

## Tax-Free IRA Gifting Extended

Individuals age 70½ or older may now make tax-free transfers up to \$100,000 from an IRA to a charity of their choice for the 2011 tax year, as part of the *Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010*.

Gifts for this tax year may be made until December 31, 2011. The benefit to the donor is that these gifts fulfill some or all of the required minimum distribution without increasing taxable income. The **PRCUA Education Fund, Inc.** is one such option.



**PRCUA Christmas Special**  
**WIN an Apple iPod Shuffle!**  
**Receive a FREE ornament**  
**and a Teddy Bear!**  
**Page 3...**



# Naród Polski Polish Nation

*Bi-lingual Publication of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America - A Fraternal Benefit Society Safeguarding Your Future with Life Insurance & Annuities.*

www.PRCUA.org

December 1, 2011 - 1 grudnia 2011

No. 12 - Vol. CXXV

## "Gloria in Excelsis Deo!"

The message of the angels brings good tidings of great joy. God has fulfilled His promise; the Word has been made flesh. Jesus Christ our Savior comes among us once again. As we approach the great Feast of Christmas, we wish you, our dear members and friends, the peace of the newborn King of kings.

May His love sustain you and yours as we break the sacred oplatek and share in the joy of this Season of Love. May we, like the angels of old, give glory to God in all we do, as we strive to bring His peace to a weary world. A Blessed and Joy-filled Christmas Season to you and those you love.

Fr. Walter J. Ptak  
National Chaplain

Fr. Anthony D. Iwuc  
Vice Chaplain

Msgr. Stanley E. Milewski, PA  
Vice Chaplain



## A Polish Christmas

Traditions live on inside us  
They're a part of who we are...  
Like starting the Wigilia  
at the sight of the very first star...

Polish Christmas Eve is special,  
not like any other day,  
It warms our hearts to think of  
family nearby and far away...

The sharing of oplatki  
reminds us to forgive, forget!  
No trespasses that we've suffered  
are worth keeping as a debt.

Having an extra place setting  
at table may seem a bit wild,  
It's to welcome any stranger  
who represents the Christ Child.

Christmas without traditions  
takes the specialness away...  
so let's always cherish celebrating  
Christmas the Polish way!

- Anonymous

## Merry Christmas Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia

## Birth of a New American Christmas Tradition



As the holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Americans with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods - merchandise that has been produced at the expense of American labor. This year can be different. This year Americans can give the gift of genuine concern for other Americans. At gift-giving time, we can all vow to buy only American-made products!

Think outside the box. Who says a gift needs to fit into a box and be wrapped in foreign-produced wrapping paper? Everyone gets their hair cut. Get gift certificates from your local hair salon or barber. Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages! Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed or their oil changed? Small, American-owned shops would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates.

Are you an extravagant giver who thinks nothing of plunking down a Benjamin? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his lawn mowed for the summer, or his driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course.

There are a zillion owner-run restaurants -- all offering gift certificates - that would make a nice gift. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half-dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Of course, the national fast food

places offer coupon books for sale. But this is about supporting your home town Americans whose livelihoods depend on our patronage.

Need a heartfelt gift for mom? Surely she would LOVE the services of a local cleaning lady, or a luscious box of chocolate-covered strawberries, or a handcrafted item made by a local artisan. If someone's computer can use a tune-up, you can probably find some local computer whiz who is struggling to keep his repair shop going.

What about jewelry, pottery, wooden boxes and needlework bought at local arts and crafts shows? How about taking a carriage ride in downtown Chicago? Or going out to see a play or concert at your hometown theatre?

Think about it - when we spend our money in the local community, it stays in the community! Don't forget to tip the paper boy, mailman, trash guy or babysitter. Even a small tip with a heartfelt "thank you" will be appreciated.

Christmas shouldn't drain American pockets so foreign countries can build glittering cities. Make your Christmas about caring for the U.S.A., encouraging American small businesses and caring for your fellow Americans. Let's "buy into" the birth of this new American Christmas tradition.



PERIODICAL POSTAGE  
PAID AT CHICAGO, IL

PERIODICAL POSTAGE  
PAID AT CHICAGO, IL





# Calendar of PRCUA Events

## DECEMBER

- 2 TOLEDO, OH - CHRISTMAS PRCUA PIEROGI DOZEN SALE** at PRCUA Hall, 5255 N. Detroit Ave. on Dec. 2, 10-6. Cheese, potato, kraut and mixed (cheese and potato). To reserve your pierogi call Paulina at 419-531-8658 or Doris at 419-475-6262
- 4 CHICAGO, IL - ILL-IND WOMEN'S DIVISION OPLATEK HOSTED BY DISTRICT #9** on Sun., Dec. 4, entry at 11:30 a.m., lunch at Noon in the Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL. Tickets \$25. RSVP by 11/28 to Elizabeth Sadus 708-481-6769
- 4 TOLEDO, OH - TOLEDO SOCIETIES 1584,1633,1617 AND 719 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY** on Dec. 4, 2 to 4 pm at 5255 N. Detroit, Toledo, OH. Includes making crafts and other activities. Santa will be there. Pizza and Pop will be provided. Please bring a cookie or cupcake dessert. Sign-up sheet in the Club.
- 8 LANSING, MI - WHITE EAGLE SOC. #2342 MEETING** on Thurs., Dec. 8 at Federated Polish Home, 1030 W. Mt. Hope Rd., Lansing, MI. Pot luck dinner at 6 pm; meeting follows at 7 pm. Contact: Tom Croff 517-627-0222
- 9 TOLEDO, OH - TOLEDO SOCIETIES 1584,1633,1617 AND 719 KOLENDY** on Dec. 9, with Randy Krajewski, Eric Hite, and Eddie Biegaj at the Clubhouse. Come sing Polish Christmas carols with us. The fun starts at 8:00 p.m.
- 11 MUNSTER, IN - ST. RAPHAEL KALINOWSKI POLISH SCHOOL JASELKA**, PRCUA District 9 on Dec. 11 at 1 pm at Carmelite Fathers Monastery, 1628 Ridge Rd., Munster, IN
- 18 TOLEDO, OH - SOC. #1584, #1633, #1617 & #719 ELECTION MEETING** on Sun., Dec. 18 at 1 pm, Misiuda Hall, 5255 N. Detroit, Toledo, OH. Contact: J. Sylak 419-729-2616 Reverse Raffle will be held on Jan. 28; tickets on sale now. Contact: Gary Boes 419-260-6494
- 18 WYANDOTTE, MI - SOC. #162 MEETING** on Sun., Dec. 18 at 1 pm. at PRCU #162 Hall, 1430 Oak Street, Wyandotte, MI. Dues: L. Alexander, 69 Winder, Unit 462, Detroit, MI 48201
- 18 STERLING HTS., MI - PRCUA MI WOMEN'S DIVISION OPLATEK** hosted by Zakopane Ensemble on Sun., Dec. 18, entry 1 pm, program 1:30, dinner 2 pm, Century Banquet Ctr., 33204 Maple, St. Hts, MI. Cost \$15, 5-18 yrs. \$9, 0-4 free. RSVP by 12/6 to 586-219-1982. Make check to: Zakopane Dancers; send to Zakopane, 28279 Suburban, Warren, MI 48088
- 18 COUNTRYSIDE, IL - ANNUAL SOUTHWEST CENTER OF POLISH DANCING CHRISTMAS SHOW** on Sun., Dec. 18; entry at 12:30 p.m. and show at 1 pm at Park Place of Countryside Banquets, 6240 Joliet Rd., Countryside, IL; advance tickets \$8 or \$10 at the door; under 5 yrs. FREE. Please purchase tickets from: Ania Kraszewski 773-972-0012
- 20 JOHNSTOWN, PA - ST. CASIMIR'S SOC. #531 MEETING** on Tues., Dec. 20 at 7:30 pm, 306 Power St. Send premiums to: Ed Kaplaniak, 521 Southmont, Johnstown, PA 15905
- 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

## JANUARY 2012

- 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
- 5 LANSING, MI - WHITE EAGLE SOC. #2342 MEETING** on Thurs., Jan. 5 at Federated Polish Home, 1030 W. Mt. Hope Rd., Lansing, MI. Pot luck dinner at 6 pm; meeting follows at 7 pm. Contact: Tom Croff (517) 627-0222
- 8 DEARBORN HTS., MI - ST. STAN'S SOC. #718 CORPORATE COMMUNION AND ELECTION MEETING** will be held on Sun., Jan. 8. Mass at 11 am at St. Linus Church, on Hass between Telegraph & Beach Daly Rds. Election meeting after Mass at PLAV Hall on West Warren Ave. between Telegraph & Beach Daly Rds. Meeting followed by a complimentary dinner. Contact Len and Eileen Nasiatka for more information at 313-278-5219

**14 MUNSTER, IN - ST. RAPHAEL KALINOWSKI POLISH SCHOOL DIST. 9 DINNER DANCE** on Sat., Jan.14, Carmelite Fathers Banquet Hall, 1628 Ridge Rd., Munster, IN. Music by DJ Marcin; performance by *Maly Slask*. Entry at 6 pm; dinner 6:30 pm. Cost: \$35; 12 yrs. and under \$17.50. Cash bar & raffle. Contact: 219-671-9834 or 219-696-1666 by Jan. 2.

**15 WYANDOTTE, MI - SOC. #162 MEETING** on Sun., Jan. 15 at 1 pm. at PRCU #162 Hall, 1430 Oak Street, Wyandotte, MI. Dues: L. Alexander, 69 Winder, Unit 462, Detroit, MI 48201

**15 TOLEDO, OH - SOC. #1584, #1633, #1617 & #719 MEETING** on Sun., Jan. 15 at 1 pm, Misiuda Hall, 5255 N. Detroit, Toledo, OH. Contact: J. Sylak 419-729-2616

**17 JOHNSTOWN, PA - ST. CASIMIR'S SOC. #531 MEETING** on Tues., Jan. 17 at 7:30 pm, 306 Power St. Send premiums to: Ed Kaplaniak, 521 Southmont, Johnstown, PA 15905

**18 CHICAGO, IL - SOC. #475 MEETING** on Wed., Jan. 18 at 7:30 at PRCUA, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL Contact: Recording Secretary Bernie Jura 773-685-3134

## PRCUA SKI TRIP INFO PAGE 14

**NOTICE:** The National Museum in Krakow is preparing an entire catalogue of Olga Boznanska's (1865-1940) works to accompany an exhibition of this distinguished artist. We kindly request collectors and owners (including museums) of Olga Boznanska's works to contact: Curator Urszula Kozakowska-Zaucha: ukozakowska@muzeum.krakow.pl, tel. +48 012 29 55 546 or art historian Ewa Bobrowska: ewabj@live.fr, tel. +33/6 60 05 92 63. Discretion assured.

## INVITATION TO WIGILIA

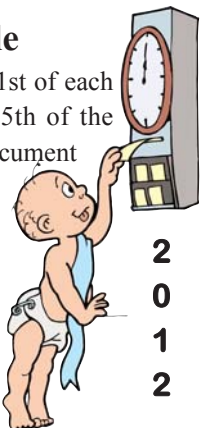
The Polish Museum of America cordially invites you to its Family and Friends Traditional Polish Christmas Eve Supper (Wigilia) on Friday, December 2, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall of the Polish Museum of America, 984 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL.

The evening will include an explanation of the beautiful Wigilia traditions, sharing of oplatek, delicious traditional Wigilia meatless meal, carols and a visit from St. Nicholas.

Cost is \$20.00 for 13 years and older; \$10.00 for 4-12. Adults must accompany and remain with children. Reservations are required; seating is limited. Please call (773) 384-3352, ext. 104 or email: [pma@polishmuseumofamerica.org](mailto:pma@polishmuseumofamerica.org) There is plenty of free parking.

## Narod Polski 2012 Schedule

The newspaper is always published on the 1st of each month. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the prior month. Please submit articles as a *Word* document or typed directly into an email, rather than as a fax or PDF. Please submit photos as separately attached JPEG photo files, not as a PDF and not embedded into the email message. To contact either of the editors by phone or mail or email, the information is published on page 6 of this issue. We welcome your news items.



**CORRECTIONS:** The Claims Department accidentally listed the following among the deceased members: MICHAEL J GOLLA, SOC. 2303 of WI and JULIA BRZOSTOWICZ, SOC. 1423 of WI. These members are very much alive. Please accept our sincere apology.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRCUA  
SALES AND MARKETING  
DEPARTMENTS

Dear Members,

As life changes, so do protection risks. Periodic certificate reviews ensure that life insurance needs are met for surviving family members.

The mission of the Sales and Marketing Departments in the New Year 2012 is to focus on sales and training efforts, revamp marketing initiatives and thus reintroduce the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America to existing members and attract a new audience.

Those currently promoting products for the PRCUA can expect to be regularly contacted, to receive support and have every opportunity to access resources and materials to be successful in their endeavors. Current members can expect to be contacted by PRCUA representatives. You can take advantage of this opportunity by reviewing your present beneficiary designations, life insurance coverage amounts and asking questions regarding insurance and annuities. Or you can inquire about other cultural, religious, social or athletic activities that the PRCUA is proud to offer to its member family.

If you know anyone who would like to become a Sales Representative for the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America and earn a very attractive commission, become a licensed agent and have ample opportunity to grow personally and professionally, please contact Robert Fattore, Director of Sales: [robert-fattore@prcu.org](mailto:robert-fattore@prcu.org) or 1-800-772-8632 ext. 2631.


If you have any ideas or suggestions regarding where PRCUA should advertise, where we should send the *Narod Polski* publication, or which groups we should contact, please contact Agnes Bastrzyk, Director of Marketing: [agnieszka-bastrzyk@prcu.org](mailto:agnieszka-bastrzyk@prcu.org) or 1-800-772-8632 ext. 2632.

PRCUA PAYING 3% ANNUITY INTEREST

Don't settle for a lower interest rate...  
put your money to work for you with  
the best possible interest rate!

Effective as of October 1, 2011, the new Annual Percentage Yields (APYs) for the PRCUA annuity portfolio will be as follows:			
ANNUITY	PORTFOLIO SERIES		
ACCUMULATION VALUE	MILLENNIUM	CLASSIC	PREFERRED
\$ 300.00 - and above	3.000%	3.000%	3.000%
Note: The above APYs could change with market conditions in the future. Present conditions in the world financial markets dictate this change. Please visit <a href="http://www.prcua.org/annuity">www.prcua.org/annuity</a> to keep posted on the current PRCUA annuity APYs.			

PRCUA offers low-interest  
Educational Loans



to PRCUA members, who are attending an  
accredited college, and to graduate students.

For more information go to:  
[www.prcua.org/benefits/educationalloan.htm](http://www.prcua.org/benefits/educationalloan.htm)



Receive a  
FREE  
PRCUA  
ORNAMENT,  
a cuddly little  
TEDDY BEAR  
and be eligible  
to WIN an  
Apple iPod  
Shuffle!



WOW! FREE GIFTS!

From November 1, 2011 through December 23, 2011, each applicant for PRCUA life insurance will receive a lovely Christmas tree ornament with the logo of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America on it. Those applying for life insurance for children under age 16 will also receive an "I ♥ PRCUA" teddy bear named "Buttercup." (See photo below.)

Each person applying for life insurance during this period will also be entitled to have their name entered into a raffle to win an Apple iPod Shuffle, a digital audio player with flash memory. It is designed to be easily loaded with music that you specifically select. The music can be played in random order. With this device, you can listen to all your favorite music - anytime and anywhere you like. It can hold up to 2-GB of music and has a 15-hour battery life before recharging.

The drawing for the iPod Shuffle will occur on December 27, 2011. Visit our website at [www.PRCUA.org](http://www.PRCUA.org) on December 27th to find out who won! The winner will also be announced in *Narod Polski*.

**Qualifying life insurance applications will also receive a 10% annual discount on premiums.** Applications must be for permanent whole life insurance certificates (other than Single Premium Whole Life). A minimum amount of \$5,000 of life insurance must be purchased.

This discount can also be applied to the Family Plus Life Insurance Special! **You can take advantage of both PRCUA offers and get a total annual discount of 20% for each family member!**

The Family Special minimum of \$10,000 of life insurance must be purchased. At least two family members must apply to qualify for the Family Special (see [www.PRCUA.org/specials](http://www.PRCUA.org/specials)).

To find your local PRCUA Sales Representative, go to [www.PRCUA.org/agents](http://www.PRCUA.org/agents) or contact the PRCUA Membership Department toll-free at 1-800-772-8632 with any questions or to apply!





## COLORING CONTEST WINNERS - 2011

Each year the PRCUA Fraternal Department sponsors a coloring contest in "October -Polish American Heritage Month" for PRCUA Juvenile members. The subject of this year's contest was "Tadeusz Kosciuszko (1746-1817)." We paid tribute to this Polish and American hero on the 265th Anniversary of his birth.

Congratulations to all the winners and "Thank You" to all the members who entered the contest. The entries were judged by PRCUA officers and employees. We received 182 entries. Each winner will receive an age-appropriate gift.

### AGE CATEGORY 3 - 5 YEARS

1. Elena DelCotto - Redford, MI (Tatry Dance Ensemble) - Soc. #1413 - age 3
2. Klaudia Nawrocki - Lansing, IL - Soc. #1579 - age 4
3. Iris Allen - Wyandotte, MI (Rogalin Dance Ensemble) - Soc. #162 - age 4

### AGE CATEGORY 6 -8-YEARS

1. Victoria Dawidowicz - Macomb, MI (Zajaczek Dance Ensemble)-Soc.# 1618 - age 8
2. Jakub Wasniewski - Clarkston, MI (Mala Polska Ensemble) - Soc. #1593 - age 8
3. Evelyn Matson - Griffith, IN (Kalinowski Polish Language School) Soc. #693 - age 6

### AGE CATEGORY 9-11 YEARS

1. Daniel Koehler - Clarkston, MI (Zajaczek Dance Ensemble) Soc. #1618 - age 10
2. Brian Augustynski - Munster, IN (Kalinowski Polish Lang. School) Soc. #234 - age 10
3. Adam Wasniewski - Orion Twp., MI (Mala Polska Ensemble) Soc. #1593 - age - 11

### AGE CATEGORY 12-15

1. Tomasz Lugowski - Chicago, IL Soc. #1616 - age 15
2. Emily Matson - Griffith, IN (Kalinowski Polish Language School) Soc. #693 - age 15
3. Yvonne Lewsley - Shelby Twp., MI (Zajaczek Dance Ensemble) Soc. #1593 - age 15

### AGE CATEGORY 16-18

1. Andrew Koehler - Clarkston, MI (Zajaczek Dance Ensemble) - Soc. #1618 - age 17
2. Alexandra Griem - Sterling Hts., MI (Halka Dance Ensemble) - Soc. #261 - age 17
3. Kaitlyn Johns - Clinton Township, MI (Opole Dance Ensemble) Soc. #1593 - age 16

*Submitted by Anna Sokolowski, PRCUA Resident Vice President*



*Judging the contest - (Left) President Joseph A. Drobot, Jr.  
(Right) President Drobot in the distance, Claudine Wicker, Secretary-Treasurer James Robaczewski, Managing Editor Lidia Kowalewicz and Danuta Czajkowska*



## Christmas Freebies from Your Fraternal Department

As a fraternal benefit, the PRCUA is offering to our members a free **Christmas Carol Pamphlet** with the words to 11 English and 10 Polish Christmas carols. To receive yours, call the Fraternal Dept. at 1-800-772-8632 Ext. 2601.

