



Polish Profiles

“We, Warsaw Children...”

By: **Kaya Mirecka Ploss**, Ph.D., Executive Director
Jan Karski Institute, Baltimore, MD

Every war produces its own literature and its own songs and music. Some are written on the spur of the moment, others are composed more thoughtfully, inspired by the heroics of the fighting men. A few become classics and most are soon forgotten.

Here in the United States, a Civil War song, “When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again,” is sung till today and is just as stirring as when first heard around 150 years ago.

In faraway France, a poet and dramatist wrote a poem “La Varsoviennne,” when the news of the Polish Uprising of November 1830 reached him. The verses were translated into Polish by Karol Sienkiewicz and music for it was composed by Karol Krupinski. It was first sung in Poland by soldiers of the Uprising on May 26, 1831:

Oto dziś dzień krwi i chwały

Oby dniem wskreszenia był.

(Here's the day of blood and glory,

let it Poland's resurrection be.)

This song is known not only in Poland but also here in the Polish communities, 177 years after it was written.

A simple Ukrainian tune, “Where Have All the Soldiers Gone?” written during the tragic retreat of Napoleon from Moscow, became known to the rest of the world only 52 years ago, when Peter Seeger had it translated into English and Marlene Dietrich introduced it on a European tour. In England a prominent composer, Richard Addinsell, wrote the world famous “Warsaw Concerto,” inspired by the bitter fighting over Warsaw in September 1939.

There are many songs from the First and Second World Wars, yet no war produced such an abundance of songs as the 63-day-long Warsaw Uprising in 1944.

Sixty-three days and almost as many songs. They were not sad or melancholy, but full of spirit, patriotism, hope and defiance. It was almost as if the five years of German oppression burst forth in those flaming freedom songs. At every barricade and every fighting point they knew and sang, “We, Warsaw Children Will Fight for You!” (Warszawskie Dzieci Pójdziemy w Bój). Words by a son of Warsaw, the poet Stanislaw R. Dobrowolski, music by Andrzej Panufnik, later a symphony orchestra conductor in England.

Among the soldiers fighting in the Uprising was a young writer Krystyna Krahelska. Her face was known to many as she served as the model for the beloved statue of the “Warszawska Syrena” (Warsaw Mermaid) which had been placed before the war on the banks of the Vistula river. It was Krystyna Krahelska who wrote “Hej Chłopcy, bagnet na broń!” (Hey Boys, Fix the Bayonets), a song especially popular with the youngest freedom fighters.

Yet, the most prolific composers were the brothers Markowski, in particular the older one, Jan. A recognized songwriter before the war, young Markowski's talent burst into full bloom during the Uprising. His “Mokotów March” (Marsz Mokotowa) was perhaps the most widely sung, known, and popular song during and after the Uprising.

Women, together with men, were fighting at every street corner. Some with grenades and rifles, but mostly as couriers and nurses. Markowski expressed his gratitude and admiration, along with that of all the soldiers, to the women combatants in the song “Sanitariuszka Małgorzatka” (Army Nurse Małgorzatka).

Three popular tunes composed by partisans hiding in the woods were written before the Uprising. Street musicians with accordions and mandolins were stealthily walking from yard to yard and singing those outlawed songs. But only during the 63 days of the Warsaw Uprising did those songs become really popular. A haunting melody, “Rozśpiewały sie Wierzby Płaczące” (Weeping Willows are singing their songs), became a classic. Another was a cheerful little tune with words to match by Michał Zieliński, “Serce w Plecaku,” (Heart in a Knapsack). A third, written by a lonely 18-year-old partisan soldier during a rainy autumn night,

Deszcz, jesienny deszcz

Smutne pieśni gra...

(Rain, the autumn rain

Sings a song of tears...)

Polish Profiles to page 16

NEWS OF POLONIA

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

2245 E. Colorado Blvd. #104/177 – Pasadena, CA 91107

Tel: (626) 577-9797

Fax: (626) 449-3331

E-MAIL – polishnews@earthlink.net

Editor in Chief: Betsy Cepielik

Polish Section, Editor-in-Chief: Zbysław (Bish) Petryka (626) 795-9520

Contributing writers

Justyna Ball

Zbysław Petryka, Ph.D

Fr. Lucjan Kamiński, SDB

Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski

Columnists:

Kaya Mirecka Ploss - Profiles

Joanna Brost - Investments

Chris Kerosky, Esq. - Legal matters

Edmund Lewandowski - Northern Cal.

Marek Żebrowski and Krysta Close - Polish Music Center @USC

Lila Cieccek - Orange Co.

Prof. Jerzy Przystawa - Poland Politics

Richard P. Król - Taxes

Jan Szczepański - Poland - Student

NEWS OF POLONIA - home delivery

Annual Subscription Rate - \$25.00

Date: ___/___/___

Name _____

Address _____

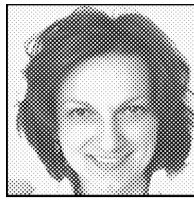
City/State _____

Zip _____ Tel () _____

Make your check payable to: News of Polonia
2245 E. Colorado Blvd. #104/177
Pasadena, CA 91107

Disclaimer Notice:

The Views of our columnists and letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the News of Polonia.



