

NARÓD



POLSKI

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March 1, 2011 - 1 marca 2011

Top Annuity Producers



Dennis Drake

Helping Folks get the Most for their Money!

Congratulations to the PRCUA's top annuity producers for the year January 1 to December 21, 2010. It is an honor to recognize them for their outstanding achievements in annuity sales!

For the second year in a row, PRCUA's "star" #1 annuity producer is Dennis Drake, CBC, CFC, Ed Slott Elite IRA Advisor from Sales District 8 in Wilmington, DE. He

sold 38 new annuities during 2010, bringing in \$1,747,896.75. Mr. Drake has been in the insurance business since 1989. Dennis and his wife, Kathy, have a 17-year-old daughter, Rachel. Dennis is the president of The IRA Guys. His practice specializes in the protection and growth of his clients' retirement assets. Dennis has been on the board of the National Association of Insurance & Financial Advisors since 1993 and has published numerous articles for consumer and trade magazines. He credits his success to his team, which consists of his wife Kathy and fellow agents Daniel Reisinger, CLU, ChFC and Robert Porter, Jr. LUTCF. "I absolutely could not do it without them," claims Dennis. Congratulations are extended from the PRCUA to Dennis!

Michael Guillatt of District 37 in Fremont, NE is PRCUA's #2 annuity producer. Mr. Guillatt has consistently been a top annuity producer for PRCUA. In 2008, he held the #1 position and in 2009 he was #3. Michael sold 26 new annuities bringing in \$1,137,527.41. He has earned Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU) and Certified Financial Planner (CFP) professional designations. He has over thirty-six years in the financial services business.



Michael Guillatt

Susan Watzlavick of PRCUA Sales District 34 is in the #3 position among annuity producers this year. She has worked in the financial services industry for 28 years and lives in Shiner, TX. Susan sold 25 new PRCUA annuities bringing in \$981,376.58. She is experienced in insurance and investment services including life insurance, annuities, medical supplement, Part D, long term care, mutual funds and retirement planning. Susan is married to Dixon, and they have two children, Jordan and Colton.

Ronnie Weller of Sales District 34 is 4th among top PRCUA annuity producers in 2010. Ronnie sold 7 annuities, bringing in \$487,384.70. He and his wife, Lee Weller, are founders of the Dayspring Advisors Group in Big Rapids, Michigan. They work exclusively to meet the unique financial security and income challenges facing today's retirees.

Mark Guillatt of Sales District 37 in Fremont, NE is in 5th place among top annuity producers. He sold 14 annuities which brought in \$404,679.39. Mark has earned designations as a Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU) and a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) professional. He is an adjunct professor at Midland University in Fremont, NE, and the son of PRCUA's 2010 second place annuity producer, Michael Guillatt. Good salesmanship skills must run in the family.

Congratulations to these top five annuity producers and all of PRCUA's annuity producers, who worked energetically throughout 2010, to show prospective PRCUA members the benefits of investing in a Polish Roman Catholic Union of America annuity plan.

See page 3 for a list of 2010 top annuity producers and information about the types of annuities offered by PRCUA, and news from Agnes (Migiel) Bastrzyk, PRCUA's Director of Sales and Marketing, about IRA contributions that can still be made for the 2010 tax year.



Susan Watzlavick



Mark Guillatt

PERIODICAL POSTAGE
PAID AT CHICAGO, IL

PERIODICAL POSTAGE
PAID AT CHICAGO, IL



Calendar of PRCUA Events

MARCH

5 DEARBORN HTS., MI - ST. STAN'S ONE GAME BOWLING KNOCK-OUT on Sat., March 5 at Noon at Cherry Hill Lanes, Cherry Hill & Inkster Rds. Register at 11:15 am. Dinner/open bar to follow at the Stitt Post, 23850 Military, Dearborn Hts. Bowlers \$30; non-bowlers \$25. Contact Ron and Barbara Bak 734-394-8863. Note: Ladies may start a little later.

5-6 TOLEDO, OH - CITY-WIDE DART TOURNEY on March 5-6 at 1 pm at Misuida Hall, 5255 N. Detroit, Toledo, OH

6 HICKORY HILLS, IL - 36TH ANNUAL SPRING FASHION SHOW LUNCH WITH ENTERTAINMENT on Sun., March 6, at Sabre Room, 8900 W. 95th St., Hickory Hills, IL. Tickets: \$30 - proceeds for scholarships for 2012 Cinderella - Prince Charming Ball Candidates. Please support this fund raiser! Contact Liz or Walter Dynowski at 708-532-1541

7 CHICAGO, IL - PULASKI DAY CELEBRATION on Mon., March 7 at 10 am at 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL - Speeches, entertainment and reception. All are invited.

8 HAPPY PACZKI DAY when all donuts are declared HEALTHY FOOD!

8 LONGWOOD, FL - SOCIETY #1492 "PACZKI DAY" on Tues., March 8, 10-11 am for all PRCUA members who may be in Central Florida that day. Come in and enjoy delicious paczki and coffee, compliments of Society #1492 at Polonia Restaurant, 750 S. Highway 17-92, Longwood, FL.

10 LANSING, MI - SOC. #2342 MEETING on Thurs., March 10; Federated Polish Home, 1030 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing; a pot luck dinner at 6 pm. Contact: Tom Croff 517- 627-0222

11 TOLEDO, OH - ECHOES OF POLAND PIEROGI DINNER on Fri., March 11 at Misuida Hall, 5255 N. Detroit Ave., Toledo from 4-8 pm. Dinner is 4 pierogi (your choice), salad, vegetable, bread/butter, dessert, coffee/punch; for Adult \$8, Child \$3. Call for advanced Pierogi Dozen orders \$8/dozen: Cheese, Potato, or Kraut 419-531-8658

12 WARREN, MI - PRCUA GWIAZDA POLISH DANCE SCHOOL BOWLING FUNDRAISER on Sat., March 12, 9:00 pm - midnight, Regal Lanes, 27663 Mound Rd., Warren, MI. Cost is \$20.00 per adult, includes 3 games 9 pin no tap, shoes, pizza and pop. Payments and reservations by March 7. Contact Jessica Wendt - 313-682 - 3031; panijessica@hotmail.com

13 CHICAGO, IL - ANNUAL CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER catered by Ray Harrington; sponsored by District 7 on Sun., March 13; Cocktails 1 p.m. - Dinner 2 p.m. at PRCUA Social Hall, 984 N. Milwaukee, Chicago, IL. Cost: \$25. Deadline March 8. No tickets sold at the door. All reservations on a first-come basis. Make checks to: District #7 PRCUA; mail to: Irene DeLonka, 1323 Churchill Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60195; Call: 847-882-3261

15 JOHNSTOWN, PA - ST. CASIMIR'S SOC. #531 MEETING on Tues., March 15 at 7:30 pm 306 Power St. Send premiums to: L. McClain, 306 Power St., Johnstown, PA 15906

16 CHICAGO, IL SOC. #475 MEETING on Wed., March 16 at 7:30 pm at PRCUA Social Hall, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL Contact: B. Jura 773-685-3134

19 SOUTHGATE, MI - 77TH PRCUA NATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT on Sat., March 19 at Aquinas Center, 15601 Northline Rd., Southgate, MI hosted by Sacred Heart Society#162, Kelly Salatowski, Chairperson. Accommodations at Holiday Inn Southgate, 17201 Northline Rd., Southgate, MI. Call 888-465-4329 or 734-283-4400. Entry deadline March 4th.

20 HAMTRAMCK, MI - ST. JOSEPH SOC. #261 ANNUAL MASS AND HOLY COMMUNION Sun., March 20, at St. Louis the King, 18891 St. Louis St., Detroit. Breakfast after Mass in St. Louis' Cafeteria, followed by short Society meeting. Contact: Dir. Tom Lisiecki 586-795-8901

20 WYANDOTTE, MI - SOC. #162 MEETING on Sun., March 20 at 1 pm. at PRCU #162 Hall, 1430 Oak, Wyandotte, MI. Dues: L. Alexander, 1059 Molno, Wyandotte, MI 48192

20 WYANDOTTE, MI - PRCUA SALES SEMINAR on Sun., March 20 at 2 pm, PRCU #162 Hall, 1430 Oak, Wyandotte, MI for current deputies and those who want to become a PRCUA sales representative; Please RSVP for this training program by March 14, 2011. RSVP on the PRCUA website at <http://prcu.org/agentsupport.htm> or by calling Agnes Bastrzyk at: 1-800-772-8632 Ext. 2632

20 TOLEDO, OH - SOC. #1584, #1633, #1617 & #719 MEETING on Sun., March 20 at 1 pm, Misiuda Hall, 5255 N. Detroit, Toledo, OH. Call: Dir. Joan Sylak 419- 729-2126

21-31 SOC #1492 "PISANKI CLASSES" on March 21-22-23-24-29-30-31 from 2-6 pm; Instructor, master Pisanki (Polish Easter egg) designer Georgina Varani, member of Slovenian Women Union of America. Polonia Restaurant, 750 S. Hwy. 17-92 Longwood FL. Cost \$10 for 4-hour class. Limit of four (4) per class. To register, call Georgina at 407 268 3394 or email her at geovar@bellsouth.net

22 WARREN, MI - POPE JOHN PAUL II SOC. #1593 MEETING on Tues., March 22 at 7 pm, St. Anne's H.S., 36000 Mound Rd., Warren, MI. Call: B. Adamkiewicz 586-573-7510

26 ZAJACZEK DANCE ENSEMBLE 6TH ANNUAL RECITAL on Sat., March 26 at 2:30 pm at Warren Woods High School Auditorium, 13400 E. 12 Mile Rd., Warren, MI; Admission \$7.00; Any Past PRCUA Alumni who would like participate, please contact: Colleen - zajaczekdance@yahoo.com; Rachael Kasperek - rocki_road@yahoo.com; or Tricia Zajac tzajac19@comcast.net

APRIL

3 LEMONT, IL - PRCUA ILL-IND WOMEN'S DIVISION SWIECONKA on April 3; Noon entry; 1 pm Lunch at Crystal Grand Banquets, 12416 S. Archer, Lemont, IL. Cost: \$27 (cash bar) RSVP by March 27. Raffle prizes are appreciated. Contact: Krystyna Lech 708-361-5029

8-10 ADDISON, IL - 74TH PRCUA NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT on the weekend of April 8-10 at Stardust Lanes, 37 E. Lorraine St., Addison, IL hosted by District 7. Accommodations at DoubleTree Guest Suites, 2111 Butterfield Rd., Downers Grove, IL; Singles or doubles \$89.00 plus tax. Call 630-971-2000. Ask for PRCUA Block when making reservations.

14 LANSING, MI - WHITE EAGLE SOC. #2342 MEETING on Thurs., April 14 at Federated Polish Home, 1030 W. Mt. Hope Rd., Lansing, MI. Pot luck dinner at 6 pm; meeting follows at 7 pm. Contact: Tom Croff 517-627-0222

15 TOLEDO, OH - ECHOES OF POLAND DOZEN PIEROGI SALE in Misiuda Hall 5255 N. Detroit Ave. Toledo OH, 10 am to 6 pm; \$8.00 per dozen of Cheese, Potato, and Kraut. Call in advance: 419-531-8658

17 WYANDOTTE, MI - SOC. #162 MEETING on Sun., April 17 at 1 pm. at PRCU #162 Hall, 1430 Oak Street, Wyandotte, MI. Dues: L. Alexander, 1059 Molno, Wyandotte, MI 48192

17 TOLEDO, OH - SOC. #1584, #1633, #1617 & #719 MEETING on Sun., April 17 at 1 pm, Misiuda Hall, 5255 N. Detroit, Toledo, OH. Contact: Joan Sylak at 419-729-2126

17 WARREN, MI - HALKA DANCERS 42ND ANNUAL RECITAL on Sun., April 17 at 3 pm honoring Graduate Christine Danieli at Van Dyke Comm. Aud., 22500 Federal, Warren, MI. Tickets \$7 at door. Contact: Rita: 313-891-2403

Top Annuity Producers
January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010
\$100,000 and Above in Initial Premium

Rank	Dist.	Deputy Name	New Certificates	Initial Premium
1.	08	Drake, Dennis	38	\$1,747,896.75
2.	37	Guilliatt, Michael	26	\$1,137,527.41
3.	34	Watzlavick, Susan	25	\$ 981,376.58
4.	34	Weller, Ronnie	7	\$ 487,384.70
5.	37	Guilliatt, Mark	14	\$ 404,679.39
6.	34	Racine, Wayne	5	\$ 327,308.98
7.	34	McLane, Lonnie	10	\$ 320,269.23
8.	99	Bielenda, Robert	14	\$ 300,030.76
9.	34	Ruegsegger, Howard	47	\$ 295,850.16
10.	34	Hartrich, Bruce	4	\$ 285,791.35
11.	34	Wray, Kevin	9	\$ 263,302.99
12.	30	Watkins, Steven	6	\$ 259,406.62
13.	01	Seranko, William	9	\$ 244,513.49
14.	34	Driscoll, Gary	7	\$ 175,125.82
15.	30	Eck, P. John	2	\$ 150,000.00
16.	34	Ralston, Richard	10	\$ 149,239.70
17.	34	Rawlings Sr., Patrick	6	\$ 119,250.00
18.	40	Irving, William S.	6	\$ 111,384.33
19.	34	Dundas, Patricia	5	\$ 107,551.60
20.	55	Orlowski, Dariusz	2	\$ 106,719.46

Congratulations to these top 20 annuity producers and to all PRCUA deputies who sold annuities during the year 2010. Your hard work is much appreciated!

Message from
Agnes (Migiel) Bastrzyk
Dir. Sales & Marketing

2010 IRA Contribution Deadline:
April 18, 2011

This January, the IRS presented taxpayers with a New Year's gift - three extra days to file Federal Tax Returns.

While ordinarily the IRS deadline is April 15th, this year the District of Columbia is celebrating Emancipation Day (a holiday that celebrates the freeing of slaves in D.C.) on Friday, April 15, 2011. Thus, the IRS was forced to move the deadline to Monday, April 18, 2011**.

This also means that the final deadline this year for making a 2010 IRA contribution is April 18th - even if you plan to extend your 2010 tax return.

If you plan to make an IRA contribution for 2010 anytime after January 1, 2011 (but before April 18, 2011), be sure to clearly state whether the contribution is for the 2010 or 2011 tax year. If you do not specify which tax year the contribution applies to, it may be considered to apply to the year in which it was received - i.e. 2011.

This is only one of several changes affecting taxpayers this year. Some have been forced to wait to file their tax returns due to recent tax law changes approved by Congress.

Taxpayers will be able to track the status of their refunds using a "Where's My Refund?" tool at www.IRS.gov.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)

Lawmakers also extended (for 2010 and 2011) a popular provision allowing taxpayers over age 70½ to make contributions of IRA assets of up to \$100,000 per year directly to a charity. The donation is not tax-deductible, but does not raise reported income that might trigger higher Social Security taxes or Medicare premiums. Amounts donated can count as part of a person's required minimum distribution.

This nontaxable distribution must be made directly by the trustee of your IRA (other than SEP or SIMPLE IRA) to an organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.

2010 and 2011 Combined Traditional and Roth IRA Contribution Limits - Information from IRS.gov

If you are under 50 years of age at the end of 2010 - the maximum contribution that can be made to a traditional or Roth IRA is the smaller of \$5,000 or the amount of your taxable compensation for 2010. This limit can be split between a traditional IRA and a Roth IRA, but the combined limit is \$5,000. **Same limits apply for 2011.**

If you are 50 years of age or older before the end of 2010 - the maximum contribution that can be made to a traditional or Roth IRA is the smaller of \$6,000 or the amount of your taxable compensation for 2010. This limit can be split between a traditional IRA and a Roth IRA, but the combined limit is \$6,000. **Same limits apply for 2011.**

Contact a PRCUA deputy or any PRCUA office now to open or contribute to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) annuity. The minimum needed to open a PRCUA Traditional or Roth IRA annuity is \$300.
(See the details of the PRCUA Annuity Portfolio to the left.)

** Please contact your tax advisor for more information regarding tax law changes or if you have questions regarding this year's April 18, 2011 IRS deadline to file Federal tax returns. Some state income tax returns must still be filed by April 15, 2011. Many of us miss out on tax benefits each year because we are unfamiliar with the tax laws. Please consult a tax professional to determine which type of IRA would best fit your financial plans.

	MILLENNIUM	CLASSIC	PREFERRED
Accumulation Value	Annual Percentage Yield (APY)*		
\$300.00 - \$49,999	3.125%	3.075%	3.000%
\$50,000 - \$99,999	3.250%	3.125%	3.000%
\$100,000 and above	3.375%	3.250%	3.000%
Guaranteed Minimum APY	3.000%	3.000%	3.000%
Plan Types	Non-Qualified Traditional IRA Roth IRA SEP-IRA SIMPLE-IRA TSA	Non-Qualified Traditional IRA Roth IRA SEP-IRA SIMPLE-IRA TSA	Non-Qualified Traditional IRA Roth IRA SEP-IRA SIMPLE-IRA TSA
Index Type	Fixed	Fixed	Fixed
Service/Maintenance Charge	None	None	None
Surrender Charge	7 Years:	4 Years:	2 Years:
Annual Surrender Charge	8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 1%	5%, 4%, 3%, 2%	3%, 2%
Additional Deposit	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Annual Surrender Charge Free Withdrawals Allowed**	10%	10%	10%
Minimum Initial Deposit	\$300	\$300	\$300
Minimum Optional Additional Deposit	\$25	\$25	\$25

**ANNUAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010
OF THE POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA
984 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60642**

ASSET	
Bonds.....	\$ 134,348,900
Stocks...(Preferred \$20,445,914 - Common \$ 6,722,757).....	27,168,671
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....	7,737,013
Real Estate Owned including Contract Sales.....	2,773,919
Certificate Loans.....	1,285,015
Cash on Hand and On Deposit.....	1,819,872
Short Term Investment.....	10,295,227
Electronic Data Processing Equipment.....	59,576
Premiums Actually Collected by Subordinate Lodges Not Yet Remitted to Home Office.....	71,236
Investment Income Due and Accrued.....	<u>1,923,935</u>
TOTAL ADMITTED ASSETS	\$ <u>187,483,364</u>

LIABILITIES, SPECIAL RESERVES AND UNASSIGNED FUNDS	
Aggregate Reserve For Life Certificates and Contracts.....	\$ 179,104,998
Deposit - Type Contracts.....	56,296
Certificate and Contract Claims.....	1,087,239
Provisions For Refund Payable in Following Calendar Year.....	75,000
Life Premiums Received in Advance.....	437,766
Surrender Values on Canceled Certificates.....	9,404
Interest Maintenance Reserve.....	240,676
Commission to Field Workers Due or Accrued.....	2,853
General Expenses Due or Accrued.....	129,839
Taxes, Licenses and Fees Due or Accrued.....	100,361
Unearned Investment Income.....	11,189
Amounts Withheld or Retained by Society as Agent or Trustee.....	148,695
Assets Valuation Reserve.....	<u>2,447,673</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ <u>183,851,989</u>

Special Bonus Dividend Payable in Following Year.....	-0-
Unassigned Funds.....	3,631,375

TOTAL **\$ 3,631,375**

TOTAL **\$ 187,483,364**

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS (Excluding Unrealized Capital Gains and Losses)	
Life and Annuity Premiums.....	\$ 16,943,991
Net Investment Income.....	8,644,478
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve.....	31,856
Reimbursement for Educational Stipends.....	<u>5,306</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ <u>25,625,630</u>

