Newsletter of the Polish Cultural Council · Vol. 11 · Winter/Spring 2013

Hold on to your seats and get ready to come to the Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre's (PICT) production of "Our Class" opening in April 2013. This controversial play, written by Polish playwright Tadeusz Slobodzianek, and translated by Ryan Craig, is based on the theme of Jan Gross explosive book Neighbors. The play opens up in 1925 and follows the lives of ten members of a school class in Jedwabne, Poland. Half are Jewish Poles the other half Catholic Poles. The children, as all children do, intermingle and play with each other, but issues between the two groups begin to manifest. The play follows through the 1930s, as we watch the children get older, as the political leaders of Poland become more nationalistic and Catholic priests begin to voice anti-semitic hostilities.

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Maria Staszkiewicz, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR The play moves into the Nazi-Soviet invasions of 1939, still following the children as young adults and anticipating their fates. As further distances grow between nationalistic

Message from the President

Catholic Poles and Jewish Poles who welcome their Soviet "Liberators", the play takes on a very ugly twist. At this point, the Catholic Poles are portrayed descending into caricature, profiled as rapists, thugs and betrayers of their "neighbors." The Polish action culminates in the historically disputed roundup of 1600 Jedwabne Jews, forcing them into a barn and burning it to the ground.

The play is presented in association with the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh. PICT has contacted the PCC and has asked us to be in a formal discussion group after one of the productions, ostensibly with members of the Holocaust Center. This is a challenge but it is a challenge that is going to have to be met with open and honest dialogue.

If the PCC accepts the invitation to sit on the panel, I am seriously considering inviting a Jedwabne expert, a Polish Professor from Washington D.C., to be a participant and speak to the historical facts of the play. This

is a person who has intensively studied Jan Gross's book, on which the play is based, and has spoken in other forums. I am also considering asking some of our PCC members, who are much more versed with war time Poland than I, to also be a panelist. If you would like to be considered to be on the panel, please contact our executive director and we will determine who will best represent the Polish community.

As I said, hold on to your seats, because this is going to be a wild and unchartered ride. The Polish community needs to be engaged in this type of controversy and not look the other way, but never sway from the truth. We need to come to grips with any blemishes on the wartime record of our heroic ancestral homeland but always in the context of the sacrifices they went through during these horrible times. —Rick Pierchalski



A scene from "Our Class", a controversial play written by Polish playwright Tadeusz Slobodzianek.

GRZYBOWSKI CONCERT REMARKABLE

by Jakub Polaczyk

On Sunday, October 28th, the PCC, in collaboration with the Music Department, University of Pittsburgh, presented an extraordinary event: a piano recital by Maciej Grzybowski at the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium. Maciej Grzybowski, a fabulous pianist from Poland, has been especially known for his contemporary interpretations. Many Polish composers would love to write for him and several have already



Marciej Grzybowski performs at the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium on Oct. 28.

dedicated pieces to this extraordinary interpreter.

It was the fourth time that I heard Grzybowski live. First, it was in 2007, at the Polish Music Festival, where he performed the Shakspeare's Sonnets by P. Mykietyn in the "Bagatela Theater" with Arno Raunig. I was amazed by the expressivness of his piano playing. The next day, at the same festival. he gave a solo recital in the Krakow (Cracow) Radio Concert

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Hall. His intepretation of the electroacoustic Ephiphora by P. Mykietyn took my breath away. The third time, I had a chance to hear him accompanying Olga Pasiecznik at the 2010 Cracow Composers song recital, at Florian's Hall. All these times he has proved to be a great soloist and one of the best Polish modern artists. I was waiting impatiently for his concert in Pittsburgh.

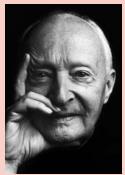
Grzybowski's solo recital included some romantic, impressionistic pieces by: Brahms, Chopin, Debussy, Szymanowski, Ravel & Gould. It was a great concept to present as an intermezzi (interludes) the Polish XX century piano music, so called "postmodernistic" Four Preludes by Pawel Mykietyn, and before the intermission, the hypnotizing Two Piano studies by P. Szymanski. It was a rare occasion for me to hear the latter piece live. It's 20 years old, but there are still only a few pianists, who can take on a challenge. I am glad that this "unconventional style" of the Polish composer was introduced to the Polish-American audience here. Pawel Szymanski occasionally plays a game with his listeners, sometimes adding the baroque style of Bach into his compositions. The first study was played slower than the score indicated; nevertheless, it was still an incredible experience for the audience.

We also heard Twelve Polish Melodies by Witold Lutoslawski composed in neoclassical style during his fascination with Bela Bartok's music, and impressionistic "Methopes" by Karol Szymanowski.

Grzybowski's remarkable intepretations are really unique, with uncommon treatment of time, and a great sense of form. His many marvelous ways of sound articulation reminded me of the greatest piano masters such as: Vladimir Horowitz or Glenn Gould. He also proved to be a master of the polyphonic voices and the repetition technique.

This unforgettable for me event ended with an encore, the refreshing Sonata in c minor by D. Scarlatti, showing the pianist's "other" side in delicate interpretation.

Jakub Polaczyk is a composer and pianist, second year Artist Diploma composition student, Music Dept., Carnegie Mellon University.



Witold Lutoslawski, one of the greatest composers of the 20th century has been recognized by the Parliament of the Republic of Poland,

which designated the year 2013 as Witold Lutoslawski Year.

The 25th of January 2013 has marked the 100th anniversary of Witold Lutoslawski's birth, a composer whose works have immense influence upon the development of serious music of our times. His discoveries of the new language of music, his creative use of tradition and the masterly compositional technique have placed him firmly within the ranks of the twentieth century's most outstanding composers. Lutoslawski Year and celebrations of this anniversary will be organized all over the world including some recognition on our own WQED-FM. At the end of last year, PCC recognized Maestro Lutoslawski with the Twelve Folk Melodies, masterly performed by the pianist, Maciej Grzybowski at the Frick Fine Arts.

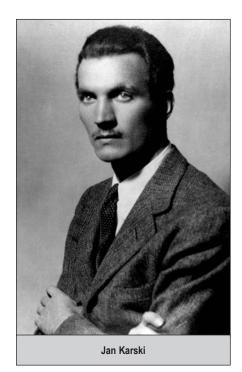
In the early nineties, Maestro Lutoslawski spent close to 10 days in Pittsburgh where he conducted the Pittsburgh Orchestra in his famous Third Symphony. He has also worked with the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble which performed his Chain I under David Stock; also with Duquesne's University Students' Orchestra and the Music Department of the University of Pittsburgh.

