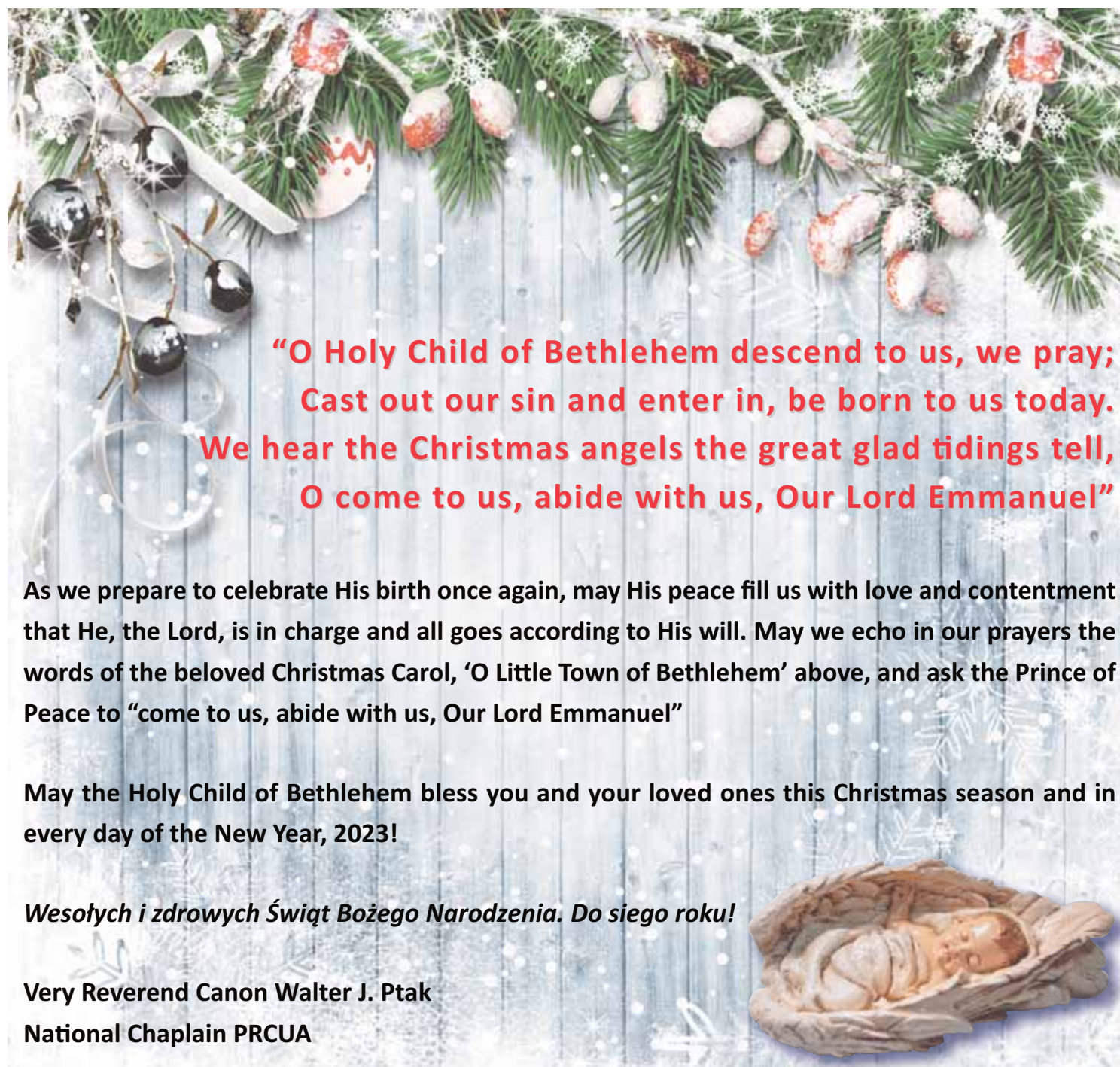
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**“O Holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born to us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell,  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel”**

**As we prepare to celebrate His birth once again, may His peace fill us with love and contentment that He, the Lord, is in charge and all goes according to His will. May we echo in our prayers the words of the beloved Christmas Carol, ‘O Little Town of Bethlehem’ above, and ask the Prince of Peace to “come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel”**

**May the Holy Child of Bethlehem bless you and your loved ones this Christmas season and in every day of the New Year, 2023!**

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Appointments are preferred  
for in-person visits.**Temporary Hours of Operation:**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,  
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Closed on Wednesdays.Telephone: 773-782-2600  
Toll-Free: 1-800-772-8632  
Fax: 773-278-4595[prcu.org](http://prcu.org)**DECEMBER****3 CHICAGO, IL – OPLATEK PRCUA** - Hosted by PRCUA District #7. Great Hall of The Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL. For details, see pg. 7.**4 WYANDOTTE, MI – SOCIETY #162 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY** – for Society #162 members, 10 years old and younger, 2-3:30 p.m. at PRCUA Hall, 1430 Oak St., Wyandotte. Postcards will be mailed to eligible members (must bring your card with you.) For any questions, please contact Mary Ann Davis at 734-341-2242.**10 WYANDOTTE, MI – SOCIETY #162 18TH ANNUAL POLISH CHRISTMAS NIGHT "KOŁĘDY"** at PRCUA Hall, 1430 Oak St., Wyandotte. Doors open at 6 p.m. Music from 7 to 11 p.m. For additional information, see pg. 10 or contact John Zelasko at 734-558-9457 or Stas Pasko at 313-815-5230.**18 WYANDOTTE, MI – SOCIETY #162 GENERAL MEETING / ELECTION OF OFFICERS** at 1:00 p.m. at PRCUA Lounge, 1430 Oak St., Wyandotte.**24-25 CHRISTMAS EVE / CHRISTMAS** – PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 26.**For updates on any of the PRCUA events, please contact your local PRCUA districts, societies and schools, and check *Naród Polski*, PRCUA social media platforms and [www.prcua.org](http://www.prcua.org).****GO GREEN! GO PAPERLESS!**Subscribe to the digital **NARÓD POLSKI**  
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**SAFE, FREE & GREEN way!****JANUARY 2023****1 NEW YEAR** – PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**2 PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED****10 POLISH NIGHT WITH THE DETROIT RED WINGS****14 ST. RAFAEL KALINOWSKI POLISH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS JASEŁKA****15 ZAKOPANE FOLK DANCE CORNHOLE FUND-RAISER****21 HICKORY HILLS, IL – WESOŁY LUD DINNER DANCE.** For details, see pg. 7.**Polish Roman Catholic Union  
of America  
Operating Results for the Quarter  
Ending September 30, 2022**

	<u>Sept. 30, 2022</u>	<u>Sept. 30, 2021</u>
<b>INCOME:</b>		
Life and Annuity Sales	20,483,766	29,619,888
Investment Income	9,272,728	7,709,438
Other Income	95,239	167,070
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>29,851,733</b>	<b>37,496,396</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Life and Annuity	24,274,048	32,704,417
General Expenses	4,010,266	3,965,502
Insurance Fees	167,431	179,252
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>28,451,745</b>	<b>36,849,171</b>
Net Operating Income	1,399,588	647,225
Dividends to Members (deduct)	116,229	113,896
Net Capital Gain (loss)	0	1,220
<b>Net Income (loss)</b>	<b>1,283,359</b>	<b>534,549</b>
<b>SURPLUS ACCOUNT</b>		
Beginning Bal-Dec.31, prior year	11,046,490	10,056,718
Net Income (-loss)	1,283,359	534,549
Change in Reserves	125,222	7,110
<b>Ending Balance</b>		
<b>as of Statement Date</b>	<b>12,204,627</b>	<b>10,598,377</b>

**NOTICE TO ALL  
SOCIETY SECRETARIES  
AND SCHOOL DIRECTORS:**Please submit the detailed information of the events to be held by your society or school in 2023 to *Naród Polski* editor at lidia-kowalewicz@prcu.org. The information should include: name of the event, date, time, place, contact person.Information will be posted in the *Naród Polski* Calendar of Events and on PRCUA website and social media.



Offer valid through December 31, 2023

202210-150VLS-EN-14P

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45	\$171.75	\$293.50	\$643.50	\$1,206.50
55	\$277.10	\$504.20	\$1,157.25	\$2,207.50
65	\$791.15	\$1,532.30	\$3,663.25	\$7,091.00

### Sample Rates for Males

Age	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
25	\$108.60	\$167.20	\$335.50	\$606.50
35	\$135.35	\$220.70	\$466.00	\$861.00
45	\$183.60	\$317.20	\$701.25	\$1,319.00
55	\$296.80	\$543.60	\$1,253.25	\$2,395.00
65	\$848.35	\$1,646.70	\$3,942.00	\$7,634.50

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# PRCUA Christmas Publications



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from the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America



Polish Christmas  
Customs, Carols, & Cuisine



Christmas Coloring Book



Polish & English  
Christmas Carols  
"Preserving Our Polish Heritage  
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## PRCUA 2023 CALENDAR



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PRCUA Marketing Dept., 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642

ITEM DESCRIPTION	PRICE	QUANTITY			SHIPPING <small>CALL FOR ADD'L QUANTITIES</small>	TOTAL
2023 PRCUA CALENDAR	FREE				FREE SHIPPING UP TO 5	
CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS	\$2 EACH	X	SZOPKA	TREE	\$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				FREE SHIPPING UP TO 10	
POLISH & ENGLISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS BROCHURE	FREE					
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	\$5 EACH	X	BLUE	RED WHITE & BLUE	FREE SHIPPING UP TO 5 MASKS	
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED						

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# PRESIDENT ROBACZEWSKI RECEIVED THE HERITAGE AWARD



James Robaczewski with Bożenna Hasztrakiewicz and Michael Niedziński

James Robaczewski, National President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, was presented with the 2022 Heritage Award at the 52nd Polish American Heritage Award Banquet. The event was hosted by the Polish American Congress – Illinois Division on October 30th at Allegra Banquets in Schiller Park, IL.

Over three hundred guests attended the banquet that was the closing event of the Polish American Heritage Month celebrations which

are held in Illinois each October.

The program, coordinated by banquet chair and PAC-IL Vice President Bożenna Hasztrakiewicz, was led by Łukasz Dudka. National anthems were sung by Nina Romek, accompanied by Mieczysław Dziś, Polonia Dance Ensemble music director.

The awards were presented to the recipients by Bożenna Hasztrakiewicz and PAC-IL President Michael Niedziński. Other honorees included: Polish American philanthropist and Honorary Consul Lady Blanka Rosentiel - Life Achievement Award (Jacek Schindler, the director of the American Institute of Polish Culture, received the award on her behalf); Polish Museum of America tour guide and actress Barbara Kożuchowska and founder and director of Ad-Hoc Theater - Artistic Award; president of Financial Wealth Alliance - Dariusz Godlewski, RFC - Business Award; General Manager of Polish Daily News Łukasz Dudka - Business Award; Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union - Philanthropic Award; Tadeusz Kościuszko School of Polish Lan-

guage - President's Award.

A special award was presented to Consul Małgorzata Bąk-Guzik from the Consulate General of Poland in Chicago. An announcement was also made that another special recognition was awarded to ABC7 Chicago news anchor Alan Kraszesky, who was unable to attend, and would be presented to him personally at a later time.

Speakers included Frank Spula, President of the National PAC and the Polish National Alliance; Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago Paweł Zyzak; Dr. George Otto who read the Polish Heritage Month proclamation sent by Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker; Consul General of Ukraine Serhiy Koledov, and Chicagoland politicians: Timothy Evans, Ariel Reboyras, Kathy Salvi, Raymond Lopez and Daniel Pogorzelski.

The artistic program was presented by Mirosława Sojka-Topór and Khary "K.F. Jacques" Laurent and the PRCUA Polonia Ensemble, which performed a waltz and a polonaise.