DEDUCT:	
Death Benefits.....	\$ 2,103,807
Matured Endowments.....	249,858
Annuity Benefits.....	4,895,017
Disability Benefits.....	704
Surrender Benefits.....	5,784,192
Interest on Certificates or Contract Funds.....	2,585
Supplementary Contracts with Life Contingencies.....	511,034
Supplementary Contracts without Life Contingencies.....	-0-
Increase in Aggregate Reserve for Certificates and Contracts with Life Contingencies.....	8,834,553
Commission on Premiums.....	155,101
Contributions for Employees Benefits.....	126,381
General Insurance Expense and Fraternal Payments.....	3,512,749
Taxes, Licenses and Fees.....	<u>223,513</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ <u>26,399,495</u>

Net Gain From Operations Before Refunds to Members and Excluding Realized Capital Gains and Losses.....	\$ (773,864)
Refund to Members.....	60,752
Net Gain From Operations After Refunds to Members.....	\$ (834,616)
Net Realized Capital Gains.....	<u>(240,976)</u>

NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS **\$ (1,075,592)**

UNASSIGNED FUNDS AND SPECIAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS			
Unassigned Funds 12/31/09	\$ 4,312,268	Unassigned Funds 12/31/10	\$ 3,631,375
Unrealized Gain	<u>1,726,103</u>	Net Loss From Operation	1,075,592
		Change in Reserve	990,027
		Change in Non-Admitted Assets	131,377
		Change in Reserve on Account of	
		Change in Valuation Basis	<u>210,000</u>
TOTALS	\$ <u>6,038,371</u>	TOTALS	\$ <u>6,038,371</u>

SUMMARY OF VALUATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR OF 2010

Number of	Amount of	Total
<u>Life Certificates</u>	<u>Insurance</u>	<u>Reserves</u>
58,432	\$ 351,790,662	\$ 179,104,998
Expected Mortality on Gross Amounts At Risk.....		\$ 1,682,751
Net Death Losses Incurred in 2010 Less Reserve Released		736,332
Ratio Percent of Actual to Expected Mortality on Gross Amounts at Risk During 2010.....		43.76%
Net Investment Income.....		\$ 8,644,478

RATE OF NET INVESTMENT INCOME TO MEAN ASSETS

2006 - 5.36%	2007 - 5.39%	2008 - 5.73%
	2009 - 5.03%	2010 - 4.85%

RATIO OF ASSETS TO LIABILITIES

2006 - 110.32%	2007 - 108.06%	2008 - 103.78%
	2009 - 102.48%	2010 - 101.98%

The Society's valuation indicates that on the basis of the American Experience of 1941, 1958, 1980, 2001 Commissioner's Standard Ordinary Table of Mortality with interest at 2 1/2%, 4% and 5%, the future assessment payments at the net rates now collected together with the invested assets are sufficient to meet all certificates as they mature by their terms with a margin of safety of \$ 3,631,375 over the above statutory standard.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph A. Drobot, Jr., President
Anna Sokolowski, Vice President
Robert L. Bielenda, Vice President
James J. Robaczewski, Secretary - Treasurer
Emily Kurda, Controller
Steimla & Associates, Inc., Actuary

**Musical About Pope John Paul II
Highlights Diocesan Centennial**

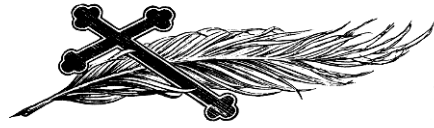
Des Moines, IA - The Diocese of Des Moines is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year with the theme "A Journey Together, Celebrating Evangelization: Past, Present and Future." One of the highlights of that centennial celebration will be a presentation of the new musical called "The Pope of the People, the John Paul II Musical" by composer Tom Quiner.

Pope John Paul II was far more than the 'Man of the Century.' He was truly the Pope of the people. He touched our lives in countless ways and left a lasting impression wherever he went. Much of this musical dramatizes the late Holy Father's historic trip to Poland in 1979. It includes the pageantry of that trip to his beloved homeland, his impact upon the communist government and especially upon Poland's Solidarity Labor Movement - which eventually changed the face of Eastern Europe. This all new theatrical piece also portrays the late Pontiff's miraculous escape from death at the hands of an assassin.

The Musical will be performed as part of the Diocesan Centennial Celebration on April 10, 2011 at Christ the King Church in Des Moines, IA. Monsignor Frank Boganno, Pastor of Christ the King, where Quiner's other spiritually-oriented musicals have been presented in the past had stated: "Christ the King packed the church for Tom Quiner's last musical, 'A Living Heaven.' His musical dramas bring our faith alive in a wildly entertaining way. Evangelization through entertainment is a great tool to help make a parish vibrant. We are looking forward to his new musical, 'The Pope of the People' on April 10th, 2011 at Christ the King."

Quiner composed the musical because he believes that the late Pope John Paul II's legacy in regard to Poland is worth telling time and time again. "The Pope of the People" - which features 15 songs as well as the spoken word - tells that story in a highly entertaining and dramatic way. It is Quiner's greatest hope that word will spread about this musical to local churches and theater groups who want to perform a show that combines artistry with faith, in a heartfelt, entertaining and memorable way.

More information about the Musical can be found at the official website: www.thePopeofthePeople.com. Groups and churches who may be interested in obtaining the music and rights to perform this piece, can contact: Breakthrough Productions, 4910 Urbandale Ave, Suite 301, Des Moines, Iowa 50310 or phone: 1-800-810-4152 or 515-276-9266 or email: karen@bmi-info.com.

Dearlly Departed PRCUA**Brothers
and Sisters**

NAME	SOC	ST			
			MITCHELL, SARAH	2003	PA
ABRAHAM, LOTTIE	2248	OH	NAPORA, GENEVIEVE	1198	IL
ANDREWS, FRANCES	850	IN	PATULA, MARY	317	IL
BACZKOWSKI, PATRICIA	1124	MI	PILCH, ANGELINE	119	PA
BADACZEWSKI, HELEN	2227	MI	RAKOZY, ELEANOR	718	MI
BONCZAR, MARY	658	MA	RASINSKI, LAURA	2248	OH
BORZYNSKI, GENEVIEVE	1202	WI	RAUSCHENBACH, JOHN	1031	IN
BURTYK, ZOFIA	247	OH	RYTERSKI, ROSE	450	MO
CIEREBIEJ, EDWARD	1000	IL	SADOWSKI, HELEN	2001 & 2026	PA
CRISTILLO, GLADYS	2319	PA	SALEK, STEFANIA	1371	CT
DEMS, LEONARD	160	NY	SCHROEDER, BEATRICE	23	MI
EBBOTT, MARLENE	1202	WI	SHAFFER, JOSEPH	36	OH
FIELDS, LISA MARIE	237	PA	SPINA, IGNATIUS	517	NJ
FORTUNA, ELEANOR	1000	IL	STOREK, LOUIS	880	IL
GAWLE, LOUIS	593	IL	STRBAY, ELEANOR	823	IL
GLADYSZ, WALTER	322	PA	SUBIK, LOUIS	148	PA
GOEBESKE, NORMAN	23	MI	SWIDERGAL, MATTHEW	308	IL
GREBOWIEC, MICHAEL	1598	IL	SWIERAT, FLORENCE	540	NY
GRZYBOWSKI, THEODORE	7	PA	SZULIST, WLADYSLAWA	2274	MI
JONES, RICHARD	353	NY	TOMCZAK, ELENORE	2008	PA
KANOZA, CYRIL	237	PA	WAGNER, LOTTIE	471	IL
KOLO, FRANK	1451 & 2220	OH	WASIK, JULIA	162	MI
KROL, JOHN	2274	MI	WHITE, DOLORES	2021	PA
KURP, JOSEPH	2291	PA	WISNIEWSKI, CASIMIR	122	IL
KWARTNIK, CHARLOTTE	308	IL	WOLAK, JOSEPH	2199	MI
LASASSO, ELEANORA	33	IL	WOZIAK, ANN	1477	MI
LIBERACKI, BERNICE	509	IL	ZAJAC, HELEN	471	IL
LYZNAK, BERNICE	308	IL	ZBOROWSKI, JENNIE	84	IL
MALINOWSKI, ROBERT	2152	OH	ZEBROWSKI, STELLA	2015	PA
MARCH, KATHERINE	506	OH	ZECHLINSKI, IRENE	78	MI
MATOSKA, VIOLET	1000	IL	ZIENTEK, WILLIAM	1584	OH
MELKON, HELEN	1133	PA	ZUBIK, ROBERT	148	PA
MILLER, STASIA	353	NY	ZURAWSKI, HELEN	1000	IL

May they rest in eternal peace.

Topinka Receives Advocates' Award



Hon. Judy Baar Topinka

Chicago, IL - The Advocates Society presented Illinois State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka with its coveted Award of Merit on February 17th, 2011 at a dinner held at the InterContinental Hotel in Chicago.

The Award of Merit is the most prestigious honor bestowed by the Advocates Society upon outstanding citizens in recognition of their efforts in support of the Polish community. The Advocates Society cited Topinka for her long-standing service to, participation in and cooperation with the Polish American community over the years.

"Topinka is a friend to Polonia, and she has proven that in Springfield time-

and-time again," said Robert Groszek, Advocates Society 2011-2012 President. "Clearly, she understands the important role that Polonia plays in Chicago and in our communities. We are lucky to have Topinka in Springfield once again."

Established in 1931, the Advocates Society is comprised of lawyers of Polish descent who engage and actively participate in an extensive program of professional, social and ethnic activities. The Award of Merit has been presented almost every year since 1983. Previous honorees include: Hon. Roman Pucinski, Hon. Mary Ann McMorrow, Most Rev. Bishop Thomas Paprocki, Senator Paul Simon and Hon. Aurelia Pucinski.

"The Polish community is an important part of the foundation of Chicago and on a larger scale, Illinois," said Topinka. "I am very honored to receive this award and will continue to do all I can for Polonia."

The PRCUA congratulates "Polonia's Good Friend" on this auspicious award.

PRCUA Members in the Spotlight: Theresa & the late Mitchell Cwiek



Theresa & the late Mitchell Cwiek

Narod Polski is pleased to initiate a new column that highlights the accomplishments of outstanding members of our fraternal organization. We are proud to begin the column by extending Happy Birthday to Theresa Cwiek, who will turn 90 on April 1, 2011! She was born in 1921 in Hamtramck, MI, to Polish-immigrant parents. Her family belonged to St. Florian Parish. She was the daughter of Kazimierz and Stanislaw (nee Oleszczynska) Ploski, who emigrated back to Poland in 1930 with their children.

Even though they were American citizens, Theresa and her newly-married sister, Irena Orzechowski, were arrested by the Nazis in 1941. They were imprisoned in several places and ended up spending 6 months in Liebenau, a detention camp in Ravensburg, Germany. Authorities promised Theresa that her pregnant sister would be soon released and returned to Poland. Meanwhile, Theresa was traded for a German National, in a prisoner exchange, and she was shipped back to the USA, arriving in New York on June 1, 1942. (See the complete story in January 2011 Narod Polski, on page 13.)

Theresa returned to Hamtramck, MI. There she met Mitchell Cwiek. He was born in Tarnowa, Poland on October 11, 1921, the son of Antoni and Ewa (nee Darcz) Cwiek. He immigrated to Hamtramck, MI with his parents as a child and graduated from the local high school.

Mitchell served as a Master Sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, service for which he had been awarded several military medals. Theresa and Mitch were married on June 15, 1945 in Texas, where he was stationed at the time.

After his tour of duty, the Cwieks resided on the East side of Detroit, MI, where they raised their family of three sons and one daughter. Mitch worked as a boiler repairman with the Public Lighting Commission, City of Detroit for 33 years before retiring. He was very active in his parish, Assumption Grotto Church. He was a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus and a strong supporter of the Orchard Lake Seminary and Schools.

Theresa was also very active in Parish activities throughout the years, serving in various capacities and attending church and school events, especially during the time when their children were growing up. She also enjoyed singing in the choir.

Cwieks were the loyal members of PRCUA Society #261 in Michigan. Theresa was Supervisor of Deputies in Society #261. As such, she attended local PRCUA events, including meetings of the Orchard Lake Ladies Auxiliary, dance recitals, and bowling tournaments. Mitchell Cwiek was PRCUA Director of the State of Michigan for 8 years (1962-1970) and he served as a member, and then as Chairman, of the PRCUA National Budget Committee for many years.

Theresa attended five PRCUA Conventions as a delegate and Mitchell Cwiek was a delegate to 7 or 8 Conventions. They also attended PRCUA national sports tournaments and other various activities throughout the years. In 1960, Mitchell Cwiek won a trip to Poland for his outstanding PRCUA life insurance sales! Both Theresa and Mitch won numerous recognitions over the years for being among the top PRCUA life insurance producers.

The Cwieks were most proud of the fact that they raised four healthy and happy children to adulthood - all of whom are kind, loving and productive members of society. Theresa and Mitchell Cwiek were married for 51 ½ years before Mitch passed away on November 26, 1996. Now, Theresa lives with her sister, Irena, 92, in Mount Pleasant, MI, where they belong to Sacred Heart Parish.

"Through the years, through the many meetings, conventions, cultural events, seminars and learning experiences, PRCUA has provided me and my family with innumerable opportunities to share life and make new friends, as well as providing our family with additional income," Theresa reported. "PRCUA has given us a vital link to Poland and Polonia, even as we strove to be loyal American citizens. Thank you, PRCUA!" Theresa stated with a grateful heart.

The Cwiek Family are a 100% PRCUA Family that includes: Tina (Charles Currey) Knight; Michael (Karen) Cwiek; Mark (Patricia) Cwiek; and David (Maureen) Cwiek, as well as grandchildren: Jennifer Dobbs, Carolyn Cwiek; Erika, Alisa, Christa and Andrew Cwiek; and Teri Beth and James Cwiek. Grandson Stephen Cwiek is deceased, God rest his Soul.

Hats off to the Cwieks who brought countless new members into the PRCUA. We appreciate the inspiring leadership and enthusiasm with which they promoted PRCUA membership. It is the friendship and camaraderie of fellow Polish American Catholics that is the most precious "gift" that the PRCUA has to offer to its members. We urge members to become involved in PRCUA at a local, state and/or national level, like the Cwieks. You'll be glad you did!

(Please submit your nominees to be highlighted in this column to: kathryn.rosypal@prcu.org)

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Fraternal Favorites

by The Polish Chef

Robert Srybel

WHITE EASTER BARZSCZ: In pot combine 1 lb (uncooked) kielbasa, 1 quartered onion, 1 bay leaf and water to cover. Boil gently 1 hr. Remove sausage. Strain liquid. If it is greasy, cool to room temp and refrigerate overnight, so congealed fat can be easily removed and discarded. Heat liquid, add 1-2 c rye meal sour, aka *zur*, (store bought or see below), add enough water to make 7-8 c and bring to boil. Remove pot from heat. In bowl, fork-blend 1 heaping T flour with 1 c sour cream until smooth. Slowly add 1 c hot soup to flour mixture, 1 spoonful at a time, whisking vigorously; then stir mixture into soup. For zest, add 1 T horseradish to soup. Simmer several min longer. Provide: quartered hard-cooked eggs, diced ham, cubed farmer cheese and/or prepared horseradish for guests to add to their soup. Serve with rye bread.

RYEMEAL SOUR: In qt jar place 2 slices or several crusts of rye bread, 2 heaping T oatmeal, 1-2 buds garlic, sliced, and 1 bayleaf, drench with 3 c lukewarm, pre-boiled water and let stand in warm place 3 days or until pleasantly tart. Strain mixture and use in barszcz above. Note: Bottled *zur* is available at Polish delis. In a pinch, the above soup may be soured with vinegar, but be sure to add more water to make up for the missing liquid rye sour.

HOMEMADE KIELBASA: Grind coarsely 4.5 lbs pork butts. In bowl, sprinkle 1 lb raw ground beef with 3 T salt, 1 t black pepper, 2 t marjoram and 3-4 buds finely minced garlic. Work seasoning into ground meat, then add the pork and mix well by hand, gradually adding 1/2 - 3/4 c cold water until fully absorbed. Refrigerate in a 1 to 1.5 inch layer in a wide pan, covered, overnight. Stuff hog casings with mixture; twist into 12" links and tie them with white twine. Smoke or cook as below.

BOILED FRESH KIELBASA: Place 3 lbs fresh kielbasa in pot of cold water which should cover the meat by at least 1". Add 1 bay leaf and 1 large quartered onion and cook on low to a gentle boil. Simmer on low covered 30-40 min from the time boiling starts. Let stand in hot liquid another 10 min before serving. Pork must be fully cooked so make sure it is no longer pink inside. Use water for soup (above.)

SMALL EASTER BABKA: In large bowl, dissolve 1 packet dry yeast in 1/2 c. warm half & half. Stir in 2-1/2 T sugar and 1 cup flour; mix well and let stand in warm place until doubled. Stir in 3 T sugar, 1 c flour, 3 beaten eggs, 1 t grated lemon zest, 1/2 t vanilla and 1 T melted butter. Work into a dough by hand and knead until elastic (8-10 min) or let a dough-hook mixer do the job. Knead 1/4 c raisins into dough. Transfer to greased, floured fluted Bundt pan, which should be no more than 1/3 full, cover with towel and let stand in warm place until doubled in bulk (30-40 min.). (The top shelf of a cold oven works well; just place a pan of boiled water on the bottom shelf to warm the oven.) Remove from oven and preheat to 350°; bake 40 min. When cool remove from pan and glaze with icing made by fork-blend 1/2 confectioner's sugar with 1 T lemon juice or cherry juice.

EASTER CHEESE DESSERT: Drain 2 lbs of 4% cottage cheese (not low fat). Squeeze out all moisture. Beat until smooth. In pot, cream 5 egg yolks with 1-1/4 c sugar, stir in 1 c heavy cream. Stirring constantly, heat mixture nearly to boiling, but do not boil. Remove from heat, stir in cheese, 1 stick (1/4 lb) butter, 3/4 c plumped raisins, plumped dried cranberries or marachino cherries cut in half, 1/2 c chopped blanched almonds, 1 t grated orange rind, 1 t vanilla. Mix well and place mixture in cheesecloth. Tie cheesecloth into a ball and hang it up on kitchen sink water spout to drip-dry, twisting ball to extract moisture. When no more moisture can be extracted, press into a jello mold and refrigerate overnight. Unmold and decorate with chopped candied orange rind, slivered almonds or cherries. It's wonderful spread on babka, Hawaiian sweet bread or challah bread.

SAUERKRAUT SALAD: Drain 1 pt sauerkraut, reserving juice. Rinse in cold water, drain, press out moisture and chop coarsely. Place in salad bowl. Add 1 finely-grated carrot, 1 coarsely grated peeled apples and 1 finely-chopped onion. Toss to blend; season with a little sugar and 2-3 T. oil. Optional: Add 1 t caraway seeds. If salad is not as tart as you like, sprinkle with reserved sauerkraut juice.

CAULIFLOWER POLONAISE: Place rinsed whole cauliflower stem-side-down into a pot that's taller than the cauliflower. Add 1 t salt and 1 T sugar; scald with boiling water to cover. Bring to boil, reduce heat to med and cook covered until fork-tender (20-30 min.) Pour out water, let drip-dry, place in serving bowl. In skillet brown 4 T bread crumbs in 4 T butter, salt & pepper lightly. When bubbling, pour crumbs over cauliflower. If too thick, add more butter until it pours.



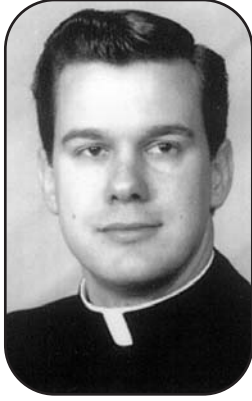
Higher Perspectives



LENT -2011- WIELKI POST



This year, Ash Wednesday, given the tardiness of Easter, comes rather late in this still New Year, falling on March 9. As we know, this marks the beginning of the forty-day Lenten Season which calls



By Fr. Eric Orzech,
St. Bernadette Parish
Westlake, Ohio

us to take seriously our responsibility to spiritually reform and improve our lives in preparation for celebrating the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. So, while we still have plenty of time to enjoy "Mardi Gras" and "Dzien Paczki" and the festive carnival season which leads up to them, our thoughts should also turn to how Lent will leave us better off at its conclusion than when it began.

