

# FRATERNAL JOURNAL

Official Newspaper of the  
*Polish Union of U.S.A.*



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## Nicole Poplawski Crowned “Miss Polish Union 2012”



During the recent Advent service and traditional Wigilia supper held at Polish Union USA in Wilkes-Barre, PA Miss Nicole Poplawski was crowned the 2012 Miss Polish Union USA. She is a resident of Throop, PA and graduated from Mid Valley High School where she participated on the Softball Team, Skills, USA, Future Business Leaders, Student Council, and was a member of the Honor Society. Upon graduation Nicole received several certificates of achievement including the Senior Award for outstanding achievement.† She is also a graduate of the Empire Beauty Academy and

is continuing her studies to become a Massage Therapist.

Nicole's activities at Polish Union include volunteering at Council 17 programs, children's holiday parties, member of Young Adult Committee, and former Polish Union Debutante where she received the Marion Vrabel Scholarship. Pictured above, Miss Leigh Anne Machowski, Miss Polish Union 2011 who crowned Nicole, the incoming 2012 recipient who will participate in the social functions of the organization throughout the coming year.

## Polish Union Mourns Loss of Karen Bednarski

Karen M. Bednarski, 61, passed away on November 29, 2011 at her home. Her husband Jack is the Chief Financial Officer/Vice President of Polish Union USA and our members join with him and his family in lamenting this tragic loss. Karen was a graduate of Nanticoke High School and College Misericordia. She was co-owner with her husband Jack, operating the Bednarski Furniture Store in Plymouth, PA. The daughter of the late Edward and Lillian Kanjorski (Janison) Jachimczak, Karen is survived by her husband of 40 years, John P. Bednarski; children, Alicia Bednarski Harrington and Gregory Bednarski; grandchildren Michaela and Alexandra Harrington; sister, Sandra Dungey; and brother, Edward Janison, Jr. Memorial donations may be made to the Polish Union USA Scholarship Fund, PO

Box 660, 53-59 N. Main St. Wilkes Barre, PA 18703

Some of Karen's activities included participation in Wilkes University Polish Room Committee, Nanticoke Historical Society, Susquehanna Trailers Hiking Club, and volunteering with the F.M. Kirby Performing Arts Center. Proud of her Polish heritage, Karen regularly contributed articles for our Journal and most recently prepared a Family photo collage which is included with the exhibit "The Polish in Luzerne County" on display at the Luzerne County Historical Society Museum. She also played a prominent role in developing a cook book sponsored by the Wilkes University Polish Room Committee. They plan to publish this new book in memory of Karen Bednarski.

## St. Joseph's Day Program Will Occur March 24

The Activities Committee is busy planning for the Annual St. Joseph's Day Dinner. Chairperson Nancy Bachurek announced that the affair will be held at the Ramada Inn, Wilkes Barre, PA, on Saturday March 24, 2012 beginning at 5:30 PM.

A Cocktail Hour, Family Style Dinner and brief Program will be followed by the musical entertainment of the George Tarasek Orchestra. The public is invited to attend and tickets are available for \$30 per person. For reservations call Polish Union USA at 570-823-1611 or Nancy Bachurek at 570-489-0690.



Planning this year's St. Joseph's Day program are committee members Sophie Dubiak, Margo Luckacinsky and Nancy Bachurek.

## Joan Buchinski Named Fraternalist of the Year



Terri Rumenski member of the selection Committee, Mrs Joan Buchinski receiving the award, Bernard Kolodziej – President, and member Anastasia Bachurek.

Mrs. Joan Buchinski of Jermyn, PA received the 2011 Polish Union Fraternalist of the Year Award during festivities at the Polish Union Community Room. The selection Committee included Alice Czyzyk, Charlotte Androckitis, and Terri Rumenski. Their decision was made on the basis of Mrs. Buchinski's extensive community service work in her home town and greater Scranton area. Her childhood days were filled with compassionate care for injured animals and she is still involved in animal advocacy. Now retired from many years as a nursing assis-

tant, Mrs. Buchinski devotes her time to helping people in any way she can. Much of her time is spent selling her baked goods and donating the proceeds to agencies and needy individuals. Other community service initiatives include organizing walkathons, food drives, bake sales and raffles, all geared toward helping others. We were especially pleased to learn that Mrs. Buchinski joined our organization as the result of her participation in our Folk Art Programs several years ago. Congratulations on behalf of our entire organization.

## In Memoriam

Our sympathy to the families of recently deceased members of Polish Union of U.S.A.

Group	Member	State
51	Barbara Zaleski	NJ
293	Jean Guzowski	PA
401	Maryanna Muir	PA
502	John P. Burger	PA
378	Anna Bujalski	IL
405	Zofia Dzikoska	PA
70	Edward J. Gupko	PA
163	Marjanna Szczech	PA
378	Janet Szczurkiewicz	IL
155	Chester Lipinski	NJ
51	Sophia Tarnowski	PA
400/395	Stella Goreschak	PA
502	Romaine J. Lowe	PA
405	Phyllis Brojakowski	PA
182	Theresa Matulewicz	NY
358	Thomas F. Blaser	PA
73	Jozef Masakowski	PA
257	Lillian Jutkiewicz	NJ
395	Emil Kirschenheiter	PA
400	Geraldine Kasper	PA
405	Josephine Demorat	PA
73	Marcela Skalla	NY

† † †

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

† † †

A Mass for deceased members is celebrated monthly by Chaplain Rev. Patrick L. Albert

## Attention Scholarship Applicants

Although the deadline for the Scholarship applications is May 31, 2012 we want to remind our members of the eligibility criteria.