President Robaczewski was accompanied by his lovely wife Elaine, sons Tommy and Joey and sister Barbara Cwiak. Present were also PRCUA officers Vice President Micheline Jaminski with her husband Richard and Secretary-Treasurer Agnieszka Bastrzyk with her husband

Daniel; National PRCUA Directors Joanna Cholewinski and Kevin Kucik (D-7); Elizabeth Dynowski and Myron Cislo with his wife Elizabeth (D-8), Elizabeth Sadus (D-9); PRCUA General Counsel John Chitkowski with his wife Kerry; former Resident PRCUA Vice President Anna Sokolowski; Marketing Director Elżbieta Sawczuk, Editor of the *Naród Polski* Lidia Kowalewicz, Executive Assistants Mary Jane Robles and Conrad Wiecek, and City Treasurer of Calumet City, IL and member of the Budget and Grievance Committee at the 63rd PRCUA National Convention, Gerald Tarka.

Congratulations to President Robaczewski on receiving this prestigious award and to all of the honorees for your dedication to the Polish American community.



Khary "K.F. Jacques" Laurent and Mirosława Sojka-Topór



Recipients of the 2022 awards with Michael Niedziński and Bożenna Hasztrakiewicz



President Robaczewski with his family and PRCUA delegation



PRCUA Polonia Ensemble performing at the banquet



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## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022

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## POLISH HERITAGE NIGHT WITH THE CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

PRCUA members celebrated Polish Heritage Night with the Chicago Blackhawks at the United Center on November 27th. Even though the game ended with the Blackhawks losing to the Winnipeg Jets 2 to 7, everyone enjoyed a fast-paced game of professional hockey, a night out with other members of the Polish community and a chance to display their pride in our heritage.



## PMA CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS WORKSHOP

The Polish Museum of America will offer its annual Christmas workshop on the art of ornament making on Saturday, December 10, 2022, at 10am-12pm. Workshop fee: \$10 per person (includes free Museum tour, day of workshop only).

All ages are welcome; children must be accompanied by an adult.

This year's event is co-sponsored

by the Edward T. & Ellen K. Dryer Charitable Foundation.

Please submit payment and reservation no later than December 6 to: PMA Christmas Workshop, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642. Checks should be made payable to: Polish Museum of America. PayPal & credit card payment also accepted.

WESOŁY LUD  
POLISH FOLK DANCE COMPANY OF PRCUA

# WINTER DINNER DANCE ~ZABAWA ZIMOWA~

Saturday, January 21, 2023

CAMELOT BANQUETS  
8624 West 95th Street, Hickory Hills, IL

Entree: 6:30 p.m. – Dinner: 7:30 p.m.  
Donation: Adults \$46 – Children (3-10) \$23

For reservations: 773-480-9958 or 630-561-8759



# PRCUA GWIAZDA DANCERS' LATEST HAPPENINGS

By Nicholas J. Nowakowski  
Gwiazda Secretary & 1997 Alumnus

The days on the calendar keep flying by. As this article is being



Jessica Urban Wendt & Basia Nowakowski receive Polish American Central Citizens award on behalf of PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers



Jessica Urban Wendt & Basia Nowakowski with PRCUA District 10 National Directors Colleen Bonkowski & Valarie Brumm at Central Citizens Award Banquet

written, there's snow on the ground in Michigan and when you read this, Thanksgiving 2022 will have come and gone. The second half of October has been another busy season. We've made sure that we're out and about promoting and perpetuating folk.

On October 21, at the Moose Lodge in Hamtramck, MI, the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers hosted their Night at the Races fundraiser. The funds will be used to purchase new and update current Polish folk dress owned by the group. The fundraisers consisted of a series of progressive raffles all within the context of horse racing excitement. There's also some fun with derby hats and race regalia sprinkled in, too. It was exciting to have this fundraiser back after a several year hiatus due to the pandemic. All attendees had a great time.

On October 22, Gwiazda's director Jessica Urban-Wendt was on the CW 50 channel's Community Connect Program, which featured Polish heritage month in Detroit and Michigan. Ms. Urban-Wendt talked about her experiences in Polish folk dance and the ongoing activities of the PRCUA and the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers. Also interviewed for the program were Richard Walawender, the Honorary Consul for the Republic of Poland in Detroit and Joan

Bittner, the longtime proprietor of the Polish Art Center in Hamtramck, MI. Mrs. Bittner's two daughters are both Gwiazda alumnae and two of her grandchildren are current Gwiazda dancers.

On October 23, the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers were honored by the Polish American Central Citizens Committee of Detroit in recognition for their contributions to Polonia on their 60th anniversary. Gwiazda's director, Jessica Urban-Wendt, and its choreographer, Basia Nowakowski, were both in attendance at the event and accepted the award on behalf of the members and families of the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers.

On October 24, the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers held their regular Monday night practice at General Sikorski PLAV Post #10 in Hamtramck per usual, but something about this week's practice was a little extra spooky. The dancers all came to practice in their Halloween costumes. Following practice, treats were passed out. Safe to say, it was a spooktacular time.

From November 11 to 13, Gwiazda's secretary Nick Nowakowski traveled to Atlanta, GA to participate in a 3-day workshop sponsored by the Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas (PFDA) to learn Polish folk dances from the regions of Chełm and Biłgoraj from Anna Iskra, a choreographer from Poland who has extensively researched the culture, dances, history, and dress of



Nick Nowakowski with Pani Anna Iskra at PFDA Biłgoraj workshop in Atlanta, GA

these regions. The workshop brought together PFDA ensembles from Arizona, Michigan, Minnesota, Georgia, California, Maryland and Missouri. In addition to learning about new regions, it was a great opportunity to connect with folk friends from around the country.

Even with the holidays approaching, Gwiazda still has several events on its horizon. You can follow the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers on social media by liking them on Facebook or following them on Twitter (@PRCUA\_Gwiazda).



Gwiazda dancers attended the practice dressed in their Halloween costumes



# SWCPSD AND WESOŁY LUD: A YEAR IN REVIEW...

By **Micheline Jaminski,**  
Vice President

One week away from the 35th Anniversary Concert of the Southwest Center of Polish Song and Dance scheduled for March 29, 2020, the shelter-in-place order was implemented due to the Covid-19 pandemic and life as we knew it changed dramatically. All events were cancelled. All preparations were for naught and there was absolutely nothing we could do about it but wait... and wait we did.

In April of 2021, Wesoly Lud cautiously resumed rehearsals thanks to Ss. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Lemont, IL, opening its Parish Center for the dancers to use. Half of the pre-pandemic group returned, those who did not, either went away to college, needed time to adjust to remote learning or failed to comply with the mandates. Those that returned, were ready, willing, and gave it their all. What they lacked in experience, they made up for in enthusiasm and initiative. After all, there were two long-awaited alumnae weddings to perform for, two Christmas shows and hopefully a 45th anniversary celebration to work toward.

In September of 2021, Southwest Center of Polish Song and Dance resumed classes when Our Lady of the Woods Parish in Orland Park, Illinois, reopened its doors. Mandates were strictly adhered to and 100 children, masks in tow, returned. Select groups performed at the Opłatek hosted by District 8 in December of 2021 and plans to celebrate the 35th Anniversary were rescheduled for May 1, 2022.

2022 marked the 45th anniversary of Wesoly Lud, but even in January, the uncertainty of the contagious virus loomed and the Winter Dinner Dance was cancelled. At this point, since Wesoly Lud traditionally performs at the SWCPSD shows, it was decided the two groups would celebrate together 80 years of Polish dancing on one stage. At past anniversary concerts, different generations of alumni would return and rehearse for up to three months prior, but this year, marked by such

uncertainty, it was decided that only the current group would perform. That is until four weeks prior to the concert and in a matter of 24 hours, 15 couples of alumni responded to the invitation and volunteered to add their talents to the existing repertoire.

Through the grace of God, our dancers and alumni rose to the challenge and came together to help celebrate Wesoly Lud's 45th anniversary and the 35th of SWCPSD. Who else can boast 80 years of Polish dancing on one stage? Maybe it's true that every cloud has a silver lining.

The concert came to be on Sunday, May 1, at Mother McAuley Theater in Chicago – a mainstay of both groups in the last decade. Resuming her role at the 40th Anniversary concert as emcee, Nicole Bencik-Turkiewicz cited the following reflection of one alumnus (Peter Konopacki) to open the show: "The preservation of Polish culture is a significant component of Wesoly Lud. The Russian invasion of the Ukraine stresses the importance of being an active participant in our Polish culture and heritage lest it be erased. I am proud to have had a part in it." After a moment of silence for Ukraine, the program began with the Kolorowy Polonez performed by the entire cast. The emcee then introduced her mother, Micheline Jaminski, founder, first artistic director and choreographer of both groups. Pani Misia was with child when she organized Wesoly Lud in January of 1977 and that child was Nicole. It was only fitting that since Niki was with her from literally the beginning of Wesoly Lud to this moment, dancing in both groups for many years, they would share the spotlight.

Nicole interviewed alumni of one or both groups who shared their reflections of memories and the impact membership in the groups had on their lives. These included: Anna Kraszewski-Winkler, managing director of SWCPSD; Richard Jaminski, artistic director and choreographer of both groups for 35 years; Jeanine Binkowski-Leonhard, an original Wesoly Lud member; Renee-Bober Kroplewski, Michael Dziadkowiec and Robert Kroplewski.

Throughout the two acts of the concert, the five Southwest Center groups performed two dance and song suites each. The youngest group – KRASNOLUDKI - presented a medley of children's games and then a medley called "Boogie Woogie" (a Polish version of Hokey Pokey); LUDZIKI represented the folk culture of Kurpie and Wielkopolska, while MAŁY LUDEK presented Podlasie and Łowicz medleys; Nowy Sącz and dances and songs from the pastures were performed by MŁODY LUDEK, and WESOŁY LUDEK presented selections from Lublin and the Jazzowa Polka.

As for WESOŁY LUD, the current group performed a Spisz medley and the Country Western Chicago Polka, joined by the alumni for the Eastern Kraków and Rzeszów suites. The Łowicz finale included the entire cast and showcased the magnitude of the celebration of 80 years on one stage.

We were graced with the presence of Consul Agata Grochowska of the Republic of Poland; PRCUA Vice President Micheline Jaminski; Secretary-Treasurer Agnieszka Bastrzyk; Directors from District 8: Elizabeth Dynowski and Myron Cislo; District 7 Director Ewa Cholewinski; Fraternal Coordinator Conrad Wiecek; Magdalena Solarz, the artistic director and choreographer of the Wici Song and Dance Theater; representation from the PRCUA Polonia Ensemble, the Lajkonik Dance Group and the Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas. PRCUA President James Robaczewski sent a video with his warmest regards and congratulations.

Richard Jaminski is the artistic director and choreographer of both groups. Anna Kraszewski-Winkler is the managing director of the Southwest Center of Polish Song and Dance. Michael Dziadkowiec assisted Pan Rich in Wesoly Lud and is one of the SWCPSD dance instructors. The remaining SWCPSD dance instructors are Danielle Kroplewski, Anna Kraszewski-Winkler, Weronika Niedzielski, and Camilla Steczek. Andrew Handzel, Jakub Niedzielski and Isabelle Pikul were the assistant dance instructors.

After an entire year off, the children worked hard and got right back on track and did a wonderful job! We could not have been prouder. Thank

you to everyone who was a part of this big day and made everything such a beautiful experience. Wesoly Lud did an outstanding job! Pani Misia and Pan Rich really have shown us how to hold on and be proud of our Polish culture. Bravo!

