



# FORUM

6501 Lansing Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44105  
216-883-2828

[www.naforumcle.com](http://www.naforumcle.com)

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John Paul II

CULTURAL CENTER

*ks. Jerzy Kusy*

## **Poświęcenie Pomnika Papieża - Św. Jana Pawła II**

Ogrody Kultur (Narodowych) to unikalne w swoim rodzaju miejsce w Cleveland, Ohio. W Parku Rockefellera wzdłuż ulic Martina Luthera Kinga i East Blvd umiejscowiły się ogródki ponad 40-tu narodowości. Każdy z nich, z górującą flagą, wyróżnia się szczególnym rysem charakterystycznym dla poszczególnej nacji. Ogród polski powstał w 1934 r. i jest jednym z najstarszych w tym parku. Dotychczas w naszym Ogrodzie prezentowało się na postumentach, sześć wybitnych polskich postaci, reprezentujących polską naukę, poezję i sztukę: Adam Mickiewicz, Fryderyk Chopin, Mikołaj Kopernik, Ignacy Paderewski, Maria Curie-Skłodowska oraz Henryk Sienkiewicz. 18 maja 2019 r. dołączył do galerii pomnik naszego papieża, św. Jana Pawła II. Z inicjatywy Polsko-Amerykańskiego Centrum Kultury (trudno tutaj przecenić zaangażowanie Eugeniusza Bąka), przy współpracy Polonii w Cleveland, polskich kościołów i organizacji oraz we współpracy z zarządem miasta Cleveland stanął pomnik Papieża - naszego Rodaka, wykonany przez znanego rzeźbiarza - Mistrza Andrzeja Pityńskiego. Data, dokonanego przez biskupa Griesa poświęcenia nie była przypadkowa, bowiem 18 maja 2019 roku przypada 99-ta rocznica urodzin Karola Wojtyły.

Przy licznie zgromadzonej Polonii, w uroczystości uczestniczyli także przedstawiciele miasta oraz reprezentanci innych ogrodów narodowych; pod pomnikiem wieńce złożyli przedstawiciele Słowacji, Ukrainy i Serbii. Uroczystości otworzył, witając gości, Eugeniusz Bąk, dyrektor wykonawczy Centrum. Następnie historię miejsca przedstawił Gary Kotlarsic, wiceprezydent naszego Centrum. W dalszej kolejności przemawiali Connie Adams, jedna z dyrektorek Centrum i wiceprezydent Ogrodów Kultury, a następnie prezydent tejże organizacji – dr. Wael Khoury, pochodzący z Syrii lekarz



Cleveland Clinic, który podkreślił jak ważne dla kultur narodowych jest to miejsce. Kilka ciepłych słów o miejscu i wydarzeniu mogliśmy także usłyszeć z ust reprezentanta Slavic Village, Toniego Brancatelli oraz przewodniczącego Rady Miasta Cleveland, Kevina Kelly.

Specjalnym gościem uroczystości był sam Mistrz Andrzej Pityński, któremu towarzyszyła żona oraz syn. Rzeźbiarz w swoim wystąpieniu podkreślił jak ważną rolę dla rozślawiania Polski pełnią nasi wielcy rodacy, których pomniki w różnych częściach świata przypominają o wartości polskiej historii i polskiej kultury, czego przykładem jest właśnie Wielki Papież. Mistrz wyjaśnił też znaczenie symboli, które umieścił w wykonanym dla nas pomniku. Pragnę zaznaczyć, że naszą współpracę z Mistrzem Pityńskim chcemy kontynuować. W zamyśle jest budowa kolejnego pomnika w naszym Ogrodzie Dziedzictwa Polskiego, który usytuowany jest przy Polsko-Amerykańskim Centrum Kultury. W tymże Ogrodzie prezentujemy 17 tablic przedstawiających najważniejsze wydarzenia z historii Polski. Planujemy również umiejscowić w centrum Ogrodu dwa orły: polskiego i amerykańskiego, kończące swój lot na skalnym cokole.

Warto też dodać, że o oprawę artystyczną uroczystości zadbały Panie, Dorota Sobieska, która z dziećmi Wandą i Julianem odśpiewała hymny narodowe i polskie pieśni, oraz Agnieszka Kotlarsic z zespołem „Piast”, prezentując piękne polskie tańce i ulubioną poezję Papieża.