Applicants must be a qualified insured member of the Polish Union of USA and carry a minimum of \$ 5,000 of Polish Union Life Insurance.

Full details will be posted on our website and in the next issue of our *Fraternal Journal*.

## Folk Art Instructor Sought

We are in need of Instructors for our Folk Art Programs. Persons interested in teaching our members and friends the art of Palm Weaving, Christmas Ornaments, Wycinanki, Pysanki, and other Folk Crafts are requested to call our office at 570-823-1611.

## Promise Yourself

Promise yourself to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind

To speak of health, happiness, and prosperity to every person that you meet.

To make all your friends aware of the special qualities within them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and let your optimism work to make your dreams come true.

To think, work for, and expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget past mistakes and press on towards a greater future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times as a smile radiates warmth and love.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time left to criticize others.

To be too wise for worry, too tolerant for anger, and too courageous for fear.

To be happy

## Wishing You Good Health and Happiness for 2012

The year 2012 presents us with many challenges. For some families their efforts center on surviving the pressures of low income and an uncertain labor market. Others concern themselves with helping their children adjust to the hurdles of achieving the proverbial American Dream of financial independence. This is often difficult due to worldwide economic issues. Those who have seen better times must demonstrate a positive attitude by setting realistic examples and offering guidance for future generations. Positive reinforcement will help this generation attain their goals.

Our organization also has challenges for this New Year. We are obligated to assure our members that quality products remain available to them and their families while protecting the integrity of the investments they have made in their organization. The added feature of fraternal benefits, of equal importance, is generally understood by our veteran members but we often encounter difficulty explaining the value of such benefits to



President's  
Desk



BERNARD KOLODZIEJ

prospective members. We are reminded by State and National Organizations to fully define the scope of our benefits. Their national surveys demonstrate that Fraternal are not clearly understood by the general public and we must more aggressively market our benefits. The revised trade name, upgraded website, and other marketing efforts mentioned in our last issue are continuing with the full support and energized interest of our Board and Committees.

## “Boże Bogosław Nasz Dom”



Chaplain's  
Corner



REV. PATRICK ALBERT

“God Bless Our Home” – the blessing of the home is a Polish tradition that brings great memories to mind for me. I remember visiting homes during my first few years as a priest, to give blessings and receive wonderful homemade dishes in return. The smells that greeted me as the door opened reminded me of all the wonderful traditions and food found in the Polish culture.

Traditionally, the priest visited from house to house to give the blessing for the Epiphany celebration, and to sing carols. Bringing blessed chalk and holy water, an inscription was marked on the doorway frame or doorpost, as well as saying or singing a blessing. Invoking protection

against illness and misfortune for all who dwell in the house, the current year and the first initials of the 3 Kings, with a cross between each letter, are written in chalk in the following format: 20 + K + M + B + 12. While the initials K, M and B are the traditionally applied names of the 3 Kings-Kaspar, Melchior and Balthazar; it is also believed that the letters may stand for the Latin inscription of Christus mansionem benedicat, for “Christ bless this house”.

Alternately, some families took a basket or box containing chalk, a gold ring, incense and a piece of amber (in memory and in honor of the gifts of the Magi) to the celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany to be blessed. Once home, the family then inscribes the blessing on their house, where it remains all year until it is inadvertently dusted off or replaced by the markings for the next new year.

So it is in this spirit that I give to you the following blessing: May Jesus, along with the spirits of the 3 Wise Kings, protect you and all who enter your house in this New Year. I wish you and your families a very Happy New Year.

## Thanking You For Your Membership

After writing a monthly newsletter for the past 25 years to Board Members, Committee Members, Group Secretaries, Licensed agents and Council Officers, I felt it was time to begin a regular column in our Official Publication. This will be my first column for the Fraternal Journal. It will be an abbreviated column because of all the many articles that we have for this issue.

First, I would like to say thank you to all of you that are members of the Polish Union and ask you to encourage others to become members of our great Fraternal Organization. Information on membership and about us can be obtained from our Home Office at 570-823-1611, our website [www.polishunionusa.com](http://www.polishunionusa.com) is in the process of being updated but the address will remain the same. I will notify you in this periodical when the changes are complete. By reading our Official Publication on a regular basis you can find out the latest happenings with our Fraternal. Please be sure to check our calendar of events in this issue for future activities and meetings of the Polish Union. We encourage members to supply us with articles and pictures that we can share with our readers. They can be sent to our Home Office at P.O. 660, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703-0660.



Fraternal  
News &  
Views



CHARLOTTE L.  
ANDROCKITIS

CEO/NATIONAL SECRETARY

2012/2013 Scholarships will be given to those members that meet all of the qualifications and comply with the rules and regulations. Applications will be available at the Home Office and on our web site on or about February 1, 2012. Deadline for submitting completed scholarship applications is May 31, 2012.

Toni Storts, District Director from Illinois Area is recuperating from recent surgery. Get well wishes can be sent to her at: 1816 Downing Ave., Westchester, IL 60154.

At this very special time of the year, I would like to wish all of you many blessings during this Christmas season and a New Year filled with much Joy and Happiness and plenty of good health.

## Unfiled Claims

Each year our Home Office reports a number of members deaths, yet, beneficiaries have not filed a death claim with us. Until the claim is made and processed we cannot issue the death benefit due. If you know of anyone who might not have filed a death claim that they are beneficiary to, encourage them to contact us. We will help you make arrangements to file a legal death claim. Call us during business hours.

If someone has lost the original policy as the beneficiary, or the policy was misplaced while the deceased was still alive, you may request a duplicate policy providing you have a legal Death Certificate for the deceased member.



