

## Wanda Wilk



With great sadness we announce that Wanda Wilk has died after a long illness. Her extraordinary vision for establishing the Polish Music Center at the USC Thornton School of Music was realized when the Center opened in 1985. Thanks to Wanda's generous support and endowment, the Center will continue to carry her mission of promoting Polish music. Wanda's close personal friendship with the most important contemporary Polish composers led to the creation of a unique manuscript collection, donated to the Polish Music Center by such acknowledged masters as Bacewicz, Baird, Laks, Lutoslawski, Meyer, Ptaszyńska, and Skrowaczewski, among others.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2009, at 9:30am at the Church of the Hills at Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills, 6300 Forest Lawn Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90068.

Reception and celebration of Wanda Wilk's life will be held immediately following the burial at the Lakeside Golf Club, 4500 W Lakeside Dr., Burbank, CA 91505, (818) 984-0601.

Her family has requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations in Wanda Wilk's memory should be sent to:

*Polish Music Center USC  
Thornton School of Music  
840 West 34th Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90089*

The forthcoming Spring Concert of Polish Music on March 28, 2009 at 3 p.m. at Newman Recital hall on the USC campus will be dedicated to Wanda's memory.

The Polish Music Center is currently preparing a special page on the PMC Website to commemorate Wanda Wilk. Please visit

[www.usc.edu/dept/polish\\_music](http://www.usc.edu/dept/polish_music) in the coming days for further information.

Marek Żebrowski,  
Program Director  
Polish Music Center, USC

Krysta Close, Manager and Librarian  
Polish Music Center, USC

## Our Lady of the Bright Mount Roman Catholic Church

3424 W. Adams Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90018

### Schedule of Masses

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 & 10:00am, noon

Mon, Tue, Th, Sat - 8:00 am,

Wed, Fri - 7:30 pm

(All Masses are in Polish)

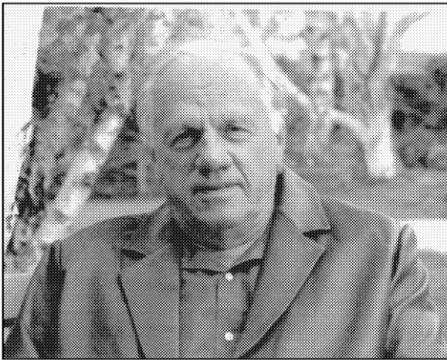
Ks. Marek Ciesielski, Proboszcz

Ks. Ryszard Bucholc, Assystent

Ks. Antoni Bury, Rezydent

(323) 734-5249

## Jan Borodzicz



Jan Borodzicz passed away suddenly on February 18, 2009 at an age of 82. His body will be cremated.

He was born in Warsaw, Poland.

Jan was a veteran of the Polish Second Army Corp and served in Italy in 1945. He was an engineer and retired from the Los Angeles Metropolitan Water District.

Jan was a great Polish Patriot and dedicated member of Polish charitable organizations that included The Relief Committee for Poles in the Former Soviet Union and the Friends of John Paul II.

He was an avid sportsman who played volley ball and tennis. He loved books, classical music and travel. In his published memoirs, dedicated to his wife he wrote:

*"With age comes wisdom I heard it often said.*

*Many years I lived and many books I read.*

*To wise men I listened and fools I soon shed.*

*However, wisdom never came, just my memory fled."*

Jan is survived by his wife Daphne, his son Michael, daughter Karen, son-in-law Verne and three grandchildren: Michael, Kyle and Wesley.

Jerzy Pujdak

## The mystery of Ireland's worst driver

A *BBC News* article dated February 19 tells of... Details of how police in the Irish Republic finally caught up with the country's most reckless driver have emerged, the *Irish Times* reports.

He had been wanted from counties Cork to Cavan after racking up scores of speeding tickets and parking fines.

However, each time the serial offender was stopped he managed to evade justice by giving a different address. But then his cover was blown.

It was discovered that the man every member of the Irish police's rank and file had been looking for - a Mr „Prawo Jazdy” - wasn't exactly the sort of prized villain whose apprehension leads to an officer winning an award. In fact he wasn't even human.

“Prawo Jazdy is actually the Polish for driving licence and not the first and surname on the licence,” read a letter from June 2007 from an officer working within the Garda's traffic division.

“Having noticed this, I decided to check and see how many times officers have made this mistake. “It is quite embarrassing to see that the system has created Prawo Jazdy as a person with over 50 identities.”

The officer added that the “mistake” needed to be rectified immediately and asked that a memo be circulated throughout the force. In a bid to avoid similar mistakes being made in future relevant guidelines were also amended.