We all remember this humble, charming gentleman, always positive, always bringing out the best in everybody, emanating special charisma, especially when working with musicians, young and old alike.

In 1991, Duquesne University bestowed on him a Doctorate of Honoris Causa in a festive ceremony which gathered many representatives of Polonia.

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THE LEGACY OF JAN KARSKI



Many of our readers know the name Jan Karski. An exhibition about the life of this World War II Polish hero, The World Knew: Jan Karski's Mission for Humanity, will be open to the public at the United Nations beginning January 27.

This exhibition marks the beginning of the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

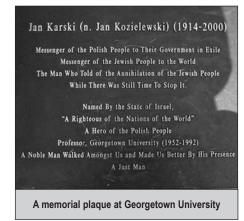
Karski was born to a merchant family in Lodz. He was schooled in international diplomacy. Before he could become part of Poland's foreign service, the Germans invaded Poland. He was briefly taken prisoner by the Russians, but managed to escape. Karski's greatest contribution to humanity occurred during the German occupation of Poland. He entered the Nazi-controlled Warsaw Jewish Ghetto in order to observe the atrocities which were being perpetrated on the Jewish population of Poland by the Nazis. He also posed as an Estonian guard on a rail transport for Jewish prisoners from the ghetto. Again, he observed the inhumane treatment of these prisoners who were being transported to concentration camps

throughout Eastern Europe.

Karski's stature grew within the international community, because he was the only person who had eyewitness reports of the tragedy of Polish Jewry. He reported his information personally to the likes of President Roosevelt and Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter. Frankfurter was so taken aback by the information which Karski provided that he emphatically refused to believe Karski. Roosevelt, at a meeting in the Oval Office, did not respond to Karski's account. Instead, he was more interested in the Polish Underground State.

After the war, Jan Karski earned his PH.D at Georgetown University. He went on to teach in Georgetown's foreign diplomacy curriculum for 40 years. Bill Clinton is a former student. Karski's accolades are almost too numerous to name. Because of his achievements, he was given honorary citizenship in Israel, and Yad Vashem, in Jerusalem, awarded him the title Righteous Among the Nations.

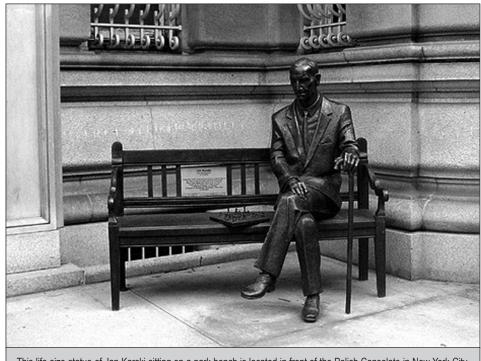
The Polish consulate in New York City has a bronze, life-size statue of Karski sitting on park bench, in front of



the consulate building. He sits and contemplates his life and what he has seen of man's inhumanity to man. His legacy remains as it always has been: Jan Karski's Mission for Humanity.

Rick Pierchalski

Jan Karski told the story of his wartime experiences in his book "Story of a Secret State." Recently, his story has been told in a novel by Yannik Haenel, first published in French under the title "Jan Karski," and translated into English under the title "The Messenger."



This life-size statue of Jan Karski sitting on a park bench is located in front of the Polish Consolate in New York City.

Debutantes Once Again

On November 23, 2012 The Southside's Circuit Center and Ballroom at the Hot Metal Bridge was aglow with light beams radiating from the tiaras of twenty nine beautiful young women. These young ladies along with the 250 guests were celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Polish Cultural Council's Bal Polonaise. Aside from their tiaras, their evening attire was not the usual white gowns and long white gloves, as these young women were all "Debutantes Once Again" with this year's theme inspiring them to relive moments as debutantes in years past. The woman with the most long-standing crown was our own current Bal Co-Chair, Marie Zielmanski Fallon from the inaugural year that first introduced Debutantes in 1994.

Joining in the celebration were nine former escorts with Christian Wawrzonek taking the crown for the most escort "performances" for a record five times. Tributes in the souvenir program featured pictures and updated biographies of 65 of the former Debs.

As anniversary celebrations do, the event was filled with heartwarming reminiscing along with a fabulous fun-filled evening. Entertained by Canada's favorite John Gora and his Orchestra, it was hard to stay in your chair. With microphone in hand, Gora was "out and about", as they say in Canada, roaming the dance floor, circling the tables, leading the Congo lines, inviting guests to sing along, and joining in all the dancing. His variety of music more than pleased all the guests of all ages.

The evening would not have been complete without a tribute to the "Queen of

the Bal" Irene Addams. It was Irene who had the vision to add the debutantes in 1994. She, along with her dear friend Wanda Walat, has personally recruited each of the two hundred plus debutantes over the years. Irene has made an unparalleled commitment to the success of the Bal over its 20 year history. From her chairing the Debutante Teas, to her recruitment of Debutantes and thousands of guests over the years, she has become a face and a voice that every debutante family remembers fondly.

A special thank you is extended to Frances Saxon, the "Queen of the Saxon Clan", for sponsoring sixteen Saxon debutantes over the years. She, along with her dear and late husband George, has generously supported the Bal each year. She was celebrating the evening with her ensemble, filling three tables of former Debs and Escorts.

A special anniversary thank you is extended to Ted and Sophie Michalik.

The Michalik family runs a close second with thirteen debutantes presented over the years. Due to a schedule conflict for the Holiday weekend, they were unable to attend, but they were definitely missed.

The success of the evening could not have been possible without the commitment of all our committee members who began planning a year in advance. Led by Co Chairs, Evanne Addams and Marie Zielmanski Fallon, Irene Addams, Janice Amend, Kasia Bruniany, James Clark, Lillian Grindle, Anna Herold, Irene

Jakubowski, Melissa Snee, Antoinette Mizgorski, Lisa Sasinoski, Maria Staszkiewicz, Frania Yakima, Barbara Wally, Monica and Bill Zanieski and Marysia Zioncheck made a time-consuming commitment of hard work that certainly benefited us all. Thank you ladies and gentlemen for another year of your time and energy.