Home Office of the Polish Union of U.S.A., Downtown, Wilkes-Barre, PA

The beautifully designed edifice was dedicated in 1938. The lower floor contains a two-room auditorium. Business offices and board room are located on the second floor. There are many designs on the exterior and interior of the building which refers to the fraternal's ethnic heritage.

## Polish Union of U.S.A. Officers and Board Members 2010-2014

CEO/National Secretary: Charlotte L. Androckitis  
53-.S9 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

President: Bernard Kolodziej 35 W. Noble St., Nanticoke, PA 18634

CFO-VP: John Bednarski 327 Lee Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

CLO: Jeffrey J. Malak 138 S. Main St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703

Chaplain: Rev. Patrick L. Albert 612 Hudson St., Forest City, PA 18431

### DIRECTORS

Mrs. Anastasia Bachurek 6 E. Veterans Drive, Dickson City, PA 18519

Mr. William J. Giebus 90 Warner St., Plains, PA 18705

Mr. Joseph P. Pudlosky, Jr., 15 Sunset Lake Rd., Hunlock Creek, PA 18621

Mrs. Terri Rumensky 620 Pancoast St., Dickson City PA 18519

Mrs. Sheri Pudlosky-Brierly, 1297 Kirkland Ave., West Chester, PA 19380

### DISTRICT DIRECTORS ILLINOIS & MID-WEST

Mrs. Toni Storts 1816 Downing Ave., Westchester, IL 60154

Mrs. Joan Wisinski 13210 S. 85th Ave, Palos Park, IL 60464

### HONORARY OFFICERS

Bernard Kolodziej, Hon. Vice-President; Helen Czeck, Hon. Ass't Secretary

Honorary Directors: Aloysius Bogusko, Alice Czyzyk, Chester Tracewski;

Honorary Medical Examiner, Dr. Leon Skweir .

### Honorary Member

Cardinal Adam Maida, Archbishop of Detroit

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## Got Insurance?

Are you in your 40's and thinking about added financial security for you and your family? Life insurance may be an option to consider. Did you know that a 40 year old male is eligible to apply for \$ 10,000 of permanent life insurance at a cost of only \$ 154.00 @ year. This is just one example of an affordable life insurance product offered by Polish Union/Ameripol Life Insurance. Call 570-823-1611 or visit our website today.

# 33rd Debutante Ball "A Special Rose"

This year's 33rd annual Debutante Ball was titled "A Special Rose" in honor of our late President, Rose Wartko. The Ball was held at Fiorelli's, Peckville. Guests enjoyed a delicious dinner, brief presentations, and music with dancing pleasure by the George Tarasek Orchestra. Judy Granato, Rose's daughter, gave a heartfelt speech in remembrance of her mother. She spoke of how important the Debutante Ball event was to



**Judy Granato, daughter of late President Rose Wartko, addressed the Ball assembly.**

her mother, and how she loved to tell her of the night's details and numerous girls presented into society over the past years. The Polish Union had sixteen previous Debutantes attend the event to not only honor Rose, but also represent the 32 years of such a magical social event that Rose began. Charlotte Androckitis, Polish Union's CEO/ National Secretary, presented the following previous Debutantes that evening: 1982, Martha Payne, 1985, Sheri Pudlosky-Brierley, 1988, Carol Kolodziej, 1992, Alicia Bednarski Harrington, 1993, Janelle Giebus, 1995, Kimberly Nareski Kowalski, 1997, Emily Huber Stefanac, 1998 Debutante, Jennifer Zanghi, 2000, Carol Zielinski, 2002, Katryna Reilly, 2004, Gabrielle Stine,

2004, Amy Zielinski, 2005, Amanda Marchegaini, 2009, Sara Beth Kolodziej, 2010, Nicole Poplawski, and 2010, Maria Zanghi.

The evening was a nice way to give tribute to Rose Wartko for starting such a spectacular social event within the Polish Union. It also gave time to reflect upon those who started the event with her, those who continue to work on hosting the event currently, and those Debutantes who participated throughout the years. The Debutante Ball Committee hopes to continue the tradition that Rose began, as we look forward to next year's event. It gives the Polish Union great pride and pleasure to be able to host such a magical event honoring the Debutantes each year, and properly presenting them into our society. We hope to have an even bigger turn out for next year's event, with many Debutantes to present.



**Special thank you out to this year's Page Girl, Erica Prushinski of Dickson City, and Page Boy, Jonathan Allen of Plains. They were a tremendous help that evening and fulfilled their Page Girl / Boy duties to the fullest. Job well done!**



**Assembled Past Debutantes**



**The Debutante Ball Committee**



**Our Chair and Co-Chair of the Ball are past debutantes themselves**

# Halloween Party

The Youth Committee hosted this year's Children's Halloween Party on Sunday, October 23rd. The children's costumes were spectacular, as was the Halloween tricks provided by Mr. Fun the Magician. The children enjoyed lunch, magic tricks, a parade of costumes, and some fantastic holiday goody bags compliments of the Polish Union. Nicole Poplawski and Ashlynd Huber even provided some holiday nail polish for our girls and cool temporary tattoos for our boys this year as a special treat. The committee would also like to thank our President, Bernie Kolodziej, for donating a pumpkin for each child to take home in addition to their goody bag.



**Costume winners: Christian Patts, Jonathan Allen, Cole Szezorak, the Kopko brothers, Daniel Drost, Brennan Huber, Arabella Cox, and Justin English**



# NE Pennsylvania PAC Wigilia



The annual Wigilia program of the Polish American Congress of Northeastern PA was held at the Touch of Class Restaurant with representatives of the local Polish Fraternals and guests in attendance. Prior to the traditional meal Rev. Joseph M. Horanzy blessed the Advent Wreath with lighting by Bernard and Mary Ellen Kolodziej and Bernard and Pamela Dymond representing the Polish American Congress of NEPA.

