

## A day with the Polish Ambassador to the United States

The Polish Cultural Council and the Polish Falcons of America recently hosted the newly-appointed Polish Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency, Richard Schnepf. The idea to invite him to Pittsburgh was brought up several months ago when Tim Kuzma, national President of the Falcons, called local Honorary Polish Consul, Dr. Jan Saykiewicz and me to a meeting to discuss the feasibility of such a visit. After some discussion, we decided it would be a good idea to introduce him to our Polonian community. The invitation followed.

An invitation to an Ambassador, regardless of his amiability, requires a certain formality and an expected protocol. For example, for every minute while the Ambassador was in our care, his trip had to be carefully planned. Hosts had to take responsibility to ensure that activities progressed effortlessly. All luncheons, receptions, and "meets and greets" had to be 'choreographed' to meet the requirements of time.

Meals were planned carefully.

Much attention was paid to the selection of participants and the extension of invitations.

Our first challenge was to convince the Embassy that driving from Washington, DC to Pittsburgh made a lot more sense than flying. A mere four-hour trip through the verdant Appalachian Mountains was quite an incentive to drive. The Embassy readily agreed. The Ambassador was quite surprised that the driving distance in hours from Pittsburgh to DC was half

of the driving time from Pittsburgh to New York City. It was an opportune time to raise the question of why the PCC liaison with the Polish Government occurs at the NY Consulate General instead of at the Polish Embassy in Washington DC.

When the Ambassador accepted our invitation, we had to prepare an interesting plan for his short, approximately 24-hour visit. Tim suggested that the Ambassador would first visit the Polish Falcon's Headquarters and meet the officers and staff. He arrived around 11am, met and chatted with them, and had a tour of the Falcon's Museum. The museum is located at their headquarters. It is open to any Falcon member for tours. The Ambassador was particularly impressed with the design and layout of the museum, and with the quality of its pieces.

The next stop was a luncheon at the Duquesne Club, hosted by the World Affairs Council, where the

### Message from the President

Ambassador was scheduled to address the gathering. Founded over 80 years ago, the WAC has hosted representatives of countries from around the world. The WAC is a tremendous local asset, which continually sponsors programs for the community. It is committed to educational programming for local schools. The WAC website, [www.worldpittsburgh.org](http://www.worldpittsburgh.org), lists upcoming programs and events for the com-



ing month. Membership is open to individuals and to corporations.

World Affairs Council president, Dr. Steven Sokol, arranged the luncheon, which about 65 people attended. Guests at the luncheon included Pittsburgh Post-Gazette editor and former US Ambassador Dan Simpson; Dr. Robert Hill, Vice-Provost and Director of Communications for the University of Pittsburgh; Jerome Richey, Chief Legal Counsel for the University of Pittsburgh and Chairman of the World Affairs Council; members of the Polonia, as well as of the wider community.

The Ambassador's speech was well-delivered. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette published it as an editorial the following week. The Ambassador touched on issues of importance to both countries, the United States and Poland. He spoke about NATO, trade with the US, the Missile Defense System, and finally, the visa waiver program.

After the address and the luncheon, the Ambassador was whisked to Hampton High School for an important inter-continental high school event. Mary Lou Ellena, the gifted teacher at Hampton High School, and a member of PCC's Board, arranged for the Ambassador's visit to her school. Prior to his visit, Mary Lou worked with her Information Technology department to have a Skype connection established between students at Hampton High and students at a Polish High School (Lyceum) in Warsaw. The ambassador was able to see and speak with Polish students in the high school which is in his own residential Warsaw neighborhood. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette covered the story on May 16th with the headline, Skype connects Hampton, Polish Students. Special thanks to all of the "IT" people and teachers at Hampton who did all of the 'heavy lifting' on this segment of the Ambassador's visit.

**continued on page 2**

## Ambassador continued from page 1

A short rest was called for after the high school meeting. The evening found His Excellency at a reception in my home on Mt. Washington.

The focus of the evening was to give the Ambassador an opportunity to meet people in the local Polish community who are actively engaged in the promotion of Polish culture. These included representatives from the Polish Falcons, as well as from the PCC Board of Directors. The reception started at 7 PM, and lasted well into the evening. Numerous members of our community had an opportunity to get to know the Ambassador, as well as to gain insight into the thinking of this representative of the Republic of Poland.

The next day, Saturday, was the last day for the Ambassador's visit to Pittsburgh. Coincidentally, on that day the local chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation hosted their annual luncheon for Polonian of the Year, this year - Father Miro. The Ambassador graciously accepted the Foundation's invitation, giving a short talk and having a chance to see the 'Lajkoniki Dance Troop' from the Holy Family PNCC Church in McKeesport, led by the Polish dance veteran Frank Pociask.

The luncheon ended around 1PM. Then, the Ambassador faced the four-hour drive back to Washington, DC. This time however, he decided to take a little longer drive in order to experience the charming back country roads of Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia.

The Ambassador was very impressed with our local Polonian community, especially with the enthusiasm of its people. The beauty of our city also left lasting impression on him. On the other side of the coin, virtually all of those who came into contact with him during his short stay found him to be engaging and, as they say in Polish - *przystępny*.

—Rick Pierchalski

**Polish Journey** is a publication of the Polish Cultural Council, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. Please address your correspondence to: **Polish Cultural Council, P.O. Box 81054, Pittsburgh, PA 15217-0554, tel: 412.871.3347**  
Rick Pierchalski, *President*;  
Maria Staszkiwicz, *Executive Director*,  
[pccorg.ms@gmail.com](mailto:pccorg.ms@gmail.com);  
Charlotte Murray, *Editor-in-Chief*;  
Eva Tumiel-Kozak; Veronica Wojnaroski, *Editors*;  
Kasia Goszcz-Bruniany, *Original Newsletter Design*;  
Mary Seamans, *Graphic Design*;  
visit us @ [www.PolishCulturalCouncil.org](http://www.PolishCulturalCouncil.org)

# A Polish Connection... Pittsburgh Style

Today, SKYPE is becoming a household word as increasing numbers of people use it for regular communication, especially when FaceTime is not available. It is a great tool for face-to-face communication at home or abroad.

Through Skype and more sophisticated video conferencing, the students at Hampton High School are living the thesis of Thomas Friedman's book *The World is Flat*: that globalization has leveled the playing field for political, social, and economic opportunities. Through opportunities in large part orchestrated by high school Enrichment Facilitator Mary Lou Ellena with the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh, students at Hampton have interacted on an on-going basis with students from Tbilisi, Georgia; Pakistan, Taiwan, Africa, as well as with various schools in Pennsylvania and Texas. In recent years, Batu Kutelia, then the Ambassador for the Country of Georgia to the United States, visited Hampton High School. Several students met the French Ambassador at a luncheon at the prestigious Duquesne Club. However, the highlight of the 2012-2013 school term at Hampton was the visit of the newly-appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United States, Ryszard Schnepf.

