

Ray Sadecki, Walter "Killer" Kowalski, Chet Jastrzemski to be inducted into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame

By: **James Conrad**, Chairman
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Former Major League pitcher Ray Sadecki, World Wrestling Federation (WWF) Hall of Famer Walter "Killer" Kowalski and Olympic Swimmer Chet Jastrzemski have been elected into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame's 35th Class.

The election of Sadecki, Kowalski and Jastrzemski brings the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame roster to 107. The Hall was founded in 1973 and former St. Louis Cardinal baseball great Stan Musia³ was the first inductee. Sadecki and Kowalski were elected from the national ballot. Jastrzemski was selected by the Hall's Veterans Committee

Sadecki pitched 18 years in the major leagues (1960-1977) for six teams, mostly with the Cardinals, Giants and Mets. He had a career record of 135-131 with an ERA of 3.78, totaled 1,614 strikeouts in 2,500 innings. In 1964 Sadecki led the St. Louis Cardinals to the World Series title with a 20-11 record during the regular season. In the 1973 World Series he appeared as a reliever in four games with the New York Mets, posting a 1.93 ERA with one save.

Walter "Killer" Kowalski was one of the greatest wrestlers of all time. In a career that lasted 30 years, he won his prestigious title in 1950 winning the New Wrestling Alliance Texas Heavyweight Title defeating "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers. After winning numerous titles in the U.S. he won Canada's top championship eight times – the AWA/WA World Championship – between 1952 and 1962. In 1963 he teamed with "Gorilla" Monsoon to win the U.S. Tag team title. Kowalski has been inducted into both the WWF and Ring Chronicle Halls of Fame.

Dr. Chet Jastrzemski could be compared with the first propeller driven boat beating the established paddlewheel. His narrow jump style kick and pull revolutionized breast-stroking style. A YMCA butter-flyer when he went to Indiana University from the Toledo Y, he quickly became the world's premier breaststroker. In 6 weeks of 1961 he lowered the World Record 6 times from 1:11.1 to 1:07.5. His longevity was one of his greatest accomplishments.

The Inductees will be honored at the 35th annual Induction Banquet on Thursday, June 14, at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, MI. All tickets can be ordered by calling (248) 588-5333.

Information on the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame is available on its website at www.polishsportshof.com. □

Jews Back to Poland

The following article appeared in *y net news.com* website... *Few know that Israelis own the exquisite Warsaw Hilton Hotel, inaugurated a day after Holocaust Memorial Day right next to where the Warsaw ghetto used to be. How do the entrepreneurs view Jewish enterprises in the Warsaw valley of death? What do Poles and Holocaust survivors have to say about that?* Tani Goldstein

Warsaw - The Hilton Hotel inauguration ceremony looked like so many events where businesses are launched worldwide. The leaders of the Polish business community and local celebrities gathered in the hotel conference room. They cheered the entrepreneur who cut the red ribbon, listened to festive speeches, emptied champagne bottles, ate delicious snacks, and danced till dawn.

Next to Polish and European dignitaries, the event was also attended by some 200 Israelis for whom there was nothing usual about this event, because the new hotel is located a 10-minute walk away from where the Warsaw Ghetto used to stand in World War 2.

The Warsaw Hilton

In an unusual move, the owners of Elran Company, Gadi and Dori Dankner, decided to hold the inauguration ceremony on the day after Holocaust Memorial Day. "There was nothing accidental about the date we set for this," Gadi Dankner related. "We actually wanted to hold the ceremony at the end of Holocaust Memorial Day, but for reasons we could not control, we had to put it off by a day."

On Holocaust Memorial Day, the Dankners took their Israeli guests - family members, friends, shareholders, employees, partners, clients, and reporters - on an eerie tour that started at what remained of the Warsaw Ghetto, through the Treblinka concentration camp, to Atlas Company construction sites in Poland, and ended at the hotel inauguration. "Now, that we saw all those things," emotional Gadi Dankner told his guests, "We have to go on living. We must succeed and be happy. We have to show them."

"To spite them"

The ceremony was attended by, among others, Holocaust survivors, including older Israelis who fled Poland in the 1930s and lost their families there, and second-generation survivors such as myself. The contradiction between the horrors of the past and the splendor of today, between the horrid tales of the past and the gay reality of the present, was hard to ignore.

How could you do that? I asked Gadi Dankner. How could you build a resort in a place like this?