# Paderewski Anniversary Concert At WVIA Studio



Polish Union officers and members meet with pianist Drew Peterson

Polish Union USA/ Ameripol and the Wilkes University Polish Room Committee in collaboration with WVIA FM presented a "Simply Grand Concert" at their studio for over 75 invited guests. This has since been broadcast on NPR radio and will be repeated later. This concert commemorating the 151st birthday of Ignacy Jan Paderewski was performed by Mr. Drew Petersen, a renowned 17 year old who has received numerous awards in the US and Europe. Mr. Petersen began piano lessons at the age of 5 and is a highly respected cultural leader in music. He is continuing studies at the Julliard School and is a Bachelor of Arts Candidate at Harvard University Extension School.

Our members along with all guests in attendance were very much impressed with Mr. Petersen's talent. Memories past were recalled by some of the audience because our archives contain reference to Ignacy Paderewski's visits to Northeastern PA many years ago. Polish Union USA sponsored a Testimonial and Musicales honoring Maestro Paderewski's 75th birthday with a stellar performance by Mr. Paderewski himself. Another visit worthy of mention was in 1940 when our Polish Union president and Dr. E. J. Kielar met him in New York City as he began his fund raising campaign for aid to Poland at the beginning of the war in Europe.

# Poles In Luzerne County



Polish Union members Mary Ellen Kolodziej and Chris Pagoda at the Luzerne County Historical Society exhibit. The Luzerne County Historical Society Museum has opened an exhibit dedicated to our local Polish immigrants. In cooperation with the Wilkes University Polish Room Committee Polish Union USA/Ameripol has loaned numerous historical items for this educational display. We encourage members and interested individuals from the area to visit the Museum. The exhibit is on display through Jan. 31, 2012 and the Museum is located at 69 South Franklin St. behind the Osterhout Library. Their hours are noon to 4:00 PM Tues. through Sat. and their phone number is 570-822-1727.

# Children Enjoy Their Party

Polish Union Children enjoyed a Christmas Party in the Community Room of the Polish Union in Wilkes-Barre on December 10. A lunch, games, presents and of course, a visit from Santa were the order of the day



# News From CHICAGOLAND

DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
Toni Storts 708-216-9624 Joan Wisinski, 708-448-6936 days, or 708-361-4180 evenings.

Happy New Year 2012 to all our members.

**The Annual Fall Pot Luck Luncheon and Meeting** was held on October 22 at the Alliance of Polish Clubs. A delicious homemade Polish Buffet brought by our members was enjoyed by all. Our meeting discussed news from the main office and the upcoming Childrens Christmas Party We prayed for our deceased members. A committee was formed for the party. A raffle was held to cover the cost of the meeting.

**The Childrens Christmas Party** was a huge success. The committee did a fantastic job with setting up and soda pop and sweet table donations Mrs Santa did face painting and balloons and Santa passed out the childrens gifts. Thank you to our committee. Toni Storts, Joan and Tom Wisinski, Helen and Karol Leja. Barbara Kowalski, Maria Zwolinska, Robyn Westfallen and Greg Fetro. The pizza buffet was delicious.



**Mrs. Claus painted faces at the Chicago Children's Christmas Party**

March 13-Joan Wisinski on March 4-Thomas A. Wisinski on March 29-Jean Wood on March 19th-Celebrating their 16th Wedding Anniversary on March 23rd are Thomas J and Venus Wisinski of Group 275. Congratulations.

**Celebrating March Birthdays** from Group 230 are-Jolene Bluder-Ronald Capek-Linda Dank-Linda Doman-Marissa Gallas-Jesse Kalfas-Michael Kalfas-Sharon Kalfas-Wiktorya Lewis-Tara Murphy-Erwin Obartuch-Lauren Spencer-Joseph Stachel-Sarah Rose Tepper-Steven Tepper and Paige Lynn Young.

Please check your insurance policies. Do you have enough insurance? Our rates are low and worth considering to increase your coverage. A great gift for any family member for any occasion. Most children do not have life insurance. A great baby gift for a newborn. \$5000.00 gives them college benefits for four years, increase it from time to time and give them more coverage. Call your group secretary for more information or call Joan Wisinski at 1 888 789-5182 to purchase insurance for yourself or a Family Member. If you have member information that you want to put in the newsletter email Joan Wisinski at wisinski85@comcast.net.

**Joan Wisinski**  
Group 275 Secretary and  
Illinois District Director

**Celebrating January Birthdays** from Group 275 are Janet Abbott-Claire and Kyle Antene-Jeanine Bustillo-Jan Dzialowy-Paul Dzialowy-Weronika Falborski-Erin Grand-Carol Grochowski-Valeria Knapczyk-Helen Madaj-Genevieve Novak-Jean Olakowski-Paul Pencak-Audrey Radek-Elaine Strenski-Florence Wojtowicz

**Group 230 January Birthdays**-Dale Brokiewicz-Jenna Gallas-Helen Hyerczyk-Tracey Karalow-Jan Lazarowicz-Richard Obartuch-Diane Pieklo-Jennifer Rafferty-Stella Saflover-Arlene Sopata-Rosalie Storts-Severine Towns-Anthony Van Dusen-Stella Winski.

**Congratulations** to William Thomas Grgantov on February 19, 2012 being confirmed at Our Lady of the Woods by Bishop John Gorman. His sponsor is Dziadzi Thomas Wisinski, both members of Group 275 Chicago.

**Congratulations** to Thomas Steven Wisinski on February 25 being confirmed at St Marys in Mokena Il. His sponsor is Grandpa Thomas A Wisinski, both members of Group 275 Chicago.

