

Dedication and Welcome!

This conference is dedicated to the Polish men and women who struggled and suffered, especially those who maintained their moral courage during times of violence and uncertainty. We, the members of the Polish Legacy Project-WWII are inspired by them to press on to learn and to share the truth about their experiences during WWII. We know that many of the survivors have chosen to leave the past behind, to not tell their story outside the home or outside of their native language lest it be too painful or not believed.

Those who came to these shores as displaced persons set out to build a new life, trying hard to give an honest day's work with little or no complaint. Any difficulties seemed minor compared to the tragedies they endured in slave labor camps, concentration camps or in battle.

To the survivors: We honor your sacrifice and we hope that this conference can help give you the courage to tell your story, to realize that your lives are significant and that 60 some years after arriving in America, your neighbors are interested in knowing more about your lives.

To our fellow Americans: we hope that this conference serves to promote the realization that the stories of WWII survivors from 70 years ago are relevant to all of our lives here in America in the year 2009.

Polish Legacy Project in Buffalo - WWII

Andrew Golebiowski, Chairman

Ann Zwolak-Rouleau, Secretary

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Regina Senko-Hanchak

Anne Fundalinski-Kaczynski

Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab

An Invitation

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union; the start of WWII.

Apart from the millions who perished in the war, millions of others became displaced from countries of their birth. Many of these dis-placed persons found a new home in places like Buffalo.

The Polish Legacy Project in Buffalo - WWII was formed by descendants of Polish WWII survivors with the aim of documenting, honoring and sharing their stories with the community-at-large.

Should you have stories, pictures, poetry or artifacts, we ask that you share them with us as we create a physical and digital museum of Buffalo's Polish community.

Please do not hesitate to contact us through

Andy Golebiowski

eMail: andywbuffalo@yahoo.com or

Phone: 716-510-7562.

Please bookmark and check our website for updates at:

PolishLegacyBuffalo.com

Conference Agendas

Saturday, October 3, 2009

WNED Studios

- 8:00 - 9:00..... **Registration**
and Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 - 9:15..... **Invocation and Welcome**
- 9:15 - 10:00..... **"Poland and WWII"**
Hon. David A. Franczyk,
- 10:00 - 10:15... **Break**
- 10:15 - 10:30... **"I Remember"**
Film clips of Polish survivors
- 10:30 - 12:00 .. **"Untold Stories Come Alive "**
Panel: Polish WWII Survivors
tell their stories
Moderator: Hon. Carl Bucki
- 12:00 - 1:00 **Lunch**
- 1:00 - 2:00..... **"The Children's Odyssey"**
Irene Tomaszewski
- 2:00 - 2:15..... **Break**
- 2:15 - 4:00..... **"Getting the Story Out"**
Presenters:
Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab
Irene Tomaszewski
Celestine Zwolak-Arena
Henry Sokolowski
- 4:00 - 6:00..... **Reception**

Sunday, October 4, 2009

Honoring Our Survivors

- 10:00 - 11:00 .. **Mass**
Corpus Christi Church
199 Clark Street
Buffalo, NY 14212
- Reunion of Survivors & Descendants:**
Dom Polski (one block away at 1081 Broadway)
- 11:40 - 1:15..... **Brunch and Singing**
led by Fr. Krysa & Pani Golebiowska
- 1:15 - 2:15..... **Film "Exiles"**
- 2:15 - 4:00..... **Discussion:**
"Where do we go from here?"

Presenters/Moderators

(In order of Appearance)

The Honorable David A. Franczyk

Buffalo, New York City Council President. A Western New York native, Council President and Councilmember, David A. Franczyk received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the State University at Buffalo and a Master of Arts degree, also in history, from Niagara University. He later completed the required coursework for a Ph.D. in Modern European History at the City University in New York and went on to become a Loeb Fellow in Advanced Environmental Studies at Harvard University's graduate school of Design. He has served as the editor-in-chief of the Polish-American Journal and is also a mentor and instructor at several area institutes of higher education including Empire State College, Hilbert College, Niagara University, and Buffalo State College.

The Honorable Carl L. Bucki

Carl L. Bucki began his service as a United States Bankruptcy Judge on December 30, 1993. Since January 1, 2007, he has served as Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of New York. Judge Bucki earned his B.A. degree magna cum laude from Cornell University in 1974, and his J.D. degree cum laude from Cornell Law School in 1976.

Judge Bucki is a member of the Board of Managers of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, and served as its President from 1996 to 2001.

Irene Tomaszewski. Irene

Tomaszewski is a writer and founding president of the Montreal-based Canadian Foundation for Polish Studies and program director of Poland in the Rockies. She is the author of "Inside a Gestapo Prison, The Letters of Krystyna Wituska, 1942-44." She co-authored "Żegota: The Council for Aid to Jews in Occupied Poland 1942-45" and wrote the screen play for a documentary by the same title produced by Sy Rotter for Documentaries International



Irene as a child in a Post WW II Polish refugee camp in Africa.

(Washington DC). She was also the Associate Producer and Researcher for CBC's *A Web of War*, a documentary about Poland during World War II.

Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab

Sophie Hodorowicz Knab was born in a displaced persons camp in Hanover, Germany after WWII. Her parents were Poles who had been forced to labor for the Third Reich during the war. The family immigrated to the US in 1954. She is an accomplished author, writing on Polish and Polish-American culture. She is currently a professor at Niagara County Community College and working on a book about women in forced labor in Germany during World War II.

Celestine Zwolak-Arena English

Professor Celestine Arena has been teaching composition, research writing, and literature at the community college level for 20 years, with the past 13 years as full-time faculty at Oakland Community College in Auburn Hills, Michigan. Her special areas of interest include correlating literature to research on women's studies, on WWII and on ethnic identity. She is a second generation Polish-American whose parents emigrated from a displaced persons camp in Britain to the United States in 1952. Professor Arena will be sharing her insights into the challenges and rewards of sharing WWII histories with her adult students over the years. She currently lives in Lexington, Michigan and visits her hometown of Buffalo, N.Y. often.

Henry Sokolowski

Toronto, Canada. President, Kresy-Siberia Foundation, documenting Soviet deportations of Polish citizens. His mother, Anna Usewicz, together with her family, were taken to Germany for slave labour. During an Allied bombing raid in 1945, the siblings, now orphans, escaped and joined the 2nd Corps in Italy. His father, Bronislaw, a high school teacher in Drohobycz and 2nd lieutenant in the Reserves, fought in the September Campaign and was deported to Siberia in 1940. In 1942, he rejoined the Polish Army in Guzar, and trained and fought with the Polish 2nd Corps until the end of the war. Henry is also the acting Vice-President of branch 20 of the Polish Combatants Association (PCA or SPK) in Toronto. He is a pharmacist by profession

"Untold Stories Come Alive"

Conference sponsored by:

Polish Legacy Project-WWII
P.O. Box 811
Buffalo, NY 14240-0811
www.PolishLegacyBuffalo.com



In collaboration with:

Polish American Congress
Western New York Division
P.O. Box 1242
Buffalo, NY 14240
www.pacwny.org



Conference Partners:

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TIME- LINE of WORLD WAR II...