Also available is the beautiful keepsake booklet **Polish Christmas Customs, Carols and Cuisine** in full color. It includes traditional Polish Christmas customs, information on Wigilia (the traditional Christmas Eve meatless meal), 15 recipes for foods served at Wigilia, and the words to 17 English and 15 Polish Christmas carols. The booklet is FREE to members, but postage is \$1.50 for the first booklet and 50¢ for each additional booklet. Or members can pick up the booklets at our Philadelphia or Chicago offices. →

## NEWS FROM POPE JOHN PAUL II PRCUA SOCIETY #1593



*PRCUA Michigan members support the Polish Central Citizen Committee Pulaski Dinner honoring PRCUA Michigan activists*

On Sunday, October 16 the Polish American Central Citizens Committee held its annual "Pulaski Awards Banquet" honoring Polonia Civic leaders for their contributions in the Polish American Community in Michigan. There were a large number of PRCUA members who attended this annual event. Two of the eight recipients were members of Pope John Paul II Society #1593- Christopher Ozog and Stefan Zmuda.

Christopher Ozog, son of President Emeritus Wallace Ozog and his wife, Joann, is National PRCUA Director of District 10. He is the Sports Director for Pope John Paul II Society and has chaired Youth Bowling in Michigan and many PRCUA National Basketball and Softball Tournaments over the years. He is in charge of the website: [Detroit.Polonia@PRCUA.org](mailto:Detroit.Polonia@PRCUA.org), which advertises the many Polonian events being held in Michigan.

Christopher has been involved in Polish dancing since he was five years old and is presently a member of the PRCUA Zakopane Folk Ensemble. He has been brought up with an emphasis on his Polish heritage from a very early age, when he attended many dinners, festivals, parades and events with his parents. He also has participated in many art contests.

Stefan Zmuda is the founding member of the American Polish Cultural Center located in Troy Michigan. Mr. Zmuda is also the Director of the *Polonez Choir*.

We congratulate both of our members for their involvement in the Polish American community and may they inspire young and old alike to be proud of their heritage and to get involved.

\* \* \*

On Friday, November 4, Pope John Paul II Society's President, Wally Ozog and his wife Joann, attended the opening of the renovated Art Gallery at the Polish Museum of America (now renamed "Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak" Art Gallery). After about four years of the Art Gallery being closed, it finally reopened due to the generosity of Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak and many other donors.

Several years ago, Joann Ozog, then PRCUA 1st Lady, appealed to her friends in Michigan (Michigan Friends) to donate towards this renovation. Through their generosity \$10,000.00 was collected for this very worthwhile project. The Gallery has many old and beautiful pieces of artwork on display that have been hidden for several years. Although the Art Gallery is on the fourth floor, it is handicapped accessible due to a very generous individual who paid for a chairlift that accommodates a person and a wheelchair. When you are in Chicago, be sure you visit the Polish Museum and its newly renovated Art Gallery and also look for the "Michigan Friends" plate on the Benefactor Board.

Officers and members of Pope John Paul II Society extend wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 2012 be filled with love, good health and happiness.

*Written and submitted by Joann Ozog*

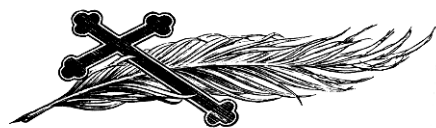
PRCUA is also offering the **Our Polish Ancestors Coloring Book** to members. It features life as it was for Poles in the 19th century. It is FREE to members but postage is \$1.50 per book and 50¢ for each additional book or members can pick up the books at the Philadelphia or Chicago offices.

To order, indicate the book(s) you want and the quantity and send a check made payable to PRCUA and mail to:

**PRCUA Fraternal Dept.  
984 N. Milwaukee Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60642-4101**



*Brothers  
and Sisters*



<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SOC. STATE</u>			
ADAMKIEWICZ, MARTHA	657	IL	MALANOWSKI, ANNA	1122 NY
ANGIELCZYK, MARIE	1545	NY	MAZUR, MICHAEL	540 NY
BOYD, JEROME	308	IL	NAGORNY, ALEKSANDRA	2220 OH
CYBULSKI, WALTER	899	MA	OGONOWSKI, LEONARD	977 OH
DECATO, CATHERINE	506	OH	OLSZANOWSKI, BERNARD	2001 PA
DOBROGOST, STEPHEN	2227	MI	ORZEL, RONALD	1579 IL
DOUGHERTY, MARY	111	NY	PIECUCH, SOPHIE	549 MA
DUDZIK, JOSEPH	2308	WI	POLLACK, MARYANNA	213 WV
ELLIS, RICHARD	522	OH	POTOCKI, ROSE	122 IL
ENGLE, VICTORIA	1000	IL	PRUCHNICKI, DANIEL	2100 OH
FERET, MARIANNE	33	IL	SACKA, MARY	162 MI
FRONCZAK, STELLA	308	IL	SAK, CHESTER	549 MA
GASKA, MARIANNA	678	PA	SCIULLI, THERESE	835 PA
GORELL, WALTER	849	IL	SLOMSKI, JOHN	240 PA
GORSKI, RAYMOND	2320	WI	SMIGIEL, FRANK	1000 IL
GRUCEL, ANGELINE	849	IL	SOBCZAK, REGINA	2320 WI
HELFELDT, BERNICE	540	NY	STANEK, WILLIAM	397 IL
HOTELLING, PHYLLIS	2320	WI	STROYNY, ANN	2303 WI
JABLONKA, JEAN	211	NY	STUDENT, VERNA	247 IL
JACKULSKI, ANNA	2227	MI	SWIDKIEWICZ, ZYGMUNT	337 IN
JANKOWSKI, BERNICE	2102	OH	THOMPSON, GEORGETTA	1000 IL
JASIN, HELEN	709	OH	TOMASIEWICZ, ANN	817 WI
JOZWIAK, CHARLOTTE	479 & 2291	PA	TYMOWICZ, SOPHIE	658 MA
KRZYZNOWSKI, MARIE	994	IL	URBANCZYK, HELEN	370 IL
LABAK, ROSE	179	IL	VISNIC, KATHERINE	1000 IL
LANGELAN, SEVERINE	1198	MD	WASILEWSKI, ARLENE	1000 IL
LEACH, GLADYS	597	CT	WISNIEWSKI, JUNE	2053 PA
MADAJ, FLORIAN	1580	IL	ZALEWSKI, ANTOIN	602 NE
			ZITKUS, ELIZABETH	31 IL

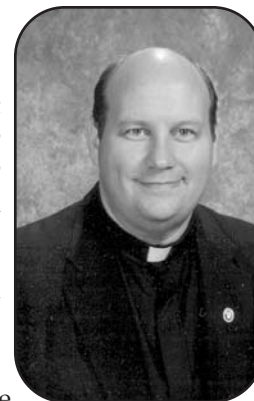
## Bernice A. Hyatt Passed Away



A Mass of Christian Burial was held at the Chapel of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago in Lemont, IL. She was interred in Resurrection Cemetery. May dear Bernice be blessed a hundredfold for all the good she did in life and may she rest in eternal peace in God's loving arms.



# A *Christ* Centered Christmas



P.S. From July 16th - 28, 2012, I will be leading my 15th Pilgrimage to Poland. If you are interested in going with me, please contact me for all the details at: Fr. Walter Ptak, 976 Pope John Paul II Avenue Wyandotte, MI 48192.



# Naród Polski

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(Polish language)

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[info@prcu.org](mailto:info@prcu.org)

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## Dedication of the PMA's Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall



*Sabina's niece Marge Kozak speaking as family members gather around the portrait of Sabina Logisz in the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall of the PMA*

The Polish Museum of America, in Chicago, held the dedication of the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall on Sunday, November 6, 2011.

Sabina Phyllis Logisz, a lifetime Northwest Side Chicagoan and an icon in the Polish American Community, was born on November 10, 1916. She was the daughter of Polish immigrants Bronislawa and Roman Logisz. One of seven children, she graduated from St. Hedwig Grammar School and Holy Family Academy and received her Associate Bachelor of Arts degree from Wilbur Wright College. Ms. Logisz passed away of natural causes on November 9, 2010, one day short of her 94th birthday.

She mastered the intricacies of the Polish language despite never having been to Poland. She was also proficient in French, Latin, and Russian. She dreamed of pursuing a modeling career, but her professional travels veered in another direction. Sabina's lifelong association with the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA) began during her early childhood school days and lasted until her retirement in 2002.

In December of 1936, her enthusiastic interest in the newly founded Polish Museum of America (PMA), led to a 74-year "love affair" with the Museum. From 1936 until 1948, Sabina used her organizational skills to assist Mieczyslaw Haiman, the first curator of the PMA, in organizing its archival materials. After his death in 1949, she fulfilled the duties of curator and successfully secured more space for the Museum's growing collections. In 1958, PRCUA President Stanislaus Turkiewicz requested that Ms. Logisz become his secretary, a post she held for 23 years for several PRCUA presidents.

In 1979, Sabina - along with PMA member Walter Sojka - engineered the financial success of the Museum's first and biggest fundraiser, the "Annual Summer Ball." Additionally, from 1968 to 1989, Ms. Logisz wrote an English-language column, "Sabina's See Saw," for the PRCUA's publication, *Narod Polski*.

Even though Sabina was offered the position of Executive Editor of *Narod Polski* in 1981, she chose to become part of the Museum library staff. This gave her the opportunity to use her extensive English-language editorial skills in preparing the publication of *Autograph Letters of Thaddeus Kosciuszko in the American Revolution* (1977) and the re-issuing of Haiman's *Polish Past in America* (1991).

During her 23-year tenure with the PMA Library and her 66-year affiliation with the PRCUA, Sabina served as the PMA's secretary, editor, museologist, cataloger of books, an English language instructor to numerous library employees, and the liaison between the Library and Chicago's Polonia community, as well as to all who entered its doors. She gave presentations about General Casimir Pulaski in various Chicago public schools. For decades, Ms. Logisz assisted scholars in their research, as she was the "heart" of the library and its "living encyclopedia" of archival information. If a researcher needed a resource and if the Museum library had it, Sabina knew exactly where to locate it.

Ms. Logisz was an active member of many educational, social, and philanthropic organizations including the Polish American Historical Association and the Polish Arts Club of Chicago. She was a member of the Legion of Young Polish Women and of the Auxiliary of St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital. Ms. Logisz received numerous awards for her contributions to Polonia. In 1976, the Polish American Scholarship Fund named her "Woman of the Year"; and, in 1990, she was awarded the *Officer's Cross of Polonia Restituta* for publishing material on Polish culture. In 1998, the Minister of Culture and Arts of the Republic of Poland presented Ms. Logisz with the award for Meritorious Service to Polish Culture. In September of 2007, Ms. Logisz received, from the Republic of Poland, the highest cultural award given outside of Poland, the *Golden Gloria Artis*. Sabina Logisz is listed in *The World Who's Who of Women*, was honored by Mayor Richard M. Daley for her contributions to Chicago Polonia, by Cook County Treasurer, Maria Pappas, and was featured on Harry Porterfield's and WLS-TV Channel 7's "Someone You Should Know."

*(Written by Dr. Geraldine Balut Coleman,  
with additional material provided by Maria Ciesla)*

## 2012 Diamond Anniversary Bowling Tournament in Buffalo

Patrick Kosowski, PRCUA Bowling Tournament Director, is excited to announce that the 75th National PRCUA Bowling Tournament will be held in Buffalo, NY on April 20-22, 2012. All current PRCUA members are invited and encouraged to participate in this special fraternal event. Tournament host, Past Director of District #2 Bill Nowakowski, and his team from District 2, are busy planning a great tournament experience for all at what will be the DIAMOND (75TH) ANNIVERSARY BOWLING TOURNAMENT for the PRCUA.



*Patrick Kosowski - National  
PRCUA Bowling  
Tournament Director*

The Bowling Tournament will be held at AMF THRUWAY LANES located at 1550 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga, NY. The singles/doubles portion of the tournament will take place on Friday - April 20th and Sunday - April 22nd. The team event will take place on Saturday - April 21st. Entry forms for the tournament will be mailed to past participants and be made available online through the PRCUA website in the near future.

The host hotel is the **Holiday Inn at Buffalo Airport**, 4600 Genesee Street, Buffalo, NY 1422. The PRCUA has secured a rate of \$99 for single/double occupancy and \$109 for triple/quad occupancy. To reserve a room, contact the hotel at **(716) 634-6969** and ask for the PRCUA group code rate. Room rates are guaranteed through March 8th, so be sure to call and reserve your room soon.

Please look for updated tournament news in upcoming editions of *Narod Polski*, as well as online at [www.prcua.org](http://www.prcua.org).

*By Patrick Kosowski - National Bowling Tournament Director*

## 2012 PRCUA National Tournaments

### 78th PRCUA National Basketball Tournament

**March 24, 2012 in East Chicago, Indiana**  
Hosted by Our Lady Queen of Poland  
Society #413  
Rich Sobilo, Chairman



**75th PRCUA National Bowling Tournament**  
**April 20-22, 2012 in Buffalo, NY**  
Hosted by District # 2  
William Nowakowski, Chairman



**60th PRCUA Golf Tournament**  
**July 21, 2012 in Toledo, Ohio**  
Hosted by District # 5



**58th PRCUA National Softball Tournament**  
**August 18, 2012**  
**(tentatively in Big Rapids, Michigan)**  
Hosted by St. Rita's Soc. #1368  
Jerry Lubiarsz, Chairman



## Looking through the Window...

by Resident Vice President Anna Sokolowski



Dear Readers,

The Christmas season is just around the corner with so many things to be excited about. The season of Advent has begun, which is the time to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Advent is our opportunity to pray and reflect on what Jesus' coming means to us, and to develop a new relationship with Jesus so He can remain part of our family life after Christmas is over. At Christmas time we like to give gifts. In these uncertain economic times, it is more important than ever to give to those in need. The spirit of giving is very fulfilling. The value of the gift does not matter; it is the thought of giving that provides the fulfillment. So let's remember the less fortunate. Instead of spending "fortunes" on gifts for our families, why not warm the hearts of those in need, just like Christ would do? Do some research in your community or parish and pick one family that is having a rough time making ends meet. Contact them directly and donate the amount you would have spent for a gift for an individual or donate canned goods to the local food pantry. You can also volunteer your time - involve your children and grandchildren - at your favorite charity or your parish to help with packing and distribution of Christmas gifts or meals. This would be an excellent opportunity to show your children and grandchildren the importance of giving and showing love by sharing with others. May the Christmas season bring you all a time of joy and giving. I do hope that we all will have a Wonderful, Christ-filled Christmas!

Let me share with you some of the events that occurred during the last several weeks.

The Polish Museum of America held its Annual Volunteer Appreciation Evening on Friday, October 7 to thank and honor all volunteers, who selflessly gave of their time, talents, knowledge and energy to the PMA in the past year. This is always a somewhat humbling event and during the rose-presentation we got to hear about the PMA volunteers' accomplishments. Many of the PMA events and programs would not be possible without the volunteers who donated their time and efforts throughout the year. After the ceremony, the much appreciated volunteers had a chance to visit with other volunteers and meet new ones, take photos, eat delicious food served by Kasia's Deli and do interviews for the local media. A special THANK YOU goes to all of the PRCUA employees who volunteered their time at the PMA.

On Saturday, Oct. 8, the Southwest Center of Polish Dancing held its Annual Fall Dinner Dance in beautiful Camelot Banquet Hall. After a brief reception and welcoming speech by the SWCPD School Director Ania Kraszewski, the night was filled with far too much food and a packed dance floor. Soon men loosened their ties and high-heeled shoes were replaced by bare feet as the "Boogie Band" got louder and the dancing got more exhilarating. Thanks go to Ania Kraszewski and the staff who planned the event, who worked so hard to put this memorable fundraising evening together. I should not forget Dan and Annette Nowakowski who decorated the tables with a nature-inspired Fall color scheme of vibrant yellows, deep reds, burnt orange and green leaves made into bouquets which were placed inside beautifully-carved pumpkins.

On Monday, Oct. 24, Mrs. Bozena Matynia, wife of Consul General of RP organized a meeting, tour of the PMA and luncheon for the First Ladies of various world Consulate offices that are located in the Chicago area. Thank you to the PRCUA employees - Mary Jane Robles and Kasia Budzyn - for helping and making sure that the luncheon ran smoothly.

The Polish American Congress National Directors meeting was held in Pittsburgh, PA on October 27 and 28. Their special guest from Poland was Longin Komolowski, President of the Polish Community Association (*Wspolnota Polska*.) Among many topics discussed, the two main ones were Poles in Lithuania and Visa Waiver. Hon. Komolowski addressed the deteriorating situation in Lithuania, which lately has evolved into open discrimination of its Polish minority. The PAC urged the government of United States, and the Republic of Poland, as well as the European Commission, to take necessary actions to protect and defend basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Polish minority in Lithuania. But the main topic was the Visa Waiver Program and how important it is for Polish Americans to be in touch with our legislators on this subject. Sample letters that you can write to your legislators and a petition to sign in favor of the House and Senate Bills on this matter can be found at the PAC website: [www.pac1944.org](http://www.pac1944.org). Please help to make sure that this bill will be passed. (Please also read President Drobot's front page article on this subject in the November, 2011 issue of *Narod Polski*).

In the evening, a banquet was held at which the acclaimed film producer and director Piotr Uzarowicz was honored. Later, PAC President Frank Spula, bestowed the Distinguished Service Award upon Piotr Uzarowicz for his artistic achievements and especially for bringing the truth about the Katyn massacre to audiences worldwide in his movie. After the award ceremony and dinner, the audience was able to meet with Piotr and later attended a screening of his film "The Officer's Wife". Afterwards, the audience was able to ask questions concerning this deeply moving and historical film. We congratulate Piotr Uzarowicz on his well-deserved award.

The next day, Saturday, the PRCUA Executive Officers with Agnieszka Bastrzyk, Director of Marketing, held a Town Hall Meeting for our District 3 Pittsburgh area members and friends. Unfortunately due to bad weather, not many attended, but those who did had an opportunity to ask questions about our organization, application procedures, various plans of insurance and annuities offered by the PRCUA. We thank everyone who attended and hope to hear from you soon.

In the past several years the PRCUA Home Office employees have taken part in a Pumpkin Painting Competition. Thank you so much to all of our employees who took the time (before or after work hours) to participate in this annual event. All the pumpkins were awesome and very original. The best part was seeing all the fun everyone had with the contest. After a very difficult decision, the Executive Officers chose the General Office as the winner. Congratulations. Thanks to all who participated.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** We are proud to announce that Cecylia Roznowska, an artistic choreographer of the POLONIA Song and Dance Ensemble, was awarded by the



Cecylia Roznowska and Halina Misterka

Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage a silver medal - Distinguished Culture - *Gloria Artis* (*Zasluzony Kulturze - Gloria Artis Medal*) for her outstanding artistic achievements and promotion of Polish folk dancing, traditions and culture in United States. Cecylia Roznowska celebrates 55 years of her artistic career this year. Our sincere congratulations and best wishes always!

Congratulations are also in order for Halina Misterka, PMA Archivist and an Artistic Dance Director of the Lajkonik Song and Dance Ensemble, who was awarded by the Polish Government the Gold Cross of Merit (Zloty Krzyz Zaslugi) for her service to Polonia. The presentation took place at the Polish Independence Day Ceremonies on Nov. 10, 2011 at the Polish Museum of America.

The

Cinderella -

Prince Charming

Ball was held on

November 18th.,

sponsored by the

M. Konopnicka

Adult Culture

Group in

Hickory Hills,

IL. Congratu-

lations to the

PRCUA's 2012

Cinderella Sylvia

Kupiec and

Runner-Up

Kimberly

Michelle

Skrzypiec, 2012

Prince Charming

Pawel Michal

Cwyl and

Runner-Up

Timothy Adam Eckert.



PRCUA royal couples and the Cinderella-Prince Charming Ball Candidates

**CONDOLENCES** - Condolences are extended to the family of Bernice Hyatt who passed away on Nov. 10, 2011. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bernice, her family and friends. May she rest in eternal peace.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** - Happy Birthday to all with birthdays in December: PRCUA President Joseph A. Drobot, Jr.; PRCUA Directors Joanne Zajac (D3); Richard Turkiewicz (D4); also Dolores Spejewski (Past Res.VP); Echoes of Poland Artistic Dir. Paulina Ortyl; Polanie Choreographer Renee Bober; past PRCUA employees Diane Saczynski and Jenny Crissey. Very special Happy Birthday to our daughter, Basia, who will be celebrating her birthday on Christmas Day. "Dearest Basia - we wish you a happy birthday and may God bless you and keep you happy always! May you continue to brighten our lives with joy and happiness. We love you very much and we are so proud that you are our daughter!"