Lent is a season that gives us plenty of external reminders to support our efforts. Unlike Advent, which does not exist outside of our churches and homes, a simple ride down the street or look to the newspaper reveals plenty of "fish fry" possibilities. Each one is more than just an invitation to a Friday dinner, but a gentle reminder to make good use of each day of this season of spiritual renewal.

Familiar to us all are the three hallmark characteristics, which should guide us through this journey of enrichment. Coming from the gospel read on Ash Wednesday, Jesus Himself says that we should focus our efforts upon PRAYER, FASTING, and ALMSGIVING. Whether we do so and how we go about it, will go a long way in determining if this truly becomes a time of growth or another lost opportunity.

Prayer is an essential for our spiritual life. Lent isn't, therefore a time to remember to pray - we should be doing that already! Lent is the time when we look at how our prayer life might be improved for our benefit. Is it life giving and refreshing or a routine? Do I have a healthy variety or have things become stagnant? Do I take advantage of Lenten seasonal devotions like *Gorzkie Zale* or the Stations of the Cross to allow their richness to refresh me? What attention will I give to my prayer life this Lent?

FASTING, while not just for Lent, certainly is an appropriate component to be emphasized during these forty days. It is also something from which we can all benefit. Cutting back on food and drink overall, and choosing special days like Fridays or Wednesdays to do it, is not only a healthy thing for our bodies, but sharpens our mind and spirit, too. We learn again the important difference between what we really need and all the different things we merely want. Moving our observance beyond just food and drink to things like entertainment and television strengthens our willpower and self-control, which serves us well in every aspect of life. What realistic fasting goals will I set for myself this Lent?

ALMSGIVING, or charity, is a general characteristic of the Christian life, which also gets heightened attention during Lent. Our good deeds and gifts-of-self are the greatest things we have to offer. Of course, the sharing of our resources and financial offerings go a long way in helping to contribute to the good, too. Making our time, treasure, and talents available in the service of others or a worthy cause enriches not only our lives but also the lives of others. We should ensure that a well-rounded approach in this regard marks our Lenten observance. **While everyone may not be able to do everything, everyone is very capable of doing something.** What will I do in this regard this Lenten Season?

The Good Lord will see that whatever effort we make in our Lenten observance will not go unrewarded. What we have to determine is what those efforts will be.

BUS TRANSPORTATION FROM DETROIT TO BOWLING TOURNAMENT IN ADDISON, IL

The National PRCUA Bowling Tournament will be held in Addison, IL on April 8-10. A bus has been reserved, pending a minimum of 35 people, with payment of \$50 (round-trip) by March 18, 2011. Checks are payable to St. Stan's #718; mail to Gary Ewald at 35961 Perth, Livonia, MI 48154. Contact: Gary Ewald (734)591-0305 or cell (734)895-5519 for further information.

Looking through the Window...

by Resident Vice President Anna Sokolowski



Dear Readers,

As I am writing this article for our March issue, winter is still here. In the last few months we had a long, never ending and challenging winter. We have been frozen, snowed upon and many of us got stranded. Snowfall amounts are mind blowing, to say the least, and records have been set and broken, especially for our members on the East Coast. Even here in Chicago, we had a record amount of snow and ice. I do not know if I will ever see our back yard again. Thank goodness that the month of February is such a short month and it is almost over. For many of us it's not fast enough. We want to go outside without a snow shovel, or wearing coat, hat, boots and gloves. For many of us the month of March is a most hopeful month, because Spring is just around the corner. So, welcome to the month of March! We have a few important dates in March to remember.

The first Monday in March is Casimir Pulaski Day in the State of Illinois. An official celebration will be held on Monday, March 7th, 2011, at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. We will honor General Pulaski, an American Revolutionary hero, who - as a Polish immigrant sacrificed his life for the cause of freedom in America.

On Tuesday, March 8, here in the USA, we will be celebrating PACZKI DAY. In Poland, PACZKI DAY or "Fat Thursday" is on Thursday, March 3rd. Wednesday, March 9th is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. It is a season of repentance, prayer and fasting. May our Lenten season be a joyful journey as we prepare for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter.

March is a time to celebrate with Irish, Italians and Poles - the Irish have St. Patrick's Day and the Italians and Poles have St. Joseph's Feast Day. St. Patrick Day falls on March 17th and gets a parade and green beer. But a few days later, on March 19, we will celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph, commemorating his life. It is a tradition for Poles and Italians to express their ethnic pride by wearing red and participating in a huge feast known as St. Joseph's Table. Happy Names Day to PRCUA President Joseph Drobot Jr. and to all Josephs and Josephines!

Let's us not forget the long awaited First Day of Spring on March 20 and the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Thursday, March 25th.

Now let me share with you what has happened in the last several weeks. The month of January was busy with many events. On Sunday, January 9, the Polish Teachers Association held their Annual Oplatek. This year the event's highlight was the presentation of special awards of recognition to Polonia's teachers from the Polish Ministry of Education by Deputy Consul General of RP Robert Rusiecki and Vice Consul of RP Aleksandra Krystek. They presented medals and certificates of recognition to a few very deserving and dedicated teachers in Polish Language Schools in the Chicagoland area. The Oplatek would not be complete without the traditional sharing of the Oplatek wafer and singing Polish Christmas carols. I would like to congratulate the President of the Polish Teacher's Association - Ewa Koch - on her recent reelection to that position. Congratulations, Pani Ewa, and best wishes always!



Patricia Zupnik & Family

On Saturday, January 22nd, the PRCUA Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Ensemble held its Annual Winter Dance. Stars of the evening were: Natalia and Sonia Grabowski, Patricia Zupnik and Andrew Zwolinski, as they celebrated their 5th year anniversary of dancing with Wesoly Lud. Nearly 500 people packed the Sabre Room in Hickory Hills, IL. They enjoyed the whole program, which included a very good dinner, dancing and an unforgettable performance of "Wesoly Lud" with a special performance in a leading role of the "Stars of the evening" - Natalia, Sonia, Patricia and Andrew. As usual, the dances were spectacular and breathtaking. The dancers delighted the audience with a fast-paced, superbly-staged program. At the end of their program, the performers danced with the guests. It was so nice to see so many young people at this event. Dancing was the priority, as many of the guests kicked off their shoes and danced into the late hours of the evening. A special thank you goes to our talented choreographers - Misia and Richard Jaminski - who did a superb job, as always! Also a big thank you is extended to the organizing committee, parents and dancers.



Sonia & Natalie Grabowski and their Family



Andrew Zwolinski & Family



Participants in the Sales Training Program at the Home Office

William Seranko, Insurance District #1, was the presenter. Thank you to all who participated and we hope that this training was helpful to everyone. We are planning to hold more of them in the near future.

Also on Saturday, Jan. 29, John Paul II Polish Language School of Lemont - Romeoville, IL celebrated its 30th Anniversary with an elegant banquet. The night started off with eloquent speeches by School Director Jolanta Tatara and the School Board members, followed by the honored guests, among whom were: Vice Consul of RP Aleksandra Krystek; President of Polish Teachers Association in America Ewa Koch; the first School Principal Krystyna Pokorny; the first President of the School Board Wiktorja Para; and PRCUA National President Joseph Drobot, Jr. I also had an opportunity to speak. My husband, Mark,



Young Polanie Dancers



Polanie Dancers

and I have had the privilege of being associated with this school since 1985, when our daughter Basia started preschool and later, daughter Alicia also joined. Both of our daughters are proud graduates of John Paul II Polish Language School. We both were very active on the school board and in school activities. In 2002, the school's library was named after my late Mom, Eugenia Chlebowski, who donated hundreds of books and recordings. The official program ended with the performance by the School's dance group "POLANIE". They presented a very beautifully-choreographed sequence of regional dances from Poland. Later, the dancing portion of this event was opened with a traditional and elegant "Polonaise", led by School Director Jolanta Tatara, followed by a stately procession of teachers, who moved gracefully to the beautiful music. The school children and dancers who participated had their own "Disco" in a nearby hall, under the supervision of Lilly Gajda, School Board member and a parent. This elegant event was an unforgettable evening of good company, delicious food, memorable speeches and enjoyable dancing. Special thanks go to the school board, teachers, choreographers, instructors, students and parents for making this evening so special. It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that we congratulate the John Paul II Polish Language School on their 30th Anniversary.

We also congratulate the students. They are the reason the school exists - through their hard work - with help from their dedicated parents. We owe a debt of gratitude to the founders, to the principals and teachers who have served this school for so many years, for their commitment to excellence in education, and for a job well done! With gratitude and appreciation we confidently look forward to another 30 years and more, that this school will continue to grow and achieve great things for a new generation of Polish youth. We hope that our youth will have the same chance to learn and be inspired about Polish language, history, geography and traditions, as those who are lucky to be a part of this school today. I cherish very fond memories of this school. I was deeply touched by the warm greeting and bouquet of beautiful flowers that I received. Thank you to all who put this memorable event together.

BEST WISHES - Happy Birthday to all readers celebrating their birthdays in March, especially: Gen. Office IT assistant Madia Robles; Admin. Asst. to the Secretary-Treasurer, Patricia Tropp; Teresa Cyranek, Ohio Office; past PRCUA Secretary-Treasurer Joyce Szarowicz; Past National Directors Sharon Haberski (D6); Joseph Boruta (D7); Barbara Sergeant-Rustik (D8); District #7 PRCUA National Director and Polonia Dance Ensemble School Director Anna Krysinski; Polskie Maki School Director Maria Jalkiewicz; Gwiazda School Director Cynthia Cervenak; Tomasz Kielar (Pan Tomek) talented Mala Polska choreographer; Ron Toboy, husband of past D10 National Director Barbara Toboy; and PNA V.P. Paul Odrobina.

Let's also sing Sto Lat to all with April birthdays: Kevin Ryba, our I.T. Wizard; Agnieszka (Migiel) Bastrzyk, Sales & Marketing Dir.; Nat'l Dir. D9 Elizabeth Grabowski and her husband, Konrad; Dir. D8 James Rustik; and Past Dir. D8 Steven Cieslicki; Angela Muszaliski; Teresa Gibala, Fin. Secy. Soc. #1633 and Supervisor of D#12; Clara Jakubowski, Deputy in D16; Dariusz Kwasniewski, Frank Kociubinski, Walter Dynowski, Mary Gorny and Pres. Emeritus Ed Dylka. Belated Happy Birthday to 2011 Cinderella, Monica Marszalik and her twin sister Ursula. Wishing you all much happiness!

It's tax time again! Before you file your tax return, please talk to us about IRAs and ROTH IRA before the deadline. The deadline for filing federal tax returns and most state returns is April 18, however some states have an April 15th due date - so check your state!

Until next time, take care. Send comments, ideas, and news to fraternal.department@prcu.org or call 1-800-772-8632 ext. 2643. Keep in touch! (See additional photos at www.prcu.org)



PHILADELPHIA NEWSY-NEWS



Julie Dickinson

THE PURPLE PENGUINS/TONI'S TEAM TRAINED HARD - And they did it with pride. Dr. Seuss says "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened"...and so smiling on Sunday, January 30th all the way to the finish line was SOCIETY 2013's JULIA (SCHULTZ) DICKINSON of Pompano Beach, Florida along with her friend, Sarah and SOCIETY 2022's CHRISSIE OCHMANOWICZ of Philadelphia, PA. JULIE, CHRISSIE and Sarah participated in the Pancreatic Walks and Run Program to complete the "ING Miami Half Marathon" in Miami, Florida. The girls trained hard and were determined to achieve their fundraising goal and are very proud they did. Thanks to family members and friends, the girls raised

money toward the research of Pancreatic Cancer which is an extremely difficult disease to treat particularly because of how difficult it is to diagnose. All money raised went directly to the Cancer Patients Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness, increasing education and furthering pancreatic cancer research. One of the foundations initiatives is called "Pancreatica" and it is dedicated to confronting pancreatic cancer and creating optimal treatment strategies for pancreatic cancer patients and their loved ones. JULIE, CHRISSIE and friend Sarah ran in the 13.1 MILE half marathon in memory of Julie's mother, ANTOINETTE (TONI) SCHULTZ of SOCIETY 2013 (Sister of District 3 Director JOANNE ZAJAC) who lost her battle with pancreatic cancer on August 21, 2008. JULIE is hoping to keep her mother's memory alive by doing something out of the ordinary on an annual basis. She even donated 11 inches of her hair. This was JULIE's first ever half marathon. There were over 21,000 participants in the ING Miami Full and Half Marathon and of that, 13,411 completed the Half Marathon, 6,595 males and 6,816 females. JULIE'S chip time was 3 hrs.20min 58 sec and her overall placement was 12,622 out of 13,411 and CHRISSIE'S chip time was 2 hrs 24 min 13 sec and her overall placement was 8,183 out of 13,411. JULIE said her Mom had a steadfast determination everyday to beat this disease and feels that training, hard work, finishing the 13.1 miles and raising funds is the very least she can do to honor her dear mother. Julie's husband, MATT and children HANNAH and WYATT, all PRCUA SOCIETY 2013 members supported her all the way and in every way and of course were spectators at the marathon. JULIE'S Aunt JOANNE ZAJAC could not be more proud of her niece. CHRISSIE OCHMANOWICZ is the daughter of SOCIETY 2022's President, MARYANN OCHMANOWICZ. CHRISSIE is an avid marathon participant and is training for the Prostate Cancer Walk in Philadelphia. In May, 2011, she will participate in another race in Cleveland, Ohio. JULIE said her mom was "in it to win it", JULIE's team was in "it and did it" and as JULIE says "she cried as she crossed the finish line but has been smiling ear to ear since then. A standing ovation is certainly well deserved by "The Purple Penguins". Congratulations JULIE, CHRISSIE and Sarah.



Chrissie Ochmanowicz

WELCOME - SOCIETY 2005 is happy to roll out the red carpet for the four new juvenile members of the SMITH Family, JOCELYN, DEVON, TORI AND TYLER. Welcome aboard and kudos to Grandmom Barbara Smith of Audubon Park, New Jersey.

IN SYMPATHY: - We're extending heartfelt condolences to SOCIETY 2022 members, LYDIA BERRY and ANDREA SCHORK on the loss of their Babci, Janina Hodio who passed away on February 1, 2011. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Adalbert Church on February 4th with interment at Our Lady of Czestochowa Cemetery in Doylestown, PA. May she rest in eternal peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Hodio Family on their great loss.

SUNNY DAYS, SWEEPIN' THE CLOUDS AWAY - Happy wishes are extended to SOCIETY 2022's Financial Secretary, SOPHIE CLARK. Just want you to know that we're thinking about you and hope each day finds you are feeling A-OK.

CONDOLENCES - Members of SOCIETY 2030 mourn the loss of long time member SOPHIE M. SLECZKA of Woodbridge, New Jersey who passed away on January 14th. She is the dear grandmother of CHRISTOPHER HEYNIO and sister-in-law of IRENE SLECZKA who are also members of SOCIETY 2030. Funeral services were held on January 20 with interment at St. Gertrude Cemetery. Heartfelt Sympathy is extended to the entire SLECZKA Family on their great loss. May the departed soul of SOPHIE M. SLECZKA rest in eternal peace.



(L-r) Rita Waryga, Elaine Burkhardt, Kathy Jesiolowski, Joann Zajac and Sharon Quinn

NOBODY CAN DO EVERYTHING BUT EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING - February 5th was Philadelphia Fraternals Volunteer Day and proved to be an interesting morning as volunteers joined together at 8 a.m. to help promote literacy at the 1st Philadelphia Charter

School and Tacony Charter School in Philadelphia. Despite another round of sleet and freezing rain, members of Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, Russian Brotherhood, Royal Arcanum and Slovak Catholic Sokol braved the cold, inclement weather to lend a helping hand to the most grateful Charter School staff members by labeling over 900 library books and sorting over 500 books. Sheri Zachary and Susan West, the librarians were simply elated with the help they received and James Stanton, Director of Communications and Community Relations was also so very appreciative. Once everyone familiarized themselves with the proper procedures, things moved quickly. As a slight diversion, everyone present sang Happy Birthday to SHARON QUINN who happened to be celebrating her birthday on February 5th.

We all departed with a good feeling knowing we were able to help someone in a small way. Kudos to PRCUA Members who were happy to be of assistance; namely, District 3 Director JOANNE ZAJAC, SOCIETY 2015's KATHY JESIOLOWSKI and RITA WARYGA, SHARON QUINN



Volunteers participating in Philadelphia Fraternals Volunteer Day

(Office Manager and Philadelphia Fraternals Secretary-Treasurer) and ELAINE BURKHARDT, Philadelphia Office.

POLISH PRIDE - Polish American Pride was displayed as people joined together to recognize the accomplishments of General Thaddeus Kosciuszko the American Revolutionary War Hero and Freedom Fighter for Poland on Saturday, February 5, 2011 at 12 noon. The tribute ceremony took place in the Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Hotel at 4th & Arch Streets in Historic Philadelphia. Conducting the program was PRCUA member MICHAEL BLICHASZ, President of the Polish American Congress Eastern Pennsylvania District who welcomed elected officials and representatives from Polish American Organizations. Following the ceremony, the Kosciuszko Day Luncheon took place in the Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Hotel. Among the attendees were PRCUA Members THERESA ROMANOWSKI, Vice President of the PAC; HENRY CIEPLINSKI, PAC Communications; MSGR. FRANCIS FERET, Pastor, St. Adalbert Church; PRCUA District 3 Director JOANNE ZAJAC; and SHARON QUINN, Office Manager, PRCUA Philadelphia Office.

HAPPY MARCH - PRCUA proudly introduced the "Family Plus Life Insurance Special" which offers great savings. A unique FAMILY PLUS LIFE INSURANCE SPECIAL can be created just for your family based upon your needs. Don't delay, stop by the Philadelphia Office at 2636 E. Allegheny Avenue in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia where you can have some of our sweet treats and give us the opportunity to be of service to you. Have a great month and always remember..."when life seems overwhelming, take things an hour at a time and find comfort in your little triumphs".

Elaine Burkhardt, Philadelphia Office

(Names of PRCUA Members are written in capitals in this column.)

6th Annual Zajaczek Dance Ensemble Graduate Ball



Graduate Sara Diven, Graduate Katelyn Swanson, Dir. Thomas Lisiecki of PRCUA Dist. #10, PRCUA National Vice President Robert Bielenda and his wife, Eleanor Bielenda, Dir. Christopher Ozog of PRCUA Dist. #10, Graduate Laura Sowers, and Graduate Brian Gondek

Sterling Hts., MI - On November 13, 2010, PRCUA's Zajaczek Dance Ensemble held its 6th Annual Graduate Ball at the American Polish Century Club in Sterling Heights, Michigan. Zajaczek was proud to present four graduates this year: Sarah Diven, Brian Gondek, Laura Sowers and Katelynn Swanson.



2011 Zajaczek graduates (front) Laura Sowers (back) Katelynn Swanson, Brian Gondek and Sarah Diven

Sara Diven is the 17 year old daughter of Kurt and Julie Diven. Sarah is a senior at South Lyon High School. She has been studying Polish folk dance for 9 years. She was escorted by fellow Zajaczek dancer, Andrew Koehler.

Brian Gondek is the son of Robert and Diane Gondek. Brian is a senior at DeLaSalle High School. He has been a PRCUA Polish folk dancer for 9 years. Brian plans to enter Sacred Heart Major Seminary after graduation. He was escorted by fellow Zajaczek dancer, Leah Shaheen.

Laura Sowers is the daughter of Robert and Delores Sowers. Laura is a senior at Warren Mott High School and also attends Macomb Mathematics Science and Technology Center. She has been dancing in PRCUA dance groups for 11 years. She was escorted by fellow Zajaczek dancer, Noah Reiter.