That might have been the end of a challenging school year for SWCPSD, but Wesoly Lud still had a few summer events to go including the wedding of alumna Kasia (Bialas) and Peter Nowakowski (6/11) and the "Diamonds and Denim" Banquet at PRCUA's 63rd Quadrennial Convention (8/13).

After a short summer break, it was business as usual and both Wesoly Lud and SWCPSD started the new dance season in September. SWCPSD acquired a number of new dancers and Wesoly Lud regrouped for upcoming performances: an ethnic dance program with the Philippine Community at the Polish Museum in October, followed by "Na Góralską Nutę" at the Polish Highlanders Hall in November, and the "Barbórka" celebration by the Związek Ślązaków w Ameryce on December 3rd.

If you were not able to attend our anniversary show in May or would like to see our new program, please join us on December 18, 2022 at Mother McAuley Theater for our Christmas celebration! Call Pani Ania 773.972.0012 for more details and tickets. [Also, SAVE THE DATE for the Wesoly Lud Winter Dinner Dance on January 21, 2023 at Camelot Banquets!] From all of us from the Southwest Center of Polish Song & Dance and the Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Company - Merry Christmas & Happy and Healthy New Year!

Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku od zespołu "Wesoly Lud" oraz Południowo Zachodniego Centrum Polskiego Śpiewu i Tańca! (Photos on pg. 10-11).















## The Open Door Otwarte Drzwi

Micheline "Misia" Jaminski

Vice President | wiceprezes  
micheline-jaminski@prcu.org

### CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May cold mornings invigorate  
your soul.

May the smell of cinnamon  
and pine fill your home.

May the lights from your tree  
flicker with cheer.

May laughter and love echo  
around the fire.

May cozy blankets keep you  
and yours warm.

May the entire month be  
a celebration of what has been  
and what is yet to come. (etsy)  
And may you always remember  
to keep Christ front and center

For it is His birth that is  
the reason for the season.

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Happy December, everyone! Hard to imagine that we will be celebrating Christmas, the season of rebirth, and ringing in a new year – and what a special New Year it will be – the 150th Anniversary of the PRCUA! Time certainly flies when you are having fun and this year has been no exception. In fact, where did the last several weeks go? With so many happenings, it came and went in a blink of an eye!

Let us begin with the last Sunday



President Robaczewski, recipient of the Polish Heritage Award, led by a Polonia dancer

in October and the Polish Heritage Banquet hosted by the Illinois Division of the Polish American Congress. PRCUA President James J. Robaczewski received the prestigious Polish Heritage Award in the company of others who were honored for life achievement, arts, business, community service, philanthropic or the stately President's award. On the road to PRCUA's 150th, it is gratifying that our President and his five generation legacy, has been acknowledged.

The First Interschool Festival of Patriotic Polish Songs sponsored by the Polish Teachers Association (Ewa Koch, President) was held at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński Polish School, located at St. Hyacinth Basilica in Chicago on Saturday, November 5. The competition was judged by, among others, President Robaczewski, and former Resident Vice President Anna Sokolowski. The winners were announced at a separate event held on Sunday, November 20. Congratulations to the Holy Trinity Polish School (1st place), Jan Brzechwa Polish School (2nd place), and Frederic Chopin Polish School (3rd place). School Board President of Holy Trinity is none other than PRCUA's very own Secretary-Treasurer, Agnieszka Bastrzyk.



President Robaczewski and Natalia Bastrzyk, participant of the Interschool Festival of Patriotic Polish Songs



New first graders of the Zbigniew Herbert Polish School

Congratulations to our young students of the Zbigniew Herbert School of Polish Language and Culture (Irena Woźniak, Principal) on its "Pasowanie na ucznia" (transition to a grammar school student) and the children's further commitment to learn about our Polish language and culture. PRCUA was proud to have been invited to witness this event and to enjoy the short program presented by the students. Our future generation of young Poles shows great promise and talent. Representing the PRCUA was District 8 Director, Myron Cislo and Sales Coordinator, Marge Grzeszczuk, on November 5, in Palos Heights, IL.

On November 6, the Indiana and Wisconsin Divisions of the Polish American Congress each held their Polish Heritage celebration. President Robaczewski attended the Wisconsin festivities, spearheaded by PAC-Wisconsin Division President Andrew Woźniewicz. The Polish Independence and Veterans Day Luncheon was held at the Polish Center of Wisconsin in Franklin.

Meanwhile, Richard and I had the honor to attend the event in Indi-

ana (chaired by PAC-IN President Steven Tokarski) as our PRCUA St. Rafał Kalinowski School (Yolanta Czosnyka, Principal; Zofia Buksa, School Board President, Magdalena Sojka, Vice President); Małgorzata Czachor, currently the senior class teacher and former school principal; Agata Wilgocki, Artistic Director and Choreographer of the School's Mała Polska Dancers; and Monika Otworowski, past School Board President, were awarded special designations. District 9 Director Elizabeth Sadus assisted me in the presentation of awards. The Mała Polska Dancers of the Kalinowski School performed a short program for the guests which was well received, among whom was the National President of the PAC (also PNA), Mr. Frank Spula.

In his opening remarks on the eve of Polish Independence Day, Consul General of the Polish Consulate in Chicago, Paweł Zyzak, stated: "Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła, kiedy my żyjemy. (Today) on November 10, at the Polish Museum of America, we celebrate our National Independence Day with you. We are extremely grateful to the manage-



Micheline Jaminski and Elizabeth Sadus with the PRCUA St. Rafał Kalinowski School staff at the PAC-IN event





Consul General  
Paweł Zyzak,  
PMA Managing Director  
Małgorzata Kot,  
PMA Board Member  
Stephen Kuśmierczak,  
former Consul General  
Piotr Janicki,  
PRCUA VP  
Micheline Jaminski



Micheline Jaminski, Paweł Zyzak,  
James Robaczewski

ment of the Polish Museum of America and the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America - PRCUA for opening the doors of the Museum to us and our guests. We are glad that this year we were able to celebrate in such an important place for the Polish community in the USA." Entertainment was provided by select members of the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra. The event boasted over 150 guests, among the many representatives of the Polish Community, were many familiar faces including the former Consul General of RP, Piotr Janicki, and a guest from Poland, Wiesława Hazuka (Choreographer from Tarnów). Thank you, Consul General Zyzak and your consular staff for selecting the "crown jewel" of the Polish American community for this prestigious event. It was our pleasure. Our doors are al-



Halina Misterka, Wiesia  
Hazuka and Misia Jaminski

ways open to you and all of Poland. The Jan Karski Polish School with Principal Marek Adamczyk at the helm, extended an invitation to the PRCUA to attend the school's celebration of Polish Independence Day. The ceremony took place on Saturday, November 12. Special guests of this event were students from the Slovak Academy of Chicago, whose program included interesting facts, dances and songs from Slovakia, inaugurating the Karski School's project "Poland and its neighbors." In attendance was Vice Consul Agata Grochowska of the Polish Consulate in Chicago as well as the Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic. Representing the PRCUA was District 8 Director Myron Cisko and Sales Coordinator Marge Grzeszczuk. What another lovely occasion to celebrate being Polish and proud in the USA.

Congratulations to the graduates of the Tatry Dance School and Zajączek Dance Ensemble which held their Presentation Balls on November 12 and 19, respectively. The graduates of the Tatry Dance School (Karen Lubiarcz, Dance Instructor;

Gail Esker, School Director) are: Evan Lubiarcz, Alexandra Schade and Kiera Skurnit. (Please see photos and details on p. 21). The event took place at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland, MI. The 2023 graduates of the Zajączek Dance Ensemble (Tricia Zajac and Rachael Kasperek, Dance Instructors; Colleen Bonkowski, School Director) are: Alyssa Brown, Brooklyn Hess, Claire Mazurkiewicz, and Joseph Tanner.

On November 19, the much anticipated 50th Cinderella-Prince Charming Ball hosted by the Adult Culture Group of PRCUA was held at Belvedere Chateau, Palos Hills, IL. Among the 550 guests were dignitaries, past Cinderellas, Prince Charmings and Candidates, past Adult Culture Group members; long-time supporters; and of course, the guests of honor – 27 beautiful lady and handsome gentlemen high school candidates vying for the title of Cinderella or Prince Charming. The Adult Culture Group has been led by President Edward Muszalski (1993-present), Vice President John Frankowicz (1994-present), Treasurer Walter Dynowski (1997-present) and Secretary (also District 8 Director) Liz Dynowski (2005-present, assuming the office upon the passing of her mother, Stella who held the office for 10 years). Throughout these years, there were and continue to be many other dedicated, creative and hard-working individuals and I would like to thank each and every one of them on behalf of the PRCUA. Special thanks and appreciation are extended to Mary Brzezniak and Diane Cortesi,

charter members, who continue to be actively engaged. I would be remiss not to mention another charter member Barbara Marek, who sent her very best wishes but was unable to attend. Since its founding in 1969 by PRCUA Vice President Stella M. Nowak and her three lady directors, including Regina Ocwieja, the Adult Culture Group of PRCUA has developed into a powerhouse of talent and initiative. It was the dream of Regina Ocwieja to "serve the youth of PRCUA" that evolved into the Cinderella-Prince Charming Ball and she holds the title of founder and fairy godmother of the Ball. Her legacy is perpetuated by each and every member of the Adult Culture Group and enjoyed by all who attend or have attended the Ball. High School is a transitional period between childhood and adulthood, when fairytales only come true when you find the magic within yourself to make things happen. The Cinderella-Prince Charming Ball is open to all PRCUA members in high school and during a 6-8 week period prior to the ball, candidates are prepared for presentation by their parents and to "waltz the night away". Since 1976 up to 2014, I had the privilege of preparing the artistic program for this ball with a short (continued on pg. 14)



Candidates at Cinderella and Prince Charming Ball



Independence Day celebration at Jan Karski Polish School in Palos Heights



Past candidates from the early balls with Vice President Jaminski



## THE OPEN DOOR (continued from pg. 13)



Royal court, PRCUA Executives and their spouses and Consul Jacek Bryniak with wife Monika

break in 1992-1993. In 1987, I was joined by my Prince Charming, Richard Jaminski, who continues to mesmerize us with intricate choreographies. Bravo to all who made this golden celebration a success! Congratulations to the 2023 Royal Couple: Cinderella Magdalena Truta and Prince Charming Eric Wildhirt, as well as runners-up: Karolina Mikulec and Jakub Niedzielski, and all the Candidates!

This was indeed a very special month for one very special lady – Agata Wilgocki. You already read about the heritage award she received from the Indiana Division of the Polish American Congress earlier. She and husband, Paweł, presented their two children, Oliver (16) and Veronica (15) at the recent Cinderella-Prince Charming Ball. On November 22, the Wilgocki family welcomed Kaya Faustine to the

world. Weighing in at 5 lb. 13 oz. and 19.25 inches long, this little lady arrived just in time for Thanksgiving and to celebrate her big brother's 17th birthday (11/27). I believe that the Wilgockis – especially Agata – deserve some time to sit back and enjoy their lovely family. Continued joy and happiness to the entire Wilgocki family!

A fun night was had by all at the Polish Community Night with the Chicago Blackhawks at the United Center on November 27. PRCUA Fraternal Coordinator, Conrad Wiecek, stated, "it was nice that the PRCUA added to a full house and we were able to share in the fraternal atmosphere!" Secretary-Treasurer Agnieszka Bastrzyk and family seconded that motion. A nice touch was the baseball hat with the Blackhawks logo and Polish flag which, among others, Richard, Brian and Michael



The Wilgocki family with President Robaczewski and Vice President Jaminski

very much enjoyed receiving.