Po końcowej pieśni wszyscy zostali zaproszeni na uroczysty poczęstunek do siedziby Centrum w Slavic Village.

Dzieląc się radością z tej pięknej uroczystości, zapraszam do odwiedzenia Naszego Centrum Kultury jak i Narodowych Ogródów w Cleveland.

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ks. Jerzy Kusy

### ***Dedication of the Pope John Paul II Monument***

The Cleveland Cultural Gardens are a unique collection of 40 public nationality gardens situated in the Rockefeller Park, along Martin Luther King and East Boulevards. Each one, with a high flying flag, reflects the nation's character. The Polish Garden was dedicated in 1934 and is one of the park's oldest. Up until recently, our Garden displayed six sculptures on pedestals; the busts of prominent Polish individuals in the fields of science, literature and music: Mikolaj Kopernik, Maria Curie-Sklodowska, Adam Mickiewicz, Henryk Sienkiewicz, Fryderyk Chopin, and Ignacy Paderewski. On May 18, 2019, a sculpture of our Pope, John Paul II joined the gallery through the efforts of the Polish-American Cultural Center [it's hard to overestimate the involvement of Eugene Bak], and assistance of the Cleveland area Polonia, including the Polish churches and organizations as well as the cooperation of Cleveland's City Hall. This monument to the Pope, our fellow countryman, was created by the recognized sculptor Andrzej Pitynski and its dedication on May 18, arranged to coincide with the 99th anniversary of our Pontiff's birthday.

The dedication ceremony began with Eugene Bak, acting director of the Center, greeting the gathered guests consisting of Polonia members, representatives from the city and other Cultural Gardens [Slovakia, Ukraine and Serbia] who laid wreaths. Gary Kotlarsic, Center's vice-president, followed with a history of the Gardens. Next, Connie Adams, one of the Center's directors as well as the Gardens' vice-president, addressed the gathering. She was followed by Dr. Wael Khoury of Syrian origins, who works for the Cleveland Clinic. The Doctor emphasized the

importance of the Gardens to the region's multinational residents. President of Cleveland's City Council, Kevin Kelly and the Slavic Village representative Tony Brancatelli added positive comments regarding the location and the occasion for the gathering.

The artist/sculptor Andrzej Pitynski, accompanied by his wife and a son, was the guest of honor. In his remarks he acknowledged the important role the monuments of the great Poles in different parts of the world play in promoting Polish culture, history and pride, the newly installed John Paul II being an example. The artist elaborated on the meaning of the symbols found on this commissioned by us monument.

I wish to point out that we would like to continue collaboration with him, in planning for another project on the grounds of the Polish Historical Garden adjacent to the Polish-American Cultural Center. In that garden are displayed 17 panels, which in chronological order describe the most important events in the Polish history. The plans are for a sculpture of a Polish and an American eagles concluding their flight on a rocky outcropping, to be placed there.

It is worth to note that the performing arts part of the program was handled by the ladies.

Dorota Sobieska, with children Wanda and Julian, sang national anthems and Polish songs.

Agnieszka Kotlarsic and the group Piast performed beautiful Polish dances and recited Pope's favorite poems. At the programs end, all present were invited to the Center for a reception.

Spreading the joy of this beautiful ceremony, I encourage the readers to visit our Polish Cultural Center as well as the Cleveland Cultural Gardens.

Translated by **Julian Boryczewski**

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Kathleen Farkas

### ***Knights and Grand Ladies of Pulaski***

The Polonia Foundation of Ohio, Inc. installed seven regional leaders as Knights and Grand Ladies of Pulaski at the 2019 Installation Dinner on June 13, 2019. Ms. Monica Sochecki, the president of the Polonia Foundation, led the installation ceremonies.

Knights and Grand Ladies of Pulaski are selected for their contributions to Polish-American culture and their investments in education, youth, and scholarships for persons of Polish descent pursuing higher education. Each honoree is knighted and decorated with a commemorative medallion.

## 2019 Inductees of the Knights and Grand Ladies of Pulaski

**Sandra Cika** - Sandra is an art director, a graphic designer and a business owner. She is the president of the Polish Arts Club of Youngstown as well as the president and executive director at the Briar Hill Cultural Center.