Katelynn Swanson is the daughter of Ken and Tammy Swanson. Her mother is a past PRCUA Polish folk dance graduate. Katelynn is a senior at Lamphere High School and also attends Oakland Technical Center. She has been dancing with PRCUA Polish dance groups for 12 years. Her

escort was her life-long, good friend Nicholas Luce.

Zajaczek welcomed many dignitaries, including PRCUA National VP Robert Bielenda and his wife, Eleanor, as well as PRCUA National Directors Thomas Lisiecki and Christopher Ozog from District 10. Everyone in attendance enjoyed a delicious dinner, followed by the presentation of Zajaczek's 2011 graduates, who performed an exquisite waltz. After the program, there was much celebration with a DJ and lots of dancing.

Thanks go to the MCs - choreographers Rachael Kasperek and Tricia Zajac - and to School Director Colleen Bonkowski for all their dedicated service all year long. Congratulations to the Zajaczek graduates!

Submitted by Renee Jazkowski, Zajaczek Secretary



(L-r) Timothy Gierlowski - Membership Secretary, American Polish Century Club, presenting Graduate Katelynn Swanson escorted by Nicholas Luce, Graduate Laura Sowers escorted by Noah Reiter, Leah Shaheen escorting Graduate Brian Gondek, and Graduate Sara Diven escorted by Andrew Koehler

Sen. Barbara Mikulski Longest-Serving Woman Senator in U.S. History



Sen. B. Mikulski being sworn in by V.P. Joseph Biden as family watches

Washington, DC - U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) was recently sworn in to the 112th Congress, becoming the longest-serving woman in the history of the U.S. Senate. Senator Mikulski was first elected to the Senate in 1986, after serving five terms in the U.S. House of Representatives as the Congresswoman from Maryland's 3rd District.

As she begins her fifth term in the Senate, Senator Mikulski breaks the record previously held by Senator Margaret Chase Smith (R-Maine). "For me it's not only how long I serve, but how well I serve," Senator Mikulski said in a floor statement. "Service for me is about being connected to my constituents - staying close to them so they don't fall through the cracks, meeting their day-to-day needs and also looking at the long-range needs of the nation."

Surrounded by 3 generations of her family, Senator Mikulski was sworn in by V. P. Joseph Biden, and then honored with a resolution by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) for her service.

Senator Mikulski was one of only two women when she arrived in the Senate. She fought to uphold the values she learned growing up in Baltimore and continues to fight for a stronger economy and safer America.

"It's not about the past, it's about the future," Senator Mikulski said. "When I took my oath, I pledged that I want to help America be great again - with a renewed self-confidence and achievement. I want us to be a global leader in the innovation economy."

The PRCUA salutes Senator Barbara Mikulski for her dedication in performing the duties of her office and for her loyalty to the Polish American community in matters that Polonia considers important.

Polish American Fraternal Activities

Polish American Day with the Chicago Wolves vs. Oklahoma City Barons, Sunday, March 20 at 3:00 p.m. at Allstate Arena, Rosemont, IL; Tickets available by phone; call Julie Seyller: (847) 832-1941

Polish American Family Night with the Chicago Bulls, United Center Tuesday, April 5th, Chicago Bulls vs. Phoenix Suns at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$30.00. For tickets, call PRCUA 1-800-772-8632 ext.2601

Polish Constitution Day Art Contest

Hosted by the Polish Museum of America

Theme: Experience Poland

Artwork should be inspired by Polish landscapes, cities or cultural treasures. Be creative! Be colorful! Use any medium and paper size you like.

All artwork becomes the property of the PMA. Include a sheet of paper with your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, age, grade, school and art teacher's name. Tape it to the back of your artwork. Send your entry to:

Polish Museum of America
984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642-4101
Deadline is APRIL 18, 2011

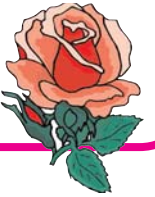
A certificate and the following prizes will be awarded in the following two categories: Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12

1st prize - \$100; 2nd prize - \$50; 3rd prize - \$25

For more details, call Monika Nowak: 773-384-3352 Ext. 103



Tatry Presentation Ball



Dearborn Hts., MI - Tatry's Annual Presentation Dinner-Dance took place on Sat., Oct. 23. Tatry was honored to present five graduates at the dinner-dance this year, as friends and family gathered at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland, MI, to honor the graduates.

Everyone was welcomed by Master of Ceremonies Thomas Lackey. Then Brian Ozimek introduced the dignitaries, officers and graduates.

After a delicious dinner, the 2010 Tatry graduates were officially presented: Drew Ansel, Kelsey Blicharz, Julie Koslovich, Chelsie Sulfaro and Teresa Wojnarowski. Following the presentation of proclamations, the graduates took to the floor, performing an elegant waltz, complete with graceful lifts.

Later, Group 5 entertained everyone with a Krakowiak and a polka. The 2010 graduates followed their performance by dancing to "Polish Soul". This is Tatry's favorite dance performance, and everyone always enjoys it greatly.



2010 TATRY PRESENTATION

(Top Row, l-r) Escort Jordan Surma; Graduate Teresa Wojnarowski; Escort Mikael Mosley; Graduate Chelsie Sulfaro; Graduate Drew Asel; Graduate Julie Koslovich; Escort Ian Wolffe; Graduate Kelsey Blicharz; and Father Edwin Balazy, Pastor, St. John the Baptist Church, Dearborn Heights, MI; (Bottom Row, l-r) Robert Bielenda, PRCUA National Vice President; Rose Ann Lackey, Tatry Director; Mayor Dan Paletko, Dearborn Heights, MI; Brigitte Maxey, Chief of Staff for Michigan State Senator Irma Clark-Coleman; Thomas Lisiecki, PRCUA National Director District 10; and Karen Lubiarz, Tatry Choreographer.

Throughout the evening, we were entertained by the music of A Touch of Brass, which played a variety of popular music and polkas, to everyone's delight. The dance floor was never empty, so everyone must have enjoyed their music.

Tatry was honored by the attendance of special guests and dignitaries, which this year included: Rev. Edwin Balazy, Pastor, St. John the Baptist Church, Dearborn Heights, MI; National PRCUA Vice President Robert Bielenda;

Brigitte Maxey, Chief of Staff, for MI State Senator Irma Clark-Coleman; Dan Paletko, Mayor of Dearborn Heights, MI; and National PRCUA Director of District 10, Thomas Lisiecki.

We sincerely hope that the graduates' final year with

Tatry Dancers, sponsored by the PRCUA, will hold a special place in their hearts and provide them with fond memories in addition to a very special sense of accomplishment. Tatry is very proud of its graduates, who showed great fortitude and dedication to Polish folk dancing and the Tatry group. What a wonderful accomplishment graduation is for the students, as well as their families. Good luck to our graduates in all their endeavors.

Very special thanks go to Tatry School Director, Rose Ann Lackey, and choreographer/teacher Karen Lubiarz, who always make our dancers shine. We appreciate their many years of loyal service, on behalf of the youth of the Tatry Dancers, and admire their dedication to preserving Polish folk dance in America.

Special thanks also go to the Tatry Dancers officers: President Flossie Lloyd; Vice President Elizabeth Kozakiewicz, Secretary Kathy Belcher and Treasurer Patty Grawburg for their excellent leadership.

By Kathy Belcher, Secretary

St. Stan's #718 defeats Wyandotte#162 To capture 2nd Annual Bowling Ryder Cup

Cherry Hill Lanes in Dearborn Heights, MI was the site of the Bowling Ryder Cup. Participating were 44 members from PRCUA St. Stan's Society #718 in Detroit, MI and 44 members from Society #162 in Wyandotte, MI. There were 28 men and 16 women from each Society registered.

The format was as follows:

First game - four members per team; the winning team gains 1 point

Second game - two-member teams playing alternate shots; winners gain 1 point

Third game - Individual "head to head" competition; winners gain 1 point

There were a total of 33 points available to win.

In the end, St. Stan's #718 edged Wyandotte #162 by one point, 17 to 16, to avenge last year's loss of 15 to 14.

The following members participated: Bob Bielenda, Larry Maier, Denny Sopko, Stas Taraskiesicz, Chris Gazdecki, Leo Tobiczyn, Ted Mack, Ron Van Kamp, Ernie Pindzia, Dave Butterfield, Benny Kolano, Matt Kysperzyk, Kevin Surma, Matt Carpenter, Joe Paja, John Gdowski, Jen Kosowski, Nikki Rodriguez, Tina Simo, Krystyn Belles, Janet Palmer, Joanie Driscoll, Moe Gauvin, Jen Szymborski, Frank Nasiatka, Mike Halberstadt, Patrick Kosowski, Dan Vukovich, Jerry Nasiatka, Mr. Sak, Bob Kosowski, Larry Krol, Mary Wilson, Terri Pett, Angela Lesperance, Krissy Halberstadt, Pam Hamilton, Marie Gdowski, Maureen O'Reilly, Sharon Nothnagel, Tom Dudek, Tom Buzra, Dennis Rochleau, Al Salatowski, Dennis Churchvara, Bob Pilon, Ed Kapanowski, Bobby Beers, Stephanie Gazdecki, Kathy Vankammen, Tina Churchvara, Jan Migliacccio, Jen Sopko, Gerlyn Tizdes, Laura Sopko, Sue Maier, Jeff Pindzia, Scott Rzeppa, Cass Wegzyn, Stan Pasko, Jeff Levangie, John Zelasko, Ray Joganic, Keith Zelasko, Katie Hojnacki, Heather Kysperzyk, Lori Greko, Cindy Zelasko, Cheryl Czjaka, Bridget Butterfield, Janice Dudek, Kelly Salakowski, Mike Sopko, PJ Driscoll, Mike Turner, Jim Bliss, Brent Brumo, Chris Litteral, Tom Simo, Matt Belles, Dennis Beauchamp, Al Adamski, Gary Ewald, Tom King, Len Nasiatka, Matt Elden, George Komplotowicz and Matt Farkas.

(Submitted by National Vice President Robert Bielenda)



Theresa C. Sejnowski Passed Away

Cleveland, OH - PRCUA member Theresa C. (nee Cudnik) Sejnowski, 90, passed away on Jan. 21, 2011 surrounded by her family. She was a resident of Highland Heights, OH and a member of PRCUA Society # 2220. Before the Alliance of Poles merger with PRCUA, she belonged to Group #12 since 1947 - one of the A of P's oldest groups. She was a member of St. Stanislaus Parish and since 1998, she was a Polish language student at Stefan Batory Polish Language School. She was the oldest member in the class. (See "Salute" on page 14.) Theresa was a kind and compassionate woman who was active in the Polish American community in Cleveland, Ohio, and well-liked by all who knew her.

She was the beloved wife of the late Joseph F. Sejnowski; loving mother of Dr. Terry, Ph.D. (wife Dr. Beatrice Golomb, M.D.) of San Diego, CA; Phillip A.; Mark F.; Matthew C. (wife Lisa) of Austin, TX; Lucia A. Ciccarello (husband Michael); and Joseph P. (Stephanie Marzella) of Hong Kong; devoted grandmother of eight: Kevin, Teresa, Amanda, Rachel, Michelle, Michael, Trevor and Alexandra; dear sister of Rev. Fr. Chester, Dorothy Kurgan (John, deceased), and the late Anthony (Jean), Boles (Stephanie), Thaddeus, Rev. Fr. Casimir, Sr. Casimir Marie, T.O.S.F. and Genevieve Cudnik.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Paschal Baylon Church in Highland Heights, OH, followed by interment in Calvary Cemetery. May she be blessed a hundredfold for all the good she has done for others and may she rest in eternal peace.

Submitted by Carol Stafinski and Ewa Trzeciak

PRCUA SALES SEMINAR IN CLEVELAND, OHIO

On February 5, 2011 the PRCUA Executive Officers and the PRCUA Sales and Marketing Director, Agnes Bastrzyk, conducted a Sales Seminar at PRCUA's Ohio Office. Ohio National Directors from District 5, Joan Sylak and Mitchell Bienia, opened the meeting with greetings of welcome for the 22 participants from Toledo, Lorain and Akron, as well as a large contingent from the Cleveland area.

Sales Report - President Joseph Drobot continued the welcome and asked participants to identify themselves and their Societies. President Drobot then gave a sales report comparing the volume of insurance sales from the year 2009 to 2010. This Sales Seminar was designed to boost revenue in the coming year.

Family Plus Plan - Sales and Marketing Director Agnes Bastrzyk introduced the PRCUA's new product: the Family Plus Plan Insurance Program. With this program, families receive a 10 percent discount on insurance purchased for two or more family members. (Details are listed on page 11 of Narod Polski.)

Summary of Plans - Resident Vice President Anna Sokolowski did a wonderful job of presenting a summary of PRCUA insurance plans, including riders that are available. Her handout was extremely helpful in identifying details of all the plans.

Completing Application Forms - Secretary-Treasurer James Robaczewski explained rules of completing both the short application form and the long application form for PRCUA insurance. He directed special attention to often overlooked questions on the forms. Accurate completion of the forms ensures a prompt response.

Rate Chart - Anna Sokolowski then distributed a sample condensed rate schedule for 5-, 10- and 20-year Limited Pay Whole Life Certificates, with a promise to distribute complete insurance rates for all plans in the near future. The rate cards were well received, especially by those attendees who do not have computer capability.

Flow Chart - Agnes Bastrzyk then presented a flow chart of the Life Insurance Application Cycle. She explained each stage of the decision-making process in the approval of insurance applications.

Questions and Answers - The training program ended with a Question and Answer session, conducted by the panel of experts from the Home Office. Each participant completed an evaluation form, but the overwhelming consensus was that the seminar was well developed, well presented, and well received. The seminar was informative, fast paced and well worth the time devoted to this important project.

Armed with facts, as well as motivation and enthusiasm, the participants left the meeting ready to apply what they learned to new insurance prospects. *By Mitchell Bienia, National Director, District 5*

PRCUA ACTIVITIES IN NORTHEASTERN OHIO

Society 2248 - January was a month of activity for the PRCUA in Northeast Ohio. On Sunday, January 9, Society 2248, located in Akron, Ohio, conducted the annual meeting with election of officers. Richard Lott was reelected President; Ray Gemerek, Vice-President; Aleksandra Wojcik, Financial Secretary; Phyllis Early, Recording Secretary; Stanley Jaroszewski, Sergeant-at-Arms; Leonard Gemerek and Thomas Wyszynski, Trustees. Congratulations to all officers. After the meeting, oplatki was shared before a delicious dinner was served. Warm friendship and good fellowship permeated the Hall.

Polish School Traditional Polish Dinner - On January 23 the teachers and parents from Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School prepared and served the ever-popular Traditional Polish Dinner. A new dish called mini-meatballs was served in addition to the tried-and-true favorites of pickle soup, chicken, noodles with cabbage, salad, potatoes, homemade desserts and coffee or tea. The after-church crowd was large, and numbers swelled with members of Society 2220, who had dinner before the annual meeting. This fundraiser proves to be very profitable each year for the Polish School. Thanks to everyone who attended or gave a donation to the Polish school.

Society 2220 - January 23 also was the date of Society 2220's annual meeting and election of officers. Elected were John Borkowski, President; Mitchell Bienia, Vice-President; Cecylia Dyczko, Financial Secretary; Ewa Wiechec, Recording Secretary; Ligia Borkowski and Stanley Rejnis, Auditors; and the Rev. Eric Orzech, Chaplain. Congratulations to all those elected.

* * *

Special Note: Any PRCUA member from District 5 who has news for the *Narod Polski* is asked to contact Director Mitchell Bienia at 216-641-7633 during usual business hours. He will add the news to this column. If help is needed in writing articles, Director Bienia is willing and eager to be of assistance.

By Mitchell Bienia, National Director, District 5

PRCUA' s FAMILY PLUS LIFE INSURANCE SPECIAL

The PRCUA is offering a new Life Insurance promotion called the FAMILY PLUS LIFE INSURANCE SPECIAL. And you decide the definition of "family." Any two (2) individuals (or more) will be considered a family, for example: husband/wife and child(ren); single parent and child(ren), grandparent and grandchild(ren), siblings, etc. At least one individual must be an adult (16 years and up). If medically qualified, as long as 2 or more individuals are covered, you qualify as a family and are eligible to participate in the FAMILY PLUS LIFE INSURANCE SPECIAL.

This plan offers life insurance that applies to a PRIMARY INSURED and a SECONDARY INSURED and can include as many family members as you choose. YOU DECIDE what type of Life Insurance best suits your current financial needs. For example, the Primary Insured must have a minimum of \$50,000 in Whole Life Insurance or a combination of \$25,000 Whole Life and \$25,000 20-Year Term Life Insurance. The Secondary Insured must have a minimum of \$25,000 Whole Life Insurance or a \$25,000 20-Year Level Term Life Insurance Certificate. YOU decide who is primary and who is secondary and the coverage for each insured. If the Secondary Insured is a Juvenile (under the age of 16), the minimum face value of insurance for a Juvenile is \$10,000 Whole Life Insurance. The total premium would be calculated as follows:

INSURED	GEN.	AGE	CLASS	INSUR. PLAN	ANNUAL PREMIUMS
Primary	Male	35	Non-Smoker	\$25,000 Whole Life	\$306.00
				\$25,000 20-Year Term	92.50
Secondary	Female	35	Non-Smoker	\$25,000 Whole Life	269.25
Juvenile	Male	10	Non-Smoker	\$10,000 Whole Life	91.40
Juvenile	Female	10	Non-Smoker	\$10,000 Whole Life	84.90
TOTAL				\$95,000 Combined Life Insurance	\$844.05
LESS ANNUAL 10% FAMILY PLUS LIFE INSURANCE DISCOUNT					- 84.40
ACTUAL COST					\$759.65

NOTE: *The above table is just one example of the FAMILY PLUS LIFE INSURANCE SPECIAL. A unique Plan will be created just for you and your family, based upon your individual circumstances.*

The premium rates are calculated based upon the usual pricing guidelines for each individual, but for the FAMILY PLUS LIFE INSURANCE SPECIAL, after the entire cost is determined for each individual covered, **TEN PERCENT (10%) WILL BE DEDUCTED** from the total premium **THIS YEAR** and **EACH YEAR** that you pay this premium in the future. Although the ACTUAL COST is based upon an annual premium payment, for your convenience, either monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual premium payments can be arranged.

THIS IS A GREAT VALUE!

Contact your local PRCUA Agent/Deputy or call one of the PRCUA Offices toll-free: OH (800) 318-8234, PA (800) 558-8792 or the Home Office Sales Dept. (800) 772-8632 or (773) 782-2600.



PRCUA Sales Seminar in Michigan

The PRCUA officers and Agnes (Migiel) Bastrzyk, Director of Marketing and Sales, will conduct an informative training seminar for our existing PRCUA sales representatives in the Michigan area, as well as anyone who is interested in becoming a PRCUA sales representative for our Life Insurance and Annuity products.

Date: Sunday, March 20, 2011
Time: Beginning at 2:30 PM
Place: Society #162 Club House
Address: 1430 Oak Street, Wyandotte, MI

Please RSVP for this training program by March 14, 2011.

Those who want to participate in this seminar can make their reservations in one of two ways: either on the PRCUA website at <http://prcu.org/agentsupport.htm> or by calling Agnes Bastrzyk at: 1-800-772-8632 Ext. 2632.

We will keep everyone informed of future seminars as they are planned! RSVP today!

Poles Seek Accuracy Regarding Camps

by Jeff Mann

My own personal memories are of all that happened when the Nazis occupied Poland during the war. I remember my Jewish friends and neighbours, some of whom perished, while others survived. I have come to Yad Vashem (the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Jerusalem) to pay homage to the millions of Jewish people who, stripped of everything, especially of human dignity, were murdered in the Holocaust. More than half a century has passed, but the memories remain... We wish to remember. But we wish to remember for a purpose, namely to ensure that never again will evil prevail, as it did for the millions of innocent victims of Nazism. – Pope John Paul II, during his March 2000 visit to Yad Vashem.