And if nothing else is learnt from this driving-related debacle, Irish police officers should now know at least two words of Polish. As for the seemingly elusive Mr Prawo Jazdy, he has presumably become a cult hero among Ireland's second largest immigrant population. □

## Granddaughter recalls grandparent's childhood stories

How often we complain about the younger generation's lack of interest in the past. Here is a perfect example of the tragic childhood of grandmother as told by the third generation.

February of this year is the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the cruel events that grandmother experienced as a nine year old child. A few months after the beginning of World War II when Eastern Poland was invaded and occupied by the Soviets, tragic events took place. On a cold winter night the Soviets moved innocent Poles from their homes and deported them to Siberia. Those childhood memories were passed on to the grandchildren. Now Alexandra Rowińska recalls the stories, recalls these memories.

## Grandma's childhood was so different from mine

By: *Alexandra Rowińska*

Many of my summertime childhood memories involved my grandparents. I would spend entire days swimming in their backyard pool with my siblings and cousins. We would play games until our skin turned purple and our toes were raw from jumping off of the diving board. My grandpa always had warm towels from the dryer waiting for us and if we were lucky we would get an ice cream cone. At night, four of us children, would climb into a large bed and watch our favorite movie of the week. As we grew weary and sleepy-eyed we knew that my grandmother's bedtime stories weren't far behind. She would tuck us in and softly brush our hair from our faces as she recounted tales from her childhood.

The stories were about her hometown in Poland and all of the adventures she embarked upon at a young age: Her time spent in Africa with her pet monkey, her travels to Siberia, boats, trains, and love notes from teenage boys, games of volleyball, school subjects, and all of the people she met along the way. They were legends of good versus evil, epic battles, and far-away lands. We loved her recollections and her soothing voice entranced our young minds into a peaceful slumber. It wasn't until we grew older that we realized that these stories were more than just tall bedtime tales. These weren't accounts of cheerful journeys, but rather memories of horrible circumstances of survival. The sad truth was that my grandparents were forced out of their homes and country at a young age because of war. Their childhoods perished in a moment and they lost people they loved. The reality was, my grandparents survived World War II.

It all began on September 1st of 1939, when Poland was brutally attacked by the German army. The Germans attacked the beloved country with such ferocity that it fell within weeks, leaving Poland's heart and soul desecrated in mounds of rubble. Then on September 17th, the Soviet Union invaded the Eastern border and the madness of war engulfed Poland's beautiful lands. It was the beginning of the end for thousands of innocent people.

The first wave of four massive deportations began on February 10, 1940. Two more soon followed in April and June, while the last surge took place in June of 1941. Thousands of Poles were forced out of their homes by aggressive Russian soldiers with no sympathy for human life. They told the native families to pack whatever possessions they could carry within fifteen minutes. The majority of these people would never see their homes again.

Crowds of hundreds were packed onto railway cars and shoved in like sardines. 60-80 people were crammed into one small freight wagon designed with

*Grandma's childhood to page 11*



## Janek's Corner

*Janek Szczepański*

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## EuroBasket 2009

The history of basketball is known to everyone. It is one of those team sports that people love all over the world. It is considered a national game in some countries. In Poland it is still one of the most exciting and commonly practiced sports even though its magnificence has been rather overshadowed by a lack of great coaches and a shortage of well-trained players. However, this year a time to show Poland's attitude and skills has come - this year EuroBasket takes place in Poland (EuroBasket means European Men's Basketball Championships.)

Poland has become an interesting place to organize various events. Former behind-the-Iron-Curtain country that started its way to reach current development levels of Western Civilization a long time ago, it seems, has now been given a second chance to redeem itself in the world's spotlight. Not only will EuroBasket 2009 be a great opportunity to once again show off Polish hospitality and impress guests with Polish organization, but it will also help Poland advertise its history, goods and tourist attractions to foreigners.

EuroBasket 2009 will be held in September in a number of Polish cities (including Poznań, Warsaw, Cracow and Wrocław,) and the finals will take place in Katowice. In the preliminary round, Poland will be playing in Wrocław.

In order to facilitate the organization of the event, a great number of volunteers will be employed. They will be placed in host cities. Their duties will include welcoming at the airport, giving directions at the event, taking care of teams and VIPs, helping spectators at venues, etc.

The organization of EuroBasket 2009 lets the National Men's Basketball Team of Poland refresh its batteries and rethink its most recent performances. It is a chance to redeem Poland's team in a commitment to play for the country and its fans.

Will it be a finely organized and nicely played sporting event in Poland? We will see it soon. What's certain, though, is that the efforts made to strengthen Poland's position in Europe are being paid off really well - and I don't mean politics. Social and cultural progression is much more important in terms of society's bonding and cultural awareness development. □

## Danuta Delnitz, M.D., Ph.D.

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