Happy Birthday and Sto Lat to all who are celebrating birthdays in January, especially PRCUA employees: Robert Kowalski, print shop; Martha Madro, general office; and Nicole Derezinski, part-time assistant to Marketing and Sales; as well as PRCUA National Directors Krystyna Lech (D8); Marsha Mikuszewski (D1); Zajaczek Director Colleen Bonkowski and dance teacher Rachel Kasperek; Opole Director Elizabeth Thacker; past PRCUA employee Alice Robaczewski; past National Directors Barbara Toboy (D10) and Lillian Stempinski (D7); Julius Szymczyk, Walter Gibala, Eleanor Bielenda, Walter Szarowicz, Barbara Pawlowski, Elizabeth Dynowski, Irena Gavaghan, Bolek Bogun, Krysta Pokorny and Sto Lat and many happy returns to all! Hope that all of you have a great birthday filled with lots of LOVE!

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY** - Best wishes and Happy Wedding Anniversary to Maria and Richard Ciesla, who will celebrate during the Christmas Season. May God bless your love with care and warmth. We wish you happy days ahead, filled with togetherness and love. Congratulations!

**THANK YOU** - On a personal note, I would like to thank all PRCUA and PMA employees for remembering me on "Boss's Day". Your thoughtfulness, generous gift, card and good wishes are greatly appreciated. Thank you again! Also I would like to thank the Polish Teachers Association of America for a Recognition Award that I received at a recent Teachers Appreciation Luncheon. I am so honored to have been selected for the award. You are so gracious to recognize my work in this way. Your Award is much appreciated as are all the wonderful praises that you have bestowed upon me.

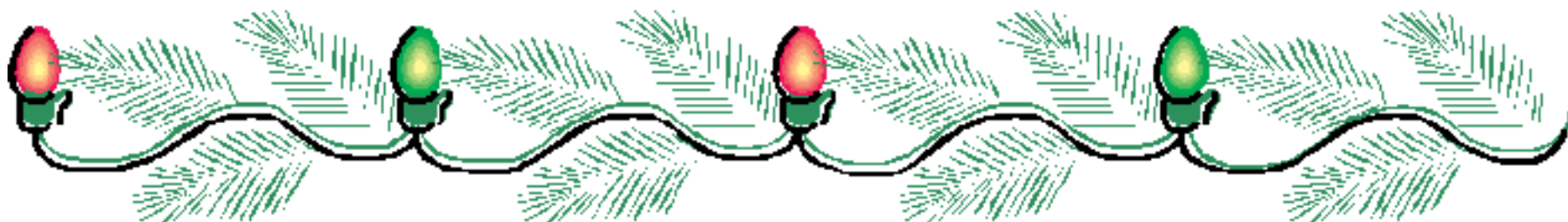
**GREETINGS** - Merry Christmas from our home to yours! May your Christmas be filled with warmth of affection, laughter, many memories, and lots of fun, health, peace and joy! Wishing you all a wonderful and magical Christmas season.

Happy, healthy and blessed New Year to all of you! Please write to me at: [fraternal.department@prcu.org](mailto:fraternal.department@prcu.org) or call 1-800-772-8632 or send letters to: **Fraternal Department, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60642.** Check out PRCUA on Facebook. (See more photos on [www.prcua.org](http://www.prcua.org).)





# PHILADELPHIA NEWSY-NEWS



(Member's names are in capitals.)

**SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS** - "Sing a song of Birthdays full of fun and cheer, may you keep on having them for many a happy year". A special someone celebrated a special Birthday on December 2, 2011. Happy Birthday to PRCUA District 3 Director JOANNE ZAJAC. We hope it was a day filled with bright balloons, confetti and yummy cake, and one that you will always remember. From us to you, JOANNE, enjoy the first day of another 365 day journey around the sun. Sto Lat.

**1 BIRTHDAY CANDLE** - Sweets and treats and lots of fun, that's what happens when you turn 1. Happy 1st Birthday to SOCIETY 2015's KENNEDY ROSE QUINN of Reading, Massachusetts who celebrated her 1st Birthday on November 24th. Besides blowing out her first birthday candle at home in Massachusetts, KENNEDY had a pre-birthday celebration while family and friends were visiting in Philadelphia before Thanksgiving. Sweet little KENNEDY is the daughter of SEAN (Ashley) and sister of CORSON, nephew of KELLY (John) GEARY, cousin of HANNAH, CONLAN AND THOMAS GEARY and the precious granddaughter of SHARON \and ED QUINN all members of SOCIETY 2015.



*Kennedy Rose Quinn is one!*



*Josephine Strenchock*

**HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES** - SOCIETY 2031 mourns the loss of JOSEPHINE STRENCHOCK who passed away on November 8, 2011. She served as the Vice-President (of UPWA Group 39) from 1984 to 1985 and has been President since 1985. From 1989 to 1993, JOSEPHINE was a member of the Union of Polish Women in America Executive Board where she served as a Director. She is survived by her son, PETER B. STRENCHOCK and by her daughters, DIANE STINE, JOSETTA GALETZ AND ANNA THOMAS, her sister, MARIE VINSKI, eight grandchildren, three great grandchildren and nieces and nephews. All her children, grandchildren and her sister are members of SOCIETY 2031. A private memorial service was held on November 14th with interment at Our Lady

of Siluva Cemetery in the Englewood section of Frackville, PA. Our thoughts are with the entire STRENCHOCK Family during this journey of grief. May you all find courage for the road ahead and may the departed soul of JOSEPHINE STRENCHOCK rest in Eternal Peace.

**WE'RE SO GRATEFUL** - We appreciate the efforts of everyone saving the aluminum tabs which benefit the sick children and their families at the Ronald McDonald House. Thank you to our Thompson Street neighbor, Joe Shewaski and to our members JOHN ZELL of SOCIETY 2001, IRENE OLKOWSKI of SOCIETY 2013 and THERESA ROMANOWSKI of SOCIETY 2040 for dropping off the tabs at the Philadelphia Satellite Office. District 3 Director JOANNE ZAJAC'S project is still in full swing, so we urge our members and friends to continue to save those tabs.

**LOOKING FOR THAT PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT?** - For that special someone in your life who has everything, why not consider Life Insurance with PRCUA. Now is the time to take advantage of the PRCUA Christmas Life Insurance Promotion which is currently being offered until December 23rd. **You can realize a 10% annual discount on the premium for a Permanent Whole Life Insurance Certificate other than a Single Premium.** Each applicant will receive a PRCUA ornament and in addition, if you are applying

for Life Insurance for children under the age of 16, you will receive an adorable PRCUA teddy bear named *Buttercup*. At the same time, the insured will be entered in a raffle for an Apple iPod Shuffle and the drawing will take place on December 27, 2010. How exciting this promotion is! Don't wait until it is too late, stop by the Philadelphia Satellite Office and give us an opportunity to be of service to you.



We'll treat you to a delicious candy cane and we'll be ever so happy to explain our various plans of Life Insurance. We hope to see you real soon.

**JOY TO THE WORLD** - Amid bright lights, decorations galore, candy canes and sugar plums, Christmas tunes and meeting smile after smile, how can this not be the happiest season of all and the best time of the year? Here's wishing you every Blessing as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. May peace and joy be your gifts at Christmas and may faith, hope and love be your treasures in the New Year. To National PRCUA President, JOSEPH A. DROBOT, JR. and First Lady JUDY DROBOT, PRCUA Executive Board Officers and Directors, fellow co-workers at the home office and to each and every one of you, we wish you everything beautiful that can be wished. Enjoy the magic and wonder of the Holiday Season. Merry Christmas - Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF SOC. 2002** - Taking advantage of the Family Special in September, Yuri Rosypal, and his wife, Carmen Michelle (Spinney) Rosypal joined Soc. 2002. The couple, who recently celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary, live in Beech Creek, PA with their three children Willow, Oakton and Acer. Yuri is the son of Narod Polski Executive Editor Kathryn Rosypal. We warmly welcome them to Society #2002.

**IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME IN THE CITY** - as we come to the end of 2011, it's been said that every day may not be good but there's something good in every day. Happy Holidays!

*Elaine, PRCUA Philadelphia Satellite Office*



## PA Property Tax / Rent Rebate Must Be Filed by December 31st

To help with the rising cost of living, you are reminded that the Pennsylvania Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is still accepting applications. There are new guidelines which will permit individuals who qualify to receive a rebate between \$250 and \$650 from property taxes or rent paid last year. Funding for this rebate program is made possible from the Pennsylvania State Lottery Fund.

Applicants should note that no lien or judgment is placed against their property, nor will this rebate ever have to be repaid. To qualify, you must be a senior citizen 65 years of age or older, a widow or widower 50 years of age or older, or a disabled person 18 years or older. Homeowners that have annual incomes of \$35,000 or less and renters with annual incomes of \$15,000 or less could qualify. The good news is that only half of your annual Social Security or SSI income is counted toward the income guideline. This application must be filed by December 31, 2010. For more information or an application call "PASS", Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at (215) 923-1900. All inquiries are confidential and services are provided free of charge.



## St. Raphael Kalinowski Polish School Welcomed First Graders



One of the first graders displays his work

On October 22nd, 2011, PRCUA St. Raphael Kalinowski Polish Language School in Munster, IN, officially welcomed the new 1st graders in a special celebration called "Pasowanie na Ucznia" (Initiation into Learning). It was a very special day for our whole school community. Eleven 1st graders: Patrycja Balys, Maya Firlej, David Gibek, Kuba Moneta, Anna Nawrot, Dominik Orciuch, Anna Raycroft, Angelica Rzeznikowski, Monika Swiatko, Alexander Williams and Nicholas Williams were preparing for this day since Preschool! Finally, they were going to be "real" students! They were happy with excitement.

After listening to the words of the Polish National Anthem, our 1st graders and all invited guests were welcomed by 4th graders, Julia Fezatt and Natalia Makarewicz, to witness the new students' first exam. They wanted to make sure that the new first grade students were truly ready for the great honor of starting school.

"How should you behave at school?", "What is Poland?", and "What is the Vistula?" were among the many questions all 1st graders needed to answer in order to pass the exam and become "true" students. They all passed with flying colors!

Mrs. Agnieszka Fezatt, the school Principal and lead teacher for 1st grade, led her students in an oath and nominated them to be "rightful students of the Polish School of St. Raphael Kalinowski." Vice President Anna Sokolowski from PRCUA congratulated the students for their hard work and encouraged them to continue to learn about this beautiful country of our ancestors, which is called Poland. We would like to thank our Parents, Teachers, Students and Polish organizations such as PRCUA, for the hard work, commitment and support given to our school. Only through these efforts are we able to continue to pass down the rich culture and language of Poland to our children.

## Polish Surname Reports

### Nowaks, Kowalskis & Wójciks in top 10

If you have ever wondered why you encounter Nowak (newcomer), Kowalski (blacksmith's son) and Wójcik (village mayor's boy) more often than other Polish last names, the answer is simple. Those are Poland's and Polonia's most popular surnames.

For a custom-researched analysis of the meaning and derivation of your Polish surname, how many people use it, where they live and whether it is accompanied by a noble coat-of-arms, please airmail a \$19 check (adding \$10 for each additional surname you wish researched) to:

**Robert Strybel**  
ulica Kaniowska 24  
01-529 Warsaw, Poland

If a coat of arms is found, you will receive a color illustration. Also included is a genealogical contact chart which has helped many people get started in research. The list includes professional genealogists who can check family records, photograph or videotape ancestral homesteads and graves and possibly turn up living long-lost relatives in Poland.

## Opening of the Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak Art Gallery at the Polish Museum

The Art Gallery on the 4th floor of the Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago, IL has undergone extensive renovation this year and the most valuable paintings have been conserved. This was possible thanks to the generosity of Stephen Kusmierczak Jr., a successful Chicago investor with Polish roots, a graduate of Princeton University, and a Fellow of the Kosciuszko Foundation at Jagiellonian University.

The Gallery is named in the honor of the major benefactor's mother and his late father. Additional finances for this project were donated by Friends of the Museum from Michigan, "Wspolnota Polska" Association, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, and other donors - whose generosity enabled the opening on November 4, 2011 of this permanent exhibition of unique Polish art.

Among the artists featured are Stanislaw Szukalski, who collaborated with Salvador Dali and inspired H. R. Giger. Maria Werten taught illustrators from Walt Disney Studios. Jan Henryk Rosen decorated churches in Washington and Chicago. Polish artists - emigrants - found success in the United States. From amongst 42 artists, 48 works spanning the years 1901-1947 are presented in the Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak Art Gallery.

The works of these distinguished artists - the most abundant representation from the 1930s - show us the dominant trends in Polish art during the Interwar Period, receiving awards both in Poland and abroad. The world appreciated the freshness and originality, as well as the supreme workmanship. The years 1918-1939 were characterized by a variety of groups and artistic trends.

Olga Boznanska's *Madame Paris* exemplifies post-impressionism; Czeslaw Rzepinski painted in the manner of Polish colorism, as did Tymon Niesiolowski, who belonged to the Warsaw group, *Rytm*. Jan Zamoyski was connected with the artistic society, *Bractwo Sw. Lukasza*. Ludwik Tyrowicz was a member of the *Ryt Graphic Artist Association*. Andrzej Pronaszko represented formism. His simple stylistics, geometric slants, and influences of cubism brought him close to Art Deco, similar to that of Michal Rouba.

The paintings, sculptures, prints, and handicraft arts - originally presented at the Polish Pavilion at the World's Fair in New York in 1939-1940 - are the core of the art collection of the Polish Museum of America (PMA). The outbreak of World War II prohibited the return of the exhibits to Poland, and because of the agreements between Stefan Ropp, General Commissioner of the Polish Pavilion, Mieczyslaw Haiman, PMA Director, and Józef L. Kania, PRCUA President, some items came to Chicago in 1941. They were just part of the 11,000 objects that were originally transported from Poland to New York on the MS Batory and the MS Pilsudski in 1939. The impressive presentations at the Polish Pavilion and its spectacular success in the U.S.A. is best represented by the monumental stained glass, *Symbol Polski odrodzonej* [Symbol of Poland Reborn], designed by Mieczyslaw Jurgielewicz, and displayed in the PMA's Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall. It is one of the largest secular stained glass works in the USA. The Gallery displays a miniature stained glass by Alojzy Sawicki, which was also exhibited at the Honorary Hall of the Polish Pavilion.

A valuable source of the Interwar Period art at the PMA is the 1945 donation by Maria Werten, artist and promoter of Polish art in the United States. The expressive wooden sculptures from the Zakopane School, inspired by folklore, are interesting examples of Polish Art Deco, depicting the trend of defining a national style. The PMA hopes *Narod Polski* readers will make time to visit the new Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak Art Gallery.

A chairlift has also been installed at the PMA, making it possible - for the first time - for persons challenged by stairs to electronically move from the 3rd floor to the Art Gallery. Half of its cost came from a donation by Betty Uzarowicz and her family, in memory of her late husband Zbigniew O. Uzarowicz. The other half of the chairlift was paid for by general renovation donations. The chairlift installer, Home Mobility Solutions, Inc, Mike Cleary, President, donated an extra year on the warranty.



Opening of the Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak Art Gallery (l-r) Stephen Kusmierczak Jr. with his Mother Elizabeth (wife of the late Stephen Kusmierczak. Sr.), PMA Pres. Maria Ciesla, his brother Joe Kusmierczak, his sister, Melissa (Kusmierczak) Cromer and her son, Stephen Cromer



Felicia Krupinski trying out the chairlift to the Art Gallery, assisted by PMA Operations Manager Richard Kujawa



## A Pol-Am Christmas Story: Dziadzia's Last Oplatek

By Robert Strybel, Polish/Polonian Affairs Writer

Tony Zee is what they called him at Pittsburgh Plate Glass, where he had worked since coming to America. His real name was Anthony Zielinski, but to us he was known only as *Dziadzia*. Not only his 13 grandchildren called him that, but even his five kids had begun using that appellation once they had brought children of their own into the world. His wife of 49 years, who had died a decade earlier, had been born Jadwiga Mazur, but to us she was always just *Babcia* or *Busia*.

It's been quite a few years since Dziadzia left us and went on to his eternal reward, but that one Christmas we will always remember. After retiring, Dziadzia had continued living in the same modest house in Pittsburgh's Polish Hill section that he had called home since coming to America, and wouldn't think of moving. After Babcia died, he took on the tasks of preparing the Christmas Eve herring, soaked and ground the poppy seeds for "kluski z makiem" (poppyseed noodles) and made the mushroom soup, often using the dried mushrooms he had picked in the Pennsylvania woodlands in Fall. The girls of the family would prepare the rest, either at his place or bring it over from their homes.

But that Christmas he told us he wasn't feeling up to snuff, so all the Wigilia delicacies were "outsourced", as they say nowadays. As always, we all gathered at the old family homestead for Wigilia and everyone went out of their way to do things right. The grandkids trimmed the tree (Dziadzia had insisted it should not be set up and decorated before Christmas Eve), the girls bustled about in the kitchen and brother Steve fried the fish.

Everything was ready, the tree glittered with icicles, ornaments and some of those bubble-candle lights that used to be popular. The table was set to perfection - Babcia's best china, crystal goblets, a carafe filled with Dziadzia's golden miodówka (honey cordial) graced the snowy-white tablecloth, from which tufts of hay were seen protruding from beneath. Dziadzia was so happy to have his family around and surveyed the scene approvingly, but suddenly frowned: "A gdzie oplatek?" (Where's the oplatek?). Our kid sister, Angie, was supposed to bring it but forgot. Dziadzia made the saddest possible face, when someone suggested: "Maybe this year we can do without it."

Steve told Bill he would run out and pick up some at the parish, which was only a hop and a skip away, down Dobson Street. It took him an hour to get back. He looked a bit disheveled but none the worse for wear. Wigilia got off to a late start that year. As always, oplatek was shared, grace was said, and the fabulous 12-course meal followed. Then there was reminiscing about Christmases past, when we were all younger and Babcia was still alive. We sang koledy (carols), opened presents and reminisced some more.

Only later did we learn of Steve's ordeal. During Wigilia preparations, a freezing drizzle had glazed Polish Hill, so Steve had to walk to majestic Immaculate Heart of Mary Church using baby steps and holding on to whatever was available along the way. In spite of his caution, he slipped and fell, hit his head on a lamp-post and conked out.

He came to maybe 20 minutes later, continued his trek, got the oplatek and made it back. He didn't let on what had happened, knowing Dziadzia would feel responsible if he thought that his insistence on sharing oplatek had been to blame.

Steve felt it had been worth it, everything considered. That turned out to be Dziadzia's last Christmas with us. We have continued the Wigilia tradition, except that now we take turns holding it at the different suburban Pittsburgh venues we call home. And when we get together, the story of Dziadzia's last Christmas has become part of our family lore. Each year it is shared for the benefit of the younger set which wasn't around back then. And, oh yes, we always remember the oplatek!

## BEFORE CHRISTMAS TREES - GRAIN & HAY

By Robert Strybel, Polish/Polonian Affairs Writer



1850 Christmas tree at Windsor Castle from illustration in Godey's Ladies Book

The Christmas tree did not really take hold in Poland until around the mid-20th century. Earlier in the century it had gradually begun appearing in the manor houses of the gentry and in cities, but to a far lesser degree across Poland's vast countryside. Incidentally, for Poland the 1950s marked the height of Stalinist terror, which also aimed to do away with Christian Polish Christmas traditions.

The Christmas trees adorning public buildings, schools and state-owned stores were officially referred to as "choinka swiateczna" (holiday tree - sound familiar?) or "choinka noworoczna" (New Year's tree). Government printing plants churned out greetings cards proclaiming "Do siego Roku!" (Happy New Year) and "Wesołych Świąt!" (Happy Holidays), conveniently leaving out the key term "Bożego

Narodzenia" (Christ's birth - Christmas).

