

Polish Profiles from 2

writing for the Soldiers' Theater there. The tone of his poetry changed. The poems were more nostalgic and very patriotic. One of the most popular soldiers' songs during that war was the "KARPACKA BRYGADA". Hemar not only wrote the words for the song, but also composed the music.

After the war, Hemar married a second time. She was a tall, beautiful American blonde of Swedish descent by the name Kaja. She often came to the theater and all of us, myself included, got to know her quite well. As for Maria Modzelewska, she also left Poland and settled somewhere in Latin America. The next time they saw each other was years later in 1957.

When in the early fifties the Polish section of Radio Free Europe was established in Munich, Marian Hemar was asked to join the team of actors and writers. For years Poland listened to his satirical and biting poems and sketches aimed at the Communist Regime.

In February, 1972, at the age of 71, Marian Hemar died. His wife Kaja put the Polish leaf plucked from his garden in Warsaw into his coffin. For 33 years that leaf was Marian Hemar's symbol of Poland.

The music that was played at his funeral was the famous soldiers' song, "KARPACKA BRYGADA". □

Justyna Ball from 2

history and culture. A detailed map helped many find ... small villages from where their ancestors took their lifetime voyage. One man spent more than 20 minutes looking for one, and then started reading everything there was on the table until his wife showed up and grinding her teeth, she spat out, "your son is looking for you!" I gave out so much info that many think that I'm a travel agent!

My oversized framed picture of the Black Madonna once broke on the bumpy road, but that is what the duct tape is for. That portrait put a big smile on the faces of some African delegation who remembered John Paul's visit to their native country. I love seeing the great surprised looks on people's faces when they discover our Polish tent there...

Each site gets an animal. I always ask for something cute like a lamb or sheep to attract children. China or Tibet get yaks. Kenya gets goats. One year, when I chatted with a "Kenyan" milking a goat at the next site, I found out that not only he was not Kenyan but Ethiopian, and that he is also one of those runners at the Boston marathon!! I have two marathon runners in my household, so we know who those Ethiopians are, and they are pretty famous in the Boston area. I just never expected seeing one milking goats. He traveled from Washington, D.C to volunteer for that weekend.

At the Global Village, the only time when the traffic slows down is when there is a horse show, and Dale Perkins is the mastermind behind it. His horses can actually jump through fire, but my personal favorite is watching a sheep dog chasing chicks or geese.

The place is an example of a well-organized small community. Everyone knows his place and job assignment. There are volunteers who take care of animals at the site and bring them water. Others make sure we take breaks, and whatever they serve for food is all grown on the farm. Once on a hot day, each of us got a yogurt that came with an environmental friendly spoon that looked like plastic, but was actually made of ... sugar cane, so you could feel free to throw it on the ground afterwards.

I noticed that the female volunteers at my site often asked pregnant visitors about their due date, and this is not as if they like to use such a line to start a conversation ... the practical reason

behind it is that they need a baby Jesus for their Live Nativity scene.

And each year they need a new one! Quite intriguing crowd we have up there! (My great source of information, one of the sites teaches how to use goat manure.)

And I have to tell you, from displaying the Polish flag upside down at the entrance, stocking up on Ukrainian (that passed as Polish) items, a potato stamp to... a real log cabin for us and our display ... Heifer came a long way!

And as we learn from them over time (giving examples how to deal with earthy problems, their solutions and future goals), they too are learning something from us as well. Besides introducing the public to Heifer's work in Poland, we teach people about Polish culture, history, customs, and by revealing some interesting facts and contradictions, we are challenging stereotypes.

In my harvest basket, among other products, I display original 100% rye bread, horseradish, buckwheat, pickles in brine, carrot and blackcurrant juices, plum marmalade, but also unknown in the US, Polish beer or mead.

Poles are often known as meat and potato kind of people, so I have fun talking about fish and the variety of fish served on Polish tables. It makes sense having access to the Baltic sea (a chance to compare to our own ...Cape Cod) and Mazury / The Land of Thousand Lakes (a chance to invite young visitors for kayaking, which is very popular in Poland). Smoked eel also makes a list...

When presenting Christmas, we concentrate on why it is so important to Polish Americans to share the same traditions. We explain it through Poland's tragic history, partitions, invasions, and occupation. How millions of Poles were dislocated all over the world. It is incredibly important for all of us to know that at the same time, all of us sit down and, pretty much, celebrate Christmas the same way - it's a bonding experience.

And here comes a chance to tell people that the fact that we still speak Polish is a miracle, because for previous generations, the language was forbidden and German or Russian was imposed upon us. It was up to the parents to teach their children their native language ... and so on.

Here I can talk about how the Italian Princess Bona married a Polish king and brought cabbage and cauliflower to Poland. Or I can give a whole new meaning to "kielbasa" when talking about its Hebrew origins (Kol Basar).

Stuff like this seems to be very amusing. 99% do not know much, a few know some, but do not know why, and if I could be the link between ... the pleasure is all mine. I call it an "adjustment" to the existing profile of Poles.

An oversized picture of "Lajkonik" (a Turkish horseman entertaining tourists in the Krakow market square) gets attention and gives me a chance to talk about... invasions, King Jan III Sobieski, battle of Vienna, coffee beans, etc..

My approach is working as we are told over and over that our display was again, a huge hit.

Now, here comes the part that I do not understand. I asked several friends to either help or visit us there. For some unknown reason, they all prefer to go to ... some Polish festival rather than help create this site and introduce their heritage to others. This mentality ought to change if we want to survive (as a group) amongst others.