**Eileen Fiodorowicz** - Eileen is involved in PNA Lodge 1487 and Council 6. She was active with the PNA Polish School named in honor of Maria Konopnicka and has been a member of the Polish Folk Dance group, Gorale, for 22 years.

**Chris Hariasz** - Chris is the Technical Director for the University of Akron's School of Dance, Theatre and Arts Administration. He is a member of the Kosciuszko Foundation, Northeast Ohio Chapter's Advisory Board and was co-director of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Poland's Independence Concert.

**David Matia** - David is a judge in the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. He is the past president of the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association. David is a former member of the Cleveland Society of Poles.

**Wieslaw Piliczuk** - Wieslaw has been a member of the Polish Army Veterans Assn. Post 152 since 1979. He was the Commander for 2012-2013 and a delegate to the Polish-American Congress from 2000-2012. He has been awarded the "Krzyż Zasługi" and "Miecze Hallerowskie". Since 1994 he has been a



member of the Alliance of Poles, which is now the Polish Roman Catholic Union.

**Patricia Sobzynski** - Patricia is active in the Union of Poles Division of PNA. She is a Credit Union director as well as a member of the Booster and Sports committee at the Union of Poles. Patricia is a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

**Agata Wojno** - Agata is the Editor in Chief of FORUM, the newsletter of the John Paul II Polish-American Cultural Center. She has written articles for the FORUM for 15 years before taking on the editorial position. Agata is a fitness trainer and conducts classes in exercise and fitness.

**Congratulations to all of the 2019 Inductees!**



Andrew Bajda

## Monte Cassino - 75 Years Later

This past May, my father and I had the great honor of receiving an invitation to both Poland and Italy to participate in celebrations honoring the Polish Anders' Army, highlighted by observation of the 75-year anniversary of victory of Monte Cassino. Upon our return to the US, I experienced such a range of emotions that it took several weeks to process my thoughts. Here is my recap of a trip which should make all of Polonia proud.



Our trip certainly got off to a rocky start. Due to a delayed flight from Cleveland to Chicago, we missed our connection to Warsaw and arrived a day late... only to learn that our luggage was nowhere to be found. That inconvenience was soon forgotten when we spotted Anna Maria Anders in front of our hotel. Smiles and good cheers abounded as her driver took us to her favorite restaurant in a chic section of Warsaw. My dad was so excited that he couldn't wait any longer. He presented her with a handsome compass he picked up in a POW camp on his quest to join the Anders Army before the first bottle of wine was opened. I took in the exquisite food and atmosphere to savor the moment, with little knowledge that this was just an inkling of what was to follow.

The skies cleared the following day to celebrate and honor General Wladyslaw Anders and Jozef Pilsudski, two heroes who died on the same day, May 12, also the birth date of my mother (and Anna Maria's mother). Family members drove the three hours from Bydgoszcz to spend a wonderful day with us, bringing a navy blazer so my father could look presentable during the ceremonies.

The next few days were spent purchasing emergency clothing, securing a deal with a publishing company to translate an updated edition of my book into Polish, and fruitless calls to the LOT baggage claim staff. Once again, Anna Maria stepped in. Seems she knows the CEO of LOT, and suddenly my calls were transferred to an executive who handled the case with courtesy and urgency. Magically, our bags were dropped off at the hotel just hours before meeting with our contingent in-route to Italy.

Two planes transported our group to Rome, including military officers and about 20 World War II veterans who fought in the battle at Monte Cassino. Over the next few days, I got to know most if not all of these veterans and their families, and these are people who I will never forget. We attended moving ceremonies in the most captivating venues across spectacular mountains, and I found this group to be somehow extraordinary. Despite busy days that sometimes got us back to the hotel as late as 1am, nobody from this group ever complained. The camaraderie which enabled these soldiers to survive the most brutal conditions to win an epic battle still exists today, where friendships have grown through an experience that bonds this group in ways that anyone not involved in the Anders Army Trail of Hope will most likely never understand. Yet every single person I met opened their hearts with warmth, compassion, and often humor to make everyone present feel a special part of this celebration. Although they all deserve recognition, I mentioned just a few of these veterans in my travel blog which can be found on [abajda.com](http://abajda.com).