The Circuit Center and Ballroom featured catering by The Fluted Mushroom serving a filet that was cooked to perfection. The food and venue were so complimented by all the guests that we have secured next year's Bal at the Center on Saturday November 16, 2013. By request, John Gora will be back to perform as well. In addition the one-hundred member violin orchestra, the North Allegheny Strolling Strings will be returning for a command performance. We will once again celebrate our

Through the Eyes
Of a Peacock.

The Center of Ballinom, South Stafe, Philisburgh, November 16, 2013

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tradition next year with the introduction of new Debutantes. Please join us with next year's theme "Through the Eyes of a Peacock" and wear your

feathers!

For further information or debutante applications, please visit our website at polishculturalcouncil.org.



Debutantes and escorts from the past nineteen years gathered to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Bal Polonaise.

Love & Marriage: Polish Style

by Mary Louise Ellena

This was going to be the adventure of a lifetime: my Godson's wedding in Poland and my very first Polish Wedding in Poland. Since I had actually been to Warsaw for Pawel's Christening and he had visited me four times in the States, it was only fitting that I should be in Poland for his wedding. It was, however, not a simple trip!

The day of my departure from Pittsburgh was cloudy and windy. I picked that morning to break my bicuspid and was sitting in my dentist's chair at 8 A.M....hoping to make a Noon flight from Pittsburgh to New York. After the dentist placed a temporary crown on my tooth, I was on my way to the airport with an emergency packet of tooth cement tucked into my passport case. I breezed through security and headed for the gate. I settled in with my iPad, my camera case and my carry-on luggage in which I had packed everything for the wedding plus five additional outfits, shoes and underwear – at my cousin's insistence. I was prepared to fly. The weather and the airlines, however, had a different game plan in mind

Instead of an expected boarding call, my flight to New York was cancelled; in fact most flights were delayed or cancelled because of severe storms passing through the East Coast. The lines for rebooking were outrageous. Instead of flying through New York and Germany to Poland, I was to fly to Chicago and directly to Warsaw. I frantically emailed my cousins with the change of itinerary and finally left Pittsburgh at about the same time I was supposed to land in Chicago. In Chicago I had just fifteen minutes to catch my flight to Poland. Sprinting to the tram that would take me to the outbound terminal, lugging bags that suddenly felt like I was transporting bricks, I was panting as I approached the LOT ticket counter. The attendant told me not to worry: storms were pummeling Chicago and nothing would be flying any time soon. We finally taxied down the runway in Chicago about 1 A.M. I finally landed in Warsaw.... 33 hours after I left my home, but my luggage did not. I was actually reconnected with my suitcase the day before my departure from Warsaw.

After three trips to the airport to fetch me (my cousins had known that I would be flying an alternate route, but TSA regulations prevented the airlines from revealing which plane I was on.), my family was as relieved as I was that I had finally landed...on Polish soil. Since I had enough clothing in my hand luggage, my absent suitcase was not an impending disaster. My card was in my camera case but the cake knife and server for the reception were in my luggage. Oh well

The next day, I drove to the site of the wedding with my Godson, the groom. His parents — my cousins — were not far behind with friends of theirs who had arrived from Moscow for this event. Tomaszow Lubelski was a five- hour drive from Warsaw, near the Ukraine boarder. The bride and groom went to the church and then all of the guests, proceeded to the home of the bride's parents, the Martyniuks, for dinner. We checked into the Hotel Antonni to settle in for the evening after a long day in the car.

As we began the unpacking process, It did not take long for the groom's mother, my cousin Jola, to realize that she had not taken the suit of her son from the bedroom closet! Jola cried: mv cousin Krzysztof, the groom's father, decided to return to Warsaw immediately to retrieve the missing suit, and I went with him. We drove five hours back to Warsaw, consumed a double Cappuccino, and drove five hours back to the Hotel Antonni, chatting in Polish the entire time! I showered and climbed into bed about 6 A.M., setting my phone alarm for a 9:30 A.M.. wakeup call. Fortunately, our bad luck changed from that point on. The wedding day dawned cloudy but not rainy. Family began trickling in, and we had a few minutes to catch up before we all met in the hotel restaurant for a bowl of soup and bread prior to the wedding Mass. I dressed for the wedding early, and armed with my camera, I began snapping photos. The wedding church had been built around 1350 and my assignment was to ride there with my cousin Beata and her husband. Leszek. The only stop was for purchasing the flowers for the newlyweds. The bride and groom - who did see each other before the wedding unlike American couples, greeted us outside! The wedding Mass was universal as Roman Catholic Masses are. The sermon was very personal and the ceremony, joyful. Outside of the church guests greeted the new Mrs. And Mrs. Nowakowski, presenting them with their wedding gifts, flowers, chocolates, wine etc., which were stashed in the trunk of the bridal car! After pictures, we headed back to the hotel for the reception.

At the entrance to the banquet room, an accordion player, attired in a traditional regional folk costume, and both parents met the newlyweds, presenting them with bread and salt for prosperity, and wine for strength. I was astounded when the bride and groom threw their wine glasses over their shoulders! The guests followed the wedding party into the hotel, where they were welcomed with a glass of champagne. With the band playing softly in the background, the new couple was toasted several times. The guests then scrambled to find their assigned seats.



The bridal couple sat at the head of a U-shaped table ,with close friends and then family at each of the long ends. The tables were filled with appetizers, wine, beer, soft drinks and of course vodka! Pawel and Monika kissed to a chorus of "Sto Lat", the assembly downed a shot of Vodka and the party began! Course after course of meat, fish, poultry, pierogi, bigos, crepes, cake, ice cream and delectable pastries were interspersed with dancing and another round of vodka toasts. The parents danced with the bridal couple. Unmarried women gathered for the ritual throwing of the bridal veil; bachelors gathered for the throwing of the bow tie! The wedding torte, a wonderful concoction of cake with a pear filing and chocolate frosting, had lighted sparklers. After Monika and Pawel cut the cake, more dancing and eating, and drinking followed - until 4:30 A.M. Everyone reconvened at 9:30 the next morning for breakfast.