The Ambassador's two-day whirl-wind visit to Pittsburgh was a joint venture of the Polish Cultural Council, the Polish Falcons of America and the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh. Through the efforts of Rick Pierchalski, Tim Kuzma, Maria Staszkiwicz and Mary Lou Ellena, Ambassador Schnepf managed to squeeze a short visit to Hampton during a very long day of meetings, speeches and social engagements. Through the efforts of Maria Staszkiwicz, the Ambassador's visit also included a Skype meeting between 25 students from Hampton (who remained after school way past 4 PM on a Friday) and 15 students from a private arts high school in Warsaw – Stowarzyszenie Kultury i Edukacji, Liceum Ogólnokształcące NR 50 (Maria is a friend of the director) who returned to school in the evening for this initial meeting.

The students in Warsaw were a bit surprised when Mary Lou Ellena, the Hampton

program coordinator, spoke to them in Polish as they awaited the arrival of both the Ambassador and the Hampton students. The Polish students spoke very good English, and although they were a bit shy, were eager to chat with the Hampton students about high school and all things teenage!

The program began with the Ambassador addressing both groups first in Polish and then in English. Hampton presented the Ambassador with a commemorative etched tray, a book about Pittsburgh, and a Hampton Talbot football shirt! The Ambassador was impressed by both the students and the school facilities. He expressed his wish that the initial Skype "meet and greet" would result in a more long-lasting relationship between the two schools. If Mary Lou Ellena, her students, Jacek Kusmiercz, the contact in Warsaw and the students in Poland have their way, that will indeed be the case. Ms. Ellena has plans for Skype classes in Honors English and European History. "Max," a student from Poland, invited Hampton students to a trans-Atlantic jam session, a project that is already under discussion for early the next term. This summer, tentative plans for specific Skype classes will be made in order to transition from the initial



**Polish Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, speaks with the students at Hampton High School. He facilitated discussions among the students of Hampton and the students in Poland.**

"meet and greet" session to the development of a more academic global community between the two schools.

Following his visit to Hampton, Ambassador Schnepf was a guest at a cocktail reception at Rick Pierchalski's Trimont home. The next day he was a guest at the

Kosciuszko Foundation of Pittsburgh's annual Outstanding Polonian luncheon at the Greentree Raddison. Rev. Miroslaw Stelmaszczyk, Pastor of Holy Family Church in Creighton, this year's Kosciuszko honoree found a soul mate in the Ambassador. "I am very honored that he took time to attend and speak at this luncheon," said an obviously delighted Father Miro.

Although this was the Ambassador's very first visit to Pittsburgh, if the PCC, the Polish Falcons, the Kosciuszko Foundation and Hampton High School have any say in the matter, it will not be his last. Pittsburgh now occupies a spot in the Ambassador's heart.

—Mary Lou Ellena

# AMBER: A POLISH TRADITION

Today, amber is one of Poland's export successes. In the past, locating it was the goal of expeditions undertaken by Roman legions and Greek merchants. Named Elektron by Thales of Miletus, amber has generated admiration, wonder and scholarly curiosity since Antiquity. Ever since the dawn of time, it has been used as an ornament, an amulet, and a medication. Today, you can find it mainly in jewelry, but it is also becoming a tourist attraction of Northern Poland. Many activities for tourists are based on amber. There are amber spas and fishing trips for amber. There are collections of amber in museums. People attend workshops to learn jewelry making.

In the 1st century AD, a series of amber expedi-



ENZO Design

tions was organized on the orders of the Emperor Nero. The longest and most dangerous merchant expedition began in the 60s. It reached as far as the Baltic Sea by land. It was a complete success. Large quantities of the valuable gemstone were brought to the Roman Empire along what is today known as the Amber Route. The Route began on the Baltic Sea coast near present-day Gdansk. It stretched across the Barbaricum down the River Vistula, and further on through Silesia, the Moravian Gate, through Sopron (in what is now Hungary), today's Lower Austria (Carnuntum) and Slovenia, reaching its terminus in the main amber trade center in Aquileia (Italy).

The beginnings of amber, a fossil resin of organic origin, lie 40-50 million years ago in the Eocene Epoch, on the former continent of Fennoscandia. Fennoscandia was a continent which then constituted the northern part of the Baltic and Scandinavia. Land masses of the Eocene Epoch and contemporary times differ, as do their climates. In the hot, tropical Eocene environment, the land was covered with a huge coniferous forest of resin-producing pines (*Pinus succinifera*). Amber – the Gold of the North – came from these trees. The amber resin flowed from the north down huge rivers to the present-day Baltic Sea basin, accumulating in its southern reaches. Through millions of years, the resin hardened and fossilized. Today sea waves wash the nuggets of amber onto the sandy beaches of the Southern Baltic.

For today's scientists, this ancient fossil resin is a mine of information about prehistoric times. In some pieces of amber you can find inclusions, such as insects, arachnids or fragments of plants. This

animal and plant life is sometimes excellently preserved and visible to the naked eye. Very rarely larger animals can be found, such as the lizard displayed at the Amber Museum in Gdansk. Most frequently, there are small creatures or plants which can be seen only under a microscope.

In order to reach artists and artisans, a piece of amber had to travel a very long way; but it was that very journey which gave amber the beauty and diversity which skilled hands can complement with a silver or gold setting. Gdansk and its vicinity have been the main amber crafting center since the dawn of history. Here, beads and pagan figurines were made, along with solar amulets and Christian crosses. The Gdansk masters made the Amber Room, a gift to Tsar Peter the Great of Russia from King Friedrich Wilhelm I of Prussia. The Amber Room was a chamber completely decorated in amber panels. It was created in the 18th century, disappeared during World War II from Saint Petersburg, and then was recreated in 2003). The amber craftsmen also made a great number of large coffers at the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries, during the so-called Golden Age of Gdansk amber craft. Today, according to the research carried out by the Gdansk Institute for Market Economics, about 10,000 people work in the production of amber jewelry, in more than 1,000 businesses in the north of Poland. This is a fragmented but strong branch of the economy in the Polish region of Pomerania.

The tradition of excellence and artistic competition compels every company and every artist to produce pieces which are uniquely their own. Contemporary design predominates. Large silver surfaces are perfectly polished, or feature satined and scraped textures which have recently come into fashion. The amber stones long ago stopped being merely rounded beads set in precious metal. Today, many manufacturers offer sophisticated jewelry designs which appeal to people of refined taste. Baltic amber occurs in many natural colors. They include transparent stones in the shades of lemon, cognac and cherry, along with the milky and mixed colors of natural amber. In the artists' studios, amber can be combined with coral, pearls and ever



DANUTA KRUCZKOWSKA design

more frequently with diamonds, which endow the amber with even more sparkle and splendor. Many buyers enjoy stringed beads made of traditionally worked matted amber, whose dark variety is an especially interesting feature.

Jewelry designers primarily make their pieces using



NAC Amber

amber in its natural, often opaque form. They retain the natural top layer known as the crust, with its mysterious interior exposed to display the vegetable detritus and inclusions. But designer pieces also include beautifully cut and transparent amber nuggets which mesmerize with their depth or natural discoloration. Every piece of the Gold of the North requires individual examination and a setting to emphasize its beauty in the most suitable way. The Polish amber brand is known the world over. These two words – "Polish amber" – have for many years been synonymous with value. The customer knows that the stone has been treated with remarkable care by masters of a centuries-old tradition.