Poland 1920-1939

Historic Map of Poland*

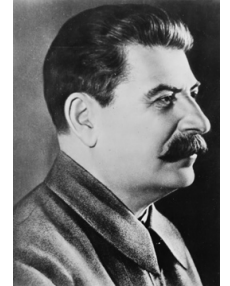


1918

Poland regains its independence after 123 years of partition by Austria-Hungary, Germany and Russia

1927

December: The Communist Party embraces Josef Stalin as their leader ¹



Josef Stalin

1933

January: Adolf Hitler appointed chancellor of Germany¹

February 10: Hitler's first speech as chancellor "...I cannot divest myself of my faith in my Volk (people), cannot disassociate myself from the conviction that this nation will one day rise again, cannot divorce myself from my love for this, my Volk, and I cherish the firm conviction that the hour will come at last in which the millions who despise us today will stand by us and with us hail the new, hard-won and painfully acquired German Reich we have created together, the new German kingdom of greatness and power and glory and justice. Amen."²

March 1933: Dachau concentration camp opened to house known political opponents of the Nazis, Communists, Social Democrats and others who were condemned in a court of law. ³

October 14: Hitler takes Germany out of the League of Nations ⁴

1935

March 16: Germany introduces military draft with the intent of creating an army of 36 divisions. This action went against the Versailles Treaty of 1919, which limited Germany to an army no larger than 100,000 men.¹

May 12: Marshal Jozef Pilsudski dies. Jozef Pilsudski, who was anti-communist and anti-Russian led a successful counteroffensive against Lenin and the Bolsheviks, in August 1920.²

October 3: Italy invades Abyssinia (Ethiopia), East Africa.³



*Jozef Pilsudski **

1936

February: The first 3 prototypes of the Volkswagen “the People’s Car” are built, designed by Ferdinand Porsche at Adolf Hitler’s orders.¹

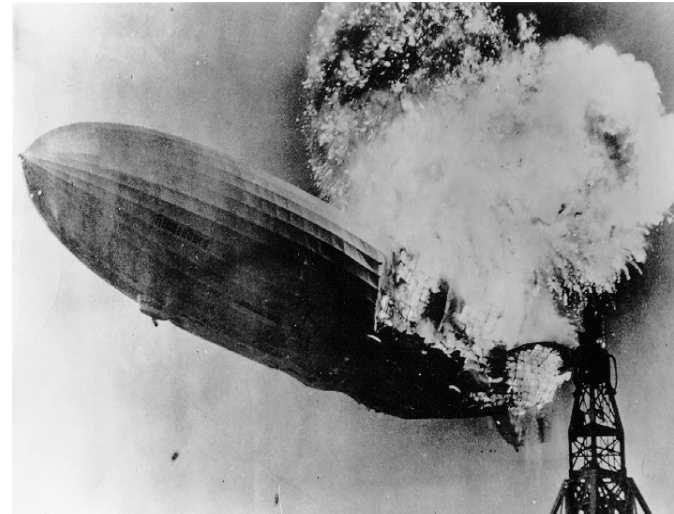
March 6: German troops enter the Rhineland. Under the Versailles treaty the Rhineland (an area of land bordering Germany and France) was ruled a demilitarized zone to guarantee the security of France.¹

May 9: Italy occupies Abyssinia (Ethiopia), East Africa.²

November: Franklin D. Roosevelt wins second term as President of the United States of America.³

1937

May 6: The Hindenburg explodes over the Lakehurst Naval Air Station in New Jersey. Within 34 seconds, the entire ship was consumed by fire. All 36 people on board died.¹



*The Hindenburg seconds after catching fire. **

1938

March 14: German troops invade Austria, bringing the country “home into the Reich.”¹

September: Hitler demands to “protect” Germans in the Sudetenland (western Czechoslovakia) bringing Europe to the brink of war.²

September: The Munich Conference involved the prime ministers of Britain and France. Italian leader Mussolini and Hitler. Hitler promised to guarantee the independence of Czechoslovakia, and signed a resolution with Britain that the two countries would never go to war against each other.³

1939

March 14-15: Germany attacked Czechoslovakia and later demanded the return of Danzig, given to Poland as part of the Versailles Treaty.¹

March 31: British Prime Minister Chamberlain announces that the government “had undertaken an obligation of mutual assistance to Poland...war would be the inevitable outcome of the next aggression by Germany.” France followed suit.²

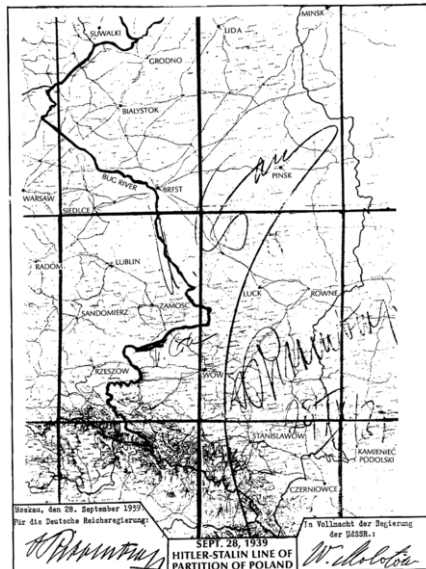
August 23: Treaty of Nonaggression Between Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.³ The nonaggression treaty assigned Germany and the USSR a “sphere of interest” in the event that a “territorial and political transformation” takes place in Poland.⁴

September 1: Germany invades Poland. Fifty German divisions broke into Poland from three sides.⁵

September 3: Britain and France go to war.⁶

September 17: Soviet Union invades eastern Poland.⁷

October 1: London Broadcast of Winston Churchill “...*Poland has been again overrun by two of the great powers which held her in bondage for 150 years, but was unable to quench the spirit of the Polish nation. The heroic defense of Warsaw shows that the soul of Poland is indestructible and that she will rise again like a rock, which may for a spell be submerged by a tidal wave but which remains a rock.*”⁸



Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact *

1940

January: New concentration camp site selected: Auschwitz near the City of Oswiecim.¹



Gate of Auschwitz concentration camp ^B*

February: Nazis begin deportation of Jews to Poland ²

February: Jewish ghetto established in Lodz.³

May: Winston Churchill replaces Neville Chamberlain as leader of Britain.⁴

Spring: 4,300 Polish officers were executed by the Soviets in Katyn Forest.⁵ Thousands more were murdered at other locations.

June: The first major group transported to Auschwitz were Polish political prisoners.

July: Hitler's forces invade Britain.⁶

August: Polish Air Force helps defend Britain. In the Battle of Britain the contribution of Polish pilots was instrumental in winning the battle. Polish pilots were responsible for 201 of the Luftwaffe's 1,100 planes lost.⁷

October: Jewish ghettos established in Warsaw.⁸

November: Franklin D. Roosevelt wins third term as President of the United States of America.⁹

1941

March 21: Jewish ghetto established in Kraków. The ghetto houses between 15,000 and 20,000 Jews.¹

April: German soldiers take over for Italy in the desert war in Africa against Britain and its allies under the command of Erwin Rommel, “the Desert Fox.”²

Summer: Germans invade the Soviet Union. ³

July: Nazi concentration camp established in Majdanek, Lublin with a capacity to hold 50,000 prisoners.⁴

October: Germany invades Moscow.⁵

December 7: Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. ⁶

December 8: President Franklin D. Roosevelt declares war on Japan.⁷

December 11: Germany and Italy declare war on the United States.⁸

1942

Death Camps: Concentration camps at Auschwitz, Treblinka, Belzec and Sobibór begin operations as death camps.¹