Entrance gate to the Auschwitz-Birkenau German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp with its sign "Work Brings Freedom"

The *Wall Street Journal* recently revised its style guide, the set of writing standards followed by its journalists, to eliminate the use of the phrases "Polish Concentration Camps" and "Polish Death Camps." The impetus for this style change was a petition circulated by the Kosciuszko Foundation which considers "Nazi Concentration Camp," or "German Concentration Camp in Nazi-occupied Poland" more accurate descriptions for the locations where roughly 3 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust.

Thus far, the petition has 173,838 signatures and counting, including Holocaust survivors and Jewish and Polish world leaders. The ultimate goal is to have every media outlet use these descriptions when discussing the Holocaust.

The Kosciuszko Foundation is an organization whose mission is to promote and strengthen understanding and friendship between the peoples of Poland and the United States through educational, scientific, and cultural exchanges.

Greenpoint-Brooklyn attorney, Romuald Magda, stands behind the effort so that "younger generations who don't have memories of the war... find out who was behind the concentration camps." He feels that it is imperative that the blame for the camps falls where it belongs – Nazi Germany.

"Some Polish people think that this term is being used on purpose by some members of the media who are trying to put blame for the Holocaust on Poles, which was absolutely not correct. It [accuracy] is very important both for Jewish victims and for the truth of history."

Greenpoint-Brooklyn police officer and NYPD Pulaski Association member Stefan Komar has been fighting for the change for several years. "I've seen first-hand how people are hurt by that phrase... It insinuates – maybe not intentionally – that the camps could be Polish, created by the Poles... [As a result] students are beginning to believe the camps were Polish. It's an inaccurate term. It's misleading and hurtful and that should be enough for people to not use it repeatedly."

Komar points out that this is not a controversial campaign. The goal is to strictly direct the blame for the camps to Nazi Germany, where it belongs.

In addition, there is hope that addressing this semantic issue will lead to an improved relationship between Poles and Jews. It is a strange and unusual relationship. Although only 10 % of Poland's 3 million Jews survived, fewer than in any other country, Poland accounts for the majority of rescuers recognized at Israel's Holocaust Memorial, *Yad Vashem*, with the title of 'Righteous Gentiles,' non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the war.

For their part, Jewish agencies have supported the Kosciuszko Foundation's effort. In 2005, American Jewish Committee Executive Director David A. Harris spoke at a Holocaust Remembrance Day event in Poland. His remarks included:

"We would also like to remind those who are either unaware of the facts or careless in their choice of words, as has been the case with some media outlets, that Auschwitz-Birkenau and the other death camps, including Belzec, Chelmno, Majdanek, Sobibor and Treblinka, were conceived, built and operated by Nazi Germany and its allies. The camps were located in German-occupied Poland, the European country with by far the largest Jewish population, but they were most emphatically not "Polish camps".

This is not a mere semantic matter. Historical integrity and accuracy hang in the balance. Poland was the first nation attacked by the Third Reich, which ignited the Second World War on September 1, 1939. Polish forces fought valiantly, but were overwhelmed by the larger and better equipped Nazi army that invaded from the west, and then by the Soviet army, an ally of Hitler at the time, which attacked from the east. Nonetheless, Polish forces in exile continued the struggle against Hitler, together with other Allied troops, until the war's end. And it should also never be forgotten that, in addition to Polish Jews, who were targeted for total annihilation by the Nazi Final Solution, other Poles, including Catholics, were political prisoners seized by the Nazis and incarcerated in concentration camps.

In 2007, UNESCO officially changed the name of the Auschwitz Camp to "The Auschwitz-Birkenau German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp."

(Excerpted from *The Greenpoint Gazette of Brooklyn, NYC, NY - Jan 20, 2011*)

College Scholarships Available to Polish-Americans in Rhode Island

Each year, the Rhode Island Polonia Scholarship Foundation awards scholarships of \$1000 each to high school seniors who will attend college in Fall. In 2010, twenty-seven scholarships were awarded. Among the many scholarships offered are two scholarships honoring distinguished members of the Rhode Island Community.

The Rev. Frederick V. Slota Scholarship is awarded to the candidate with the most outstanding academic and personal accomplishments, irrespective of financial need. The Dr. Dorothy R. Pieniadz Scholarship is awarded to a student planning a career in education or human services. A specialized award, the Emilia Polak Scholarship is designated for a student pursuing agricultural, environmental studies or one who wishes to become a Roman Catholic Divinity student.

A limited number of awards will also be given as Dr. Rudolf Jaworski Medical Scholarship (Internal Medicine). **The medical scholarship application submission deadline is March 31, 2011.**

Unfortunately, the deadline for the other scholarships was in mid-February; however RI students can keep this information for future reference. Candidates for all scholarships must be of Polish-American descent, a resident of Rhode Island, or a member of a Rhode Island Polish-American organization (such as the PRCUA).

Scholarship applications are available online at: www.polishscholarshipsri.org. Also, they may be obtained from high school guidance counselors, or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Rhode Island Polonia Scholarship Foundation, 866 Atwells Avenue, Providence, RI 02909 or by calling 401- 351-9306.

Pol-Am Heritage Quiz

By taking part in this year's PolAm Heritage quiz, you will be eligible to win one of three Polish cookbooks in English. Simply write your name and mailing address at the top of a sheet of paper, number it from 1 to 5, and indicate the letter (a, b, c, d) of the correct answer to each of the following five questions:

1. In 2012, Poland and Ukraine will co-host: a) European Soccer Championship Finals, b) International Strongman Competition, c) World Cup Soccer Finals, d) World Skeet Shooting Championships.
2. Poland's presidential election, held in summer 2010, was won by: a) Bronislaw Komorowski, b) Donald Tusk, c) Jaroslaw Kaczynski, d) Waldemar Pawlak.
3. Poland became a Christian nation after Duke Mieszko I married a: a) Czech, b) Lithuanian, c) Hungarian, d) Russian princess.
4. America's first permanent Polish settlement in the mid-1800s was in: a) Texas, b) Illinois, c) Pennsylvania, d) New York State.
5. In Polish tradition, herring and zur (meatless ryemeal soup) would be served mainly: a) at weddings, b) on New Year's Day, c) on Easter Sunday, d) during Lent.

Airmail your entry without delay to:

Pol-Am Heritage Quiz
ul. Kaniowska 24
01-529 Warsaw, POLAND

or e-mail the correct answers to: research60@gmail.com

All correct entries will take part in a random drawing to select the winners. The first prize is the 900-page "**Polish Heritage Cookery**", the biggest Polish cookbook ever published in the English language. Second prize is "**Polish Holiday Cookery**" (248 pages) focusing on the traditional foods of Christmas, Easter, weddings and other special occasions. Third prize is "**Culinary Traditions of Mazovia, Silesia and Kashubia**" (60 pages), whose regional favorites are printed on opposing pages in both English and Polish. It should be helpful to those trying to learn Polish or English. All 3 cookbooks were written by Robert Strybel, the Polish Chef.

POWODZENIA! - GOOD LUCK!

Know the meaning of your Polish last name?

For a custom-researched, several-page analysis all about the meaning and derivation of your Polish surname, how it originated, how many people use it, where they live and whether a coat of arms accompanies it, please airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding a cut-rate \$10 for each additional surname) to:

Robert Strybel
ul. Kaniowska 24
01-529 Warsaw, Poland

Included at no extra charge is an illustration of the coat of arms (where applicable) and valuable genealogical leads, data bases and researchers to explore your ancestral roots.

research60@gmail.com



Ask Our "Man in Warsaw"

KINDLY AIRMAIL ALL POLISH-RELATED QUERIES TO:
Robert Strybel
 ul. Kaniowska 24
 01-529 Warsaw, Poland
 or E-mail to: strybel@vp.pl

Q: The recent news speaks of the Irish financial problems and today the BBC says that the Euro continues to slide. What does all this mean for Poland? This morning's currency calculator shows that the USD is worth 2.98 zlotys. I remember when the dollar was worth almost 4 Polish zlotys and later it dropped to as low as 2 zlotys. How does this all affect the zloty and the Polish economy?

NOREEN HASIOR, Peekskill, NY

A: Later the same day the dollar weakened even more and crossed the three-zloty mark. In the weeks that followed the zloty weakened even more. Analysts say our increasingly global economy was influenced by the financial crisis in Portugal, Ireland and even by the Korean conflict. A weak zloty (lots of zlotys for \$1) is a boon to PolAm tourists visiting Poland and Poles working in America. A strong zloty (fewer zlotys to \$1) benefits Polish exporters, and Poles traveling and shopping in the West.

Q: I read somewhere that the giant Jesus statue in Swiebodzin, Poland, is the biggest in the world. I checked on Wikipedia which said it will be nearly 100 feet tall, but I found that the Statue of Liberty in New York City is 151 feet tall. Can you clear up this matter, please? **JOE & DOROTHY WARDZALA**

A: Probably the article was misleadingly phrased. The Swiebodzin monument is not the world's tallest statue but the "tallest figure of Jesus." Initial reports contained some size discrepancies depending on whether just the statue alone was considered (108 feet tall) or whether the 10-foot crown was included. Moreover, the Polish statue was erected atop a 52.5 foot mound. Rio's Christ the Redeemer monument stands 130 feet high, but the statue itself measures only 99 feet, and the pedestal on which it stands is 31 feet high. Incidentally, the Statue of Liberty rises to a height of 151 feet. But, if its pedestal is included, it measures twice that - 305 feet from the base of the pedestal to the tip of the torch.

Q: Can you inform me of how I might learn who are the recipients of the Polish president's Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland for this year and perhaps previous years? I can only find selected recipients. I am interested in the actual list or the website address where the lists can be found.

PROFESSOR DONALD PIENKOS, Milwaukee, WI

A: Congratulations, Professor Pienkos, on receiving the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland for your academic and civic contributions to the Polish and Polonian cause! I have been informed by the Polish President's Office that only the recipients of the highest-ranking distinctions including the *Order of the White Eagle* and the *Great Cross of Merit* are posted on the presidential website. The recipients of the *Officer's Cross of Merit* are listed in the Polish Monitor, a journal of laws: www.infor.pl/monitor-polski,rok,2010.html.

Q: I'd like to reprint an article you wrote for the Polish-American Journal. I would love to lead with this piece in the latest issue of Gen Dobry, the free e-zine of PolishRoots.org because I believe our readers would really enjoy it. I know I did. Is it OK to reprint it? **FRED HOFFMAN**

A: By all means! Everything I write is for the benefit of fellow-Polonians and is meant to enrich their awareness of our heritage. I encourage the reprinting of my articles and free use of the recipes in the two Polish cookbooks I have written. Some people make a big fuss about copyrights and things, but my main goal has always been to get fellow-PolAms "hooked on their heritage". Who gets the credit is of secondary importance.

Q: I am a professional artist and of rich ethnic heritage - half Polish. I want to help someone who found the Polish carol "Lulajze, Jezuniu": at my site: <http://ellefagan.com/familysite/lulajze.html>. My client needs to know the origin of "Lulajze". **ELLE FAGAN, Vernon, CT**

A: The lullaby carol "Lulajze, Jezuniu" is believed to have originated in the late 1600s, but its authorship is buried in time. The Polish carols of that period were the work of anonymous authors, usually monks, seminarians or students. The earliest extant text of this carol was found in a hymnal dating from 1705, which is now in the collection of the Poznan Archdiocesan Archives. The text also appeared in manuscript form throughout the 18th century and appeared in print in a collection of hymnals published by the Szlichtyn Printery of Lwów in 1767 and re-issued in 1785. "Lulajze, Jezuniu" ranks amongst Poland's best-loved carols, and it is widely known that Chopin incorporated that motif in the middle segment of his *Scherzo in B Minor Op. 20*. But its melody has been set to different words to also carry a patriotic message. It was sung by Polish Legions fighting for Poland's independence in the 19th century and was included in Jacek Kaczmarski's anti-communist "Wigilia in Siberia" written in 1980.

Q: I tried the makowiec (poppyseed roll) recipe and it was a disaster. The only change I made was to substitute plain water for the milk. I couldn't knead it because it was like crumbly cookie dough. Was some ingredient left out? **ROMAINE SMITH, Sherwood, OR**

A: Substituting water for warm milk was not a good move. You may be used to using instant yeast which dissolves in plain warm water. But the fresh yeast needs to be fed, and that's why milk, sugar and flour are added. That yeast mixture must be set aside to rise before combining with the remaining ingredients. If someone started working the yeast mixture with the other ingredients immediately, then the result would not be satisfactory. One thing though - the recipe as given could have stood a bit more liquid, so it probably would have been better if 3/4 cup of warm milk was used.

Q: I once visited a Polish church or shrine in Illinois or Indiana with a nativity scene, where life-size mechanical figures of Polish kings, queens and famous Polish Saints would move past the Savior. In the background one can see the Tatra Mountains and a scene of Krakow's Wawel Castle. Would you happen to know the name of that site? **LARRY ADAMS, Asheville, NC**

A: It's the Panorama at the Salvatorian Fathers' Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, 5755 Pennsylvania Street in Merrillville, IN 46410. Phone 219-884-0714. Go to the following site for the Panorama schedule: www.salwatorianie.us/English/SalvatorianFathers.html

Q: I wonder if you could identify two figures from the front of Saint Francis of Assisi church in Detroit, MI. One figure is of a medieval knight on horseback with an unusual cross on his shield. The other is an angel with two crossed swords. **TOM SOSNOWSKI, Pontiac, MI**

A: The sword-wielding mounted knight on horseback known as Pogon (pursuit) was the medieval emblem of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The twin-barred cross seen on the shield was an adaptation of

the cross brought to the Slavs by SS. Cyril and Methodius, which also became known as the Jagiellonian or Lithuanian cross. The angel with swords is Michael the Archangel, the patron saint of Ukraine. Although not seen in the photos you submitted, the church's façade must also display the Polish eagle. Those three coats of arms symbolized the Polish, Lithuanian/Belarusian as well as Ukrainian nations that comprised the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, one of Europe's largest land empires. They were incorporated into the official emblem of the Polish National Alliance by its founding fathers in the late 1800s.

Q: I am writing a children's book and plan to include a story about a monk and his dog. My question is: are monks allowed to have their own dogs? **ANNA KWIECINSKA-UTKIN, Warsaw**

A: It varies from Order to Order. Monks take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, meaning they cannot own personal property. A spokesman for Poland's Franciscan Order told this reporter that monasteries usually have one or more dogs and other animals, but they belong to the entire monastic community and aren't anyone's private property. He added that occasionally a monk may have a goldfish in his cell, but not a dog.



Q: I have heard about a cute shaggy dog called the Polish lowland shepherd. Where can you find information on them? I'd like to get one for my granddaughter. I want this to be a surprise for her birthday so please don't use my name or e-mail.

M.K., Cheektowaga, NY

A: I think the following website will

provide you with all the information you need:

<http://www.pon-paradise.com/polishlowlandsheepdog.html> The PON (from "Polski Owczarek Nizinny" or Polish Lowland Sheepdog) was originally developed to herd and protect livestock, but it is also a very friendly breed that is good around children and makes an ideal household pet. (Editor's note: Also check out : www.aponc.org - the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club; or www.ponpuppy.com which has PON website links if you click on the "Resources" button.)

Q: I am a graduate student in liturgical studies currently researching the custom of sharing oplatek. I have developed a brief survey for which I would like as many results as possible. Would you be willing to share it with your readers? Thank you for any help you might be able to provide in getting this survey to reach as many people as possible. **CLAIRE ANDERSON, Chicago, IL**

A: I'd be happy to. Anyone interested in helping Miss Anderson can download the oplatek survey at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/oplatek

Q: How do I make duck soup just like grandma used to?

MARK GOLUBSKI

A: You will need the blood of a freshly killed duck or goose mixed with vinegar to prevent coagulation. Some Polish butchers sell it in jars. Combine the wings, neck, rump, heart and gizzard (cut open and rinsed of any grain) in a soup pot with 8 c water. Set aside the liver for later. Bring to boil, reduce heat and skim off scum that forms on top. Cook 1 hr. Add 6 peppercorns, 3 cloves, 2 grains allspice, 1 bay leaf, 1 carrot, 1 stalk celery, 1 parsley root and 1 onion (all veggies diced) and continue simmering until meat comes away from bone (90 min. or so). Remove meat from bone; dice together with heart and gizzard and return to pot. Add washed, diced raw duck or goose liver, 2 c diced dried fruit (pitted prunes, apples, pears, raisins) and continue simmering about 30 min or until fruit is tender. Remove from heat; let stand 30 min to cool. Whisk 3-4 T flour into the blood & vinegar mixture until smooth, and add about 1 c stock, 1 T at a time, whisking constantly. Add to soup, mixing well. Season to taste with salt, pepper, sugar, a pinch of ground juniper (optional) and vinegar until you get the tart, sweet flavor you want. Simmer 10 min. Serve with eggs noodles, grated-potato dumplings of diced cooked potatoes. Optional: 3/4 - 1 c sour cream or half-n-half may be whisked with the flour into the blood & vinegar mixture before adding to stock. Variation: the whole cut up duck or goose may be cooked in stock, but that may be too rich and too fat for today's palates, so I prefer to roast the carcass in the oven separately.

Q: There seems to be some discrepancy with November 21st as the nameday of St. Michael the Archangel. Also, in Poland do people celebrate their birthdays or their namedays? **JOSEPH TOMCZYK, Black Mountain, NC**

A: In Poland, and in the Catholic church, the feastday of *Swiety Michal Archaniol* (Saint Michael the Archangel) is observed on September 29th. The date you cited may be in the Julian Calendar used in the Eastern Orthodox Church in Ukraine and Russia. Namedays are celebrated on birthdays only when the two days coincide. In the past, it was common to name children after the saint on whose feastday they were born, but that is now less often the case. When the two dates differ, people in Poland usually celebrate their Nameday closest to their birthday.

Dr. Palczewski of Case Western Reserve Medical School Leads Way in Macular Degeneration Research



Dr. Krzysztof Palczewski and Dr. Marcin Golczak

Dr. Krzysztof Palczewski, Chair of the Department of Pharmacology at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio, is leading research in the development of a cure for Age Related Macular degeneration (ARM) of the eye. The work done by his team of researchers has resulted in the invention of a medication that will provide treatment for both dry and wet macular degeneration. The product has been tested, and is now waiting Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approval for commercial distribution.

Age Related Macular Degeneration - Macular degeneration is the leading cause of vision loss and blindness among the population

aged 65 and older. Sharp central vision needed to drive or to read is affected. The most common symptom of ARM is the occurrence of blurred vision, progressing into blind spots.

Seminar - On December 9, in his office/lab complex at Case Western Reserve University, Dr. Palczewski presented a seminar highlighting the work of his team in the treatment of this devastating disease of the eye. The seminar was arranged by Ben Stefanski, II as part of the visit to Cleveland by the President of the Republic of Poland, Bronislaw Komorowski, and Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka, Consul General of Poland in New York City, and two members of her staff. Dr. Palczewski explained that there are two types of macular degeneration, dry and wet.

Dry and Wet Macular Degeneration - Dry macular degeneration is caused by loss of function and death of light-sensitive cells in the macula. Ninety percent of macular degeneration is of the dry type. In about 10 percent of cases, dry ARM progresses to wet ARM, which is also known as AMR. Wet macular degeneration leads to vision loss.

Due to abnormal growth of blood vessels beneath the retina, some of the vessels penetrate and leak blood and fluids into the retina. Wet ARM symptoms can be treated with invasive injections into the eye, laser surgery or photodynamic therapy. However, none of these treatments provide a cure for wet AMD, and the disease usually progresses despite treatment. Moreover, there are no medications on the market to deal with early symptoms of dry macular degeneration.