The month came to a close with the anticipation of the Christmas season fast approaching. May the preparations bring you happiness and joy, evoking nostalgic memories of the past and expectations of glorious

celebrations of Christ's

birth. From our family to yours, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! *Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!*



Kaya Faustine Wilgocki



Agata Wilgocki with children



Our family Thanksgiving

## PRCUA REPRESENTED AT THE POLISH INDEPENDENCE RUN



The Bastrzyk family

The PRCUA team participated in the 2022 Polish Independence Run. The event took place on Sunday, October 30th on the Chicago lakefront at Montrose Harbor.

Polish Independence 10K/5K Run/Walk is a race commemorating Poland's resurgence as an independent state on November 11th, 1918. Traditionally held in major Polish cities, it was introduced to the United States in 2018 and organized annually in Chicago by WPNA 103.1 FM, Polish American Mix.

This year the PRCUA was represented by two 100% PRCUA families: the Bastrzyks and the Wilgockis. Bravo to our Secretary Treasurer Agnieszka Bastrzyk, her husband Daniel and children: Aleksander, Karol & Natalia as well as to Agata, Paweł, Veronica and Oliver Wilgocki.



The Wilgocki family



# Kids Activity Page!



4. Unscramble the words.

Christmas

word scramble

OENL \_\_\_\_\_

IWTRNE \_\_\_\_\_

ATSAN \_\_\_\_\_

GITF \_\_\_\_\_

CBMREEED \_\_\_\_\_

VAANTIOC \_\_\_\_\_

OCARSL \_\_\_\_\_

INETLS \_\_\_\_\_

EFPCEARIL \_\_\_\_\_

TEISLEOMT \_\_\_\_\_

OWNAMNS \_\_\_\_\_

DRSCA \_\_\_\_\_

2. Spot 10 differences.



3. Color the nativity scene.



Merry Christmas

4. Find all the words in the puzzle.

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

S	R	T	S	D	C	R	A	A	K	E	D	C	C	R	P
A	I	F	P	O	I	N	S	E	T	T	I	A	I	N	E
N	S	I	S	L	C	H	E	I	O	I	D	C	R	L	A
T	M	A	C	L	M	E	R	R	Y	S	K	E	R	L	C
A	I	S	H	S	G	R	I	N	C	H	I	E	S	S	E
A	S	C	N	O	E	E	G	G	N	O	G	S	R	T	L
S	T	A	M	I	R	A	C	L	E	K	E	R	R	U	O
C	L	S	S	G	S	F	R	U	I	T	C	A	K	E	R
H	E	T	R	C	T	B	C	O	O	K	I	E	S	A	A
R	T	F	E	H	M	N	O	R	T	H	P	O	L	E	C
I	O	I	E	R	A	S	C	R	O	O	G	E	S	B	T
S	E	G	H	I	S	N	U	T	C	R	A	C	K	E	R
T	R	L	C	N	O	G	C	L	S	S	E	G	L	E	
M	I	E	N	O	E	L	H	E	T	R	T	R	L	L	E
A	S	T	R	T	T	I	A	K	I	E	S	A	C	S	L
S	E	V	E	F	R	U	A	N	G	E	L	C	L	S	R
A	S	C	S	R	C	A	R	D	S	L	E	I	G	H	T
S	T	A	H	E	A	L	C	A	N	D	Y	C	A	N	E
I	O	I	R	T	N	S	B	S	N	O	W	B	A	L	L
L	E	C	I	O	D	K	E	R	H	E	T	E	A	A	I
S	B	T	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	R	T	F	E	C	L
K	E	R	S	T	E	J	A	C	K	F	R	O	S	T	S
A	S	T	R	T	S	R	D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R	K

SANTA  
GIFT  
EVE  
CHRISTMAS  
MISTLETOE  
MERRY  
CHEERS  
MIRACLE

NOEL  
POINSETTIA  
FRUITCAKE  
EGGNOG  
SNOWBALL  
DOLLS  
NUTCRACKER  
GRINCH

NORTHPOLE  
COOKIES  
TREE  
PEACE  
JACKFROST  
DECEMBER  
ANGEL  
HOLIDAY

CARDS  
CANDYCANE  
SLEIGH  
SCROOGE  
BELLS  
CANDLES  
CAROL

Answers on pg. 23



WINNERS OF THE PRCUA COLORING CONTEST



President Robaczewski and PRCUA employees judging the coloring contest entries

Each year, the PRCUA Fraternal Department organizes a coloring contest to commemorate Polish American Heritage Month. The theme of this year's contest was Celebrating 150 Years of the PRCUA. The contest was open to all members from ages 3 to 18 years. This was a record-breaking year; we received 293 entries from five states, in-

cluding Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

Three winners in six age categories were selected during a blind judging by PRCUA Home Office employees. We wish to thank all the participants and congratulate the winners. The winners are as follows:

Group	Place in Group	Name	Age	Society	School/Group
Ages 3-4	1st	Roxanne Zasadny	4	162	Rogalin Dance Troupe
	2nd	Luiza Lalinsky	4	162	Rogalin Dance Troupe
	3rd	Kaleb Gordon	3	1413	Tatry Dancers
Ages 5-6	1st	Michał Maka	5	1597	Holy Cross Polish School
	2nd	Wyatt Felczak	6	1618	Zajączek Dance Ensemble
	3rd	Jonathan Dennis	6	1618	Zajączek Dance Ensemble
Ages 7-9	1st	Gwenyth Voss	9	1593	Zajączek Dance Ensemble
	2nd	Scarlett Libby	9	1618	Zajączek Dance Ensemble
	3rd	Quinn Hoelscher	7	1618	Zajączek Dance Ensemble
Ages 10-12	1st	David Dudzik	12	639	St. Raphael Kalinowski Polish School
	2nd	Natalia Bastryk	10	1219	
	3rd	Sydney Voss	11	1593	Zajączek Dance Ensemble
Ages 13-15	1st	Maddie England	13	1618	Zajączek Dance Ensemble
	2nd	Tomasz Leśniak	15	1597	Jan Karski Polish School
	3rd	Jessica Slon	13	639	St. Raphael Kalinowski Polish School
Ages 16-18	1st	Aleksandra Wozniak	17	1634	
	2nd	Evelyn Matson	17	639	St. Raphael Kalinowski Polish School
	3rd	Sabina Sawicki	17	1593	Opole Dance Ensemble



1st place (Ages 3-4)



2nd place (Ages 3-4)



3rd place (Ages 3-4)



1st place (Ages 5-6)



2nd place (Ages 7-9)



3rd place (Ages 7-9)





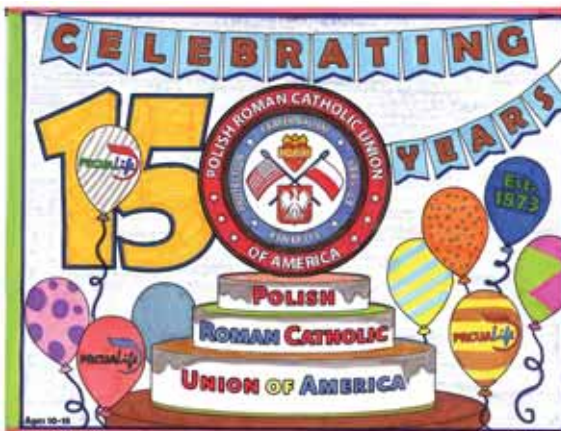
1st place (Ages 7-9)



2nd place (Ages 7-9)



3rd place (Ages 7-9)



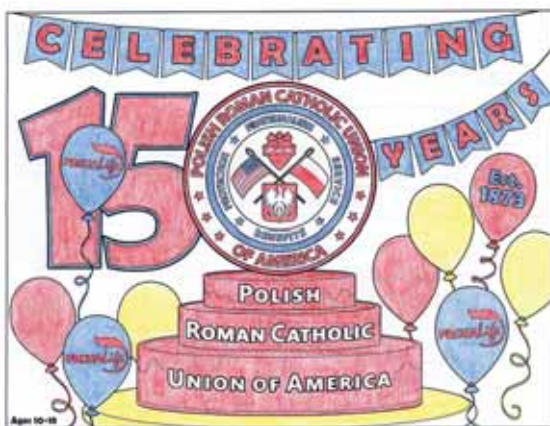
1st place (Ages 10-12)



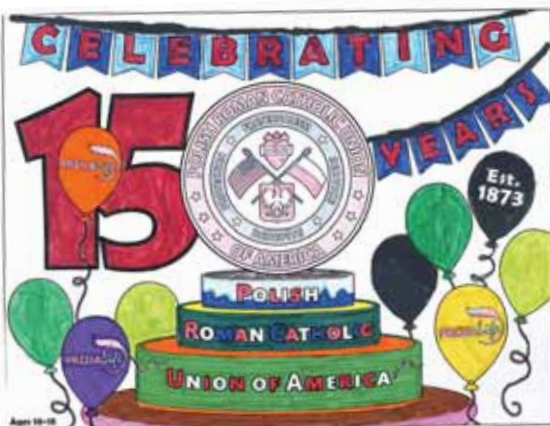
2nd place (Ages 10-12)



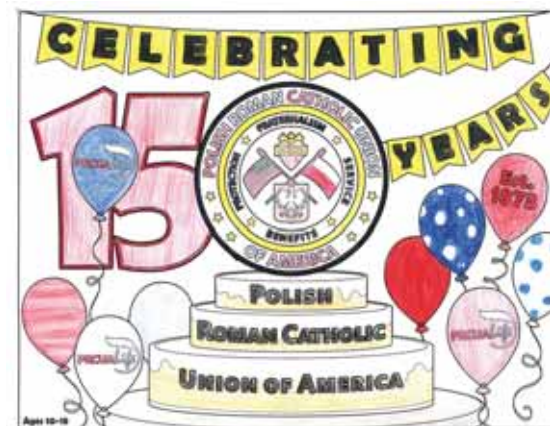
3rd place (Ages 10-12)



1st place (Ages 13-15)



2nd place (Ages 13-15)



3rd place (Ages 13-15)



1st place (Ages 16-18)



2nd place (Ages 16-18)



3rd place (Ages 16-18)

*Thank you to all the participants and congratulations to the winners!*



# **5<sup>th</sup> PRCUA NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT**



PRCUA Society 261 Officers with National President and VP



Coed Champions St. Rita's Block Party



Women Champions St. Rita's Balls Up



Men Champions Val's Volley Ballers #1593

On a cool yet sunny weekend of October 14th & 15th, PRCUA St. Joseph Society #261 hosted the 5th National Volleyball tournament at the Greg Grant Sportsplex in Shelby Township, MI. The chairperson for this event was Society #261 President and past PRCUA National Director of District 10, Tommy Lisiecki. 80 participants took to the courts for a total of 16 teams in three divisions (Coed, Women and Men). The tournament would not have been possible without the support and hard work of the Society #261 officers and volunteers. Special thanks to our Society #261 Vice President Debbie Federico; Financial Secretary Maureen Cwiek; Recording Secretary Danielle Krass; members: Laura Hejza, Genevieve Stokan, Maria Krass, and Andrea Shick; Vice President of PRCUA Micheline Jaminski; PRCUA Fraternal Coordinator Conrad Wiecek; current National Directors of District 10 Colleen Bonkowski and Valerie Brumm (thanks for the water, Gatorade and healthy snacks for the players); and all the PRCUA Halka Dancers parents and students who helped all weekend. This tournament also owes a big thank you to Jennifer Vernon for help with securing our referees and to Valerie Brumm for her knowledge of the games.

The competition was intense and the sportsmanship was fair and fun. The tournament began on Friday evening with coed play with seven motivated teams ready for battle. After twelve rounds of play, the players and their guests gathered at the Holiday Inn Suites to enjoy food and drinks, share camaraderie and prepare for the competitions to continue on Saturday morning.

