



# Polish Journey

Newsletter of the Polish Cultural Council • Vol. 15 • Summer/Fall 2018

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the rebirth of the Polish nation. Throughout the world, Polonia are marking this anniversary, honoring the resilience of the Polish nation, which is manifested in her sons and daughters.

A NATION ONCE AGAIN is the theme of the Polish Cultural Council's Gala Celebration. Our event will be held on September 23, 2018, at 5 PM, at the Fairmont Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh.

There will be dinner and entertainment, and we will watch a fabulous historical documentary of Poland's rebirth. Special guests will include representatives of the Embassy of Poland in Washington, D.C. and the Polish Cultural Institute



in New York.

Our cocktail hour will assure that we all meet and mingle.

Tickets are limited so please mark your calendars and call PCC for tickets and information: 412.781.3347

or email: [pccorg.ms@gmail.com](mailto:pccorg.ms@gmail.com)

It really is 100 years! May independent Poland live for another 100 years and more!

—**Rick Pierchalski**

## ALL IN THE FAMILY!

History tells us about many famous families who performed music together, e.g. the Mozart and Bach families, just to name two. In present times this practice is less popular, even for reasons of economics.

We are bringing a wonderful "exception" to the "Nation Once Again" Gala Celebration on Sunday, September 23, 2018, 5 PM at the Fairmont Hotel, downtown.

Meet the artists - the SOBIESKI Family:

DOROTA SOBIESKA, soprano  
JACEK SOBIESKI, piano  
WANDA SOBIESKA, violin.

The first two were the founders

of the Cleveland Opera (The Opera Circle) in 1995.

The Company has produced 58 operas in several languages (just recently Moniuszko's "Straszny Dwor" (Haunted Manor). In addition to her role as a singer, Dorota Sobieska directed most of them. Ms. Sobieska has performed over 40 major roles, including six Bellini heroines and several Verdi, Donizetti, Szymanowski and Mozart leads.

Ms. Sobieska's husband, Jacek, pianist, organist and composer, was for 19 years the Music Director of the National Opera Theatre in Warsaw, the largest, the oldest (founded in

1765) and the most prestigious of its kind in Poland. He has performed throughout Europe, and is presently the Music Director of the Cleveland Opera productions. Jacek Sobieski is also a pianist for the "Portraits of Schumann" TV production. Their daughter, Wanda, followed in their musical footsteps, successfully performing on violin and viola.

The program at the Gala will feature beloved Polish songs by Chopin, Moniuszko and Szymanowski, piano works by Chopin, and Wieniawski's compositions for violin.

—Eva Tumiel-Kozak

# The 100th Anniversary of the Return to Independence in Poland: 1918-2018

by Dr. Jan Napoleon Saykiewicz  
Honorary Consul of Poland

Celebrating in 2018 the hundredth anniversary of regaining or restoring a chance to exist, to be independent and free by Poland as a state and a nation, we should thank God for that precious gift. At the same time however, we should never forget that this great miracle happened with an unusual and enormous cost of the lives and blood of many who wanted their Fatherland resurrected.

Conventional wisdom tells that we Poles celebrate this event after a hundred and twenty three years of partition and occupation by neighbors – 1795-1918. The first partition of Poland happened in 1772, the second in 1793 and the third and final in the year of 1795. The last one was duly signed by the then King of Poland, Stanisław August Poniatowski. Why he performed this shameful act does not have a simple explanation. Anyway, he did this with the help of a handful of Polish nobles, who, dissatisfied with the reforms ordered by the Four Years Diet, did not hesitate to invoke the help of the Russian Empress Catherine II against the

lawful government of their own country. A few traitors formed the Confederation at a place called Targowica, and called to Petersburg for help in the appeal that had been carefully prepared in Petersburg.



**Józef Piłsudski**

During the period of the Napoleonic wars, the French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte created, at the end of the Prussian campaign in 1807, a small buffer state between Prussia and Russia that was called the Duchy of Warsaw. That created a ray of hope for the Poles in the period of 1807-1813.

Real independence lasted between 1918 and 1939, and was disrupted by WWII in the period of 1939 to 1945, and later by the role of a satellite state for the Soviet Union in the period of 1945 to 1989. However, in that very, sometimes extremely, difficult period Poland existed legally and factually as an underground state, or as strongly dependent People's Republic.

The year of 1918 and the date of November 11, 1918 are of a special significance and a milestone in Poland's history. Józef Piłsudski showed up in Warsaw and was given a chance to run the nation and recreate the country at the end of WWI. He accepted that challenge with great seriousness.

Józef Piłsudski didn't start from scratch. The events of WWI created a chance to rebuild Poland as an independent state and scores of Polish patriots and politicians worked in that direction in various circumstances. For example, in June 1917, it was possible to form the nucleus of a Polish army in France. In August 1917, the Polish National Committee in Paris

was formed with its representatives of London and Rome with Roman Dmowski as its president. In the United States the famous pianist, Ignacy Paderewski, was acting with notably successful results in the name of the Committee. Moreover, he had already previously influenced U.S. President Wilson's declaration of peace in Europe where the call for the creation of a united and independent Polish state was made.