We spent with what I term "the Polish goodbye": visiting with everyone, including the bride and groom! Following POPRAWINY, my cousins and I, together with their Russian friends, attended a Music Festival in a nearby town. The following day, while the bill was paid, Panstwo Nowakowscy had a photography session outside. We made our way back to Warsaw, stopping at a quaint restaurant for lunch of authentic pierogi! In the car, I tweaked photos, creating a slide show on my iPad to show my aunt and uncle, grandparents of the groom. They were unable to attend due to their health problems.

I spent the next few days in Warsaw shopping for art work, visiting my aunt and uncle, and preparing for my flight to Germany to visit my college roommate. My luggage did arrive and the bride and groom finally received their cake knife and server which they never got to use at their wedding.

Despite the initial trials and tribulations, the entire trip was one of the most interesting adventures of my life. I can't wait to see what summer of 2013 brings – I hope Polish family visiting the USA!

Postcards not only from Europe...

By Eva Tumiel-Kozak

– Eva

2012 was for me a year of travel to different and far away parts of the globe. Interestingly, wherever I went, I met Poles. I wondered if there is any place on earth where the foot of a Pole didn't mark the place?

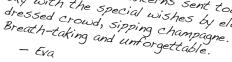
It was a dream come true to celebrate a traditional Polish Christimas and a month-Dear Friends, long vacation in South Africa with my own Tumiel clan of two brothers, their lovely wives, my beautiful niece, and my very special four nephews ranging from 10 - 16. It was probably my fifth trip to 5. Africa. Here the endless, incredible beauty and the indigenous flora and fauna are simply magnificent. This time, we headed along Garden Route National Park toward wong gwaen nouce nucional ran cour plettenburg, a paradise-like place near Plettenburg, There, one discovers the Cape Town. There, one beaches of the warm Bay of the Indian Ocean and a cliff-face shoreline, probably the most beautiful in the world.





Dear Friends,

The magnificent Robberg National Reserve, the Tsitsikanma Forest (where my oldest nephew, Jared, decided to make a bungee jump from the highest bridge), and the awesome Storms River Canyon gave us many hours of climbing and nature walks. These are great places to recharge The mystique of the ocean and the beautiful beach accompanied our entry into the year 2012. There were literally thousands of lit lanterns sent toward the sky with the special wishes by elegantly



Johannesburg welcomed us back with sunshine and "crisp" weather, so characteristic of this bustling and hustling modern Dear Friends, city of over 7 million, located on seven hills... Entertainment possibilities are endless, but since I had only a few days left, I decided on meeting interesting Poles. Among others, I met the editor of the lovely Polish Community Newsletter (Wiadomosci Polonijne), which is written in an impeccable Polish by Barbara Kukulska. A lovely Polish church, where 16 years ago I was a godmother to my nephew, Jared, is a gathering place for this active community of Poles. I shared with them our "Polish Journey", and exchanged mutual experiences. I left this place heartened by the knowledge that my brothers are

proud of their Polish roots, preserving tradition for their and their children's sake. The night at the African Spa in the bush with my brother, Janek and my sister-in-law, Hazel, was a meaningful closure to this fantastic holiday!

— Until the next time! Eva



August, 2012

Hello again, this time from Piestany, a beautiful Spa place in Slovakia. My friend Chrisitiane from Boston and I decided, on the spur of the moment, to visit this historic Art Nouveau Palace. It sits on a little island and is known for its cure-all, warm springs. A week here prepared us for more intense travels with our mutual friends in the Austrian Alps and Vienna. A Polish surprise in Piestany awaited us in the concert hall of Dom Umenia. Roman Perucki, the most famous Polish organist, and his violinist wife were the stars of the International Organ Festival. I'm "making a date" with them later this month in Gdansk, where they live. It is a place of many concerts & festivals. Wow! Something to look forward to, indeed.

The Opera will start its season in September, but we were treated to the most famous operas on a full screen (and the best wine cellar!) in our hosts' house. The concert in a famous Musikverein and the tour of this place leave a special mark. The printed programs and posters announce the concerts of the Pittsburgh Symphony in November, under Maestro Honeck's baton. One of them, in German, ends with exclamation: Lucky Pittsburgh! Indeed!!!

- Eva

_ Eva





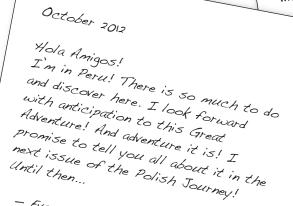
Schoenbrunn Palace - again. — Eva

Christiane heads for Boston. I have 10 days in Poland ahead of me. Time for visiting the graves of my loved ones, enjoying theatre (famous, and triumphantly healthy Jerzy Stuhr, Gogolewski and Krystyna Janda in Czechow's play) and seeing lots of friends, this time only in Warsaw, Gdansk & Gdynia On the last evening, thanks to my composer friend Zygmunt Krauze, I'm privileged to attend the Inaugural Concert of the Warsaw Autumn, my long-time dream. The program featured, among other contemporary and unusual works, "The Pittsburgh Overture" by Krzysztof Penderecki. Time to go home! Greetings from Warsaw, which, after the 2012 Euro, is even more attractive and "renewed". -

Eva







- Eva

Finding Your Polish Roots by Veronica Wojnarowski

Many Polish-Americans whose ancestors came to the United States in the late eighteenth and early twentieth centuries do not know where in Poland our ancestors lived. Wanting to locate the birthplace of my beloved maternal Grandmother, I began genealogical research. Here is the story of my research, so far. Perhaps it will be helpful to you, if you are beginning your own research.

First Fill in your Family Tree

Fill in as much of your family tree as you know, with family names, given names and maiden names. Determine the correct Polish spelling of the names. Write down as much about each person as you know. Take note of:

- Alternate or "americanized" spellings of last names
- · Approximate dates of birth
- Approximate date on which the person arrived in the United States
- Place where a person first lived in the **United States**
- · Anything you remember which was said about life in the homeland, such as "I came from a place which was ruled by the Germans", or, "My family were
- · How the relatives came, as family units, single persons, or in partial family units
- At which port the relatives arrived in the United States, and the date of arrival
- · Where in the United States the family lived when first-generation children were born
- · If the family were religious; if so, what religion? The names of the church or churches which they attended and their
- · Names and locations of any relative who may have arrived earlier than the relative whom you are researching
- · Whether the relative was a naturalized American citizen
- · Whether the relative served in the armed forces of the United States

This list is not exclusive. Write down other things which you remember. Ask all living relatives and family friends if

they know any of this information, or any other additional information.