Power Point Presentation - In order to illustrate progress on development of novel ophthalmic therapies, Dr. Palczewski presented recent results obtained in his laboratory. The first part of his lecture was dedicated to Leber Congenital Amaurosis (LCA,) a retinal degeneration disease that occurs at early age. His presented therapeutic methodology, under development for the last five years, involved studies on animal models and then with humans.

Dr. Palczewski's presentation showed a blind dog with severe symptoms of macular degeneration. The animal was reluctant to move around in a free space because it often bumped into objects. However, after treatment, which involved ocular injections with analogue of visual chromophore, the dog was active, and explored its surroundings with enthusiasm. The treatment restored light sensitivity to the retina.

Next, Dr. Palczewski focused on ARM. He presented an experimental cure that prevents development of retinal degeneration in the animal model of human conditions. Importantly, the therapeutic effect was achieved by oral administration of bioactive small molecules.

Golczak Discovers Treatment - Dr. Palczewski introduced Dr. Marcin Golczak, who was responsible for developing the medication that will treat ARM. Dr. Golczak is a Polish citizen, born in Zielona Gora. He has been in the United States for seven years. His Masters Degree is in Biotechnology from the Technical University of Wroclaw, and his Ph.D. is in Biochemistry from Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Polish Academy of Sciences.

How It Works - In the words of Dr. Golczak, here is how the medication works. Retinylamine, the therapeutic compound developed to treat ARM, prevents retinal degeneration in animal models of human ARM (dry and wet form) as well as Stardgard disease (early onset retinal degeneration.) The therapeutic effect of retinylamine is achieved by lowering the concentration of toxic all-trans-retinal, and its metabolites.

The initial experiments describing potential applications of retinylamine were performed in 2004, with the very first scientific article published in 2005. Since then the experimental therapy has been developed; however, it is too early to speculate on the date when this therapy will be available to patients in clinics.

Dr. Palczewski - Dr. Palczewski was born in Sycow, Poland and is now a naturalized citizen of the United States. He earned his Masters Degree in Organic Chemistry and his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Wroclaw in Poland. He was a postdoctoral fellow at Florida University. Dr. Palczewski has held faculty positions at the University of Florida, the Oregon University of Health Sciences in Portland and the University of Washington in Seattle. In September of 2005, Dr. Palczewski was named the Chair and John H. Hord Professor of the Department of Pharmacology at Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio. He has earned many honors and awards throughout his career. He has held many editorial responsibilities with numerous science journals, both in the USA and in Poland.

Special thanks goes to Ben Stefanski, Polonia activist in Cleveland, for arranging this engaging seminar, with a prime audience of officials from the Polish Consulate in New York: Consul General Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka, Deputy Consul General Marek Skulimowski and Consul Przemyslaw Balcerzyk.

By Mitchell J. Bienia with assistance from Dr. Marcin Golczak



Stefan Batory School, Cleveland, Ohio: Salute to Pani Tereska

We, the teachers, students, and staff, of the Batory school, recently lost a dear friend, student, and cheerleader in Theresa Sejnowski, affectionately known as Pani Tereska. On January 7, 1998, at the age of 77, she enrolled in the Polish Language class taught by Iwona Gutowski. Her enthusiasm for learning and her kind words of encouragement to the students in the Polish language class were inspirational.



Theresa Sejnowski

Iwona, teacher and co-director of the Batory School stated: "Pani Tereska has been in my class for 13 years, always coming, faithfully, with her son Phil. This remarkable woman was an inspiration to everyone with her thirst for knowledge about Polish culture, traditions, and language. During our class celebrations of Wigilja, Pani Tereska always came dressed in traditional Polish colors with a little pin on her chest that read "Proud to be Polish". The class was pleased to have shared Theresa's last Wigilja with her this past December.

Pani Tereska will be remembered as a woman of deep faith and devotion. During all the years that I have known her, she always had my family in her prayers. As her niece, Norma Hanko, a Batory School student, said, "As long as she was able, Theresa attended daily Mass, offering prayers for everyone whose birthday fell on that day."

Carol Stafinski: I feel blessed to have had Theresa as my student. To honor this exceptional woman, I shared this Polish quotation with my class: "Czas jest najlepszym lekarstwem na smutek a wspanien nikt nam nie odbierze one zawsze beda z nami." (Time is the best medicine for sorrow, but nobody will take our memories - they will always be with us.)

I became a member of Iwona's class in 2004. After being greeted by Iwona that first evening, I remember Pani Tereska's warm welcome and thereafter, her weekly encouragement that my pronunciation was getting better. I loved hearing her stories about growing up in a Cleveland Polish-neighborhood, as well as hearing her talk about the region in Poland where her parents were born.

Over the years, our class has presented performances in the community. I remember the enthusiasm that Pani Tereska had for these activities. She was always there, always enthusiastic, and always able to laugh and be the cheerleader we needed to prepare for these endeavors.

Pani Tereska was legendary for her birthday cards. We could always count on receiving a birthday card from her, even as she became fragile and writing became more difficult for her. I always looked forward to her card and the very personal, caring note she inscribed within.

Pani Tereska was also known for her rosary collection. Several years ago, she told me that she had so many rosaries and, at her age, she thought she should share them and asked if I would like one. I felt honored to be asked. A week later, I was presented with a beautiful rosary and case.

Pani Tereska, you have given all those involved with the Stefan Batory School of Polish Language and Culture so much and we thank you. We know that your spirit will always be with us.

Czesc Jej Pamieci!

Written by Iwona Gutowski and Carol Stafinski,

KALENDARZ na MARZEC i KWIECIEŃ 2011

♦ 5 marca (sobota) - Mecz kręglarski St. Stan's One Game Bowling Knock-Out - Cherry Hill Lanes (skrzyżowanie ulic Cherry Hill Rd. i Inkster Rd.), Wyandotte, MI. Rejestracja: godz. 11:15. Po zakończeniu rozgrywek obiad (otwarty bar) w Stitt Post, 23850 Military (1 blok na wschód od Telegraph, na południe od Warren Ave. w Dearborn Heights, MI). Koszt uczestnictwa - \$30.00 dla zawodników, \$25.00 - dla osób towarzyszących. Uwaga: rozgrywki pań mogą się rozpocząć z opóźnieniem. Zainteresowani mogą się zgłaszać do: Ron i Barbara Bak (734) 394-8863.

♦ 5-6 marca (sobota-niedziela) - Rozgrywki Wide Dart Tournament - Misiuda Hall, 5255 N. Detroit Ave., Toledo, OH. Początek o godz. 13:00.

♦ 6 marca (niedziela) - 36. WIOSENNY POKAZ MODY I LUNCH organizowany przez Grupę Kulturalną Dorosłych im. M. Konopnickiej - Sabre Room, 8900 W. 95th St., Hickory Hills, IL. Bilety \$30.00 od osoby. Całkowity dochód przeznaczony na stypendia dla uczestników Balu Kopciuszek i Książę 2012. Dodatkowe informacje: Liz Dynowski lub Walter Dynowski, tel. (708) 532-1541

♦ 8 marca (wtorek) - "Dzień pączkowy" Tow. #1492 ZPRKA - godz.10-11 rano. Polonia Restaurant, 750 S. Highway 17-92, Longood, FL. Zapraszamy do udziału wszystkich członków ZPRKA, którzy tego dnia będą przebywać w środkowej Florydzie.

♦ 11 marca (piątek) - OBIAD PIEROGOWY zespołu Echoes of Poland - Misiuda Hall, 5255 N. Detroit Ave., Toledo, OH. Godz. 16:00-20:00. Cena \$8.00 - dorośli, \$3.00 - dzieci. W cenie: 4 pierogi (do wyboru), sałatka, warzywa, chleb, masło, deser, kawa, poncz. Osoby chcące zamówić pierogi na wynos (\$8.00 za 12 pierogów) powinny się wcześniej zgłosić pod numer: (419) 531-8658.

♦ 12 marca (sobota) - Rozgrywki kręglarskie i zbiórka funduszy Szkoły Polskiej "Gwiazda" - od godz. 9 wieczorem do 12 w nocy - Regal Lanes, 27663 Mound Rd., Warren, MI. Koszt uczestnictwa - \$20.00 od osoby dorosłej (w opłatę wliczone: 3 mecze, wypożyczenie butów, pizza i napoje gazowane). Rezerwacje i opłaty muszą zostać dostarczone do 7 marca. Więcej informacji: Jessica Wendt (313) 682-3031 lub panijessica@hotmail.com.

♦ 13 marca (niedziela) - Doroczny obiad "CORNEDED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER" Dystr. #7 ZPRKA przygotowany przez Ray'a Harringtona. Stołówka ZPRKA, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL. Koktajle - 1 po poł., obiad - 2 po poł. Wstęp - \$25.00 od osoby. Rezerwacje muszą być dokonane do 8 marca 2011. Prosimy wystawiać czeki na: District #7 PRCUA i przysłać na adres: Irene DeLonka, 1323 Churchill Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60195-3221, tel. (847) 882-3261.

♦ 19 marca (sobota) - 77. Turniej Koszykarski ZPRKA - Aquinas Center, 15601 Northline Rd., Southgate, MI. Gospodarzem jest Tow. #162 ZPRKA. Zakwaterowanie w Holiday Inn Southgate, 17201 Northline Rd., Southgate, MI, tel. (888) 465-4329 lub 734-283-4400. Zgłoszenia uczestnictwa muszą napłynąć do 4 marca 2011 r.

♦ 19 marca (sobota) - 48. Doroczny Bankiet Dziedzictwa Polskiego (Good Joe Polish Heritage Award Banquet). W czasie bankietu uhonorowany zostanie Frank L. Kowalski. St. Michael's Woodside Party Ctr., 5025 Mill Rd., Broadview Hts., OH; koktajle - godz. 18 (otwarty bar), obiad - godz. 19, program - godz. 20, zabawa - godz. 21. Wstęp - \$55.00. Rezerwacje należy dokonać do 12 marca. Kontakt: F. Rutkowski (216) 299-2684

♦ 20 marca (niedziela) - Doroczna msza św. i Komunia św. Towarzystwa św. Józefa #261 ZPRKA. St. Louis the King, 18891 St. Louis St., Detroit, MI. Po mszy św. zapraszamy na śniadanie w kafeterii przy parafii oraz krótkie zebranie Towarzystwa. Informacje: dyr. Tom Lisiecki (586) 795-8901.

♦ 26 marca (sobota) - 6. Doroczny Recital Zespołu Tanecznego "Zajaczek" - godz. 14:30 w Warren Woods High School Auditorium, 13400 E. 12 Mile Rd., Warren, MI. Wstęp \$7.00. Byli tancerze, którzy chcieliby wziąć udział w recitalu, powinni się skontaktować z Colleen - zajacekdance@yahoo.com, z Rachael Kasperek - rocki_road@yahoo.com lub z Tircia Zajac - tzajac19@comcast.net.

♦ 3 kwietnia (niedziela) - Święconka Wydziału Kobiet ZPRKA, początek - godz. 12 w poł., lunch - godz. 13:00. Crystal Grand Banquets, 12416 S. Archer Ave., Lemont, IL. Bilety: \$27.00 od osoby, płatny bar. Prosimy o dokonywanie rezerwacji do 27 marca. W sprawie rezerwacji lub informacji prosimy kontaktować się z Krystyną Lech, tel. (708)-361-5029. Mile widziane nagrody na loterię fantową.

♦ 8-10 kwietnia (piątek-niedziela) - 74. Turniej Kręglarski ZPRKA - Stardust Lanes, 37 E. Lorraine St., Addison, IL. Gospodarzem tegorocznego turnieju jest Dystr. #7 ZPRKA. Uczestnicy turnieju mogą skorzystać ze zniżek na pokoje hotelowe w Double-Tree Guest Suites, 2111 Butterfield Rd., Downers Grove, IL. Pokoje pojedyncze i podwójne - \$89.00 plus podatek. W celu dokonania rezerwacji hotelowych należy dzwonić pod numer (630) 971-2000, należy prosić o rezerwacje w "PRUCA Block".

♦ 15 kwietnia (wtorek) - Sprzedaż pierogów zorganizowana przez zespół "Echoes of Poland". 10 rano do 6 wieczorem w Misiuda Hall, 5255 N. Detroit Ave., Toledo, OH. 12 pierogów (z serem, ziemniakami lub kapustą) w cenie \$8.00. Prosimy o robienie wcześniejszych zamówień pod numer (419) 531-8658.

♦ 17 kwietnia (niedziela) - 42. Doroczny Recital Zespołu Pieśni i Tańca "Halka". Godz. 3 po południu, VanDyke Community Auditorium, 22500 Federal, Warren, MI. W czasie recitalu uhonorowana zostanie absolwentka zespołu Christina Danieli. Wstęp: \$7.00 - bilety przy wejściu. Informacje: (313) 891-2403.

♦ Prosimy członków Towarzystw ZPRKA o sprawdzenie kalendarza na str. 2 - w celu zapoznania się z terminarzem planowanych na luty i marzec zebrań Towarzystw.

ORGANIZACJE POLONIJNE ZAPRASZAJĄ

WYCIECZKA DO KASYNA - ZNP, ZPRKA, ZPwA oraz Sokolstwo Polskie zapraszają na wspólny wyjazd do kasyna Potawatomi Bingo and Casino w Milwaukee, WI. w środę, 16 marca 2011 r. Koszt uczestnictwa: \$22.00 od osoby (każdy uczestnik otrzyma \$10.00 gotówki oraz lunch w stylu bufetowym). W celu dokonania rezerwacji, prosimy przesłać swoje dane: nazwisko, adres, numer telefonu oraz zaznaczyć, w której lokalizacji osoba wsiądzie do autokaru: na północy, czy na południu. Do informacji należy dołączyć czek wystawiony na PNA i przesłać wszystko na adres: Polish National Alliance, 6100 N. Cicero Ave, Chicago, IL 60646. Uczestnicy muszą zabrać ze sobą aktualny dokument tożsamości ze zdjęciem. Ilość miejsc ograniczona. Po 28 lutego nie będą dokonywane zwroty w wypadku rezygnacji z udziału. Autokar odjedzie z dwóch lokalizacji: na północy z siedziby PNA, 6100 N. Cicero Ave, Chicago o godz. 8:30 i z południa z Mayfield Banquet Hall, 6072 S. Archer Ave, Chicago, o godz. 8:00. Wyjazd z kasyna planowany jest na 14:20.

DZIEŃ POLSKO-AMERYKAŃSKI Z DRUŻYNĄ CHICAGO WOLVES - niedziela, 20 marca 2011 r. Godz. 15:00. Allstate Arena, Rosemont, IL. Mecz drużyn hokejowych Chicago Wolves i Oklahoma City Barons. Bilety w cenach: \$30.00 (rzędy 2-7 off-glass), \$21.00 (rzędy center ice, lower level), \$14.00 (rzędy center ice, upper level). Dodatkowe atrakcje (pierwszych 5 tys. kibiców otrzyma kolekcjonerskie kartki ze zdjęciami zawodników; po meczu możliwość otrzymania autografów (dzięki uprzejmości Kia Motors), aukcja koszulki sportowej i loteria fantowa. Formularz zamówieniowy dostępny na stronie www.prcua.org pod hasłem News and Events.

NOC POLSKO-AMERYKAŃSKA Z DRUŻYNĄ CHICAGO BULLS - Cena biletów obniżona o prawie 50% - United Center, sobota, 5 kwietnia 2011 roku o godz. 19:30. Bilety w cenie \$30.00. Zapraszamy wszystkie rodziny polsko-amerykańskie do wspólnego kibicowania chicagowskiej drużynie w czasie meczu Chicago Bulls z Phoenix Suns.

W celu otrzymania dodatkowych informacji nt. powyższych imprez, prosimy o kontaktowanie się z:

ZPRKA (PRCUA) - (800) 772-8632 w. 2601

ZNP (PNA) - (800) 621-3723 w. 316

ZPwA (PWA) - (888) 522-1898 w. 208

Sokolstwo Polskie - (574) 289-2140

Dodatkowe informacje dostępne są również na: PRCUA Facebook

Tłusty Czwartek i Środa Popielcowa

Tłusty czwartek - w kalendarzu chrześcijańskim ostatni czwartek przed Wielkim Postem, zwany także zapustami. Tłusty czwartek rozpoczyna ostatni tydzień karnawału. W Polsce w tym dniu dozwolone jest objadanie się. Najpopularniejsze w tym dniu przysmaki to pączki i faworki (w niektórych regionach zwane chrustem lub chruścikami). Dawniej objadano się też słoniną, boczkami i mięsem, które suto zapijano wódką.

Ponieważ data tłustego czwartku zależy od daty Wielkanocy, dzień ten jest świętem ruchomym.

Środa Popielcowa (Popielec, Wstępna Środa) - w kalendarzu chrześcijańskim - pierwszy dzień Wielkiego Postu. Jest to dzień pokuty przypadający 40 dni przed Wielkanocą. Według obrzędów katolickich tego dnia kapłan czyni popiołem znak krzyża na głowie wiernych (lub posypuje ich głowy popiołem), mówiąc jednocześnie: "Pamiętaj, że jesteś prochem i w proch się obrócisz" lub "Nawracajcie się i wierźcie w Ewangelię", co ma przypomnieć człowiekowi o kruchości jego życia i nieuchronnej śmierci.

Tradycja posypywania głów popiołem na znak pokuty pojawiła się w VIII wieku. W XI wieku papież Urban II uczynił go obowiązującym zwyczajem w całym Kościele. Wówczas postanowiono, że popiół będzie pochodził z palm poświęconych w Niedzielę Palmową z ubiegłego roku.

W Środę Popielcową obowiązuje wstrzemięźliwość od pokarmów mięsnych (od 14. roku życia) i post ścisły (między 18. a 60. rokiem życia), czyli ograniczenie ilości posiłków do trzech: jednego do syta oraz dwóch skromnych.

ZMIANY NA KONTACH ANNUITY

Z dniem 1 stycznia 2011 roku weszły w życie zmiany w kontach emerytalnych Annuity, oferowanych przez ZPRKA. Zmiany dotyczą kar podatkowych dla kont z serii Classic i Preferred. Konta w serii Millennium pozostają bez zmian.

Przypominamy, iż minimum wpłaty na konta Annuity, oferowane przez ZPRKA, wynosi tylko \$300.00. Zmiany oprocentowania na powyższych kontach są zależne od fluktuacji rynku. Minimum oprocentowania, wynosi 3,00%.

W celu uzyskania jakichkolwiek informacji o kontach annuity, prosimy odwiedzać naszą stronę: www.prcua.org/annuity lub skontaktować się z Departamentem Sprzedaży i Marketingu pod numer 1-800-772-8632.

PODZIĘKOWANIA WSPÓLNOT ZAKONNYCH

BÓG ZAPŁAĆ ZA WASZĄ OFIARĘ

Składamy serdeczne "Bóg zapłać" za przesłaną ofiarę. W codziennych modlitwach prosimy Boga o błogosławieństwo i opiekę Matki Bożej dla naszych dobrodziejów.

Pauline Fathers
National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa
P.O. Box 2049, 654 Ferry Rd., Doylestown, PA 18901, www.czestochowa.us

* * *

Droży Państwo z Polish Roman Catholic Union of America!

Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!

"Bóg zapłać" za Państwa dar dla Dzieciątka Jezus nadesłany na Bożonarodzeniową Nowennę. Dziękujemy za świąteczne życzenia i za miły list. Państwa ofiara umożliwi Godzinie Różańcowej dalszą działalność apostołską w 2011 roku. Niech Dzieciątko Jezus i Jego Matka wynagrodzą Państwu ofiarność i miłość. Dzięki Warszawemu wsparciu możemy razem z całą Polonią cieszyć się Radosną Nowiną o przyjściu Zbawiciela świata. Was oraz Wasze intencje polecał Bóg w Mszach św. i modlitwach podczas Nowenny do Dzieciątka Jezus. Mimo, że nowenna już się zakończyła to zapewniam, że wszystkie Państwa intencje będziemy polecać Bogu w codziennych naszych modlitwach.

