

29TH Annual Polish American Day

The Polish National Alliance-Orange County Lodge #3193, an ethnic fraternal organization will be hosting their 29th Annual Polish American Day on Sunday August 02, 2009 at The Pope John Paul II Polish Center-Yorba Linda, California. (NOTE: New Location) The Polish Center is located at 3999 Rose Drive just one block south of Imperial Highway. The event will begin with Holy Mass at 10:30AM in the Polish language, followed by dancing and entertainment from 1:00pm until 5:00p.m. Gates will open at 12:30PM for the dance hall. Roger and the "Villagers" one of California's finest polka bands will provide music for your dancing pleasure. The Polanie Polish Folk Dance Ensemble and Polonez Dancers will also perform various folk dances from regions of Poland. Various Booths including Kozłowski Farms from Sonoma County and POLAM Federal Credit Union will be featured. Authentic Polish food will be available prepared by Teresa Turek Catering throughout the day. Donation to the Festival is \$7.00 for adults, senior's \$6.00 children-5 to 12-\$3.00, under 5 free with adult admission. This event is one of the biggest gatherings of Polish Americans in the West. Come meet your friends and make some new ones. Additional Information – Tony Nowak 951 808-9580, Deloria Schaffer 562-943-8904, Eugenia Carter 951-277-4294, Mary Liss 818-790-7018, or Patty Kobzi 714-998-8222. □

APOLOGY - JUNE EDITION - PAGE 8

There was supposed to be the (below) picture in the PROUD TO BE POLISH article

When preparing the paper this page was printed several times (for checks and rechecks, revising and editing) and all pictures printed - NO PROBLEMS!!!

While getting ready to go to the printer, we printed all 24 pages and did not check the printout (s) surmising all will be okay. Lesson learned!!!



Children received awards for participating in an essay contest, school certificates, and prizes donated by the Polish American Congress



Per the article, "Tenth Proud to be Polish Festival Held in Yorba Linda." We failed to mention one of the performers, Kasia Bitner. Kasia gave a 'mini' recital, singing three Polish songs. One was a classical piece by Frederic Chopin, another was a Polish patriotic song, and the last was a contemporary Polish song. She also sang the American National Anthem in the beginning of the ceremony. □

NEWS OF POLONIA

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

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

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NEWS OF POLONIA - home delivery

Annual Subscription Rate - \$25.00

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News of Polonia

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How the Soviets won the Cold War

(part 2)

By: Justyna Ball

<http://justyna-polishdelight.blogspot.com>

Here in Massachusetts I wake up to the sound of Jackie Brush and her partner, Greg Byrne, only because my favorite station (106.3, smooth jazz with a touch of soul) has no reception in my bedroom, and I had the habit of listening to ... school cancellations as my kids prepared for school in the morning and it was a snow day.

We set our alarm clock to the station with the best reception, and it happened to be the Worcester station, eh...so be it...

Unlike Greg, Jackie, a Minnesotan, had no experience with a diverse community before or the outside world, for that matter, so her comments are often out of place and her knowledge of foreign cultures limited. Once I needed to correct her for her lousy pronunciation of "pączki" (so called "Polish donuts") as she kept repeating "poonch - keeey's" all day long, with some polka playing in the background. That was Jackie's way to please the Polish American listeners.

The local supermarket presents the hosts with "pączki" each year around Lent. The more she said it, the more ridiculous she appeared. I sent a nice e-mail explaining the correct pronunciation. It only helped for a short while. The next day, Jackie tortured listeners with her terrible advertisement of "Dyngus Day." Supposedly a Polish "holiday," according to Jackie, self proclaimed expert on Polish culture, "It's a holiday when everyone in Poland dances polka and boys hit the girls' legs with sticks."

Of course you may call "Dyngus" a Polish "holiday" as long as you give an "Easter egg hunt" American holiday status as well.

It's ok that Jackie did not sound as if she was a true fan of "polka" or Polish folklore, she sounded as if she wanted to end every sentence with ... "whatever" but knew that if she did the phone in the studio won't stop with complains about being rude.