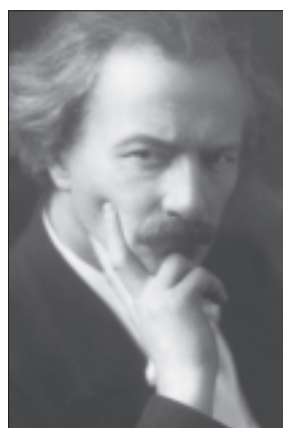
President Woodrow Wilson delivered his Fourteen Points before the United States Congress. In his address, President Wilson outlined a vision for a post-war world that included a free and independent Poland. His point number thirteen declared:

*An independent Polish state should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea, and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant.*

On the centennial of this historic event we pay tribute to American leadership and express our gratitude for this invaluable assistance in 1918.

It was not so easy with others involved in creating the post-WWI shape of Europe however. During the peace negotiations in Paris, the Polish negotiators Dmowski and Paderewski found that Poland had few friends when the bargaining started and the decisions regarding territorial claims were supposed to be made. Among the delegated, hardly anyone had any knowledge or understanding of Poland's

past. Lord Curzon, the British foreign minister, an ignorant buffoon, invented "a Curzon line" idea, that was to have fatal consequences later. J.M. Keynes and E.H. Carr of the British delegation held news of hostile racial arrogance of the nations of Eastern Europe. British



**Ignacy Paderewski**

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

"The opinions expressed by authors do not always reflect the views of the PCC."

Rick Pierchalski, President;

Maria Staszekiewicz, Executive Director,  
pccorg.ms@gmail.com;

Eva Tumiel-Kozak, Editor-in-Chief;

Veronica Wojnarowski,

Maria Staszekiewicz, Editors;

Kasia Goszcz-Bruniany, Graphic Artist;

Mary Seamans, Graphic Design;

visit us @ [www.PolishCulturalCouncil.org](http://www.PolishCulturalCouncil.org)

Prime Minister Lloyd George voiced and presented the German-inspired views that “the Poles have quarreled with all their neighbors, and they are a menace to the peace of Europe”. There were also various claims, mainly territorial, by all neighbors of Poland, including the newly emerging entities like Lithuania, Czechoslovakia and Ukraine.

In consideration of all these facts, and after enormous efforts of Poles like Dmowski, Paderewski and Piłsudski, the Peace Conference in Paris recognized the resurrection of Poland as one of the indisputable results of World War I.

The fixing of Poland’s borders in the West, however, only was defined in the Treaty of Versailles, enforced on January 20, 1920. The access to the sea promised to Poland was realized symbolically in practice, and although the Commission for Polish Affairs unanimously declared for restoring Danzig/Gdańsk to Poland, it met the stubborn opposition of Great Britain’s chief delegate, the Prime Minister Lloyd George. On the

other side, the Bolsheviks in Russia announced the overthrow of the bourgeois order in Europe and started to flood into Ukraine and subsequently into Poland. They were overthrown and finally beaten in Poland at the battle called the Vistula River Miracle (“Cud nad Wisłą”) but at the peace negotiation in Riga, conducted on the Polish side by the peasant leader Jan Dąbski and national Democrat Stanisław Grabski, a real drama happened. Having strong cards in their hands, they reached a compromise which satisfied few. They let large, historic areas of the Commonwealth to be left out for the Bolsheviks. Over two million Poles were left outside the boundaries of the new Poland. Their fate in the later years cried for vengeance.

Yes, that sacrifice of life and blood should never be forgotten. Especially since today we joyfully try to celebrate the miracle of our existence as an independent state, we the Polish

Americans, who so frequently and generously supported the land of our roots. Recently, the Polish American Congress has obtained official inclusion in the U.S. Federal Government WWI Centennial Commission as a “Commemorative Partner” to “coordinate, encourage and promote the participation of all Americans of Polish descent from across our great nation, to recognize and honor the great contribution of our Polish American forefathers during the Great War”.\*\*\*

\*\*\* On May 4, 2018, the U.S. WWI Centennial Commission officially launched the Polish American Congress site as part of its national U.S. WWI website. The abbreviated short URL for this site is: <http://www1cc.org/polish> All Polish American organizations, posts, lodges, schools, museums, and individuals are invited to participate and utilize this site.

## UPDATE ON THE POLISH DECLARATIONS OF ADMIRATION AND FRIENDSHIP, 1926

In the Spring, 2016 issue of the Polish Journey (p. 11), there is an article which describes the digitization of the Polish Declarations of Admiration and Friendship, 1926. This 111-volume set was presented by Poland to the United States on the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The collection is now fully digitized and indexed, and available for searching, thanks to the joint effort of the Library of Congress and the Polish Library in Washington, D.C. It is a treasure-trove for genealogists, because it contains the signatures of more than 5 million school children.

There is a description of the collection at the web site <https://www.loc.gov/collections/polish-declarations/about-this-collection/>. In the next-to-last paragraph, there is a link to the searchable index of the Declarations. The index is arranged

alphabetically by place name. If there is a volume which contains information from the place in which you are interested, note the volume number and pages. Then, go back to the web’s home site, click on the link which leads to the volume, scroll down through the volume numbers, and click on the link to the digital volume. You can scan through the images by page until you find the one(s) you want. While not all places are represented, many are. If you are very lucky, you will find the names of family members, as this author did.