Gdansk has for 20 years hosted Amberif, the world's largest amber and amber jewelry trade exhibition. At Amberif, close to 500 businesses and artists present their latest designs and ideas based on this beautiful stone. Buyers and amber lovers come from every continent to get it. The beautiful amber jewelry travels from Gdansk to galleries in all the countries of the world. At Amberif there are competitions for both avant-garde designs and craft pieces. Amberif culminates in the Amber and Fashion Gala, where designers exhibit fashions which they have designed for each other.

In his *Naturalis Historiae*, the Roman historian Pliny the Elder said of amber that "Among luxury goods it is valued so high that an amber human figurine, no matter how small, costs much more than men (slaves) in their prime." In those times, amber was considered to be of remarkable value. During the years of communism, amber was cheap and of low quality. These days, it is an expensive and valuable object. Today, contemporary amber jewelry is more and more often worn by celebrities and by stylish young ladies. It is an increasingly trendy accessory in men's clothing, as well.

## Michał Kosior

The International Amber Association  
www.amber.org.pl

Editor's note: Michał Kosior from Gdansk, Poland, has been fascinated with amber for the past 10 years. In it, he still discovers charm, variety of color, depth, unusual characteristics, and most of all, the amazing history of amber. He is the Vice-President of the International Amber Association.

*Michał sent us beautiful photos illustrating this article. Since we can not reproduce them in color, please look for them on our website: www.PolishCulturalCouncil.org*

# My Aunt, the Cinderella of the Polish Embassy

Last year Emily Drake (nee Amelia Dziekiewicz) returned to Washington, DC after an absence of 60 years. Emily, a still active 88 year old now living in a retirement community in O'Hara Township, was re-visiting a city where she spent six exciting years. Staying in a neighborhood close to the Polish Embassy, where she had worked, she retraced her steps to buildings, parks and monuments which took her back to those thrilling years. Here is her story...

Emily Dziekiewicz was born in Sharpsburg, Pennsylvania, a river town near Pittsburgh. She was 21 years old when, in 1946, she began a six-year tenure as an employee of the Polish Embassy in Washington DC. For Emily, raised by Polish immigrant parents, working at the Embassy was "...like being Cinderella at the ball. I couldn't believe it. I was in awe." Amelia (Emily) Dziekiewicz graduated from Aspinwall High School in 1943. Shortly after graduation, she enlisted in the Women's Army Corp (WAC). Her brother and a sister-in-law were already serving in the military. Emily wanted to be part of the war effort. She was also seeking a means to travel abroad because of her love of foreign languages. Thus, she saw the Army as a perfect opportunity to pursue her plans. After basic training at Fort Oglethorpe in Georgia, Emily was assigned to the Orlando Army Air Base as a clerk. She took depositions from soldiers who were applying for discharge from the service because of family responsibilities. This assignment would set in motion a series of events that would change her life.

In January 1945, Emily visited the base's Education Office to explore educational opportunities in foreign languages. An Army captain suggested to her that her fluency in Polish would make it possible for her to get employment at the American Embassy in Poland or at the Polish Embassy in Washington. Laughing off his suggestion that she write to the

Polish ambassador, she jokingly said, "You write to the ambassador!" and then promptly forgot the whole conversation. Fortunately, the captain did not. Unbeknownst to Emily, he wrote a letter to the Embassy inquiring about a position for her. In September 1945, to Emily's great surprise, the Army captain received



a letter from the Polish Embassy. The letter explained that the Ambassador was out of the country, and that the captain's letter would be presented to the Ambassador upon his

return. Emily was astounded at the news, and thrilled that the captain had actually received a response.

As luck would have it, in January 1946, Emily found herself unexpectedly confined to a hospital in Washington DC. She had developed complications from a service-related facial infection. Returning from Christmas leave, she had been traveling by train from New York City to Bolling Field in Washington. There, she intended to hop a flight back to her military base in Florida. Instead, she landed in the hospital in Washington. While in the hospital, she received a wire from her base supervisor, forwarding a wire from the Polish Embassy requesting an interview. For Emily the timing was fateful. Had she returned to her base in Florida as planned, she would not have been eligible for another furlough and she could never have afforded, on her \$18.00 a month Army salary, a train ride or air flight back to Washington.

Fresh from the hospital and still in her WAC uniform, Emily arrived at the Embassy for her interview. Impressed with her language skills and her clerical experience Minister Litauer offered her a position as a stenographer. Her excitement at getting the job at a vastly improved salary was tempered by the fact that the Embassy was willing to keep the position open for only two weeks. She had to attempt the almost impossible task of getting out of the service on such short

notice because the Army was giving the first opportunity for discharge to men returning from overseas. Emily's father had died the previous year. She was now the sole supporter of her mother. At the suggestion of her Commanding Officer, Emily applied for a hardship discharge. The necessary discharge was achieved within several weeks. Though past the Embassy's deadline when she finally received her discharge papers, Emily cabled the Embassy expressing her continued interest in the position. One month later, in February 1946, she reported for her first day of work there.

The Polish Embassy in Washington DC officially reopened in September 1945, having been closed during World War II. The Embassy, located at 2640 16th Street NW, where it remains today, had been built in 1909 for US Senator John Henderson. The building was purchased on behalf of the newly-independent Polish nation in 1919 by the country's first ambassador to the United States, Prince Kazimierz Lubomirski. Considered one of the premier embassies in Washington prior to the war, it was



known for the grandeur of the building and for its gracious parties. The post-war embassy staff was first headed by Minister Plenipotentiary Oscar Lange until the arrival of Ambassador Jozef Winiewicz. In addition, a number of diplomats and

administrative personnel from Poland awaited Emily in February 1946.

Washington, DC in 1946 was an electrifying and growing city. No longer was Washington a sleepy southern town. It had been transformed by the war into a bustling city and capital of the most powerful country in the world. It was experiencing the opening days of the Cold War. But to a young woman, who had never dreamed of achieving such an opportunity, living in Washington was an incredible adventure. The Embassy staff was young, hardworking, and loved to socialize. The entire staff was from Poland except for Emily and four other American women. There were the daily tasks of sending and receiving cables and transcribing correspondence. There were opportunities to assist as hostesses at Embassy receptions. It was not unusual for Emily, dressed in long, formal gowns, to meet celebrities such as the actor Peter Lawford. The Embassy sponsored a Polish folk dance troupe, which performed in and around the Washington area, including at Constitution Hall. Emily became part of the dance group and participated in its performances. With her embassy colleagues, she enjoyed picnics, dances and other Washington social events.

Among the diplomats for whom Emily worked was the future 1980 Nobel Prize winner for Literature, Polish poet, Czeslaw Milosz. Years later, Milosz, who had defected and had become a naturalized American citizen, taught at the University of Berkeley in California. Emily, then living in San Diego, was able to visit with Milosz during a speaking engagement at San Diego's Museum of

Contemporary Art. Milosz remembered "Jackie" (as she was known at the Embassy) by sending her a personally signed poem. She treasured this poem for years, ultimately donating it in 2012 to the Polish Embassy for its archives.