July: Germans begin liquidation of Warsaw ghetto. Jews deported to Treblinka concentration camp² September: Polish Council of Assistance for Jews (Zegota) created by the Polish Home Army.³

November: British win in Africa, under General Montgomery. ⁴

1943

January 31: German troops at Stalingrad surrender to the Soviets. This is a significant turning point in the war.¹

Spring: Germans disinter the bodies of 4,321 Polish officers executed in Katyn.²

April 19 - May 16: Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.³

May: Allied troops win victory in North Africa. German and Italian troops surrender.⁴



Polish Troops in Africa ^C

November 28: Tehran Conference. Allied leaders (Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin) discuss the war and postwar political issues.⁵

1944

May: Polish forces led by General Anders, capture Monastery Hill, and win the battle of Monte Cassino, Italy. This victory was one of the most decisive battles of WWII.¹

July: Polish 1st armored division arrives in Normandy. The Poles are attached to the Canadian 1st Army.^{2E}



General Anders D

D

July: Warsaw Uprising under General “Bór” Komorowski, commander of the Polish Underground Home Army (Armia Krajowa, AK) against the Germans is set to begin the 63 day battle. ³



*Warsaw Uprising: Insurgent observes Krakowskie Przedmieście Street from collapsed wall of Holy Cross Church towards Kopernik Street. **

August 19: Polish 1st Armored Division links up with American 90th Infantry Division closing the Falaise Pocket.⁴

October: General “Bór” Komorowski surrenders to the Germans ending the Warsaw Uprising.⁵

1945

January: Polish Home Army disbanded.¹

January: Germans begin evacuation of 66,000 Auschwitz inmates, setting out on “Death Marches.”²

February: Yalta Conference takes place in Crimea. It provides for inclusion of communists in Poland’s postwar government.^{3F}



*Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin at Yalta **

April: President Franklin D. Roosevelt dies. Harry Truman next president.⁴

August: Potsdam Conference – USA (Truman), Great Britain (Churchill) and Soviet Union (Stalin) negotiate terms for the end of WW2 and decide Poland’s western border.^{5G}



*Stalin, Truman, and Churchill at Potsdam **

May 1: Adolf Hitler commits suicide.⁶

May 8: German leaders surrender to Eisenhower, ending the war in Europe. The war in Japan continues.⁷

1947

February 5: Communist Boleslaw Bierut elected President of the Polish Republic, following rigged Parliamentary elections.



Boundaries of Poland

Map of Poland*



NOTES

1927

1. Robert Gellately, *Lenin, Stalin, and Hitler: The Age of Social Catastrophe* (NY 2007), 159.
- A. Image: Josef Stalin, <http://free-stock-photos.com/ww2/stalin-1.html>.

1933

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2. Michael Burleigh, *The Third Reich*, (New York 2001) 153.
3. Holocaust Timeline: The Camps. <http://fcit.usf.edu/HOLOCAUST/TIMELINE/nazifca.htm>.
4. Crimes Against Peace. <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/imt/jud-neur.asp>

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2. Robert Gellately, *Lenin, Stalin, and Hitler: The Age of Social Catastrophe* (NY 2007).
3. World War 2. <http://www.world-war-2.info/timeline/>

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3. Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum. www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu

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1938

1. Robert Gellately, *Lenin, Stalin, and Hitler: The Age of Social Catastrophe* (NY 2007), 13.
2. Ibid, 13.
3. Ibid. 351.

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1. Robert Gellately, *Lenin, Stalin, and Hitler: The Age of Social Catastrophe* (NY 2007), 351.
2. Ibid. 352.
3. Avalon Project-Nazi-Soviet Relations 1939-1941. http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/nazsov.asp.
4. Robert Gellately, *Lenin, Stalin, and Hitler: The Age of Social Catastrophe* (NY 2007), 357.
5. Michael Burleigh, *The Third Reich*, (New York 2001) 408.
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7. Michael Burleigh, *The Third Reich*, (New York 2001) 408.
8. Winston Churchill By Himself-The Definitive Quotations ed. Richard Langworth (London 2008).

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1. AUSCHWITZ - the Concentration Camp for Jewish and Non-Jewish Victims of the Holocaust. <http://www.holocaustforgotten.com/jpurney.htm>.
- B. Image: Gate at Auschwitz, Library of Congress, courtesy of Sam and Sarah Stulberg.
2. Lodz. <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/article.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10005071>
3. Ibid.
4. Winston Churchill-Biography. http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1953/churchill-bio.html
5. Warsaw Uprising. <http://www.warsawuprising.com/katyn.htm>.
6. History-WWII-Battle of Britain. <http://info-poland.buffalo.edu/web/history/WWII/britain/link.shtml>
7. Ibid. also <http://www.historyonthenet.com/WW2/blitz.htm>
8. Holocaust Encyclopedia. <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/article.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10005069>
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1. Krakow: Timeline <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/article.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10007458>
2. Erwin Rommel-Key Axis Figure of WW2 <http://www.history.com/content/worldwartwo/key-axis-figures/erwin-rommel>

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6. World War II-Valor in the Pacific. <http://www.nps.gov/valr/historyculture/index.htm>
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3. Timeline-Holocaust. <http://www.historyonthenet.com/Chronology/timelineholocaust.htm>
4. The History Place-World War Two in Europe History Timeline <http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/timeline/ww2time.htm#1943>
- C. Image: Polish soldiers in Africa: Courtesy Chester and Wanda Zwolak.
5. Tehran Conference. <http://www.history.com/encyclopedia.do?vendorId=FWNE.fw..te024700.a#FWNE.fw..te024700.a>

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1. Monte Casino.
<http://www.polamjournal.com/Library/APHistory/monte/monte.html>
- D. Image: General Anders: Courtesy Chester and Wanda Zwolak.
2. Poland in Exile-The Polish Army in Great Britain.
<http://www.polandinexile.com/polisharmy.html>
- E. Image: Soldiers in Falkirk, Scotland, Courtesy Chester and Wanda Zwolak.
3. World War 2: Warsaw Uprising-Timeline
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4. WWII: The Falaise Gap-Canada at War. <http://wwii.ca/page23.html>
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2. Auschwitz-Birkenau. auschwitz.org
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- F. Image: Yalta Conference: <http://free-stock-photos.com/president/fdr/yalta.html>.
4. Biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/franklindroosevelt/>
5. The Potsdam Conference, 1945. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/wwii/93275.htm>
- G. Image: Potsdam Conference: <http://free-stock-photos.com/ww2/churchill-3.html>.
6. This Day in History 1945. <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history.do?action=Article&id=6439>
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<http://wikimediafoundation.org>
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PATRONS & Family Stories

All the Bread You Can Eat...but more

Born in Hungary because your father Kazimierz had work there, you learned one phrase in Hungarian *Mama, kerek enni kenyeret*. “Mom, I want some bread”, because it was the start of WWI and your father had been taken to fight in the war.

You and our babcia Teresa moved back to Poland, to Czortków, on the river Seret. There you became a runner and learned to build kayaks, sailing down the river into Romania. It was a place where a Pole had Ukrainian and Jewish friends and stopped into an Armenian church once in a while. Your father ended up a prisoner in Russia and never came back.

You told us how you learned the war started. You were at a youth camp, boys and girls dancing when the music stopped and the camp leader announced *Wojna*. War had come and everyone needed to get home. *Placz*. Tears.