In the 19th and early 20th centuries the custom of decorating firs, spruces or pines came to Poland and many other countries from Germany. Queen Victoria's German-born husband, Prince Albert, is credited with setting up a Christmas tree at Buckingham Palace, which helped propagate the custom in Britain and America.

Centuries earlier in Poland, grain, hay and straw were considered the main Christmas accents. Sheaves of unthreshed grain were placed in the four corners of the manor house dining-room and the one-room peasant cottage alike. But while the gentry gradually gravitated towards more citified, foreign traditions, the agrarian accents endured far longer in the countryside. There, peasants tied sheaves to the table legs and scattered hay all over the floor in memory of the humble stable where Jesus was born. His hay-filled manger was symbolized by the hay strewn over the table-top before being covered with a pure-white table-cloth. Evergreen branches and sprigs were placed behind holy pictures or in vases.

The peasant cottages of yesteryear were scrubbed spic and span and often whitewashed before its walls were decorated with freshly made wycinanki or paper cut-outs. The procedure was the same at Easter time. The wycinanki usually sported geometric, floral or animal motifs rather than specifically Yuletide ones, but served to highlight the freshness and festive nature of the occasion.

Other festive decorations of the old peasant cottage were various types of folk mobiles, made of oplatek, paper, straw, feathers, etc. and suspended from the ceiling. Because of their wispieness and the fact that they waved in the breeze whenever anyone passed through the room, they were called "pajaki" (literally spiders) - an allusion to filigree cobwebs. Also, loops of strung dried white peas were used to form chandelier-type decorations resembling strings of pearls.

Our Polish ancestors would suspend an evergreen branch or the peak-side-down top of an evergreen from the rafters, often over the supper table. It was known in different parts of the country as "sad" (orchard) or "podlaznik" (creeper). It was usually decorated with home-spun straw, paper and eggshell ornaments, ribbons, fruit, nuts, gingerbread and marzipan confections. This simple, natural evergreen bough, which fills the rooms with a wonderful scent, is worth promoting at PolAm parties or parishes. And it is great for small apartments!

After the Christmas tree became popular in Poland, it was originally decorated with the same kind of homemade ornaments and edibles. Eventually store-bought decorations became commonplace, and in the inter-war period Poland became famous for its hand-blow and hand-painted ball-type glass ornaments. But these are quite pricey, so many folks had only one or two such masterpieces, with homemade decorations. Electric tree lights are now universal.

Like everyone else these days, Polish Americans are over-immersed in commercially pushed fads, trends and fashions. It might therefore be a refreshing change to occasionally fill your tree with homemade ornaments to recall some of the old customs of simpler times. Any Polonian Christmas function is an occasion to set up an old-style Wigilia tableau featuring the above mentioned grain sheaves, straw, hay, evergreen boughs and old-fashioned Christmas tree. Candle-shaped Christmas tree lights with yellowish, flame-imitating bulbs might help convey the old-style atmosphere without the safety hazard of real tapers.



Replica of a traditional Polish peasant cottage decorated for Christmas at the Polish Museum







## Wigilia Recipes from Poland

**PICKLED HERRING:** Soak 4-6 Matjes herring fillets in cold water 1-4 hrs. Taste a small piece after an hr of soaking to see if it is not too salty. If still salty, continue soaking. (Unlike traditional salt herring requiring overnight soaking and changing water, Matjes herring are lightly salted and come packaged.) While they soak, in saucepan combine 1 c 6% distilled vinegar and 1 c water 1 bay leaf, 6 peppercorns, 2 grains allspice, 1 t mustard seed and from 1 heaping t to 1 heaping T sugar. Bring to boil and simmer covered on low 10 min. Switch off heat and let stand until cooled to room temp. Dry fillets well on paper towel, slice into 1-1/2" pieces and layer with wafer-thin small onion slices in a jar or crockery bowl. Drench with marinade and seal jar or cover bowl and refrigerate at least 24 hrs before serving. Serve with rye bread or potatoes.

**CREAMED HERRING:** Soak, dry and cut Matjes herring as above, place in jar or glass bowl. Drizzle with juice of 1 sm lemon (use a sieve to catch the pits) or 2 T cider vinegar. Intersperse with onion rounds sliced wafer thin. Drench with 1 c or more sour cream fork-blended with 1 T confectioners sugar. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate 24 hrs before serving with boiled potatoes or rye bread. Arrange pieces of herring on serving dish and dust with paprika.

**CLEAR RED BEET BARSZCZ:** Soak 2-3 dried bolete mushrooms in 1 c warm water several hrs, cook in same water until tender and set aside. Pre-bake 1 lb red beets in oven until fork-tender and cool enough to handle, Peel, coarsely grate and combine with 5 c vegetable stock. Add the mushroom liquid (reserve mushrooms for another dish), 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 below).

**PASTIE TO GO WITH BARSZCZ:** Instead of uszka, you may want to try these. Use refrigerator crescent-roll dough. After opening tube, unroll dough on floured board. With floured thumb press down to obliterate perforations. Place filling down center of long side of dough-sheet and fold sides over it to overlap. Pinch seam to seal. Also pinch together any openings in dough where perforations were. Place seam-side-down on baking sheet, tuck ends under, brush with beaten egg and bake according to golden brown. Let cool at least 15 min before slicing and serving. **FILLING:** Use filling for dumplings below.

**LITTLE-EAR DUMPLINGS (uszka):** Soak 1 slice crumbled-up stale bread or a roll in 1/2 c milk. Wash and slice 1 lb fresh portobello or white mushrooms and cook with 1-2 onions finely chopped onions in 3 T butter until moisture evaporates. Process mushrooms, onions and soaked bread, add 1/4 c bread crumbs, 1 small egg and mix well. Salt & pepper to taste and (optional) garnish with 1 T chopped fresh dill and/or parsley. Filling should be stiff, so if it's mushy, add more bread crumbs. Dough: Sift 1 c flour onto bread-board, work in egg yolk and just enough water (1/2 c) to bind the dough. Knead until smooth, roll out 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 uszki float up. Remove with slotted spoon, drain and serve with red beet soup.

**CLEAR FRESH MUSHROOM SOUP:** Rinse well, pat dry and dice 4-6 oz fresh Portobello mushrooms, simmer with a finely chopped onion in 2 T butter about 10 min, stirring often, then transfer to pot containing 6 c water. Add 1 mushroom bouillon cube, bring to boil and simmer 10 min. Salt and pepper to taste, add 1 t cider vinegar and serve over cooked egg noodles.

**CREAMED MUSHROOM SOUP:** In skillet brown 8 oz washed and chopped Portobello mushrooms with 1 chopped onion. Add to 6 c water and 1 mushroom bouillon cube in pot and bring to boil. Remove from heat. Fork-blend 3/4 c sour cream with 1 heaping T flour until smooth, then add 1 c soup to the sour cream one Tbsp at a time, whisking until smooth. Pour sour cream mixture into soup and simmer several min. Season to taste with salt, freshly ground pepper and a T or so lemon juice. Serve over cooked egg noodles.

**SAUERKRAUT SALAD:** Drain and rinse 33 oz jar imported Polish sauerkraut, press out moisture and chop. Place in salad bowl and tear apart so it doesn't stick together. Add 1 chopped onion, 1 finely grated carrot and 1 finely diced, peeled apple. Season with pepper, sugar and (optional) caraway seeds to taste, drizzle with salad oil and toss. Garnish with chopped chives.

**FISH POLONAISE:** Rinse, pat dry, salt & pepper and flour-dust 2-3 lbs very fresh perch, pike, walleye, whitefish or other firm fillets and fry in hot oil on both sides until fully cooked. Drain fish on paper towel, transfer fish to serving platter and keep in warm oven. In saucepan, melt 3 T butter and switch off heat. Add 4 -5 finely chopped or ground hard-cooked eggs and toss to coat evenly with butter. Add 2-3 T fresh or frozen finely chopped dill and salt & pepper generously. Toss to blend ingredients. Sprinkle fish with lemon juice

and garnish with Polonaise (hard-boiled-egg) topping. Serve immediately.

**FISH IN HORSERADISH SAUCE:** In 6 c bouillon-cube vegetable stock containing 2 T vinegar, cook 2-3 lbs perch, pike, walleye, whitefish or other firm fillets until fish flakes readily (10-15 min depending on thickness). Transfer fish to serving platter and keep in warm oven. In saucepan lightly brown 2 heaping T flour in 2 heaping T butter, gradually add 1 c or more fish stock, stirring until smooth. Stir in 1/4 - 1/2 c prepared horseradish and 3/4 c sour cream. Simmer, stirring constantly until thick and bubbly. If too thick, dilute with a little more stock. Season to taste with salt, pepper, lemon juice and sugar. Drench fish with sauce and serve at once.

**SAUERKRAUT & MUSHROOMS:** Drain and rinse 1 qt or liter sauerkraut, (preferably Krakus or Polish imported brands), chop coarsely, place in pot add water to cover, bring to boil, reduce heat and cook uncovered about 60 min or until no longer crunchy to taste. In 3 T butter, margarine or oil brown 8 - 12 oz fresh, diced Portobello mushrooms with 1 chopped onion, stir in 3 T flour and brown lightly, diluting with several T liquid from sauerkraut pot. When smooth, stir into sauerkraut. Add 1 bay leaf and 1 mushroom bouillon cube and cook on low flame covered another 60 min, stirring frequently. Season with salt, pepper, about 1 t sugar and (optional) 1/4 t caraway seeds.

**SAUERKRAUT & PEAS:** Soak 1 c whole yellow peas in plenty of warm water overnight. Next day, cook in same water until tender. Separately, prepare sauerkraut as in preceding recipe, adding only 4 oz diced Portobello mushrooms fried up with chopped onion. When sauerkraut is fully cooked, combine with the cooked drained peas. Season to taste with salt, pepper and marjoram. If too wet, thicken with a little flour and simmer briefly.

**SAUERKRAUT & NOODLE SQUARES:** To either above sauerkraut dish add 2-3 c hot cooked flat egg noodles or lasagna cut into 1" squares, toss and serve.

**MUSHROOM GOLABKI:** In 3 T butter, margarine or oil sauté 8-12 oz fresh Portobello mushrooms, washed and chopped fine, with 2 med chopped onions. Combine with 3 to 3-1/2 c preferably slightly undercooked rice, barley or buckwheat groats, cooked with 1 mushroom cube. Add 1 raw egg and mix to blend ingredients. Salt & pepper to taste and (optional) garnish with 1 T chopped fresh dill and/or parsley. Fill pre-wilted cabbage leaves as usual, drench with 3 c vegetable stock and bake in preheated 350° oven at least 2 hrs.

**NOODLES & POPPYSEED:** Cook 1 lb pkg of wide or medium-wide egg noodles in lightly salted water until tender (longer than "al dente" directions on package.) Dot hot drained noodles with butter and stir in 1 can Solo poppyseed filling. Toss gently to evenly distribute. May be served warm, room temp or chilled. Some like to pour a little coffee cream over their portions.

**GRAIN & POPPYSEED DESSERT (kutia/kucja):** Prepare 2 c bulgur wheat according to pkg directions. Leave wheat in pot until cooled to room temp. Stir in about 1 can poppyseed filling. Optional: 1/4 - 1/2 c ground or chopped almonds or walnuts may be added. Variations: In place of wheat, cooked rice or barley can be used.

**CHRISTMAS DRIED-FRUIT COMPOTE:** Soak 12 - 16 oz pkg mixed dry fruit, 3 - 4 dried figs, 4-5 pitted dates and 1/2 c raisins in water to cover 2 hrs. Add a little water if all has been absorbed and cook about 20 min on med-low heat from the time boiling begins. Optional: 1 small sliced lemon (scrub well before slicing) and a pinch of cinnamon may be added before cooking. Chill and serve in dessert bowls. Note: Christmas Eve compote may be made with prunes alone or prunes & raisins or prunes & figs. It may also be expanded into the traditional 12-fruit compote by adding other fruit not contained in the dried-fruit mixture such as dried cherries and currants, fresh orange wedges.

**POPPYSEED COOKIES:** Cut 1/4 lb butter into 2-3/4 c flour with pastry blender or two knives. Add 2/3 c confectioner's sugar, 2 t baking powder, 2 slightly beaten eggs, 3 T sour cream and 3 T poppyseeds and knead dough until easy to handle. Refrigerate for at least 30 min. Roll out dough 1/4" thick and cut into desired shapes. Bake 10 min in preheated oven at 375° until edges brown.

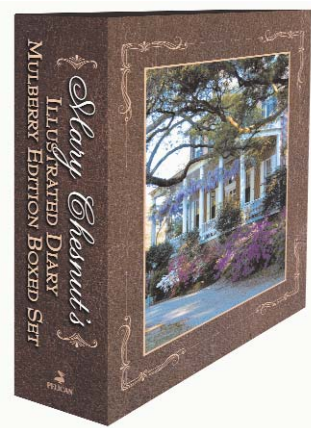
**ANGELWINGS (CHRUSCIKI):** Beat together 3 eggs yolks, 1/3 c sour cream, 2 T softened butter, 1/2 t vanilla and 3 T 100 proof vodka or brandy. Gradually add 2 c flour, mixing well to blend. Knead dough about 15 min, beating it at intervals with a heavy wooden rolling pin. Place in bowl, cover with towel and let rest in cool place 1 hr. Roll dough out thin, cut into 2"x6" strips, make a slit in the middle of each strip and pull one end through to form a bow. Fry in hot oil, shortening or lard on both sides to a lt. golden brown; drain on paper towel. Dust with confectioner's sugar. (*Alcohol prevents dough from absorbing oil.*)

**HOT HONEY-SPICE CORDIAL:** In pan combine 1 c honey, 1 t vanilla extract, and 1/8 t each: ground cinnamon, cloves, ginger, allspice and pepper and 1/2 t lemon zest. Gently boil, stir often and simmer until honey just begins to brown. Remove from heat, cover and let stand 10 min. Stir in 3 c 100 proof vodka, cover and let stand 10 min for flavors to blend. Heat briefly without boiling. Strain through cheesecloth-lined funnel into decanter. Serve hot in shot glasses.





BOOK REVIEW



Mary Chesnut's Illustrated Diary - Mulberry Edition Boxed Set - published by Pelican Publishing Co. - includes Volume 1 "Mary Chestnut's Diary from Dixie" and Volume 2 "Mary Chestnut's Civil War Photographic Album."

Mary Boykin Miller Chesnut, 1823-1886, was the wife of James Chesnut, Jr., U.S. Senator from South Carolina, 1859-1861 and later an Aide to Jefferson Davis and a Brigadier-General in the Confederate Army. Her father, Stephen Decatur Miller was a U.S. Congressman and Senator, who became Governor of South Carolina in 1826. As an esteemed member of Southern

society, Mary had the privilege of mingling with the most important Confederate leaders and their wives. She faithfully listened to their personal accounts of the war, reliably recording information into her diary as often as possible. The result of her writing is a unique account of the Civil War's effects upon individuals, as well as Southern society.

In Mary's Diary, she chronicles journeys across the South. These trips were made when she accompanied her husband on some of his military assignments. Included are stays in Charleston, SC; Montgomery, AL; Richmond, VA; and Flat Rock, NC where she encountered such Confederate elite as Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis.

Mary was well educated, having attended the local school in Camden, SC followed by two-years at a French boarding school in Charleston, interrupted by a six-month stay on her father's cotton plantation on the Mississippi frontier. In 1838, her father died and Mary returned to Camden. Two years later, she married James Chesnut, Jr. (1815-85), only surviving son of one of South Carolina's largest landowners.

Mary spent almost two decades in Camden and at Mulberry, her husband's family plantation. When James was elected to the Senate in 1858, Mary accompanied him to Washington where they were befriended by many politicians who were destined to become the leaders of the Confederacy, including Jefferson Davis. After Lincoln's election, James Chesnut returned to South Carolina, where he participated in drafting an ordinance of secession from the Union. He then served in the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States of America. He was an aide to General P.G.T. Beauregard and President Jefferson Davis, and he achieved the rank of general. During the war, Mary accompanied her husband to Charleston, Montgomery, Columbia, and Richmond. Her drawing room always served as a salon for the Confederate aristocracy. From February 1861 to July 1865 she recorded her experiences in a series of diaries, which became the principal source materials for her famous portrait of the Confederacy.

After the war, the Chesnuts returned to Camden, SC, heavily in debt. In the 1870s, the Chesnuts tried to make Mary's Diary public but could not secure a publisher. In the early 1880s, Mary worked diligently at smoothing out her diaries and working them into book form. Although unfinished at the time of her death on November 22, 1886, that book was finally published as "Mary Chesnut's Civil War" in 1905. It is now acknowledged as the finest literary work of the Confederacy. Interwoven with Mary's irreverent wit, keen sense of irony and delightful metaphors, it follows a diary format that accurately painted a mental picture of the South during the Civil War. Mary was fascinated with the emotions of individuals pitted against overwhelming social upheaval. She contrasted the rich life of her antebellum world with the war-torn South that - within five short years - resembled nothing of the past.

The Diary is assembled with the reader's comfort in mind. Small photographs of the people Mary wrote about are included in the wide margins, as well as maps and illustrations, making it easy to picture the people and settings vividly described in Mary's Diary. It even includes photos of the homes where Mary lived during and after the Civil War.

From a historical perspective, the importance of this epic narrative cannot be overstated. The Wall Street Journal has chosen it as one of the five most important diaries about the Civil War.

An annotated edition of her poignant account of the Southern spirit during the Civil War was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for History in 1981.

Volume 2 is comprised of Mary's personal photograph albums depicting 190 wartime photos, including those of many of the men and women about whom she wrote. She continued to collect photographs even after the war, thereby creating an invaluable historical treasure. The photos are accompanied by The albums - hitherto unpublished. They were thought to have been stolen in the 1930s but they were fortunately rediscovered and acquired by her family in 2007. Many of these photos have never been seen outside of the family.

In this Mary Chesnut's Illustrated Diary Mulberry Edition Boxed Set, the photo album is finally mated with Mary's Diary, that was first published in 1905. It took 106 years to accomplish this reunion and now the two-volume set is available to the public through regular bookstores or at [www.pelicanpub.com](http://www.pelicanpub.com).

Mary Chesnut's Illustrated Diary - Mulberry Edition 2-Vol. Boxed Set,

848 pp 7 x 10 190 photos. Appendixes Biblio. Index

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*Reviewed by Kathryn G. Rosypal, Executive Editor, Narod Polski (Polish Nation)*

Polish Civil War Hero Remembered



*Drawing of Alexander Bielaski from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum*

Springfield, IL - The spirit of Illinois Civil War hero Alexander Bielaski is a 150-year-old reminder of how closely Illinois and Poland have been linked throughout our history.

A photo exhibit "The Polish Armed Forces in the International Security Assistance Force Mission in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan" opened on Tuesday, November 15 at the Old State Capitol State Historic Site in downtown Springfield, IL. The exhibit was prepared by the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and was on display until the end of November at the Old State Capitol.

The exhibit dealt with modern Polish forces, many of whom have fought alongside units from Illinois. That bond between Polish and Illinois forces goes back at least 150 years. An estimated 200 Poles from Illinois enlisted to fight for the Union cause during the American Civil War. One was among Illinois' earliest battle casualties of the war, Polish-born Captain Alexander Bielaski.

**BIELASKI'S HEROISM** - On November 7, 1861, 50-year-old Captain Bielaski died while attempting to rally faltering Union troops at the Battle of Belmont, MO. Bielaski

rode in front of the men, "Urging us on to victory," recalled one soldier. His horse was shot, the captain took up a musket, shouting 'Come on, I will lead you.'" When this did not work, Bielaski threw down the musket, "snatched the stars and stripes and called on the boys to rally around the glorious old flag." Men had just begun to gather when cannonball shot "passed through his head, and he fell to the ground without knowing what hurt him. I hated to see the blood flowing from the head of one so noble and brave."

