

Polish Journey

Newsletter of the Polish Cultural Council • Vol. 18 • Winter/Spring 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

There is a lot of truth in the popular saying: When a door closes, a window opens.

We were lucky to secure a new place for our forthcoming OSTATKI - Polish Mardi Gras - event on Saturday, February 22, 2020, in the elegant Edgewood Club, close to the familiar Regent Square Theatre.

For eight years we have had an incredible run at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts with its always accommodating staff under the watchful eye of Joy Sato, Director of Events. The Center has been exceedingly responsive to our needs and we thank them profusely. However, since the Center may not be open in February, the Ostatki Committee has decided to find a new venue.

It's not easy to find a suitable place to

hold Ostatki. Our two past locations have been unusual but served our purpose quite well. Most locations have strict catering rules which means you have to use their caterers. One of our favorite Ostatki traditions has been "presenting the Polish Culinary Table", with delicacies lovingly made by the Ostatki Committee. An outside caterer would not know where to begin and he/she would be changing the nature of this very unusual event. We also need to find a place which would allow us to serve alcohol, by a licensed and insured barman, so that we can dispense Polish vodkas and other libations. Our search this year took us to many interesting places, but we finally settled on the one in the East End, not terribly far from the Center for the Arts. We know that our members and

guests will truly enjoy it.

Prepare Yourself for a Treat. The Edgewood Club is located at One Pennwood Ave., in the heart of Edgewood, Pittsburgh, PA 15218. The clubhouse, designed by prominent architect Edward B. Lee, has been recognized by the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation. It is right off exit 77 of the Parkway East, with plenty of free parking. We have found the management and staff especially accommodating. Especially good news is that Joy Sato will be around to help us pull off another successful Mardi Gras party. This is your first "Save the Date" notice and hope to see you at Ostatki again in 2020.

—Rick Pierchalski



The Polish Cultural Council cordially invites you to our annual OSTATKI - Mardi Gras Pittsburgh 2020

Saturday, February 22, 2020

7:30 pm – 11:30 pm

Edgewood Club – in the heart of Edgewood
1 Pennwood Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15218
(next to the C.C. Mellor Memorial Library)

Master of Ceremonies • Jim Cunningham • WQED FM

- Polish Culinary Table
- Vodka Tasting and other tempting libations
- Exciting silent auction items
- Live music by the Continental Dukes!

Event price: \$100/person if payment received by Monday, Feb. 17th
\$120/person after Feb. 17th or at the door.

For more information call 412.871.3347 or email pccorg.ms@gmail.com or go to our website PolishCulturalCouncil.org
Cocktail and/or creative attire

Conversation with Jim Cunningham—the Best Friend of PCC

By Eva Tumiel-Kozak

We usually reserve this space for an interview with a Polish or Polish-American artist. Let's make an exception featuring a real friend of Polish music and Polish art: JIM CUNNINGHAM, Artistic Director, WQED-FM!

PCC: Jim, you're such a special person in Pittsburgh, known practically in every community! As a host of your morning program, you often interview many artists. Let's reverse it! This time you'll be interviewed! I've known you since your graduation from Thiel College when, following your internship, you joined our staff at WQED-FM. Those were the times of the Three Rivers National Piano Competition, Young Peoples' Concerts, and even my series of radio programs on Polish music. You're the voice of the Pittsburgh Symphony, who has traveled with them as correspondent during over 20 tours across Europe, Japan, South America, Australia and the Orient. Your radio programs reach an international audience. And not only! Tell us about your "climbing" years to the position of WQED's station manager, or presently - Artistic Director.

Jim Cunningham: Dearest Eva, you are too kind. You gave me one of my first assignments in radio when I joined pianist Henry Spinelli for color commentary on the live broadcasts of the Piano Competition from the Eddy Theater at Chatham. Right



Jim Cunningham, Artistic Director, WQED
Photo courtesy of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

away I met your prize winners and judges. I remember well Cynthia Raim, Panayis Lyras, Shigeo Neriki; and judges Clive Lythgoe, Jorge Bolet, Ruth Slenczynska and so many others. Ruth gave me a marvelous interview about her astonishing years as a child prodigy. I drove the President of NPR Frank Mankiewicz (son of the writer of Citizen Kane), and composer, arranger and commentator, Michael Lankester, from the airport for the live national broadcast of the finals of the competition with the Pittsburgh Symphony. Composer Leonardo Balada wrote his commissioned *Persistencies* for the Competition and Jury Chair Harry Franklin had been Fritz Reiner's pianist at the Syria Mosque. One of the NPR founding voices, Fred Calland, was one of the on-air hosts. We went record shopping in Millvale together at the Attic.

WQED has always been an amazing place of dreams with Fred Rogers making his Neighborhood programs and Andre Previn bringing the orchestra to the studio. I remember a meeting with Jay Rayvid's production staff where Andre asked if anyone knew what QED stood for. In the pause he delighted in telling the group "it's *quod erat demonstrandum*, that's how it's done it's been proven!" Andre had Miklos Rosza conduct his score for Ben Hur

and John Williams conducted *Star Wars* right there at 4802 Fifth Avenue. Itzhak Perlman and Previn made the audience in the studio laugh while the lights were fixed for the *Korngold Concerto*. Previn was at the height of his fame running both the Pittsburgh and the London Symphonies. Itzhak asked Andre what it was like to be modeled for Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum in London. Previn said he asked the modeler what happens when your fifteen minutes of fame are over and the model maker said "I remember very well the day they melted Alan Ladd."