**February Birthdays** from Group 275 are-Debra Bender-Catherine Bober-Lauren Bustillo-Rita Cybulski-Anthony Dzialowy-Mieczyslaw Klimek-Keith Michalec-Gary Migut-Michael and Richard Pencak-Charity Piet-Robert Reddy-Joyce and Judith Regnier-Genevieve Stoklosa-Emily Wisinski turns 11 on February 2nd-Kurt Wood.

**Group 230 February Birthdays** are-Krista Bednarz-Gary and Randolph Doman-Richard Dubin-Catherine and Kim Fencel-Catherine Golata-Melissa Hlavac-Joseph Hyerczyk-Ashley Jennings-Jozefa Kasperska-Eugene Kornak-Jacqueline Milbratz-Rose Marie Palama-Claudette Pernice-Debra Rafferty-Donald Szymaszek-Staci Joy Keper-Trisha Tepper and Shanna Winters.

**March Birthdays** from Group 275 are-Maribeth Dzialowy-Jozefa Gajda-Brian Grgantov turns 11 on March 11th-John Kotlarczyk-Dolores Kubicki-Pamela Moskal-Joseph Mulinski-Loretta Nirchi-Catherine Obrycki-Matthew Pitman-Allen Plachta-Kristen Platt-Russell Radek-Leokadya Savaglio-Stanley Sendra-Joann Stetlar-Jamie Wiczorek-Debra Grgantov turns 50 on

## Christmas in Chicago



## Windy City Potluck Dinner



## Happy Birthday - Sto Lat To Our Senior Members January-March, 2012

### Reaching Age 96

Felicja Cronk, Yonkers, NY  
Margaret Milewski, Dupont, PA  
Anna Tuminowska, Lawrence, MA  
Pawel Zalewski, Nicholson, PA

### Reaching Age 90

Mary J. Aukamp, Lancaster, PA  
Helen Barry, Rome, NY  
Cecelia Bielak, Sayreville, NJ  
Filipa Blaum, Cherry Hill, NJ  
Florentyna Kovacic, Hillside, IL  
Jozefa Lawrence, Trenton, NJ  
Eleonora Mrocza, Mayfield, PA  
Robert L. Paine, Philadelphia, PA  
Stanislawa Przybylinska, Berwick, PA  
Mary M. Rottmund, Lancaster, PA  
Joseph Rusin, Carbondale, PA  
Cecelia Scatina, Avoca, PA  
Arthur Shypulski, St. Paul, MN  
Henry Joseph Stroh, Danville, PA  
Joseph F. Trompeter, Lebanon, PA

### Reaching Age 85

Robert B. Biggs, Lancaster, PA  
Louis Carpenetti, Harrison, NJ  
Dolores Czech, Nanticoke, PA  
Cyril R. Faust, Lebanon, PA  
Dorothy George, West Chester, PA  
Stefania Gorska, Lawrenceville, NJ  
Florence Gorski, Lawrenceville, NJ  
Elizabeth M. Horn, Columbia, PA  
Irene Janoski, Pittston, PA  
Jame C. Kiscadden, Manheim, PA  
Helen Kopack, Scranton, PA  
Wiktor Kotla, Trenton, NJ

Irene Leschak, Jermyn, PA  
Joseph T. Meredith, Scranton, PA  
Regina Mojek, Larksville, PA  
Sattazahn-Sterba, M., Middletown, PA  
Joseph Serwa, Elmwood Park, IL  
Helen Siwinski, Pekville, PA  
Helena Sleaf, Staten Island, NY  
Maryanna Smith, Luzerne, PA  
Paul F. Smith, Doylestown, PA  
Elva Socoloski, Lancaster, PA  
Lillian Stebick, Olean, NY  
Genowefa Stoklosa, Old Forge, PA  
Gerald E. Strumski, Wilkes-Barre, PA  
Robert Taszarek, Osceola Mills, PA  
Ted J. Wujcik, Oil City, PA

### Reaching Age 80

Rose M. Arnold, Lebanon, PA  
Elaine G. Bilski, Mechanicsville, VA  
Dorotha Grycko, Wyoming, PA  
Rozalia Havira, Wilkes-Barre, PA  
Joseph Ksiasek, Olyphant, PA  
James A. Meluskey, Lebanon, PA  
Julie Nicholas, Scranton, PA  
Richard J. Pencak, Chicago, IL  
Genevieve M. Reeve, Gettysburg, PA  
Dolores A. Sendziak, Orland Park, IL  
Mary Solkowski, Chicago, IL  
Frances Varettoni, Totowa, NJ

And to all our Members and Readers who celebrate Birthdays in these months, Happy Birthday—Sto lat

**NOTE:** If a member does not wish to have their birthday announced, please notify the Home Office.

## New Secretary For Group 378

An open letter to Group 378  
Many of you remember our long time Group Secretary, Charlotte Citko. Charlotte was my Grandmother, and upon her passing, I have taken over her duties as Secretary.

I have been a member of Group 378 since 1975. While growing up I attended many of the Annual Installation Luncheons, Christmas Parties, and other group events.

The Polish Union is an important part of my life, just as it was an important part of my Grandmother's.

I look forward to working with you all in the future. Please feel free to contact me with your questions or concerns.

Robyn Carpenter P.O. Box 1811 Woodstock, IL 60098  
Phone: 815-451-133 Email: carpen-ter.robyn@rocketmail.com

Sincerely,  
Robyn Carpenter

## Send Us Your News

Polish Union Members as well as Grand Council Members are asked to send articles along with a picture (if possible) to Public Relations Coordinator, Chris Pagoda at the Home Office via mail; or

E-mail to: [cap@polishunionusa.com](mailto:cap@polishunionusa.com)  
If you have questions call Chris at (570) 823-1611.