You remember your cousin running past you in battle in September, having lost his mind. Two weeks later you came out of the forest, again looking for bread, only to be grabbed by the Germans and taken from your country, forced to work for them to make them greater. There you were lucky, for a while, when you worked in a bakery and got to share bread with your fellow prisoners. Meanwhile, your father was still in Russia. You were swimming in the river in winter and learned the word *Teufel*. The Germans called you the devil for your strength.

Near the end when the guards fled, you slipped out of Stalag IVG, and somehow got to Italy with friends, to Naples, where a kid begged for a *sigaretto per il bambino*-cigarettes for the whole family, including the baby. Then England, where you learned so much English they called you a limey in Buffalo. We spoke only Polish at home, but you would ask Mark and myself in English “Are you proud of your father ?”

You went back to Poland, but only after Stalin died, to see your mother for the first time in 20 years and to find a real wife-the beautiful Helena Ryczkowska. You came back to Buffalo where you were more than a Fordowiec. Working at Ford you played tennis and chess, had a photography studio, and gave us all the bread we wanted to eat.

Thank You for teaching us so much; to have respect for the last piece of bread, to be interested in the world, in people and languages, in education, and to have respect for this country and for our mother; and you quoted Gandhi from a newspaper clipping you carried in your wallet saying Western civilization would be a good idea.



Andrzej Karol Gołębowski

1914-1999

If not for the war...





*Mieczysław, Adela,
Henryka & Krystyna
Bystryk*

For all that you lost, and
all that we have gained

Lots of Love-

The Słowikowski,
Szczęsny, Gurland,
and Eddy Families



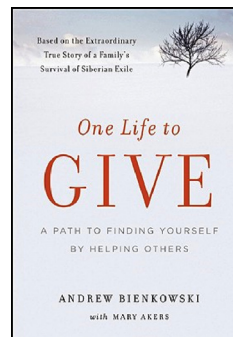
Captain W.M. Drzewieniecki
Italian Campaign

*Congratulations
To the Legacy Project
For Its Dedication on Documenting
and Commemorating
Polish WWII Survivors*



Zofia Drzewieniecka
Polish YMCA: Palestine, Italy

~ Dr. W. M. Drzewieniecki
~ Dr. Joanna Drzewieniecka



In the winter of 1939, five-year-old Andrew Bienkowski was banished to Siberia with his family. With virtually nothing to see them through the grueling winter, his grandfather chose to starve in order to give his family the chance to survive. Andrew Bienkowski *did* survive, and has devoted his life to helping others. *One Life to Give* underscores that the greatest fulfillment we can achieve as human beings lies in helping others.

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from Wife, Alina and Family



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Michelle Michaski Kisluk - Director
Debra Konieczka Lasek - Asst. Director

Upcoming Events

A Polish Christmas - Fri., Dec. 4

7 pm, North Tonawanda History Museum

Polish Christmas in the Village - Sun. Dec. 27

2:30 & 7:30 pm - Lancaster Opera House

Paczki Day - Sun., Feb. 14

12 - 7 pm - Harvey D. Morin Post, W. Seneca

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In Memory of our parents the
Rappas and Sikorskis



From Ed and Alice

In Loving Memory of

Officers Roman Władysław Szajta (husband of Julia Lotys Szajta) and Mieczysław Lotys, prisoners of war in Germany. Officer Jerzy Zdyisław Lotys and Captain Roman Krzeminski, Godson and Godfather to each other, lost in Katyn. Captain Bogumił Lotys and Władysława Krzemińska Lotys.



In Memory of

Nikodem & Michalina Łukaszewicz,
Teresa Łukaszewicz Pohl (Living),
also Wanda Szućko, Stanisław Łukaszewicz,
and Wacław Łukaszewicz.



Congratulations & Best Wishes

to the

Polish Legacy Project WWII Conference



Mr. & Mrs. A.S. Markut

The Polish Union of America
wishes every success to the
Polish Legacy Project
on this noble and important endeavor.

Polish Union of America



*An Insurance & Fraternal
Membership Organization*

Polish Union of America

745 Center Road, West Seneca, NY 14224

Phone: (716) 677-0220

Fax: (716) 677-0246

E-Mail: punion@verizon.net

Website: www.polishunion.com



Proud sponsor of the
Polish Heritage Festival
www.polfunfest.com



Stanisław Markut & Antonina Markut

Dziękujemy Wam Babcia i Dziadzio
For all your sacrifices
for our freedom!



Krystyna Markut

Aniela Markut

Melysa Markut

COMING SOON

KRESY-SIBERIA VIRTUAL MUSEUM
MUZEUM WIRTUALNE KRESY-SYBERIA



Produced by the Kresy-Siberia Foundation, the virtual museum will be a vast, English and Polish language storehouse of photos, documents and memoirs detailing the history of the Kresy provinces and focusing on the fate of its citizens during World War Two. Eventually, the entire Polish WW2 history will be included in the project as all of the experiences are inter-related. The children will not allow this history to be forgotten.

VISIT
WWW.KRESY-SIBERIA.ORG
FOR UPDATES

Witold Lukaszewski (USA) 936-271-0305
Henry Sokolowski (Canada) 905-569-0642



In loving memory of our Parents...

Due to their love, resourcefulness, and perseverance, we survived deportation and hardship in Russia. They taught us that deep faith and trust in God gives us almost supernatural strength to go on in the darkest days of our lives.

May they rest in peace.



We also congratulate members of the Polish Legacy Project and all who helped them, for their hard work in attempts to preserve our survival stories. We love you all.

Kochane Dzieci, Szczęść wam Boże!!!

— Chester and Wanda Zwolak —

Thank You
for
Participating
in
This Important Project

-Erie County Judge Michael Pietruszka

In 1947, our parents, Wanda and Chester Zwolak,

met in a British relocation camp for displaced persons, unable to return to their beloved homeland of Poland, stripped once more of its independence, under Soviet rule. They started



a new life as man and wife after a two-month courtship.

In 1952, with two-month old son Richard in tow, they crossed the Atlantic, like so many before them, in anticipation of a life in America filled with opportunities, in a country that offered freedom from oppression. Here they took their place in one of the most prosperous periods in US

history, the “Baby Boom” era, making a home in an ethnic community in the Broadway-Fillmore district, in what our parents describe as some of the best years of their lives.

Mom, dad, we your children want to take this opportunity to tell you that we remember our childhood days as among the best of our lives too. But unlike you, we are not multi-lingual, have not lived on three continents, and have not survived a world war, only to start all over again in a strange, faraway country. We hold you in awe still. You are both remarkable people and irreplaceable parents. You have earned your place among what has been coined “the greatest generation.” You inspire us and make us proud!

*With love from your children:
Richard, Eva, Hania and Cela*

In Loving Memory of

Danuta Jożefa Serafin

Soviet labor camp worker
1939-1941

Against her will, she and her entire family was put on a train and sent deep into Siberia. She learned a toughness and a love of life that served her well in her new adopted country, the United States of America. World War II was not supposed to end this way.

With deep respect for what I have learned from her which still influences me today,

Your son,
Janusz (Jim) Serafin

With Love and Gratitude

In Honor of

Jane Lozowski

and

In Memory of

Andrew Gryglewicz



Denise Gryglewicz-Pisanczyn

In Memory of Our Grandparents:

Celestina Wolszczak-Sobolak, Tomasz Wolszczak,
Paweł Sobolak, Zosia Zwolak and Stanisław Zwolak.