Think of the laughs we had with David Stock while you were running the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble. Some of the music is very tough to love but David had such passion. It was impossible not to want to help spread the word. I miss our afternoon host Mark Yacovone who helped me from day one with pronunciations of the *Donaueschingen Festival*, Mstislav Rostropovich, and, of course, Krzysztof Penderecki. Who could have guessed I'd have a chance to meet them all and interview them with your help?

PCC: Yes, I shall never forget all those fascinating years. Fortunately, the years we kept in touch. I always admired the fact that you're such a great friend of the Polish community! If I remember, you don't have any Polish background, but your enthusiasm for Polish music, your interviews with such artists such as Penderecki, Lutoslawski or even more contemporary ones, pianists or conductors, is amazing. Why such a 'soft spot' for the Poles?

JC: It was your introduction to Polish Culture of course! Polish Day at Kennywood was a feast! Not to mention the Polish pianist who did magic tricks at Rick Pierchalski's place on Mount Washington. Listen to the interview with Ewa Pobłocka, the Chopin virtuoso on our website. Then there were all those great Polish film directors or artists for the festival. Of

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

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visit us @ www.PolishCulturalCouncil.org

course, there was Penderecki, one of the towering figures of 20th Century Polish music, whom you brought to WQED. He needed a ride back to Duquesne University where he was accepting a *Doctor Honoris Causa* degree, so rather than take a cab I drove him to campus in my tiny Chevy Chevette. I can still see him in the back seat in my rear-view mirror. Such a kind man. And Witold Lutosławski, so gentle and brilliant. Lutosławski's birthday, January 25, is the same day that WQED-FM began broadcasting. We had his portrait on an American Thermoplastic notebook with Robert Burns and other notables sharing the date. It was a crazy thank you gift during a fundraiser and we wished him *Sto lat!* on a birthday Gateway Clipper fleet cruise with station contributors. You brought the friends from the Polish Cultural Council who were so generous to underwrite a special project at the station. Do you remember cooking pierogis in a skillet during the fundraising drive with Merle Addams and his wife? Oscar Swan and Emily amazed me with their love of Polish Culture. There's a terrific interview on our *Voice of the Arts* webpage with Oscar about his latest book on Poland. I can't start mentioning names because there are just too many that I have loved meeting.

PCC: I admire the fact you remember so many of our people! Jim, we have experienced your expertise and talent at many various events organized by PCC: Bal Polonaise, the special event with the Polish astrophysicist at the Science Museum, several OSTATKI events, and the Banquet celebrating Polish Independence. Every time you were genuine in lending us your talent and your beautiful voice to our cause! Each time you surprised us with your knowledge of Poland, Polish history and music. If I remember, you even visited Poland with the Pittsburgh Symphony. Do we, as PCC, get special treatment or is this your nature?

JC: Visiting Poland with the Pittsburgh Symphony was unforgettable. Lorin Maazel took the orchestra to Warsaw, playing Mahler's Seventh Symphony. This was 1989 just as the countries under Communist rule were unwinding. The Berlin Wall fell just weeks after the tour. There had been only a few American orchestras in Poland in decades, what with political tension and currency problems. The atmosphere was truly electric with a packed house. Some drama had the instruments and equipment arriving late so the concert started at 9:15. The fire marshal would never have approved, because listeners were jammed together sitting on the floor in the aisles of the beautiful National Philharmonic Hall. The hall manager was so kind to me I'll never forget it. She gave me a poster for the upcoming Warsaw Cantata and Oratorio Festival organized by Tadeusz Strugała in 1989 with a gorgeous reproduction of a painting of a lutenist from the Warsaw library. I still have it in my house framed. Pittsburgh Symphony Principal Horn William Caballero says it was hands down the best concert he ever played with the Pittsburgh. You told me to visit the coffee house with beautiful marble counters at the Europejski Hotel where I paid with a big handful of zlotys. I visited the Chopin monument in Łazienki Park and bought lovely vinyl records on the Muza label. I took a photo of the King Sigismund column and the Holy Cross Church where Chopin's heart is entombed.

PCC: Your biography reads as a WHO'S WHO in the music world. At the same time, you're the most "down to earth" guy, always helping various communities, always involved, always accessible. Thank you for being such a special friend and for featuring many Polish composers in your programs. Not only Chopin, but the contemporary ones, and such classics as the music of Szymanowski, seldom heard or

performed here. I hope you'll join us again at the OSTATKI- Polish Mardi Gras, on Saturday, February 22, 2020, this time celebrated at the beautiful EDGEWOOD CLUB in Edgewood Borough! Our enthusiastic American and Polish-American crowd will welcome you with open arms!