She unintentionally made herself look like a fool, but when you are not aware of it, it does not hurt. And when it does not hurt, you are more likely to err again and make an even bigger fool of yourself.

Jackie likes things French, classy & sassy...you know just like things are in Minnesota, cosmopolitan.

Jackie does not realize that with her comments she is some 90 years behind, polka (original "pulka") was popular in all of Europe, back in the 1920s, and since then they moved to different dances.

These days "disco polo" rules country weddings. There are no polka festivals in Poland!

Americans always seem to know what's going on there better as they seem to think that the entire world revolves around them.

On the other side of the spectrum you have Poles, who unlike Americans, have a very low self-esteem and the worst is that the Polish "elite" is not helping, but actually making it worse.

Just the other day, I was watching a re-run of an interview with Prof. Leszek Kolakowski, who just recently passed away. The interview was done by no one else but the famous film director, Agnieszka Holland, and it was said that Kolakowski knew Agnieszka's family back then in post-war Poland. He claimed to give her a box of crayons so now he can take credit for inspiring her creative side.

In the same conversation, the two compared the Polish and British (Kolakowski lived in Oxford) nations with Britain having progressed more. The alleged experiment took place when food or other items were left for sale, and a box with "change" placed for the customer to pay when a vendor was not present. As you may predict, Brits, we were told, left the exact amount, and Poles not only did not leave any, but some allegedly even stole the money.

I personally do not believe it, but the famous director and Prof. Kolakowski acted as if they did. As I recall growing up, traveling to the country, in season, we passed many roadsides with wooden crates filled with apples or other fruit with no owner on the horizon to collect money, although the can was always there. If it were not such a good business (but a theft), they would not place their apples there year after year!

I do not believe that Poles are in any way more prone to theft. Or have learning difficulties or are lesser athletes or obsessively religious etc. I found them to be just like everybody else. In the past, it was the occupant who spread such "theories," promoted them amongst its nationals and used them to impose a brutal occupation or even try to eliminate the entire nation.

The times when death often looked into Polish eyes are gone. The occupant does not shoot or throw you in jail. But both the spoken word and the written one can be quite hurtful. And if used widely by known prominent sources, both may cause a lot of damage.

But let's be fair. We are not saints. Some of us misuse power during tough times like some Polish priests who when distributing baby formula asked for ...a certificate of baptism. No certificate of baptism, no baby formula!

Justyna Ball to page 15

Calendar of Events

July 30th - August 2nd, Poland's Representation at the World Hip Hop Dance Championship in Las Vegas, NV. Information at www.hiphopinternational.com

August 2, noon 29th Annual Polish Day, Pope John Paul II Polish Center - 3999 Rose Drive in Yorba Linda, See article on page 2 for more information.

August 5, at 6:30 p.m., A lecture by His Excellency Radosław Sikorski Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland, at the Marines' Memorial Club & Hotel, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA; Information: 415 293 4600

August 16, noon - Memorial Mass for departed and living PAC Members, Our Lady of Bright Mount Polish Parish, 3424 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018

August 22, Saturday, 9:00 am - 5:00pm Polish Genealogical Society of California Seminar at Weingart Center, Lakewood: info: www.pgsc.org

August 23, 10:30 am. Polish American Patriotic Anniversaries of 20th Century: World Wars I and II, Warsaw Uprising 1944, Solidarność 1980, Tribute to the Victims of Nazism and Communism. Polish Center of John Paul II, 3999 Rose Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886. Info: Mietek Dutkowski 714-608-0511

September 6, Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the beginning of WWII, The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, LA, CA, Info; Rich Wideryński 562-426-9830

September 19 - 20, Dożynki at Pope John Paul II Polish Center, 3999 Rose Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886

September 20, 2:00 pm. 70th Anniversary of Beginning of WWII, Laguna Woods, Clubhouse 3, Auditorium, Information: Irena 949-206-9122

September 26, 27, Bazaar at Our Lady of Bright Mount Parish, 3424 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018

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