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NARÓD POLSKI *Polish Nation*

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Happy 2020!

It was not so long ago that everyone was fretting about Y2K. What will happen to us in the New Millennium? People had thoughts that our automated world would come crashing down around us.

Here we are in the 20th year of the 21st century and we have survived. Survival is a thing that we as Poles take to heart. We are proud of our culture and heritage. Even though we are not in the land of our forefathers, we are still Polish in our hearts. The Polish people have carried these values throughout history. We have moved to other countries, have had our homeland removed from the maps of the world, yet we continue as a Polish people no matter what the conditions. We continue to embrace the traditions and adapt to the changes that are presented to us.

As we look forward, we can see that changes are made to enhance our lives. Over the last year, the PRCUA has adopted a few changes. First, we have a new logo, PRCUALife. This new logo gives our fraternal a modern, updated look for the coming years.

However, the biggest change is the easiest to see, because it is right in front of you. The format of the *Naród Polski* has changed from the traditional, spreadsheet format to a friendly, tabloid format. The inside of the paper will be separated into sections with tabs for culture, business and member news. As in the past, the *Naród* will also include information in the Polish language. We foresee that the new look of the *Naród Polski* will not only be easier to read, but also easier to handle.

As I have been asking our members for the last year: Get involved, stay involved and get others involved!

With your membership in the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, you help ensure that our culture will continue to thrive through Polish language and dance schools as well as the other events we sponsor throughout the year.

On behalf of the officers, directors and staff of the PRCUA, we wish you a happy and fruitful New Year!

Fraternally yours,

James J. Robaczewski, ALMI, FIC, ACS
National President



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

PRCUA.ORG |     

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JANUARY | STYCZEŃ

1 NEW YEAR – THE PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**12 DEARBORN HTS., MI – ST. STAN'S SOC. #718 CORPORATE COMMUNION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS** on Sun., Jan. 12. Mass will be held in memory of the Society's deceased members at 11:00 a.m. at St. Linus Church on Hass Street between Telegraph & Beach Daly Rds. south of Warren Ave. Following Mass, a complimentary dinner will be served at the Stitt VFW Post on Waverly Street just south of W. Warren Rd and east of Telegraph Rd. A short meeting will be held along with election of officers for 2020, followed by dinner. RSVP by Dec. 20, 2019 to Leonard & Eileen Nasiatka 313-278-5219.**15 LANSING, MI – WHITE EAGLE SOC. #2342 POTLUCK AND MEETING** on Wed., Jan 15 at the Federated Polish Home, 1030 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing, MI. Contact: Veronica Ulrich at 517-484-3311.**18 HICKORY HILLS, IL – WESOŁY LUD POLISH FOLK DANCE MASQUERADE DINNER DANCE AND SHOW**, celebrating the milestone of six Wesoły Lud members, on Sat., Jan. 18, at Camelot Banquets, 8624 W. 95th St., Hickory Hills, IL. Entrance at 7:00 p.m., dinner at 7:30 p.m. For additional information, see page 12 or contact Camilla Steczek at 708-698-7474 or csteczek@gmail.com.**WYANDOTTE, MI – PRCUA SOCIETY #162 (Host Society) vs. SOCIETY #718 RYDER CUP BOWLING** on Sat., Jan. at Indian Lanes located at 4500 13th St., Wyandotte, MI. Registration starts at 11:00 a.m. Afterglow at PRCUA #162 Lounge, 1430 Oak St., Wyandotte, MI. \$45 per person includes bowling, prize money and food. For registration, contact Bob Hojnacki at hoj606@hotmail.com or (313) 384-6255.**MUNSTER, IN – ST. RAPHAEL KALINOWSKI POLISH SCHOOL "JASEŁKA" SHOW** on Sat., Jan. 18 at 11:00 a.m. at Carmelite Fathers Banquet Hall, 1628 Ridge Rd., Munster, IN. All school students will participate in the performance. Coffee and sweets will be served before the show.**25 DETROIT, MI – PRCUA GWIAZDA DANCERS ANNUAL FOWLING FUNDRAISER** on Sat., Jan. 25 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Fowling Warehouse, 3901 Christopher St., Detroit, MI. For additional information see pg. 11 or contact Jessica at 313-682-3031 or panijessica@hotmail.com.**28 WARREN, MI – ST. JOHN PAUL II SOC. #1593 MEETING** on Tues., Jan. 28 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Anne Jr. H.S. (Back Building), 36000 Mound Rd., Warren, MI. Contact: Valerie Brumm at 248-622-8949 or valerie.brumm@gmail.com.

2020 PRCUA CALENDAR



Marketing Department at 773-782-2630.

Orders can also be placed by emailing the following address: marketing@prcu.org. We hope you will enjoy this 2020 calendar! Limited supply!

The free 2020 PRCUA calendar is available to PRCUA members. Members can pick up a calendar at the Home Office, 984 North Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL or can order one by calling the



FEBRUARY | LUTY

1 STERLING HTS., MI – ZAJĄCZEK DANCE ENSEMBLE POLSKA ZABAWA on Sat., Feb. 1 at 6:00 p.m. at American Polish Century Club, 33204 Maple Lane., Sterling Hts., MI. For additional information, see page 12.**6 DEARBORN HTS., MI – ST. STAN'S SOC. #718 SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE DRAWING** on Thurs., Feb. 6 at Randy's Bar & Grille, 25122 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn Hts., MI. Complimentary snacks. Drawing at 8:00 p.m.**8 MUNSTER, IN – ST. RAPHAEL KALINOWSKI POLISH SCHOOL CARNIVAL DANCE** on Sat., Feb. 8 at Carmelite Fathers Banquet Hall, 1628 Ridge Rd., Munster, IN. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., dance at 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$40.00 adults, \$20.00 children ages 5-12. For reservations and/or additional information, contact: Monika at 630-276-6764 or Ania at 219-671-3903.**BRIDGEVIEW, IL – MARIA KONOPNICKA POLISH SCHOOL "ZABAWA KARNAWAŁOWA"** on Sat., Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Paradise Elegant Banquets, 9220 S. Harlem Ave., Bridgeview, IL. Tickets \$60 per person. For reservations call 312-718-0169 or 708-691-4348. Ticket also available in the school office.**DETROIT, MI – POLISH HERITAGE NIGHT - DETROIT PISTONS VS. NEWYORK KNICKS** on Sat., Feb. 8 at 7:00 p.m. at Little Caesar's Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI. See details on pg. 12.**17 PRESIDENTS' DAY** – THE PRCUA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**19 LANSING, MI – WHITE EAGLE SOC. #2342 POTLUCK AND MEETING** on Wed., Feb. 19 at the Federated Polish Home, 1030 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing, MI. Contact: Veronica Ulrich at 517-484-3311.**20 TŁUSTY CZWARTEK (PL)****22 TROY, MI – 29TH ANNUAL SHIRLEY ANN GALANTY MICHIGAN STATE BALL** on Sat., Feb 22 at San Marino Club, 1685 E. Big Beaver, Troy, MI. Cocktails at 5:15 p.m., promenade at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. For additional information, see page 12.**LEMONT, IL – PRCUA ST. JOHN PAUL II POLISH SCHOOL 40TH ANNIVERSARY AND POLANIE DANCERS 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** on Sat., Feb 22 at 6:00 p.m. at Crystal Grand Banquet, 12416 S. Archer Ave., Lemont, IL. For additional information, see page 9.**MT. PROSPECT, IL – PRCUA POLONIA ENSEMBLE MARDI GRAS BALL** on Sat., Feb. 22 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Crystal Palace Banquets, 1070 S. Elmhurst Rd., Mt. Prospect, IL. Tickets: \$80 adults (open bar), \$40 12-20 years old, \$35 children 3-11 years old. Performance of the Polonia Dance Ensemble, gourmet dinner, snacks, open bar, games, music by DJ Koval. For reservations, call 847-529-2555.**25 FAT TUESDAY****WARREN, MI – ST. JOHN PAUL II SOC. #1593 MEETING** on Tues., Feb. 25 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Anne Jr. H.S. (Back Building), 36000 Mound Rd., Warren, MI. Contact: Valerie Brumm at 248-622-8949 or valerie.brumm@gmail.com.**26 ASH WEDNESDAY | POPIELC**

Epiphany (Three Kings Day), celebrated on January 6, commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child and the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, seen as his manifestation to the world as the Son of God.