Captain Bielaski's exploits at Belmont were noted with admiration in official reports. Colonel John A. Logan ended his eyewitness description with the remark, "A braver man never fell on the field of battle."

General John A. McClernand wrote that his aide's "bravery was only equaled by his fidelity as a soldier and patriot." McClernand wrote, "He died, making the Stars and Stripes his winding sheet. Honored be his memory!"

**A SHORT BIOGRAPHY** - Bielaski was born in Lithuania in 1811. He studied at the Russian Military Academy in Petersburg and joined the Russian Engineer Corps. In the November Uprising of 1831, Bielaski immediately joined Polish troops under Gen. Dembinski's command. At the Battle of Grochow, during the defense of Warsaw, he was severely wounded by a musketball in the face, which knocked out all his teeth on the right side and exited from his neck. After the failed Uprising, he emigrated to Bourges, France and later came to America, arriving in Portland, Maine, in 1832.

He went to work as a civil engineer with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which was still under construction, surveying the main line west of Baltimore. From 1835-37, he conducted a topographical survey of Florida. In 1837, he settled in Springfield, IL, where he opened a land office. It was here that he and Abraham Lincoln formed a warm friendship. In December of 1840, Bielaski opened a school in Springfield where he taught "broadsword, bayonet and lance." (It is believed that Abraham Lincoln took lessons from Bielaski in broadsword, which explains why Lincoln chose that weapon in a proposed duel with James Shields in 1842 - a duel that both men were "talked out of" by mutual friends John J. Hardin, a relative of Mary Todd [Lincoln's fiancée], and Dr. R.W. English.)

Working under contractor and engineer Arthur Hoyt, Bielaski did the original survey for the Illinois Central Railroad.

In 1841, he became a US citizen and a year later he married Mary Ann Carey of Springfield. In 1842, he went to Mexico where he was employed as an engineer for 18 months. In March of 1843, General Santa Anna offered him a high ranking military position with the Mexican Army. He declined the offer, returned to Illinois, and took up farming.

On September 1, 1845, Bielaski was appointed to a clerkship in the U.S. General Land Office by Gen. Shields, the Commissioner. He worked in Washington, DC, eventually becoming an assistant draftsman, until the early months of the Civil War. President Lincoln offered Bielaski a commission as captain in the Army. Bielaski's daughter recalled the occasion:

"Lincoln walked from the White House to the residence which Alexander Bielaski then occupied... sat down in the living room and persuaded Bielaski that his past training in military matters and his experience in war, would make him a very valuable man in the Union Army, and asked him if he would accept a commission of Captain in the Regular Army."

Bielaski demurred because of his large family and obligations, but Lincoln's personal persuasion overcame his objections, and he agreed to take up the defense of the Union. He delayed just long enough to resettle his family near his in-laws in Springfield, IL. Bielaski reported to Cairo, IL where he joined Company F of the 30th Illinois Infantry Regiment in August 1861. Gen. John A. McClernand appointed him as an aide with the rank of captain. Lincoln wrote Captain Bielaski a personal letter at the time that his commission was granted. Frank Brooks Bielaski, Alexander's grandson, recalled that it ended with the statement: "Go and fight for your adopted country."

Within three months, during his first battle of the American Civil War, Captain Bielaski died in the Battle of Belmont. His horse was shot out from under him. While advancing on foot, with the American flag in his hand, shouting for soldiers to follow him, he fell, instantly killed by a cannonball. A dispatch sent to the Polish language newspaper said, "He led a detachment against the enemy's battery and fell mutilated by cannon bullets so that it was difficult to find and identify his body."

Gen. McClernand made an effort to find Bielaski's body, which had been buried in a common mass grave. It was exhumed about 1864 and reburied in the National Cemetery at Mound City, a few miles from Cairo, IL, where it now lies in a grave marked: "Unknown soldier killed at the Battle of Belmont." [Confusing, but this is how the grave marker reads.]

Captain Bielaski was father of a large family. His son, Oscar became the first Polish American major league baseball player and his son Alexander became a Methodist minister. Alexander's son (Cptn. Bielaski's grandson) Alexander Bruce Bielaski, was Director of the U.S. Bureau of Investigation (later FBI) from 1912 to 1919.

It is appropriate to remember Captain Bielaski and the sacrifice he made for the USA.



# MIKULSKI OPENS SENATE EXHIBIT ON MADAME MARIE SKLODOWSKA-CURIE

*Exhibit Sponsored by Embassy of Poland Celebrates  
100th Anniversary of Madame Curie's Nobel Prize in Chemistry*

Washington, DC - U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD) was joined by the Embassy of Poland in "October - Polish American Heritage Month" to open an exhibit on the life and accomplishments of Madame Marie Sklodowska-Curie. The exhibit celebrates the 100th anniversary of Madame Curie's Nobel Prize in chemistry and is on display in the Russell Senate Office Building Rotunda to mark National Chemistry Week.

In her interesting remarks, Senator Mikulski had the following to say:

*"It is an enormous honor for me to open the Curie exhibit here in the rotunda of the Russell Building. This is the 100th anniversary of Madame Curie's winning her Nobel Prize on her own.*

*I want to welcome the Deputy Chief of Mission from the Polish Embassy, Mr. Pisarski; Dr. Bradley Miller, representing the American Chemical Society; and to all those who will come into our Capitol to learn more about this extraordinary and very special woman.*

*In 1911, Madame Sklodowska Curie stepped onto the world stage for the second time to win a Nobel Prize – this time in her own name and in her own right. In 1903, she stepped onto the world stage as a small, petite woman with her beloved husband, Pierre. When she was just 36 years old, they won a Nobel Prize in Physics for their discovery of Radium. Pierre and Marie knew it was a new century and it was going to be a century of chemistry, of physics and of discovery.*

*They wanted to not only use their discoveries, but to use their discoveries for peace and to save lives. It was their belief that if you were a scientist and you made a discovery, your discovery belonged to the common heritage of mankind. They wanted to share their discoveries with the world. They also believed that if you were going to discover something that was going to help the world, you should benefit the world – but you shouldn't profit from it.*

*They were amazing scientists and idealists. They took the money from their first Nobel Prize and reinvested it in their own laboratory, the famous Radium Institute. It was profound. They were busy working together, working on new projects, but their lives together were not meant to be. One sad day, Pierre stepped off a curb and was hit in a tragic horse and carriage accident. He passed away. The loss of Pierre left Marie Sklodowska Curie a bereaved widow, a talented scientist, and, as some have called her, 'a magnificent, obsessive genius.'*

*While raising her family as a widow, she continued her own scientific discovery. She discovered a new chemical element and named it Polonium, after her beloved homeland. For that discovery, she won the 1911 Nobel Prize for Chemistry in her own right.*

*The world has long recognized Marie Sklodowska Curie, and it's time that we all know her so that she can re-inspire generations – not only through her science but through her life.*

*I'm a big fan of Madame Curie. When I was a little girl growing up in Baltimore during World War II, my parents took me to see a famous movie about her. They wanted me to know the story of Poland; they wanted me to know the story of this brilliant woman. At age eight, I saw this Greer Garson play, 'Madame Curie.' I knew then that I wanted to be just like her. When I came home, I begged my mother and father to buy me a chemistry set. I wanted to be a scientist. I wanted to win a Nobel Prize. I wasn't sure how to spell it, but I wanted to win it.*

*The story mesmerized me and I worked hard in my science classes in school. I had hoped, as a young high school girl and as a young college student, to have a career in science, but it was not meant to be. I am good at understanding science, but I'm not very good at doing science. So I shifted my career to social science, to social work and to politics. I now use my talents in government to fund those that do science.*

*When I think about Madame Curie and all that she has meant for science, I think of all the possibilities and potential for women, for those who have a passion for science, and for those who pursue the passion of intellectual discovery.*

*Madame Curie was raised in an occupied Poland, which was partitioned into three parts. Warsaw, where she lived with her parents, was occupied by the Russians. But she, in an enlightened family for its time, was able to go to Paris to study and to do her work. It was there that she met Pierre, and as they say, the rest is history.*

*But the other two parts that they don't know are: Madame Curie's patriotism and her passion for peace. While she was busy doing science, she also wanted to save lives. During World War I, she wanted to help those who were on the battlefield. She and her daughter Irene conceived the idea of taking rough, even primitive equipment that could be used for x-rays to the battlefields. She got the fashionable women of Paris to donate the money to buy the equipment and taxi cabs. She trained young women to go to the battlefield, and out they went to the outskirts of France and Paris. The French government credits her with saving thousands of Allied lives because during surgery, they never knew where to find the bullet. Where the bullet enters is not always where the bullet goes. Thanks to Curie and her wonderful team of women – led by her own daughter – they were able to find out how to do this. She was the 'Mother of MASH Medicine.'*



*(L-r) Deputy Chief Maciej Pisarski of the Polish Embassy  
in Washington DC and Senator Barbara A. Mikulski*

*We salute her for her efforts and the French government recognized her for it. Again, after the war, she became a scientific advisor to the League of Nations. She joined hands with Albert Einstein, Max Planck and others who wanted scientific discovery to always be in the hands of those who pursue freedom. And she wanted her work to go for peace.*

*If she was alive today, she would love the MRI's, she would love the sonograms. She would love knowing that we have an Office of Women's Health at NIH. And if I know Madame Curie, she would wonder, 'how can I get in on it, and how can my great-granddaughter do it, and who's this woman Mikulski – I won the first Nobel Prize, she gets elected to the Senate.' Let's hear it for Polish women who just don't take no for an answer!*

*So today I am pleased to open this exhibit, and I know she'd be pleased at what I'm doing in the Senate today. After I open this exhibit, I will be going to the Senate Floor to manage my appropriations bill that will fund scientific research in astronomy, chemistry and physics, as well as the National Space Agency, and the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. She would love it all.*

*Today, we love Marie Sklodowska Curie and with love, open this exhibit."*

The United Nations has declared 2011 the International Year of Chemistry, in part to mark the centennial anniversary of Madame Curie's Nobel Prize in Chemistry. This year also marks the 90th anniversary of her first visit to the United States in 1921 where she was presented with a gram of radium from President Warren G. Hardin to continue her studies.

The exhibit was displayed earlier this year at the European Parliament in Brussels and was prepared by the Polish Academy of Sciences with the collaboration of the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Museum in Warsaw.



## PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers Celebrate Andrzejki

Hamtramck, MI - On Friday, November 18, 2011, the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers held their first ever Andrzejki Party in the parish hall of St. Florian Church in Hamtramck, Michigan.

[Editor's Note: Andrzejki is a traditional Polish celebration of the Eve of St. Andrew's Day (Nov. 29) when young girls had their fortunes told, especially regarding love matters and whether they would get married next year or not.]

The event was open to all ages and to all the PRCUA schools in Michigan. Students were also encouraged to bring their friends and classmates, to learn about Andrzejki and participate in the pre-Advent fun.

The event featured Andrzejki themed, games, crafts, and fortune telling. There were also several raffles of prizes donated by local vendors and the families' of the dancers with the grand prize being a Trek mountain bike.

And what party would be complete without music? The Gwiazda Andrzejki party featured music provided by area DJ, DJ Kookie (Kamil Dechnik). Mr. Dechnik has DJ'ed both locally and internationally playing many metro-Detroit area clubs, as well as playing Club Live (as one half of the W!LDZ) in Rzeszów, Poland. In October, 2011 he DJ'ed the "after show" portion of Polish singing star Stachursky's Detroit concert date.

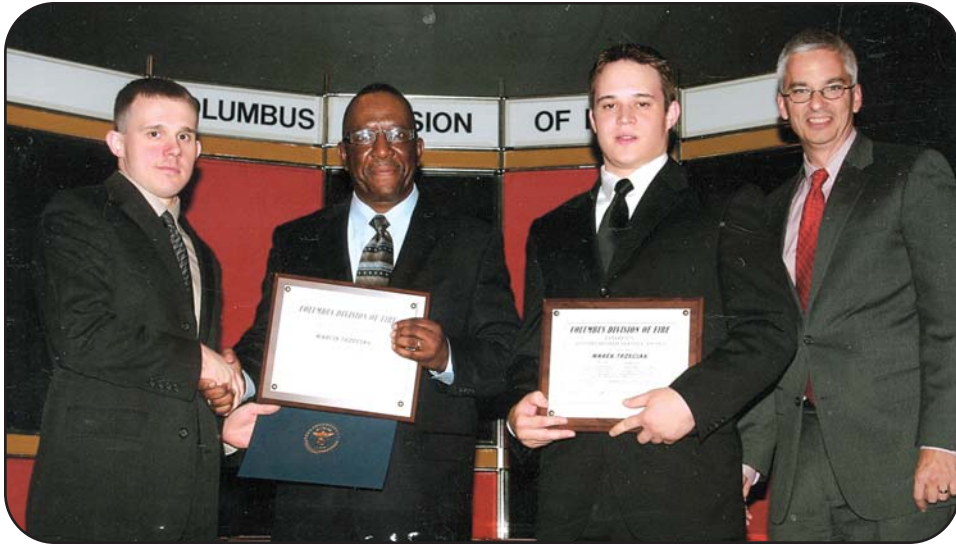
A big thank you to all Gwiazda Dancers, their families and friends who attended the event and donated prizes or items for the event. Thanks also go out to the organizers of the event Gwiazda's Director, Jessica Wendt, Gwiazda's President, Kim Hancasky, and Gwiazda's Choreographer Basia Grabas. Special thanks to Gwiazda Director Emeritus, Cindy Cervenak and her son Chris, a Gwiazda alum for the use of speakers and mixing equipment.

After the success of this event, the Gwiazda team is already thinking of the next event that they can put together that's both fun for the students and provides further insight to their Polish heritage and traditions.

*Submitted by Nicholas J. Nowakowski,  
1997 Gwiazda Alumni and Secretary*



## PRCUA Members Marcin & Marek Trzeciak Are Heroes!



(L-r) Civilian hero and PRCUA member Marcin Trzeciak, Columbus Fire Chief Ned Pettus, Jr., civilian hero and PRCUA member Marek Trzeciak and George Speaks, Public Safety Deputy at Columbus, Ohio Fire Division's Awards Banquet

Columbus, OH - When Marek Trzeciak, 22, a part-time Operations Excellence Supervisor, decided to visit his older brother, Marcin, 27, on March 6th of 2010, he had no idea that he and his brother would be called upon to make life-and-death decisions that

would impact three lives.

Marek was in his brother's apartment when he heard cries for help. He looked out the window and saw that a person had fallen through the ice of the apartment complex's pond. Marek told his brother, who grabbed a broom, and they both ran to the pond to help. When they got there, they saw that a young man was desperately clinging to the edge of the ice where the depth of the water was over his head.

The pond was about 40 feet wide and the ice was thin. The brothers were up to their knees in water but could not get close enough to rescue the victim with the broom handle. Marcin went deeper into the water - breaking the ice in front of him. Both brothers were up to their thighs in water when Marcin called to Marek, telling him to go back to the pond's edge. Marcin, a lifeguard, knew it would be important for Marek to help him and the young man out of the frigid water.

Marcin finally reached the victim, secured him and brought him to the water's edge where Marek helped both of them on shore and into the apartment.

The brothers, and the grateful young man, wrapped themselves in towels and blankets to get warm. The complex supervisor brought the EMS crew to the apartment. They checked all three and found them to be wet and cold, but alright. The crew told Marek and Marcin that they had done well and their quick actions saved the young man's life.

For their outstanding and selfless service, Marek and Marcin were chosen as the recipients of the *Fire Service Citizen's Award* presented at the Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame Awards and Ceremony in Honor of Ohio's Fallen Firefighters. The ceremony esd held on September 12, 2011.

The award declares that Marek exhibited selfless citizenship. It also says, "... Marek Trzeciak's courage and willingness to risk his own well-being to help a person in need, represents the very best in humanity. His noble actions are an example for all to follow."

Marcin and Marek are the sons of Witold Trzeciak and his wife, Ewa, who is an employee who worked at the PRCUA Ohio Office. The brothers, their parents and a younger brother, Mariusz, 20, are a 100% PRCUA Family and members of Society #2100. Witold and Ewa Trzeciak are residents of Broadview Heights, OH - a suburb of Cleveland.

In addition to receiving the Ohio State award, the Trzeciak brothers were also honored at the city level. On October 7th, the Columbus Division of Fire held its 21st Annual Awards Banquet at the Villa Milano Banquet and Conference Center in Columbus, OH. The Banquet recognizes Division of Fire personnel and outstanding citizens for commendable and outstanding performance.

This year, the Columbus Division of Fire honored Marek Trzeciak by awarding him with the *Citizen's Distinguished Service Award* for his quick, life-saving efforts. His brother, Marcin Trzeciak, was awarded the *Citizen's Award for Bravery*. Making the presentations were Columbus Fire Chief Ned Pettus, Jr. and Public Safety Deputy George Speaks. Shadrach Liddle, the 15-year-old young man who had fallen into the pond, and his parents, were also invited to the presentation banquet. Both Trzeciak brothers received the awards most humbly, saying they are simply glad that no one got hurt.

Congratulations to Marcin and Marek; the PRCUA is very proud of their outstanding humanitarian heroism. Congratulations also go to the Trzeciaks for raising such responsible and courageous sons. Bravo!

## Polish American Historical Association Annual Conference 2012

The Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) will holds it Annual Conference in conjunction with the American Historical Association in Chicago, January 5-8, 2012. If you would like to join the PAHA or for more information about the PAHA Conference please go to the following website: [http://www.polishamericanstudies.org/Program.html.ore/christmas\\_store.html](http://www.polishamericanstudies.org/Program.html.ore/christmas_store.html).

## PRCUA- SKI TRIP WEEKEND GRANITE PEAKS, WAUSAU, WI FEBRUARY 17-19, 2012

Package includes: Hotel - Plaza Hotel, Wausau - 2 Nights  
Daily Ski Lift Tickets Only (does not include ski rental)  
Transportation - Deluxe Coach (non-smoking) NO GLASS on the bus  
TOTAL COST \$240.00 per person (3 or 4 to a room)  
\$290.00 per person (two to a room); \$390.00 single room  
Children 11 yrs. and younger rooming with parent/guardian \$160.00 per child

DEPARTURE: Friday, February 17, 2012

1. 4:30 p.m. - South Side Bantam, 8836 Kennedy Ave., Highland, IN
2. 6:00 p.m. - PENDING (Maybe) New location -- participants will be notified

RETURN: Sunday, February 19, 2012, Approx. 4:00 p.m.  
Back in Chicago - 9:00 p.m. (approx.)

FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS

FOR INFORMATION CALL: Connie Bonin 715-257-9032  
or Lynn Bonin 219-838-5216 or  
e-mail [ifcbonnie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ifcbonnie@sbcglobal.net) or  
[tomlynsons@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tomlynsons@sbcglobal.net) in subject line write:  
PRCUA Ski Trip

RESERVATION WILL BE HELD ONLY WITH A DEPOSIT  
or FULL PAYMENT

Make Check Payable to: PRCUA Ski Trip #413

MAIL TO: PRCUA SKI TRIP  
C/O Lynn Bonin  
3504 Grand Blvd.  
Highland, IN 46322-1335



If trip needs to be cancelled due to low participation all monies will be refunded and you will be notified in January, 2012

## DECEMBER 3rd FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Ohio Philharmonic Orchestra will perform its free and open to the public Christmas and Holiday concert Saturday, December 3rd at 7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd. Shaker Heights, OH 44118. (Free Parking of course!) Entry at 7:00 p.m.

This concert is being presented with the Consulate of Italy in Detroit. Are you going to be in Shaker Heights on Sat Dec 3rd at 7:30pm? If so, please join us to hear selections from Aida, the Mother Goose Suite, selections by Leroy Anderson, Babes in Toyland, A Christmas Festival, the Festive Sounds of Hanukah and others. An "emerging composer" selection by Andrew and Jared DePollo will also be presented. A reception after the concert in the Spahr Center is included.