While working at the Embassy, once



Girls from the Polish Embassy presented a dance. They are Miss Halina Kowarska, 419 Fourth street N.W.; Miss Micholino Kmon, 700 Madison street N.W., and Miss Emily Dzikiewicz, 5603 Sixteenth street N.W. Star Staff Photo by Robert Brenner.

again Emily's fortune took another turn. She had an opportunity to visit the White House. Hospitalized once again for her service-related condition, she was invited to a garden party at the White House for patients in Washington's Mt. Alto Veterans Hospital. Arriving at the White House the day after an operation, she had the pleasure of meeting President Truman, his wife Bess, his daughter Margaret and a number of Truman cabinet members. Lunch was served on the White House lawn. The excitement of the event created another once-in-a-lifetime memory.

These six years, 1946-1952, when Emily Dzikiewicz worked for the Polish Embassy, were very significant in her life. During that period, the Cold War continued. Poland, despite its heroic efforts for the Allies in World War II, was forced to become one of the Iron Curtain countries with a Communist-controlled government. Defections of high-level Polish diplomats began. According to Emily, "Slowly the atmosphere in the Embassy changed. Newly arriving Embassy staff members from Poland were dour and secretive and certain rooms were locked." Defections were not discussed in the Embassy, but information could be found in newspapers. A yellowed newspaper clipping in Emily's possession, titled "3 More Polish Officials Resign", reported that State Department officials confirmed that requests for asylum had been received. One of the defectors, Stefan Rogozinski, stated, "Our being recalled showed that non-party (non-Communist) men were no longer wanted in the Polish Embassy." For Emily, now assigned to the Embassy's Commercial Counselor's office, the atmosphere was becoming intolerable. After walking into a room that normally was locked and finding a huge picture of Lenin, she knew her time at the Embassy had come to a close. Shortly thereafter, she submitted her resignation.

Today, Emily looks back on her days at the Embassy in Washington as one of the high points in her life. Walking back into the Embassy so many years later, she again felt the awe that she, a poor girl from Sharpsburg, had been, in her own words, "Cinderella".

## 2013 Board of Directors

RICK PIERCHALSKI, President  
 MERLE ADDAMS, President Emeritus  
 JOSEPH KAMINSKI, Vice President  
 EVANNE ADDAMS, Treasurer  
 TERRI BARGER (Kaminski), Secretary

JOHN ADAMCZYK, ESQ.	TIMOTHY KUZMA
JOHN BARTUS	DAVID J. MOTAK
JAMES CLARK	EVA TUMIEL-KOZAK
LORENE DRAKE VINSKI	ANDRZEJ WOJCIESZYNSKI
MARY LOUISE ELLENA	MARYSIA ZIONCHECK
PATRYCJA JAWORSKA-GARRETT	

HON. EDWARD BORKOWSKI, IRENE JAKUBOWSKI  
 Honorary Board Members

MARIA STASZKIEWICZ, Executive Director

## WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME:

JOHN ADAMCZYK, ESQ. is a partner at Adamczyk Law Offices, LLP and has been practicing law for 21 years. He graduated with a Law Degree from the University of Dayton in 1990. John has been married to Mary Adamczyk for 21 years, who is also his partner at the law firm. Their children Madeline and John, are ages 17 and 11. John had been a commissioner for Ross Township from 1998 to 2002, serving as vice chairman in 2002. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association, past appointee to the Hampton Historical Commission and member of the Hampton Democratic Committee.

PATRYCJA JAWORSKA-GARRETT came to US 13 years ago as an architect with the dream of working in Construction Management. She pursued her dream by obtaining an MS in Construction Management from Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. Currently, she is working full time as a Project Manager for PNC Design and Construction Services. She tries to be the best mom for two kids Lara (5) and Konrad (2). She is one of the organizers and volunteers at the Polish Kids club whose goal is to teach and promote Polish language and culture to children.

It seems that, with increasing frequency, we in American Polonia are saddened by the closing of yet another Polish Catholic parish, and the deaths of many dear and valued members of our “older Polonia”. In that regard, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for the expressions of sympathy and other kind acts upon the recent death of my mother, Anne F. Motak.

My mother was a quiet individual whom many of you might recall from when she assisted at our annual Szopka Exhibitions at the University of Pittsburgh, and through her fabulous pastries, which were as popular at these events as our szopki.

As one deals with such a great personal

to pass along “old country” stories that she had learned from her mother - stories about family connections which went back generations to the broad fields of Eastern Poland - as well as her own reflections on growing up in Polonia during the years of the Great Depression. I shared some of these reflections in her eulogy and, afterward, many attendees and family members asked that I share a copy of these remarks with them. As these reflections touch upon our joint community heritage, please permit me to share an excerpt of these remarks with you:

“Some folks have asked why my mother was so bound to her church. After all, there are plenty of Catholic Churches around, so what's the big deal?”

## Tribute to a Generation

loss, it is most encouraging that many individuals and organizations within our community have expressed their kindness in various ways. Many of these individuals have been thanked personally; however, I would like to take an opportunity to thank publicly those organizations which sent tributes and gestures of condolence. These are: the Polish Cultural Council, the Polish National Alliance, the Polish Women's Alliance, the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, the American Council for Polish Culture, the Polish Arts League of Pittsburgh, Polish Youngstown and the Polish Arts Club of Youngstown, as well as Rev. Joseph Swierczynski of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, who officiated at the farewell ceremony.

In particular, I would like to express my gratitude and that of my family to the Polish Cultural Council for your generous contribution in my mother's name to the Steeples Project. The Steeples Project has the important mission of saving the historic ethnic churches in the Cambria City section of our hometown, Johnstown, including the now closed St. Casimir's Polish parish. As many of you may know, my mother's home parish was very important to her. This particular parish served the needs of Polonia for over 100 years. Its forced closing by the Altoona-Johnstown Catholic Diocese in 2009 also saw the demise of an entire community and a cherished way of life.

Certainly, the death of a loved one is a great personal loss; however the loss of our older generation represents an incredible collective loss for us all: a loss of values, memories and, sadly, a loss of our cherished traditions. It was not uncommon for my mother

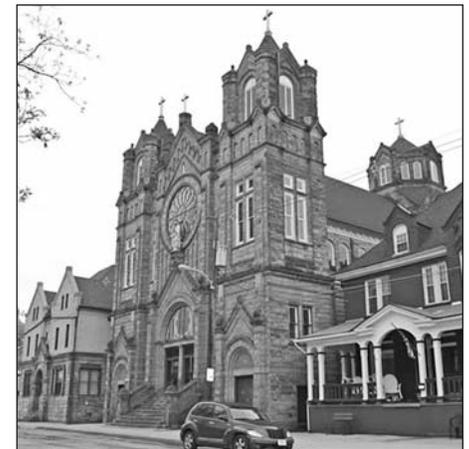
My mom would often recall how her father, after spending 12 to 14 hours of backbreaking work in the coal mine, would join the other men of the parish and pick up those same picks and shovels which they had used to mine coal in order to excavate by hand the foundation for their newly formed parish church. My grandfather often denied his family modest daily comforts in order to help ensure that this church had adequate financial support. Because the majority of our parish members came from the same villages in eastern Poland, they knew each other - sometimes for generations - both in the Old Country as well as in the New.