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Insurance Checklist for the New Year — Are You Prepared for 2020?

Make a resolution to review your coverage and beneficiaries!



The start of a new year is a great time to re-evaluate your life insurance coverage. A change in circumstances may lead to different insurance needs. Did you get married or have a baby? Purchase a new home or car? If so, you'll want to check whether you have the right fit in policy protection.

Take some time to talk with your **PRCUALife** Sales Representative and review your certificates to see if they meet your current needs. Even if you haven't experienced a life changing event, you could be eligible for discounts or new insurance products that may better serve your needs.

Impact on Life Insurance and Annuities

Changes—such as a birth, divorce, remarriage or even a new mortgage or new job—are indicators that you might need to make changes to your life insurance, or at the very least, that you should review your coverage.

Read your policy carefully and answer these questions:

- What is your current amount of coverage? Is this sufficient to protect your loved ones if something were to happen to you?
- Do premiums or benefits vary from year to year?
- Is there cash value? If so, how does it grow?
- Can the certificate be converted into another form of insurance or annuity?
- Are the beneficiary designations on your life insurance or annuities current?

In the case of the birth of a child or a new marriage, you might want to consider increasing your death benefit.

Alternatively, events like paying off your mortgage, retirement or children finishing college might mean that you can lower your life insurance coverage and premiums. Your life insurance company may be able to offer "conversion privileges" from your current term life insurance policy to a new whole life insurance policy without a medical exam. You may also be able to expand your death benefits so they can be used while you are still living. Ask your **PRCUALife** Sales Representative about these options.

Remain current on product specials and offers – read the **NARÓD POLSKI** and check our website and social media pages.

For more information, contact PRCUALife today!

201912ICNP

**Time is running out to...
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Certificates are available for your little one from age 2 weeks to 15 years and 5 months. Each applicant will receive a free gift and a chance to WIN one of three Grand Prizes. Applications with face amounts of \$25,000 or larger will receive two entry tickets per application, providing a greater chance to win. The Grand Prize drawing will take place February 15, 2020. Winners will be announced in the March 2020 *Naród Polski*, on PRCUA.org and our Facebook page.

Highlights of the Single Pay Whole Life Insurance Plan

- Builds cash value
- Dividend participating
- Coverage can never be cancelled by PRCUA
- One payment for a lifetime of security for your loved one
- Eligibility for membership benefits such as college scholarships and educational loans

Rates for Females

Age	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
0	\$503.46	\$781.92	\$1,617.30	\$3,009.60
5	\$554.99	\$884.97	\$1,874.93	\$3,524.85
10	\$619.07	\$1,013.13	\$2,195.33	\$4,165.65
15	\$694.85	\$1,164.69	\$2,574.23	\$4,923.45

Rates for Males

Age	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
0	\$547.38	\$869.76	\$1,836.90	\$3,448.80
5	\$604.31	\$983.61	\$2,121.53	\$4,018.05
10	\$678.15	\$1,131.30	\$2,490.75	\$4,756.50
15	\$764.96	\$1,304.91	\$2,924.78	\$5,624.55

All applications for the PRCUALife 2019/2020 Christmas Special are subject to underwriting and must be postmarked by January 31, 2020.

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Depending on your age, \$100 will purchase \$2,000, \$1,000 or \$500 of term coverage:

Age	Premium	Amount of insurance
16-50	\$100	\$2,000
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66-75	\$100	\$500

Frequently Asked Questions

- Can I participate in a sports tournament if I purchase the Tournament Special?
- When does my term insurance coverage expire if I buy the Tournament Special?
- What will happen in the event of my death within the two years of my purchasing a Tournament Special certificate?
 - In addition to being able to participate in tournaments, what other PRCUA benefits can I take advantage of?

Find all the answers to these questions & more information on this product at: www.prcua.org/tournament-special or contact Mateusz Bomba at: 1-800-772-8632 ext. 2636; mateusz-bomba@prcu.org or your local PRCUA Sales Representative.

*Applications subject to underwriting. Limit one certificate per insured. Non-convertible. Non-renewable.

PRCUA ANNUAL OPLATEK

PRCUA District 7 was the host of the 2019 Annual PRCUA Oplatek this year organized on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at the Great Hall of the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. There was a full house of guests who came to share the oplatek, share best wishes and spend time in a Christmas atmosphere.

PRCUA Marketing Director Elżbieta Sawczuk and PRCUA Fraternal Coordinator and District 7 President Mateusz Bomba emceed the program for the evening.

The organizing committee, led by PRCUA District 7 Director Ewa Cholewinski, prepared a spectacular night for all who attended. In attendance were PRCUA Executive officers: President James Robaczewski with wife Elaine, Vice President Micheline Jaminski with husband Richard, and Secretary-Treasurer Agnieszka

Bastrzyk and all the National Directors with spouses and families. Present were also: President of the Polish Museum of America Richard Owsiany, representatives of the PRCUA Adult Culture Group with 2020 Cinderella Karolina Gal and Prince Charming Arthur Rykala, as well as representatives of other organizations, including the Polish Falcons of America.

After dinner, the Polonia Ensemble of PRCUA, under managing direction of Anna Krysinski, who is also the PRCUA District 7 Director and musical direction of Mieczyslaw Dzis, provided entertainment. The group prepared a medley of beautiful Polish and American Christmas carols. Shortly after, St. Nicholas visited the Hall where he passed out gifts to all children present. The program continued with a game led by Micheline Jaminski and ended with a raffle drawing of Christmas gift baskets packed with many goodies.

With an evening full of events, we want to thank all District 7 volunteers who made this event so special.



Christmas carols presented by the Młoda Polonia Ensemble



PRCUA Executive Officers, National Chaplain and Directors



Emcees Elżbieta Sawczuk and Mateusz Bomba



Ania Wytrzymalski and PMA President Richard Owsiany



St. Nicholas (Walter Dynowski) was received by children with smiles and wonderment



Adult Culture Group with 2020 Cinderella and Prince Charming

THE NEW YEAR WITH THE NEW NARÓD POLSKI

It's finally here! We are happy to present to our PRCUA members a new, improved *Naród Polski*. We encourage our readers to send us feedback on the changes, and suggestions for additional changes.

Starting January 2020, all submitters of articles and photographs for the *Naród Polski* are asked to follow the set of guidelines regarding the submission process. These guidelines were set up by the PRCUA Executive Editor and the Executive Officers.

Text must be submitted in Microsoft Word. All ads for the upcoming district/society/school events must be submitted in a Microsoft Word or PDF format so that they can be corrected and adjusted to the space available.

Article size:

Up to 500 words – no more than 5 photos.

Up to 600 words – no more than 3 photos.

Up to 700 – no more than 2 photos.

For reports on multiple events, events should be combined into one article with a short description about each event. One photo per event is permissible. Photos of large groups are suggested instead of individual photos or photos of small groups.

Only articles regarding momentous anniversaries of PRCUA districts/societies/schools, annual events such as the Cinderella-Prince Charming Ball and Michigan State Ball, sport tournaments, *Oplatek* and *Święconka* as well as the Vice President's column (alternating in Polish and English), and PRCUA national events such as PRCUA anniversaries and the PRCUA Quadrennial Convention may include additional photos.

It will be at the discretion of the editor and the Executive Committee to make a final decision regarding which and how many photos will be used.

Original photos (not computer-printed copies) should be submitted in JPEG 300 DPI format. Do not submit scans of computer-printed or xerox copied materials; these will not be used.

All articles/information and photos should be submitted to the editor directly, by email: lidia-kowalewicz@prcu.org or by mail: Lidia Kowalewicz, Executive Editor, *Naród Polski*, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642-4101.

NARÓD POLSKI DEADLINE

The submission deadline for the *Naród Polski* is the 15th of each month. Articles submitted after the deadline will be published in the next issue.

Limited article and photo space is available (refer to above for guidelines.)

Please email all articles and photos to: lidia-kowalewicz@prcu.org.

The Open Door Otwarte Drzwi

Micheline "Misia" Jaminski

Vice President | wiceprezes
micheline-jaminski@prcu.org

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Dear God, I pray that You bless everyone with 12 months of happiness; 52 weeks of fun; 366 days of success; 8,784 hours of good health; 527,040 minutes of good luck; and 31,622,400 seconds of joy! Amen. (*Paraphrased from Lama Ranch Eibertengen*).