You are always with us in spirit and in our hearts. Kochamy!

Eva, Hania, and Cela Zwolak

In Memory of Our Aunt

Czesława Reska

7/20/1917 - 7/25/2009



Auschwitz-Birkenau

Inmate #65070

10/43 - 5/44

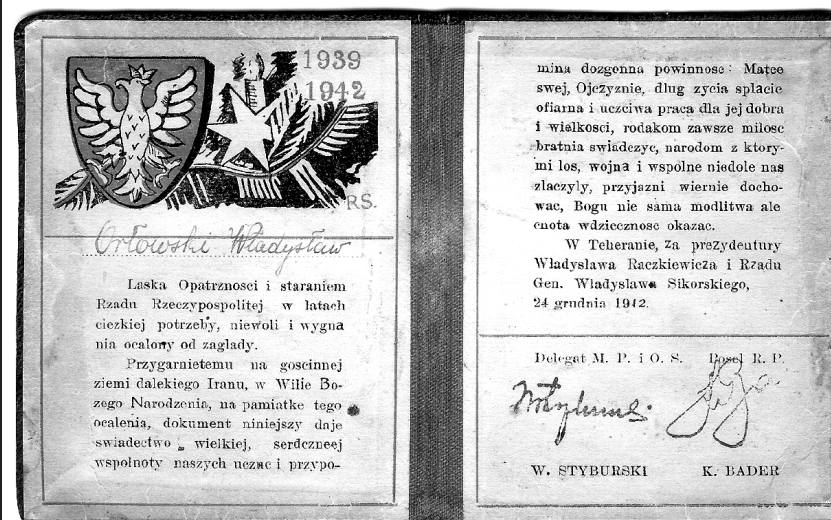


*Edward J. Reska
Dennis L, Marcia A. (Reska),
Dennis E. Hadden*

“POLAND FOREVER”



~ Matt Gryta
and
Adrienne Tworek-Gryta



*A copy of an identity card issued to Władysław Orłowski
by the Gov. of the Polish Republic in 1942 in Tehran. It
was issued to all who were “saved from extermination”.*

In Memory of My Parents

Franciszek and Jadwiga Orłowski
the True Survivors

and

In Gratitude to the Polish Legacy Project
for bringing us all together

from

*Walter A. Orłowski and
Barbara A. Orłowski*



Waldemar Aleksandrowicz



Home Army 1942-1944

Warsaw Uprising-1944

POW 1944-1945

British-317 Tank Transport Company
1946-1952



Józef, Antonina,
Jan & Leon

Szczęśny



We will never forget
your strength, spirit
and sacrifice

*You are always in our
hearts and thoughts*

Your loving family

Best wishes on a successful International Conference
of the Polish Legacy Project.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY



PERPETUAL RECORD OF YESTERDAY



Members and Officers of the
Polish Veterans of WWII,
SPK, Post # 33 in Buffalo, N.Y.
Janusz Niedużak, Commander

Wishing The Polish Legacy Conference Participants A Warm Welcome



NYS Assemblyman Dennis Gabryszak
143rd District

The Polish Genealogical Society of New York State

The purpose of the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State
is to promote interest in Polish or related Heritage and to assist
members in researching their Polish ancestry

Research Aids

Gazetteers of Poland
Detail maps of Poland
Location or surnames
in Poland
Location of churches in
Poland



Available research indices

Obituary notices from
Dziennik Dla Wszystkich
Przewodnik Handlowy
Polak w Ameryce

St. Adalbert's Old Cemetery
Index

SEARCHERS newsletter

Web site: www.pgsnys.org

The pgsnys meets the second Thursday of each month in the Villa Maria
College cafeteria, 240 Pine Ridge Road, Cheektowaga, NY at 7:00 pm

Czesc ich pamieci!

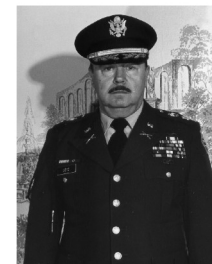
In memoriam of Waldemar Czyz, and all the Polish
people who lost their lives or were victims of WWII.

From Danuta Z. (Pakla) Czyz
and sons Robert, Witold and Bohdan.



Waldemar and Danuta Czyz were born in Poland and
came to Buffalo after World War II. They both survived
Soviet labor camps in Siberia and became members
in SPK Post #33 and SWAP. Lt. Waldemar Czyz
was a soldier of the First Polish Armored Division
and 47 Royal Marine Commando during WWII.
He also was a Colonel in the New York State Guard.

For more history about the Polish Veterans of WWII,
visit the Polish Armed Forces Exhibit, opened in 1984,
aboard the USS Little Rock at the Buffalo Naval Park.
It contains the most extensive collection of documents
and memorabilia in the US concerning the contribution
of Poland to the Allied victory in WW II.



To preview a photo album online visit:
<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=16810&id=1180311488&l=e2ecf3fb72>

For Directions, Tours and more info online visit:
<http://www.buffalonavalpark.org/>

ClassicBuffalo.com
rob@classicbuffalo.com
<http://www.classicbuffalo.com/veteransCzyz.htm>

Ku pamięci tułaczy, którym nie dane było doczekać się wolności. Zmarli w lasach syberyjskich, stepach Kazachstanu, dżungli Afrykańskiej.

Cześć Ich Pamięci
Stanisława Nowakówna-Mecner

Ku pamięci Rodaków zmarłych z głodu i nędzy w lasach Syberii oraz za żołnierzy poległych w walkach na wszystkich frontach.

Cześć Ich Pamięci
Czesława Nowakówna-Pilecka i Józef Pilecki



Dziękujemy Wam za Wasze Poświęcenie



Henryk and Eleonora Fitek
(to the right, unidentified friend to the left)

Displacement camp in
Fallingbostel,
Germany- Spring, 1946

Z podziękowaniem Bogu za wyzwolenie całej rodziny z Rosji i ku pamięci zmarłym rodzicom i męża Jana, tych kilka słów poświęcam.



Helena Nowakówna-Klis

Mr. Edward Wiater

Polish Military forces commanded by King Sobieski and Marshal Piłsudski saved Europe on separate occasions prior to World War II.

Now, you survivors of WWII join those immortal heroes. I, Edward S. Wiater with my children Kasia Anna, Marysia Anna, Tereska Anna and Wawrzyniec Antoni are proud of our Polish roots because of people such as you survivors.

Thank You. Sto lat.

In memory of Henryk & Eleonora Fitek
- Henry Fitek, Boston, MA

"In memory of Tadeusz J Mokosa
From children Rysiu & Ela Mokosa"

Eddie & Pat Abramowski



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**Jesteśmy
z Wami**



*Tadeusz i
Małgorzata
Głowaccy*



In Loving Memory
of My Husband

CMDR Jerzy Cicero-Pienkowski
1908-1994
MW RP
Krystyna Cicero-Pienkowski
PAW



To The Survivors:

We dedicate this to the memory of those who suffered in Siberian Camps. Our mother and grandmother taught us to appreciate our Polish heritage and our freedom and bounty in the United States.

With Respect and Great
Admiration,

Your Daughters: Lidia and
Ramona

Krystyna Pienkowska & Maria Romaniak

Majdanek Survivors



In loving memory of my parents,
Mary and John Swacha

Survivors of Majdanek Nazi concentration camp
and my husband, Stanley Senko survivor of Auschwitz
and Gusen Nazi concentration camps.