I think that Mom realized that the closing of her church signified the end of an era, and that many of the traditions, values and ideals that her generation symbolized, are, sadly, coming to an end:

- Mom's world was one in which everyone left their kitchen doors always unlocked and neighbors came into your house while you were out, in order to leave a freshly baked pie or cake, or a tray of those famous Johnstown gobs on your kitchen table.
- It was a Community where no one knocked, they just came in to your house, called ‘Niech bedzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus’ (Praise be Jesus Christ) and were always greeted with a ‘Na wieki, wieków, amen’ (Forever and ever amen).
- There was always a fresh cup of coffee waiting for unexpected visitors. There was always plenty of time to sit and chat, and to talk about the latest happenings in the borough, with the family or in the parish.
- It was a Community where you always called certain older folks Wójeł or Ciocia (Uncle or Aunt) - even though no one knew

whether you were actually related. And no one cared.

- It was a time when the spring air was full of the sweet smell of burning cherry wood from Mr. Grata's backyard smoke house, signaling the coming of Easter and his delicious kielbasa.
- Or, when you didn't have ready cash, Pani Kwiatowska down at the corner grocery store would just ‘mark it in the book’. But she always had some penny candy for my mom and her brothers and sister, no matter when your Dziadek had his payday;
- It was a world in which older people were respected, even though they spoke in heavy Slavic accents, or didn't even speak English at all;
- It was a world where you had golabki every Thursday, freshly home-made pierogi on Friday, and kiszka and placki for breakfast on Saturday.
- It was a world in which my Mom was just as proud of her brothers and her fiancée for fighting for America's freedom in the Second World War as she was of her older brother who fought for a free Poland in 1918.
- And, despite Johnstown still being heavily segregated during those Depression Years, it was a time when my grandmother organized



the Polish ladies in the neighborhood to take care of old Mr. Jackson, a lonely, dying, African American man who lived nearby. For, as my Grandmother would say and my mother would often repeat, ‘Neighbors help Neighbors.’

In short, it was a time when people genuinely cared for each other.

So, although my family, friends and I have bid farewell to one Special Person, we are, in effect, bidding farewell to an entire generation of very special individuals whose cherished values, traditions and the ideals which they represented will continue to live on through us.

—Dave Motak

# Kudos to Jakub Polaczyk!

Many of us have met and remember a young Polish composer, pianist and musicologist, Jakub Polaczyk. Most recently he received an Artist Diploma in Composition from the Carnegie Mellon University School of Music. He just e-mailed us (almost sheepishly) from Finland, that he is the recipient of the First Prize from the very prestigious Tadeusz Baird Young Composers Competition in Warsaw, for his work which is entitled *Cosas Que Puedieron Ser*. Our Congratulations!!!

The Competition was established in 1958 under the auspices of the Polish Composers' Union. The prominence of this competition can easily be measured by its many laureates who are world renowned composers. They include Krzysztof Penderecki, Henryk M. Gorecki, and Pawel Szymanski, just to name a few. The goal of the competition is to support the work and the study of the young composers (up to 35 years old), and to help them to become established.

Jakub's composition was written, mostly, while he was in Pittsburgh. Composed for a



high voice and the prepared piano, this piece is set to the text of Brazilian poet J. Borges' *Cosas que pudieron ser* (Things Which Might Have Been). It is dedicated to John Cage, marking his 100th birthday. When asked why he used the text of Borges' poem, Jakub explained that he met a young Argentinian composer, Marceli Pavi at the 2011 SoundSCAPE Festival in Maccagno, Italy. She suggested that he read Borges' poetry, because she thought that Jakub's music in some way echoed Borges' style. This piece has an improvisational character and contains theatrical elements.

Jakub, is presently in Krakow, Poland, having just returned from the Composers' Workshop in Finland. He is full of praise for their music and for the young composers. The 30-year old musician honed his composition skills in the Royal Conservatory of Brussels. He has always been fascinated with the music of other countries, often looking abroad for his inspiration. His own compositions, impressive in their numbers, are performed around Europe, very often gathering accolades and awards.

You'll find more information on Jakub's music at his website:  
[www.jakub.polaczyk.com](http://www.jakub.polaczyk.com)

—Eva Tumiel-Kozak

*PS. At the time of this writing, we have learned that Jakub is one of the five finalists in the Iron Composition Contest (<http://ironcomposer.org/news>), where five composers are given five hours to write a piece of music. (September 6, 2013).*

Jakub, our best wishes are with you!

## Our Class: A Review

Saturday, May 4 was an incredible evening for those who attended the Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre's production of *Our Class*. The performance was sponsored, in part, by the Polish Cultural Council. *Our Class* (*Nasza klasa*), written by Tadeusz Slobodzianek, is the first Polish drama to be given the country's prestigious Nike Literary Prize. The European Theatre Convention ranked it among the best contemporary European plays written during 2009 and 2010.

The story is set in 20th century Poland. It was inspired by true events which occurred in Jedwabne, Poland in 1941, and in which approximately 300 Polish Jews met their deaths. The play is a shocking tale about the complicated Polish-Jewish relations at that time.

*Our Class* is a story about a group of classmates – Poles and Jews - from 1925 up to our times. As they grow up, their friendly fun ends. World War II breaks out, invading forces, first Soviet then Nazi, enter the town. Anti-Semitism erupts in a series of rapes, murders, and torture, culminating in a mass killing. Almost all the local Jews are killed. The violence does not end with the end of the war. A reckoning with the past then begins. Some of the survivors gain the opportunity to take revenge on their former torturers. In the



end, most of the characters try to negotiate an arrangement with reality – whether in People's Poland, Israel, or America.

The individual performances of the ten actors were excellent. But the best part of the performance is how it was able to capture the spirit of a complicated history and complicated relationships in a dramatic way. This production also offers the point of view that this pattern of neighbors-versus-neighbors has occurred throughout history in various locations and still occurs today.

## REGISTER FOR POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES WILL RESUME ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th, 2013 AT 10 AM, AT THE CYA BUILDING IN LAWRENCEVILLE, CORNER OF FISK & GOVERNMENT LANE, BETWEEN PENN AVE. & BUTLER. CLASSES RUN FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY.

### Registration Form 2013-2014

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Class Choice:

Beginner  Advanced

In the event of an emergency or change of schedule, list the telephone numbers where you should be contacted.

Day \_\_\_\_\_

Cell/Evening \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Classes start the first Saturday following Labor Day and run on Saturdays from 10 AM – 12 Noon until the middle of May. They are held at the CYA building in Lawrenceville, 286 Main Street (entrance from Government Lane & Fisk).

### Registration and Class Fees:

Individual: \$130.00. PCC Member: \$100.00  
Family: \$160.00. PCC Member: \$130.00

Please make your check payable to Polish Cultural Council and mail to:

**Polish Cultural Council**  
P.O. Box 81054  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217-0554

## Film Festival in November



Don't miss The Three Rivers Film Festival. Five of the newest Polish Films will be shown. The Festival runs from November 7th through November 23rd. While at this time the complete roster of films is not known, the screening of one film is certain.