This past autumn, there was an open-air exhibition near the Old Town in Warsaw to celebrate this collection and its new availability. The exhibition was entitled From Poland with Love, 1915-1926, The Forgotten History of Gratitude. It featured four large installations and a

digital presentation about the Declarations. Visitors could search for the signatures of their ancestors. The exhibition also focused on America’s diplomatic assistance to Poland from 1915 to 1919 and its economic aid to the country from 1991 to 1922, directly after Poland gained its independence in 1918. Much attention was paid to the efforts of pianist and statesman Jan Paderewski and to President Woodrow Wilson in securing the independence of Poland.

Many thanks again, to the Library of Congress, especially Jeffrey M. Flannery, Head of the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, and to the Polish Library in Washington, D.C. for making this important collection available to us.

–VFW

# WOW! ZNOWU ZNALEŻLIŚMY SIĘ W POLSCE

## *(WOW! Again, We Found Ourselves in Poland)*

By Susan & Matt Mancino

At the conclusion of our summer 2016 trip to Poland for language study, we began planning itineraries for our families that came to fruition this June and July. Together with our parents (Janet and Larry Carr and Kim and Chuck Mancino), we boarded a very affordable WOW! Airlines flight to Warsaw with stop-overs in Iceland. In total, the trip was eighteen-days long with opportunities to explore Iceland during our layovers.

The morning after our plane landed in Warsaw, we rented two cars to caravan across the Polish countryside. Our first stop was at Jasna Góra to visit Our Lady of Częstochowa. Although we did not have the typical reservation usually made a year in advance, we were fortunate enough to receive a guided English tour from Father Roman, who was excited to learn that we were from Pennsylvania and encouraged us to visit the National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa in Doylestown, PA.

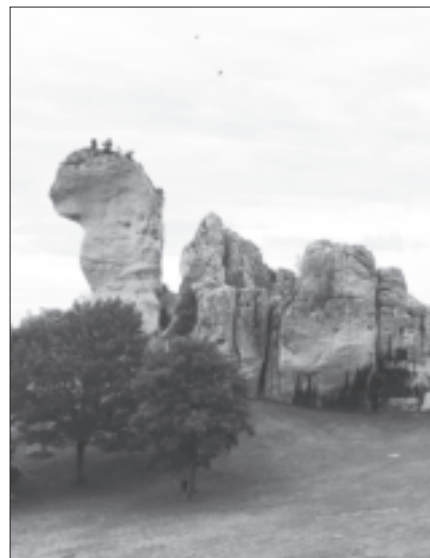
We then continued along the Eagle's Nest trail, stopping at a couple of castle ruins on our way to Kraków. We arrived in Kraków late on a Saturday evening tasked with the challenge of navigating the crowded streets of the Stare Miasto

guided by a discombobulated GPS trying to send us the wrong direction down one-way streets and onto walking paths throughout nearby parks. We were all thankful when we arrived at our hotel for a good night's rest before exploring the city the next day.

We spent the next few days venturing around Małopolska. We visited the Wieliczka Salt Mine, the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum, the Pope John Paul II Family Home museum in Wadowice, and the Tatra mountains where we stopped in Chochotów to purchase traditional folk art painted backward on glass from a talented local artist.

Our next destinations were Silesia and Wielkopolska, regions connected to the genealogy of the Polish-side of the Mancino family. In fact, we were able to stop in three towns listed in the old family Bible and were excited to find a potential family connection, whose family name is Smoczyński. We plan to stay in contact with them.

We then traveled north to the Pomerania region, where we relaxed on the beach of the Baltic Sea and enjoyed fresh baked pączki each morning. Although we stayed in Sopot, we were short train rides away from Gdynia and Gdansk. In particular, we enjoyed shop-



**View from the Castle, Ojców National Park**

ping for amber and were surprised to happen upon dziki, or wild boar, along a nearby walking path.

As our time in Poland came to end, we started our journey back to Warsaw, stopping at Malbork Castle of the Teutonic Knights and enjoying pierniki in Toruń.

We encourage you to plan a trip to Poland. There is much to see and for the price of a WOW! airline ticket, you can affordably plan a visit. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have had this opportunity and recommend that you look into your travel options in the future; we certainly will.

—Matt & Susan Mancino



**The Carr and Mancino Families**

*Susan Mancino and Matt Mancino began learning Polish, at the PCC's Polish Language Class, as part of the Ph.D. in Rhetoric program at Duquesne University. Susan completed her Ph.D. from Duquesne University in 2018 and will begin teaching at Saint Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana this fall. Matt is completing his dissertation at Duquesne University and continues to serve as the Editorial Assistant for JACA: The Journal of the Association for Communication Administration.*