The OPO is a professional ensemble and PD's Donald Rosenberg called the OPO and music director Domenico Boyagian "poised and polished" in our recent May 2011 performances of music by Mozart.

Please also consider preconcert donation at this time to help the OPO and defray the costs of this free and open to the public concert. We thank you for your important support. You can donate online or by sending a donation to the Ohio Philharmonic Orchestra, 2340 Bellfield Ave., Cleveland, OH 44106.

Check out our website for more info: [www.ohiophil.org](http://www.ohiophil.org)





## KALENDARZ na GRUDZIEŃ 2011 i STYCZEŃ 2012

♦ 4 grudnia (niedziela) - Doroczny "Opłatek" Wydziału Kobiet na Stany Illinois/Indiana ZPRKA. Gospodarzem "Opłatka" jest Dystrykt #9 ZPRKA. Sala Główna im. Sabiny F. Logisz Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce, 984 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL. Wstęp o godz. 11.30, lunch o godz. 12 w poł. Koszt - \$25 od osoby. Mile widziane będą nagrodny na loterię fantową. Dodatkowe informacje: Elizabeth Sadus (708) 481-6796, Elizabeth Grabowski (219) 923-6613, Barbara Pawlowski (708) 946-6270

♦ 4 grudnia (niedziela) - Zabawa Choinkowa dla dzieci z Towarzystw 1584, 1633, 1617, 719 ZPRKA. W godz. od 14.00 do 16.00; 5255 N. Detroit, Toledo, OH. W programie wiele atrakcji, m.in. warsztaty bożonarodzeniowe, wizyta św. Mikołaja, pizza i napoje gazowane. Uczestnicy proszeni są o przyniesienie ciastka lub babeczki (tzw. cupcake) jako deser. Chętni do wzięcia udziału mogą się zapisywać w klubie.

♦ 9 grudnia (piątek) - Kolędowanie Towarzystw 1584, 1633, 1617, 719 ZPRKA. Kolędować będą: Randy Krajewski, Eric Hitte i Eddie Biegaj. Budynek klubu. Początek o godz. 20.00.

♦ 11 grudnia (niedziela) - Polska Szkoła im. Św. Rafała Kalinowskiego, PRCUA Dystrykt #9 ZPRKA, zaprasza na Jaselka, w wykonaniu swoich uczniów, w Klasztorze Ojców Karmelitów Bosych w Munster, 1628 Ridge Rd., o godzinie 1 po południu. Wstęp wolny (dobrowolny datek na szkołę mile widziany).

♦ 18 grudnia (niedziela) - Doroczny "Opłatek" Wydziału Kobiet na Stan Michigan ZPRKA. Gospodarzem tegorocznego "Opłatka" jest Zespół Tańca "Zakopane". Drzwi otwarte będą o godz. 13.00, oficjalny program rozpocznie się o godz. 13.30, obiad - godz. 14.00. Century Banquet Center, 33204 Maple Lane, Sterling Heights, MI. Koszt: dorośli - \$15.00, dzieci i młodzież w wieku 5-18 lat - \$9.00, dzieci do 4 lat - wstęp wolny. Rezerwacji należy dokonać do 6 grudnia 2011 r. Rezerwacje i dodatkowe informacje: Colleen Bonkowski (586) 219-1982 lub zajaczekdance@yahoo.com. Prosimy wystawiać czeki na: Zakopane Folk Dance i przysyłać na adres: Zakopane, 28279 Suburban, Warren, MI 48088

♦ 8 stycznia (niedziela) - Tow. St. Stan's Society #718 zaprasza do udziału we wspólnej Komunii św. i zebrania, w czasie którego wybrany zostanie nowy zarząd Towarzystwa. Msza św. o godz. 11.00 w kościele St. Linus na ulicy Hass, (pomiędzy ulicami Telegraph i Beach Daly Rd). Zebranie wyborcze odbędzie się w placówce PLAV Hall na ulicy West Warren (pomiędzy ulicami Telegraph i Beach Daly Rd.). Po zakończeniu obrad, uczestnicy zebrania zaproszeni są na obiad. Dodatkowe informacje: Len i Eileen Nasiatka (313) 278-5219.

♦ 14 stycznia (sobota) - Polska Szkoła im. Św. Rafała Kalinowskiego, Dystrykt #9 ZPRKA, zaprasza na doroczną Zabawę Szkolną, która odbędzie się w The Carmelite Banquet Hall, 1628 Ridge Rd., Munster, IN. Wstęp - godz. 18.00, obiad - 18.30. po południu. Muzyka - DJ Marcin, płatny bar, loteria fantowa. Bilety: \$35 od osoby, \$17.50 dzieci 12 lat i poniżej. Rezerwacja biletów do 2 stycznia 2011 r. u p. Małgorzaty Rolniak pod numerem (219) 671- 9834 lub (219) 696-1666.

Prosimy członków Towarzystw ZPRKA o sprawdzenie kalendarza na str. 2 - w celu zapoznania się z terminarzem planowanych na najbliższe miesiące zebrań Towarzystw.

### Terminy nadsyłania artykułów do Narodu Polskiego na 2012 r.

"Naród Polski" ukazuje się pierwszego dnia każdego miesiąca. Wszystkie materiały do opublikowania, muszą napłynąć do 15 dnia miesiąca poprzedzającego wydanie. Prosimy o przysyłanie artykułów w formacie Word lub napisanych bezpośrednio w poczcie e-mail, a nie wysyłanych fax-em lub w formacie PDF. Zdjęcia powinny być przesłane osobno (nie jako części korespondencji e-mail), w formacie JPEG.

Informację jak skontaktować się z jednym z dwóch redaktorów "Narodu Polskiego", znaleźć można na str. 6 "Narodu Polskiego".



# W I A D O M O Ś C I

## Z POLSKI

Biskup Wojciech Polak został nowym sekretarzem generalnym Konferencji Episkopatu Polski - Bp. Polak zastąpił na tym stanowisku abp. Stanisława Budzika, który we wrześniu został mianowany metropolitą lubelskim. Nowy sekretarz Episkopatu podziękował swojemu poprzednikowi, abp. Budzikowi, za dokonania, oraz zapewnił, że będzie kontynuował m.in. dialog pojednania pomiędzy Kościołem katolickim w Polsce i Kościołem prawosławnym w Rosji. Przewodniczący KEP abp. Józef Michalik podkreślił, że funkcja sekretarza wymaga na tym stanowisku człowieka wszechstronnego, przygotowanego i sprawdzonego. Biskup Wojciech Polak ma 47 lat, święcenia kapłańskie otrzymał w 1989 r. W 2003 r. został mianowany biskupem pomocniczym archidiecezji gnieźnieńskiej. Był delegatem Episkopatu ds. powołań, a w ostatnim czasie delegatem ds. duszpasterstwa polonijnego. W Konferencji Episkopatu bp Polak był członkiem Rady Stałej Konferencji Episkopatu jako jeden z dwóch wybranych biskupów pomocniczych. Teraz będzie wchodził w skład tego gremium z urzędu. Będzie także członkiem Komisji Wspólnej przedstawicieli rządu i Episkopatu Polski. Zgodnie ze statutem KEP, sekretarz generalny kieruje pracami Sekretariatu, który ma wspierać Konferencję Episkopatu Polski i jej przewodniczącego w wykonywaniu statutowych zadań. Jest wybierany spośród członków Konferencji przez zebranie plenarne na okres pięciu lat. Funkcję tę można pełnić bez przerwy przez dwie kolejne kadencje. Pierwszym sekretarzem generalnym Episkopatu Polski w wolnej Polsce, w latach 1993–1998, był biskup pomocniczy diecezji sosnowieckiej i prof. kanonicznego prawa procesowego bp Tadeusz Pieronek. Po nim funkcję tę pełnili: bp pomocniczy diecezji katowickiej Piotr Libera (1998–2007) i od 2007 r. bp pomocniczy diecezji tarnowskiej bp Budzik. Wcześniej, w latach 1946-1968, funkcję tę sprawował pomocniczy bp warszawski Zygmunt Chromański, a w latach 1969-1993 abp Bronisław Dąbrowski.

Polska trzecim producentem zbóż w UE - W produkcji zbóż wyprzedzają Polskę Francja i Niemcy. Według unijnych statystyk, między 2008 a 2010 rokiem Polska wyprodukowała 9,5% wszystkich zbóż w UE. Francja wyprodukowała 23%, a Niemcy 16% unijnej średniej w tym okresie. Z trzech podstawowych rodzajów zbóż zbieranych w Europie (pszenica, jęczmień i kukurydza w ziarnach) w Polsce zdecydowanie przeważała produkcja pszenicy i jęczmienia. Według danych Eurostatu, Polska jest też jednym z głównych unijnych producentów sera, wieprzowiny i drobiu. W 2010 roku w UE wyprodukowano nieco ponad 8,9 mln ton sera oraz ponad 134 mln ton mleka. Polskie sery stanowiły 7% całkowitej produkcji UE (Niemcy - około 2,1 mln ton czyli 23%, Francuzi - około 1,9 mln ton czyli 21%, Włosi - 1,2 mln ton czyli 13%). W produkcji wieprzowiny i drobiu Polska była czwartym producentem w Europie. W 2010 r. w Polsce wyprodukowano nieco ponad 1,7 mln ton wieprzowiny i 1,3 mln ton drobiu - mniej więcej tyle samo co w Danii (1,66 mln ton wieprzowiny) i Hiszpanii (1,3 mln ton drobiu). Największym producentem wieprzowiny były Niemcy, których produkcja stanowiła jedną czwartą wyprodukowanego w UE tego typu mięsa. Najwięcej mięsa drobiowego i wołowego wyprodukowała Francja. W Polsce produkcja wołowiny jest znacznie mniejsza.

Polscy studenci informatyki mistrzami - Polscy studenci zajęli trzy pierwsze miejsce w Akademickich Mistrzostwach Europy Środkowej w Programowaniu Zespołowym, które odbyły się w Pradze. Zwyciężyli studenci Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, wyprzedzając dwa zespoły Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego. Mistrzami Europy Środkowej zostali studenci Wydziału Matematyki, Informatyki i Mechaniki Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego: Tomasz Kulczyński, Jakub Pachocki i Wojciech Śmietanka, którzy rozwiązali 9 z 10 zadań algorytmiczno-programistycznych przygotowanych przez organizatorów. Wyprzedzili dwa zespoły z Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego (z rozwiązaniem 8 i 7 zadaniami). W składzie drużyn z UJ znaleźli się: Robert Obryk, Adam Polak, Maciej Wawro oraz Jakub Adamek, Grzegorz Guspiel, Jonasz Pamula. W pierwszej dziesiątce uplasowały się jeszcze dwa inne polskie zespoły. Czwarte miejsce zajęła kolejna drużyna Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego a szóste - informatycy z Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego. Zawody w Pradze były eliminacjami do finałów Mistrzostw Świata, które odbędą się w dniach 14-18 maja 2012 r. w Warszawie. Zgodnie z regulaminem do finałów awansują trzy najlepsze zespoły CERC pochodzące z różnych uczelni, jednak ponieważ w finałach jedną uczelnię może reprezentować tylko jeden zespół, na Mistrzostwach Świata spotkają się: zespół Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego i zespół Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego oraz reprezentacja Uniwersytetu Karola w Pradze. W Akademickich Mistrzostwach Europy Środkowej w Programowaniu Zespołowym wzięły udział 64 trzyosobowe zespoły, reprezentujące najlepsze uczelnie informatyczne z Polski, Chorwacji, Czech, Słowacji, Słowenii i Węgier. Region środkowoeuropejski jest jednym z najsilniejszych w świecie. Trzykrotnie uczelnie z tego regionu zdobywały mistrzostwo świata - raz Uniwersytet Karola z Pragi i dwa razy Uniwersytet Warszawski.

Hiszpanie i Niemcy będą budować polskie autostrady - Trwa 21 przetargów, w których rząd chce wybrać firmy mające wybudować w sumie ok. 300 km autostrad i dróg ekspresowych. Do 1 września br. otwarte zostaną koperty w przetargach na budowę węzła autostradowego wraz z fragmentem autostrady A6 i 12,8 km trasy ekspresowej nr 17 na odcinku z Lubartowa przez Lublin do miejscowości Piaski. Otwarte już zostały oferty w przetargu na dokończenie budowy autostrady A4 między Brzeskiem a Wierchosławicami, po polsko-macedońskim konsorcjum firm NDI i SB Granit. W toku jest obecnie kolejnych 18 postępowań dotyczących budowy w sumie ok. 260 km dróg ekspresowych i autostrad. Zgodnie z nowym rządowym programem w latach 2011-2015 na nowe drogi ma zostać wydanych 82,8 mld zł.



## 30. ROCZNICA WPROWADZENIA STANU WOJENNEGO W POLSCE

13 grudnia 1981 roku, we wczesnych godzinach porannych, generał Wojciech Jaruzelski ogłosił wprowadzenie stanu wojennego. Stan wojenny wprowadzono na terenie całej Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej na mocy uchwały Rady Państwa z dnia 12 grudnia 1981 r. Aresztowani zostali wszyscy przywódcy “Solidarności” oprócz Wałęsy. We wszystkich lokalach związku przeprowadzono rewizje, na ulicach miast pojawiło się wojsko i czołgi, wojsko objęło kontrolę nad miastami i przemysłem. W całym kraju wprowadzono godzinę policyjną.

Oprócz tego, na czas obowiązywania stanu wojennego wprowadzono:

1) zakaz zwoływania i odbywania wszelkiego rodzaju zgromadzeń, pochodoów i manifestacji, a także organizowania i przeprowadzania zbiórek publicznych oraz imprez artystycznych, rozrywkowych i sportowych bez uprzedniego uzyskania zezwolenia właściwego terenowego organu administracji państwowej, z wyjątkiem nabożeństw i obrzędów religijnych odbywających się w obrębie kościołów, kaplic i innych miejsc przeznaczonych wyłącznie do tych celów;

2) zakaz rozpowszechniania wszelkiego rodzaju wydawnictw, publikacji i informacji każdym sposobem, publiczne wykonanie utworów artystycznych oraz użytkowanie jakichkolwiek urządzeń poligraficznych bez uprzedniego uzyskania zgody właściwego organu;

3) zawieszono prawo pracowników do organizowania i przeprowadzania wszelkiego rodzaju strajków oraz akcji protestacyjnych;

4) nałożono na osoby przebywające w miejscach publicznych obowiązek posiadania przy sobie dokumentu stwierdzającego tożsamość, a w stosunku do uczniów szkół mających ukończone lat 13 - legitymacji szkolnej lub tymczasowego dowodu osobistego;

5) obowiązek uprzedniego uzyskiwania zezwolenia właściwego terenowego organu administracji państwowej na pobyt stały w strefie nadgranicznej, a organu Milicji Obywatelskiej na pobyt czasowy w tej strefie;

6) zakaz uprawiania turystyki oraz sportów żeglarskich i wioślarskich na morskich wodach wewnętrznych i terytorialnych;

P o n a d t o wprowadzono szereg zakazów i nakazów, jak np.: zobowiązujących obywateli do tzw. obrony Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej; cenzurę przesyłek pocztowych, k o r e s p o n d e n c j i telekomunikacyjnej i kontrolę rozmów t e l e f o n i c z n y c h ; obowiązek złożenia do depozytu radiowych

urządzeń nadawczych i nadawczo-odbiorczych, złożenia broni palnej krótkiej oraz broni myśliwskiej i sportowej, amunicji i materiałów wybuchowych. Wprowadzono zakaz dokonywania zdjęć fotograficznych i filmowych oraz obrazów telewizyjnych określonych obiektów i miejsc albo na określonych obszarach; zawieszono lub ograniczono przewóz osób i rzeczy w transporcie drogowym, kolejowym, lotniczym i wodnym oraz ruch pojazdów mechanicznych na drogach publicznych; zamknięto lub ograniczono graniczny ruch osobowy i towarowy przez przejścia graniczne.

Oficjalnym powodem ogłoszenia stanu wojennego, podanym przez juntę wojskową, był kryzys w kraju, którego przejawami były m.in. brak zaopatrzenia w sklepach i reglamentacja, oraz zagrożenie bezpieczeństwa energetycznego wobec zbliżającej się zimy. Rzeczywistymi powodami były obawy reżimu komunistycznego przed utratą władzy, związane z utratą kontroli nad niezależnym ruchem związkowym.

Wprowadzenie stanu wojennego wywołało falę strajków okupacyjnych w wielu częściach kraju. 14 grudnia aresztowano Lecha Wałęsę.

15 grudnia w starciach pomiędzy milicją i robotnikami w Gdańsku, leje się pierwsza krew - ginie kilku robotników, kilkadziesiąt osób odnosi rany. Na lotniskach warszawskich lądują sowieckie samoloty.



Gen. Jaruzelski ogłasza wprowadzenie stanu wojennego.



Oddziały wojska i milicji przed stoczną szczecińską.

18 grudnia ginie 9 robotników w kopalni Wujek w Katowicach, kilkadziesiąt osób odnosi rany.

19 grudnia całą Polskę obejmuje strajk powszechny. W wielu miastach dochodzi do starć obywateli z milicją. Głównymi ośrodkami oporu są Śląsk i Pomorze.

Polonia zagraniczna oraz związki zawodowe w krajach zachodnich organizują manifestacje na znak solidarności z narodem polskim. Po stronie “Solidarności” i narodu polskiego, od początku staje Kościół katolicki, który potępia nadużywanie praw ludzkich przez władze wojskowe. Za Polaków i Polskę modli się papież Jan Paweł II i apeluje o spokój. Stany Zjednoczone wprowadzają sankcje gospodarcze wobec PRL

1 lutego 1982 r. władze PRL wprowadziły drastyczną podwyżkę cen żywności (średnio o 241%) oraz energii (średnio o 171%).

Od pierwszych dni stanu wojennego istnieje ruch oporu: powstają podziemne Komitety Strajkowe, Komisje Koordynacyjne NSZZ “Solidarność”, ukazuje się niezależna podziemna prasa.

Przed świętem 1 maja 1982 r. władze zwolniły około tysiąca internowanych, zniesiono godzinę milicyjną.

Ogółem, w okresie trwania stanu wojennego, zostało internowanych ok. 10 tys. osób w 49 ośrodkach internowania na terenie całego kraju. Byli to głównie przywódcy NSZZ “Solidarność”, doradcy związku i związani z nim intelektualiści oraz działacze opozycji demokratycznej. Dalszym 4 tys. osób, głównie przywódców i uczestnikom strajków i protestów, już 24 grudnia 1981 r. przedstawiono zarzuty prokuratorskie i osądzono, zwykle na kary więzienia.

Stan wojenny trwał 586 dni i został zawieszony 31 grudnia 1982 r., a zniesiony 22 lipca 1983 r.

## STYPENDIA DLA MŁODZIEŻY POLONIJNEJ

Fundacja Charytatywna Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej (Polish American Congress, Charitable Foundation), informuje o udostępnionych stypendiach im. rodzin Majer i Laskowski (The Majer and Laskowski Families Memorial Sholarships). O stypendia mogą ubiegać się studenci studiów inżynierskich i administracji biznesu. Kandydaci muszą być studentami studiów licencjackich (Bachelor) lub magisterskich (Masters), w publicznej uczelni stanowej (uniwersytet lub college). Stypendia pokrywają czesne, które uiszcza student - mieszkaniec stanu. O stypendium można występować każdego roku. Pierwszeństwo przysługuje studentom, którzy jesienią będą na 3 lub 4 roku studiów (junior, senior) lub studentom studiów magisterskich.

Kopię podania o stypendia można uzyskać pisząc na adres: Polish American Congress, Charitable Foundation, 5711 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60646; tel. (773) 763-9944.

Formularze podań można też wydrukować ze strony internetowej Fundacji Charytatywnej KPA: [www.paccf.org](http://www.paccf.org).

Termin składania podań upływa 15 marca 2012 r.