Check the Census

The United States has been conducting a census every decade since 1790. (The 1890 census is not available because it burned in a fire.) The census data are collected according to State. County. Municipality and street address. They contain all of the names in family units and others residing at the same address and their relationships to each other, in addition to demographics, nativity, citizenship, languages spoken, occupation, marital status, and education. The census records are where I began my search to find ancestors of my mother's mother, Weronika Ordakowska Burzycka Mucharska.

I knew that my Grandmother came to the United States as a girl in the early 1890s, and that her family had lived in the area of Shamoken, Pennsylvania. (Knowing the location is not essential to using the census.) I knew the masculine forms of all of my Grandmother's family names, and had multiple, alternate, americanized spellings.

When I began my search, the indexes to the Census records were not on the Internet. I used the Soundex indexes on microfilm at the Carnegie Library, Oakland and the accompanying microfilm of the census books. Now, the indexes to all of the US Census up to and including 1940 (excluding 1890) are searchable on Ancestry.com., and on FamilySearch.org of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (LDS). The search engines allow for variant spellings of names. Only the information which has been indexed can be seen on Ancestry.com for free. To see the actual census record with all information, one must be a paying subscriber, or visit any Carnegie Library. The Carnegie Library Genealogy Department in Oakland has staff familiar with these resources. Only the indexed portion of the census can be seen on FamilySearch.org. To see a microfilm of the actual page for free. one can visit any Family History Center. Check FamilySearch.org/locations for

the location and hours of the Family History Center nearest you. There are three in the Pittsburgh area. If you do not locate your relative in the on-line indexes, do not discount the Soundex indexes.

In the Census, I found my Great-Grandfather, a widower, living with his five children, including my Grandmother, in 1900, in Coal Township, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. I also found my Grandmother's second husband living in the same town, as a boarder. By 1910, my Grandmother had been married, widowed, and was living as head of household with her four sons, her father and her brother, also in Coal Township. By 1920, my Grandmother had remarried and was living with her new husband, her first four sons and six additional children in Johnstown, PA. By 1930, three of the elder sons had moved out, and there were two more (and final) children.

The place of birth which is mentioned in the census is usually too general to lead to a specific place in Poland; however, I did learn the probable location where my Grandmother was married both times, where her first four sons were born, and where her other children were probably born. The identification of a location was vital information which led to the next step, an examination of church records in the United States. If you know where your ancestor lived, you can identify the Diocese, and usually the parish, where vou ancestor was a member.

Research Church Records

Churches archive records of baptisms, marriages and deaths. These records usually contain some information about the places of origin of the parties involved in the rite. Archives are usually held at the Diocesan level. Each Diocese will, for a fee, perform a search of their microfilmed records. Alternatively, you can visit the Diocese archives and perform your own search. Following the policy of the US Census, Dioceses do not release information which is newer than 70 years.

Diocesan web sites have forms for

requesting research. On these forms, be as specific in your request as possible. Provide detailed information about your ancestor and his or her family. Pertinent information would be: name of ancestor; father's name; mother's name; name of parish, town, or city; marriage date(s); names of children with probable birth dates. For each person, list all known alternate spellings of names.

I wrote to the Diocese of Harrisburg. A search request costs \$50.00. Within 5 days, a researcher responded. The response included the dates of both of my Grandmother's marriages, the parish, the names of the parents of the bridal couple, and the names of the witnesses. Also included were the baptismal records of my Grandmother's first four sons and the sponsors of the children. One of the baptismal records showed my Grandmother's place of origin as Plock Gubernia.

Plock Gubernia is a former province of Prussian-occupied Poland. It no longer exists as a political entity. While the location was too large to be useful, it did confirm that my Grandmother came from a German-occupied place.

Request Naturalization Records

Naturalization records can be great sources of information. Under the Freedom of Information Act. naturalization records of US citizens are available from the US Department of Homeland Security, US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). While many records of naturalization are available on-line at FamilySearch.org, USCIS is the most complete source. Form G-1041, Genealogy Index Search Request is available from the web site USCIS.gov/genealogy. Fill out the form and mail it with a fee of \$20.00. Include in your request as much detailed information as you can.

If USCIS finds a record or records of naturalization containing the name which you seek, USCIS will send you a reference number and a brief description of the records they found. For a fee of either \$20.00 or \$35.00, they will send photocopies of the records which you request.

Within about two months, the USCIS sent to me a copy of my Grandmother's Petition for Naturalization (1940), and a copy of her

Certificate of Naturalization (1941). The Petition contains the most historical information, where I found the name of the village of my Grandmother's birth: Dabrowa.

Microfilm Records of the LDS and FamilySearch.org

The LDS has been microfilming, worldwide, records of interest to genealogists for many years. The LDS films both civil and religious records, such as military registrations, marriage records, death records, and census records. Many of the records are indexed only as to place, type of source, language and years, not by names of individuals, but some are indexed by name. FamilySearch.org is a free, user-friendly site on which you can search for your ancestor's name, as well as for the name of the ancestral home. In most cases (if not all), when it comes to records from Poland, you will be able to search only for a location. If the LDS has microfilm records for the place of interest to you, you will get a list of microfilm numbers. The films can be ordered on-line at \$7.00 each. The films will be sent to the Family History Center which you designate, where you can view them. In most cases, you will be scanning the films, looking at handwritten, chronological records in foreign languages. The book "A Translation Guide to 19-Century Polish-Language Civil-Registration Documents", 3rd edition, by Judith R. Frazin can help you to interpret them.

Some Frustrations and an Interlude

More than 100 places in Poland have the name Dabrowa. (or some variation of it). Using old maps and a gazetteer from the time when Plock Gubernia existed, I thought that I had identified the correct Dabrowa. I requested Dabrowa's parish records through FamilySearch.org. Unfortunately, the records were in Russian, so I knew that I had the wrong place. Discouraged, I took a break of several years from my genealogical research.

Search Ship Manifests

Finally, a ship manifest led to the discovery of my Grandmother's village in Poland. The ship manifests which

would be of interest to most Polish-Americans are from Castle Garden (New York, 1855-1890), Ellis Island (New York, 1892-1954), Philadelphia (1800-1945), and Baltimore (1820-1948, 1954-1957). They are available from Ancestry.com, a subscription service, as well as from their own sites and the library for free. Ship manifests contain a wealth of information; for example, all of the names of a family unit traveling together, their ages, their places of origin, their destinations, their occupations, and their languages.