Bright and early on Saturday, our PRCUA President James Robaczewski led us in the Polish and American National Anthems at the opening ceremony; he also served up a powerful serve with Vice President Micheline Jaminski's successful return. The Men and Women Divisions' games were underway. Five women's teams and four men's teams squared off to vie for bragging rights as tournament champions. The tournament ended Saturday afternoon and all participants gathered for a wonderful awards banquet that evening. In addition to all the volleyball players and PRCUA Michigan members, other guests and supporters at the awards banquet included President James Robaczewski, Vice President Micheline Jaminski and her husband Richard, PRCUA National Director District 8 Myron Cislo, whose Chicago-based teams made it to the finals.

After dinner, awards were announced by tournament chair Tommy Lisiecki and

presented by PRCUA Vice President Micheline Jaminski. The following winners were recognized:

Coed Division Champions: St. Rita's Block Party (Kasey Straub, MVP)  
Runners up: Zakopane Co-Ed

Men's Division Champions: Val's Volleyballers (Joey Robaczewski, MVP)  
Runners up: Southside Polish

Women's Division Champions: Balls Up (Amara Karapas, MVP)  
Runners up: Lady Pank

All-stars: Coed – Mike Straub (St. Rita's Block Party), Stacey Malinowski (Zakopane), Alexandria Cislo (Southside Strikers), Cora Kujawski (Big Swingers, Order on the Court), Roxanne Bazinski (Val's Volleyballers Coed), Joey Robaczewski (Elite Young Ones), Maria Fishcione (St. Rita's Danger).

Men's: John Lipka (Val's Volleyballers Men), Eric Wildhirt (Southside Polish), T. J. Baker (Hard Hitters) Aaron Elowsky (Hitmen).

Women's: Kasey Straub (Balls Up), Natalia Bafia (Lady Pank), Valerie Brumm (St Rita's Dziewczyny), Kelly Phillips (Serves You Right), Olivia Westphal (2Ligit2Hit).

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 preparation and reviewing of players, as well as to the Marketing staff for promoting the event on PRCUA social media. We were so pleased to have several Chicago teams participate in our tournament and were excited they joined us. 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 Michigan and Chicago PRCUA dance groups and language schools) 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 great organization.

On behalf of PRCUA St. Joseph Society #261 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!





Celebratory opening serve by PRCUA President James Robaczewski



Vice President Micheline Jaminski serving the ball at the tournament



Women All Stars with MVP Amara Karapas



Coed team St. Rita's Danger



Coed team Southside Strikers



Runners-up Coed Team Zakopane



Men All Stars with MVP Joey Robaczewski



Women's team 2Light2Hit



Runners-up Women's Team Lady Pank



Coed team Elite Young Ones



Women's team Serves You Right



Runners-up Men's Team Southside Polish



Coed team Big Swingers



Women's team St. Rita's Dziewczyny



Coed All Stars with MVP Kasey Straub



Coed team St. Rita's Block Party



Men's team Hitmen

More photos on pg. 20







# ZAJĄCZEK DANCE ENSEMBLE NEWS

By Barb Ozog, Secretary  
Zajączek Dance Ensemble

Zajączek Dance Ensemble celebrated Polish American Heritage Month. The dancers submitted coloring pages for the PRCUA coloring contest and collected donations for St. Albertus Church in Detroit to assist with maintenance of the building. A few of the older dancers participated in the PRCUA Volleyball Tournament held in Shelby Township, MI.

One of the favorite nights of Zajączek dancers is Halloween Party/Parent Watch Night. The dancers wore their costumes and showed off the dances they are learning to their parents. After class, they got to trick or treat among the parents for special treats.

Zajączek Dance enrolls children ages 2.5–18. For more information on how to join this group, contact Director Colleen Bonkowski, at [zajaczekdance@yahoo.com](mailto:zajaczekdance@yahoo.com).



Mały Zajączek



Group 1



Group 2



Group 3



Group 4



Group 5



Group 6



# LEADERS OF THE POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA

## KAZIMIERZ I. KOZAKIEWICZ

Compiled by Lidia Kowalewicz  
Editor



Kazimierz Kozakiewicz was born on July 24, 1900 in Płock, Poland. He came to the United States with his parents when he was two years old. He was the son of Jan Władysław Kozakiewicz, who was PRCUA Director in Massachusetts (1928-1931).

Kazimierz attended parochial grammar school and then public high school in Lowell, MA. He later completed an ophthalmology degree at Boston University with a PhD. After successfully practicing his profession for several years in Salem, MA, he decided to broaden the scope of his education by supplementing it with courses in engineering.

Kazimierz Kozakiewicz married Kazimiera (née Szczechowicz), and the couple had two sons, Ryszard and Albert. She worked in the Polish American Council office in Boston,

helping the Polish immigrants to bring their families over to the U.S.

From an early age, Kazimierz was actively engaged in the activities of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. He was a member of PRCUA Societies #462, #1049 and #604. At the 41st PRCUA Convention held in 1934 in Springfield, MA, Kazimierz was elected as PRCUA Director, and then reelected to the same position at the 42nd Convention in Wilkes-Barre, PA in 1937.

At the 45th PRCUA Convention in 1950 in Syracuse, NY, Kazimierz Kozakiewicz was elected PRCUA First Vice President.

In Salem, MA, Kozakiewicz was the president of the Political Club, president of many Polish societies, President of PRCUA United Circuits for the state of Massachusetts, President of District 1 of the PRCUA United Circuits for the Region of New England, treasurer of Massachusetts Retailer's Opticians Associations, Vice President of New England Fraternal Congress.

After PRCUA President Kania died in 1953 while in office, Vice President Kozakiewicz took over as the interim President, in accordance with the recommendation of the PRCUA Constitution, which pro-

vided that on the death of the current president, the first vice president would take over. He was elected PRCUA President at the 46th PRCUA Convention held in 1954 in Pittsburgh, PA.

Kozakiewicz launched his presidency of the PRCUA with a clearly established outline of what he hoped to accomplish for the greater expansion of the oldest Polish American organization in the U.S.

As the President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, Kozakiewicz was involved in working closely with the Polish American Council (Rada Polonii Amerykańskiej) and supported campaigns to aid Poland and its citizens.

In 1957, Kozakiewicz was invited to President Dwight Eisenhower's inauguration. While in Washington, D.C., he conducted a series of conferences with U.S. Congressmen, discussing the issue of helping Poland.

At the banquet organized on the occasion of Kozakiewicz's birthday in July 1958 at the Sheridan Hotel, PRCUA chaplain Fr. Kachnowski presented Kozakiewicz with PRCUA Gold Medal of Merit in recognition of his work for the organization.

During his presidency, PRCUA juvenile membership fell off drastically, as Polish American children switched to the more popular English language American Boy Scout and Girl Scout programs. Despite Pres. Kozakiewicz's valiant efforts to rejuvenate juvenile membership, he was not successful. The PRCUA scouting programs ended in the mid 1950s. Nevertheless, many families still wanted their children to learn Polish and become familiar with their Polish heritage. Therefore, with schools established by V.P. Aniela



Kazimierz Kozakiewicz at a young age

Gorna as an example, the PRCUA supported the establishment of more Polish language schools and Polish folk dance groups.

In 1954, PRCUA rejoined the Polish American Congress under the direction of President Kozakiewicz.

In 1955, the PRCUA participated in the commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the 1920 Battle of Warsaw. A huge gathering was held in Humboldt Park in Chicago to mark this historic occasion.

Kozakiewicz was a member of the Polish Museum of America Board, director of the Northwestern Savings and Loan in Chicago and a deputy assessor of Cook County in Illinois.

Kazimierz Kozakiewicz died on March 27, 1968. PRCUA issued a mourning resolution. PRCUA Executive officers and directors as well as the members of the PRCUA Convention Budget Committee and Qualification and Nomination Committee who attended the meeting in Chicago attended the farewell ceremony held on March 30 at the Koop



School students touring the inside of the PMA's Rotunda in the Great Hall with President Kozakiewicz



President Kozakiewicz at the 47th PRCUA Convention held in 1958 in Detroit, MI





Kazimierz J. Kozakiewicz (standing) with Francis S. Barć (pre-1939)

Funeral Home in Chicago. PRCUA Chaplain Rev. Walerian Karcz and Vice Chaplain Rev. Franciszek Chmaj said the prayers and PRCUA President Józef Pranica spoke about Kozakiewicz's merits and work for the PRCUA and Polonia. The funeral Mass was held at Holy Trinity Church. PRCUA National Directors served as pall bearers. Kazimierz Kozakiewicz was

laid to rest at St. Adalbert Cemetery in Niles, IL.

Sources: *Zjednoczenie Polskie Rzymsko Katolickie w Ameryce 1873-1948* by Mieczysław Haiman; *The Eagle and the Cross: History of the Polish Roman Catholic Union* by John Radzilowski; *Naród Polski* (May 7, 1953; Feb. 7, 1957; Apr. 18, 1968); *Kurier Codzienny* (July 13, 1957).

## POLISH NEWS BYTES

By Robert Strybel  
Warsaw Correspondent

**Long-obstructed geothermal facility opens in Toruń** - After long years of planning, building and combating political opposition, a geothermal facility proving low-cost heating and electricity has opened in the north-central city of Toruń. It is the brain child of Redemptorist priest Father Tadeusz Rydzyk, a well-known Catholic educator and media pioneer. Geothermia taps into subterranean "hot springs" for heating and power generation but requires extensive, complicated infrastructure to function.

**Inflation cripples Poland's hospitality industry** - Inflation, triggered by Russia's energy manipulation and war on Ukraine, has adversely affected Poland's hospitality industry. A survey conducted by the Polish hotel industry's Chamber of Commerce has shown that in October 35% of the country's hotels had

a 70% vacancy rate and 20% had only half of their rooms booked up. That is much below the pre-pandemic level when reservations were often difficult to book ahead of the year-end holiday season. That may be good news only for Polish Americans planning to spend Christmas in Poland this year.

**Abandoned in Poland, the Orient Express will travel again** - From 1883 to 1977, nobles, wealthy tycoons, cultural figures, diplomats and an occasional spy traveled from Paris to Istanbul in elegance and luxury aboard the legendary Orient Express. Later, the route was progressively shortened until 2008 when the train was taken out of service entirely. In 2015, seventeen of its carriages were found abandoned in Poland near the Belarusian border and were purchased by the French hotel group Accor. The painstakingly restored train is due to resume its traditional route in 2025.

## WIGILIA IS WHERE IT'S AT

By Robert Strybel  
Polish/Polonian Lifestyle Writer

Compared to the way most nations celebrate Christmas, probably the single most unique feature about Polish-style Yule is the singular importance attached to December 24th. Although the Christmas season starts on the first Sunday of Advent and stretches on through the Three Kings (January 6th) all the way to Candlemas (February 2nd), the main event of Polish-style Christmas has always been (and hopefully always will be) *Wigilia*, Christmas Eve.

It is not only the climax, high point and main focus of the entire season but the single most important day of the year. It has been said that is because it combines the thing Poles cherish the most: God, family and country. God is present in the numerous nativity motifs (hay, *opłatek*, fasting, *kolędy*, the star symbol, Midnight Mass) that permeate the festivities. The family is in its element, for this evening should be celebrated with one's nearest of kin. And the patriotic dimension is enhanced by the uniqueness of this celebration which sets Poles apart from other ethnic groups.

It is on *Wigilia* that everything really important about Christmas occurs. Everything that precedes it (Advent, St. Nicholas Day) is merely a buildup to *Wigilia*. Everything that comes afterwards, Christmas Day included, is an anti-climax and also-ran. Everything about the day is special, unique and surrounded by legend. "How you are on Christmas Eve you will be the whole year" --- goes a common belief urging youngsters to be on their best behavior. To get a scolding or spanking on that

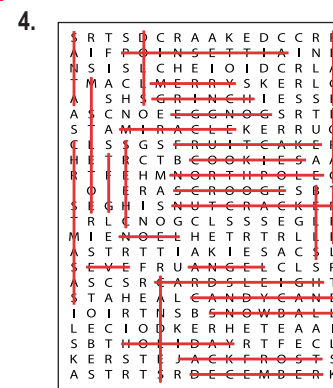
day would mean looking forward to more of the same throughout the New Year.