## Coloring Contest Announced by Young Adult Committee For Ages 12 and Under

The Annual Children's Easter Party scheduled for March 26, 2012 in the Polish Union Community Room in Wilkes Barre, PA will have an added feature. Early in 2012 the committee will finalize details for the party but the Special addition is a coloring contest coordinated by Miss Polish Union USA, Nicole Poplawski. This contest is open to all members and can enter by coloring and sending in the page from the Journal or a photo copy of same. (Bunny with Egg) Prizes will be awarded in 3 age categories, 0-4, 5-7, and 8-12 with judging by the Committee. Completed entries should be mailed to our Home Office, Polish Union USA, PO Box 660, Wilkes Barre, PA 18703 by March 1, 2012. Please include child's name, age and mailing address with your entry.

Those who wish to compete for a bonus prize can also refer to our web page [www.PolishUnionUSA.com](http://www.PolishUnionUSA.com) for information on the coloring contest. The same rules apply and these prizes will also be awarded at the Children's party on Sunday March 26, 2012.

Name-

Age-



## Focus Group To Meet March 11

Our Executive Committee is finalizing plans for a Focus Group Meeting in the Community Room of Polish Union USA, Wilkes Barre, PA on Sunday March 11, 2012. Invited guests will include Board Members, Committee Members, and active Volunteers.

The forum, with emphasis on membership growth and the general welfare of our organization, is open to all members especially those interested in volunteering their time and talent for the good of Polish Union. Call our office at 570-823-1611 if you wish to be added to the invitation list.

## Thanks To Volunteers

Father Patrick Albert extends thanks to all of the volunteers who assisted with the Commission on Economic Opportunity Annual Thanksgiving Food Distribution. Hundreds of volunteers from many organizations helped distribute food packages to more than 7600 households in Northeastern PA and he was pleased to note that Polish Union was represented among the volunteers. Anyone interested in helping at CEO throughout the year should call Maura Modrovsky at 570 826-0510, ext. 215.

## Don't Lose Touch

If you have encountered a member who hasn't been receiving their insurance bills, or a copy of this newspaper, chances are that they have moved and have not notified us of their new address. If you or someone you know has moved, please contact us.

## Support The Henry J. Dende Scholarship Fund

**\$10,000**

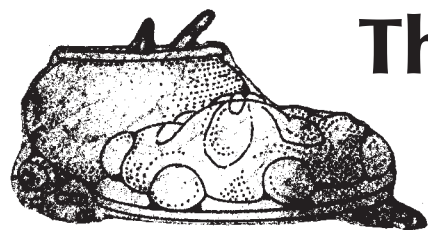
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## The Polish Chef

### Paczki Galore!

The "pączek" (plural pączki) is the favorite cake of the pre-Lenten carnival season. In Poland it reigns supreme on Tłusty Czwartek (Fat Tuesday)—the last Thursday before Lent, while across Polonia this light and luscious filled Polish doughnut is mainly associated with Shrove Tuesday. We present two different pączki recipes gleaned from various sources over the years.

#### Gourmet Warsaw Pączki

Beat 12 egg yolks with 1 t. salt at high speed until mixture is thick and piles softly (about 7 mins.) Separately add 2 pkg. active dry yeast to a bowl containing 1/4 c. warm water to soften. 1/3 c. room-temp. butter or margarine, gradually adding 1/2 c. sugar, until fluffy. Stir 1 c. flour into yeast mixture. Add 3 T rum and 1/2 c. pre-scalded whipping cream, then beat in another c. of flour and stir in another 1/2 c. of whipping cream. Beat in another c. of flour and the yolk mixture, beating about 2 min. Gradually beat in 1-1/2 c. flour and continue beating until air blisters appear in dough. Cover dough with plastic wrap and place in a warm place to rise. When doubled in bulk, punch down, cover and when it rises again, punch it down. Roll dough out on floured board 3/4" thick put into 3" rounds. Place a spoonful of very thick jam or preserves at center of half the rounds. Brush edges of rounds with water and top with remaining rounds. Pinch edges together to seal. Cover pączki and keep in warm place until doubled in bulk (about 20 min.). Fry pączki in hot (365 degree F) fat to a nice golden brown on both sides. Transfer to absorbent paper and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar if desired.

#### Pączki

Mash 1-3/4 oz. fresh yeast with 2 T sugar and and dissolve in 5 T. milk. Set aside to rise. Cream 4 egg yolks and 2 whole eggs with 6 T sugar and grated rind of half a small lemon add yeast mixture, 7 c. flour, 1-1/2 c. milk, 1 t. salt and knead ingredients to combine. Add 2 T. rum and knead again. Gradually add 9 T. melted butter and continue kneading until fully blended, then set aside in warm place to rise. When dough doubles in bulk, divide into 4 parts. Roll out each part on floured board to a thickness of 1/3". In sieve, drain 1-1/2 cherry preserves. (Use the drippings to flavor tea, vodka, cake, pudding or ice-cream). Cut dough into rounds with glass or biscuit-cutter and place some drained cherry preserves at center, cover with another round and pinch rounds together with fingers. Place pączki on flour-sprinkled surface, cover with cloth and set aside in warm place to rise. After they rise, turn them over. Heat lard or oil. It is hot enough if a piece of dough floats to the top immediately. Brush excess flour off pączki and fry in hot fat deep enough so they can float freely. when one side is browned, turn them over. Transfer pączki to absorbent paper and dust with confectioner's sugar.