\*

Związek Lekarzy Polskich w Chicago, od ponad 11 lat oferuje stypendia dla studentów medycyny, stomatologii i weternyarii. O stypendia mogą się ubiegać wyłącznie studenci polskiego pochodzenia, uczęszczający na uczelnie medyczne, stomatologiczne i weterynaryjne na terenie środkowego-zachodu (Midwest).

Podania są dostępne na stronie [www.zlpchicago.org](http://www.zlpchicago.org). Na głównej stronie należy wybrać “stypendia”, następnie “Academic Fund”, oraz “Ściągnij Aplikację”.

Podania przyjmowane będą do dnia 29 lutego 2012 roku na adres: Józef Mazurek MD, prezes, Związek Lekarzy Polskich, 6121 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, IL 60646.

W celu uzyskania dodatkowych informacji prosimy się kontaktować z następującymi osobami: Ewa Radwańska MD., tel: (312) 997-2229; Dorothy Anasinski DDS., tel: (847) 685-6686, [dr.d.anasinski@gmail.com](mailto:dr.d.anasinski@gmail.com); Ewa Błoda Md., DDS., [DrBłoda@aol.com](mailto:DrBłoda@aol.com); Janusz Dańko, DVM., [johndanko@hotmail.com](mailto:johndanko@hotmail.com)

## ZMIANY NA KONTACH ANNUITY

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# NA WIGILIJNY I ŚWIĄTECZNY STÓŁ

## Pomidorowa zupa rybna

20 surowych krewetek, 1 funt filetów ryby bez ości (najlepiej dorsza), 1 łyżka oliwy z oliwek, 1 średnia cebula, pokrojona w kostkę, 2 ząbki czosnku, drobno posiekane, 1 łyżeczka płatków chilli lub 1/2 łyżeczki pikantnej chilli w proszku, 1 łyżeczka słodkiej papryki w proszku, 1 puszka pomidorów (ok. 1 funta) bez skórek, w sosie pomidorowym, 1 łyżeczka suszonej bazylii, 4-5 łyżek oliwy z oliwek, 1 3/4 filiżanki (cup) gorącego bulionu jarzynowego, 1 łyżka sosu rybnego (niekoniecznie), sok z 1/2 cytryny, 4-5 łyżek drobnego makaronu, sól morską i świeżo zmielony pieprz, 1 łyżka masła, chrupkie pieczywo do podania

Krewetki rozmrozić, umyć, usunąć ogonki, pancerze i głowy, opłukać i osuszyć. Naciąć nożem w najgrubszej części, oprószyć solą. Filety z ryby opłukać, osuszyć, wyjąć ości, pokroić w 2-3 cm kostkę, posolić. Na dużej patelni z pokrywą rozgrzać 1 łyżkę oliwy, dodać posiekaną cebulę, a po minucie czosnek. Zeszklić, nie rumieniąc, na małym ogniu, przez około 4 min. Dodać chilli, słodką paprykę i smażyć ok. 1 min. Dodać pomidory w puszcze, rozgnieść je widelcem. Zagotować, dodać suszoną bazylię, oliwę, wlać bulion, sos rybny i sok z cytryny. Zagotować, dodać krewetki, dorsza, makaron. Delikatnie wymieszać, przykryć pokrywą i gotować na niezbyt dużym ogniu przez około 8-10 min., aż krewetki i ryba będą ugotowane. W trakcie gotowania delikatnie zamieszać. Doprawić solą i pieprzem, dodać masło. Podawać gorącą z chrupkim pieczywem.

## Wigilijne racuchy

1 funt mąki, 1 uncja drożdży, sól, cukier, garść rodzynek, olej, cukier puder.

Zagnieść ciasto z mąki, odrobiny ciepłej wody i drożdży. Dodać po szczypce soli i cukru oraz opłukane rodzynki. Wyrobić drewnianą łyżką, odstawić do wyrośnięcia w ciepłe miejsce przynajmniej na godzinę. Gdy podwoi swoją objętość wykrawać zimną łyżką porcje i wkładać na rozgrzany olej. Smażyć na rumiany kolor i posypać cukrem pudrem.

## Kluski z makiem i bakaliami

3 3/4 uncji mąki + 1 uncja do podsypiania, 1 żółtko, ok. 1/4 filiżanki (cup) ciepłej wody, 1 łyżeczka oleju, szczypta soli, 8 uncji maku, 4 uncje miodu wielokwiatowego, 2 łyżki cukru pudru, 1 uncja masła, 1 1/2 uncji rodzynek, 2 łyżki posiekanej smażonej skórki pomarańczowej, 2 łyżki słodkiej śmietanki kremówki, 1 łyżka spirytusu, 1 1/4 uncji posiekanych migdałów lub orzechów laskowych, kilka kropel olejku migdałowego

Mak zalać wrzątkiem i odstawić na noc. Następnego dnia gotować na małym ogniu aż da się rozetrzeć między palcami. Dokładnie osączyć na sicie. Zmieszać 3-4 razy. Wymieszać z miodem rozpuszczonym z masłem. Dodać spirytus, śmietankę, cukier puder, wcześniej namoczone i odsączone rodzynki, orzechy, skórkę pomarańczową oraz aromat. Dokładnie wymieszać. Mąkę przesiać do miski, wymieszać z niewielką szczyptą soli, wbić żółtko, wlać olej i powoli wlewać wodę, mieszając dłonią. Zagnieść gładkie elastyczne ciasto. Podsypując lekko mąką wywałkować placek o grubości ok. 3 mm. Pokroić na paski szerokości ok. 1 cm i długości ok. 10 cm, pozostawić na stolnicy do podsuszenia. Ugotować w osolonym wrzątku. Wymieszać z masą makowo-bakaliową. Podawać na zimno lub lekko podgrzane

## Kotlety grzybowe

1 funt pieczarek, jajko, bułka tarta, sól, pieprz, średnia 1 cebula, bułka czerstwa (namoczona w wodzie), olej do smażenia

Pieczarki ugotować w lekko osolonej wodzie. Po ugotowaniu ostudzić, bardzo dobrze odcisnąć i zmielić. Do pieczarek dodać przesmażoną cebulę, jajko, odcisniętą bułkę i bułkę tartą, wszystko razem połączyć i doprawić do smaku. Formować kotleciki, obtaczać w bułce tartej i smażyć z obu stron na rozgrzanym oleju.

## Schab pieczony w liściach włoskiej kapusty

1 szt. gałki muszkatołowej, 1 jajko, 10-12 uncji włoskiej kapusty, 8 1/2 uncji mielonej cielęciny, 1 łyżka oleju, 1 łyżeczka czarnego pieprzu (do smaku), 5-6 filiżanek (cups) rosółu z kury, 2 funty schabu bez kości, skórka otarta z 1 cytryny, 1 łyżeczka soli (do smaku), 2-3 łyżeczki śmietany, 1 łyżka zieleniny

Schab oczyścić z błon, opłukać i osuszyć. Do mielonej cielęciny wbić jajko, dodać zieleninę, startą skórkę. Umyć kapustę, liście porozdzielać, wrzucić na 2-3 min. do posolonego wrzątku, osączyć i ściąć grubsze włókna. Schab posmarować masą z cielęciny, zawinąć w liście kapusty i starannie obwiązać nitką. Brytfannę wysmarować olejem, włożyć schab, podlać rosółem i piec w nagrzanym wcześniej piecu przez 1 godzinę i 15 minut w temperaturze 400 F - co pewien czas polewać mięso sosem powstałym z pieczenia. Gotową pieczeń wyjąć, trzymać w cieple. Sos z pieczenia przelać do rondla, dodać śmietanę, wymieszać, zagotować.

## Salatka pieczarkowa

2 funty małych białych pieczarek, 4 jajka, 5-6 ogórków kiszonych, 1 dość duża czerwona cebula, 1 puszka kukurydzy konserwowej, 3-4 łyżki siekanego koperku świeżego, kilka łyżek majonezu, 1 łyżeczka musztardy, do smaku: sól i czarny pieprz

Pieczarki oczyścić, wrzucić na wrzącą wodę, obgotować 10 min., odcedzić, przestudzić, pokroić w półplasterki. Cebulę obrać, pokroić w kostkę, sparzyć, osączyć. Jajka ugotować na twardo, ostudzić, obrać, pokroić w kostkę. Ogórki pokroić w kostkę. Kukurydzę odcedzić. Pokrojone składniki wrzucić do miski, dodać kukurydzę, koperek, majonez i musztardę, wymieszać, doprawić solą i pieprzem. Odstawić do lodówki na 1-2 godz.

## Kólik duszony z suszonymi owocami

1 wypatroszony królik, 4 duże cebule, szklanka śliwek suszonych wymoczonych w winie, pół szklanki moreli suszonych wymoczonych w winie, 1 1/2 filiżanki (cup) śmietany, 8 listków laurowych, tymianek, pieprz i sól do smaku

Suszone śliwki i morele namoczyć 4 godziny w winie. Królika podzielić na porcje, natrzeć solą, tymiankiem, i pieprzem. Podsmażyć na małym ogniu na maśle. Pokrojoną cebulę zeszklić na maśle. Przełożyć wszystko do garnka z pokrywką, zalać wodą, dodać liść laurowy i dusić pod przykryciem, aż zmięknie (około godziny). W połowie duszenia dodać wymoczone w winie śliwki i morele, zaś na 10 minut przed końcem przyrządzania zalać śmietaną.

## Pierś z indyka tymiankowo-cytrynowa

3 funty piersi z indyka, 6-7 łyżek soku z cytryny, 4 łyżki masła, pół szklanki bulionu z kostki, ząbek czosnku, szczypta suszonego tymianku, sól

Mięso umyć, osuszyć i związać nitką. Osolić, natrzeć obranym i drobno posiekanym czosnkiem, skropić sokiem z cytryny, posypać rozartym tymiankiem. Odstawić do lodówki na co najmniej 3-4 godziny. Piekarnik nagrzać do temperatury 375 stopni F. W naczyniu żaroodpornym rozgrzać dwie łyżki masła, resztę pokroić na wiórki. Włożyć do naczynia mięso, obłożyć wiórkami masła, wstawić do piekarnika. Piec 90 min, często skrapiając bulionem wymieszanym z pozostałym sokiem z cytryny oraz sosem z pieczenia.



# Kolędnicy

Od Wigilli do Trzech Króli (a czasem przez całe zapusty i w ostatki), popularny był na polskiej wsi zwyczaj chodzących od domu do domu kolędników. Poprzebierani kolędnicy nosili maskary, którymi dla żartu straszono widzów. Najbardziej popularny był turoń, osadzony na kiju, z ruchomą, kłapiącą paszczą, czasem noszono niedźwiedzia, kozę, konia, koguta. Popularne było również noszenie gwiazdy, wykonanej z kolorowego papieru, czasami podświetlonej od środka, przymocowanej ruchomo do drzewca. Kolędnik, który ją niósł, nazywany był gwiazdorem lub gwiazdlichem. W grupie kolędników byli też: pasterze, Trzej Królowie, Dziad, Baba, Żyd, Cyganka, muzykanci. Wierszem albo kolędą składano życzenia, recytowano zabawne rymowanki i korzystano z okazji, aby spletać figle. Czasem chodzili też szopkarze z szopką i kukiełkami, odgrywający przedstawienia o narodzinach Jezusa w Betlejem, jak również Herody, zespoły odgrywające je „na żywo”. Biblijnym opowieściom towarzyszyły ludowe wątki i tradycje. W zamian za życzenia, gospodarze obdarowywali przebierańców świątecznymi smakołykami lub wykupywali się drobnymi datkami.



# GWIAZDA

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# Wigilia w Muzeum Polskim w Ameryce

Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce serdecznie zaprasza wszystkich przyjaciół i sympatyków na tradycyjną polską “Wigilię” w piątek, 2 grudnia 2011 r. w Sali Głównej im. Sabiny F. Logisz MPA, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL. Program w godz. 18.30-20.30. W programie: kolacja, śpiewanie kolęd i odwiedziny św. Mikołaja. Koszt: \$20 - dorośli i młodzież w wieku od 4 do 12 lat. Dzieci muszą być pod opieką starszych. Rezerwacje wymagane, ilość miejsc ograniczona. W sprawie dodatkowych informacji i rezerwacji prosimy dzwonić pod numer: (773) 384-3352, w. 104 lub pisać na adres: pma@polishmuseumofamerica.org. Do zobaczenia na tej wspaniałej uroczystości!





## Obchody Dnia Niepodległości w Muzeum Polskim w Ameryce

W czwartek 10 listopada, Konsulat RP w Chicago zorganizował przy współpracy z Muzeum Polskim w Ameryce, doroczną uroczystość z okazji obchodów Dnia Niepodległości w Polsce. Uroczysta akademicka odbyła się w godzinach wieczornych w Sali Głównej im. Sabiny F. Logisz Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce. Program otworzył konsul Robert Rusiecki, kierownik referatu ds. Współpracy z Polonią. Konsul Rusiecki powiadomił również zebranych, iż z okazji dnia Niepodległości Polski, Konsulat RP otrzymał listy gratulacyjne od senatorów Marka Kirka i Richarda Durbina oraz od burmistrza miasta Chicago, Rahma Emanuela. Gości powitał oficjalnie dyrektor Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce, p. Jan Loryś, który przypomniał, że w dniu 11 listopada Polonia w Ameryce obchodzi podwójną uroczystość - Dzień Niepodległości w Polsce oraz Dzień Weterana w Stanach Zjednoczonych.

Głos zabrał następnie konsul generalny RP w Chicago, Zygmunt Matynia, który podkreślił, że dla Polaków Dzień Niepodległości ma szczególny wymiar i jest obchodzony na pamiątkę odzyskania przez Polskę niepodległości i powrotu na mapy po 123 latach.

Wspominał o wielkich Polakach, którzy walczyli za wolność Polski - Ignacym Janie Paderewskim i generale Józefie Hallerze. Pamiątki po obu tych wielkich orędownikach sprawy Polski, znajdują się w Polsce, jak również w Ameryce. Konsul Matynia zaznaczył, iż Polacy na emigracji nie zapomnieli swojego języka i tradycji, czego dowodzą liczne organizacje i instytucje na terenie USA i innych krajów.

Kontynuując, nadmienił, że w tym roku obchodzimy różne jubileusze: 100-lecie urodzin polskiego poety laureata Nagody Nobla w dziedzinie literatury, Czesława Miłosza oraz 100-lecie przyznania Nagrody Nobla w dziedzinie chemii naszej wielkiej chemiczce i fizyczce, Marii Skłodowskiej-Curie. Szczególnie zwrócił zaś uwagę, na to, że w tym roku obchodzimy pamiątką rocznicę wprowadzenia w Polsce stanu wojennego w 1981 r. Stan wojenny był ciosem dla walczących wówczas o demokrację Polaków i Związku Zawodowego "Solidarność" oraz jednym z przełomowych wydarzeń XX w. Działalność "Solidarności" doprowadziła do zmian w środkowej Europie i demokratycznych wyborów w Polsce w 1989 roku, co z kolei doprowadziło Polskę do NATO i Unii Europejskiej, w której Polska od lipca br. sprawuje prezydencję.



W uroczystości udział wzięła grupa weteranów.

Następnie odśpiewano hymny narodowe Polski i USA.

Obchody Święta Niepodległości są zawsze okazją do wręczenia medali i odznaczeń państwowych zasłużonej grupie Polaków z Chicago. W tym roku przyznane zostały pośmiernie dwa Krzyże Oficerskie Odrodzenia Polski: Tadeuszowi Bielobradkowi i Stanisławowi Jamiołkowskiemu. Krzyże Kawalerskie Orderu Odrodzenia Polski otrzymali: dziennikarz polonijny Andrzej Jarmakowski i nauczyciel akademicki Jerzy Kocik. Złotymi Krzyżami Zasługi odznaczeni zostali: działaczka Związku Podhalan w Ameryce Maria Krzeptowska, nauczyciel Wojciech Stefan oraz choreograf i dyrektor artystyczny Zespołu "Lajkonik" PNA (i archiwistka Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce), Halina Misterka. Krzyżem Zesłańców Sybiru odznaczony został Władysław Świerczyński. Srebrny Medal Zasłużony Kulutrze "Gloria Artis" otrzymała pani Cecylia Rożnowska, wieloletnia



Odznaczeni medalami: (l-p): Władysław Świerczyński, Andrzej Jarmakowski, Maria Krzeptowska Giewont, Cecylia Rożnowska, Halina Misterka, Jerzy Kocik.



Konsul Generalny RP w Chicago, Zbigniew Matynia.



Krótki koncert w wykonaniu artystów: Janet Packer i Geoffrey Burleson

choreograf i dyrektor artystyczny Zespołów Pieśni i tańca "Polonia" ZPRKA.

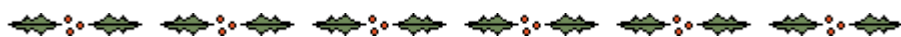
W części artystycznej wystąpili amerykańscy artyści Janet Packer i Geoffrey Burleson, którzy zagrali na fortepianie i skrzypcach utwory Karola Szymanowskiego, Henryka Wieniawskiego i Krzysztofa Meyera.

Po części artystycznej konsul Matynia podziękował wszystkim obecnym na sali członkom Komisji Wyborczej, którzy pomagali w tegorocznych wyborach. Ogłosił również, iż następują zmiany w składzie osobowym Konsulatu RP w Chicago i przedstawił odchodzącą i nową

ekipę pracowników.

Jako ostatni wystąpił skarbnik stanu Illinois Dan Rutherford, który przekazał gratulacje z okazji obchodzonego święta oraz podkreślił, że w stanie Illinois mieszka wielu zasłużonych dla stanu obywateli Polskich oraz Amerykanów polskiego pochodzenia.

Po programie goście zaproszeni zostali na poczęstunek przygotowany przez Kasia's Deli.



## GRATULUJEMY TYTUŁU DOKTORSKIEGO P. JAWORSKIEMU

W Polskim Uniwersytecie na Obczyźnie w Londynie, dnia 13 października 2011 roku odbyła się obrona doktorska Jana Jaworskiego, znanego działacza polonijnego z Chicago. Tytuł pracy doktorskiej to "Podstawy patriotyzmu Jana Pawła II". Praca była hołdem z racji beatyfikacji papieża. Obrona odbyła się w październiku, który jest miesiącem 33. rocznicy wyboru Papieża-Polaka Jana Pawła II. Autor prześledził rozwój patriotyzmu w życiu papieża oraz zwrócił uwagę na wątki umiłowania ojczyzny w Jego życiu. Praca ta ma ważne znaczenie dla Polaków.

Rozprawa doktorska powstała pod kierunkiem promotora prf. d hab. Ewy Lewandowskiej-Tarasiuk z Warszawy. Recenzentami pracy byli ks. prof. dr hab. Stanisław Urbański z Uniwersytetu Kardynała Stefana Wyszyńskiego w Warszawie i prof. dr hab. Paweł Boryszewski z Akademii Pedagogiki Specjalnej w Warszawie. Całą rozprawę doktorską przewodniczyły rektor Uniwersytetu PUNO prof. dr Halina Taborska oraz dziekan Wydziału Filozoficznego prof. dr hab. Alicja Moskal.

Jan Jaworski jest socjologiem i dziennikarzem, przede wszystkim jednak jest wybitnym działaczem społecznym, który jako osoba świecka poświęcił się służbie Bogu i Kościołowi. Był on jednym z inicjatorów akcji radiotonów, w których zebrano fundusze na ratowanie Wałów Jasnogórskich i na odnowienie Kaplicy Matki Bożej w Częstochowie. Dzięki jego staraniom zebrano także fundusze na pomoc różnym szpitalom, hospicjom, dla powodźian, itp.

Pan Jaworski jest autorem licznych artykułów i reportaży do prasy polonijnej i polskiej. Jest autorem książki pt. „Jan Paweł II wśród Polonii Amerykańskiej”.