We found peace and happiness
in Western New York.



Julie Swacha Senko and family



POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS
Western New York Division

RICHARD F. MAZELLA
DIRECTOR

Home: (716) 675-6505
Cell: (716) 598-5869

E-mail: mazella123@aol.com
Website: www.pacwny.org



May Our Lady of Częstochowa
guide you in your endeavors!
Szczęść Boże

Joe Macieląg
Polish American Congress
National Director

Business Telephone - 893-3620
Residence Telephone - 685-4622



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BARRON-MILLER FUNERAL HOME INC.
3025 WILLIAM STREET, CHEEKTOWAGA, N.Y. 14227

*Dla naszych rodziców ;
ś.p. Przemysław Jaworski, Maria Panfic Jaworska, z rodzinami.
Thank you for surviving the war. Thank you for passing a
proud legacy onto your children and grandchildren, and for
sharing this important part of history with the world. You are
our heroes.*

*Jesteśmy Wam wdzięczni z całego serca za wszystko co nam przekazaliście-
wspaniałej lekcji historii i przeżycia.*

Jurek, Krysia, Anna z rodziną.

In loving memory of our parents whose sacrifices we often failed to understand and equally often were unknown to us.



Our father, Franciszek Fundalinski, educated as a teacher of mathematics, had the rank of First Lieutenant and was taken prisoner by the Nazis on September 28, 1939 after the heroic but unsuccessful defense of Warsaw. After nearly 6 years as a POW in Neubrandenburg and other officer's POW camps he was liberated in the spring of 1945.



Our mother, Krystyna Zawadka, at the age of 22, joined the Underground Resistance (AK) and participated in the Warsaw Uprising where at least 200,000 Poles were killed and the city was left in total ruin by the Nazis. She was taken prisoner in early October, 1944 to Germany and liberated by the Polish First Armored Division from the POW Camp Oberlangen in April, 1945.

They met and married in a displaced person's camp in Germany where their two oldest sons, Bogdan and Andrzej, were born. Krystyna became gravely ill after contracting typhus. During her recuperation, she was transported to England with her two small children by a ship dedicated to children and the infirmed. The ship encountered a hostile sea and many of the sick children died during the voyage.

Our parents were reunited in England and spent the next three years in a displaced person's camp, Ludford Magna, a defunct airfield previously used by the RAF. Under dire conditions, their twin daughters, Anna and Teresa, were born.

In December of 1951, the family of six immigrated to the USA, the land of opportunity, under the sponsorship of an American citizen, unknown to them. They were processed through Ellis Island and eventually settled in Buffalo, NY where their two youngest sons, Jan and Tadeusz were born. In spite of a modest living Franciszek eked out as a laborer at Ford, then at Dunlop, all his six children were college educated.

He died February 28, 1982 and was buried in a Polish Military lot at St. Stanislaus cemetery. Twenty-five years later, to the day, on February 28, 2007, Krystyna died and was buried next to her husband.

We the children of Franciszek and Krystyna Fundalinski, feel more and more grateful and indebted to our parents as we better understand the sacrifices they made for their homeland and their children.

Bogdan, Andrzej, Hania, Teresa, Jan, and Tadeusz

„Ale nie depczcie przeszłości ołtarzy,
choć macie sami doskonałe wznieść.
Na nich się jeszcze święty ogień żarzy.
I miłość ludzka stoi tam na straży
I wy winniście im cześć !,
-Adam Asnyk „Dla Młodych”

Z wdzięcznością dla tych którzy polegli,
z szacunkiem dla tych, którzy przeżyli wojnę
i założyli Szkołę Polską w Buffalo.

-Uczniowie Polskiej Szkoły, wraz z Rodzicami i Nauczycielami



Msgr. Peter Adamski
Polish Saturday School
at Buffalo

83 Gualbert St.
Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14211

Principal: Mira Szramel
716-681-6739

Dziękujemy Opatrzności Bożej Podczas Wojny
a tym którzy nie przeżyli niech Bóg da szczęśliwość wieczną.

Natomiast dziękujemy młodemu pokoleniu które stworzyło
Polish Legacy Project-WWII za troskę o przekazywanie prawdy
tragedii wojennych następnym pokoleniom.



Marcin i Wanda Ostrowscy
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*Best wishes to the new
Buffalo Polish Legacy Project
for success in its mission*



Podhale

Parents and Youth Association Inc.

Founded in 1964



**With gratitude to the World War II survivors
who had the vision to create a space for our
youth.**

In Honor of Our Survivors

Joseph Golombek, Jr.
North District Council Member
City of Buffalo

STANISŁAW DĄBROWSKI

(9/12/26 - 3/17/94)

Thank you for your tireless efforts to keep Polonia abreast of current events and historical facts through your endless research, articles and speeches. You kept us all involved, aware and interested in what is going on in Poland. You instilled in all of us a greater love for our motherland.

Cześć Jego Pamięci



Twoje córki,
Izabella, Dorota i Krystyna

Wedding photo taken in Lincoln, England
April 22, 1946 Polish Air Force Base
300th Bomber Division



**Warrant Officer Zbigniew Jan Solecki
i Józefa (Kawalek) Solecka**
Spent 2 years in
Malotowska Oblasc Obóz "Kluczatka"
(February 1940 - Early 1942)

Dedicated to Pra-Babcia Solecka & Nasza Kochana Mama
Polish Air Force Veteran

I Love you Pra-Babcia
James Neil Morissey III
Born September 3, 2009

*Richard & Margaret Solecki, Neil & Heather Morrissey,
Paul, Helene & Brian Bartus, Zbigniew, Mary, Christopher
& Kathryn Solecki, David, Barbara, & David Jr. Fenski,
and your adopted daughter, Dina Szymanski*

Adam Mickiewicz Library & Dramatic Circle "Mickiewicze"



*The Cultural Home of
Polish Post War Immigrants*

Honors Polish WWII Survivors
among whom were those who revived
our institution following WWII as
the site of Polish theater and other
cultural and community events.

Pamiętamy...