# Poland Observes the 75th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

by H. Richard Howland

Jews of the Warsaw ghetto rose up in arms against the German army on April 19, 1943. The rebellion (*powstanie w getcie warszawskim*) was the first civilian uprising in World War II against German occupation anywhere. It was a desperate act of heroism to resist the Nazi plan to deport the remaining inhabitants of the ghetto, by then numbering 50,000-70,000, to the Treblinka concentration camp, whose true purpose, liquidation, had finally become known. The resistance fighters were composed mostly of left-wing Zionist youth and right-wing former Polish military officers who were Jewish, about 650-1,000 in all. They were lightly armed with pistols, grenades, hunting rifles, homemade petrol bombs, and a few score machine guns smuggled into the ghetto by the Polish Home Army (*Armia Krajowa*), some of whom joined the fighting in the ghetto. The first armed resistance occurred in January, 1943, but only in small scale assassinations. When a German force entered the ghetto to continue deportations on April 19, Passover Eve, they were surprised and repelled by the intensity of the resistance. In order to put down the revolt and complete the deportation action, the Nazis assembled a task force, consisting of 2,100 soldiers armed with automatic weapons, flame throwers, armored cars, a tank, and howitzers. On Hitler's orders, the Nazis completely leveled the ghetto territory. They burned down buildings block by block, and blew up basements and sewers to deny cover to the resistance fighters. By April 29, most had been killed. Many remaining fighters escaped the ghetto through the sewers and were absorbed into the Armia Krajowa. All resistance stopped by May 19, when the Nazis blew up the Great Synagogue of Warsaw.

On the 25th anniversary in 1968 of the uprising, one of its surviving leaders, Yitzhak Zuckerman, commented: "[The uprising] isn't a subject for study



**Daffodils at the Ghetto Heroes Monument in Warsaw**

in military school. ... If there's a school to study the human spirit, there it should be a major subject." The ghetto uprising set an example for the Armia Krajowa in the conduct of fighting a war in a city, and paved the way for the more general Warsaw uprising (*powstanie warszawskie*) of August, 1944.

On April 19, 2018, the 75th anniversary of the uprising, people in Warsaw pinned paper daffodils to their clothes to commemorate the *powstanie w getcie warszawskim*, a recent tradition launched by the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. The six petals and yellow color of the daffodils recall the yellow Star of David which the Nazis forced Jews to wear. The flowers were handed out not only in Warsaw, but also in major Polish cities. More than 120,000 flowers were distributed in the capital alone.

Polish President Andrzej Duda presided over official commemorations by visiting a Jewish cemetery in the morning, then taking part in a ceremony at the Ghetto Heroes monument. In a letter to Israeli president Reuven Rivlin, Duda wrote, "On behalf of the Polish nation and myself, I wish to convey the most cordial wishes on this occasion of Israel's Independence Day and the 70th foundation anniversary of the State of Israel....The people of Poland and Israel are bound by common history and cultural heritage, which gives our relations an exceptional character."

**RENEW  
TODAY!**

Please 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 (\$30)  
☐ Family (\$45)  
☐ Business (\$125)

Polish Speaking? ☐ Yes ☐ No

I would like to get involved in:

- ☐ Ostatk, Winter White Party  
☐ Easter Breakfast  
☐ Film Festival  
☐ Performing & Visual Arts Events  
☐ Newsletter  
☐ Fundraising  
☐ Polish Language Classes

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

Please make your check payable to:  
Polish Cultural Council

or pay online at [www.PolishCulturalCouncil.org](http://www.PolishCulturalCouncil.org)

# Speaking Polish – Piece of Cake

by Veronica Wojnarowski

## Lucky You, Lucky Me

*Luck* is understood to be events (good, bad, or totally unexpected) which happen entirely by chance, and not by our own actions. The website, *Brainy Quote* has dozens of quotes about luck attributed to famous people. Perhaps the oldest, from Lucius Annaeus Seneca in the first century BC, advises us that *Luck is a matter of preparation meeting opportunity*. Most quotes, from successful people, who should know, advise us that good outcomes in life result from a combination of hard work and perseverance, and our ability to seize the right moment. Emily Dickenson wrote, *Luck is not chance, it's toil; fortune's expensive smile is earned*.

Nevertheless, the concept of luck, good or bad, is well-known in all human cultures. Let's look at some words and phrases which are used in Poland to wish for and to describe luck.

### Good and Bad Luck

**Szczęście** comes from Proto-Slavic. It means *luck*, in particular, good luck. It can also mean *happiness*. Used by itself when you are addressing another person, it means *Good Luck!* for what the person is about to do, e.g., take an exam or start a race. To *be lucky* and to *be in luck* is **mieć szczęście**, to *have good luck*. With the addition of *nie* (no), **nie mieć szczęścia** is to *be unlucky*. **Na szczęście** is an adverbial form which means *luckily, fortunately, or happily*. **Szczęśliwie** is an adverb which has the same meaning. **Szczęśliwy** is the adjective which means *fortunate, happy, or lucky*. It is used in the Polish greeting for the New Year, **Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku! Drzewko szczęścia** is the



*tree of luck*. It is a small tree, made of precious metals and gemstones, which is said to bring prosperity. **Dziecko szczęścia** literally means the luck of a child; in English, we say that a child has been *born with a silver spoon in his mouth*. **Łut szczęścia** means a *bit of luck*, from the old Polish word, **łut**, for *half an ounce*. Other words and phrases include:

- **nieszczęście** – *hard luck*
- **na los szczęścia** – *for luck*
- **szczęśliwej podróży** – *have a safe trip*
- **garbate szczęście** – *hunchback luck (bad)*
- **zezowate szczęście** – *cross-eyed happiness (either good or bad)*

Another way to wish someone good luck is to say **powodzenia**, *success*. It is related to the verb **powodować/spowodować**, which means *to cause or to bring about*. **Pomyślnie** means *successfully*. To say that a person is *doing well or badly* is **dobrze (źle) jemu(jej) się powodzi**, a phrase which is also used to say if a he or she is *well-off* or *badly-off*.