JC: Whenever a Polish composer plays on WQED-FM, I check to see what is coming up with the Cultural Council on the Facebook page and pass on the news. I love Ostatki. It is a perfect get together on a cold winter night. There you will find the essence of Polish culture. Smart people with kind hearts who think deeply about our world and enjoy learning.

PCC. Thank you Jim for your time and those amazing memories. We're lucky indeed to have you as a friend!

In the Spirit of Togetherness

A very important event, the Polish Christmas celebration, was held on December 14th, 2019. It was collaboration between the Polish Cultural Council and the Heritage Foundation of the Polish Falcons of America, at St. Paul Cathedral Social Hall in Oakland. The event attracted more than 170 participants from all groups and organizations of both old and new Polonia, some of them coming from distant places in our Three State Area. Older citizens, younger citizens, families with kids, and grandparents came to share the most beloved, traditional Polish Christmas festivity, Wigilia. Helping them to break the traditional Holy Bread Oplatek, and welcoming them to a beautifully prepared reception were: Evanne Adams, Polish Cultural Council Treasurer; Timothy Kuzma, Polish Falcons President; Jan Napoleon Saykiewicz, the Honorary Consul of Poland; St. Nicholas (Larry Kozlowski), with his Christmas gifts; and Dave Dombrowski and his grandchildren, who provided background music. This happy time was blessed by the spirit of togetherness.

Dr. Jan Napoleon Saykiewicz
Honorary Consul of Poland

Polish films at the Three Rivers Film Festival

by Katarzyna Swope

It is always a special treat for the Polish community and for European films connoisseurs to watch the newest Polish productions in Pittsburgh. It is even more special, when we can enjoy the movies before their official distribution in Poland, or to discuss the artistic vision directly with the Polish filmmakers. The Polish Cultural Council presented seven movies in the Polish sidebar of the 37th annual Three Rivers Film Festival, organized by the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts & Media on November 8th-23rd, 2019. Here are synopses of the films.

• **A powerful historical drama, *Mr. Jones (Obywatel Jones)* by Agnieszka Holland.** The packed house at the Regent Square Theater cheered as the director introduced the movie, herself, via live video transmission. The movie tells the story of a young Welsh journalist Gareth Jones (James Norton), who made a dangerous journey to uncover the horror of Stalin's genocidal famine in Ukraine in the 1930s. After risking so much, Jones reveals the outrageous lies of Soviet propaganda, but he is met with disbelief. George Orwell's *Animal Farm* is said to have been inspired by Mr. Jones' reports of atrocities of the communist system. I think that today, in the era of fake news, information overflow and a continuous race for the next "breaking news", we are in just as a desperate need for devoted journalists searching the facts to the deep scary bottom.



Obywatel Jones - Agnieszka Holland opens the Polish Sidebar via Skype

• ***Taxing Love (Podatek od miłości)* by Bartłomiej Ignaciuk.** This is an offbeat romantic comedy about an attractive and dedicated tax inspector who falls for a man posing as a sex worker in order to cover up tax evasion.

• **A Polish nominee for the Oscars, *Corpus Christi (Boże Ciało)*, by Jan Komasa, is a moving drama, inspired by a true story.** Twenty-year-old Daniel (played beautifully by Bartosz Bielenia), undergoes a spiritual transformation while living in a juvenile detention center. He dreams of becoming a priest, but is not allowed to follow that path because of his criminal record. While on parole to work in a saw mill in a rural town, he introduces himself as a priest. This starts a chain reaction - he is asked to lead the parish during the current priest's absence. It turns out he has a real gift for preaching. He is able to connect with the parishioners through his simple but moving sermons, and his youthful energy of compassion, love and hope. Daniel becomes devoted to helping the community recover from the recent tragic death of several teens, to overcome pain, hatred and prejudice. There is good and bad in everyone, and we all have to learn to live together, to forgive and to hope to be understood.

• **A historical drama *The Messenger (Kurier)* by Władysław Pasikowski.** Jan Nowak-Jeziorański was a secret emissary during World War II, who delivered vital messages between the Polish Army and the Polish Government in exile operating from London. The movie depicts one of his secret missions, when he has to deliver the information that the Warsaw Uprising should not be started because it will not be supported by the Allies.

• ***The Iron Bridge (Żelazny Most)* by Monika Jordan-Młodzianowska.** This is a dramatic story about a love triangle between a foreman, his wife and his best buddy. A rescue mission after an explosion in the coal mine reveals a chilling tale about a human soul.

• ***Playing Hard (Zabawa, Zabawa)* by Kinga Dębska.** This is a story of three high-functioning women - a prosecutor (Agata Kulesza), a doctor (Dorota Kolak), and a student (Marta Dębska) - who struggle with alcohol addiction and its aftermath in their professional and personal lives.