This year we will be proud to present The Closed Circle, a new movie by Ryszard Bugajski, director of the lauded Interrogation. It is a dramatic story based upon real events from about ten years ago. Three owners of a successful company are accused by the corrupt government officials of money laundering and of taking part in an organized criminal group. After seven years of struggle all charges against them are dropped, but the men are ruined financially and devastated mentally.

The picture is about a battle between good and bad, says Bugajski. It is about confrontation between dishonest and corrupt officials and a new generation of entrepreneurs, who are trying to create a new Polish reality. Unfortunately their effort is doomed to failure.

The film was privately funded by a Polish businessman, an unprecedented occurrence in Poland.

The cast includes: Janusz Gajos, Kazimierz Kaczor, Przemyslaw Sadowski, Beata Scibakowna and others. Information about the other Polish films will be known in September.

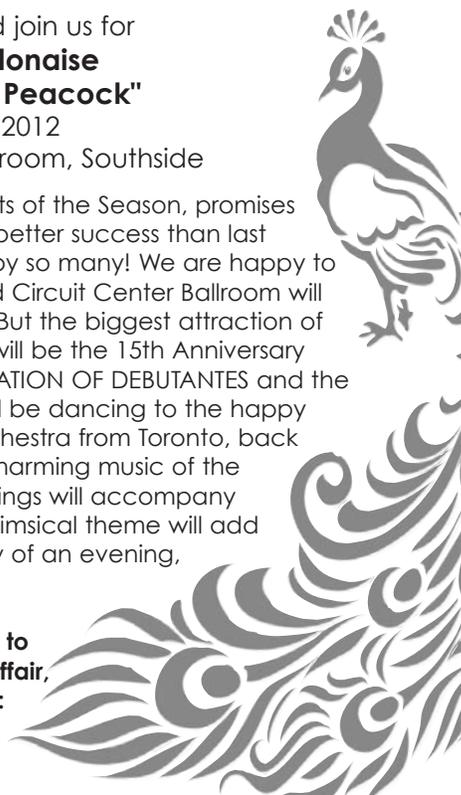
—Malgorzata Matyjaszewska

Mark your calendars and join us for  
**The 21st Annual Bal Polonaise**  
**"Through the Eyes of a Peacock"**

Saturday, November 16, 2012  
at the Circuit Center Ballroom, Southside

This Fall, one of the highlights of the Season, promises to be an even bigger and better success than last year's which was enjoyed by so many! We are happy to confirm that the much-liked Circuit Center Ballroom will once again be our venue. But the biggest attraction of the Bal Polonaise this year will be the 15th Anniversary Celebration of the PRESENTATION OF DEBUTANTES and the GRAND POLONAISE! We will be dancing to the happy tunes of the John Gora Orchestra from Toronto, back by popular demand. The charming music of the North Allegheny Strolling Strings will accompany our gourmet dinner. The whimsical theme will add to the splendor and fantasy of an evening, not to be missed!

**Potential debutantes willing to participate in this elegant affair, can still apply by e-mailing: [pccorg.ms@gmail.com](mailto:pccorg.ms@gmail.com) or calling: 412.871.3347**



**RSVP** You are cordially invited to the General Membership Meeting and Volunteers Appreciation event **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th**, in the afternoon. Place T.B.A. RSVP before September 12 by phone: 412-871-3347 or e-mail: [pccorg.ms@gmail.com](mailto:pccorg.ms@gmail.com)



**Kącik Kulinaryny**  
**Polish Culinary Corner**  
*by Dave Motak*

As the hot weather has now arrived, many of us will be involved in outdoor cooking, picnics and the fine old American tradition of the backyard barbeque. Another time-honored custom (at least from the 1950s and 60s!) is the “covered dish” gathering. If you are like me, you have some fond (and maybe some not so fond) childhood memories of ciotki bringing a variety of covered dishes to family gatherings. Many of these dishes were ethnic, to be sure, but, as time progressed, typically American food items began appearing on our red-checked picnic tables. And what is more iconic than the Jello-Mold!

We all have mental images of neighbor ladies or female relatives arriving at our doorsteps with the often maligned, wiggly Jello-molded “salad” in hand, and the media has done much to reinforce this unflattering impression. And, when I was a child growing up in a Polish American family, this negative image was reinforced in my mind by the apparent popularity among some older neighbors and family members of “pickled pigs feet” which was, in effect, pork in gelatin. Add a sprinkle of vinegar and my grandparents were in Polish heaven!

But “Jello” or more accurately, gelatin or aspic, has had a long and distinguished culinary history far beyond suburban America or even Polish American enclaves. Tracing its lineage back many centuries, historically, meat aspics were made long before fruit and vegetable flavored gelatins. This dish has many names around the world: “galaretka” (Poland) “jellies” (UK) and “gelatins/jellos” (North America).

When cooled, meat stock (particularly veal) congeals because of the natural gelatin found in the meat. Traditionally, the stock is clarified with egg whites, then filled and flavored just before the aspic sets. Culinary historians note that, at least by the Middle Ages, European cooks had discovered that a thickened meat broth could be made into a jelly and that this procedure would help to preserve meat dishes longer. The earliest written

aspic recipe dates back to 1375.

Poles in particular have had a long-lasting romance with “galaretka” and it is featured in Polish dishes from appetizers to desserts. The famous Polish “karp w galarecie” (carp in aspic) is one example. Others are salceson (headcheese) and the rural dish studzienina (meat - usually veal or pork with various vegetables and seasonings - in aspic). Gelatin/aspic dishes were often featured as part of Polish royal banquets. Poland’s long association with France and the inter-mingling of Polish and French cuisines have helped to elevate gelatin to a higher status in Poland than is usually seen in American cuisine.

Almost any type of food can be set into aspics. Most common are meat and fish, fruits or vegetables. Aspics are usually served on cold plates, so that the gel will not melt before being eaten. Cooks today, in both Poland and America, use commercially packaged gelatins when preparing such dishes.

So, whether you regard it as either noble or notorious, the next time you are asked to bring a “covered dish” to a gathering, perhaps you might consider preparing something made with gelatin? And, in doing so, you will be upholding a time-honored Polish culinary tradition. To help you with this task, I am offering some galaretka recipes in this column that offer a decidedly Polish Twist to any summer gathering!

Smacznego!

**Strawberry Galaretka**  
 (Galaretka Truskawkowa)  
 • 1 cup flour

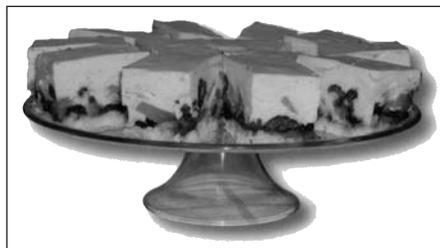


- Commercial Pound Cake mix
- 2 lbs strawberries cleaned and quartered
- (blueberries and other fruit can be added)
- 2 packages strawberry Jello
- Mint leaves for garnish

Follow the directions on the cake mix package. Pour the cake batter into a rectangular baking pan, to not more than one-third height of the pan. Bake the cake and cool. Mix the Jello, using only 1/2 the required water. Set the Jello in the refrigerator to chill. Set the prepared strawberries over the cake, cover with the

Jello liquid and return to the refrigerator. When set, serve sliced dessert with dollops of whipped cream and a mint leaf garnish.