612 Fillmore Ave.
Buffalo, N.Y. 14212

This is a tribute to **KRZYSZTOF BRZUZA**, the Polish classical pianist who immigrated to Buffalo in 1971, and his Mother Irena. She, her teenage daughter and her husband, Jan Brzuza, a co-founder of the Polish National Bank, lived in Nowy Sącz, a town in southern Poland. Irena learned to speak German during the Nazi occupation to be able to speak with the Gestapo when trying to save her fellow Poles who had been arrested and were in prison awaiting deportation to the hard labor camps in Germany. She would go in and attest as a character witness, and managed to have many people released; therefore she was liked and very respected by the locals. After the war had ended in 1945 and Poland was under Soviet occupation, the Russians used this as an excuse, arrested her for her so-called collaboration with the Germans during the war, and deported her along with other suspected people to a prison in Berezovo in far northern Siberia. It was the freezing land of the "white nights" 11 months of the year. She tried to escape but got scared and turned back when the guards fired warning shots. A few months later, the prisoners were marched south over hundreds of miles of frozen tundra to the forced labor factories in Sverdlovsk (Yekaterinburg) in the western Siberian plain at the base of the Ural Mountains. It was there, in sub-human conditions that Krzysztof was born prematurely in 1946. Irena almost died in childbirth due to malnutrition, and he was kept alive by other women who took turns breast-feeding him with their own meager supplies. He spent the first 2 years of his life living in captivity. He almost died when hungry rats bit him while he slept, and when he was severely infested by lice and bedbugs. When Krzysztof got huge boils on his back from malnutrition, from which he still has scars, Irena befriended another prisoner, a German doctor who helped her. Later Irena managed to get work in the camp kitchen, where at great risk of punishment she was able to sneak small bits of extra food for herself and her boy. When amnesty was granted to the Polish prisoners thanks to pressure from The West, Irena repatriated to Poland in 1948. For reasons suspicious to her and Krzysztof's Godfather, another prisoner from camp, all of the children were separated from the adults and put in the last boxcar of the train. Terrified that they would never see them again, a couple of men decided to go out a hole in the floor and crawl under the slowly moving train to the last boxcar and bring the children to safety one by one. Irena did not know why Krzysztof was so wet when brought to her; it wasn't until 15 years later that his Godfather admitted that in his hurry not to be caught at a stop, he had dropped him by accident in a huge snow bank and couldn't find him for a long time. Back in Nowy Sącz, life was difficult for Irena as Siberia had taken a great toll on her mental and physical health. She and her husband opened a small shop and sold wedding, baptism and communion clothing and shoes, always under the fear of revisions. After Jan's death in 1959, she kept the shop and made many sacrifices to educate her son who had immense musical talent. Determined to give him more opportunities, she sent him to America after he received his Master's degree from the Kraków Academy of

(Krzysztof Brzuza, cont.)

Music. Krzysztof lived, performed piano recitals and worked at Villa Maria College in Buffalo for over 3 years. He was very poor and started teaching piano privately, which he still does today, and has students who have won many national and international piano competitions including the Chopin in 1990. He got married in 1974. Irena died in Poland at age 83 in 1991.



Honoring all who served and sacrificed

In the words of the Hymn of Resolve
of the Holy Polish National Catholic Church:

I choćby burza szalała w świecie,
Choćby i piorun pod stopy bił,
Nas nic nie cofnie, nas nic nie zgniecie,
Bodajś Ty z nami. Ojciec nasz był!

~ ks. diakon James Konicki i rodzina

Z wdzięcznością

Dzięki opatrności Boga przeżyłem tą tragiczną drogę wojenną. Za dar życia zawsze będę dziękować Najwyższemu i Matce Najświętszej.

Będąc młodym chłopcem zostałem z rodzeństwem i rodzicami wywieziony do sowieckiej Rosji na Syberię gdzie cierpieliśmy głód i poniewierkę w mroźnej tajdze syberyjskiej.



Kiedy w 1941 roku Generał W. Sikorski z Generałem Andersem podpisali umowę ze Stalinem aby utworzyć wojsko polskie w Rosji pod dowództwem brytyjskim, wtedy z rodzicami wyjechałem do Persji. Z tamtąd do Afryki z kąd przewieziono mnie do Egiptu, gdzie wstąpiłem do Armii Andersa. Przydzielono mnie do 14-ej Wielkopolskiej Brygady Pancerniej.

Dziękuję Panu Andrzejowi Gołębiowskiemu i całej organizacji za dobre serce i zrozumieniu.



żołnierz 2go korpusu
Kazimierz Kawale

This is a tribute to the SIEMIENOWSKI FAMILY and a brief story about their journey to freedom and Buffalo, by Anna Brzuza. My Parents, Józef and Łucja Siemienowski, together with my brother Henryk (age 1), sister Danuta (almost 3), Grandmother and 2 aunts were living a comfortable life in Słonim in north-eastern Poland when the Russians invaded shortly after World War II started. Father was a civil engineer and a lieutenant in the Polish Army Reserves. In Nov. 1939 he was arrested at his office, taken to jail, then deported to a forced labor camp in Kolyma in the Arctic region of far eastern Russia. There he lived in grueling conditions with bitter cold, hunger, frequent beatings and torture. Russian soldiers had also pounded on the door of the family home at 1 a.m. on Feb. 14, 1940 and rounded up Mother, Grandmother and the 2 children with their bayonets and loudly ordered them go to the lorry waiting outside full of other people. While Grandmother fell to her knees and prayed, Mother's survival instincts took over and she offered the soldiers vodka, bread and sausage. In the 15 minutes that the soldiers ate, she ran around collecting whatever she could grab into bundled sheets and threw them into the truck. They were loaded into a cattle train car along with 120 others for a 2 month trip to Siberia with little food and only one pail for a toilet. Many people died along the way. The family spent the next 1 ½ years in Petrovka, east of Novosibirsk, where Mother was forced to make bricks from mud and hay in exchange for a handful of grain as daily pay. She slowly sold her belongings for milk and baked bread from the grain so they wouldn't starve. There was no soap for washing, no toilet, diapers, running water, electricity, heater or money, just hunger, cold and despair. When the surviving soldier prisoners were allowed to leave Russia and regroup into a new Polish Army to fight against Germany, Father, thin, filthy, covered in lice, knees swollen terribly and wearing the tattered coat he was arrested in, saw his family for 24 hours before leaving for Kuibyshev to join his troops. He told Mother to escape towards the southwest, so the family walked for several months and over 1500 miles, sometimes hitching rides on ox carts or trains, sometimes stealing or working for food along the way. With one child on her back and the other in her arms, Mother walked first to Tashkent in Central Asia, where she sold more of her things in exchange for food and shelter, and finally to the depot in Krasnovodsk by the Caspian Sea. The soldiers had already left for Palestine to be trained and nourished before being transported to Italy. The famished family was transported by ship to the refugee camp at Pahlevi near Tehran, Persia, where their heads were shaved and clothes burned to rid them of lice. Henry, who had been sickly all along, got dysentery and the others' eyes got infected by flies. Mother sold the last item she owned, a platinum engagement ring, to get some rice to save him. After about 2 months there, and another long, hard journey through Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, they were transported by ship, which docked at the port of Aden before continuing on to Mombassa. After traveling through Kenya by a slow train, they arrived in Kampala, Uganda, in the jungle near the shores of

(Siemienowski Family, cont.)

Lake Victoria, where they lived in a small Polish settlement named Koja for about 5 years in grass roof huts with gauze in the window openings to keep out the mosquitoes. Henry was infected with black malaria and got chiggers under his toenails and again the battle was on to keep him alive. Rationing was the norm, and the family only received one pound of rice and bread each week, along with small amounts of other food. They would at great risk go to the natives at night and exchange the bread for fruit. A school was started for the children and Mother learned English until she was proficient enough to teach in the 1st through 4th grades for a small salary while also leading the choir and playing the violin in the church. She took the money she made and made monthly trips to Kampala to shop for necessities and pick up used clothing that Americans had donated to the refugees. Father was helping to fight in the war alongside the Allies in Italy when he got a one week furlough to visit his family in Africa after he located them through the Red Cross. Later he petitioned the Queen of England to allow the family to move to England with him after the war, after he participated in the battle at Monte Cassino where thousands of his fellow soldiers perished. He had been promoted to Captain by General Anders and had sent a letter to Mother proudly declaring "teraz jesteś Kapitanową". He desperately wanted his family to be together again. Everyone but Grandmother (for health reasons) was allowed to go in 1947, but she joined them in 1948 after finally getting clearance. They were assigned living quarters in old army barracks/ metal barrel quonsets in Hazlemere near Highwicombe. Rationing continued in post-war England with mostly rice, bread and eggs to eat, and the small pension Father was receiving was not enough to buy the family necessities, so Mother went to work in the factories making vacuum cleaners, baseboard heaters and glass lamp components in order to fight the poverty they were experiencing. My parents applied for the children to be admitted to boarding schools in other parts of England because they knew they would get fed better