• ***Mr. T (Pan T)* by Marcin Krzysztalowicz.** Warsaw is being reborn in 1953 from the destructions of World War II. The city comes back to life in the new, colossal shadow of the Palace of Culture and Science, a gift from Stalin. Mr. T is a talented and renowned writer but he is not being published due to his complicated relations with the Communist Party. He resides in a hotel for writers where "walls have ears", earns his living by tutoring students, and tries to remain true to himself in this absurd reality by escaping in phantasies about uprooting the oppressive system. We had the honor to host three Polish



Jarosław Boliński, Maria Sobocińska and Paweł Wilczak on Mt. Washington

filmmakers of *Mr. T*: Paweł Wilczak, a well-known Polish actor who played the leading role; Maria Sobocińska, a young and talented actress who played Dagna, Mr. T's student and lover; and Jarosław Boliński, the producer of the film. The guests spent a day in Pittsburgh, learning about the city's history and its successful postindustrial transition, admiring the views from Mt. Washington and visiting Andy Warhol's museum. The Polish artists introduced the movie, and afterwards answered a myriad of questions in the cinema, and during the reception which followed. The movie was very well-received. Although it tells a story of times unique to the Polish situation in the 1950s, the audience connected with the struggle of artists to follow their voices, in spite of being censored or repressed by the system. Although the movie was inspired by the life of Leopold Tyrmand, one of the great Polish writers after World War II and a famous anti-communist who introduced jazz to Poland, the guests emphasized that the message of the movie is more universal. Mr. T symbolizes a creative talent. In absurd times, a sense of humor is the key to survival.

TEACHING POETRY IN POLAND

by Walt Peterson

In July of 2000, I traveled to Poland for a program called **Teaching English in Poland** sponsored by **UNESCO** and the **Kosciuszko Foundation**. I was a Language Arts teacher, had published poetry, but also wanted to visit the birthplace of my mom's parents. John and Anna Derda had immigrated to America around 1905. As a child, I loved to sit around their kitchen table on Sundays to listen to tales of Central Europe and the family's adventures in the coal fields of Western Pennsylvania. My Mom and her sisters and brother slipped effortlessly between American English and the language of the old country with my grandparents. It was a world and a language I knew little about. I love the mystery and rhythms of those Sunday afternoons. The sound of Polish, to me, is magical, like the memory of the Latin mass: portending something mysterious. I recently realized English was probably their second language.

The first time I met my nine classes in Cracow, I said, "By the end of the week, you will have created several poems, written essays about your Writing Process and the last day, Friday, you will present your best poem in front of the class. Oh, and that will be in English!" Students looked at each other as if I was deranged. Of course this was exactly what I wanted. Over the three weeks, my great and faithful assistant, Derek (from Baltimore) and I would teach all nine groups, three each week. Derek and I were rewarded with 97 readings from about 104 students. Our students mastered more than a rudimentary knowledge of English.

But our teenage students were game for everything.



Though from different parts of Poland, the kids got along with each other and begged us to teach them baseball and basketball (girls and boys), celebrate Halloween (in July) and participate in dances and plays (lampooning Brittany Spears was big the summer of 2000). The kids seemed impressed that I was published and knew some Polish poets. They taught me how to say the poets' names correctly and Emilia and Basia invited me to *Stare Miasto* to visit a café where many of the artists of *Młoda Polska* congregated. Our students proved a joy to travel with on day and weekend trips; they evidenced immense respect and knowledge of their heritage and wanted to learn about our experiences in America.

The Poem, ***Cellar under the Sign of the Ram***, is a result of an evening I spent in Old Town, Cracow with a friend and fellow American teacher, Paul Wisniewski.

Walt Peterson is an artist on the roster of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the winner of the Acorn Rukeyser award for poetry, for In the Waiting room of the Speedy Muffler king and the Gribble Publishing Award for short fiction for Depth-of-Field.

Peterson is a Fellow of the Western Pennsylvania Writing Project at the University of Pittsburgh. And though he has no hope of mastering the language of his grandparents, come November he cooks up a mean pot of bigos and loves Dave Motak's chłodnik recipe from the Polish Journey. Smacznego!

PIWNICA POD BARANAMI - CELLAR UNDER THE SIGN OF THE RAM

Mouth open, head back, the beat
pops between thumb and forefinger--
Wisniewski's got The Cool,
We're catching jazz in a 15th century, vaulted-ceiling cellar
two levels below town square,
an ocean away from the Five Spot or Chicago's Blackhawk.
Here on this stage, they say,
Jaruzelski's fisted Martial Law
was pried open and lanced with Polish wit.
Now New Bone's on the dais,
mainstream jazzowy,
but they're riding the metronome tonight.

At the break, up in town square-congas and whistles-
Caribbean rhythms in the Cracovian night.
Kerosene breath of the fire-eater reflecting
W's shades: I slip the pyromaniac's woman a five.
She leans in: Jesteś miłośnikiem sztuki.
Wisniewski translates out the side of his mouth,
You are a true lover of the arts.

We thread our way back down
to the cabaret. New Bone's up again,
but suddenly sweating out their art. The sax man's got it
right--long looping turns just inside the edge.
The piano chases him nose to tail
through the esses, shifting, slowly slightly before the pass
then stops dead
to glare through indigo light and cheap Polish
cigarette smoke at the suited-drunk,
no socks, Italian loafers,
the third time the fool shouts Bravo!
on the beat.

English translation Paul Wisniewski.