Justyna is on vacation

Lila is on vacation...
No Orange County News
this month



Summer Studies in Poland Scholarship

By: **Jo Louise Winters**

The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) Scholarship Committee, Mrs. Camile Kopielski, Chairperson, is accepting applications for the 2008 Summer Studies in Poland scholarship. This Summer Study program allows American students of Polish descent to study at one of the many fine Polish universities, thereby enriching their knowledge of Polish history, heritage and culture. The winner will receive \$2,000.00 towards tuition and travel expenses.

To qualify, applicant must be:

1. of Polish descent.
2. attending a school of higher learning and have completed at least two years at the college/university level.
3. a member of the ACPC or a member (or child or grandchild of a member) of an ACPC Affiliate or Supporting Organization (see www.polishcultureacpc.org for listing).

Application may be obtained from the ACPC website, www.polishcultureacpc.org or by contacting:

Mrs. Camille Kopielski,
ACPC Scholarship Chairperson
1015 Cypress Drive
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
tel. (847) 394-2520.

For consideration by the ACPC Scholarship Committee all information must be received via mail on or before February 1, 2008 by the Chairperson. The ACPC Scholarship winner will be announced in March of 2008. □

Your Help is Needed
Get involved in Polonia!
Join a
Polish Organization

Calendar of Events

Nov.18, Sunday 12:30 p.m. Yorba Linda – Polish American Congress Meeting. Information (626) 577-9797

18, Los Angeles - Friends of John Paul II Foundation Annual Meeting, Polish Parrish, Info: 626-281-0516

24, “Los Angeles - Andrzejki” organized by Krakusy & Harcerze, Information: Janusz Wilczek (818)248-7176

24, Los Angeles - PGS-CA Meeting and Research Class 9:30 a.m. Information: (310) 378-0877, www.pgsc.org

24 – Dec 15, - Los Angeles - “Don Giovanni” by W. A. Mozart, Director: Mariusz Treliński, Choreographer: Emil Wesołowski, at Los Angeles Opera, 135 North Grand Avenue.

24 Phoenix, Arizona - Zabawa Andrzejkowa w Klubie Pułaskiego Związek Podhalań organizuje doroczną zabawę andrzejkową w Klubie Pułaskiego w sobotę 24 listopada od 7PM do 2AM. Wstęp \$15. Gorące dania już od 7:30 pm w cenie \$7. Bilety można kupić przy wejściu. Telefon do organizatorów : 602 432-1511. Grać będzie zespół Zbigniewa Gałązki. Klub Pułaskiego znajduje się przy 4331 E. Mc Dowell Rd. Phoenix AZ.

27, Dec. 1 and 2 – Los Angeles - “Gospels of Childhood” Theatre Żar at International Theatre, at Freud Playhouse, UCLA, information: 310-825-2101

28, 11:00 a.m. Laguna Woods - Luncheon organized by the Polish Club - Clubhouse Six, info: Irena 949-206-9122.

Dec 1, Los Angeles - 6:30 p.m. Zabawa Andrzejkowa organized by Krakusy and Harcerze at the Parish Hall in Los Angeles; Information: 805-306-9045 and 626-952-2045.

1, Yorba Linda - Andrzejki Dance. Sponsored by the PIAST Lodge of the Polish National Alliance. Information: (714) 744-2775.

2, 2:00 p.m. Encino - Polish Women Alliance Children Christmas Party with children “Krakusy” dances – Encino Country Club. Information: Helen Simmons (818) 360-7707.

2, 1:30 p.m. Los Angeles - Polish American Congress Oplatek luncheon and Polonia Awards presentations and Kolędy at Our Lady of the Bright Mount Church Hall. Information & reservation: (310)831-0708, (323)766-0026, (714) 871-8106, (562) 426-9830.

9, Yorba Linda - Jaselka Information: (310) 831-00708.

15, Laguna Woods - Christmas Eve Dinner 5:00 p.m. organized by the Polish Club - Clubhouse Seven, information: Irena 949-206-9122.

16, 11:00 a.m. Los Angeles - PNA Lodge 700 meeting.

31, Yorba Linda - Sylwester Dance, Pope John Paul II Polish Center, Information : (949) 459-7884.

31, Los Angeles - Sylvester Ball by “Krakusy” in Los Angeles at the Polish Parish Hall, Information: (818)248-7176

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2008

Jan 12, 2008, Long Beach - Krakusy Carnival Ball on the Queen Mary, information Janusz Wilczek (818)248-7176

26, Christmas Show “Gody” by “Krakusy”, information Janusz Wilczek (818)248-7176

Feb 2 Sat, Carnival Ball - Music by Z. Gałązka Orchestra from Arizona. Pope John Paul Polish Center in Yorba Linda.

Please send information for the calendar to Bish Petryka - e-mail: zbykoopet@aol.com ★