The anticipation of a new year brings with it a promise of change, betterment, and a fresh start. What is your New Year's resolution? Mine is to find balance. In my pursuit of a definition, I found an interesting article entitled "How to Create a Balanced Life: 9 Tips to Feel Calm and Grounded" by Jasmin Tanjeloff. The different elements include internal (mind, heart, health) and external (work, social, family, fun). Whenever you feel yourself teeter tottering more in one direction or another, you can steady yourself by implementing the following: "Acknowledge, Examine, Set Goals, Plan Tasks, Reflect, Prepare, Empower, Connect and Plan." It does sound like an additional task, but maybe one worth checking out. Good luck with your New Year's resolution!

As expected, December was

another memorable month for the PRCUA Officers, Directors and members. The Quarterly Board Meeting found our National Directors and Chaplain at the Home Office on St. Nicholas Day as well as the day after. Meanwhile, Elżbieta Sawczuk (Director of Marketing) welcomed the Zbigniew Herbert Polish School in Palos Heights, IL to the PRCUA family. On the evening of December 7, District 7 hosted the PRCUA *Oplatek* at the Great Hall of the Polish Museum, making the commute a little easier after the intense deliberations of the meeting. I direct your attention to the article and photos from this *Oplatek* on page 5 for details. I commend Ewa Cholewinski and Anna Kryszynski (D-7 Directors) and Mateusz Bomba (D-7 President) as well as their committee for their attention to all the details making this a very elegant evening. Special thanks to Młoda Polonia Ensemble and Musical Director Mieczysław Dzis for the artistic program. There were other events on December 7th as well, including the Polish American Chamber of Commerce (PACC) which honored the PRCUA

with the "Chamber Loyalty" award accepted by our President and Secretary-Treasurer.

The following seasonal celebrations were attended by one or more of the PRCUA Executive Officers before the Christmas holidays: Polish American Council – Illinois Division (12/9); Chopin Foundation (12/10); Polish Teachers Association (12/11); St. John Paul II Polish School and Polanie (12/15); Southwest Center of Polish Song and Dance Recital with guest performances by the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Company (12/15); Magic of Christmas including performances by Polonia Ensemble (12/15); Polish Consulate of Chicago (12/17); and the PRCUA Employee Christmas Party (12/19). District 10 presented its Annual Michigan Women's Division *Oplatek* on December 1st, hosted by the Opole Dancers as well individual school Christmas parties. Each and every one of these events was filled with a mutual exchange of nostalgia for the past, hope for the future and enjoyment of the present. Congratulations to all on your efforts and thank you for all you do for PRCUA and the Polish American community.

Christmas may be over, but its spirit and memories will hopefully continue into the New Year. The sounds of Christmas carols – the Polish and the English – echo as I reminisce about the individuals with whom I shared the *oplatek*, many that frequented the same events. Most had that Christmas twinkle in their

eyes – my favorite, Consul Piotr Janicki - and a few to whom my heart goes out, a sadness for which an empty plate is set at the Wigilia table. To top all of these emotions is the joy the holidays bring to my wonderful family. I hope your Christmas was as merry and bright as our family Christmas.

In the midst of the Christmas celebrations, there were also many birthday celebrations including former PRCUA President, Joseph A. Drobot Jr.; my Chief of Staff, Conrad Wiecek; Anusia Moschopoulos (Marketing) and Agnieszka Dobrzycki (Audit) from the Home Office; also Teresa Sromek from the PMA. May God bless you and all others born in December with love, health, happiness and wealth. Sto Lat!

2019 saw the inception of a new trademark – **PRCUALife**; a new logo and a new tag line "Protecting life through all its stages"; in 2020, we introduce a new and modern *Naród Polski*. In an effort to continually appeal to both the young and seasoned members of the PRCUA, we are streamlining our newspaper. Most current happenings in the world, and in particular of PRCUA, are on our social media outlets: Facebook, Instagram and YouTube – and I direct you to them. In the meantime, enjoy our photo collage of events attended – you know what they say "A picture is worth a thousand words."



Sharing the *oplatek* with Consul Piotr Janicki



Polish Teachers Association *Oplatek* with Wanda Penar, Ewa Cholewinski, Halina Szyrzyna, Misia Jaminski and Irene Dyer



L-r: PRCUA President James Robaczewski with wife Elaine and and Secretary-Treasurer Agnieszka Bastrzyk at the PACC dinner



Conrad Wiecek's birthday party: Micheline Jaminski, Ela Sawczuk, Conrad Wiecek, Emilia Wiecek, Agata Wilgocki, Anusia Moschopoulos, Lisa Terlecki and Mateusz Bomba



With the representation from St. John Paul II Polish School in Lemont, IL



John Paul II School and Polanie Ensemble staff (l-r): Mirek Cislo, Wiktorina Para, Halina Szyrzyna, St. Nicholas, Micheline Jaminski, Małogrzata Śnieżko, Richard Witkowski



L-r: Ela Sawczuk, Micheline Jaminski and Lidia Kowalewicz at the Polish Consulate Christmas celebration

PRCUA HALKA HAS DOUBLE THE REASONS TO FEEL HONORED

By Laura Hejza, Director
Halka Dancers

On Sunday, November 3, the Polish Central Citizens Committee of Detroit held its 47th Annual Pulaski Day Banquet and chose the PRCUA Halka Dancers to be honored for celebrating their 50 years, and awarded the Pulaski Medal of Honor to Halka director, Laura Hejza. The event was held at the Barrister Gardens in St. Clair Shores, MI, and was attended by various Polish groups including a representation of PRCUA comprised of President James Robaczewski, Vice President Micheline Jaminski and Secretary-Treasurer Agnieszka Bastryk. Laura was one of six who received Medals of Honor. Polish Central Citizen Trustee Celeste Grabowski read Laura's biography.

Laura Hejza has been a part of the PRCUA since the Halka Dancers began, being the youngest dancer in their first recital in 1970, then after 13 years graduated to become an assistant to their teacher. She was then approached to become the teacher/choreographer of the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers and did so for 20 years. During that time, she belonged to the Wisla Polish Song and Dance Ensemble, traveling to Poland to perform and learn as much as possible about Polish folk dancing and culture to pass along to her students. Currently, Laura is a part of the PRCUA Zakopane Dance Ensemble and is also working to revitalize the PRCUA Women's Division of Michigan.

Laura's children, Brandon and

Katelyn, followed in the family tradition of being a Halka dancers, where their "Babcia", Rita Cerankowski was the director for 35 years until Laura succeeded her in 2015. Laura is thankful to her mother for instilling the importance of knowing her Polish ancestry and grateful for the support of the PRCUA. She has been the director of Halka for 5 years and hopes to preserve her mother's legacy of celebrating Polish heritage and community service in Detroit's Polonia.

When Halka received their honor, the President of the Polish Central Citizens Committee Richard Lapham, read the following as current teacher/choreographer Tom Lisiecki and director Laura Hejza received a beautiful plaque.

The Halka Dancers, originally called the PRCUA Eastside Dance School, was established in 1969 at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish in Detroit. A group known for their strong tradition and legacy in teaching traditional dances from Poland to children celebrated their 50th Anniversary recital in April 2019. Halka has performed at the welcoming festivities for St. John Paull II in Hamtramck (1987), the yearly Detroit Tiger Polish-American Night, the Pierogi Festival at Sweetest Heart of Mary, and been a part of service projects such as Join Hands Day at St. Albertus Church, to name a few. Most recently, dancers traveled to Poland to perform in the International Children's Folk Festival. Eligible Halka graduates are honored each year for their dedication at the PRCUA Shirley Ann Galanty Michigan State Ball. Currently,



Tom Lisiecki (l) and Laura Hejza (r) receiving plaque for Halka Dancers celebrating 50 years

the director is Laura Hejza and the teacher/choreographer is Tom Lisiecki, and both are past Halka graduates. The efforts of former director, Rita Cerankowski, who was instrumental in the preservation of the Halka Dancers over the past 50 years deserves mentioning since she held her position for 35 years and was also involved when the group was established.

It was a special feeling of pride to share this day with the Federico, Hejza, Krass, and Shick families who have supported the Halka for two generations; District 10 Director, Colleen Bonkowski, who was also awarded with a medal this day; members of other PRCUA Michigan dance schools and many familiar faces from Detroit's Polonia and especially the PRCUA National Executive Officers.