O, gwiazdo Betlejemska, zaświeć na niebie mym:

Tak szukam Cię wśród nocy, tęsknię za światłem Twym.

Zaprowadź do stajenki, leży tam Boży Syn,

Bóg Człowiek z Panny świętej, dany na okup win.

Bardzo lubię te proste słowa, wyrażające oczekiwanie i pragnienie ujrzenia Dzieciątka Jezus, Boga - Syna Bożego, a zarazem Człowieka - Syna Maryi. Jakże to piękny widok: gwiazdny łan na niebie, cisza przepelniona głębokim pokojem, a w ubogiej stajence na rękach Maryi spoczywa najpiękniejsze Dzieciątko - Pan świata. Wzrok Matki Bożej obrócony ku Dzieciątku Jezus, jej twarz rozpromieniona pełnią miłości. Jak to małe Dziecię z ufnością spogląda na Matkę, chcąc oddać się Jej w opiekę. Ona wie, co znaczy otworzyć serce i dać schronienie bezbronemu.

Czy widzicie taki sam obraz? Wystarczy zwrócić się do Maryi, a Ona otworzy nasze serca. Ona nauczy miłować i służyć. Za Jej pośrednictwem każdy z nas może lepiej przygotować się na spotkanie z Jezusem. Dlatego życzę, aby Jezus Chrystus spojrział na Was z radością, z jaką patrzył na swoją Matkę i żeby w Państwa sercach czuł się tak bezpieczny, jak w objęciach Maryi i Józefa. Niech On też błogosławi Państwu na cały Nowy Rok Pański 2011!

Maryjo, my wszyscy chcemy Twymi dziećmi być! Wskaż drogę do Jezusa i naucz dobrze żyć!

O. Marcel

Father Justin Rosary Hour, P.O. Box 454, Athol Springs, NY 14010, www.RosaryHour.com

* * *

Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus,

Na wstępie, w imieniu całej naszej wspólnoty wydawniczej w Santa Severa, pragnąłbym podziękować za nadesłany list oraz za ofiarę-donację, za prenumeratę miesięcznika "Rycerz Niepokalanej". Bóg zapłać!

Dołączamy nasze życzenia obfitości Bożego błogosławieństwa, pokoju serca, daru zdrowia i nadziei w każdym dniu 2011 roku - dla wszystkich członków Polish Roman Catholic Union of America.

Załączamy serdeczne pozdrowienia i wyrazy pamięci w modlitwie.

o. Franciszek

w imieniu administracji Rycerza

Santa Severa, 31 stycznia 2011

Rycerz Niepokalanej dla Polonii, via Giunone Lucina 75, 00050 Santa Severa - Italy

WYDARZENIA POLONIJNE

Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce zaprasza do udziału w KONKURSIE PLASTYCZNYM organizowanym z okazji ŚWIĘTA KONSTYTUCJI 3 MAJA. Temat: POZNAJ POLSKĘ. Prace plastyczne powinny być inspirowane polskimi krajobrazami, miastami lub zabytkami sztuki. Bądź twórczy! Używaj wielu kolorów! Technika i wymiary prac są dowolne. Prace nadesłane na konkurs stają się własnością Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce. Prace powinny zostać nadesłane przed 18 kwietnia 2011 r. na adres: PMA Art Contest, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642-4101. Konkurs przeznaczony jest dla uczniów klas 6-12. Nagrody przyznawane będą w dwóch kategoriach: klasy 6-8 i klasy 9-12. I nagroda - 100 \$, II - 50 \$, III - 25 \$. Na odwrocie pracy należy umieścić następujące dane: imię i nazwisko, adres, nr. telefonu, e-mail, nazwę szkoły, klasę, wiek uczestnika oraz imię i nazwisko nauczyciela plastyki. Dodatkowe informacje: Monika Nowak: (773) 384-3352 w. 101.

Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce zaprasza na uroczyste obchody DNIA PUŁASKIEGO w poniedziałek, 7 marca 2011 r. o godz. 10 rano w Sali Głównej im. Sabiny P. Logisz w Muzeum Polskim, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL. W uroczystości wezmą udział przedstawiciele instytucji stanowych i miejskich, politycy, działacze polonijni. Zostanie złożony wieniec pod obrazem Stefana Batowskiego "Bitwa pod Savannah". Po programie poczęstunek w sali jadalnej na parterze budynku. Zapraszamy całą Polonię do liczного udziału. Dzień Pułaskiego jest świętem stanowym w stanie Illinois.

WIADOMOŚCI Z POLSKI

16 milionów internautów w Polsce - Według najnowszych badań wynika, iż w 2010 roku z sieci korzystało 52,4% Polaków, co oznacza 15,8 miliona ludzi. Rok wcześniej było to 14,9 mln osób. 72% użytkowników Internetu w Polsce z sieci korzysta codziennie lub prawie codziennie, a 19% - kilka razy w tygodniu. Z komputera donowego wchodzi do Internetu 93,8% internautów, w pracy 21,2%. Starsze osoby wciąż z sieci prawie nie korzystają. Najwyższy odsetek użytkowników Internetu przypada na grupę w wieku 25-39 lat oraz w wieku 15-24 lata. W grupie ludzi powyżej 60 lat z sieci korzysta tylko 4%. Najczęściej odwiedzane są strony Facebook, Google, Allegro i Onet.

Od chwili otwarcia Centrum Nauki Kopernik było czynne dla zwiedzających przez 90 dni. W tym czasie odwiedziło je ponad 200 tysięcy osób. W styczniu ponad 50% gości przybyło spoza województwa mazowieckiego. Centrum jest najliczniej zwiedzane przez osoby w wieku 36-45 lat (29,6%), następnie osoby w wieku 26-35 lat (28,6%) oraz młodzież w wieku 15-25 lat (26,1%). Odwiedzającym najbardziej podoba się ekspozycja "Świat w ruchu i wystawa dla najmłodszych - Bzzz!".

Rośnie zatrudnienie na polskim rynku pracy tymczasowej - W 2010 roku ponad 11,5 tys. pracodawców skorzystało z pracy tymczasowej (prawie 10% więcej niż w 2009 r.). Firmy korzystają z elastycznych form zatrudnienia, gdy widzą wzrost zamówień, ale nie mają pewności, czy te zamówienia będą stabilne w dłuższym okresie. Jest nadzieja, że wraz z poprawą sytuacji gospodarczej wiele tymczasowych stanowisk pracy zamieni się w stałe posady. Wzrosła nie tylko liczba pracodawców, ale również liczba branż, które korzystają z pracowników tymczasowych, np: w firmach motoryzacyjnych, maszynowych, spożywczych, w bankach, szpitalach i prywatnych przychodniach oraz w branży logistycznej i farmaceutycznej. Jednocześnie coraz więcej firm wprowadza strukturę zatrudnienia, gdzie ok. 80% to stali pracownicy, a 20% stanowi elastyczne zatrudnienie.

Według dziennika "Financial Times" Kraków i południowa Polska są jednymi z najlepszych miejsc do inwestowania w Europie. Na liście 10 najbardziej atrakcyjnych miast i regionów w Europie pod względem kosztów działalności Kraków jest drugi (po Warszawie, a przed Wrocławiem), regionem Polska południowa. W zestawieniu miast-regionów o największym potencjale ekonomicznym prowadzi Luksemburg przed Tallinem, Paryżem i Londynem. Kraków jest szósty i pierwszy w Polsce (Polska południowa - 7.). Żadne polskie miasto nie znalazło się w pierwszej 30-tce na liście miast z najlepiej rozwiniętą infrastrukturą. Obok Warszawy i Wrocławia Kraków jest coraz częściej zauważanym miastem przez światowych inwestorów. W ostatnich dwóch latach opłacało się pod Wawelem kupować nieruchomości. Spośród 50 dużych zagranicznych firm usługowych, które w ostatnich latach zainwestowały w Polsce, swoje centra zlokalizowało u nas 30 firm zajmujących się księgowością, informatyką, kadrami. Powstało 30 tys. miejsc pracy. Kraków posiada piękne i żywe stare miasto, które poza turystami ściąga też menedżerów międzynarodowych koncernów; stosunkowo dobrą komunikację i drugie co do wielkości lotnisko w Polsce oraz dobre zaplecze edukacyjne (wyższe uczelnie) i niskie koszty pracy.



NA KARNAWAŁ

Pączki pieczone

1 1/2 filiżanki (cup) mleka, 5.5 uncji cukru, 1/2 uncji drożdży, 3 1/2 uncji masła, 2 funty mąki, łyżeczka soli, szczypta świeżo utartej gałki muszkatołowej, 2 jajka

Mleko lekko podgrzać; 1/4 mleka wlać do miski, dodać cukier i drożdże. Odstawić na kilka minut, by drożdże zaczęły pracować. Do reszty ciepłego mleka dodać masę i rozczyń drożdży. W dużej misce wymieszać mąkę, sól i gałkę muszkatołową. Dodać roztrzepane jajka i mleko z masłem i drożdżami. Wyrabiać jednolite ciasto. Przykryć i odstawić w ciepłe miejsce do czasu, aż podwoi swoją objętość. Wyłożyć ciasto na blat oprószone mąką. Rozwałkować je na grubość 1/2 cala. Dużą okrągłą foremką wycinać w cieście kółka, a w nich drugą, mniejszą, dziurki. Pączki odłożyć przykryte jeszcze na 1 godz., aby znowu wyrosły. Piekarnik nagrzać do 375F, piec pączki na złoty kolor (ok. 15-20 minut). Gotowe można polać stopionym masłem i posypać cukrem z cynamonem.

Pączki tradycyjne

9 uncji świeżych drożdży, 1/2 filiżanki (cup) ciepłego mleka, 1 łyżeczka cukru, 2 żółtka, 1 jajko, 4 łyżki cukru waniliowego, 9-10 uncji mąki, 1 łyżeczka soli, 1 1/4 uncji masła, olej do smażenia

Drożdże skruszyć, dodać 2 łyżki mąki, 1 łyżeczkę cukru i 1/4 filiżanki ciepłego mleka., wymieszać i zostawić do wyrośnięcia na 15-20 min. Jajko i żółtka utrzeć z cukrem waniliowym. Mąkę przesiać do dużej miski i wymieszać z solą. Do mąki dodać wyrośnięty rozczyń oraz resztę ciepłego mleka. Wymieszać, na koniec dodając ubite jajka. Wyrabiać przez 15 minut, dodać stopione masło i wyrobić jeszcze przez ok. 5 minut. Przykryte ściereczką ciasto odstawić do wyrośnięcia w ciepłe miejsce. Gdy ciasto podwoi swoją objętość (ok. 2 godz.) rozwałkować ciasto na gruby placek (można posypać lekko mąką). Z ciasta wycinać krążki szklanką i odkładać do wyrośnięcia na około 1 godz. Podrośnięte pączki odwrócić wierzchem, a gdy znowu wyrosną, (po około 1/2 godzinie) smażyć w rozgrzanym oleju. Przez pierwszą minutę smażyć pod przykryciem później pączki przewrócić na drugą stronę i smażyć kolejną minutę bez przykrycia. Wyjąć na ręcznik papierowy. Polać lukrem zmieszonym ze skórką pomarańczową lub posypać cukrem pudrem zmieszonym z cukrem waniliowym.

Pączki z twarogu

3 filiżanki (cup) mąki, 2 funty twarogu, 1 filiżanka cukru, 5 jajek, 1 łyżeczka sody, olej do smażenia

Jajka ubić mikserem z cukrem, dodać mąkę, sodę i zmielony twaróg. Dobrze wyrobić. Maczając ręce w tłuszczu, formować z ciasta małe pączki, kłaść do rozgrzanego oleju i smażyć na rumiano. Wyjąć na ręcznik papierowy. Posypać cukrem pudrem.

Faworki

10 1/2 uncji maki, 5 łyżek gęstej kwaśnej śmietany, 4 żółtka, jajko, łyżka spirytusu lub octu spirytusowego, szczypta soli, tłuszcz do głębokiego smażenia, cukier puder do posypywania

Dokładnie wymieszać wszystkie składniki i wyrobić gładkie ciasto. Ciasto rozwałkować jak najcieniej na stolnicy lekko oprószonej mąką. Pokroić na paski o szerokości 1 1/4 cala i długości 5-6 cali, naciąć wzdłuż każdy środek wykrojonego paska na długość ok. 2 cali. Przewinąć przez nacięcie koniec paska. W głębokim naczyniu rozgrzać tłuszcz i smażyć faworki z obu stron. Zarumienione układać na bibule, żeby odciekł tłuszcz. Na końcu posypać cukrem pudrem. Zamiast spirytusu do ciasta można dodać ocet lub rum. Cukier do posypywania faworków można mieszać z cynamonem lub z cukrem waniliowym. Aby faworki nie rumieniły się za mocno, do tłuszczu włożyć surowego ziemniaka, który po silnym zarumienieniu wymienić na nowy.



Terminy nadsyłania artykułów do "Narodu Polskiego"

Data publikacji	Termin nadsyłania artykułów
1 kwietnia	15 marca
1 maja	19 kwietnia
1 czerwca	17 maja
1 lipca	14 czerwca
1 sierpnia	19 lipca
1 września	16 sierpnia
1 października	20 września

Szczegółowy plan uroczystości beatyfikacji Jana Pawła II

Uroczystości beatyfikacji Jana Pawła II, które odbędą się 1 maja, poprzedzi czuwanie modlitewne 30 kwietnia w Rzymie, a zakończy 2 maja msza dziękczynna.

O godz. 20 w sobotę, 30 kwietnia rozpocznie się zorganizowane przez diecezję rzymską czuwanie modlitewne na terenie antycznego stadionu Circus Maximus. Uroczystości będzie przewodniczył wikariusz diecezji, kardynał Agostino Vallini. Uczestników czuwania pozdrowi również za pośrednictwem łącz telewizyjnych papież Benedykt XVI. Czuwanie ma trwać do 22.30.

1 maja o godzinie 10 na Placu świętego Piotra rozpocznie się msza beatyfikacyjna, którą odprawi Benedykt XVI. Natychmiast po mszy beatyfikacyjnej 1 maja przed Ołtarzem Konfesji w bazylice świętego Piotra zostaną wystawione szczątki Jana Pawła II. Zdecydowano, że ich wystawienie potrwa w zależności od napływu wiernych, którzy będą chcieli oddać hołd błogosławionemu. Trumna Jana Pawła II nie zostanie otwarta.

2 maja o godzinie 10.30 na Placu św. Piotra mszę dziękczynną za beatyfikację papieża odprawi watykański sekretarz stanu kardynał Tarcisio Bertone.

5 maja podczas prywatnej uroczystości, szczątki Jana Pawła II zostaną pochowane w kaplicy świętego Sebastiana w bazylice. Znajduje się ona po prawej stronie od wejścia, zaraz za Pietą Michała Anioła.

Watykan przestrzega przed pojawiającymi się, szczególnie w internecie, "ofertami" dotyczącymi sprzedaży biletów na udział w beatyfikacji. Przypomina w związku z tym, że do udziału we mszy 1 maja i pozostałych uroczystościach nie będą potrzebne bilety.

Poznaj własne polskie nazwisko!

Szczegółowe opracowanie polskiego nazwiska w języku polskim lub angielskim (pochodzenie, znaczenie, liczba użytkowników, ich miejsce zamieszkania i herb rodowy, jeśli takowy istnieje) można zamówić wysyłając pocztą lotniczą czek osobisty lub bankowy w wysokości \$16 (dołączając \$7 za każde dodatkowe nazwisko do analizy) na adres:

Robert Strybel
ul. Kaniowska 24
01-529 Warszawa/ POLAND

Do opracowania, przygotowanego przez dyplomowanego filologa, dodajemy wykaz pomocnych kontaktów (namiary na instytucje, organizacje i firmy genealogiczne, strony internetowe, bazy danych itp.), które ułatwią dalsze badanie własnego rodowodu.

10-lecie Jezuickiego Ośrodka Milenijnego

Polscy Jezuici w Chicago obchodzą w tym roku Jubileusz 10-lecia Jezuickiego Ośrodka Milenijnego! Wszyscy dobrze pamiętamy starą, przytulną kaplicę przy Avers wraz z ogrodem, która z biegiem lat zaczęła gromadzić coraz więcej ludzi, co powodowało różne kłopoty lokalowo-parkingowe i ostatecznie zmusiło do szukania nowego, większego miejsca, które mogłoby odpowiedzieć na powstające nowe wyzwania tysiąclecia wśród polonijnej społeczności.

I tak oto, na przełomie wieków, w 2001 roku, powstał Jezuicki Ośrodek Milenijny, który przez te ostatnie 10 lat na dobre już wpisał się w panoramę miejsc, w których spotyka się Polonia chicagowska. Wzniesiony wspólnym wysiłkiem Ośrodek stał się miejscem, do którego chętnie dzisiaj zaglądamy przy okazji różnych wydarzeń: religijnych, kulturalnych i społecznych.

Centralnym miejscem Ośrodka jest Sanktuarium Serca Pana Jezusa, które gromadzi liczną grupę wiernych na Msze Święte, spowiedzi, różne nabożeństwa, adoracje, czy też po prostu na modlitwę – spokojne zatrzymanie się w wirze zajęć, jakie nas tutaj wciąż przygniatają. Stąd nie bez kozery na ołtarzu wyrzeźbione są słowa Pana Jezusa z mozaiki w głównym ołtarzu: Przyjdźcie do Mnie wszyscy... w domyśle dopowiadamy... którzy obciążeni i utrudzeni jesteście, a Ja was pokrzepię... Z nową kaplicą można się też połączyć przez radio, kamerę internetową i uczestniczyć na żywo w wydarzeniach na stronie www.jezuici.org.

Ośrodek jest też miejscem, gdzie spotykają się i działają różne grupy i organizacje polonijne, żeby wymienić choć niektóre z nich: Wspólnota Jaśmin – dla dzieci niepełnosprawnych, Schronisko Lazarus – dla osób z różnymi uzależnieniami, jest Wspólnota Trudnych Małżeństw, działa poradnia rodzinna, grupa wsparcia dla osób w żałobie, grupa biblijna i WŻCh (Wspólnota Życia Chrześcijańskiego).

W Ośrodku Milenijnym mają miejsce wydarzenia kulturalne, różne koncerty: jazzowe, muzyki klasycznej, koncerty kolęd. Poeci polonijni mają tutaj swoje wieczory poezji, teatry mają swoje przedstawienia, można podziwiać różne wystawy malarstwa. Tutaj można też zapisać się na kursy języka angielskiego, kursy komputerowe, fotograficzne, a nawet na kurs przedmałżeński. Można też mile spędzić czas w uroczej kawiarence lub pożyczyć dobrą książkę w pobliskiej bibliotece.

Na 10-lecie swojego istnienia i działalności Ośrodek zaplanował między innymi 3 ważniejsze wydarzenia, a mianowicie Bal Jubileuszowy w lutym, Wielki Piknik w czerwcu i Bankiet Jubileuszowy we wrześniu. Na początek obchodów odbył się w sobotę, 19 lutego karnawałowy bal jubileuszowy w sali bankietowej Jolly Inn. Do tańca przygrywał wyśmienity zespół „Słowianie”. W trakcie balu na gości czekało wiele atrakcji.

Nie może Was zabraknąć! Zapraszamy do świętowania 10-lecia Jezuickiego Ośrodka Milenijnego!

Wiadomości z Polskiej Szkoły im Marii Konopnickiej



11 grudnia 2010

Zwiedzenie takiego miejsca jak Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce jest powinnością każdego ucznia polskiej szkoły w rejonie Chicago. Dlatego wycieczki do muzeum są już



tradycją naszej szkoły. Uczniowie z wielkim zainteresowaniem słuchali opowieści pani przewodnik na temat historii polskich emigrantów oraz losów wielkich Polaków jak Tadeusz Kościuszko czy Kazimierz Pułaski, na kontynencie

amerykańskim. Z zacięciem obejrzeli zgromadzone tu liczne eksponaty. Każdy uczeń otrzymał książeczkę o patronie tego muzeum, Ignacym Janie Paderewskim, któremu poświęcona jest tutaj specjalna ekspozycja.