English written translation Krystyna Piątek-Krantz

Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria, Texas

By Susan Moczygemba McKinsey

In 1854, nearly 100 Polish families from the region of Upper Silesia sailed on three small ships from the German seaport of Bremen to Galveston on the Texas Gulf coast. From there they continued down the coast to Indianola, a thriving port that 32 years later would be wiped out by a hurricane. With their worldly possessions and a large cross loaded on ox carts, these new immigrants trekked inland more than 200 miles to acreage secured for them by their kinsman, Father Leopold Moczygemba, a Polish priest who had been sent to minister to far-flung German settlements in the region. They finally arrived at their land, about 50 miles southeast of San Antonio, on December 24. Celebrating Midnight Mass under the sheltering branches of a great oak tree, these immigrants named their new home Panna Maria.

They found themselves in a very foreign land indeed. Prairies covered in brush dominated the landscape, a far cry from the forests of Poland. It seemed the weather featured either fierce flooding thunderstorms or long stretches of drought. Long periods of sweltering heat and humidity, no matter the season, made their woolen clothing distinctly uncomfortable. And they encountered all types of critters, several inhospitable, including rattlesnakes.

Despite the hardships, these were people of unwavering faith in God, blessed with a remarkable resilience. Even with barriers of language and custom, many of their neighbors helped them stave off hunger during the early days. Crops failed, but these would be replanted, and eventually they would grow. These people learned how to work their new land. Moreover, they would find freedom from the oppressions left behind, which had been under Prussian rule at the time.

In subsequent years, many of their countrymen joined them in South Texas. Several Polish communities settled mostly south and east of San Antonio, but also as far away as the Texas Panhandle. Blessed with faith, strength and



each other, they survived. Panna Maria, where the old oak tree still stands, where Immaculate Conception Church greets worshippers, and where people named Moczygemba, Manka, Pawelek, Dziuk, Pollok, Kotara and Kowalik greet family and friends following Mass, is now honored as the first and oldest permanent Polish settlement in America. The story of their ancestors must be remembered.

The Polish immigration to Texas, full of toil, tribulation and triumph, is the central theme of the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria as envisioned by its founder, Bishop Yanta, who wants to preserve the “sacred memories of generations.”

“Let’s memorialize our ancestors,” said Bishop Yanta. “We must preserve our inherited values, share them with new generations of our families, and with pride and thanksgiving, and share them with the whole world.”

The Polish Heritage Center will celebrate all of the original Polish settlements, including Bandera, St. Hedwig, Yorktown, Cestohowa, Kosciuszko, Falls City, McCook, White Deer, Inez, and Las Gallinas, as well as St. Michael’s which served the one-time Polish Quarter of San Antonio. Their collective story is one of faith, family and community. The mission of the Polish Heritage Center is to “keep vibrant and relevant the history, values, beliefs, customs and traditions of the Polish settlers and their descendants....and to inspire, engage, and educate our visitors.”

This Center is rapidly gaining national and international attention and support. Several Polonia radio stations have aired interviews, many Polonia publications have printed stories, and several organizations have hosted guest

speakers. Donations have poured in from sixteen of the United States, Canada, and Poland. Consul General Robert Rusiecki from Houston and members of Poland’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs have toured the site, seeing first-hand the progress being made on this \$14 million Center. Ambassador Piotr Wilczek has been briefed on the project.

What is a Heritage Center?

Though it incorporates elements of a museum where historical objects of lasting interest are collected and displayed, a heritage center “typically dedicates itself to informing and educating visitors about a particular group of people, their customs, beliefs, traditions, material traits, and religious and social forms,” noted exhibit designer Steve Harding, of Steve Harding Design in Houston. Harding said the challenge will be to preserve customs and traditions for posterity, while keeping alive the beliefs and values in today’s constantly changing world.

Construction on the 16,500-square-foot Center commenced on April 11, 2016. The building’s exterior shell, office/administration area, and library are now complete, with the theater nearing completion. Funds are currently being raised for the next phase which will focus on developing more than 3000 square feet of exhibit space that will provide high-tech interactive and immersive experiences from early Polish history to the present. This will include self-guided tours in English, Polish and Spanish. An Archive and Collections area will house and preserve artifacts and documents, while the Genealogy Room and Oral History Collection will offer opportunities for visitors to access family records

and photos. In addition, books in Polish and English on a variety of subjects will be available for reading and research, while the theater will accommodate lectures, workshops, classes, and movies.

A Promise

As Bishop Yanta celebrates his 88th year and 63rd year in the priesthood, he's guiding the progress of the Polish Heritage Center – praying daily, meeting weekly with directors, designers and architects, looking forward to the next milestone in this Polish journey. That will be realized when the Center is open next year, sharing its stories of faith, family and community, keeping alive the

memories and the relationships that have spanned generations, and which will continue to resonate with Polonia and the world.

On a sultry night in Houston last June, before an exuberant crowd in the packed parish hall of Out Lady of Czestochowa Church, President Andrzej Duda of the Republic of Poland presented his country's highest civilian award to Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta. The Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland recognized the life-long work on behalf of American Polonia by this native son of South Texas, who is the first Bishop ordained from the region now recognized as the

birthplace of American Polonia. Bishop Yanta, the visionary behind the Polish Heritage Center, looks back on that night as just the latest milestone in a Polish journey begun by his ancestors 165 years ago.