"It was very hard," he said. "This place is forever cursed. You cannot just feel the same here. I deliberated a lot and there were moments I considered dropping the deal. Eventually the scales were tipped by my feeling that I want to spite them. I wanted to come, 60 years after, from a position of power and say, 'we are here' - and not because we 'won'; that's a wrong expression - but we may say that we are here because we have overcome, we have a state of our own, and we come here not as persecuted refugees, but as equal partners. We do not forgive, we do not forget, but we come back."

Are you not reverting to the pre-Holocaust times, appearing here again as greedy Jews who want to make money where we do not belong?

"I hope it is not like that. I feel we come here from a different, stronger place."

Israelis play an important role in Poland's construction drive

Hilton Hotel is just a small part of the construction and economic enterprising drive that has been sweeping Poland in recent years. Warsaw - until a decade ago, just a Soviet town of gray buildings - has turned into a thriving Western city. Israelis who tour the ghetto and hear horror stories of what went on there actually look at a neighborhood whose residents lead the good life.

The building that housed the Judenrat command then, now houses a drugstore and

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Professor with a past

Zygmunt Bauman built his career writing about morality, so how does the sociologist answer revelations that he worked for the Polish secret service?

In a April 28, 2007 article in the Great Britain Newspaper, Guardian, Aida Edemariam writes about an interview with Zygmunt Bauman... In recent years it has become a kind of fashion - especially in those countries, such as Germany and Poland, that suffered most directly from the ideological excesses of the mid-20th century - to excavate, point fingers and take the moral high ground. Rooting in long-closed files makes for good, titillating copy; it is generally couched in terms of truth-seeking and boil-lancing, and in some senses genuinely is. However, it is also worth asking questions about the relevance now of some of these discoveries, and whether they should be allowed to overshadow entire lives; but also, as Timothy Garton Ash argued recently in this paper, to work out exactly what the context and reality was at the time, and to understand precisely what present-day agendas are behind how these revelations are discussed.

Last year the subject/scapegoat was Günther Grass, who to some extent forestalled the finger-pointers by writing in his autobiography of his short-lived service in the SS; now it is the turn of the eminent Polish sociologist Zygmunt Bauman. An article in the rightwing Polish magazine *Ozon*, by historian Bogdan Musia³, has alleged that Bauman, who has lived and taught in Leeds for over 35 years, was for a while in the pay of the Polish secret service, and that he participated in the political cleansing of opponents of the regime. The story has been picked up, heatedly, in Germany, where his work is much revered. Andreas Hess, a lecturer in sociology, repeated it in the Irish Times. Bauman has two books being published in the UK at the moment, and it seems a good idea to ask for his side of the story.

"Look, I won't dignify Musia³ with an answer," says Bauman, his face contracting and his voice deepening, and answering anyway. "I don't want to give weight or importance to something which is [composed of] half-truths and 100% lies. What is true in his article is not new, because everybody knew I was a communist" - from 1946 to 1967 - "and that I served also for several years in the 'internal army', so called." The only new fact, he says, is that he did join the secret service, but only for three years, when he was 19, and for this "I bear full responsibility."

It is a response of a piece with his ideas, one of which is that modernity has created the perfect conditions for individuals to act unethically; and that taking personal responsibility and acting morally is a greater test than it has ever been before. So, in *Modernity and the Holocaust* (1989), he argued that complicity in the Final Solution was not a product specifically of Nazism, or of an unusual coming-together of evil people, but of a modern system, an intricate bureaucracy in which obedience to superiors was prized above all, and whose layers partially obscured to ordinary people the consequences of their actions.

In nearly 50 books (25 of them published since he retired from teaching in 1990) he has devoted himself to understanding the society we live in, and in the process has become one of the most highly esteemed social critics in Europe.

Bauman's particular achievement has been to mount a sustained critique of totalitarianism while at the same time, like some of the thinkers he admires, such as Richard Rorty and Richard Sennett, retaining an essentially socialist belief in the ethical necessity of equality and justice. Increasingly he has also been a critic of the Third Way, and of globalisation. So *Consuming Life*, to be published next month, argues that our consumerist society, in which everything is judged according to its market value, and discarded if found wanting, applies, with terrible consequences, to our most intimate relationships as well. Why commit to a relationship if you can always bin it and try

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Ks. Robert Wojślaw, Asystent
Ks. Antoni Bury, Rezydent

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Polish American Congress Southern Cal Division

Next meeting will take place on

Sunday, - May 20, 12:30 p.m.

**Pope John Paul II Polish Center
3999 Rose Drive - Yorba Linda**

Members and non-members
are invited to attend

Get involved in Polonia - Join the PAC

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