I know that the Pułaski Day Parade is huge. We've been to a couple, and it attracts tens of thousands of Polish Americans, but I would rather cover Heifer because ... nobody else will. The Pułaski Day Parade gets a lot of attention in the Polish-American press, and the crowd grows each year, with or without our help.

I get a kick from the fact that at Heifer, those who visit have no clue that in the middle of the forest there will be a Polish

log house, and someone will give them a short tour of Poland. Some come through and leave in a rush, others linger on in amazement.

Heifer turns out to be a place where I can correct misunderstandings, where people can ask, and sometimes get a quite surprising answer.

Once at dinner at a friend's house, a couple of young Polish professionals laughed at me and the idea of a Polish display. I guess they were too cool to ever set foot on a farm. Oh well...you can complain about Poles being misrepresented or you can do something about it and make the existing image look more attractive. There are others who strictly participate only in Polish festivals. And to tell you the truth, those events have very little in common with Polish culture (unless you consider a "Polish platter" of kielbasa, boiled pierogi with a lump of butter and slice of rye bread a "culture.").

What festivals do (besides giving many that warm feeling of belonging to a certain ethnic group) at the same time, they separate Poles from the larger community. I never see Polish groups amongst other ethnic groups at multicultural events. The Pułaski Day Parade is great, but the Columbus Day Parade in Worcester, Mass until now did not have Polish representation. And now we march with Italian-Americans and Scottish pipers. Twice, we were invited to join the St Patrick's parade (a huge event in Worcester), but many of us won't participate because of ...the cold. Something tells me that if we don't do it next year, the St Patrick's Committee won't bother us again...

Now, it wouldn't be me if I didn't bring out some fact from my childhood that is somehow connected to the Heifer Project. You want to bet that I have one?

Heifer's work in Poland began shortly after WWII when livestock was almost nonexistent due to the fact that either starving people consumed it or occupying armies confiscated it. Before Heifer in Poland, there was the UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration). UNRRA was already shipping goods to Europe and supplied boats while Heifer donated horses and paid the men who delivered them.

In the UNRRA files, there is a picture of the "poor Polish children of Oświęcim awaiting distribution of soap."

Now, at my grandma's, my cousin and I often played outside in those huge wooden boxes with the UNRRA logo on them. We collected pine cones in white UNRRA bags that were previously used to distribute flour.

My uncle, who was six when the war ended, told me that his family received UNRRA's aid packages "for the children." Among other goodies, there was: bacon, powdered milk, puddings packed in small green containers as if for the army, orange marmalade (very sweet!), juices in large 2 liter cans, chewy candy, beans in tomato sauce, (very) blood(y) sausage, margarine and chocolate. There was also clothing, army boots, sweaters, underwear, sheepskin pilot jacket that my uncle wore even years later as a student at UW, as well as soap and DDT ... for bedbugs and head lice which was crucial! UNRRA packaged those goodies in cardboard boxes that were shipped in those huge wooden crates that years later we used for our plays.

As he put it: "Maybe it's because of those packages that we all grew up to be healthy despite having a tragic childhood." Heifer picked up where UNRRA left off in 1947.

After two days, my harvest basket was plucked clean and Jacek could finally have his (Polish) beer... He did not know yet that in a week, at the Columbus Day Parade, he would be asked to carry a speaker that played terrible polka music that for some reason intertwined with a La Cucaracha song. □

Legal News - J1 Visa from 3

changing laws and regulations in this area to the particular facts in each person's case. This is an important responsibility because many of the requirements for a successful labor certificate application are counter-intuitive to "real world" employment recruitment. Because some rules are not looked at until near the final stage with the CIS, if the forms are done improperly at the beginning, it may be impossible to remedy.

The attorney will analyze the possibilities of a successful application and assist through the entire process, as well as keeping the employer informed of its obligations. While an attorney cannot guarantee what the results will be of any particular test of the job market, they can assist in drafting the proposed ad and postings, getting the prevailing wage, completing the application forms, answering requests for clarification or assessment notices, and everything else necessary to get the labor certificate approved. The only thing which an attorney cannot do is to interview any qualified U.S. applicants (if there are any); this can only be done by the employer.

In your situation with an approved labor certificate prior to the end of your J-1, you can submit your application to adjust status to green card holder with your employer's immigrant visa petition (Form I-140) and 90 days later you will have a work card and travel authorization. At this stage, CIS will be interested in whether your employer has the money to pay your wage and your W-2 or employer's tax returns (showing a profit) for the year your labor certificate was filed are required. At the moment, these applications are taking under a year if the file is not transferred to the local office for a personal interview. □

Brit connection from 10

No longer the promised land? Małgorzata Iwaniec, who moved to Cambridge three years ago at the age of 19, is like many Poles in the United Kingdom who may soon be packing their bags. "Britain is no longer the promised land it used to be. If you are coming to educate yourself or to travel and have an adventure then it is fine. But earning money to send home just isn't an option as the exchange rate is so bad," she explained. "When I came here, one pound was equivalent to around six Polish zlotys, but now it is worth less than four, and most of my friends are looking forward to going back." Originally from Kraków, Małgorzata, while studying, is currently working as a barmaid at her brother 30-year-old brother Sylwester's popular Polish private member' club in Chesterton, Cambridge. "But Sylwester is now also planning to head home in the near future," she added. "Britain has been a wonderful country for many Polish people and given them tremendous opportunities. I have worked in hotels, bars, did cleaning jobs and stacked shelves in ASDA (Wal-Mart's British subsidiary-RS). No-one from my country is afraid of hard work, but the rewards have to be there." □

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