



Orange County News

By: **Lila Ciecek (714) 544-2458**
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With the warm winter weather, which we have been having lately here in southern California, the only reminder of real winter has been the sight of the beautiful mountains covered with the white snow far away on the horizon. To those of us who grew up in the cold climate this brings nostalgic memories of skiing, skating, sleigh riding, all kinds of winter fun, and of "hibernating" during the long winter months. But... we sure enjoy our California climate and its amenities and will happily settle for just the sight of the snow covered mountains far away, while sympathizing with the people who are living in the severe winter areas in the other parts of the USA and the world.

After the Christmas season celebrations and festivities Pope John Paul II Polish Center in Yorba Linda is again buzzing with activities. The Center's New Year's calendar is filling up quickly with the dates of different future events, meetings, socials, celebrations, observances etc. It is only February and there was already a variety of happenings: meeting of the Polish American Congress of Southern California, PNA, Parish Council, Ladies Guild; Liturgical servers training etc. In addition, there are always many activities at the Helena Modrzejewska School with 70 students attending. Sounds busy? – yes, the Polish Center in Yorba Linda is a very busy place, but we thank God for that, and for all the energy, enthusiasm and the dedication of our leaders and community which makes the Center so vibrant.

"The Valentine Dinner Dance" ("Bal Serduszkowy"), sponsored by the "Polanie" Group, with the music of Zbigniew Gałazka from Arizona was well attended and enjoyed by all. There was also the annual "Pączki Dance", sponsored by the Ladies Guild, with the good food, surprises, and the "Roger and the Villagers" Band entertaining everyone present. The Community of the Polish Center surely enjoyed many happy festivities at this Carnival time, and with the season of Lent quickly approaching, is now ready to bow down your heads and receive ashes on the Ash Wednesday. Happy, holy Lent to everyone! Ash Wednesday services at the Center are: 8:30 a.m. (English), 3:30 p.m. (Latin) 5:30 (English) 7:30 (Polish). □

GRACZOWSKA SIMFONIA KOPUCHOWSKA BOBROWSKI

REŻYSER – JANUSZ KAMIŃSKI
 Scenariusz – ANDRZEJ GOŁDA
 Cinematografia – JANUSZ KAMIŃSKI
 Muzyka – JANA P. KACZMAREK
 Art Director – MONIKA SAJKO-GRACZOWSKA
 Producent – JERZY SZYMON BOBROWSKI

Cast:
 Ola – AGNIESZKA GRACZOWSKA
 Wojtek – GABRIEL KACPER – LEKARZ SAMBAT
 Kasper – MACIEJ STOLARCZYK
 Janek – BARTEK KASPROZYŃSKI
 Włodyka Młoda – HALINA JADONOWSKA
 Kasia – MAŁGORZATA KOZŁUCHOWSKA
 Marek – SZYMON BOBROWSKI

Christmas Eve. Ola and Wojtek, a young childless couple, invite to their home Kasper, a boy from an orphanage. Wojtek recalls his own childhood which was a nightmare because of his authoritative and heartless father. This special day spent in the company of a resolute and imaginative boy allows Wojtek to overcome his complexes and fears, to liberate himself from his feeling of guilt and to open his heart for love. A child, like Jesus, brings the protagonists the good news along with hope for a worthwhile and meaningful life.

Possible Q&A session with director Janusz Kaminski after screening

Regency South Coast Village @ South Coast Plaza
1561 W. Sunflower Ave. Santa Ana, CA 92704

Janusz Kaminski Jan A. P. Kaczmarek
Saturday, February 28, 2009 @ 9pm
 SPECIAL SCREENING IN

Damian Bednarz elected to Board of Directors of National Polish Center



L. - Marilyn Piurek - Vice Chairman, Damian Bednarz and Patricia Koproski – Chairman

On February 6, 2009, at its quarterly meeting in Washington, D.C., the Board of the National Polish Center (The American Center of Polish Culture Inc., d.b.a.) elected Damian M. Bednarz to serve as a director of the organization. Located at 2025 O Street NW in the nation's capital, the mission of the Center is to enhance economic and cultural cooperation between the United States and Poland and to promote, perpetuate and preserve the appreciation of Polish heritage in America.

Mr. Bednarz earned a Master of Arts in International Relations from the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University in New Jersey in 2007. He was a U.S. Fulbright Scholar (Sept. 2004 – June 2005) affiliated with the University of Warsaw Institute of Journalism and Political Science. Mr. Bednarz received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Cum Laude, in May 2004 from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, with a Minor in Global Studies. In 2002, he was in the U.K. Hansard Scholars Program at the London School of Economics & Political Science. During this period, he served as an Intern in the House of Commons in London and as a Research Assistant to Member of Parliament.