Polish Central Citizen Board of Director member, Stella Szczesny, concluded the presentation program with an uplifting speech that left everyone smiling, laughing and feeling excited to be Polish and to not be afraid to express it.

ANNOUNCING THE PREMIERE OF "FLAVOR OF POLAND"

The Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Chicago announces the premiere of a brand new television project about Poland that will be broadcast on American Public Television channels beginning this January 2020. This new 13-episode series will be the first culinary travel show in American TV history that is solely dedicated to the subject of Poland and its culinary heritage.

The program's authors and producers - Edyta Ślusarczyk and Robert N. Wachowiak from Independent Film Factory, Inc., together with WTTW would like for this series to reach as many Polish-Americans and U.S. TV viewers as possible.



The official website <http://www.flavorofpoland.com> was launched on December 27th. All information and updates about the series broadcasts in specific states will be available on the site.

A VENDOR NIGHT WITH POLISH FLARE

By Karrie Westphal, Secretary
Zajaczek Dance Ensemble

It was a night of chaos, a night of exhausted smiles, and a night to shop! On Thursday, November 14, Zajaczek Dance Ensemble hosted a Vendor Night at the Carpathia Club in Sterling Heights, MI. For shopping convenience, this event was held during the ensemble's normal class time. Raffles were held for prizes donated by the vendors with the proceeds from ticket sales supporting the dance ensemble. In the end, everyone was a winner as Zajaczek parents and dancers went home with some fabulous gifts for the upcoming holidays, and the participating vendors left relishing in the financial success of the night.



3rd ANNUAL PRCUA VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

By Lila Mandziuk

The 3rd Annual PRCUA Volleyball Tournament was held in November. The PRCUA Opole Dancers served up a fun time for all.

Opole Dance Director Elizabeth Thacker along with Jennifer Vernon, planned a tournament to remember November 8th and 9th in Center Line, MI. The tournament began Friday night with the co-ed teams taking the courts. In an intense final that played well into the night, St. Rita's Block Party proved victorious over PRCUA 162. Later, teams gathered back at Homewood Suites to enjoy food and drinks, share camaraderie and prepare for the men's and women's competitions in the morning.



President James Robaczewski opening the tournament

Saturday supplied another great day of serves, spikes and digs. President Jim Robaczewski served up a powerful serve in the opening ceremonies. Three women's teams and five men's teams squared off to vie for bragging rights as tournament champions. The women's championship game pitted St. Rita's Balls Up against St. Rita's Dziewczynny. After much back and forth action, Balls Up celebrated as this year's champion. The men's competition proved even more intense with St. Rita's Can You Dig It facing off against St. Stan's 718. In the end, St. Stan's 718 won the battle of the volleys and claimed the championship title.

The tournament ended with a banquet at Malone's Tavern in Warren, MI where all teams gathered to celebrate our fraternal community. Attending the tournament and banquet were

President Jim Robaczewski, Fraternal Department Coordinator Mateusz Bomba and District 8 National Director Myron Cislo.

The Tournament MVPs were Aaron Elowski for St. Rita's Block Party (Co-ed), Jessie Plague for St. Rita's Balls Up (Women's) and Kyle Harvey from St. Stan's 718 (Men's). Also honored were the All Stars from each team, which included: Tiffany Giambrone, Michael Mihalic, Anthony Perfetto, Greg Phillips, Grace Ozog, MJ Vanderbrink, Amanda Ynclan, Andres Garcia Sanchez, Patty Johansen, Tabetha Hubbard, Adella Houle, Jerry Lubiarez, Travis Harvey, Dino Fracassi, Austin Chunn and Ron Houle.

The real wins from this tournament were the continuation of our athletic competitions, the many younger competitors joining the ranks and the joy of renewing and creating the friendships offered through our shared membership and fraternalism. (Additional photos on pg. 9)



Coed PRCUA 162



Coed St. John Paul II



Coed St. Rita's Hard Hitters



Coed St. Rita's Metro



Coed St. Rita's Notorious DIG



Coed St. Rita's Serves You Right



Coed St. Rita's Block Party



Coed St. Rita's Sugar and Spike



Mens St. Rita's Can You Dig It



Mens St. Rita's Hit Men



Mens St. Stan's 718



Mens The Folly Ballers



Mens St. Rita's Sneak Attack



Womens St. Rita's Balls Up



Womens St. Rita's Dziewczyny



Womens St. Rita's Sweet Digs



Co-ed teams in action

PRCUA HONORED WITH THE “CHAMBER LOYALTY” AWARD BY THE PACC

On December 7, PRCUA President James Robaczewski together with Secretary-Treasurer Agnieszka Bastrzyk attended the Polish American Chamber of Commerce’s (PACC) Annual Holiday Party & Awards Dinner, and the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the PACC. During the event, they accepted the “Chamber Loyalty” award which was presented to the PRCUA.

Established in 1994, the PACC is a not-for-profit organization incorporated in the State of Illinois as a business association. The Chamber is dedicated to fostering its members’



business interests, educating and facilitating commercial contacts, and building relations.

The Chamber is also at the forefront of encouraging and promoting domestic and foreign trade to benefit its members, the community, and the State of Illinois. Its goals include promoting its members businesses and enhanc-

ing trade relations between the U.S. and Poland.

The PRCUA has been a member of the PACC for over five years, hosting the annual PACC meetings and supporting the Chamber’s initiatives. Thank you, PACC!

2020 PRCUA SPORT TOURNAMENTS

Date	Tournament	Location	Hosting Society
March 7	Basketball Tournament	Muskegon, MI	Society #78
April 17-19	Bowling Tournament	Wyandotte, MI	Society #162
July 25	Golf Tournament	La Porte, IN	Society #1031
August 21-22	Softball Tournament	Livonia, MI	Society #718
TBD	Volleyball Tournament	Chicago, IL	PRCUA District 8

40th anniversary
of St. John Paul II
Polish School & Polish Club

20th anniversary
of dance group “POLANIE”

Please join us for a Celebration on
February 22, 2020
AT 6:00 PM
Crystal Grand Banquet
12416 South Archer Avenue • Lemont

PERFORMING FOR YOU:
MIRA SOJKA-TOPOR AND “THE KINGS” BAND

TO BUY TICKETS OR MAKE RESERVATION:
630-669-9700 OR JUBILEUSZ@POLSCHOOL.COM

Anniversary Mass will be held on February 16, 2020
at 1:30PM at SSCM Church, 608 Sobieski, Lemont IL 60439

Join the
Adult Culture Group
dancers!

Practices starting in January
in Homer Glen, IL

Contact Mirek Cislo
for more information:
708-927-8510

SERVANTS OF JESUS

By Joann Ozog

On October 6, 2019, The Servants of Jesus celebrated their 45th anniversary. Separating in 1973 from the province of Felician Sisters of Livonia, MI, they had formed a new community.

A video, "Write the Vision Down: The Journey of The Servants of Jesus," presenting the history of the sisters, was shown to the guests. Being called by the Second Vatican Council to return to the spirit of the founding mother of the Felician Sisters, Mother Angela Truszkowska, Genevieve Rakocy called a meeting to see if there was an interest in pursuing this venture. Thirty three sisters attended the meeting in July of 1973.

John Cardinal Dearden of the Detroit Archdiocese encouraged and was supportive of this new group of sisters.

In December 1973, the sisters met in Crofton, Canada at a lodging of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM Sisters) to elect their leaders, Sisters Genevieve Rakocy, Roberta Kolasa and Barbara Celeskey, and to write a draft of their early life directives. They decided to meet monthly at the different places of their ministries. Until recently, they have kept meeting regularly.

Selecting a name for themselves was a process. They prayed and put forth many combinations until they arrived at Servants of Jesus, which was a phrase Mother Angela had used to encourage her sisters during a time that they were disbanded because of political uprisings in Poland.

On August 6, 1974 the sisters received an official decree from the Sacred Congregation of Religious in Rome and were recognized by the Archdiocese of Detroit as a new com-

munity.

Initially, they were short on funds so they took jobs. All the sisters were able to obtain employment in their varied professions: teaching, pastoral work, nursing, and administration. Eventually, they took positions in the Church and one as a lawyer.

In 1986 the sisters wrote a mission statement (confirmed in 2016), choosing to live the gospel radically, ministering to the poor and to those who had the greatest need.