*Smacznego!*



This is Cold	To jest zimne toh-yest zheem-neh
Take it away	Proszę to zabrać proh-sheh toh zahb-rahch
This is not clean	To nie jest czyste toh nyeh yest chis-teh
A Glass of	Szklanka shklah-kah
Wine	Wino vee-noh
Beer	Piwo pee-voh

### Now You Know!

A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.  
A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.  
A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.  
A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.  
A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.  
A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.  
A snail can sleep for three years.  
Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.  
All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.  
Almonds are a member of the peach family.  
An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.  
Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.

## Koffee Klatch

with P.K.



• **Dzien dobry!** Welcome to my kitchen! After the lull in January, we need something to pick us up again. So today our thoughts are around Valentine's Day, which is just around the corner, February 14th to be more specific. When my guests got a glimpse of our buffet table their eyes lit up! A group of exotic coffees are ready to be poured and the table of goodies consists of chocolate cookies, chocolate covered strawberries, mom's old-fashioned chocolate cake and an array of chocolate covered nuts.

Why all the chocolates some of my guests inquired? "And it's the good stuff." Gloria stated, "wow, look at this Dutch chocolate," while Andrea raved at the Belgian chocolates.

I decided to give my guests some incredible information I recently learned about chocolate. Do you know that chocolate is good for you? According to researcher Andrew L. Waterhouse, Ph.D., real chocolate is loaded with phenols, antioxidants similar to the ones found in red wine. Also, cocoa butter, the one used in Belgian and Swiss chocolate doesn't raise cholesterol, unlike the cheaper fats used on discount chocolates.

According to Dr. Howard Shapiro's clinically proven food awareness and Picture Perfect Weight Loss program, one cup of chocolate chip ice cream equals 10 fudgsicles. The wrong ways to chocolate binge are: 1-pack sugar-free chocolate caramels 360 calories; 1-pack fructose-sweetened chocolate covered raisins is 540 calories and 3 reduced-fat chocolate wafers is 240 calories. The right way to chocolate binge is: 12 oz. chocolate frozen yogurt is 240 calories chocolate sbake (lo-cal mix) is 70 calories a mug of-hot cocoa (low-cal) is 20 calories. 3 Hershey's chocolate kisses are 73 calories

So, now that Valentine's Day is coming up, make sure the chocolate is all around and for the guys out there, only buy the best chocolate for your sweethean.

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**Could Mashed Potatoes be a Lifesaver?** According to researchers, mashed potatoes protect against cancer, and can lower your blood pressure and even melt away pounds and slash your risk of cancer and heart disease. Of course, you must leave out the butter, etc., only use fat free sour cream, parsley or plain, with raw or steamed veggies. They claim that if the 45 million women who fear colon cancer, just pile the potatoes on your plate and you may not be one of them. This has been recorded by Mary Ellen Camire, Ph.D.

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**For Valentine's Day**—Put a Little Snice Secret In Your Marriage: How do you do it?

Just put a little secret that just the two of you share. Recent studies confirmed that couples who share special secrets have happier and loving marriages. Use these little secrets on special occasions like anniversaries, etc., because this is a day that is special to only the two of you. Come up with special abbreviations: such as how is your tbig? Give each other pet names (use them only when you are alone). Create a secret word or signal (I'm sure you can get the message). So, go ahead and squeeze his pinkie, or tap his back two times or: scratch your right ear and he will know what your romantic signal is. Doesn't this sound like fun?

#### Dear P.K.

I am an employee in a large corporation. My job is in the supervisory range. I have a friend who is also in a similar position. On occasion I must work I with another employee named John. Sue thinks John is a dream and I have noticed how jealous she seems to get when John and I must work together. She recently began to spread rumors that John and I are seeing each other outside of work. This is a lie. I am a happily married woman and resent these rumors. What can I do?

—Vicki

#### Dear Vicki:

The way we allow people to treat us is how they learn to treat us. If you find a comment hurtful, speak up! A simple "I don't find that funny" will make them understand that what they've said was inappropriate and you'll feel better knowing you stood up for yourself. Or, emphatically state to whoever is making the statement: "This is a lie and this rumor must stop, now!"

—PK

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**Note:** A woman went to confession to confess that she told a terrible lie about someone and asked for forgiveness. The priest told her for her penance she must buy a chicken and stand in the roadside and pluck all the feathers from the chicken and bring the chicken back to the priest. She did that and he said, "Very good, now I want you to go back and pick up all the feathers." The woman replied, "But father, I can't pick up the feathers, they are scattered everywhere." The priest replied, "That is right, just like your rumours are. No go and learn your lesson."

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**Strictly Personal:** Birthday and Anniversary to everyone celebrating in January, February and March.

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*Please keep on sending me your letters and comments. Write PK, 17 Laurel Drive, Scranton, PA 18505.*

## St. Joseph's Dinner

Sponsored by

The Polish Union of U.S.A.

Activities Committee

At the

Ramada Inn—Wilkes-Barre, PA

**Saturday, March 24, 2012**

Cocktails 5:30pm – Dinner 6 pm

Music By the George Tarasek Orchestra

**Donation \$30.00**

**Reservations Required By March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Call The Polish Union Home Office**

**570-823-1611**

**Or Nancy Bachurek 570-489-0690**



### What Is It?

## This Is Our New Trade Name

Polish Union USA/Ameripol, a fraternal benefit society with national headquarters in Wilkes-Barre, PA has been in business for over 120 years. We have 9000 members and many of them reside in eastern PA. Because of our involvement in social – cultural activities, community projects, youth development programs and related endeavors many people are not fully aware of our primary business which is life insurance. For this reason we decided to add the name Ameripol to more effectively market our special products. We focus on 5, 10, and 20 thousand dollar policies for all ages with emphasis on children because they are potentially eligible for Scholarship benefits.