On the Ellis Island site, ellisisland.org, I found my Grandmother. She was accompanied by her mother, her siblings, and her uncle, on the Noordland, sailing from Antwerp on September 9, 1894. (Her father had come earlier, though I have yet to find his ship manifest.) The place of origin was handwritten as "Gr. Gardegen". There is no such place. Thinking that the second "g" might be a "v", I interpolated "Gross Gardienen", which does exist. Kartenmeister.com gave me the Polish name of this place, Gardyny, near Olsztyn. Google Earth shows satellite photographs of a small farming village, where gravel mining is also practiced. Adjacent is an even smaller village, Dabrowa.

Back to the Family History Center

On FamilySearch.org, I found some church records from the Catholic parish in Gardyny, spanning about 50 years. My Grandmother's father appeared in them as a witness at a wedding in 1883. The groom at this wedding, a young bachelor, had the same last name as my Grandmother's mother's maiden name. Undoubtedly, the groom was Great-grandmother's brother. He was from a nearby village, Raushken, now Ruszkowo. I had found my family. Sort of. The names I was seeking occurred just this once in all of the records from Gardyny. The next obvious place to look is in the church records of Raushken/Ruszkowo. Unfortunately, FamilySearch does not have any microfilms from Ruszkowo. The next step, which I plan to take soon, is to correspond with the parish in Ruszkowo. Judith Frazin's book has samples of letters to use when writing to ask for genealogical information.

A Look into our Past; A Window to our Future

By Mary Lou Ellena

When my mother died on January 3, 2010, I became the custodian of boxes of miscellaneous photos, some of people whose identity will forever remain a mystery! For her viewing, I gathered about 350 of those photos, placed them in a loose order, and a friend photoshopped them and set them to music for a 45 minute slide show. Meanwhile, I kept moving those photos around, from box to box and corner to corner. As I later went through miscellaneous boxes of my mother's possessions, I uncovered memorabilia, trinkets, religious artifacts, and still more photos that were shoved into envelopes and boxes – to be dealt with later.

During my visit to Poland last summer, I showed my uncle and several other members of my family there, the slide show from my mother's funeral, which I had transferred to my iPad. My uncle loved the slide show and wanted his own copy. That request, coupled with the devastation and loss of priceless family keepsakes by so many in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, became the impetus for my decision to finally deal with my photo collection to create a family photo genealogy as a Christmas present for my sisters, my nieces and nephews, and my family in Poland.

Fortunately, I was not starting this project from scratch, but even so, it took me the better part of four months worth of evenings and weekend spare time. My interest in family history and genealogy began about thirty years ago. I began collecting photos and having them restored, a process that now can largely be done with a computer and Photo Shop. I began collecting names and dates of births and deaths. I created a literal family tree to see how everyone was related and interconnected. My uncle in Poland helped me by digging through Church records and providing me with birth and death certificates for my dziadzia's side of the family – the Modzelewski relatives. My cousin Albie in Connecticut became the historian for the Nitowski branch - my babcia's family, and he had shared information and

photos with me on a regular basis over the years. The Italian side was a bit more problematic, but I managed to amass photos and information about the Fissore and Ellena families – thanks in part to my cousin Doug.

I had photos. I had family trees. I had information. But everything was still in a state of disarray. My Apple computer soon became my best friend.

The Apple Store at Ross Park Mall became my Cheers – everyone knew my name and said "Hi, Mary Lou" as I entered. Apple has a subscription service that, among other things, allows you to block out 1 ½ hour slots of time to work on a project. The Apple staff was on hand to answer questions or extricate me from a mess. I spent at least 11/2 hours per week on site and hours at home each week working on "my genealogy book." I scanned; I organized; I photoshopped; I cropped; I placed photos; I moved photos, I added names, and dates, and captions...My goal was to have my nieces and nephews understand how everyone is related, where and when people were born, lived, and died, and where everyone is buried. My end result is a 93-page photo journal that details our roots and our lives. I even discovered a photo of me with my babcia and dziadzia at Polish Day at Kennywood Park! I included a lot of family photos – both immediate and extended and special

events, and I ended with photos of my nieces and nephews' graduations. This was a labor of love and I loved doing it. After the book came a calendar, and my current project, a book of recipes, stories, and photos. I am addicted!

For those just beginning the genealogy journey, there are several places to start:

- Talk to family members. Borrow photos. Record information. Compare data from several sources. Sometimes memories of the same event differ radically
- Visit churches for baptismal records.
- Visit Carnegie Library and the John Heinz History Center. Each has a wealth of material plus helpful humans to direct your search.
- Google the individual's name and follow likely links. Who knows what you may discover.
- Check Ancestry.com, a subscription service that often has periods of "free" searches
- Check military records, census records, ship registries, immigration data (Ellis Island), naturalization data, and marriage records and land deeds.
- Attend free genealogy classes, often offered at local libraries.
- Be prepared for the addiction that will inevitably result: it will cost you money and time, but it will definitely be worth the effort! It will be a memory for future generations.

Congratulations!



CMU Professor Krzysztof Matyjaszewski to Receive Inaugural AkzoNobel North America Science Award

Krzysztof Matyjaszewski, the J.C. Warner Professor of the Natural Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University's Mellon College of Science, has been named the first recipient of the AkzoNobel North America Science Award for his cutting-edge polymer chemistry research. The award is given by AkzoNobel, the world's largest paints and coatings company, and the American Chemical Society (ACS), the world's largest scientific society.



by Dave Motal

On Monday, December 10, on our last evening in Warsaw, Jack Samuels and I treated ourselves to dinner at Platter, one of Poland's best restaurants owned by one of the country's top chefs, Karol Okrasa. A national media figure in Poland, Chef Okrasa hosts various television shows including the popular Kuchnia z Okrasą (Cuisine with Okrasa) and Smaki Czasu (Today's Tastes). Chef Okrasa is famous for taking traditional Polish cuisine and making it contemporary.

During our splendid dinner that included excellent foie gras with traditional sekacz cake and wonderful grilled lamb, Jack quickly calculated that Chef Okrasa is merely 34 years old and is taking Poland and a good part of Europe - by storm. Both Jack and I highly recommend that you consider visiting Platter if your travels ever take you to Warsaw. It is located in the Intercontinental Hotel on Emilia Plater Street.