17 grudnia 2010



W kościele St. Louis de Montfort w Oak Lawn, uczniowie z tej lokalizacji naszej szkoły, zaprezentowali świąteczno-bożonarodzeniowy program artystyczny. Wiele postaci związanych z Bożym Narodzeniem spotkało się tutaj przy wigilijnym stole, aby przybliżyć nam wszystkim świąteczne, wigilijne tradycje i wspólnie z nami pokolegować.

Program przygotowała klasa 2 licealna pod kierunkiem pani Kingi Truty oraz klasa 3a pod kierunkiem pani Ewy Bienkowskiej. Wszyscy obecni włączyli się ochoczo do wspólnego śpiewania kolęd. Usłyszał to piękne kolędowanie św. Mikołaj i natychmiast przybył z workiem pełnym prezentów, aby obdarować



grzeczne dzieci chociaż drobnymi upominkami.

Na zakończenie ostatniego spotkania w starym roku, składano sobie wzajemnie życzenia świąteczne i noworoczne. Dziękujemy Państwu



za liczne uczestnictwo, wspólne śpiewanie kolęd-pastorałek

18 grudnia 2010

W sali biskupa Abramowicza przy Kościele Pięciu Braci Męczenników w



Chicago, wszyscy nasi uczniowie wzięli udział w programie artystycznym "Hej Kolęda, Kolęda". Każdy z uczniów wniósł swój wkład w to chwytające za serce przedstawienie. Była szopka z Maryją, Dzieciątkiem i Józefem,

przybyli Trzej Królowie, przybiegli pastuszkowie, przyleciały aniołki, były kolędy grane na skrzypceczkach i te najbardziej wzruszające, śpiewane przez najmłodszych i najgłośniejsze, śpiewane przez wszystkich. Pojawił się oczywiście również św. Mikołaj z workiem pełnym prezentów.

Życzenia świąteczne i noworoczne dla uczniów, rodziców, nauczycieli, gości i wszystkich zebranych złożył ks. proboszcz Wojciech Bandurski oraz prezes komitetu rodzicielskiego Bogumiła Kopeć-Tutak wraz z dyrektorem szkoły Stanisławem Skubisz.

W podziękowaniu za wzruszające przedstawienie rodzice przygotowali królewski poczęstunek dla wszystkich. Dziękujemy rodzicom za smakołyki oraz wspaniałe stroje, w których dzieci wyglądały wspaniale.

Krystyna Królikowski



SZKOLENIE SPRZEDAWCÓW W MICHIGAN

W niedzielę, 20 marca 2011 roku, członkowie zarządu oraz dyrektorka Departamentu Sprzedaży i Marketingu ZPRKA, Agnieszka (Migiel) Bastrzyk, przeprowadzą szkolenie nt. programów ubezpieczeniowych i emerytalnych, oferowanych przez ZPRKA. Szkolenie przeznaczone jest dla obecnych sprzedawców oraz dla wszystkich, którzy zainteresowani są zdobyciem wiedzy i sprzedażą naszych produktów.

Szkolenie odbędzie się w Society #162 Club House, 1430 Oak Street, Wyandotte, MI. Początek o godz. 14:30.

Osoby zainteresowane wzięciem udziału w szkoleniu, mogą nadsyłać zgłoszenia elektronicznie, na naszej witrynie: <http://prcu.org/agentsupport.htm> lub telefonicznie, dzwoniąc do Agnieszki 1-800-772-8632 w. 2632. Zgłoszenia muszą zostać nadesłane do 14 marca 2011 r.

Będziemy informować o kolejnych szkoleniach, które są planowane.

PRZEJAZD AUTOKAREM Z DETOIT DO ADDISON NA TURNIEJ KRĘGLARSKI

W dniach 8-10 kwietnia 2011 r. odbędzie się w Addison, IL 74. Krajowy Turniej Kręglarski ZPRKA. Planowane jest wynajęcie autokaru, który przewiozłby uczestników turnieju z Detroit, MI do Addison, IL. Wynajęcie autokaru będzie możliwe, jeśli zgłosi się conajmniej 35 osób. Opłaty w wysokości \$50.00 (przejazd w obie strony) muszą napłynąć do 18 marca 2011 r. Prosimy wystawiać czeki na: St. Stan's #718 i przesyłać na adres: Gary Ewald, 35961 Perth, Livonia, MI 48154. W celu uzyskania dodatkowych informacji prosimy dzwonić do: Gary Ewald (734) 591-0305 lub (734) 895-5519 (kom).



Kontynuowanie polskich tradycji świątecznych i karnawałowych w Polskiej Szkole im. Św. Rafała Kalinowskiego, Munster, IN



Zdjęcie grupowe - szkolne z programu świątecznego.

uczniów, ich rodzin i gości oraz Zabawy Szkolnej.

Czas biegnie tak szybko, że chciałoby się powiedzieć: "Święta, Święta i już po Świętach...".

Już prawie miesiąc temu, 23 stycznia 2011 r., uczniowie naszej szkoły zaprezentowali



Świąteczne przedstawienie.

przypominali nam - dorosłym, sens obyczajów, związanych z narodzeniem Dzieciątka.

Na program złożyły się teksty czytane przez narratorów oraz recytacje wierszy, m.in. A. Mickiewicza, J. Twardowskiego, T. Kubiak, J. Ficowskiego, K. Chojeckiej, związanych z tematyką Wigilii i Świąt Bożego Narodzenia, we wspaniałym wykonaniu uczniów klas od 3 do 8.

W centralnym punkcie sceny stał wigilijny stół, przykryty białym obrusem, z piękną świąteczną zastawą na 7 osób. Był stroik ze świecą i na talerzyku opłatki. Przy stole zasiadła trójpokoleniowa polska rodzina (dziadkowie, rodzice i dzieci). Siódme - puste nakrycie, przydało się, gdy w trakcie kolacji wigilijnej zapukał zbłąkany wędrowiec. Wszyscy przy stole podzielili się opłatkiem, składając sobie życzenia.

Na koniec przedstawienia przyszli kolednicy z gwiazdą, którzy odśpiewali, piękną góralszczyzną, tradycyjne świąteczne



Mali aktorzy w przedstawieniu świątecznym.

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W Polskiej Szkole im. Św. Rafała Kalinowskiego celebrujemy go w formie programu świątecznego z udziałem wszystkich

w kościele OO. Karmelitów w Munster, IN program słowno-muzyczny p.t. "Przy wigilijnym stole". Przesłaniem tego przedstawienia było kultywowanie polskich tradycji i obyczajów bożonarodzeniowych. Na scenie, to właśnie dzieci - mali aktorzy rymowaną opowieścią tłumaczyli swoim



Aktorzy - przedstawienie świąteczne.

zyczenia.

Przedstawienie przeplatane było najpiękniejszymi polskimi kolędami, śpiewanymi przez wszystkie dzieci. Najmłodsze dzieci zaśpiewały tak słicznie



Zdjęcie grupowe tancerzy.

"Lulajże Jezuniu", pokazując, jak huśtają małego Jezuska do snu, że zachęciły wszystkich obecnych do śpiewania kolęd razem z dziećmi.

Podniosły nastrój, panujący wśród małych aktorów, udzielił się także widzowi.

Program przygotowały i wyreżyserowały nauczycielki: Małgorzata Czachor (wychowawczyni klasy 7 i 8) i Anna Kowalczyk (wychowawczyni klasy 3 i 4), a udział brały wszystkie dzieci z naszej szkoły, od przedszkola do liceum.

Oprawę muzyczną operacowali: nasz katecheta - O. Bartłomiej, który grał na gitarze i organista Michael Gibson.

Po występie mali aktorzy zostali poczęstowani pizzą i napojami, a rodzice i przybyli goście mogli spróbować wspaniałych domowych wypieków i napić się kawy.

Nasza społeczność szkolna nie miała wiele czasu na odpoczynek, bo już w dwa tygodnie po pokazie programu świątecznego spotkaliśmy się ponownie - tym razem na parkiecie Sali Bankietowej Ojców Karmelitów, gdzie od paru już lat odbywa się nasza coroczna szkolna Zabawa Karnawałowa.

Aż 180 gości zaszczyliło nas swoją obecnością, w tym reprezentanci takich organizacji polonijnych jak ZPRKA, Pulaski Citizens Club, Polish American Congress, Placówki 40 SWAP oraz Korpus KPP.



Dzieci tańczące.

Zabawę rozpoczęły powitaniem pani Małgorzata Rolniak, prezes Zarządu oraz Agnieszka Fezatt, wiceprezes.

Główną atrakcją oficjalnej części zabawy był występ taneczny młodzieży szkolnej z klas od przedszkolnej do 4-tej oraz grupy "Śląsk" pod artystycznym kierownictwem pani Natalii Grabowski i pana Konrada Habiny. Uczniowie zaprezentowali Poloneza, tańce z terenów Łowicza, Kaszub, Cieszyna, Opoczna i Górnego Śląska.

Po występie tanecznym, przybili goście mogli delektować swoje podniebienia pysznym obiadem i deserem. Loteria fantowa była ogromnym sukcesem i aż 41 szczęśliwych gości wygrało nagrody fantowe. Oprawa muzyczna przygotowana przez DJ Marcina wprawiła wszystkich w szampańskie nastroje i zachęciła do wspólnej zabawy, która zakończyła się o północy.

Z wielką radością zauważamy, że poprzez kultywowanie polskich tradycji świątecznych i karnawałowych zbliżamy naszą społeczność szkolną jak również lokalną społeczność polonijną i amerykańską. Teraz pozostaje nam jedynie czekać do przyszłego roku na kolejne tego typu spotkania.



Grupa taneczna Śląsk.

SPECJALNY PROGRAM UBEZPIECZENIOWY ZPRKA "RODZINA PLUS"

Od lutego 2011 r. ZPRKA oferuje specjalny program ubezpieczeń na życie, tzw. SPECJALNY PROGRAM UBEZPIECZENIOWY "RODZINA PLUS" (FAMILY PLUS LIFE INSURANCE SPECIAL). Wykupujący ustala definicję "rodziny". I tak 2 (minimum) lub więcej osób, bez względu na pokrewieństwo stanowią definicję rodziny, np: rodzice i dzieci; samotny rodzic z dziećmi, dziadkowie z dziećmi, itp. Przynajmniej jedna osoba musi być dorosła (powyżej 16 lat). W programie może brać udział nieokreślona liczba członków rodziny, pod warunkiem, że ich stan zdrowia jest na tyle dobry, że kwalifikują się do wykupienia ubezpieczenia. Koszt ubezpieczenia oparty jest na rocznych opłatach, jednak możemy zaaranżować opłaty miesięczne, kwartalne, lub półroczne

CO TO JEST SPECJALNY PROGRAM UBEZPIECZENIOWY "RODZINA PLUS"?

Dotyczy następujących osób: Podstawowego ubezpieczonego oraz innych osób ubezpieczonych. Osoby ubezpieczające się mogą zdecydować, jakie ubezpieczenie odpowiada najlepiej ich potrzebom i możliwościom finansowym. I tak np. osoba posiadająca podstawowe ubezpieczenie może wykupić polisę opiewającą na \$50 tys. ubezpieczenia stałego lub ubezpieczenie mieszane: \$25 tys. ubezpieczenia stałego (Whole Life Insurance) i \$25. tys. ubezpieczenia terminowego (Term Life Insurance). Drugi ubezpieczony może wykupić polisę o wartości minimum \$25 tys. ubezpieczenia stałego lub \$25 tys. ubezpieczenia 20-letniego terminowego (20 Year Level Term Life Insurance). Jeśli drugi ubezpieczony jest nieletni (poniżej 16 roku życia), wymagane jest wykupienie polisy o wartości minimum \$10 tys. ubezpieczenia stałego.

Poniżej przedstawiamy przykład proponowanego ubezpieczenia. Ubezpieczający się decyduje, kto jest podstawowym ubezpieczonym oraz ile będzie wynosić suma ubezpieczenia. Podstawowy ubezpieczony musi mieć minimum 16 lat.

OSOBA UBEZPIECZONA	PLEĆ	WIEK	KLASA	RODZAJ PLANU	ROCZNA OPLATA
podst. ubezp.	mężcz.	35	niepalący	\$25,000 ubezp. stałe	\$306.00
				\$25,000 ubezp. 20-letnie terminowe	92.50
druga osoba ubezp.	kob.	35	niepaląca	\$25,000 ubezp. stałe	269.25
nieletni	mężcz.	10	niepalący	\$10,000 ubezp. stałe	91.40
nieletni	kob.	10	niepaląca	\$10,000 ubezp. stałe	84.90
OGÓLNIE				\$95,000 suma ubezp. dla rodziny	\$844.05
				MINUS 10% ROCZNEJ ZNIŻKI RODZINNEJ	- 84.40
				KOSZT WYKUPU UBEZPIECZENIA	\$759.65

UWAGA: Każda rodzina wykupująca ubezpieczenie w ramach SPECJALNEGO PROGRAMU UBEZPIECZENIOWEGO "RODZINA PLUS" stworzy swój unikalny program. SPECJALNY PROGRAM UBEZPIECZENIOWY "RODZINA PLUS" zostanie przygotowany indywidualnie dla każdej rodziny.

JAKI JEST KOSZT? Wysokość opłat za wykupienie SPECJALNEGO PROGRAMU UBEZPIECZENIOWEGO "RODZINA PLUS" wyliczona zostanie przy użyciu standartowych obliczeń oraz wieku i płci osób ubezpieczonych, wybranego planu, wysokości ubezpieczenia, itp. Jednakże, każda rodzina wykupująca SPECJALNY PROGRAM UBEZPIECZENIOWY "RODZINA PLUS", otrzyma 10% zniżkę na roczną opłatę przy wykupie ubezpieczenia oraz przy każdorazowej rocznej opłacie.

ABY SIĘ DOWIEDZIEĆ JAK SKORZYSTAĆ Z TEJ WSPANIAŁEJ OFERTY, prosimy skontaktować się z lokalnym agentem sprzedaży lub z jednym z biur ZPRKA: w Ohio - (800) 318-8234, w Pensylwanii - (800) 558-8792 lub w biurze głównym w Chicago - (800) 772-8632 lub (773) 782-2600.

POMOŻEMY CI ZAINWESTOWAĆ W PRZYSZŁOŚĆ TWOJEJ RODZINY I DOSTOSUJEMY PLAN UBEZPIECZENIOWY DO TWOICH INDYWIDUALNYCH POTRZEB I MOŻLIWOŚCI!

GRATULUJEMY NAJLEPSZYM SPRZEDAWCOM PLANÓW ANNUITY

Gratulujemy wszystkim sprzedawcom, którzy w okresie od 1 stycznia do 21 grudnia 2010 roku sprzedali programy Annuities. Na stronie 1 i 3 "Narodu Polskiego" podajemy nazwiska najlepszych sprzedawców kont Annuity oraz informacje o aktualnym oprocentowaniu kont.

Wszystkim gratulujemy dotychczasowych osiągnięć, dziękujemy za promocję ZPRKA i usług finansowych, które nasza organizacja oferuje oraz życzymy kolejnych sukcesów w następnym roku.

Termin nadsyłania rozliczeń podatkowych upływa 18 kwietnia 2011

- Agnieszka Bastrzyk

W tym roku amerykański urząd podatkowy (IRS) przedłużył podatnikom w USA termin nadsyłania zeznań podatkowych za 2010 rok o trzy dni - do 18 kwietnia 2011 r.

Według przyjętego terminarzu, data nadsyłania rozliczeń do IRS jest ustalona na 15 kwietnia. Ponieważ jednak w tym roku District of Columbia obchodzić będzie w dniu 15 kwietnia br. Dzień Wyzwolenia (Emancipation Day) - święto obchodzone na pamiątkę otrzymania przez niewolników w stanie D.C. wolności, IRS zmuszony został przedłużyć ostateczny termin nadsyłania zeznań do 18 kwietnia.

Jednocześnie oznacza to, że w tym roku dokonanie ostatecznych wpłat na konta IRA za 2010 roku - upływa również 18 kwietnia, nawet jeśli ktoś planuje wystąpić do IRS o przedłużenie tego terminu.

Jeżeli planują Państwo dodatkowe wpłaty na konta IRA za 2010 rok, po 1 stycznia 2011 r., ale przed upływem 18 kwietnia 2011 roku, proszę pamiętać, aby dokładnie zaznaczyć, za który rok dokonują Państwo wpłaty. W przypadku nie zaznaczenia czy wpłata dokonana jest za roku 2010 czy za 2011, może ona być uznana automatycznie jako wpłata za rok, w którym została nadesłana, czyli np. za 2011.

Jest to jedna z kilku zmian, które będą miały wpływ na rozliczenia podatkowe w tym roku. Zmiany prawne zatwierdzone przez Kongres, zmuszą niektórych podatników do późniejszego nadsyłania rozliczeń podatkowych.

Podatnicy mogą sprawdzić status swoich zwrotów podatkowych, posługując się narzędziem "Where's My Refund?" na witrynie internetowej urzędu podatkowego: www.irs.gov.

Kwalikujące się darowizny na cele dobroczynne (Qualified Charitable Distributions - QCD) - Ustawodawcy przedłużyli również (na lata 2010 i 2011), klauzulę pozwalającą podatnikom w wieku 70 lat i 6 miesięcy, przekazania aktywów z kont IRA (w wysokości do 100 tys. dolarów rocznie) bezpośrednio do organizacji dobroczynnej. Darowizna podlega opodatkowaniu, ale nie jest brana pod uwagę jako dodatkowy dochód, który musi być uwzględniony w zaznaniu podatkowym, i mógłby wpłynąć na zwiększenie podatku od otrzymywanej emerytury lub opłaty za ubezpieczenie Medicare. Przekazane donacje mogą być uważane za część wymaganego minimum, które musi być wypłacone każdego roku z konta (required minimum distribution).

Ta nie podlegająca opodatkowaniu wypłata, musi być dokonana bezpośrednio przez powiernika konta IRA (innego niż przy kontach SEP lub SIMPLE IRA) do organizacji, która ma prawo przyjmować nieopodatkowane darowizny.

Łączny limit wpłat na konta Tradycyjne i Roth IRA na 2010 i 2011 r. - Informacja zaczerpnięta z IRS.gov

Osoby, które do końca 2010 r. nie ukończyły 50 lat, mogą wpłacać na tradycyjne konta lub Roth IRA \$5000 lub tyle ile wyniosła ich podlegająca opodatkowaniu rekompensata za 2010 r. Wpłata ta może być rozdzielona na oba konta, ale ogółem nie może być większa niż \$5000.

Dla osób, które przed końcem 2010 r. ukończyły 50 lat i więcej, minimum wpłaty wynosi \$6000 lub tyle ile wyniosła ich podlegająca opodatkowaniu rekompensata za 2010 r. Wpłata ta może być rozdzielona na oba konta, ale ogółem nie może być większa niż \$6000.

Takie same ograniczenia obowiązują 2011 r.

Prosimy o skontaktowanie się z którymkolwiek biurem ZPRKA w celu założenia indywidualnego konta emerytalnego IRA lub dokonania wpłat na istniejące już konto. Minimalna wpłata wymagana do założenia kont Tradycyjnych lub Roth IRA - wynosi \$300.

** Wasz doradca podatkowy udzieli Państwu dokładnych informacji nt. tegorocznego terminu nadsyłania zeznań podatkowych. W niektórych stanach termin nadsyłania stanowych zeznań podatkowych pozostaje 15 kwietnia 2011 r. Wielu z nas nie wykorzystuje w pełni korzyści podatkowych ponieważ nie zna prawa podatkowego. Skontaktujcie się z doradcą finansowym aby zorientować się, które konto IRA najbardziej odpowiada Waszym potrzebom finansowym.