Mr. Bednarz brings considerable new media skills to the Board – since 2007 having served as the Regional New Media Director with Obama for America, based in Chicago, where he managed new media resources for thirteen states during the general election; edited feature content for state websites; implemented online voter contact strategies per each state's field plan; and served as a state New Media Director during four primary elections.

Mr. Bednarz has served as a Project Manager and Research Associate with the Hall Institute of Public Policy in his home state of New Jersey, where he managed New Jersey's first ever *Virtual Debate* for the 2006 US Senate election. He has also served as Director of Public Relations/Spokesperson (2005- 06) for the New Jersey Division of the Polish American Congress, in which capacity he helped promote political and cultural initiatives and drafted bilingual articles and press releases for domestic and international media.

For information contact:
 Patricia Koproski, Chair,
 National Polish Center
 203-323-9944

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Katyn: The Story Hollywood Won't Tell

By: **Henry Makow, Ph.D.**

"Defiance", yet another movie about Jewish victimhood and heroism opened in 1800 US theaters recently.

This story of Jewish partisans fighting Nazis adds to a growing Holocaust film genre that includes *Sophie's Choice*, *Shindler's List* and *The Pianist*.

But one incredible Jewish story of genocide continues to elude Hollywood. This is the execution of 20,000 Polish Officer POW's, (devout Roman Catholics who represented much of the Polish elite,) by the Bolshevik Jewish-led NKVD in the Katyn forest in 1940.

Why has Hollywood ignored this story? We are brainwashed to ignore genocides that don't fit a certain paradigm. Movies are essential to this programming. Part of an ongoing psychological war on the Christian European majority, we are made to identify with minorities. If we object, we are counted as Nazis.

Andrej Wajda, 82, Poland's most celebrated film director, lost his father at Katyn. In 2008, Wajda made a movie about this genocide and its effect on the victims' families. Financed by Polish TV, the film, "Katyn," was a major artistic and commercial success in Poland. It was nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Film in 2008, but still has not found wide distribution outside Poland.

It didn't win the Oscar. The award went to a Jewish Holocaust movie, "*The Counterfeiters*," a "true story" from Germany. It described the moral dilemma faced by a Jewish master-counterfeiter forced to forge British and US currency. I saw this movie. It is an enjoyable piece of propaganda which helps the audience identify with Jews. In real life, I doubt if the hero had any such moral qualms. Even in the film, he filled his own pockets.

Katyn

I haven't seen the movie but I did stumble across information that illustrates why this is the stuff of which epics are made.

First, some background from Wikipedia: "Since Poland's conscription system required every nonexempt university graduate to become a reserve officer, the Soviets were able to round up much of the Polish intelligentsia. Those who died at Katyn included an admiral, two generals, 24 colonels, 79 lieutenant colonels, 258 majors, 654 captains, 17 naval captains, 3,420 NCOs, seven chaplains, three landowners, a prince, 43 officials, 85 privates, and 131 refugees. Also among the dead were 20 university professors; 300 physicians; several hundred lawyers, engineers, and teachers; and more than 100 writers and journalists as well as about 200 pilots. In all, the NKVD executed almost half the Polish officer corps."

In 1945, Maurice Shainberg was the Assistant to KGB Col. Grigory Zaitzev who was the Commandant of the main Katyn work camp. In his book, "*Breaking from the KGB*," (1986) Shainberg, a Polish Jew, tells how he discovered Zaitzev's Katyn diary in the safe. Shainberg had misgivings about Communism and identified with his fellow Poles. He took great personal risks to copy sections of the diary. The Zaitzev Diary was dynamite because the Soviets always claimed the Nazis had committed the war crime.

The diary appears authentic except for one major discrepancy. Zaitzev pretends the slaughter was necessitated by lack of transport to remove the prisoners in advance of the Nazi onslaught in June 1941. In fact, Stalin and Beria gave the order to murder the Poles in early March and the executions took place in April and May 1940. Only 4250 were actually shot in Katyn forest. The remainder was executed in prisons elsewhere. Many were

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Pope John Paul II Polish Center

3999 Rose Drive,
 Yorba Linda, CA 92886

Mass Schedule:

Saturday 4:00 PM ENG
Sunday 7:00 AM Tridentine
 9:00 AM ENG 10:30 AM PL
Tuesday - Friday 8:30AM ENG.

First Friday of the month

8:30 AM Eng 7:30 PM. PL

First Saturday of month

8:30 a.m. ENG

Director: Rev. Henry Noga, SVD

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www.polishcenter.org

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