The Servants of Jesus encouraged women to join them in prayer and in works of mercy, thus a group called the Associates of the Servants of Jesus was formed. Their purpose is to carry on the mission of the Servants of Jesus by helping in many capacities. Their ministries vary: delivering food to the homebound, teaching English as a second language, preparing the immigrants for US citizenship, visiting the sick and other works of mercy. They come together with the Servants in prayer whenever possible.

In 2018, the Servants discerned that their ability to provide canonical leadership for themselves was limited and chose to look to another religious community to accept this position. With the approval of and an appointment by Archbishop Allen Vigneron of the Archdiocese of Detroit, Sister Paula Cooney, IHM accepted the position of President of the Servants of Jesus for three years. The Servants of Jesus continue to "live as Jesus lived and to serve as Jesus served".

PRCUA President Emeritus Wallace Ozog and his wife Joann attended the celebration and had the opportunity to view the beautiful and informative video of the Servants of Jesus. Not only as individuals, but as a community, the sisters had to make important decisions as they approached a new journey. They endured difficulties since they did not have the necessary funds to start this new life. They en-

countered many challenges, but by praying and working together they succeeded in overcoming them.

Thank you to these dedicated women who have kept the community alive for so many years. May God bless those who are still living with good health so that they will continue their work.

These sisters are members of the PRCUA: Sisters Constance Balwinski (Society #1368), Paula Mierle (#1368), Christine Mihelcic (#1493), Patricia Radomski (#1368), Frances Stefanski (#1368), Ann Ozog (#1593), Corinne

Weiss (#1493) and Karen Shirilla (#1493).

Sister Paula Cooney, IHM, President of the Servants of Jesus, is coordinating efforts to assist the Servants of Jesus. An annual appeal is now being undertaken. Any donation will be greatly appreciated and is tax deductible according to IRS regulation. Checks should be made payable to: Servants of Jesus and sent to: Servants of Jesus c/o Sr. Paula Cooney, IHM, 821 W. Elm Ave., Monroe, MI 48162.

MEET DEACON PIOTR KOSK

By Colleen Bonkowski, Director, Karrie Westphal, Secretary Zajączek Dance Ensemble

Zajączek Dance Ensemble will be hosting Deacon Piotr through his final year as he becomes a priest. We will be taking donations to go toward buying Deacon Piotr vestments for his first mass and dalmatics for two deacons who will be serving with him. The gifts will be presented at Zajączek's 15th Anniversary Recital.

Zajączek students learn about their Polish heritage through dance and traditions, and now they also have a place to learn more about their religion by helping one of God's missionaries.

Deacon Piotr Kosk was born in Skwierzyna in Poland on May 8, 1994. He is the son of Krystyna and late Eugene Kosk. He has a younger brother Maciej and an older sister Sandra who lives with her husband and two children in England.

Piotr entered the seminary in Warsaw and was designated to become an army chaplain. He completed two years of philosophy and one year of theology.

Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago Andrzej Wypych invited Piotr to continue his studies at Mundelein Seminary where he spent one year learning English. In 2017, after passing the TOEFL Exam, he transferred to the Orchard Lake Seminary, where he is finishing his master's degree. On May 23, 2020 Piotr Kosk will be ordained to the priesthood for the diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

Deacon Kosk is looking forward to serve the people of God outside Poland and to be a missionary for Christ.



A MEAL WITH MEANING

By Karrie Westphal, Secretary Zajączek Dance Ensemble

On Sunday, December 1, the PRCUA Opole Dancers hosted the PRCUA Women's Division Annual Oplatek. A delicious luncheon was held at De Carlo's Banquet Center in Warren, MI. Dancers from the Opole Dance School presented a beautiful program highlighting, explaining, and demonstrating the many Polish traditions and customs we share during the Christmas season. Natalya Bonkowski and Olivia Westphal attended the festivities from Zajączek Dance Ensemble. Thank you Opole Dancers for shar-

ing your time and talents with all of us. Job well done!



Natalya Bonkowski and Olivia Westphal



Servants of Jesus and Associates at their celebration

PRCUA GWIAZDA DANCERS' NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

By Nicholas J. Nowakowski,
Gwiazda Dancers Secretary & 1997 alumnus

With the holidays here, the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers have decided to fill their plates with extra helpings of folklore.

On November 15, Gwiazda Dancers performed for former Polish President and Nobel laureate Lech Wałęsa at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. Gwiazda presented dances from Spisz, Beskid Śląski, and Beskid Żywiecki and the Krakowiak. During his speech, President Wałęsa spoke about his experiences during Poland's struggles against the USSR, the Solidarity movement, and his role in the fall of communism in Eastern Europe. The ensemble was proud to represent the Polish Roman Catholic Union and Hamtramck at this event.



Gwiazda performing at Oakland University for Lech Wałęsa

On November 16, Gwiazda hosted a Watch Party for the soccer match between Poland and Israel at the Detroit City Clubhouse in Detroit. Gwiazda dancers, parents, family and friends gathered at the party to cheer on Poland as they won the match 2-1. Also attending was PRCUA Vice President Emeritus, Bob Bielenda, and his son.



Gwiazda Soccer Watch Party at Detroit City Club House

On November 17, Gwiazda Dancers' director gave a presentation about Marie Skłodowska Curie during an unveiling of a statue depicting Madame Curie at Wayne State University in Detroit. A comprehensive description of the event appeared in the December 2019 issue of *Naród Polski* (page 16). Congratulations, Pani Jessica!

On November 20, Gwiazda Dancers performed at Concordia University in Ann Arbor and presented the Krakowiak, the oberek, and a polka.

On November 23, Gwiazda Dancers partici-

pated at the Boll Family YMCA in Detroit's Freshbaskets event where they assisted in preparing Thanksgiving food packages for families in need.

Later that same day, dancers performed in Hamtramck as part of the Polish Art Center's annual holiday open house and presented the Krakowiak, the oberek, and a polka. The Polish Art Center is a longstanding business in Hamtramck and is an integral part of the Polish community in Hamtramck and in metropolitan Detroit. Kathleen Koch and Michelle Gerdan (the daughters of Raymond and Joan Bittner, the owners of the Polish Art Center) are Gwiazda alumnae. Ms. Gerdan's sons Connor and Henry are second generation Gwiazda Dancers.

On November 30, Gwiazda Dancers performed with the Lira Ensemble from Chicago during Lira's Holiday Show held at the Macomb Center for the Performing Art in Clinton Township, MI. In addition to serving as lobby greeters to performance attendees, the Gwiazda dancers presented a suite of dances from Lublin.



Gwiazda Dancers at the Polish Art Center's Holiday Open House in Hamtramck

On December 7, Gwiazda performed in Detroit as part of the 47th Annual Noel Night. Held in Midtown Detroit, the event features over 120 participating venues including museums, restaurants, shops, galleries and historic churches located in the area. For its performance, Gwiazda presented suites of dances from Spisz, Beskid Śląski, and Wielkopolska. Gwiazda also presented Lasowiak and its polka. After the performance, a group of Gwiazda members stayed in Midtown to take in the many events. The Noel Night performance also marked the debut Gwiazda performance for new dancers: Domenica, Eliza, and Zofia. Congratulations and great job!

On December 9, Gwiazda Dancers returned to their regular practice space at the PLAV Post 10 in



Gwiazda Dancers and family at Boll Family YMCA's Freshbaskets event

Hamtramck. Before and after dance practice, the dancers created homemade Christmas cards for U.S. veterans receiving treatment in Detroit area Veterans' Administration hospitals.





Gwiazda performance at Noel Night in Detroit

The 2019 Gwiazda calendar year was packed with performances. The group danced at many shows in and around metropolitan Detroit, spent summer weekends performing in "Up North" Michigan, and even danced in Minneapolis, MN.



Dancers and their families make Christmas cards for U.S. Veterans

2020 marks the ensemble's 60th Anniversary. You can like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter: @PRCUA_Gwiazda.

PRCUA GWIAZDA DANCERS PRESENT

Our Annual

Fowling Fundraiser!

Sat. Jan. 25th 2020 8-10 p.m.


\$20 per person (includes fowling & pizza!)