For more information call 823-1611 or visit [www.polishunionusa.com](http://www.polishunionusa.com)

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and The Latest Info*

**POLISHUNIONUSA.COM**

## In Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Area: Easter Party For Children

**Sunday, March 25, 2012**

**Beginning at 1:00 p.m.**

**Polish Union Building**

**53-59 N. Main Street**

**Wilkes-Barre**

*Sponsored By The Young Adult  
Committee*



### For Reservations:

- Parents are invited to bring their children ages 0-10 to the party.
- There will be an Egg Hunt, Entertainment and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Refreshments will be served.

### Reservations Necessary

Phone the Polish Union Home Office at 823-1611 by April 6 to make reservations.

**Volunteers To Help At This Event Are Welcome**

## NE Penna. Fraternals Meet For Christmas



The FSNEPA recently held their year end meeting at the Ramada Inn, Wilkes Barre, PA. This annual Christmas affair marks the introduction of officers for the coming year and is also a fundraiser benefitting a local Charity. The recipient this year was the Domestic Violence Service center. A contingent of Polish Union USA representatives attended the meeting. Pictured above are (see photo

Mary Ellen Kolodziej, Bernard Kolodziej, Atty Jeff Malak, Charlotte Androckitis  
Standing are Alice Czyzyk, Terri Rumenski, Anastasia Bachurek, and Father Patrick Albert

## Join Our Family Activities

### Clip and Save

Members are encouraged to participate in all educational, cultural, civic and social activities sponsored by Polish union of USA. the following activities are yours for the taking. They are designed for all ages. We urge you and your family to participate in them.

### 2012

#### March

- March 11 **Focus Group Meeting in the Polish Union.**Community Room, Wilkes-Barre. Beginning at 1 pm.
- March 24 **St. Joseph's Dinner-Dance** Ramada Inn, Public Square in Wilkes-Barre. Cocktails 5:30 pm. Dinner 6:30 pm. Dancing until 10:30 pm.
- March 25 **Children's Easter Party,** Polish Union Community Room, Wilkes-Barre. 1 to 3 pm

#### April

- April 27 **Polish Union Annual Board Meeting**
- October 22 **Chicago Fall Meeting** and Pot Luck Luncheon. 1 p.m., Alliance of Polish Clubs, 5835 W. Diversey, Chicago
- TBA **Children's Halloween Party**

#### June

- June 24 **Family Picnic, Knoebels Amusement Park,** Elysburg, PA Luncheon Noon to 3 pm

#### October

- TBA **Pulaski Parade in Philadelphia.** Bus trip details will be announced.

#### November

- November 3 **Annual Debutante Ball.** Watch for details in the next issue.

#### December

- December 2 **Zonta Club Annual Christmas Party**

All dates and times are subject to change. For the latest revisions or additions, or to register on-line, go to [www.PolishUnionUSA.com](http://www.PolishUnionUSA.com) or phone (570) 823-1611.

## How Many \$20s in 2012?

We are offering you the opportunity to earn as many \$20's as you wish in 2012. Our Recommender Program is scheduled to run throughout the whole year. Members who recommend someone who enrolls or increases their level of insurance coverage with Polish Union USA/Ameripol by \$5000 or more will receive a \$20 fee for each new member. The "Going Green" phrase is popular in terms of using less paper and saving energy as you know from various messages in mail, on the air, and in the media. We are adding another definition to that phrase by empowering you to earn some "Green" in the form of 20 dollar bills. Send those prospects in today while our supply of "Green" lasts!

## Chaplain Blesses Polish Union Home Office at Wigilia



Father Albert assisted by Miss Polish Union 2011, Leigh Anne Machowski, conducted the traditional Blessing as part of the Wigilia Program held in our community Room. He also celebrated a Special Mass prior to the Vigilia.

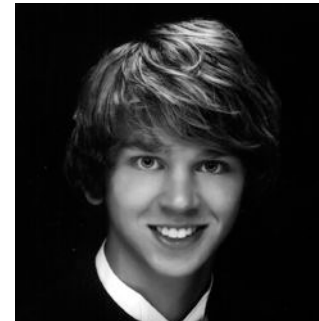
## More Scholarship Winners



**Atwell, M.**

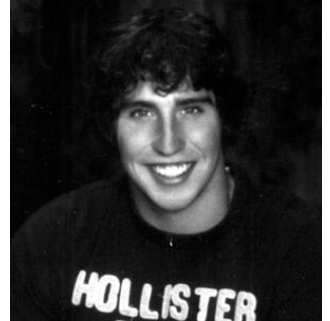
A few more of our members who received stipends through out Henry J. Dende Scholarship Fund for the 2011-2012 academic year.

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**Matthew Nicholas Atwell,** Gr.73, Old Forge, PA is the son of Nicholas and Kathleen Atwell. He is a Political Science major in his Freshman year at St. Joseph's Univ., Philadelphia, PA.  
•••



**Kuchwara, S.**

**Samuel Niles Kuchwara,** Gr.163, Scranton, PA, is the son of Samuel and Gail Kuchwara. He is a second year Biology/Environmental Science major at Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA.  
•••



**Pelczar, J.**

**Jacob T. Pelczar,** Gr. 189, Billings, MT, is the son of Brian and Tracie Pelczar. He is a Business/Finance major in his third year at the Univ. of Montana, Missoula, MT.

**Lately Just About Everything  
Is Increasing In Cost  
Are You and Your Family  
Keeping Up?  
Check Out Our Affordable  
Plans of Life Insurance  
Protection**