Za swoją działalność społeczną, religijną i patriotyczną otrzymał liczne wyróżnienia i medale, m.in.: Medal Zasługi "Exulbene De Ecclesi Merito", Miecze Hallerowskie, Krzyż Papieski "Pro Ecclesi Et Pontifice", "Komandorię Orderu św. Sylwestra". Jest też Konfratrem Zakonu Paulinów.

Gratulujemy panu Jaworskiemu tego wspaniałego sukcesu i życzymy wielu kolejnych osiągnięć. P. Jan Jaworski jest prezesem Tow. #800 ZPRKA.



20 października w Krakowie przyjął dra Jaworskiego na audyencji





## Książeczki i broszurki o tematyce bożonarodzeniowej

ZPRKA oferuje swoim członkom kilka wydawnictw, związanych z Bożym Narodzeniem:

- **Polskie Boże Narodzenie: Zwyczaje, kolędy i przepisy kulinarne** (Polish Christmas: Customs, Carols and Cuisine) - Kolorowa książeczka z opisem zwyczajów Bożego Narodzenia w Polsce, 15 przepisami na tradycyjne potrawy wigilijne i świąteczne oraz słowami 17 kolęd w języku angielskim i 15 w języku polskim. Książeczka jest darmowa, wymagana jest opłata za przesyłkę - \$1.50 za jedną książeczkę i 50 centów za każdą następną.

Zamówienia można przysyłać na adres: PRCUA Fraternal Dept., 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642 lub odebrać osobiście w biurach ZPRKA w Chicago i Filadelfii.

Posiadamy również broszurki z 10 polskimi i 11 angielskimi najpopularniejszymi kolędami. Członkowie ZPRKA, mogą zamawiać broszurki dzwoniąc do Departamentu Braterstwa ZPRKA pod numer: 1-800-772-8632 w. 2601.

## 75. TURNIEJ KRĘGLARSKI ZPRKA

W dniach 20-22 kwietnia 2012 r. odbędzie się 75. Turniej Kręglarski ZPRKA. Jak poinformował krajowy dyrektor turnieju kręglarskiego, Patrick Kosowski, "diamentowe" rozgrywki odbędą się w Buffalo, NY. Organizatorzy zapraszają wszystkich członków ZPRKA do wzięcia udziału. Gospodarz jubileuszowych rozgrywek, dyrektor Bill Nowakowski i Dystrykt #2 ZPRKA, przygotowują wiele atrakcji.

Rozgrywki odbywać się będą w AMF THRUWAY LANES przy 1550 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga, NY. Rozgrywki indywidualne i par odbędą się w piątek, 20 kwietnia i w niedzielę, 22 kwietnia. Rozgrywki zespołowe odbędą się w sobotę, 21 kwietnia.

Formularze zgłoszeniowe zostaną wysłane pocztą do byłych uczestników turniejów kręglarskich. Można je też będzie pobrać wkrótce z witryny ZPRKA.

Uczestnicy turnieju mogą się zatrzymać w hotelu Holiday Inn at Buffalo Airport, 4600 Genesee Street, Buffalo, NY 1422. ZPRKA otrzymało korzystne ceny noclegów: za pokój jedno/dwuosobowy \$99, za pokój trzyosobowy - \$109. W celu dokonania rezerwacji, prosimy dzwonić do hotelu pod numer: (716) 634-6969 i prosić o grupową zniżkę. Powyższe ceny biletów będą gwarantowane do 8 marca.

Prosimy o zapoznanie się z terminarzem innych rozgrywek sportowych ZPRKA. Terminarze będą ogłaszane w "Narodzie Polskim" oraz na stronie: [www.prcua.org](http://www.prcua.org).



## Zwiedź Polskę z wycieczką Muzeum Polskiego

Dyrekcja Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce zaprasza wszystkich chętnych do wspólnego zwiedzania Polski w czasie dwóch wycieczek, organizowanych przez PMA. "Stolice Polski" to 2-tygodniowa wycieczka, w czasie której zwiedzane będą popularne polskie miasta: Warszawa - stolica Polski, Gdańsk - stolica Solidarności, Poznań/Gniezno - pierwsza stolica Polski, Kraków - jedna z byłych stolic Polski i stolica rodów królewskich i życia kulturalnego. W czasie przejazdu zwiedzane również będą takie miasta jak Malbork - średniowieczna stolica Zakonu Krzyżackiego na terenach polskich, Częstochowa - stolica życia religijnego, Zakopane - zimowa stolica Polski. Uczestnicy będą mieli okazję zwiedzić 8 z 13 zabytków światowego dziedzictwa UNESCO w Polsce.

Ponieważ w 2012 r. na terenie Polski i Ukrainy odbywać się będą Mistrzostwa Europy w piłce nożnej, organizatorzy proponują wstępnie datę wycieczki na 7-20 maja 2012 r.

Druga wycieczka zatytułowana ART NOUVEAU POLAND - poświęcona będzie zwiedzaniu zabytków sztuki secesyjnej (kierunek popularny w sztuce europejskiej i amerykańskiej na przełomie XIX i XX w.). W czasie wycieczki uczestnicy odwiedzają: Warszawę, Wrocław, Bielsko-Białą, Katowice, Kraków, oraz po raz pierwszy wycieczka pojedzie również do Lwowa i Lemberg, na Ukrainie. Proponowany termin wycieczki to 9-23 września 2012 r.

Wycieczki dojdą do skutku, jeśli na każdą zgłosi się przynajmniej 20 osób. Więcej informacji można uzyskać pisząc na adres: [jan-lorys@polishmuseumofamerica.org](mailto:jan-lorys@polishmuseumofamerica.org).



Biura ZPRKA będą nieczynne: w piątek 23 grudnia i w poniedziałek 26 grudnia, z okazji Świąt Bożego Narodzenia oraz w poniedziałek 2 stycznia, z okazji Nowego Roku.

## Polska Szkoła im. Św. Rafała Kalinowskiego w Munster, IN powitała nowych pierwszoklasistów

W dniu 22 października 2011 r. odbyło się w naszej szkole "Pasowanie na Ucznia"! Było to wzruszające wydarzenie nie tylko dla rodziców i uczniów pierwszej klasy, ale również dla naszej całej społeczności szkolnej. Przy dźwiękach polskiego hymnu narodowego, na tle sztandaru szkolnego i flagi polskiej, jedenastu uczniów: Patrycja Bałys, Maya Firlej, David Gibek, Kuba Moneta, Anna Nawrot, Dominik Orciuch, Anna Raycroft, Angelica Rzeźnikowski, Monika Świątko, Alexander Williams i Nicholas Williams, ze zniecierpliwieniem czekało na "egzamin na ucznia", przeprowadzony przez "dojrzałe" czwartoklasistki: Julię Fezatt i Natalię Makarewicz.

Wśród zaproszonych gości byli rodzice nowych Pierwszoklasistów, 5-cio latki i zerówkowicze, przedstawiciele Zarządu Szkoły oraz ZPRKA. Pierwszoklasiści śpiewając odpowiadali na pytania o Polskę, jej flagę, Wiśle i dobrych manierach w szkole. Dyrektor szkoły i wychowawca klasy, pani Agnieszka Fezatt, uroczyście "pasowała" każdego ucznia na pełnoprawnego członka Polskiej Szkoły im. Św. Rafała Kalinowskiego, a pani Anna Sokolowski, wiceprezeska ZPRKA, ciepłymi słowami zachęcała do kontynuowania naszych polskich, wspaniałych tradycji oraz pielęgnowania miłości do kraju naszych przodków. Jesteśmy wdzięczni rodzicom za ich poświęcenie, uczniom za naukę, nauczycielom za wkład pracy i organizacjom takim, jak ZPRKA, za pomoc naszej szkole w krzewieniu języka i kultury polskiej w kolejnych pokoleniach młodzieży.



Tegoroczni pierwszoklasiści.

## Muzeum Narodowe w Krakowie poszukuje prac Olgi Boznańskiej (1865-1940)

W związku z pracami nad katalogiem dzieł wszystkich Olgi Boznańskiej i planowaną w Muzeum Narodowym w Krakowie wystawą monograficzną poszukujemy wszelkich prac tej wybitnej artystki. Zwracamy się z prośbą do kolekcjonerów i właścicieli dzieł Olgi Boznańskiej o kontakt z kuratorem wystawy: Urszulą Kozakowską-Zaucha: [ukozakowska@muzeum.krakow.pl](mailto:ukozakowska@muzeum.krakow.pl), tel. +48 012 29 55 546 lub Ewą Bobrowską: [ewabj@live.fr](mailto:ewabj@live.fr), tel. +33/6 60 05 92 63 Zapewniamy anonimowość i dyskrecję. Muzeum Narodowe w Krakowie/National Museum in Krakow, Al. 3 Maja 1, 30-062 Kraków, Poland

## TERMINARZ TURNIEJÓW SPORTOWYCH ZPRKA NA 2012 R.

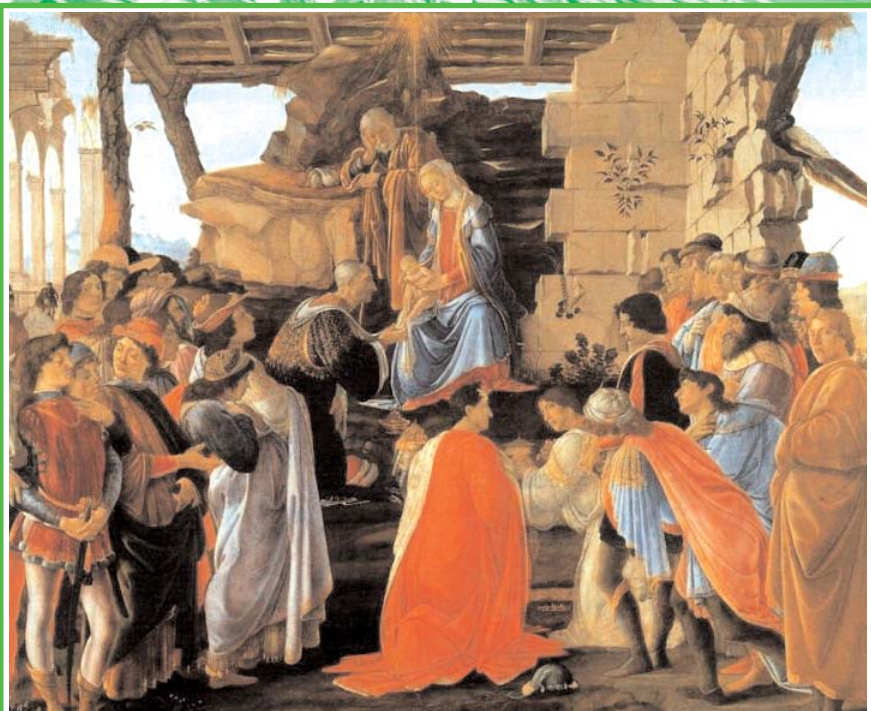
**78. Krajowy Turniej Koszykówki** - 24 marca 2012 r., East Chicago, IN. Gospodarzem będzie Towarzystwo Our Lady Queen of Poland Society #413. Przewodniczącym turnieju jest Rich Sobilo.

**75. Krajowy Turniej Kręglarski** - 20-22 kwietnia 2012 r., Buffalo, NY. Gospodarzem będzie Dystrykt #2 ZPRKA, przewodniczącym, William Nowakowski.

**60. Turniej Golfowy ZPRKA** - 21 lipca 2012 r., Toledo, OH. Gospodarzem będzie Dystrykt #5 ZPRKA.

**58. Krajowy Turniej Piłki Softball** - 18 sierpnia 2012 r., (wstępnie w Big Rapids, MI). Gospodarzem będzie Towarzystwo St. Rita's Soc. #1368, przewodniczącym - Jerry Lubiarz.





## Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia

*oraz Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!*

Dla Polaków Boże Narodzenie to bardzo szczególny okres. Rozpoczyna go 4-tygodniowy okres przygotowania, zwanym Adwentem, w czasie którego większość katolików przygotowuje się do świąt duchowo, poprzez post, pokutę, uczestnictwo w mszach porannych ku czci Marii Panny, tzw. roratach.

W dniu 6 grudnia rozmyślania o zbliżających się narodzinach Chrystusa, przerywają tzw. "Mikołajki", czyli dzień św. Mikołaja, w którym dzieci (niemal na całym świecie) obdarowywane są podarkami, na pamiątkę świętego - arcybiskupa włoskiego, który według legendy szczególną miłością darzył biednych i uważany jest za patrona dzieci.

Międzynarodowym stał się również zwyczaj ustawiania i zdobienia choinki - symbolu odradzającego się życia. Zwyczaj ustawiania choinki trafił do Polski na przełomie XVII i XIX wieku. Drzewka, zdobione początkowo w owoce i orzechy oraz domowego wypieku ciasteczka i pierniki, z czasem stawały się bogatsze i strojniesze. Pojawily się ozdoby wykonane ze słomy, bibułki i papieru, potem bajecznie kolorowe dmuchane świecidełka o różnych kształtach, a świece zastąpiły kolorowe lampki. Ustrojona choinka stała dawniej w domu do 6 stycznia, czyli Trzech Króli, albo nawet do 2 lutego, do Święta Matki Boskiej Gromnicznej.

W tradycji polskiej, szczególnie uroczyste obochodzony jest 24 grudnia, w którym to dniu Polacy przygotowują tradycyjną kolację wigilijną. W dzień wigilijny obowiązywało dawniej zachowanie ścisłego postu. Do wieczerzy wigilijnej zasiada się z zapadnięciem zmroku, z chwilą ukazania się pierwszej gwiazdy, wypatrywanej z utęsknieniem przez dzieci. Typowa wigilijna wieczerza musi być podana na nakrytym białym obrusem stole. Pod obrusem, jak każe zwyczaj, należy ułożyć trochę sianka lub słomy - na pamiątkę narodzin Chrystusa w ubogiej stajence. Na stole stawia się dodatkowe nakrycie - według tradycji, przeznaczone dla przygodnego gościa lub na pamiątkę zmarłego członka rodziny. W Polsce wigilia weszła na stałe do tradycji dopiero w XVIII wieku i ma charakter ściśle rodzinny.

Kolację zaczyna dzielenie się opłatkiem połączonym ze składaniem sobie życzeń. Opłatek nawiązuje do spożywania chleba Eucharystycznego. Staropolskie opłatki były różnokolorowe i bardzo ozdobne. Dziś opłatki są najczęściej białe i ozdobnie wytłaczane. W czasie kolacji powinno być podane 12 dań na pamiątkę 12 apostołów. Tradycyjne polskie dania różnią się w zależności od regionu kraju. Kolację otwiera jedna z tradycyjnych zup wigilijnych: barszcz czerwony z uszkami, barszcz grzybowy, lub rzadziej - zupa migdałowa. Po zupie na stół trafiają różnego rodzaju ryby (smażone, duszone, pieczone, w sosach), pierogi z kapusty i grzybów lub z ziemniakami, czy serem, kapusta z grzybami lub grochem, kluski z grzybami i kapustą lub kluski z makiem. Do tego obowiązkowo musi być kompot z suszonych owoców, a na deser świąteczne ciasta i makowce, łamańce z makiem lub pochodząca ze wschodnich rejonów Polski słynna kutia.

Kolację kończy wspólne śpiewanie kolęd i wymienianie się prezentami.

Magię wigilijnego wieczoru potęguje Pasterka. Jest to uroczysta msza święta, która odprawiana jest w kościołach katolickich w Wigilię dokładnie o godzinie dwudziestej czwartej. W tradycji polskiej przyjęte jest by na Pasterkę wybrać się całą rodziną, aby wspólnie podziękować Bogu za cud Bożego Narodzenia.

Pierwszy dzień świąt to dla większości Polaków okazja do przeżywania świąt w gronie rodziny i przyjaciół, spotkania się przy suto zastawionych stołach, w blasku palących się lampek choinkowych, w ciepłej, rodzinnej atmosferze. Tego dnia do obiadu zazwyczaj podawane zostają różne mięsa, na przykład: schab ze śliwkami, nóżki w galarecie czy różnego rodzaju pieczenie. Na stole nie brakuje też różnego rodzaju sałatek, smakowitych wędlin i innych przekąsek. Dużą rolę w świątecznym menu odgrywają ciasta i wypieki. Tradycyjnie musi być makowiec z orzechami, serniki, ciasta biszkoptowe oraz desery na zimno z galaretką. Na suto zastawionym polskim, świątecznym stole nie brakuje też zwykle dobrych alkoholi, jak słodkie wina czy domowe nalewki.

26 grudnia w Polsce obchodzi się Dzień św. Szczepana. Dawniej w dzień św. Szczepana, podczas mszy, święcono owies oraz ziarna innych zbóż, którymi z chóru obsypywano idącego księdza - rzekomo na pamiątkę męczeńskiej śmierci świętego przez ukamienowanie.

*"Wiadomość Aniołów przyniosła nam wielką radość,  
Bóg spełnił Swoją obietnicę, Słowo stało się Ciałem.  
Jezus Chrystus, nasz Zbawiciel, zamieszkał wśród nas."*

Z okazji zbliżających się świąt Bożego Narodzenia, życzymy Wam naszym Drogim Członkom i Przyjaciółom, pokoju od Nowonarodzonego Króla nad królami. Niech Jego miłość wspiera Was i Waszych bliskich, gdy będziecie łączyć się opłatkiem i dzielić radością z Bożego Narodzenia. Podobnie jak aniołowie przed laty, tak teraz my, głosimy chwałę Boga swoim przykładnym życiem, starając się nieść pokój w tych trudnych czasach na świecie.

Niech błogosławieństwo Nowonarodzonego Jezusa, przepełnia Was i Waszych bliskich, radością i pełnią szczęścia.

ks. Władysław J. Ptak  
Naczelny Kapłan

ks. Antoni D. Iwuć  
Wicekapłan

ks. Infułat Stanisław E. Milewski, P.A.  
Wicekapłan

## PROMOCJA BOŻONARODZENIOWA



Kupując ubezpieczenie na życie w okresie od 1 listopada do 23 grudnia 2011 roku otrzymasz za darmo ozdobę choinkową z logo ZPRKA. Każde ubezpieczone dziecko (do lat 16) otrzyma również ślicznego pluszowego misia o imieniu "Buttercup". Ponadto, każdy kupujący ubezpieczenie, ma szansę na wygranie odtwarzacza Apple iPod Shuffle w loterii, która odbędzie się 27 grudnia 2011 roku.

Nazwisko zwycięzcy zostanie ogłoszone w publikacji ZPRKA "Naród Polski" oraz będzie podane na naszej stronie internetowej PRCUA.org już od 27 grudnia.

Dodatkowo, kupując ubezpieczenie w okresie od 1 listopada do 23 grudnia 2011 roku, można otrzymać 10% lub 20% rocznej zniżki od każdej raty.

Plany ubezpieczenia, które kwalifikują się na 10% zniżki to wszystkie plany bezterminowe/stałe oprócz planu jednorazowej opłaty - "Single Premium Whole Life". Minimalna kwota ubezpieczenia, które musi być wykupione wynosi \$5,000.

Wykupując ubezpieczenie Rodzina Plus, możesz skorzystać z 20% rocznej zniżki dla każdego członka rodziny. Minimalna kwota ubezpieczenia bezterminowego, która musi być wykupiona wynosi \$10,000. Przynajmniej 2 osoby muszą wykupić ubezpieczenie.

Szczegóły promocji "Rodzina Plus" znajdą Państwo na PRCUA.org/specials.

W celu znalezienia lokalnego przedstawiciela ubezpieczeniowego ZPRKA należy wejść na stronę PRCUA.org/agents, albo skontaktować się z Departamentem Członkowskim ZPRKA. Wszystkie pytania można kierować na bezpłatny numer 1-800-772-8632. Aby uzyskać informacje w języku polskim należy wybrać numer wewnętrzny: 2634.

Aby skorzystać z promocji Bożonarodzeniowej aplikacje muszą być dostarczone do biura ZPRKA do dnia 23 grudnia 2011.