The word **pech**, which came to Polish through German, means *misfortune* or *bad luck*. It is thought to have come from the Latin *pix*, which means *tar pitch*. You can use the phrases **To Pech!** (*It's unfortunate!*) and **Co za pech!** (*What bad luck!*) to console someone who is unsuccessful or unlucky. A **pechowiec** is an *unlucky person*, someone you would be consoling quite a bit. **Pechowy** means *unlucky*; **pechowo** means *unluckily* (as does **niestety**, *unfortunately*.)

A phrase concerning *luck*, which is not related to **szczęście** or **pech** is **czysty przypadek**, the *luck of the draw*, literally *pure accident* or *pure coincidence*, or as the title of the Kieślowski film, **Przypadek**, was translated, *Blind Chance*.

### PRZESĄDY – SUPERSTITIONS

When we believe in superstitions, we think that we can influence luck, for good or for bad, through actions or objects. Here are some of the most well-known Polish superstitions.

**Trzymaj za mnie kciuki** – *Hold your thumbs for me.* Holding your thumbs in the palm of your hand, surrounded by your first and second fingers, is a way of helping something longed-for come true. Both thumbs are required. It can be translated as *Wish me luck!*, but it can also be used to wish yourself luck. The English equivalent is crossing the index and middle fingers. If both hands are used, crossed fingers mean *extra good luck*.

**Szczęśliwa podkowa** – *Lucky horseshoe.* From ancient times, horseshoes have been used to ward off evil, possibly because they are made from a strong material, **żelazo**, *iron*. They are also thought to bring good luck. In Poland, a horseshoe for good luck is always positioned with the open ends pointing down, so that the luck can flow out onto people passing underneath. **Kowadło** is an *anvil*: **kowal** is a *blacksmith*. In America, we hang horseshoes upside down, **do góry nogami**, so that the luck stays within the horseshoe.

**Łuska karpia przyciąga pieniądze** – *The scale of a carp attracts money.* A scale from the Christmas Eve carp is kept in one's coin purse all year in order to attract money.

**Zawsze żęń się w miesiącu, który ma literę R.** *Always marry in months which contain the letter R.* Those months are thought to be the only ones which can produce happy and lasting marriages.

**Prawą stopą do przodu** – *Right foot forward.* This belief holds that a bride and groom should cross the threshold of the church with their right feet, as this ensures a good journey through life together.

**Perły to łzy** – *Pearls mean tears.* A bride should not wear a string of

pearls on her wedding day, because they symbolize the many tears she will shed in her future married life.

**Jeśli zapomnisz coś, usiądź na krótko** – *If you forget something, sit down briefly.* If you leave home, and then return having forgotten something, you should sit down briefly before leaving again. This is like a *fresh start*, which negates your original mistake.

**Odpukać w niemalowane drewno** – *Knock on unpainted wood.* This is done to prevent something bad from happening, to make sure something good continues, or not to tempt fate. Americans say *knock on wood*, while the British say *touch wood*. They don't care if the wood is painted, but the Polish version seems to imply that the good luck cannot penetrate the paint layer. This custom is thought to be rooted in ancient cultures, which believed that spirits inhabited trees, and that arousing these spirits could bring good luck.

**Czarne koty.** *Black cats* can be lucky or unlucky. One walking toward you is a sign of good luck, but one which crosses your path will bring bad luck.

**Nigdy nie przechodź pod drabiną** – *Never walk under a ladder.* This wide-spread superstition always means bad luck for the person who ignores it. Some people think that the person will never marry, or that he will go to the gallows. It has been said that, because a ladder against a wall forms a triangle, and because that triangle represents the trinity, walking through the symbolic trinity will bring bad luck.

Did you speak Polish as a child? Do you have family documents in Polish? Are you planning a trip to Poland? Do you want to learn to speak Polish? If you can say "yes" to any of these questions, please consider the Polish language classes offered by the Polish Cultural Council.

## REGISTER FOR POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES WILL RESUME ON SEPT 8TH, 2018 AT 10 AM, AT THE CYA BUILDING IN LAWRENCEVILLE, CORNER OF FISK AND GOVERNMENT LANE, BETWEEN PENN AVE. & BUTLER. CLASSES RUN THROUGH MAY 2019.

### Registration Form 2018-2019

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

### Registration and Class Fees

Individual: \$180 Family: \$210

PCC Member Individual: \$150

PCC Member Family: \$180

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

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



# A Heartfelt Farewell to Two Gentle Giants in the Polish Cultural Council's Community

*John F. Bartus and Theodore "Ted" Michalik: A Tribute*



**John F. Bartus**



**Ted Michalik**

Saying farewell to a friend is never easy; saying good-bye to multiple friends is incredibly sad. In 2018, Pittsburgh Polonia lost two dear friends and staunch supporters with the deaths of John Bartus, on March 27, 2018, and Theodore "Ted" Michalik, on May 15, 2018.