Location: Fowling Warehouse

3901 Christopher St. Detroit, MI 48211

Advanced ticket purchase is required. 21 & over ONLY

Prize and 50/50 raffles



For additional information contact (313) 682-3031
or panijessica@hotmail.com

The PRCUA Gwiazda Dance School is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

The PRCUA Michigan Dance Schools,
Members of the Board, Directors and Teachers
cordially invite you and your friends to attend the

Twenty - Ninth Annual

PRCUA

Shirley Ann Galanty Michigan State Ball

Honoring the 2020 Graduates



Saturday, February 22, 2020
The San Marino Club
1685 E. Big Beaver, Troy, MI

Cocktails: 5:15 pm
Promenade 6:00 pm
Dinner 6:30 pm
Semi-Formal Attire

Music by Duane Malinowski Orchestra
Donations \$60 per adult, \$53 per student through age 20
For information contact Maria Jalkiewicz (586) 979-5164

DETROIT BASKETBALL

POLISH HERITAGE NIGHT AT LITTLE CAESARS ARENA

SAT, FEB. 8 – 7:00PM
vs. NEW YORK KNICKS

Show your Polish Pride on Saturday, February 8th at Little Caesars Arena as the Pistons take on the New York Knicks. Enjoy pre-game performances and Pistons basketball! Through this package you will receive an exclusive discount and a limited edition Pistons Polish Heritage T-shirt. All attendees will also have the opportunity to shoot a postgame free throw on the Pistons Floor. Don't hesitate to get your tickets and order today!

EXCLUSIVE TICKET PRICING:

100 LEVEL SEMI-CORNER (SECTION 125): **\$76** (\$91 value)
100 LEVEL CORNER (SECTION 117): **\$42** (\$57 value)
MEZZANINE END (SECTION M2): **\$32** (\$47 value)
200 LEVEL CORNER (SECTION 230): **\$30** (\$45 value)

*FREE Limited Edition Polish T-shirt for each ticket purchased
— redeem at Pistons Game

*Postgame Free Throw Shot on The Pistons Court for all purchasers

PURCHASE TICKETS AT:
PISTONS.COM/POLISH

Offer cannot be redeemed at the Xfinity Box Office.
For additional information, please contact:

BRANDON GOEBEL
(248) 377-0172 / BGOEBEL@PISTONS.COM

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020

All tickets are subject to availability and handled on a first-come, first-served basis. All orders are subject to the indicated deadline and are subject to change. Refunds or exchanges will not be issued. Please provide an accurate cell phone number and email address in order to receive your tickets. All tickets purchased will be available on your Pistons Account. You will receive an email once they are available.

Get a free limited edition Polish T-shirt with every ticket purchased for the Polish Heritage Night through the link listed above.

The WESOŁY LUD Polish Folk Dance Company
of the POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA
cordially invites you to attend its



MASQUERADE

DINNER DANCE & SHOW

Costumes welcomed

Celebrating the Milestones of Wesoly Lud Members



Sylvia Kupiec (10)

Camilla Steczek (10)

Alexander Labudzki (5)

Carolina Kukulski (5)

Weronika Niedzielski (5)

Anna Cieplucha (5)

Camelot Banquets
8624 W. 95th St, Hickory Hills, IL

Saturday, January 18, 2020

RSVP by January 12, 2020
Camilla Steczek: 708-698-7474 or csteczek@gmail.com

Zajaczek Dance Ensemble is hosting POLSKA ZABAWA

Na Zdrowie It's a Polish Party!

JOIN US **february 1st**
@6pm



\$30
POLSKA ZABAWA
ADMIT ONE

Included with ticket purchase...

Polish Street Food • OPEN BAR • DJ Entertainment

Be ready for fun...

Baskets • Games • Raffles

Wear your *Polish Best!*

AMERICAN POLISH CENTURY CLUB

33204 Maple Lane Sterling Heights, Michigan 48312

TICKET INFO 586-770-7397

zajaczekdance@yahoo.com

f ZAJACZEK DANCE ENSEMBLE

How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond





Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone.

Nearly every household will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census from either a postal worker or a census worker.

 **95%** of households will receive their census invitation in the mail.



 **Almost 5%** of households will receive their census invitation when a census taker drops it off. In these areas, the majority of households may not receive mail at their home's physical location (like households that use PO boxes or areas recently affected by natural disasters).

 **Less than 1%** of households will be counted in person by a census taker, instead of being invited to respond on their own. We do this in very remote areas like parts of northern Maine, remote Alaska, and in select American Indian areas that ask to be counted in person.

(This is separate from our follow-up efforts; census takers will visit all households that were invited to respond on their own and haven't.)

Note: We have special procedures to count people who don't live in households, such as students living in university housing or people experiencing homelessness.

What to Expect in the Mail

When it's time to respond, most households will receive an invitation in the mail.

Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone.

Depending on how likely your area is to respond online, you'll receive either an invitation encouraging you to respond online or an invitation along with a paper questionnaire.

Letter Invitation

- Most areas of the country are likely to respond online, so most households will receive a letter asking you to go online to complete the census questionnaire (or to respond by phone).
- We plan on working with the U.S. Postal Service to stagger the delivery of these invitations over several days. This way we can spread out the number of users responding online, and we'll be able to serve you better if you need help over the phone.

Letter Invitation and Paper Questionnaire

- Areas that are less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire along with their invitation. The invitation will also include information about how to respond online or by phone.

WHAT WE WILL SEND IN THE MAIL	
On or between	You'll receive:
March 12-20	An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. (Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.)
March 16-24	A reminder letter.
	If you haven't responded yet:
March 26-April 3	A reminder postcard.
April 8-16	A reminder letter and paper questionnaire.
April 20-27	A final reminder postcard before we follow up in person.

We understand you might miss our initial letter in the mail.

- Every household that hasn't already responded will receive reminders and will eventually receive a paper questionnaire.
- It doesn't matter which initial invitation you get or how you get it—we will follow up in person with all households that don't respond.

United States
Census
2020

Higher Perspectives



By Fr. Eric Orzech,
St. Stanislaus Parish
& St. Casimir Parish,
Cleveland, OH

A BLESSED NEW YEAR

When I was a youngster, my uncle Stan - a truly great man - operated a very popular and wonderful establishment known as "Orzech's Tavern" in the Warszawa Polish neighborhood of Cleveland.

Among the many annual events associated with that special place was an always sold-out New Year's Eve party which featured a better-than-usual orchestra, lots of homemade food, and all the New Year's trimmings. My father helped in this family affair by waiting on tables and my mother was always upstairs helping in the kitchen. Other family members who didn't assist helped out by being good customers! Thus, my brother and I always spent New Year's Eve at my nearby grandmother's house.

As midnight approached, the TV at our New Year's Eve "party" tuned to Guy Lombardo at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York so that we'd know exactly when the new year began. Once the clock chimed, the ball was lowered on Times Square, and "Auld Lang Syne" was playing, we'd gather by the telephone (land line...black stationary rotary phone...not a very long cord...loud bell ringer) and wait.

First there would be a call from the kitchen. It was my mother wishing us all a happy, healthy, new year. The phone got passed around to the other aunts who were up there helping, too. And, of course, it got passed around among my brother, my grandmother, and me, too. Then, after a bit, the phone would ring again. It was my father calling from downstairs in the tavern. You could hear the band playing in the background and the people celebrating as he also wished us a blessed new year and all the very best in it. Any aunts and uncles in the vicinity got to add their two cents worth, too.

As I was sitting down to write this article, my mind drifted back to these new year's past for a simple reason, I believe. It wasn't to be reminded that most of the people associated with this story - and even the places - are no longer with us. They're never far from my memory, anyhow. It's to be reminded of the love and care which I was blessed to have as the foundation of my life. It's to be reminded that, even though the cast of characters and the places associated with them always keeps changing, the same remains true today. But, this is true, I think, not just for me. I think most of our readers can find similar things from their past which bring to mind the love and blessings in their own lives.

So, as we welcome in this new year of our Lord 2020, I will be praying that all of you find that little bit of time necessary to think back on the love and blessings which have been a part of your life; that you'll have the understanding eyes to see that, while the cast of characters and the places associated with them may have changed, much of this endures in its own way still today; and, most of all, I'll be praying that as this new year unfolds, you'll be fondly looked upon by others because you'll be that loving source of care and blessing in their life.

A truly blessed, joyful, healthy, and prosperous new year to you all!