(Siemienowski Family, cont.)

there, and Henry and Danuta came home to visit occasionally when finances allowed. Mother had a miscarriage, was tired of the suffering, but determined to have a better life and convinced Father to immigrate to America. As refugees, they were all finally granted free transport across the Atlantic Ocean and went through Canada to a city Mother picked on the map that looked promising, Buffalo, New York. She heard that other Polish refugees were moving there because of an already established Polish community, and that there



were decent jobs and churches and good public schools and felt it was the best place for a new start. And so in November of 1951, the family arrived with only \$13 in their pockets and no place to live. They spent that \$13 for a hotel room including a cornflake breakfast, and in desperation Mother begged a lady she met on the street to rent them a room until they could get established, with the promise to pay her later. Then she went to a Polish

priest at St. Michael's in Lackawanna who found her a job starting the next day at the Ford Motor Factory, where she started earning \$28 a week. Father had a harder time assimilating to the new life but got a job at Bethlehem Steel Mill. Later they bought an old fixer-upper house on Ellicott Street and the entire family worked hard to make it a home; soon other Polish refugee families like the Dubickis also bought houses close by. I was born in Lackawanna in 1953, Joseph was born in Buffalo in 1955, Danuta was married, had a son and Grandmother died, all in 1959. Henry graduated with 2 degrees from the University of Buffalo in 1960. Father died of heart failure on April 10th, 1962 and Mother again had to raise 2 small children alone in a foreign land. But with the help of family and friends, she again survived and is still alive at age 97.



**Miłych wspomnień tych gorszych i
lepszyc wszystkim uczestnikom życzy**

**b. Buffalowianin Sybirak,
absolwent Szkoły Kadetów i Szkoły
Lotniczej na Środkowym Wschodzie**

Stanisław H Szuttenbach

Pomona, N.Y.



Kochana Mamo

Z Okazji rocznicy urodzin Mamy pragniemy najserdeczniej podziękować Tobie Mamo i Tato za piękne życie jakie stworzyliście dla nas tu w Ameryce. Okazaliście swoją wdzięczność Bogu za szansę którą wam dał, aby zacząć od nowa, pracując ciężko chcąc stworzyć nam lepsze życie. Po zatym okazaliście dobroć i ofiarność dla przyjaciół a nawet dla zupełnie obcych ludzi. Wychowani byliśmy w duchu Polskości codziennie i ciągle to pielęgnujemy.

Teraz rozumiemy że Wasze życie było niełatwe, przepełnione strachem i niepewnością i że tęskniliście bardzo za rodziną i ojczystym domem. Lecz byliście silni duchem aby iść dalej, dzień po dniu, szczęśliwi że żyjecie. Nauczylście nas jak należy cenić dar życia który posiadamy.



Irena (Woźniak) Wilczyńska śp. Antoni Wilczyński

Mamo i Tato, kochamy Was bardzo i chylimy przed Wami głowy
wdzięczni za wszystko.

Januszek, Halinka i Elunia z rodzinami.



Mój ojciec Czesław Lewocz został w czasie 2-giej wojny światowej wywieziony na Sybir.

Przeszedł katorgę ciężkiej pracy i głodu, natępnie dostał się do Polskiego wojska Generała Andersa, służył jako spadochroniarz i brał udział w walkach o wolną Polskę. Po wojnie został w Anglii i po kilku latach przyjechał do U.S.A.

Natomiast moja mama przyjechała z Polski i jako nauczycielka pracowała w Polsce i w U.S.A. ucząc dziatwę języka polskiego.

Dzięki moim rodzicom znam dość dobrze język polski. Potrafię mówić, czytać i pisać po polsku. Kocham moich rodziców bardzo i jestem z nich dumny bo byli i są dobrymi Polakami i lojalnymi Amerykanami.

*Janusz Lewocz z żoną Sandrą
i synkiem Dawidem*

In Honor of Stefan Szymura+ Concentration Camp Survivor

Arrested September 19th, 1939 in Poznań Province, Poland.

Imprisoned in Mauthausen Gusen.

October 15th 1939 until May 5th 1945 when liberated.

Always in our hearts, sadly missed,

Died September 30th, 2006.

Loving Husband, Father, & Grandfather

*Adeline Szymura, Stephen & Denise Szymura & son,
Michael & Delphine Klemp & family*

*Nie pomogą próżne żale
Ból swój niebu trza polecieć
A samemu wciąż wytrwale
Trzeba naprzód iść... i świecić.*
(Adam Asnyk)

In memory of our parents,
Zofia and Wojciech Woszczak,
and grandparents Michalina and Michał Szaja,
whose lives continue to inspire us.



Your loving daughters and grand-daughters,
Irena Woszczak and Joanna Woszczak-Rzepecka



Bedtime Stories

We begged for bedtime stories
Father would comply
With a chocolate cottage
Fairy tale
And a kitten lullaby

Or better still
A story song
Of a sugar princess
Ugly witch and mouse
Until tssst
The last glow of ember
Burned out

Mother would comply
With tight throated readings
Of a stork betrayed
Crippled hatchlings
Or a drowning snowman

Her songs were of
The flowing river flowing
And the march of
Painted soldiers
Forever departing

And when they thought we slept
We listened
To recollections
Meant above our ears
Of night terrors set off by memories
Of fear flight and defiance
Basements entombed
And unjustly rationed heartbeats

We found the evidence
In albums
Of black and white horror
Enshrouded rows
Or blatant mountains
Of skulls arms and legs
All children from the land of rubble
Linked to us through our own borrowed flesh

We learned these stories beyond fantasy
Beyond conceivable reality
What of it shall be retold
Before tssst
The last hot ember's
But ash cold

Anna Fundalinski Kaczynski

Z Podziękowaniem Panu Bogu

Patrząc z perspektywy czasu od wybuchu wojny w 1939 roku, kiedy byłam dzieckiem, teraz jako dorosła zdaję sobie sprawę, że moja cała rodzina ocalała dzięki wielkiej opatrności Bożej. Mieszkając na Wołyniu uniknęliśmy w cudowny sposób wywózki na Syberię, śmierci z rąk nacjonalistów ukraińskich, bombardowania podczas okupacji niemieckiej.

Z ogromną wdzięcznością cenię pracę organizacji **Polish Legacy Project**, założonej dwa lata temu w roku 2007, przez młodych ludzi drugiej generacji w Ameryce - z moim synem Andrzejem Gołębiowskim założycielem. Organizacja ta została założona po to, aby ocalić od zapomnienia tragicznych przeżyć Polaków w drugiej wojnie światowej i przekazywać prawdę następnym pokoleniom w Ameryce. Wielu świadków tych okrutnych czasów już odeszło na zawsze do Pana, lecz ci którzy pozostali są żywymi świadkami tej smutnej historii. Bóg ocalił ich po to, aby świadczyli o prawdzie.

Niech wam młodzi, wychowani tu na wolnej ziemi Washingtona-Matka Najświętsza ciągle oręduje za wami u naszego Stwórcy.

Bóg Zapłać Stokrotnie !!!

Helena Ryczkowska-Gołębiowska