Susan Moczygomba McKinsey is a direct descendant of the original immigrants. Susan is a member of the Polish Heritage Center's Board of Directors, and is their chief "go-to" writer.

For more information about the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria and for updates on its progress to completion, please visit polishheritagecentertx.org and join us on Facebook and Twitter.

You are invited to the fascinating exhibit: "A Story of Enigma"



When: March 17 – 27, 2020

Where: Gunberg Library

Duquesne University
600 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

**Special event:
March 19, 2020 at 7:00 PM**

Roman Sznajder, Professor of Mathematics and an expert on "Enigma" will give a special presentation, followed by a small reception.

The exhibit is organized by the Polish Cultural Council in cooperation with the British-American Connections, Pittsburgh; Duquesne University; the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Washington DC; and the Polish Cultural Institute, New York, N.Y. **Free and open to the public.**

If you are planning to attend the event on March 19th please let us know by e-mail: pccorg.ms@gmail.com or call 412-871-3347. Parking is available at Duquesne University's garage on Forbes Ave or on the street. Take the garage elevator to the 8th floor. Walk through the short bridge. The Gunberg Library will be on your right.

THANK YOU TO THE POLISH FALCONS!

The Polish and Polish-American community in Western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, and the Three State Area would like to express their deepest gratitude to the Polish Falcons for their assistance in the recent voting for the Polish Parliament. We thank you for your sincere help and cooperation in organizing a local voting station during the election, which was for both chambers of Parliament, the Sejm and the Senate. The Polish Falcons of America, headquartered in Pittsburgh, donated their space, time and manpower

to let this event happen. Thanks to the Falcons, Polish citizens living in the voting area were able to cast their votes on October 12th, 2019. The Committee Chair, Andrzej Wojcieszynski, and Committee members, Chris Kaniasty, Marta Nutini, Jan Napoleon Saykiewicz, Olaf Saykiewicz, and Kasia Swope are grateful for your help in carrying out their duties.

Dr. Jan Napoleon Saykiewicz
Honorary Consul of Poland

Speaking Polish – Piece of Cake by Veronica Wojnarowski

PRZEZ CAŁY DZIEŃ – ALL THE DAY LONG

DZIEŃ

The Polish word for *day* is *dzień*. It comes from the Proto-Indo European root, *dyeu-*, meaning *to shine*. In common parlance, it can have several interpretations. It can mean literally the period of time between one midnight and the next. It can also refer to the time between sunrise and sunset, or the time when we are not sleeping. As you can guess, such an ancient and important concept is used in many words and phrases. It is the most common of greetings, *dzień dobry*, *good day*, which is used during daylight hours and is also interpreted as *good morning*.

Some expressions indicate a particular sort of day. Here are a few. *Dziś*, *dzisiaj*, and *dzień dzisiejszy* all mean *today*, that is, *this day*. *Dzień powszedni* is a *weekday*, *dzień roboczy* is a *workday*, *zwykły dzień* is an *ordinary day*, and *na drugi dzień* is *the next day*.

Some expressions are used to relate today to another day. *Tomorrow* is *dzien jutrzejszy* or *jutro*. *Yesterday* is *dzień wcześniej* or *wczoraj*.

Other expressions indicate the passage of time. *Po dziś dzień* means *to this day*. *Codziennie* means *every day* and *całymi dniami* means *all days*.

An ironic phrase compares two things or events which are *as different as night and day*, *podobny jak dzień do nocy*, *as similar as day to night*. We can also say that something can occur *at any time of day or night*, *o każdej porze dnia i nocy*.

RANEK – MORNING

Ranek and *poranek* are nouns which mean *morning*. *Rano* is the adverb which means *in the morning*; for example, *I'm going shopping in the morning*, or *Idę na zakupy rano*. It can also mean *shortly before dawn*. *Dziś rano* means *this morning*. A morning ritual is done *co rano*, *every morning*.

Rano has several finer classifications. In the morning between midnight and three

o'clock is *w nocy*. Yes, you are translating this properly, *at night*. So, *three o'clock in the morning* is *trzecia w nocy*, while *four o'clock in the morning* is *czwarta rano*. *Shortly before dawn* is *nad ranem*. *Before noon* is *przed południem*.

The adjectives *ranny* and *poranny* describe something which occurs daily in the morning. For example, *a morning newspaper* is *poranna gazeta*; a *habitual morning walk* is *poranny spacer*.

POŁUDNIE – NOON, OR MID-DAY

Południe is formed from the combination of *pół*, meaning *half* and *dzień*, meaning *day*. It quite literally means *half- or mid-day*. In an unusual occurrence for Polish, this word has two meanings; the second meaning is *south*.

Pół, by itself, is a unit of measure. *Half an apple* is *pół jabłka*; *half a cup* is *pół filiżanki*. Many Polish words use *pół* as a prefix. For example, *półbut* are *low shoes*; *półgodzinny* is *thirty minutes or half an hour*; *półmetek*, is a *half-way point*; and *połnoc* is *midnight*, which we will discuss later. If you want your pierogi serving to be of two kinds, you could order them *pół na pół*, *half and half*.