CARNIVAL IN POLAND

The period of time beginning on the day of Epiphany and ending on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday (*karnawał*), was in old Poland filled with winter balls, masquerades, processions, games, and horse-drawn sleigh rides (*kulig*) - one of the most popular activities. For nobility, these rides could take up to several days while the sleighs stopped at the nearby manor houses to allow riders to warm up, eat, drink, and dance along the route.

Kids Activity Page!

1. Help the penguin join his friends and teach them to skate better.



3. Find 10 differences.



2. Can you spot the two identical pictures?



4. Find all the words from the word list (ignore spaces and dashes). Words go left, right, up, down, and can bend at a right angle. Every letter is used only once.

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

BARE TREES
DECEMBER
FEBRUARY
FROST
ICE SKATING
ICICLE
JANUARY

MITTENS
NEW YEAR
SCARF
SKIING
SLEIGH
SNOWFLAKE
SNOWMAN



It's a girl !!

SOPHIA ROSE

By Kelly Malinowski

How lucky can one girl be? Already dubbed daddy's girl, Sophia Rose Wojtasik has stolen the hearts of her first-time parents, Romuald (Rom) and Melanie Wojtasik of Sterling Heights, MI.

Born October 1, 2019 and completely in charge, Sophia came into this world almost a whole month ahead of time. In no time at all, she had her parents in the palm of her tiny little hands.

Sophia's Busia, Maria Jalkiewicz, who is also the school director of the Polskie Maki Dance School in Warren, MI beams with pride as she tells the story of how smart and adorable the new bundle of joy is to the family. Not only is baby Sophia sleeping through the night but she has developed an ear for classical music. It seems as though mom and dad aren't the only ones whose hearts were stolen. Both Busia and



Sophia Rose with parents

Dzia Dzia Joe Jalkiewicz are committed to babysitting at least twice a week while mom and dad return to work after maternity leave.

Melanie is a naturopath and holistic health practitioner and a past graduate of the Polskie Maki Dance School. Rom is a senior resolution advocate for Quicken Loans who is also not afraid to change a dirty diaper. Way to go, dad!

Continued blessings to the Wojtasik and Jalkiewicz families. Welcome, beautiful Baby Sophia Rose!

Love and best wishes to Dzia Dzia Joe after undergoing a successful heart surgery just two weeks after Sophia's birth!

JOSEPHINE ALEKSANDRA

By Jessica Wendt

Congratulations to Gwiazda's Treasurer, Magadlena Srodek and Joseph Suwalkowski on the birth of Gwiazda's future dancer, Josephine (Józia) Aleksandra. Józia was born on November, 6, 2019 at 2:47 p.m., weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz. and 21 inches long. She is the younger sister of Gwiazda dancer Olivia Srodek. Mom, Dad, Olivia and Józia are all happy and healthy!



Józia with big sister Olivia

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND/OR REQUEST FOR NARÓD POLSKI NEWSPAPER

☐ ADDRESS CHANGE

☐ REQUEST NEWSPAPER

☐ CANCELLATION

☐ E-MAIL ADDRESS

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Agnieszka J. Bastrzyk, ALMI, FICF, ACS



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ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLES ON PG. 14

1.



2. 3 and 8



4.



„NARÓD POLSKI” ROZPOCZYNA 2020 ROK W NOWEJ SZACIE

Prezentujemy Państwu pierwsze tegoroczne wydanie „Narodu Polskiego” w nowym wydaniu. Minęło pięć lat od chwili wprowadzenia ostatnich zmian. Pomyśleliśmy, że wkraczając w nowy rok i w nową dekadę, nadszedł czas, aby naszą gazetę uatrakcyjnić.

Pierwsza zmiana to nieznacznie zmniejszona wielkość naszych stron. Bardziej zauważalne zmiany dotyczą sposobu, w jaki ułożone zostały nasze strony. Strony zostały zorganizowane w odrębne sekcje: biznes, kultura, informacje członkowskie, sekcja polska. Kalendarz wydarzeń ukazywał się będzie wyłącznie w języku angielskim. Ilość stron w języku polskim będzie zależała od ogólnej ilości stron wydania i ilości nadesłanych artykułów. Jedynie nieliczne artykuły będą drukowane w tym samym wydaniu w obu językach.

Aby ułatwić czytanie, czcionka została znormalizowana w tytułach i w tekście. Teksty artykułów umieszczone zostały w 3 lub 4 kolumnach. Dla celów wizualnych, ograniczona została ilość zdjęć, które będą za to większe i bardziej czytelne oraz długość artykułów.

Od stycznia 2020 r. wszyscy nadsyłający artykuły i zdjęcia do „Narodu Polskiego” proszeni są o przestrzeganie wytycznych opracowanych przez redaktora naczelną i członków zarządu ZPRKA.

Artykuły i wszelkie informacje należy przysyłać w programie Microsoft Word, drogą e-mailową. Wszystkie ogłoszenia dotyczące nadchodzących wydarzeń dystryktów / towarzystw / szkół muszą być przysyłane w formacie Microsoft Word lub PDF, tak aby można było dokonać ewentualnej korekty i dostosować je do dostępnej przestrzeni.

Rozmiar artykułów:

Do 500 słów - nie więcej niż 5 zdjęć.

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Do 700 - nie więcej niż 2 zdjęcia.

W przypadku opisu wielu wydarzeń, muszą zostać one połączone w jeden artykuł z krótkimi informacjami na temat każdego wydarzenia. Dopuszczalne jest jedno zdjęcie na wydarzenie. Zalecane jest przysyłanie zdjęć dużych grup, zamiast indywidualnych zdjęć.

Tylko artykuły dotyczące doniosłych rocznic dystryktów / towarzystw / szkół ZPRKA, corocznych wydarzeń, takich jak Bal Kopciuszka i Księcia, Bal Stanowy Michigan, turnieje sportowe, Oplątek i Święconka, a także kolumna wiceprezesa (na przemian w języku polskim i angielskim) oraz krajowe wydarzenia ZPRKA, takie jak rocznice organizacji i Sejmy ZPRKA mogą zawierać dodatkowe zdjęcia.

Redaktor i zarząd ZPRKA podejmą ostateczną decyzję, które i ile zdjęć zostanie wykorzystanych.

Oryginalne zdjęcia (nie wydrukowane komputerowo) należy przysłać w formacie JPEG 300 DPI.

Prosimy nie przysyłać skanów wydrukowanych komputerowo lub materiałów skopiowanych z kserokopii.

Wszystkie materiały należy przysyłać do redakcji Narodu Polskiego do 15 dnia każdego miesiąca. Artykuły przesłane po terminie zostaną opublikowane w następnym numerze.

Artykuły i zdjęcia oraz ogłoszenia i inne materiały do publikacji należy przysyłać na adres: lidia-kowalewicz@prcu.org lub pocztą na adres: Lidia Kowalewicz, Executive Editor, Naród Polski, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642-4101.

Mimo, że nasza szata graficzna się zmieniła, nadal dostarczać będziemy naszym czytelnikom najważniejsze informacje dotyczące działalności Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego w Ameryce i jego członków oraz produktów oferowanych przez ZPRKA.

Wszelkie opinie na temat zmian i sugestie dotyczące dodatkowych zmian są mile widziane.

DOROCZNY OPLĄTEK ZPRKA

Dystrykt 7 Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego w Ameryce był gospodarzem tegorocznego Oplątka ZPRKA zorganizowanego w sobotę, 7 grudnia, 2019 roku w Sali Głównej Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce w Chicago. Ponad stu trzydziestu gości przybyło aby wspólnie podzielić się opłatkiem, wzajemnie złożyć życzenia i miło spędzić czas w świątecznej atmosferze.

Prowadzącymi program byli dyrektor marketingu Elżbieta Sawczuk i koordynator działu braterstwa oraz prezes Dystryktu 7 ZPRKA, Mateusz Bomba.

Komitet organizacyjny, któremu przewodniczyła dyrektor Dystryktu 7 Ewa Cholewinski, przygotował spektakularny wieczór dla wszystkich obecnych. W spotkaniu wzięli udział członkowie zarządu ZPRKA: prezes James Robaczewski z żoną Elaine, wice prezes Micheline Jaminski z mężem Ryszardem i sekretarz-skarbnik Agnieszka Bastrzyk oraz wszyscy krajowi dyrektorzy z małżonkami i rodzinami. Obecni byli także: prezes Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce Richard Owsiany, przedstawiciele Grupy Kulturalnej

Dorosłych ZPRKA z Kopciuszkiem Karoliną Gal i Księciem Arthurem Rykała, a także przedstawiciele innych organizacji, w tym Polish Falcons of America.