The *wieczera wigilijna* or Christmas Eve supper is the year's most symbolic and festive family gathering. In memory of the Christ Child's humble bed, hay is scattered over the table-top before being covered with a pure white (non-patterned) tablecloth. Everyone dons his or holiday finery, awaiting the evening's first star to appear - the sign for things to begin. Preschool youngsters are often given that job to keep them busy and out of the way during last minute preparations. The meal begins with the eldest family member leading grace and then breaking and sharing the *opłatek* with all present, wishing them all the best during the Christmas season and in the year to come. The procedure continues until everyone has shared bits of *opłatek* and exchanged wishes with everyone else.

The supper itself comprises an odd number or (in some regions and families) 12 meatless dishes, some of them served only this one time a year. Typical foods include herring and other fish, mushrooms, sauerkraut, pierogi and other pasta dishes, with sweet follow-ups containing poppyseed, honey, nuts and dried fruit. Traditionally the meal should contain a sampling of the things that fields, forests and rivers have to offer. After supper, *kolędy* are sung and gifts are exchanged, but getting presents is not really a big part of traditional Polish Yuletide. The crowning of a magnificent evening of family warmth and traditional symbolism is *Pasterka*, the Shepherd's Mass at midnight.

### ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLES ON PG. 15:

1. NOEL  
WINTER  
SANTA  
GIFT  
DECEMBER  
VACATION  
CAROLS  
TINSEL  
FIREPLACE  
MISTLETOE  
SNOWMAN  
CARDS





# TATRY DANCERS 2022-2023 GRADUATE PRESENTATION BALL - A REFLECTION

By Joelle Schade



Tatry graduates

Flashback to 2008: As a young mom of my first born, I couldn't wait for the time my baby was ready for her first real activity. As a former Polish dancer myself and as part of an incredibly proud, huge and close knit Polish family, I was excited that my daughter would be part of the same group that her cousin and I had danced in with my siblings and many of our cousins. So we began attending our Thursday night rehearsals. Week after week, my baby would go in the dance room at St. John while I sat in the hallway with other parents. As we navigated our child-rearing through our shared culture, we began to form friendships on those stairs. We bonded over costumes, our Tatry parent responsibilities/jobs, through all of the recitals, festivals, performances, and parties and became real friends.

While we sat on those stairs, our

children spent their weeks with Mrs. Karen Lubiarcz in the dance hall. Karen has taught our group for the last 33 years and is still going strong! I am proud to call her my daughter's mentor and my friend.

So the weeks passed into months which passed into years and here we are. What began 15 years ago with a new mom and a little girl with a smile that could light up a room has culminated into what we experienced at the Ball.

A 15 year commitment of any kind is something to be admired and celebrated. But when the person is only 17 years old? This year we have three graduates that are EACH celebrating their 15th year of Tatry dance—Evan Lubiarcz, Kiera Skurnit, and Alexandra Schade.

The Tatry Graduate Ball is a tradition that dates back to the beginning of the group in the 1970s. All Tatry families are required to purchase 2 tickets to the ball and I will admit that though I purchased the tickets, I did not attend all of the events. At that point, I could not conceive of what this event would mean to me one day. As the years passed and our friendships with the other dancers and their families formed, we became more invested in the event. I became more involved in the planning and eventually my daughter was in Group 5, the high school age group that always performs at the ball. I started to appreciate what this event signified but I was in no way prepared for the emotions involved with being a parent of a graduate.



Tatry graduates, escorts, director, teacher and officers



Tatry graduates and escorts dancing the waltz

The evening began with the introduction of the 2023 graduates and their escorts: Evan Lubiarcz and his escort, 2021 Tatry graduate Elise Lubiarcz, Kiera Skurnit and her escort Justin Maldonado and Alexandra Schade and her escort Calum Car-scadden.

The introduction was followed by a delicious dinner. Then it was time for the program to begin. Tatry director Gail Esker presented each graduate by reading their biographies, which included each graduate's high school activities, plans for after graduation and fun facts. Next was a stunning and elegant waltz by the graduates and their escorts (choreographed by Karen Lubiarcz) that wowed the crowd. The graduates then made a quick change into their Krakowiak costumes so they could perform their regional dance and polkas with their fellow Group 5 dancers and then the finale, a time honored Tatry tradition—a performance of *Polish Soul*. After the performances, the crowd was treated to a fun filled and rousing evening of music by the Kielbasa Kings. The dance floor was filled with happy dancers, especially for the classic *Chicken Dance*.

Making a huge event like this

happen is no small feat. First, many thanks to director Gail Esker for stepping up to lead our group. We had a fierce and dedicated leader for 30 years in Rose Ann Lackey and those were seemingly impossible shoes to fill, but due to Covid-19 and extenuating circumstances, Tatry found itself without a director and we would have folded if not for Gail. Gail, we know this is a grueling and often thankless job but you are crushing it and we could not be more grateful for your leadership and friendship!

To all my fellow Tatry parents, what can I say? After all these years and shared experiences, you are my tribe!

And to all our family and friends, here we are at the finish line. You have been with us through the recitals, Polish Nights at Comerica, fundraisers, festivals, performances. We hear you cheering from the audience every time! The support you have shown has been second to none!!

This graduation year will undoubtedly fly by, but I am certain this Tatry Graduate Presentation Ball will remain one of the most cherished memories of my daughter's life and I will forever be grateful that we were a part of this Tatry family.



Group 5



# Higher Perspectives



## Keeping Christ in Christmas

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

Once again, I find myself saying I can't believe that Christmas is just around the corner. Believe it or not, we are on the threshold of another Christmas season and with it, the continuing battle to turn the Christmas season into a winter holiday, devoid of any religious meaning. The signs of this reality are all around us if you stop and look. Nativity scenes banned from public display, the saying "Merry Christmas" being replaced with "Happy Holidays", our public school children not allowed to sing any religious carols at the annual Christmas program and the list goes on and on. With this in mind, how do we keep Christ in Christmas? Here are some ways to keep this Christmas, Christ-centered in an ever-changing world.

1. Take the time to celebrate Advent with your family; it is the season of preparation for Christmas. Buy or make an Advent wreath and place it on your family table, lighting the candles at meal time. This can be accompanied by a simple prayer such as "Lord, prepare my heart to greet you at Christmas." Explain the Advent season to your children, reminding them that it is the season to prepare our hearts to meet the Lord by works of charity and kindness.
2. As part of the Advent preparations, decorate your home for Christmas in a way that reflects the real reason of the season: Jesus Christ. Let Santa and the reindeers take a back seat to the Newborn King. This can be done by making sure your Nativity scene is placed in the most prominent place in your home. Gather the family together after you return from Christmas Mass and place the Christ Child in the manger and sing a Christmas carol or *kołęda* as a family.
3. When sending out your Christmas cards this year, purchase those that are religious in nature. This simple gesture reminds others of the true meaning of the Christmas season, Jesus Christ.
4. Display an outdoor Nativity scene on your lawn, porch or in your window to remind others of the meaning of this season. Displaying a Nativity scene helps bring home the point of Christmas season, the birth of our Savior.
5. When mailing your Christmas cards to family and friends, purchase the religious Christmas stamp that is issued by the post office. It's the only time of the year that you can buy a religious stamp in these United States. I often buy extras and use them throughout the New Year as a way of spreading the "good news" in a simple yet very real way.
6. Continue the age-old custom of *Wigilia* in your family or restart it if it has been lost. This is one of the most meaningful customs of the Polish American domestic Church. This meatless vigil meal is centered on Christ and family. It moves us from the family table, where we are nourished physically to the altar table where we are nourished spiritually by Jesus Christ himself, body, blood, soul and divinity. There is no better way to open the Christmas season than with this timeless tradition of love. If that is not possible, at least share the *Oplatek*, the Christmas wafer of love, with those who celebrate with you on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or those who come to your home during the Christmas season.
7. Finally, keep at least the twelve days of Christmas, from Christmas Day to the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6th, as a time of joy and

celebration to emphasize that Christmas has a season which begins, not ends on Christmas Day! Keep the Christmas tree up and the house decorated and celebrate the wonders of this holy season. The Church gives us this Christmas season as a time to celebrate God's love for us. On the old Church calendar, the Christmas season lasted forty days until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. Many still keep this tradition, especially in Poland and in Polish American areas as well as other parts of Europe, so why not give it a try?

I hope you will consider some of these ideas as ways to keep your Christmas, *this Christmas*, Christ-centered. I know it will enrich your celebration and help restore the beauty of this season of divine love!

To all of you, A blessed and Merry Christmas, *Wesołych, zdrowych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia!*



By Robert Strybel  
The Polish Chef

**CLEAR BEETROOT BORSCHT** (*czysty barszcz czerwony*): Soak 2-3 dried bolete mushrooms in 1 c. warm water several hrs, cook in same water until tender and set aside. Peel and coarsely grate 1 lb. beets, pre-baked in oven until fork-tender and cool enough to handle, and combine with 5 c. vegetable stock. Add the mushroom liquid, 1 large, peeled, coarsely-grated apple. Bring to boil and simmer 2 min. Add 1 bud crushed garlic and (optional) 1/4 c. dry red wine. Strain, discarding contents of sieve. Season soup to taste with salt, pepper, lemon juice and a little sugar until you achieve just the right tangy taste you want. Serve in bowls with traditional *uszka* (ear-dumplings).

**LITTLE-EAR DUMPLINGS** (*uszka*): Save mushroom stock for clear mushroom soup (below). Soak 1 slice French bread in 1/2 c. warm water. Chop and sauté 1 coarsely-chopped onion in 2 Tbs. butter until tender and lightly browned. Pass mushrooms, onion and squeezed-out pre-soaked bread through food chopper or process briefly. Add 1/4 c. bread crumbs, stir in 1 egg white, salt & pepper to taste and mix well. Filling should be on the stiff side, so if it's mushy, stir in a little more bread crumbs and set aside. Sift 1 c. flour onto bread-board, work in egg yolk and just enough water (roughly 1/2 c.) to bind ingredients into a dough. Knead until smooth, roll out very

thin and cut into 1-1/2" squares. Place a little filling on each square, fold 2 opposite points together to form a triangle and pinch shut. Gently pull 2 ends of the triangle, join into a ring and pinch them together. Cook in lightly-salted boiling water without crowding until *uszka* float up. Remove with slotted spoon and serve.

**CARP à la JEWISH STYLE** (*karp po żydowsku*): Cut cleaned carp into 1 in. steaks, salt, pepper, sprinkle with 4-5 crushed cloves and 1 Tbs vinegar. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour. In a large skillet, place 3 Tbs butter and 2 chopped onions and simmer stirring occasionally until tender but not browned. Add 1/2 cup beer, bring to boil. Add fish, cover and simmer on low heat for about 30 minutes. Add 1/3 cup or more raisins and 1/2 Tbs grated lemon rind. Simmer briefly and serve.

**TROUT WITH MUSHROOMS** (*pstrąg z pieczarkami*): Rinse 4 dressed rainbow trouts (with heads attached), pat dry, sprinkle with salt & pepper, dredge in flour and fry in 1/2" hot oil on both sides until done to a nice golden-brown. Meanwhile, in 2 Tbsp. butter sauté 8 oz. fresh, washed, white, sliced mushrooms until fully cooked. Turn trout onto lettuce-lined platter, garnish with mushrooms, placing some into cavities, decorate with lemon slices and parsley sprigs and serve.