Saturday, May 18 was the big event that brought media and spectators from around the world to recognize the victorious battle of Monte Cassino, where Polish soldiers planted a flag on the abbey's ruins to declare victory. The restored abbey is visible on the mountain's summit from as far away as the eye can see, and as our buses slowly climbed hairpin turns to reach the Polish cemetery just below the summit, I couldn't imagine how an army of soldiers were able to scale these walls to achieve victory.

A misty rain gave way to sunlight shining on military brass, military bands, scouts, swarms of media, TV cameras, and attendees to paint a colorful scene in this breathtaking setting. There are two

things from this day that will remain forever etched in my mind.

Only one person from our contingent travelled alone. Genowefa was just five years old when her father died on the mountainside, on the eve of victory. She's a friendly lady with an ever-present smile, and brought with her a bouquet of flowers and candles to decorate her father's grave. Genowefa had only been to his grave site once a long time ago and was so stricken with emotion that she cannot recall that visit. Despite our language barrier, I learned of her quest as we communicated at the Vatican, and she appeared quite pleased when I offered to escort her to her father's grave.

The moment I stepped off our bus at Monte



Cassino, Genowefa was waiting for me. She clutched a bag as she took my arm and we walked between rows of scouts to the Polish cemetery which served as the backdrop for the day's scheduled activities. A photographer joined our search and helped to locate her father's gravesite. We gave her space as she spoke to her father, and I do not believe it possible to view the video I captured of her and not be moved to tears. She then looked at me and I experienced a most unexpected transformation. She placed the bouquet of flowers on a cross as I lit two candles she brought, and as we stood back to admire the sight, it appeared as if the weight of the world was suddenly lifted from her shoulders. She smiled peacefully and spoke to reporters that gathered to catch her story. One week later I received an email from her daughter who speaks some English. She included photos taken by photographers who joined us, and she thanked me, sharing that her mother felt safe and at peace in my presence.

The other lasting memory of that day is the presence of Anna Maria Anders. She was delighted that the rain held off, allowing her to remove a jacket to

display a dazzling white dress specially designed for her for the occasion. Just before the celebration of Mass, she stood before her parent's grave, which lies at the base of the cemetery. Within moments the area was filled with photographers and onlookers who wished to have their photo taken with her. Following Mass and speeches by the presidents of both Poland and Italy, Anna Maria stepped up to the podium to deliver a moving speech, spoken in Italian, Polish, and English. She talked about how all her father's dreams have come true, how proud he would be to see his daughter speak for a free Poland alongside the leader of Italy. I mentioned to her after the long day how proud I am of her, and she is looking forward to a return trip to Cleveland on her next visit to the USA.



While our contingent flew back to Warsaw the following day, my father and I caught a bus to Ancona on the Adriatic Sea. We spent three days in the city liberated two months after the victory at Monte Cassino. We visited the seaside town of Porto San Giorgio where my father was stationed after the war, and then took a train to Bologna. Friends who I've made from past trips were there to greet and escort us to the many places my father has longed to visit since he left Italy in 1946, making the trip memorable in so many ways.

We ended our trip with five glorious days with family in Bochnia, about 30 miles from Krakow. And waiting for me was a long-time friend from China who I have not seen for six years. It was as if Wu Zhen (Sugar) and I had never been apart, as we explored Krakow and the small town of Bochnia. The trip was topped by an outdoor celebration with family members visiting from throughout the region. Just as with the entire trip, the smile never left my father's face.

Now that we're back home, I find that I'm still processing the feelings and emotions experienced from this memorable trip. Shortly after returning, I received a text message from my friend Angie who hosted us in Ancona. She told me she had a gift for my father, and asked me to read him an attached letter, not identifying the sender until the letter's close. The following day I read my father the letter, a beautifully written document composed by an Italian patriot. He expressed his thank you to Marian and all the Polish soldiers who liberated his country, and also thanked him upon learning that he was a fan of his music. He closed by saying that he would be honored if Marian could attend one of his concerts as his personal guest in an upcoming tour to the USA, and that he looked forward to meeting him and thanking him in person. The letter was signed, Andrea Bocelli.