To add a special, updated flavor to your Wigilia table this year, I have taken the liberty of translating some of Chef Okrasa's seafood recipes for you and your family to enjoy. They are simple and easy to follow but will may add something special to your holiday menu. Smacznego!

Christmas Eve Herring

(śledzie z kwaśnymi jabłkami)

- 2 3 large herring fillets (available at most Eastern European delicatessens or use herring in oil)
- 1 white onion, diced
- · 2 red onions, thinly sliced
- 2 hard sour apples
- 2 tsp sugar
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 lemon and zest of 1 lemon
- · white wine vinegar
- salt, pepper, oil (about 2 TBL)

If using salted herring, soak the herring in cold water for several hours, changing the water every 30 minutes. If using herring in oil, pat dry. Cut the herring into medium sized pieces. Dice the white onion. Core and dice one apple (leave the skin on the apple). Mix these with the sour cream, season with pepper and a little salt and a pinch of sugar and approx. 2 - 3 TBL of the lemon juice (to taste). Add the herring to these ingredients.

Thinly slice the red onion. Core and slice the second apple (without peeling). Heat the vinegar, the rest of the sugar, lemon zest, add salt, pepper and the oil; cook until the liquid reduces to a syrup, add the apple slices and sliced red onion and cook briefly. Remove from heat and pour a small amount of the sauce on individual serving plates. Arrange apple slices on top. Set the herring on top of the apple slices and decorate with the sautéed red onions.

Mussels St. Jacob

(Małże Św. Jakuba z sosem ze świeżych pomidorów)

- 6- 8 medium sized scallops
- 4 sprigs fresh thyme
- 4 cloves garlic, sliced
- 1 onion
- 4 fresh peeled tomatoes
- 3 TBL butter
- salt, pepper, olive oil

Marinate the scallops in salt, pepper, sliced garlic, fresh thyme leaves and olive oil for about 30 minutes. Melt the butter and sauté the scallops, lightly brown them on each side.

For the fresh tomato sauce: Heat the oil and sauté the chopped onion and garlic until translucent, add the diced tomatoes, season with butter and 2 TBL fresh thyme leaves. Let thicken. To serve, pour some of the sauce onto each serving plate, then place the scallops on top. Garnish with fresh thyme leaves or fresh cilantro.

Sautéed Shrimp with Tomato and Coriander (Krewetki w sosie ze świeżych pomidorów i kolendry)

- 1 1/3 lbs of whole, raw shrimp thawed
- 2 3 cloves of garlic, diced
- 1 hot chili pepper or hot smoked "chipotle"
- 1 lemon
- 1 bunch fresh coriander
- 3 blanched and peeled tomatoes, cubed (reserve 2 3 TBLS for garnish)
- 4 oz butter
- 5 cups dry white wine
- salt, pepper, olive oil

Thaw shrimp with cold water if frozen. Cut a slit into the shell, leaving the tail. Remove the dark digestive tract content. Place cleaned shrimp in a bowl. Marinate in salt, pepper, chopped garlic, lemon peel, chopped fresh chili pepper, 2 TBL chopped coriander and oil. Let sit for 10 - 15 minutes. Heat the oil in a sauté pan, arrange the shrimp and sauté on both sides until their color changes from gray to orange (shrimp should be slightly raw inside.)
Sauce: Add 1/2 of the butter to the pan until it

dissolves, then add the garlic and pepper. When the garlic is wilted, add the white wine and simmer until the liquid reduces slightly. Add the chopped tomatoes into small cubes and sauté until softened, then add butter, salt, pepper, chopped fresh coriander and lemon zest. Heat the sauce for about 1 minute more, then ladle onto serving plates. Add the shrimp. Quickly heat the reserved diced tomatoes and set on the shrimp as a garnish. Garnish with whole coriander leaves.







My Young World Summit experience.

by Maddie Adamczyk

When I was chosen to be a youth reporter for the 2012 One Young World Summit in May of 2011. I had no idea what the experience would entail. I was completely ignorant on all levels, without an open-mind. It was not until I went to the "boot camp" designed for me and other aspiring journalists, that I realized how truly blessed I was to be able to be presented with an opportunity like this. I thought to myself, "What did I write in my short application to be deserving of this?" as I met with professional writers and determined students from around the Pittsburgh area. From that point on, we quickly got to work becoming acquainted with each other, learning our strengths and weaknesses with writing, technology, and photography. We also familiarized ourselves with the interviewing process and how to write on a deadline. It was challenging, but I was thankful for the rigorous two-day session when it came time for the summit to begin.

On October 18, 2012, I could hardly contain my excitement as my mother drove me downtown to the Marriot hotel. my home for the next four days. However my excitement faded as I met up with my fellow reporters, who seemed a lot more ready for it than I was at the time. Most of them had been there since morning and already had their media credentials from the Convention Center along with ideas for stories. I felt I was behind as I talked with some, but nonetheless relieved after I found a couple others as lost as I was. After a short time we were gathered together and given the safety talk and plan for the night. Excitement found me once again as Larry Berger, of the Saturday Light Brigade, told us we were going to be treated as adults and that our first mission was to cover the Opening Ceremonies at Heinz Hall, starring Bill Clinton.

The next hour flew by as I unloaded my luggage and talked with my roommates about our interests and goals for the summit. Before I knew it, we were walking down to Heinz Hall. On the way, we stopped to get our credentials at the Convention Center. A delegate from Pitt stopped my friend, Mara, and me, who were leading the pack, and asked us if we were going to the opening cere-

monies too. I was surprised to see how easy it was to talk to him and how intelligent he seemed. However I realized too late that I could have written down the questions I had asked him about his experiences and how he came to be a delegate. It could have been a great story, but I realized it was too late for it, decided not to dwell on it, and pursue the new ideas.

The theatre was packed with delegates but only half full in the balcony where the media was designated to sit. I felt like an adult amongst all of the professionals seated beside me. However I did not get a chance to talk with any of

countries' plights, and what we can do to improve their economies and our own. Following the close of the ceremonies, we walked to the Clemente Bridge for a party.