**Fluffy Fruit Cream on Cake**  
 (Ptasie Mleczko na Biskopocie)  
 • Commercial Pound Cake mix



- Canned or fresh peaches, fresh plums, strawberries or other berries cut into sections to equal approx. 3 lbs total.
- 2 packages cherry Jello
- 2 cups heavy cream

Proceed as above with the cake and preparing the fruit. Whip the cream into a heavy consistency. Prepare the Jello and as above and set in the refrigerator until it starts to thicken, then remove and fold in the whipped cream. Gently fold until combined. Pour over the fruit/cake mixture and return to the refrigerator. When set, cut into sections and serve.

**Chicken in Aspic**  
 (Kura w Galarecie)

- 2 envelopes unflavored gelatin
- 2 cups cold water
- 2 (10 1/2oz) cans condensed chicken consommé
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 4 tsp lemon juice
- 2 cups diced chicken, cooked
- 1 cup mixed cooked vegetables
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 4 Tbs each chopped green pepper and chopped pimento

Sprinkle the gelatin in 1 cup cold water in sauce pan to soften. Place over low heat, stirring constantly until dissolved. Remove from heat and add the remaining cold water, consommé, salt and lemon juice. Chill until the mixture is the consistency of an unbeaten egg white. Fold in the chicken and vegetables. Pour into a 6 cup mold or individual molds. Chill until firm. Serve with spiced mayonnaise or cranberry sauce.

*References: cooks.com; Ciasta Siostry Anieli; Kuchnia Siostry Filomeny.*

## PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Just fill in this form and mail it with your dues to the address shown below. Thank You!

*Keeping Polish Culture Alive!*

Polish Cultural Council  
P.O. Box 81054  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217-0554  
[www.PolishCulturalCouncil.org](http://www.PolishCulturalCouncil.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Type of one year membership:  
(January 1 to December 31)

NEW  RENEWAL

- Student (\$10)  
 Individual (\$25)  
 Family (\$35)  
 Business (\$125)

Polish Speaking? Yes  No

I would like to get involved in one of the committees:

- Ostatki, Winter White Party  
 Bal Polonaise  
 Film Festival  
 Performing & Visual Arts Events  
 Kennywood Day  
 Newsletter  
 Fundraising  
 Community Outreach and Membership

Additionally, I would like to support PCC in the amount of  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to the Polish Cultural Council

## Polish Traditions— Known and Unknown

The midst of sizzling summer reminds us about another interesting tradition in Poland: the celebration of St. John's Feast, also known as "Sobotki" (June 23/24th). Coinciding with the Summer Solstice, and derived from some pagan rituals, this shortest night of the year welcomes summer with joyful festivities, bonfire jumping, and beautifully lit wreaths floating along the rivers. "A night of miracles," which promises that all dreams come true!

As the legend says, young women hoped that their wreaths would be picked up by suitors. Young and strong men looked for the flower of the fern, Kwiat Paproci, the flower which is said to bloom on the eve of St. John's Feast only once in 100 years. The finder of this elusive flower was to reap happiness, love, unlimited riches, and special powers. The magical words of our poet, Leszek Chudzinski, beautifully depict this charming custom and its consequences. etk.

### Kwiat paproci

Szczęście bajki kwiatem łudzi,  
Co zakwita w noc czerwcową,  
Bajka blaskiem ślepi ludzi  
Od stuleci wciąż na nowo.  
Myśl o skarbie, pożądanie,  
Śmiałków w las przyciąga, kusi,  
Do patrona – Święty Janie –  
Modlą się, by wzmógł ich usił,  
By poszczęścił, kwiat im wskazał,  
Co noc krótką płonie tylko,  
By zdążyli się wykazać,  
By im noc nie była chwilką.

Cel ich zmagają – kwiat paproci –  
Letniej nocy twóć marzenia,  
Los odmienia, biedę złoci,  
Nedzę dnia w bogactwo zmienia.  
Kwiat, co w szczęściu bezgraniczny;  
Lico śmiałka tryska zdrowiem,  
A urodę, wygląd śliczny –  
Próżno pisać bajki słowem.  
Piękne dziewczki ślą uśmiechy,  
Tańczą męstwem upojone,  
To na swadźby, na uciechy –  
Którą da ci los za żonę?

Następując szczęściu pięty,  
Co w zasięgu ręki czeka,  
Podążają w las zaklęty  
– Prędej, szybciej – noc nie zwleka. –  
Wpół-rozumni, zaślepieni,  
W bór tajemny kroczą dzielnie,

W chaszczce, sploty drzew korzeni,  
Odzież szarpią ostre ciernie.  
Duchy straszne i upiory,  
Wilczych zębów uśmiech krwisty,  
Tuż nad głową pośmiech zmory,  
A w oddali – kwiat złocisty!

Niedościgły kwiat paproci,  
Co bajkowym życiem żyje,  
Noc czerwcową blaskiem złoci,  
Chciwych ludzi krew wciąż pije.  
O junaku chodzą słuchy,  
Co był pewien swoich czynów,  
Na poradę wszelką głuchy  
Zboczył z ścieżki by wawrzynu  
Zerwać na zwycieski wieniec –  
Do dziś nie wie nikt, jak przepadł,  
Jak w zaświaty odszedł cieniem,  
A kwiat nowych ofiar czeka.

Drugi, pomny wielkiej stawki,  
Dobrych porad gotów słucać,  
Wolno stąpa wzdłuż sadzawki,  
Bo nad wodą się kostucha  
Skryć nie może. Dotknął motyl  
Go w przelocie – Bieżaj za mną.  
Nim lać będziesz siódme poty,  
Nim godzinę spotkasz czarną,  
Ja do kwiatu cię zawiode,  
Co w ukrytym miejscu lśni.  
I nim zgaśnie tuż przed wschodem,  
Spełnisz swe najskrytsze sny. –

Przez tajemny odstęp boru  
Dąży obietnicy śladem,  
Wyobraźni sny, jak zmory,  
Żrą go wraz z gorączki jadem.  
Bieży w bagna, wiercidoły,  
Wilcze jamy, kretowiska,  
Choć nie szczędzi sił, mozołu –  
Kwiatu wizja wcale bliska.  
Mgłą powiało od moczaru,  
Coś zawyło, zahuczało  
– Czary mary, czary mary –  
Śladu po nim nie zostało.

Inny z mieczem w dłoni zmierza,  
Bo wyprawa nie przelewki,  
Choć nie boi się on zwierza,  
Chce powrócić do swej dziewczki.  
Mar i szkarad on nie słuca –  
Próżno wiedźmy się zmawiają,  
Ni zaklęcia, zawierucha,  
Z tropu zbić go nie zdołają.  
– Kwiat twój będzie – głos gdzieś w  
głowie  
Szepnął słowo obietnicy –  
Wszak należy ci się, powiedz,  
Nie zastrużysz – idziesz z niczym.

I uwierzył, że posiadzie

Kwiatne szczęście w noc czerwcową –  
Siła magii sieć swą prządzie,  
W rękę miecz – na ustach słowo.  
Machał, utknął miecz w gałęzi,  
Siedzi mocno – ni go wyrwać,  
Tak broń zucha las uwięził.  
Wtem rozwarła pod nim wyrwa  
Żywcem grzebie go, pochłania,  
W noc czerwcową, świętojańską,  
Co się chyli do zarania –  
Tkwi w gałęzi miecz bezpieńsko.