**RICE & FRUIT DESSERT** (*ryż z owocami*): Transfer 4 c. hot cooked rice to serving platter, dot with butter and top with fruit topping of choice: stewed fruit, canned cherry or apple-pie filling, strawberry or cherry preserves or *powidła* - Polish imported plum butter. Variation: Cooked barley may be substituted for the rice.



## SYMBOLISM OF THE POLISH WIGILIA DISHES

For centuries, all Christmas Eve dishes served on the Polish table had some meaning.

- Fish is a sign of Jesus Christ, and more specifically of rebirth and baptism. Its presence on the Christmas Eve table was also supposed to ensure harmony and peace in the

new liturgical year.

- Honey gave joy, happiness, prosperity and long life. Honey dishes were to give the guests the favor of supernatural forces.

- Peas in Christmas Eve dishes were to herald fertility, harvest and money.

- Poppy seeds were supposed to bring wealth, so eating dishes with poppy seeds on Christmas Eve was supposed to ensure prosperity for the household next year.

- Plums was a symbol of longevity and prosperity, protection from evil and obstacles.

## VERONICA LATTA SMITH 1925-2022

Veronica Latta Smith passed away peacefully at home in Grosse Ile on November 13 at the age of 97.

She was born January 13, 1925, in Wyandotte, MI, to her Polish parents, Jan and Helena Latta, who established the Latta Feed Store. She was preceded in death by her siblings Laurence, Edmund, Helen, Eddie, Sophia, Mary, and Wanda.

Veronica worked for Great Lakes Steel during World War II to help pay for college at the University of Michigan. There she earned her sociology degree in 1948, beginning nearly 80 years of dedication to the school. She met her late husband, Stewart G. Smith, a graduate of U. of M. Law School, on a double date. Stew arranged this date because Veronica was dating a friend of his and he wished to make her acquaintance. They married in 1952 and had six children, all of whom attended the University of Michigan along with eight of their thirteen grandchildren.

Veronica's work varied throughout her life following graduation. She was a teacher, owner of Latta Insurance Agency and gift shop proprietor. Ronnie became director of the Martha Cook Board of Governors at U of M and served on other alumni boards. In 1984, she was elected to the University of Michigan Board of Regents. She was known as the "Students' Regent." Her advocacy for students was recognized by the Michigan Student Assembly in 1992, a first for a regent. In addition to this commendation, she was honored to have met four U.S. presidents through her service to the University.

Veronica, as Regent Emerita, continued to participate in University comments and attended football games until she was 95 years old.

Veronica is survived by her six children: Dr. S. Gregory and Martha Smith of Yorklyn, DE; Dr. Patrick and Karen Smith of Columbia, MO; Paul Smith of Los Angeles, CA; Alison Hurley and her late husband James Hurley of Scottsdale, AZ; Alisa and Steve Lyons of Grosse Ile, MI; and Glenn and Marie Smith of Grand Rapids, MI. Also, thirteen grandchildren Ryan, Brett, Matt, Kyle, Kelly, Holly, Tracy, Shelby, Samantha, Jack, Casey, Suzanne, and Doug, and 4 great-grandchildren Carson, Fritz, Lola, and Milo. The diversity of her children's lives and careers speaks to Veronica as a passionate, caring mother who emphasized the importance of education and the value of a close-knit, loving family.

A funeral mass was conducted at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Grosse Ile, MI on Saturday, November 19.

May she rest in eternal peace.

PRCUA extends sincere condolences to the Smith and Latta families. Please keep Veronica and her family in your prayers.



## DEARLY DEPARTED PRCUA BROTHERS AND SISTERS



Member	Society	State	Member	Society	State
Addis, Monica	445	MN	Maliszewski, Anthony	2002	PA
Balcerak, Evelyn L.	300	IL	McCarthy, Marcia	385	NY
Balint, Barbara A.	237	PA	Mehall, Dolores	237	PA
Barna, Andrew	572	NJ	Mielcarek, Dolores A.	213	OH
Beller, Arnold P.	1404	MI	Miller Jr., Grover	527	MD
Bijos, Teresa	1627	IL	Mryncza, Adolf A.	527	MD
Binkowski, Michael	2206	OH	Paglini, Lorraine	3000 & 1000	IL
Bishop, Dorothy	237	PA	Passarella, Carol A.	657	IL
Borowiec, Krystyna	1593	MI	Praski, Genevieve	1593	MI
Bukowski, Marcin	1415	IL	Risley, Robert	2145	OH
Dzioba Sr., Chester A.	658	MA	Rojek, Edward	1404 & 1118	MI
Galgan, Henry	951	NY	Rosiek, Henry	718	MI
Garbus, Edward	87	MI	Skora, Roman R.	718	MI
Golda, Louise	572	NJ	Skubis, Bronislaw	540	NY
Gula, Barbara A.	72	IL	Smith, Andrea B.	413	IN
Isaacson, Josephine A.	1486	IL	Stelter, Claire S.	597	TX
Jankowski, Doris J.	1202	WI	Taylor, Gwendolyn H.	1486	TX
Jaworski, Marcia	160	NY	Tomczyk, Olga	2109	OH
Juby, Joseph M.	2220	OH	Urban, Kayla A.	750	NY
Juergens, Loretta	158	OH	Van der Werf Jr., Everett	2144	CA
Kaminski, Michele	162	FL	Vaughan, Bernice	237	PA
Knecht, Geraldine	2022	PA	Vesbit, Thomas S.	78	MI
Knezevic, Christine L.	265	IL	Wojciechowski, Robert J.	413	IN
Kosnik, Ladislaus	1593	TX	Wozniak, Laverne	2308	FL
Lewicki, Helen	540	NY			

*May they rest in eternal peace.*

## SINCERE CONDOLENCES

*Let us hurry to love people they depart so quickly - Fr. Jan Twardowski"*

PRCUA extends deepest condolences to Bożena Matson (Financial Secretary of PRCUA Saint Mary of Perpetual Help Society #693 in Indiana, former vice principal and currently teacher at St. R. Kalinowski Polish School), whose parents passed away recently.

Bożena's father - Jan Bochnak, died on June 29, 2022 in Nowy Targ, Poland at the age of 86. His funeral took place on July 2, 2022 also in Nowy Targ. He was a lifelong employee of the Brick Company in Nowy Targ and retiree from the position of its vice president.

Her mother - Józefa Bochnak, died on October 3, 2022 at the age of 85 in Nowy Targ, Poland. Her funeral took place on October 8, 2022 in Nowy Targ.

They were married for 58 years.

The departed are survived by their daughter Bożena (Max) Matson; son Grzegorz (Joanna) Bochnak; son Adam (Renata) Bochnak; grandchildren: Emily, Kevin, Laurain and Evelyn Matson, and Olivia Bochnak.

Please remember Jan and Józefa Bochnak and their heartbroken family in your prayers.

May they rest in eternal peace!

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

## SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US!

Did you become proud parents or grandparents? Did someone 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](mailto:lidia-kowalewicz@prcu.org) and we will publish them in the *Naród Polski*.



Oferta ważna do: 31 grudnia 2023

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35	\$127.50	\$205.00	\$428.00	\$786.50
45	\$171.75	\$293.50	\$643.50	\$1,206.50
55	\$277.10	\$504.20	\$1,157.25	\$2,207.50
65	\$791.15	\$1,532.30	\$3,663.25	\$7,091.00

#### Przykładowe składki dla mężczyzn

Wiek	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
25	\$108.60	\$167.20	\$335.50	\$606.50
35	\$135.35	\$220.70	\$466.00	\$861.00
45	\$183.60	\$317.20	\$701.25	\$1,319.00
55	\$296.80	\$543.60	\$1,253.25	\$2,395.00
65	\$848.35	\$1,646.70	\$3,942.00	\$7,634.50

Roczna stawka standardowa dla niepalących. Każda aplikacja podlega procesowi weryfikacji.

Szczegóły oferty w Dziale Sprzedaży PRCUA: **Marge Grzeszczuk Rep. Działu Sprzedaży (773) 782-2644**



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Oak Lawn, IL 60453  
[szkolamariikonopnickiej@gmail.com](mailto:szkolamariikonopnickiej@gmail.com)  
(708) 990-0749

## ZAPROSZENIE NA

# Oplądatek

ORGANIZOWANY PRZEZ DYSTRYKT 7  
ZJEDNOCZENIA POLSKIEGO RZYMSKO KATOLICKIEGO W AMERYCE

## SOBOTA, 3 GRUDNIA 2022

SALA GŁÓWNA MUZEUM POLSKIEGO W AMERYCE  
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**DRZWI OTWARTE GODZ. 18,00**  
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DZIECI PONIŻEJ 12 ROKU ŻYCIA: \$20

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[prcudistrict7@gmail.com](mailto:prcudistrict7@gmail.com)  
Ewa Cholewinski (224) 622-1517  
or Mateusz Bomba (773) 633-0313






# ZŁOTY JUBILEUSZ BALU „KOPCIUSZEK I KSIĘCĄ”

Ponad 500 gości wzięło udział w jubileuszowej 50. edycji Balu „Kopciuszka i Księcia”, który odbył się 19 listopada w eleganckiej sali Belvedere Chateau w Palos Hills, IL. Doroczny bal organizowany jest od 1972 roku przez Grupę Kulturalną Dorosłych, działającą przy Zjednoczeniu Polskim Rzymsko-Katolickim w Ameryce (ZPRKA/PRCUA) od 1969 roku.

Tradycją balu jest wybór drogą loterii „Kopciuszka” i „Księcia” oraz pary wiceksiążęcej, którzy przez rok reprezentować będą PRCUA podczas oficjalnych uroczystości organizowanych wśród Polonii chicagowskiej. Rok 2023 jest szczególnie prestiżowym rokiem, ponieważ PRCUA obchodzi 150-lecie istnienia. Kandydaci biorący udział w balu są uczniami szkół średnich i członkami PRCUA. Za udział w balu wszyscy otrzymują stypendia na studia, ufundowane przez Grupę Kulturalną Dorosłych.

Bal poprzedziły wielotygodniowe przygotowania, w tym nauka tańców, do których układy taneczne przygotował utalentowany choreograf Ryszard Jamiński. Państwo Micheline i Ryszard Jamińscy są zaangażowani w artystyczny program balu od 1976 roku. Młodzież, która tradycyjnie zaprezentowała się w galowych strojach - kandydatki w długich białych sukniach, a kandydaci w czarnych smokingach – zafascynowała gości balu perfekcyjnie wykonanymi układami tanecznymi i elegancją.

Gości powitała dyrektor krajowa Dystryktu 8 PRCUA Elizabeth Dynowski, program prowadzili Danielle Kropiewski i Thomas Frankowicz. Swoje refleksje przekazała Księżca Para 2022 roku – Natalia Bafia i Marcel Duda. Wśród gości tegorocznego balu obecni byli między innymi: bp Andrzej Wypych, biskup pomocniczy diecezji Chicago; wicekonsul RP w Chicago Jacek Bryniak z żoną Moniką; prezes Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej - Oddział na stan Illinois, Michael Niedziński; prezes Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce, Richard Owsiany oraz przedstawiciele PRCUA: członkowie zarządu PRCUA - prezes James Robaczewski z żoną Elaine, wiceprezes Micheline Jamiński z mężem Ryszardem, sekretarz-skarbnik Agnieszka Bastrzyk z mężem Danielem, kapelan naczelny ks. kanonik Władysław Ptak; dyrektorzy krajowi Joanna Cholewiński, Elizabeth Dynowski, Myron Ciso z żoną Elizabeth i Elizabeth Sadus oraz radca prawny John Chitkowski z żoną Kerry.