If there is one thing I have learned from the Summit, it is that nothing ever happens as expected. The bridge was lined up with different pavilions, ranging from caricatures, Pittsburgh's best foods, music and dance. All of the delegates were there and all were mingling and open to share stories and experiences. One in particular, named Franc Nguimbi Mbenze of the Republic of Congo, joined me and other delegates, interested in



them before Steve Sokol, the President of the World Affairs Council kicked off the ceremonies. He radiated energy and gave all of the delegates a big welcome from Pittsburgh. Next, David Jones and Kate Robertson, the co-founders of the event spoke. I could tell immediately how proud they were of their creation and that it was happening here, in Pittsburgh. Without further delay, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and a Childrens' Chorus were introduced performing extraordinary pieces of music. Then representative delegates from each of the 183 countries brought up the flags of their countries. The stage was full of color and unity. Next, the counselors for the different plenary and speaker sessions were announced and brought out on stage. Mohammad Yunus, and Bob Geldof were chosen as speakers. They gave words of encouragement and shared their wisdom from their very successful lives. I thought the ceremony could not get better until Bill Clinton came out on stage and answered questions from the delegates in the audience. It was amazing how knowledgeable he was on world affairs. pointing how we should tackle future problems from pollution to individual

our job as youth reporters and more than willing to be interviewed. He expressed his desire to be a lawyer, so naturally I told him about my parents who have their own firm in the city. Franc was really excited and asked me to contact them right away. That night I experienced the true worth of networking with my new friends from around the world with whom I communicate now via email and Facebook.

After the fireworks ended and the night concluded, I checked my Twitter account and messages. I was surprised to see so many of my friends congratulating me on the article in the Pine Creek Journal about my road to the summit. This really reassured me of my position as a journalist, the supporting friends I have, and what a blessing it was to just have been chosen. From that point on, I was focusing on writing. I knew I had to walk away from this Summit with at least two solid articles for the website of the Pittsburgh Youth Media. I've decided to focus solely on the delegates, not the Summit, like many of my fellow reporters. I wanted people to learn more about them, relating their impressions, talking about their skills and values they think they have brought to the Summit

and what they hope to gain after the experience. I found out a lot about different delegates from the States, Great Britain, Africa, and the Middle East through my interviewing and was able to churn out an article by Saturday morning. With one article down. I had a fresh perspective. After attending interesting plenary sessions on women's rights, gay marriage, and education, I was planning to write an article on education and its importance, interviewing a delegate speaker, who talked about their education initiatives. Despite the importance and need for this article. I found more inspiration in the breakout session on health. I. two other reporters, and twenty-some delegates were bussed off to UPMC sports medicine center to talk about traumatic brain injury, the research that is changing the patients' treatment and doctors' awareness about concussion and other brain trauma. I intently listened to Dr. Schneider, a professor of Psychology, Neurosurgery & Radiology at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, as he spoke about his new cutting edge, non-invasive imaging technique known as High Definition Fiber Tracking, which shows damage not visible by past methods of checking for swelling in traumatic brain injury patients. What struck me the most though was one delegate's comment, who stated that American professors were always willing to share their advancements with the world and global community, as opposed to doctors in other parts of the world who keep their ideas and new developments to themselves. Dr. Schneider replied that America's "immigrant culture" helps to share with the world. I was so glad I was able to write an article on this topic and present this newfound technology through the website.

Sunday, the end of the Summit, came too soon. I made many friends from around the world and had learned so much and wished the event would never end. I was treated like a professional, not as the teenage high school student. Back home, I realized I had done my job and walked away with new knowledge and experience in a career that most teens do not have a chance to try. I learned and have experienced life through 'One Young World', and for that, I am forever grateful. I learned that this world is smaller than I thought and that we are all striving collectively to solve our common problems. I was also glad to realize that people listen to our youth ideas, want our participation, and our contribution.

Miss Polonia 2013

The Polish Cultural Council is now accepting applications for Miss Polonia 2013. She should be a young lady age 16 or older of Polish descent. Miss Polonia will be crowned at Kennywood Park on Polish American Day, August 6, 2013.

For more information or to apply, contact Mary Louise Ellena at 412-855-8330, or visit our website at PolishCulturalCouncil.org.

Letters to Santa

The following review was written by one of our movie-goers after viewing the film Listy do M. (Letters to Santa) during the 31st Three Rivers Film Festival. We are grateful for his opinion. The film is a romantic comedy directed by Mitja Okorn. Starring: Roma Gasiorowska, Maciej Stuhr and Piotr Adamczyk.

A child seeking the love of a family. A family seeking the memory of the loss of their child. Others seeking love and companionship. And unconventional relationships that distress and surprise a famly. These are all plots that intertwine throughout this film. All of these dysfunctional parties are further stressed by the onset, or in this instance, the onslaught of Christmas Eve.

Each character has a reason for his actions, if not totally appreciated by those on the receiving end. This film was a mix of sadness and joy wrapped in a backdrop of every day life and the looming holiday.

At the end, all the loose ends are



meticulously tied in holiday spirit and human understanding as the onslaught fades and the peace of the season settles in for all the characters presented in this delightful film.

The director contributed technical comments, the subtitles were an easy read, and the venue was pleasant and well maintained.

— John Petrus

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WE NEED YOU AND YOUR INVOLVEMENT!

A growing membership is vital for the Polish Cultural Council to continue its important work.

An increasing and involved membership permits us to bring Polish cultural events that add quality to your life. Without membership growth, our various programs, such as Polish theatre, concerts, the Bal Polonaise or support of Polish composers on WQED-FM, simply cannot continue. If promoting Polish achievements in the arts and sciences is important to you, then please consider a family or individual membership. Individual membership is \$25; families: \$35; businesses or large organizations: \$125. The PCC seeks members who want to help in developing, planning, and executing ideas, that make a difference.

Our newsletter, the *Polish Journey*, keeps you informed on the who, the what, the where and the why of Western Pennsylvania Polonia. The *Polish Journey* brings you interviews with prominent western Pennsylvania individuals of Polish heritage, discussions of events still in the planning stages as well as a calendar of events, recipes and a column that deals with the lives of our local members. Joining is easy, but getting involved is the fun part.

Please call us at 412.871.3347 or send in the membership application today. Please remember, your contribution to the PCC is tax deductible and the membership is valid for one year, from January 1 to December 31.

Rick Pierchalski, President, Board of Directors

Keeping Polish Culture Alive!

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Saturday, February 9, 2013

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