Here are some words and phrases which use *południe* as it relates to noon:

<i>przed południem</i>	<i>before noon</i>
<i>po południu</i>	<i>in the afternoon</i>
<i>w południe</i>	<i>at noon, mid-day</i>

Directionally speaking, *południowy* is *southern*, *południowo-wschodni* is *south-east(ern)*, *południowo-zachodni* is *south-west(ern)*. *kraje południowe* means *The South*, literally the *southern countries* *na południe od* (plus the genitive) means *south of* *południk* is a *meridian* *południk zerowy* is the *Greenwich* or *meridian line*

The *Southern Cross*, a constellation of the southern hemisphere, is *Krzyż Południa*.

POPOŁUDNIE – AFTERNOON

Popołudnie is simply the combination of

po, *after* with *południe*. It means *in the afternoon*.

WIECZÓR

Wieczór denotes the time between twilight and the time you usually go to bed or leave the party. It is an old word of Slavic origin with cognates in other Indo-European languages, including the Latin *vesper*. Here are some ways to denote evening:

<i>wieczór</i>	<i>evening, a party, musical event, etc.</i>
<i>wieczorem</i>	<i>in the evening</i>
<i>pod wieczór</i>	<i>in the evening</i>
<i>dzisiaj wieczorem</i>	<i>this evening</i>
<i>wczoraj wieczorem</i>	<i>last evening</i>
<i>jutro wieczorem</i>	<i>tomorrow evening</i>
<i>nad wieczorem</i>	<i>close to the evening</i>
<i>z wieczora</i>	<i>at or from the evening</i>
<i>dobry wieczór</i>	<i>good evening, to greet someone in the evening</i>

PÓLNOC – HALF NIGHT, MIDNIGHT

The word *północ* is a combination of the words *pół*, *half* and *noc*, *night*. Like *południe*, it has a second meaning, *north*. *O północy* means *at midnight*.

Directionally speaking, *północny* is *northern*, *północno-wschodni* is *north-east(ern)*, *północno-zachodni* is *north-west(ern)*.

NOC – NIGHT

Noc is the time between darkness and light. Here are some words and phrases which derive from it:

<i>w nocy</i>	<i>at night</i>
<i>co noc, noc w noc, or nocą</i>	<i>every night</i>
<i>dzień i noc, or ciągle</i>	<i>day and night</i>
<i>noc świętojańska</i>	<i>St. John's Night (June 23/24)</i>
<i>po nocy</i>	<i>during the night</i>
<i>nocleg</i>	<i>a place to spend the night</i>
<i>nocować</i>	<i>a verb, to spend the night</i>
<i>nocnik</i>	<i>a chamber pot</i>
<i>nocny</i>	<i>an adjective which means nocturnal or nightly</i>
DOBRANOC	GOODNIGHT!

NEWS BRIEFS

NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE



Polish author Olga Tokarczuk has been awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize for Literature. Congratulations! Poles and Polonia all over the world are very proud of this achievement. Tokarczuk is best known in the United States for her two books which have been translated into English, *Flights* and *Drive Your Plow over the Bones of the Dead*. Her work explores the interconnectedness of the world, humans, plants, animals, objects and

landscapes. Tokarczuk's Nobel lecture on literature can be read and heard at <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/2018/tokarczuk/104871-lecture-english/>.

NEWS FROM UNESCO

The city of **Wrocław** has been named a **UNESCO City of Literature**. Author Olga Tokarczuk, who comes from Wrocław, has received this year's Nobel Prize for Literature. Of the double literary awards, Tokarczuk said, "It may be somewhat strange for me to say but these are the most extraordinary weeks for the literary history of Wrocław. I'm delighted with the UNESCO decision". The mission of the UNESCO Creative Cities program is to place creativity and the creative economy at the core of their urban development plans.

The mines and settlements of Poland's **Krzemionki prehistoric striped flint mining region** in southern Poland has been inscribed on **UNESCO's World Heritage Site List**. Located in the mountain region of Świętokrzyskie, the site contains four mines, dating from the **Neolithic to the Bronze Age** (about 3900 to 1600 BCE) dedicated to the extraction and processing of striped flint, which was mainly used for axe-making. Together with its underground mining structures, flint workshops and some 4,000 shafts and pits, it is one of the most comprehensive of such sites to be identified to date. It provides information about life and work in prehistoric settlements.

NIKE AWARD

Writer and journalist **Mariusz Szczygieł** has won Poland's prestigious Nike literary prize. The prize was awarded for Szczygieł's book, *Nie Ma* (Not There), a collection of real-life stories about people who have had to deal with various kinds of emptiness. Featured are an Albanian painter, Polish twin sisters, a Ukrainian soldier, a Czech poet, and an Israeli writer.

The Nike prize has been conferred annually since 1997 for the best book of a single living author, writing in Polish, which was published the previous year.

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Carnival! Party Time! Ostatki!

By Eva Tumiel-Kozak

Anytime one mentions the word Carnival, the famous ones come to mind: Brazilian in Rio de Janeiro, the largest one in the world, or the unforgettable masquerades of Venice, or our own - in New Orleans.

