

Marek Edelman from 11

Poland Szewach Weiss. "I loved him greatly and will miss him very much. We had held many conversations in Yiddish which he knew very well."

Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek, a prominent Polish churchman called him „an icon of the presence of the Jewish world in Polish history and culture...He was a witness to the extermination and I respect him greatly." In deference to the deceased's atheist views, the bishop did not call for prayers but said: "I ask for a reflection worthy of his departure." □

Taxes from 3

You can often manage the size of your gain or loss when you decide to sell some, but not all, of a particular stock or mutual fund. To do this, you must have kept good records of the date and the price for each share purchase. By selling the highest cost shares first, you'll minimize your taxable gain or maximize your loss. You must specify the particular shares you are selling at the time you sell.

Don't forget to include any reinvested dividends when you calculate your cost basis for mutual fund shares.

If you're planning to buy or sell mutual fund shares close to year-end, take the tax consequences of the fund's year-end distribution into account.

If you want to dispose of stock that has appreciated, consider donating it to your favorite charity. You can generally claim a deduction for the appreciated value and avoid paying any tax on your gain.

If you have additional questions about the ideas mentioned here and/or the many other strategies available to you, they may be directed to me at 800-CPA-KROL (272-5765), or you may write to:

News of Polonia

Your tax and Financial Matters
2245 E. Colorado Blvd. 104/177
Pasadena, CA 91107

E-mail: polishnews@att.net □

Investments from 3**Setting up the Trust**

The IRS has published a model trust agreement that companies can use for their Rabbi Trust arrangements. Employers should meet with their own legal and tax advisors to confirm that the model agreement meets their needs and to choose among many alternative and optional provisions offered by the IRS.

For More Information

If you'd like to learn more, please write in care of:

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Zwiqzek Polek from 1

A Centennial Celebration of the newspaper will be held in November 2010 and we will keep you informed about the centennial events planned for the next 12 months leading up to the anniversary as details are finalized. There are not many newspapers in the country that have been owned, edited, and published by women for 100 years without interruption. We can be proud of that achievement and of the fact that the *Glos Polek* has been *The Polish Women's Voice* (its name in English) for close to a century! □

Russia Simulates War from 14

that Russia "is back as a revisionist power pursuing a 19th-century agenda with 21st-century tactics and methods."

Moscow and Minsk have insisted that Operation West was to help "ensure the strategic stability in the East European region". □

Polish News Bytes from 14

Hebrew studies are spreading in Poland. The latest is a course being conducted in the northern city of Toruń under the auspices of Catholic Franciscan monks. It offers a three-year degree and postgraduate studies in Hebrew philology, biblical archeology and Judaism, classes in Hebrew and Yiddish as well as courses for tourist guides to the Holy Land. Hebrew Studies are already being offered by universities in Warsaw, Kraków and Poznań and Lublin.

Normal phones are becoming obsolete in Poland as more and more Poles opt for mobile telephones. Over the past four years the number of landline phones dropped by 3.3 million from 12.5 million in the record year 2004 to 9.2 million at the end of 2008 with no end in sight. At present, an estimated 85% of Poles aged 15-69 own cell phones. A growing number are using Internet phone links and those provided by cable companies.

The 6,500-year-old remains of a woman of around age 30 have been unearthed at an archeological dig in Pinczów in southern Poland's Świętokrzyskie Mountain region. The ideally preserved skeleton lying on its left side in embryonic position reveals the funeral practices of the religion's prehistoric inhabitants. Warsaw University's Prof. Przemysław Duleba, who oversees the excavation, maintains that her people were farmers from the Danube region who settled in and around what is today Pinczów. The fossil remains of a dinosaur who had been a predecessor of Tyrannosaurus Rex were recently discovered nearby.

An alleged Eucharistic miracle in the town of Sokółka is being studied by a Church commission. A communion wafer which fell to the ground during Mass was placed in a water vessel to dissolve according to accepted procedures. Several days later the priest found something resembling a blood clot in its place which medical tests showed to be a human heart fragment. If the commission is able to rule out any attempts at deception, the matter will be referred for further deliberation to the Vatican which is extremely reluctant to recognize supernatural phenomena.

Cigarette sales are dropping, but Poles are not necessarily kicking the habit at the same rate. Growing excise tax has pushed official cigarette prices to over up to over 9 zlotys (\$3) a pack, so more and more smokers are buying smuggled smokes at open-air markets for 4 - 5 zlotys (\$1.40 - \$1.75). Well-known brands (L&M, Lucky Strike, Marlboro, Pall Mall, etc.) are smuggled in from Ukraine and Belarus in ingenious hiding places in semi-trailer trucks, buses, railway coaches and even ambulances.

Our man in Warsaw from 14

Lacking is the original front cover. The second cover, however, is strong and blank except for my name, Army rank and my then address in Berlin, and tally clear and the binding is in good condition. Would you know of anyone who might want to buy it for its historic value? Please have such a person contact me and make an offer in dollars.