Po obiedzie, Zespół Pieśni i Tańca Polonia ZPRKA pod kierownictwem Anny Krysinskiej, która jest również dyrektorem Dystryktu 7, zapewnił rozrywkę pod kierunkiem muzycznym Mieczysława Dziś. Grupa przygotowała różnorodność pięknych polskich i amerykańskich kolęd, a wielu towarzyszyło im w śpiewie. Wkrótce potem Święty Mikołaj odwiedził salę, gdzie rozdawał prezenty wszystkim obecnym dzieciom. Program kontynuowano grą prowadzoną przez Micheline Jaminski, a zakończono losowaniem świątecznych koszy upominkowych z mnóstwem niespodzianek.

Chcemy podziękować wszystkim wolontariuszom z Dystryktu 7 za przygotowanie tak wyjątkowego, pełnego atrakcji spotkania.



Prezes ZPRKA James Robaczewski z prowadzącymi program: Elżbietą Sawczuk i Mateuszem Bombą



Dyrektorki krajowe Dystryktu 7 ZPRKA Anna Krysinski (l) i Joanna Cholewinski (p)



Losowanie nagród loterii fantowej

POWITANIE NOWEJ SZKOŁY W GRONIE ZPRKA!

Zjednoczenie Polskie Rzymsko-Katolickie w Ameryce serdecznie wita w gronie organizacji nową polską placówkę oświatową – Szkołę Języka i Kultury Polskiej im. Zbigniewa Herberta.

Szkoła Języka i Kultury Polskiej im. Zbigniewa Herberta mieści się w Palos Heights, IL, w budynku Chicago Christian High School. Zajęcia odbywają się w soboty, w godzinach od 9 rano do 1 po południu. Dyrektorem szkoły jest Irena Woźniak, której serdecznie dziękujemy za entuzjazm i doskonałą współpracę.

Placówka im. Zbigniewa Herberta w Palos Heights realizuje program w oparciu o „Podstawę programową dla uczniów uczących się za granicą” wydaną przez Ministerstwo Edukacji Narodowej w 2010 roku. Przygotowuje również do egzaminu certyfikатовego z języka polskiego. Certyfikat z języka polskiego jako obcego jest jedynym państwowym dokumentem poświadczającym znajomość języka polskiego. Szkoła oferuje naukę religii w języku polskim, zapewnia też dodatkowe zajęcia, świetlicę oraz kółka zainteresowań.

Patronem szkoły jest Zbigniew Bolesław Ryszard Herbert (ur. 29 października 1924 we Lwowie, zm. 28 lipca 1998 w Warszawie) – polski poeta, eseista, dramaturg, twórca słynnego cyklu poetyckiego „Pan Cogito”, autor słuchowisk, kawaler Orderu Orła Białego. Z wykształcenia ekonomista, prawnik i filozof.

Jego książki zostały przetłumaczone na 38 języków. Był poetą znanym i cenionym w Polsce i za granicą, laureatem ponad dwudziestu nagród literackich.

Pod koniec roku 2019 Szkoła Języka i Kultury



Polskiej im. Zbigniewa Herberta została objęta patronatem Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego w Ameryce, uzyskując częściowe dofinansowanie swojej działalności, z planami całkowitego dofinansowania. Do grona rodziny ZPRKA dołączyło już 40 uczniów. Każdy z nich otrzymał od szkoły zniżkę w opłacie za naukę.

W sobotę, 7 grudnia, dyrektor marketingu ZPRKA Elżbieta Sawczuk miała zaszczyt uczestniczyć w zorganizowanej przez szkołę ceremonii pasowania na ucznia, podczas której tradycyjną „przysięgę” złożyli uczniowie dwóch pierwszych klas. Serdecznie gratulujemy wszystkim pierwszoklasistom, życząc im samych najwyższych ocen oraz radości z każdego dnia w polskiej szkole.

Witamy w Zjednoczeniu i zachęcamy uczniów, rodziców i nauczycieli szkoły do zapoznania się z bogatym portfolio produktów finansowych PRCUALife, jak również z ofertą szeregu dodatkowych korzyści członkowskich na stronie prcu.org lub pod numerem telefonu (800) 772 8632.



STYPENDIUM FUNDACJI CHARYTATYWNEJ KPA

Fundacja Charytatywna Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej (Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation) informuje o udostępnionych stypendiach imienia rodzin Majer i Lakowski – *The Majer and Lakowski Families Memorial Scholarships* – dla studentów studiów inżynierskich i administracji biznesu. Kandydaci muszą być studentami studiów licencjackich lub magisterskich, w publicznej uczelni stanowej (uniwersytet lub college). Pierwszeństwo będzie dane studentom na trzecim i czwartym roku studiów jak i uczniom na studiach magisterskich.

Stypendia pokrywają roczne czesne, które uiszcza student – mieszkaniac stanu.

Kopię podania o stypendia można uzyskać pisząc na adres: Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation, 6645 N. Oliphant Ave., Suite A, Chicago, IL 60631 (tel. 773-763-9942).

Formularze podań można też wydrukować ze strony internetowej Fundacji Charytatywnej KPA: www.paccf.org.

Termin składania podań upływa 15 marca 2020 roku.

ŚWIĄTECZNE SPOTKANIE W KONSULACIE RP W CHICAGO

Doroczne bożonarodzeniowe spotkanie z przedstawicielami Polonii w Konsulacie RP w Chicago odbyło się we wtorek, 17 grudnia.

Gości powitał Konsul Generalny Piotr Janicki z rodziną. Zwracając się do zebranych, złożył w imieniu swoim, swojej rodziny i pracow-

ników placówki konsularnej, życzenia radosnych świąt Bożego Narodzenia oraz spełnienia marzeń w nadchodzącym nowym roku.

O. Bronisław Staworowski OFM, z Zakonu Braci Mniejszych Konwentualnych z Prowincji Krakowskiej, ofiarował modlitwę i poświęcił opłatki, przygotowane do podzielenia się przed kolacją.

Druhny ze Związku Harcerstwa Polskiego uroczystie przekazały na ręce konsula Janickiego i wicekonsul Małgorzaty Bąk-Guzik Betlejemskie Świąteczko Pokoju, symbol wzajemnego zrozumienia ludzi i narodów.

Konsul Janicki zaprosił następnie do wysłuchania koncertu kolęd w wykonaniu młodej pianistki

i wokalistki, studentki Uniwersytetu Stanowego Illinois, Kingi Smutek.

Po uroczystym podzieleniu się opłatkiem i kolacji, przy choince kolędownali członkowie Związku Podhalan w Ameryce.

W Opłatku w Konsulacie ZPRKA reprezentowały: wiceprezes Micheline Jaminski, dyrektor działu marketingu Elżbieta Sawczuk oraz redaktor naczelna Narodu Polskiego Lidia Kowalewicz. W uroczystości udział wzięli także m.in.: była wiceprezes ZPRKA Anna Sokołowska oraz dyrektorzy i nauczyciele szkół polskich działających pod naszym patronatem: św. Jana Pawła II, Jana Karskiego oraz Marii Konopnickiej.



Konsul Generalny Piotr Janicki składa życzenia bożonarodzeniowe i noworoczne

TOWARZYSTWO #1622 ZPRKA PRZYZNAŁO STYPENDIA

Rokrocznie Towarzystwo #1622 ZPRKA przyznaje swoim członkom biorącym udział w Balu Kopciuszka i Księcia dodatkowe stypendia. W tym roku stypendia otrzymali: Alexandra Little, Tanya Sacinski, Lucas Skowyra i Lilliana Cisko.

Zapraszamy w szeregi Zjednoczenia.
Zapisujcie swoje dzieci do Towarzystwa #1622



Członkowie zarządu Towarzystwa #1622 (l-p: John Frankowicz, Vickie Kroplewski, Edward Muszalski, Barbara Frankowicz, Walter Dynowski) z kandydatami 48. Balu Kopciuszka, którzy otrzymali stypendia

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Wszystkie wnioski w Ofercie Świątecznej 2019/2020 ZPRKA podlegają szczegółowemu rozpatrzeniu i muszą być wysłane pocztą do 31 stycznia 2020r.

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