Hymny narodowe wykonali Anna Ray i Alan Królikowski. Wicekonsul Jacek Bryniak odczytał gratulacje nadesłane przez konsula generalnego RP w Chicago, Pawła Zyzaka. Modlitwę przed rozpoczęciem balu odmówił ks. kanonik Władysław Ptak, kapelan PRCUA i proboszcz parafii Our Lady-Sorrows w Farmington, MI, a modlitwę na zakończenie ks. Sebastian Żebrowski, wikariusz parafii Pięciu

Braci Męczenników w Chicago. Uroczysty toast wznosił prezes Grupy Kulturalnej Dorosłych, Edward Muszalski. W czasie obiadu utwory muzyczne i wokalne wykonali: Alan Królikowski (tenor), Nicole Kwasny (skrzypce) i Youssef El Yakine (piano).

Dwa wyjątkowe akcenty wywołały szczególne emocje w czasie balu. Pierwszym było wystąpienie Johna Oćwiei, syna Reginy Oćwiei, jednej z założycielek Grupy Kulturalnej Dorosłych i byłej wiceprezes PRCUA, której wizja „służby dla młodzieży PRCUA” zaowocowała organizacją dorocznych balów „Kopciuszka i Księcia”. Drugim szczególnym momentem było przedstawienie przez panią Micheline Jamiński ponad osiemdziesięciu byłych zwycięzców tytułów książęcych i wiceksiążęcych oraz kandydatów z ostatnich 50 lat. Niektórzy z nich z dumą zaprezentowali na tegorocznym balu swoje dzieci, które ubiegały się o tytuł „Kopciuszka” i „Księcia”. Historia tego wyjątkowego balu zatańczyła koło, a młodzi uczestnicy wiernie kontynuują kilkupokoleniową już tradycję.

Po obiedzie pani Jamińska podziękowała członkom zarządu Grupy Kulturalnej Dorosłych, którzy od wielu lat kierują działalnością grupy: prezesowi Edwardowi Muszalskiemu, wiceprezesowi Johnowi Frankowiczowi i skarbnikowi Walterowi Dynowskiemu za wieloletnią opiekę nad działalnością grupy oraz kontynuację dorocznych balów. Podziękowania skierowała również do dwóch członkiń Grupy Kulturalnej Dorosłych, pani Mary Brzeźniak i pani Diane Cortesi, które biorą aktywny udział w działalności grupy od

momentu jej założenia aż do dziś.

Głównym wydarzeniem wieczoru była uroczysta prezentacja kandydatów, wprowadzanych na salę przez rodziców, a przedstawianych przez „Kopciuszka” i „Księcia” sprzed dwóch lat – Karolinę Gal i Artura Rykałę. Po prezentacji ks. biskup Andrzej Wypych pobłogosławił czekające na zwycięzców koreny oraz wszystkich kandydatów, po czym przystąpiono do najbardziej oczekiwanego przez wszystkich momentu - losowania tegorocznych zwycięzców. Kartkę z nazwiskiem „Kopciuszka” wylosował prezes James Robaczewski, a kartkę z nazwiskiem „Księcia” wiceprezes Micheline Jamiński. Nazwiska pary wiceksiążęcej losowała sekretarz-skarbnik Agnieszka Bastrzyk. Kopciuszkiem 2023 wybrana została Magdalena Truta, a Księciem 2023 Eric Wildhirt. Tytuły wiceksiążęce otrzymali Karolina Mikulec i Jakub Niedzielski. Zwycięskie pary zatańczyły walca, do którego włączyli się wszyscy tegoroczni kandydaci, ich rodzice, a następnie goście.

Jubileuszowy 50. Bal „Kopciuszka i Księcia” przejdzie do historii Grupy Kulturalnej Dorosłych PRCUA i historii działalności chicagowskiej polonii. Grupie Kulturalnej Dorosłych życzymy kolejnych 50. lat chlubnej „służby dla młodzieży”, a zwycięzcom tegorocznego balu oraz wszystkim kandydatom, wielu sukcesów i kontynuacji pięknej tradycji, zainicjowanej pół wieku temu przez ich dziadków i rodziców.

*Szczegółowe sprawozdanie i zdjęcia z balu zamieścimy w jednym z najbliższych wydań „Narodu Polskiego”*





# UBEZPIECZENIA BEZ TAJEMNIC

Robert Sobczak  
Specjalista ds. ubezpieczeń

Szokujące zmiany cen w Medicare.

## Medicare Part A i B - Ceny i pokrycia na 2023 rok

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) podało do publicznej wiadomości wysokość opłat i pokryć (premium, deductible i coinsurance) części A i B Medicare na rok 2023.

## 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 serwisami 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 2023 wynosi **\$1,600**. Wzrósł on o \$44 w stosunku do roku ubiegłego. Deductible części A związane z pobytem w szpitalu pokrywa koszty pierwszych 60 dni pobytu w szpitalu serwisów pokrywanych przez Medicare. W 2023 beneficjenci Medicare części A są również odpowiedzialni za udział wspólny (coinsurance) w wysokości **\$400** za każdy dzień pomiędzy 61, a 90 dniem pobytu

w szpitalu (\$11 dziennie więcej niż w roku bieżącym) i **\$800** (\$778 w 2022) 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 **\$200** na 2023 rok (\$194.50 w 2022).

Porównanie wysokości opłaty własnej i opłaty wspólnej za część A w latach 2022 i 2023 według rodzaju kosztu		
	2023	2022
Opłata własna za pobyt w szpitalu	\$1,600	\$1,556
Dzienna dopłata za odpowiedzialność wspólną między 61, a 90 dniem pobytu	\$400	\$389
Dzienna dopłata za odpowiedzialność wspólną w rezerwie życiowej	\$800	\$778
Dzienna dopłata za odpowiedzialność wspólną Skilled Nursing Facility	\$200	\$194.50

Dane na podstawie informacji z CMS.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 \$278 za część A w roku 2023. 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 \$506 miesięcznie.

## Medicare Part B Premium/Deductible

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

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

Podstawowa miesięczna stawka za Part B Medicare na rok 2023 wynosi **\$164.90**, co oznacza że jest **niższa** o \$5.20 niż w roku 2022. Roczna odpowiedzialność własna (deductible) za Part B w roku 2023 wynosi **\$226**, \$7 **mniej** niż w roku 2022.

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 \$97,000	Nie więcej \$194,000	\$0.00	\$164.90
Więcej niż \$97,000 i nie więcej niż \$123,000	Więcej niż \$194,000 i nie więcej niż \$246,000	\$65.90	\$230.80
Więcej niż \$123,000 i nie więcej niż \$153,000	Więcej niż \$246,000 i nie więcej niż \$306,000	\$164.80	\$329.70
Więcej niż \$153,000 i nie więcej niż \$183,000	Więcej niż \$306,000 i nie więcej niż \$366,000	\$263.70	\$428.60
Więcej niż \$183,000 i nie więcej niż \$500,000	Więcej niż \$366,000 i nie więcej niż \$750,000	\$362.60	\$527.50
\$500,000 lub więcej	\$750,000 lub więcej	\$395.60	\$560.50

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## “Bóg zawitał w ludzkim ciele...”

W tym wspaniałym dniu Pańskiego Narodzenia pragnę, aby malutki Jezus obdarzył Was Bożym Błogosławieństwem, siłą i wytrwałością, w nieustannym rodzeniu się miłości, z której wszystko bierze swój początek.  
Niechaj Wszechpotężny obdarzy wszystkie rodziny szczęściem, radością i pokojem.  
Opłatek, którym się podzielisz, otworzy w niebie złote wierzeje i sam Pan Jezus zawita do Ciebie.

Zapewniam Was o mojej modlitwie w intencjach Waszych rodzin, w szczególności podczas Mszy Świętych sprawowanych w okresie Świąt Bożego Narodzenia.

Wesołych, zdrowych i spokojnych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia!

Ks. Kanonik Władysław Józef Ptak  
Naczelny Kapelan, ZPRKA



# ŚWIĘTO NIEPODLEGŁOŚCI POLSKI W PARAFII ŚW. JANA BREBEUF W NILES

W sobotę 12 listopada w kościele św. Jana Brebeuf w Niles, IL odbyła się uroczysta msza z okazji 104. rocznicy odzyskania przez Polskę niepodległości. Datę 11-go listopada w szczególności upamiętnia fakt, że wraz z końcem pierwszej wojny światowej Polska odzyskała niepodległość po 123 latach zaborów.

We Mszy św., sprawowanej przez księdza Zdzisława Torbę, proboszcza parafii, udział wzięli: gość honorowy Konsul Generalny RP w Chicago Paweł Zyzak, delegaci Polskiej Szkoły im. Mikołaja Kopernika działającej przy parafii oraz organizacji polonijnych, a także goście specjaliści oraz przedstawiciele grup i kółek działających przy parafii jak i osoby prywatne.

Konsul Zyzak w swym przemówieniu nawiązał do historycznej ważności listopadowego wydarzenia pieczętującego ostateczną klęskę wszystkich trzech zaborców. Stwierdził również, że w dzisiejszych cza-

sach - w sytuacji, gdy za granicami naszego kraju trwa konflikt zbrojny - pojęcie wolności nabrało nowego, wyjątkowego znaczenia. Celebując godnie 104. rocznicę odzyskania przez Polskę niepodległości kulturowymy pamięć o historii i tradycji, gdyż jak mówił Jan Paweł II „wolność nie jest dana raz na zawsze. Trzeba ją zdobywać na nowo i na nowo (...)”.

Zgodnie więc z tradycją, na ludową nutę po nabożeństwie odbył się krótki okolicznościowy koncert w wykonaniu grup z zespołu Pieśni i Tańca „Polonia”: „Krasnoludków”, „Małej Polonii” i „Młodej Polonii”, działających pod patronatem PRCUA przy parafii św. Jana Brebeuf w Niles, rozpoczynając wspólne celebrowanie, które zakończył wykwinny poczęstunek.

Zapraszamy dzieci i młodzież do naszych zespołów. Info Anna Krysiński, (847) 529-2555 kierownik Zespołu Pieśni i Tańca „Polonia” [www.poloniaensemble.com](http://www.poloniaensemble.com)



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## ZESPÓŁ „MAŁA POLSKA” UROZMAICIŁ OBCHODY MIESIĄCA DZIEDZICTWA POLSKIEGO

**Agata Wilgocki**

„Polish American Heritage Month” czyli Miesiąc Dziedzictwa Polskiego w Ameryce to coroczne wydarzenie obchodzone w październiku przez społeczności polonijne.

2 października br. Komitet Dziedzictwa Polskiego pod kierownictwem pana Geralda Tarki już po raz 27. zorganizował uroczyste obchody złożenia wieńców przy pomnikach Kazimierza Pułaskiego w Hammond, IN i Calumet City IL.

W godzinach popołudniowych, podczas obiadu przygotowanego przez Cavalier Inn, zespół „Mała Polska” działający pod patronatem PRCUA przy szkole św. R. Kalinowskiego w Munster IN, miał okazję zaprezentować swoje talenty

taneczno-artystyczne licznie zgromadzonej publiczności.

W programie nie zabrakło przepięknie odśpiewanych hymnów narodowych „Mazurka Dąbrowskiego” oraz „Star Spangled Banner”, jak również poezji K. Wierzyńskiego, A. Słonimskiego, oraz polskich tańców narodowych i ludowych. Muzyczna ilustracja utworu „Płynie Wisła, płynie po polskiej krainie” przeniosła widzów do kraju rodzinnego, prezentując uroki ojczyzny. Nie zabrakło okłasków i owacji na stojąco.

Niezależnie od tego czy jesteś Amerykaninem polskiego pochodzenia, czy nie, ważne jest aby podreślić kulturę ludzi, którzy pomogli ukształtować ten kraj.









# Merry Christmas

May you have the gift of Faith, the blessing of Hope, and the peace of His Love this Christmas and all throughout 2023!

# Wesołych Świąt

Aby przyście na świat Chrystusa przyniosło radość, pokój, nadzieję i miłość na cały 2023 rok!



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