Był raz śmiałek ponad śmiałki,  
Co przed nikim się nie tworzył,  
Już sam widok jego pałki  
Raził wrogów, serca mroził.  
Posłyszawszy bajkę starą  
W czarodziejski bór pośpiesza,  
Próżno straszyć leśną marą  
Woja – jego nic nie miesza.  
W lasu miejsca wchodzi święte,  
Gdzie mrok wiecznie rozpostarty,  
Gdzie ostoje rzadko tknięte  
Ludzkę stopą. Tu na żarty

Miejsca nie ma; strażę duchów  
Strzegą kwiatu tajemnicy,  
Tu szkielety padłych zuchów,  
Co wtargnęli w las dziewiczy.  
Wizja kwiatu i bogactwa  
Śmiałka w miejsce to przywiody,  
Gdzie ni zwierza, ani ptactwa,  
Tylko zmarłych nieme modły.  
Wtem jasnością las rozbłysnął,  
Przecudowną, brylantową;  
Cmentarzysko się rozprysło,  
Las się mieni szatą nową.

A pośrodku kwiat jaśniej  
Złotokiściem promienistym –  
Nie wiesz, czy noc, czy też dnieje,  
Czy to złoty sen przeczysty.  
Dzielny junak kwiatu sięga,  
Czuje dotyk, rwie, lecz oto –  
Zamiast kwiatu stęchła księga –  
Starej bajki grząskie błoto.  
W szął, w panikę młodziń wpada,  
Gorączkowo w bagnie grzebie,  
W wizji kwiatu sen przepada,  
A z nim junak w grząskiej glebie.

Wielu koniec niegodziwy  
Spotkał w leśnej tajemnicy:  
Patrząc w bajki lustro krzywe  
Własne zobaczyli lice.  
Tak to chytrność, ludzka słabość,  
Wiodła ich na pokuszenie,  
Gdzie miast skarbu, wieczną radość –  
Naszli swoje przeznaczenie.  
Sprawność ręki, władza mieczem,  
Tyle znaczy – nic poza tem,  
I choć kwiat bajeczny przecie  
Śmierć prawdziwa – jak świat światem.

Gdyby w życiu choć raz jeden  
Własnej bajki posłuchali,  
Gdyby w serca swego Eden

Raz spojrzeli, poszukali  
Szczęścia, które w każdym płonie,  
Nie na strwon by życie zdali,  
Nie na próżno by ich dłonie  
Ciężkim mieczem się spełniały  
I ginęły snem, marzeniem,  
Co jak bajka nieskończona  
Skrzywa tajemnicy cieniem  
Swe oblicze – ~~mił~~ nie skona!

The flower of fern, one of the kind,  
That blossoms once only on a June night,  
Blinds the folk with happiness and shine;  
For centuries they've measured the time  
When St. John's night calls upon young men  
To enter the wood, to search the glen  
And claim the prize no one has claimed,  
The flower of fern – giver of bliss,

Untold riches, happiness and kiss  
Of the fairest maiden to be found;  
Like one men all the brave come round  
To seek the flower that's never been found.

Their goal, their utmost desire  
Is the flower of fern, whose fire  
Might change one's fate, dress one in gold –  
If that's what one's fate had foretold.  
The flower's might, as the fame professed,  
Knows no limits for prowess is not guessed  
But proven in endless search of the fern,  
That rewards the brave with beauty and yearn  
To go from rags to riches, to be wiled  
By maidens; danced around, enticed and smiled;  
Which will your fate slate for you, oh brave,  
Which will you find - a fern or your grave?



**Let's play in Polish!**

**Polish Kids Club**  
Pittsburgh

**Classes start**  
**September 7th, 2013**  
at Wilkins School Community Center  
7604 Charleston Ave, Swissvale, PA 15218

[www.polishkidsclub.com](http://www.polishkidsclub.com)  
[polishkidsclub@gmail.com](mailto:polishkidsclub@gmail.com)

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

**Polish Kids Club Immersion Program involves children of different ages and levels of learning. Our curriculum develops children's language skills using a range of engaging research-based activities, and offers a fun and easy learning experience filled with language games, crafts, dance and movement activities, singing and more. The kids interact with native-speaking teachers and peers that help them to develop their language skills.**

Polish Cultural Council  
 P.O. BOX 81054  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15217-0554



[www.PolishCulturalCouncil.org](http://www.PolishCulturalCouncil.org)



# 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Polish Day At Kennywood

**TUESDAY  
 AUGUST 6**

**Sponsored by  
 Polish Cultural  
 Council**

**Free Polka  
 Dancing to the  
 Polka Family  
 Band  
 6:00-9:30**

**11:30 a.m. Polish Kitchen** opens serving the "Polish Platter" and pierogi, kielbasa, stuffed cabbage, **Father Miro's potato pancakes and homemade Polish pickles. Bake Sale** opens with a variety of Polish pastries.

**12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Strolling musicians.**

**2:00 p.m. Lajkoniki Polish Folk Dancers**

**3:00 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass by Reverend Joseph Swierczynski, Pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, featuring the Karuzela Chorus. Short concert by Karuzela to follow.**

**4:30 p.m. Polonian of the Year, Frania Yakima-Urbaniak Crowning of Miss Polonia 2013**

Call for ticket info 412-921-0292

For general information call 412-486-1605

More information is available at [www.polishculturecouncil.org](http://www.polishculturecouncil.org)

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING  
 BUSINESSES OFFERING A DISCOUNT  
 TO THE PCC MEMBERS:**

**NUTRI-FARMACY – 12.5%**

Dr. Dan Wagner  
 2506 Wildwood Rd,  
 Wildwood, PA 15091  
 412-486-4588

**EUROPEAN SKIN CARE  
 CLINIC – 10%**

Grazyna Bobak,  
 Owner-Esthetician  
 315 Morgantown Road,  
 Uniontown, PA 15401  
 724-438-7881

**DATA MINDS HOSTING  
 Web Portals Made Easy!**

-10%; 20% referrals  
[www.datamindshosting.com](http://www.datamindshosting.com)  
 724-713-0455

**MARGARET'S FINE  
 IMPORTS– 10%**

Malgorzata Kubicka  
 5872 Forbes Ave.  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15217  
 412-422-1606

**PIEROGIES PLUS – 10%**

Helena Mannarino  
 342 Island Avenue,  
 McKees Rocks  
 412-331-2224

**ALFRED'S  
 DELI PLUS – 5%**

Ania Misiaszek  
 back to: 3041 Brereton St.,  
 Pittsburgh - Polish Hill  
 (Opposite Immaculate Heart  
 of Mary Church)  
 412-682-3100

**MEDITERRA  
 BAKEHOUSE – 10%**

Nicholas Ambeliotis  
 801 Parkway View Drive,  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15205  
 412-490-9130

**S&D POLISH DELI – 5%**

Dorota & Slawek Pyszkowski  
 2204 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh,  
 PA 15222  
 412-281-2906