Carnival in Poland is not as lavish or colorful, but it's definitely a time for merrymaking and festivities. Time for fun, parties, drinking, lovely masqued balls and an indulgence in the tastiest and richest foods imaginable. It starts after the Feast of Epiphany (The Three Kings), lasting traditionally until Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Christian period of Lent.

Carnival started as a Catholic event, but in some ways it is also rooted in European pagan traditions. Historians have a hard time agreeing on the derivation of the word, but probably it can be traced to the medieval Latin: *carnem* (meat) and *levare* (to take away, to remove), which indicated the constraints awaiting everybody on Ash Wednesday and the 40 days of the liturgical season's fast.

Originally, Carnival was always a food festival and a public celebration, enjoying the abundance of meat, drinks and various sweets. In Poland the last week was called Ostatki, (Shrovetide) and included Fat Thursday, (Tłusty Czwartek, Pączki and Faworki time!), the last Saturday of Carnival and Fat Tuesday (Tłusty Wtorek, or Mardi Gras), the last time to have fun and... overeat. During that week, especially on the last Saturday before Ash Wednesday, nightlife in Poland becomes vibrant with clubs competing for the partygoers, offering attractive menus, drinks, famous Polish pastries, and live music for dancing.



Chruściki

If you're lucky and plan to spend your Ostatki week in Zakopane, in the Tatra Mountains, the KULIG, is one of the special attractions. The tradition dates back to the 16th century and involves a horse-drawn joyful sleigh ride and lively music. It usually started with a pair of noble neighbors, their families and servants, dressed in costumes, starting a lively cavalcade, dropping in without announcement on equally noble neighbors, demanding food and drink. Usually their host eventually joined the group, visiting other unsuspecting noble homes. Even the aristocracy joined in such processions. A description of the famous one ending at the Wilanów palace of King Jan Sobieski III got into the annals of 17th century history.

It's impossible to compare the contemporary parties to the royal splendor of events or the balls which took place, for example in the Royal Palace or Łazienki ballrooms (Royal Bath Park) in Warsaw. Nevertheless, the element of joy, good music and great food remains until today! Join us on February 22 for Ostatki where you'll find our famous Polish Culinary Table, vodka tasting and other tempting libations, not forgetting the scrumptious pastry, including pączki! We would like to share with you the recipe for another Carnival pastry called faworki, or chruściki or...Angel Wings. Smacznego and see you at Ostatki!

INGREDIENTS

- 3/4 cup all purpose flour
- 3 egg yolks
- 2 Tablespoons sugar
- pinch of salt
- 2 Tablespoons sour cream
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon each lemon & orange zest
- up to 2 Tablespoons additional flour
- 1 quart of oil for frying (safflower or sunflower)
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Using an electric hand mixer, beat egg yolks, sugar and salt in a small bowl until thick and lemon-colored (about a minute).
2. Stir in sour cream, vanilla, zests and flour.
3. Add enough additional flour to form a dough (1-2 tablespoons).
4. Transfer to a floured surface and knead 50 turns (about 2 minutes), adding extra flour as needed.
5. Divide dough in half, keeping the extra covered with waxed paper.
6. On a floured surface, roll each section paper-thin to at least 12" across. Cut into 1 1/4-inch strips. Cut strips into 5-inch lengths. Make a slit in each strip. Pull one end through slit to make a bow tie.
7. Deep fry in oil at about 350-365° F for about 30 seconds, turning once using 2 forks, until lightly golden on both sides. Do not crowd.
8. Drain on paper towels. Let cool and sprinkle with powdered sugar.
9. To re-crisp place on a baking sheet in a 325° oven for about 5 minutes. Cool completely and re-dust with fresh powdered sugar.

Note: Chruściki can be stored at room temperature for several days, in layers, separated by waxed paper, and covered with aluminum foil.

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Dear Friends of the *Polish Journey*!

The Polish Cultural Council has been publishing our newsletter, The *Polish Journey*, for 18 years. In this special newsletter, where contributions of content are made by over a dozen people, you have been kept up to date with information about Polish film festivals, Ostatki parties, interesting interviews with members of the Polish American community, news of cultural events in Poland, and updates on virtually every activity that we do.

The *Polish Journey* embodies our mission. It is recognized among Western Pennsylvania's Polonia; also issues are sent to the Polish Embassy, to Polish consulates, and the National Library of Warsaw. And, I assure you, compliments are always forthcoming, because it's obvious that the work that goes into each issue is a work of love.

As you've probably guessed by now, we need your help to continue with this important work. Although we are now also publishing an email edition, many of our members still look forward to receiving *The Journey* in the mail. The cost of layout, printing and mail never seems to go down and each edition's production means about \$1,400 expense for the PCC.

Please consider a gift specifically earmarked for The *Polish Journey* and let us know that you read our journal and want it to continue. We'll definitely acknowledge all the gifts by name in the next issue of the *Polish Journey*.

Thank you!

Eva Tumiel-Kozak, *Editor-in-Chief, Polish Journey*

With editorial staff, **Veronica Wojnaroski** and **Maria Staszekiewicz**