CEDRIC PHILIPP, cedphil@aol.com

A: I can't think of anyone off-hand, but maybe some historian, history buff or collector will see your query here and respond. Good luck!

Q: I am a Canadian preparing my Master's dissertation at the Jagiellonian University of Kraków on the subject of contemporary Polish burial customs. Would you know what the situation of cremations in Poland is like? What percentage of funerals involve the cremation of the deceased. Can those who are cremated receive a Catholic burial. Many thanks in advance.

ANDREA MARTIN,

dynamis24@yahoo.ca

A: I would estimate that probably more than two percent of the dead in Poland are currently being cremated, but the number of gradually increasing. Cremated remains are entitled to a Catholic funeral if the family requests one, on condition that the deceased did not specify such disposal before his death as a sign of defiance towards God and his Church. You might visit the following for more details:
http://www.paluki.pl/alwi/alwi_07.htm
http://www.funeralis.pl/katalog_pr/kremacja/

Far a hands-on view on Polish burial practices contact Warsaw mortician Marek Gojski at: 48 22 870-6895.

Q: I am researching for a friend a local "Baltimore Polish Marriage Tradition", following description. After the ceremony at the reception the Bride's veil is removed and a handkerchief is placed on her head (reason unknown). The Groom has a straw hat placed on his head with dangling plastic babies (fertility symbol?) I have discussed this custom with Dr. Felix v.L.Holewiński (Wisconsin, USA), Dame Barbara Bromont-Sławińska (Poland) and Thomas Hollowak

**Your help is needed
Get involved in Polonia
Join a
Polish Organization**

Father Krzysztof Gardyna from southern Poland's Bielsko-Biała diocese is one of the few priests ever to have climbed some of the world's tallest peaks. Twelve years ago, he climbed the more than 26,000-foot Gashabrum II in the Karakorum range in the Indian-Pakistani-Chinese borderlands, and this past summer reached the top of China's Mount Koszulak (23,000 feet). Father Krzysztof nearly gave up mountaineering in 1993, when four of his team mates died in an avalanche.

Only 18% of young Poles aged 18-24 never engage in any type of religious practices, meaning that 82% are observant in one way or another. The number of Church-shirking Poles has increased by only four percent since 1992, belying predictions that Catholicism would soon wither away in a free Poland. Forty-five percent regularly attends Sunday mass, four percent got to church several times a week and the remainder practice only sporadically. □

(Baltimore) and none of them can identify this as a Polish custom. If you have any knowledge or thoughts please share them with us.

KNIAŻ ROGER,

Villaanneslie@verizon.net

A: At traditional Polish peasant weddings the oczepiny (becapping ceremony) was held towards the end of the wedding feast. The bride would be seated on an upside-down bread-dough trough (dzierża). Her floral wreath, the symbol of virginity, was ceremoniously removed amid singing of special songs, and a wife's cap (czepek) was placed on her head, symbolizing the transition from maidenhood to wifehood. Traditionally, the bridegroom was merely an onlooker and did not have anything placed on his head. But I have heard of the "vegetable hat" custom at Buffalo area Pol-Am wedding which apparently was a local innovation that may have spread to other Polish communities. If the hat you describe had tiny babies dangling from it, then it obviously was meant to suggest a fertility symbol. It could have been borrowed from some other ethnic community.

Q: Do you know of any good Polish food source in the Greater Cleveland area. We are moving there shortly.

FRAN MILLER, Battle Creek, MI (e-mail withheld on request)

A: Since you are online, why not visit PolishEats.com. They've got a good selection of home-made-tasting pierogi, kielbasa, ham, naleśniki, kopytka and other Polish treats. Incidentally, they ship their products all over the US.

Q: My grandma, who died in 1972, had a Polish book collection with Mickiewicz, Krasuski, Fedro, Sienkiewicz and used to tell me how great Polish literature was. I read Quo Vadis in English and saw the movie but that's about all. Would you know where can I get Polish books to read in English? I'd like to share them with my own grandkids

MARJORIE BALDWIN, Harrisburg, PA (no address given)

A: I think you meant Kraszewski, Fredro and Mickiewicz. Since you indicated you were on line, chances are you may find the following site interesting and helpful: <http://home.roadrunner.com/~polishlit/19.html>. You can read the English version of many Polish works right on line or get some of the books through www.polartcenter.com or your public library.

Q: For the life of me I cannot think how to say tap-dancing in Polish. Would you know?

DIANE BRUNSTING,

diane@brunsting.org

A: It is stepowanie from the verb stepować. It came from the German verb steppen which means both to do tap-dancing and to quilt something. From the steppen meaning to sew using an overlapping stitch the Poles created stepować (also appearing as stebować and stebnować) and when tap-dancing came into vogue the other meaning of steppen was adopted. □

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Helen Simmons

National Director

Tel: (818) 360-7707

Fax: (818) 366-5083

e-mail: nickoush@aol.com