A long-time member of the Central Council of Polish Organizations and, later, the Polish Cultural Council, John Bartus was a fixture on the Board of Directors for many years. A charter member of the Bal Polonaise Planning Committee, Bartus and his late wife Charlotte were mainstays at this annual event, helping with raffles, auctions and set-up. Several granddaughters were presented over the years at the Bal. John and Charlotte were fixtures at the annual Polish Day at Kenywood Park, selling programs in the back of the Pavilion. If John

and Charlotte were not on the organizing committee of a Polish event, they were certainly on the guest list. In addition to serving on the Board of the PCC, John Bartus was the President Emeritus of the Kosciuszko Foundation, Pittsburgh Chapter, and a past President of the Southside Nest of the Polish Falcons of America.

John's wife Charlotte H. (Mojta) preceded him in death in 2016. He was the father of Michael (Denise) Bartus, Cheryl (Jimmy) Paterni, Mark (Diane) Bartus and the late Nancy Gaughan. He is also survived by ten grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Theodore "Ted" Michalik died on May 15, 2018, at age 98. A World War II US Army Air Corps Veteran, Ted served in the Pacific Theater. Ted and his wife Sophie loved all things Polish, and imbued their children and grandchildren with this passion for Poland. Ted was on the Inaugural committee of the PCC Ostatki – the Polish Mardi Gras. Generous to a fault, Ted would always arrive at a Polish event with a unique donation – a rare vodka, a special piece of crystal, or an unusual artifact from Poland.

Ted and Sophie sponsored every

granddaughter as debutantes at the annual Bal Polonaise. Together, they attended most PCC functions as their age and health permitted.

In addition to his activity with the PCC, Ted Michalik was a Vice President Emeritus of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation, a member of the Polish National Alliance, and of the Polish American Congress.

His wife Sophie and his sons and daughters-in-law survive Ted: Ted and Mary, Stephen and Debbie, Thomas and Barbara, Michael and Debbie, ten grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

While the Polish community in Pittsburgh is diminished by the passing of these two men, John Bartus and Ted Michalik have left a rich legacy of involvement in life in general and in all things Polish. Each man fostered a spirit of cooperation among the various Polish organizations; each man was a leader, facilitating projects and committees too numerous to mention; each man believed that actions speak louder than words.

John Bartus and Ted Michalik, you will be missed. You will be remembered!

—Mary Lou Ellena

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW and THE RECENTLY RE-ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS:

Terri Barger, Maria Hughes, Chester Wawrzonek, Andrzej Wojcieszynski, Evanne Addams & James Clark.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation for Joseph Kaminski's tenure as Vice President. We hope that he will still continue his support for the organization as an Honorary Board Member. Also - many thanks to Patrycja Jaworska-Garrett. We will miss her on the Board.



# Awards in the Arts and Literature



THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE, 2018

*Flights (Bieguni)*, by Olga Tokarczuk, and translated by Jennifer Croft, has won the **2018 Man Booker International Prize**. This annual award, the leading literary prize in the English-speaking world, is presented to a single author for a single book, in order to encourage more publishing and reading of quality fiction in translation. The translator shared the prize. In 2008, *Bieguni* won the **Nike Award**, Poland's top literary prize. The *bieguni* are *old travelers*, who ward off evil through constant motion. The main character is a woman who constantly travels, but never connects with anyone during her travels. We never learn why she travels or where she is going. A review in *The Guardian* (June 3, 2017) describes Tokarczuk as a "humanist writer", whose book seeks "meaningful connectedness." For the full review, see [www.theguardian.com/books/2017/jun/03/flights-by-olga-tokarczuk-review](http://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/jun/03/flights-by-olga-tokarczuk-review).

## BEST DIRECTOR AT CANNES

Polish-British film director, **Pawel Pawlikowski**, won the Best Director award at the 71st Cannes International Film Festival in France for his film, *Cold War (Zimna Wojna)*. Pawlikowski had previously won the 2015 Academy Award for best foreign film for *Ida*.

*Cold War* is a tempestuous love story, which is based upon Pawlikowski's own parents. The story shifts back and forth across the Iron Curtain, during the 1950s. The film depicts and impossible love story in impossible times. This film (as well as *Ida*) presents some controversial topics, although Pawlikowski has said, "I don't make political films and I don't like watching them. I prefer to tell stories about characters who have complicated relationships, but in a world where history weighs on them, that becomes political".

## 2018 PULITZER PRIZE, DRAMA

**Martyna Majok**, an American playwright who was born in Poland, has received the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for drama for her work, *The Cost of Living*. The Pulitzer Prize website describes Majok's play as "An honest, original work that invites audiences to examine diverse perceptions of privilege and human connection through two pairs of mismatched individuals..." The playwright, Sarah Ruhl, has said of Majok that she takes on the "larger themes of what it means to be human". A recent interview with Majok can be found at <http://www.publicbooks.org/staging-disability-an-interview-with-martyna-majok/>.

## SILENT NIGHT WINS TEN POLISH FILM AWARDS

Piotr Domalewski's *Silent Night (Cicha Noc)* won ten Polish Film

Academy awards, including the Eagles for best picture, best director and best screenplay. The drama, the director's fiction debut, is about Polish expat Adam who returns to his native village in Poland for Christmas. The night takes an unexpected turn after Adam reveals his true intentions for coming home. The film also won a people's choice award, beating *Spoor (Pokot)* and *Loving Vincent*.

## ANOTHER NIKE NOMINEE

*History of a Disappearance: the story of a forgotten Polish town* (2011), by Filip Springer, was recently translated into English by Sean Bye. It was inspired by the history of a Silesian village, Kupelferberg (under German reign), known after World War II as Miedzianka. Copper, and later, uranium, were mined there, beginning in the 14th century, by Poles, Germans, and Russians. Now Miedzianka is a meadow with only a few remaining buildings. The town collapsed into the mines, the inhabitants were relocated, and the village was razed.

From interviews of former inhabitants, Springer learned their personal and moving stories about their once-beautiful village. Their reminiscences are told in the present tense. To the reader, the characters seem to be still

living in this place, once so full of life, but now gone.

—VFW





## Along Poland's Plum Trail

I have long associated Polish smoked meats - *wędliny* - with my mother's side of the family. One of my fondest, early childhood memories is of Pani Kwiatkowska, proprietress of our local Polish grocery store in the Cambria City section of Johnstown, PA, where I grew up. We shared a courtyard in which our home faced the rear of Kwiatkowski's Grocery. Situated in between was their brick smokehouse, which was tended by Pani Kwiatkowska's son, John. With delicious frequency, John would bring out large poles upon which were suspended rings of their remarkable kielbasa. Sometimes assisted by my father and uncle, John would prepare a fire of aged cherry wood. The smokehouse apparatus was constructed in such a way so that the renderings from the sausage would not drip directly onto the wood, but the sausage would capture the smoke as it drifted upward. Soon the sweet aroma of the cherry wood would meld with the flavors of the kielbasa and thick white clouds of a wondrous aroma would waft gently through our neighborhood. Everyone knew that it was time to place their order at Pani Kwiatkowska's meat counter.

After a while, our family moved to the Morrellville section of town, where my parents managed a neighborhood ethnic grocery store for my mother's godfather, Stanley Grata. "Wójek" as we called him, was a large, robust man, whose own polska kielbasa had an enviable following in

the region. Again, smells and aromas of prepared meats, hams and *boczek* (smoked bacon) wafted through the streets. My mother would carefully wrap each order in brown butcher paper, tie it with heavy butcher's twine and - if for later pick-up - carefully write each customer's name with a large, red grease pencil. These special orders were stored in the large, walk-in cooler where we also kept huge sides of beef, rings of *kiszka* and other meat products. This was long before air conditioning became accessible to most households and I remember sneaking in to the cooler on many a sweltering summer day to relax. This was a fascinating place for a child to spend at least part of his summer vacation- well, at least until I was caught.

I'm sure that readers of a certain age can identify with the corner grocery store and its freshly prepared smoked meats, pounds of which graced even the humblest tables during Easter, Christmas and many holidays in between.

On my father's side of the family were the Stanisławczyks, distant cousins from Poland who operated a grocery store and meat market in the community of Conemaugh, PA where my father was raised. My father was the oldest of eight siblings; his older sister, Mary, was born in Poland, but he and the rest were born and reared in Conemaugh. All the Motak households dotted the streets of the municipality and we could walk from one home to another on holidays, social visits or just to play. Many of the Motaks had "cold porches" or "sun rooms" which were generally unheated; hence, they served as excellent storage areas during the winter months. Here were stored smoked meats, hams, those fabulous nut and poppy seed rolls, cheesecakes and pies of every variety, roasters full of *goląbki* and even the occasional cooked venison (the Motak men were all hunters.) But, unlike my mother's side of the family, none of the Motaks were directly engaged in smoking

meats. At least, so I thought.

Last year, during a recent trip to Poland, I decided to do a little genealogical research. My friend and Kraków associate, Włodek Kasperski, with whom Jack and I produce our popular Poland tours, drove with me down to Iwkowa, the ancestral village of my paternal grandfather, Jakub Motak. Dziadek Motak had two sisters, and he emigrated to Pennsylvania before World War I. But, over the years, our branch of the family lost contact with their Polish kin. There were some Motaks who moved from Poland to Michigan and eventually opened a large, successful dairy. Family legend has it that - even during the Great Depression - the "Dairy Motaks" as we called them, often returned to Poland between the wars, sometimes shipping their automobile with them on the steamship. To us, Motaks of more modest means, this seemed both exotic and extravagant. But, eventually, we lost contact with them also.

Iwkowa, the Motak family's ancestral village, is located about forty-five miles southeast of Kraków, in the beautiful, rolling foothills of the Tatra Mountains. The region is famous for its outstanding fruit orchards and is called the "Śliwkowy Szlak" (Plum Trail) and the products of this region are particularly esteemed in culinary circles. Since prevailing soil and climate favor the cultivation of fruit trees, the highest variety of plums, pears, apples and cherries have been grown in Iwkowa since the 1500s. Generations of residents have also maintained the tradition of drying and smoking fruit for the winter months. This process takes place in a traditional two-story dryer, fired only with seasoned, dry wood of deciduous trees such as beech, oak, hornbeam and old fruit wood. Each type of fruit is dried separately. Ten pounds of fresh fruit yield about 2 pounds of dried product, which has a much higher amount of fiber, vitamins and minerals than fresh fruit.

Although Babcia Motak (née



**The young generation of Motaks with their specialty meat products.**

Paruch) maintained extremely close ties with her own family in Poland, my paternal grandfather's side of the family has always been an enigma. Prior to my recent trip, through an Internet search, I had located a Kazimierz Motak who owns and operates a large zakład mięsny (specialty meat company) in Iwkowa. Mr. Motak runs the company with his son, Roman and they have 15 employees, so it isn't a small concern. (They even have a catchy, rhyming slogan: "Najlepsze Wędliny z Iwkowskiej Doliny" - "The best smoked meats from Iwkowa Valley.") We spent a delightful afternoon trading family stories and reestablishing contact. The Iwkowa Motaks were most gracious and served us a lavish meal of żurek soup, smoked meats, roasted pork stuffed with dried plums (an Iwkowa specialty) and an extraordinarily delicious szarlotka (apple charlotte) for dessert.

The Iwkowa Motaks represent the new generation of Polish entrepreneurs who are revolutionizing the Polish culinary scene with countless artisan food products, ranging from smoked meats to fine cheeses, baked goods, even liquors, and, like the Motaks, many of these burgeoning companies use old family recipes in preparing their products. To incorpo-

rate some local flavor into the family's smoked meats, Pan Kazimierz developed a special smoked tenderloin that is infused with sweet, dried plums. Pan Kazimierz and Roman stressed that they prepare their smoked meats using traditional methods. Everything is organic and without any chemical additives. This, unfortunately, is not always an easy task. They related that the European Union had recently banned the smoking of meats throughout all of its member states. The Poles were stunned; like the Motaks, Polish producers have been smoking sausage, bacon, ham and many other products for generations. The European Union had mandated that meat producers like the Motaks be required to use only "liquid smoke" which, of course contains chemicals. Outraged, the Motak family traveled with all their employees to Warsaw to join in a massive protest. Eventually, Brussels rescinded the regulation. Polish meat producers are now permitted to smoke meat the traditional way, but they can sell their smoked products only in Poland. This represents a blow to the Iwkowa Motaks as foreign markets such as Germany and surrounding countries are now off-limits to them. However, it is reassuring to know that there are food producers like the Motaks who

are striving to defend and promote Poland's rich culinary traditions. During our conversation, I had mentioned that I had a fantasy of bringing one of our tour groups to Iwkowa for an old fashioned "biesiada" cookout, featuring the Motak family's wędliny along with entertainment by the local folk ensemble, Iwkowianie. The Motak's agreed enthusiastically. So, this coming September, as part of our Panorama of Poland - Trains, Trolleys and Tradition Tour, we will treat our tour participants to an excursion on a vintage steam locomotive in the foothills of the Tatra Mountains, followed by a stop in Iwkowa for what promises to be a great experience. To see the Motak Family's business site, please visit <http://www.zm-motak.pl/>

## **SUMMER PLUM SOUP** **CHŁODNIK ŚLIWKOWY**

4 cups water  
1.5 lbs. plums (węgierki),  
pitted and quartered  
½ tsp. ground cinnamon  
¼ tsp. ground cloves  
1 tsp cornstarch  
1 tbsp. cold water  
½ cup sugar  
¾ cup sour cream, whipped  
Noodles or croutons

Boil water in a saucepan. To the boiling water, add plums, cinnamon and cloves. Simmer for 15 minutes. Rub mixture through a sieve, return to saucepan, and bring to a boil. Mix the cornstarch and the tablespoon of water and add to boiling fruit. Add the sugar. Allow to cool and add the sour cream. Serve warm with noodles or cold with croutons. Serves 6.

Until next time - *smacznego!*



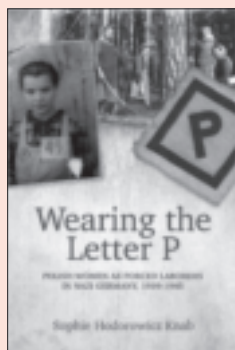


Polish Cultural Council  
P.O. BOX 81054  
Pittsburgh PA 15217-0554



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

## Meet the Author & Book Signing Event!



Please join us as we host Sophie Hodorowicz Knab, bestselling writer of several books of Polish interest. She will be discussing her new book *Wearing the Letter P: Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany 1939-1945*. The book was inspired by listening to her mother's experiences as a forced laborer in Germany during World War II. Conducting extensive research of postwar trial testimonies housed in archives in the U.S., London, and in Warsaw, the

book focuses on female Polish forced laborers and the unique set of challenges and often unspeakable conditions they experienced.

**Friday September 14th, 2018 @ 7 PM University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning room # 232**

Copies of the book will be available for sale.

Free and open to the public.

## Calendar of Events

**Tuesday, August 7, 10:30 AM**

Kennywood hosts "Polish Day". For tickets call Joe Kaminski: 412.921.0292

**Monday, August 27, 2018 7:00PM**

Annual Mass in Honor of Our Lady of Czestochowa at the St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland, celebrated by Bishop Zubik and the Polish clergy.

**Sunday, September 23 2018, 5 PM**

*A Nation Once Again*

GALA CELEBRATION of the Poland's Centenary of Independence at the Fairmont Hotel, downtown. For tickets and information please call: 412.781.3347 or email [pccorg.ms@gmail.com](mailto:pccorg.ms@gmail.com)

**November 2018**

Polish Films Presentation. For further information please check PCC website and Facebook in October.