For 95 years, my father has devoted his life to family and country. To experience this amazing trip, and now partake in the welcome surprises that continue to evolve are most deserving and a tribute to all the veterans and individuals who make up the greatest generation that we will ever know. As for myself, it is a true honor and blessing to have been involved in this unforgettable experience. And I will continue my calling to ensure that future generations are aware of the sacrifices made by those who paved the way for us, and that we all remember and learn the lessons to ensure that nobody will ever have to endure their sacrifices again.

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*Chris Hariasz*

### *Narieczona Bruno Schulza na spotkaniu z Agatą Tuszyńską.*

Bruno Schulz, jeden z największych polskich pisarzy XX-go wieku, kochał... mało kochał, on uwielbiał kobiety, wynosił je wręcz pod niebiosa. To może nie powinno nikogo jakoś specjalnie dziwić, przecież wielu z nas kocha kobiety, a przynajmniej jedną kobietę. Jednak nikt się natychmiast nie zabiera do pisania na ten temat książek ani nawet z książek recenzji, a Schulz tę miłość, fascynację i uwielbienie uczynił przedmiotem swojej sztuki. W opowiadaniach, opublikowanych w dwóch zbiorach zatytułowanych „Sklepy cynamonowe” (1934) i „Sanatorium pod Klepsydrą” (1937), przewijają się kobiety namiętne, kobiety idealne, kobiety wyniosłe, piękne, opiekuńcze. Kobiety władcze, dumne, znudzone, smutne. Podobnie w grafikach, rysunkach i szkicach,

szczególnie tych zebranych w „Xiędze bałwochwalczej”. Ów zbiór grafik tak był kontrowersyjny, że po raz pierwszy opublikowano go dopiero we Francji w 1983 roku, a w Polsce jeszcze później, bo w roku 1988, czyli mniej więcej 66 lat od czasu kiedy powstał.

Samego siebie, a może i cały gatunek męski przedstawił Schulz jako istoty podrzędne kobietom, niegodne stąpać po tej samej ziemi, stworzone tylko do wznoszenia hołdów na cześć kobiet, jako istot piękniejszych, wyższych, boskich wręcz. To ocierające się o głęboki masochizm przeciwstawienie widoczne jest przede wszystkim w sztuce plastycznej Schulza, ale znaleźć je można także i w literaturze. Dla współczesnych autorowi strażników moralności to była pornografia, dzisiaj jest co najwyżej symptomem typowej dla wielu artystów braku pewności siebie, być może łagodnej wersji kompleksu niższości. Ale przede wszystkim jest to wysokich lotów sztuka.



Nieco ponad 30 lat temu, z grupą polskich i amerykańskich aktorów zrobiłem na podstawie literackich i plastycznych prac Schulza spektakl teatralny. Nazywał się „The Fatal Lack of Color” („Feralny brak kolorów”) i prezentowany był na nowojorskim off-off Broadway’u. Treścią była historia artysty (z Schulzem jako pierwowzorem) próbującego tworzyć sztukę dla, i w obecności, może nawet współudziale, kobiet jako muz, kochanek, partnerek, opiekunek. Przygotowując ten spektakl opieraliśmy się o ile pamiętam wyłącznie na dziełach literackich i grafice Schulza, nie wiedzieliśmy prawie nic o jego rzeczywistych, życiowych raczej niż artystycznych, doświadczeniach z kobietami. Mało tego; w swojej quasi młodzieńczej naiwności i arogancji nie przyszło nam do głowy, że on w ogóle takie doświadczenia mógł mieć. Więc nawet specjalnie nie szukaliśmy.

Wiele lat później, nawet dość niedawno, przy przeglądaniu prasy polskiej na Internecie wpadł mi w oko tytuł nowo wydanej książki: „Naręczona Schulza.” Zaciekawilem się, owszem, ale postanowiłem odłożyć na czas późniejszy. I oczywiście wkrótce o książce i o naręczonej zapomniałem. Aż tu nagle parę tygodni temu dowiaduję się, że nasza filia Fundacji Kościuszkowskiej współorganizuje spotkanie z autorką owej książki. I przede wszystkim o tym właśnie spotkaniu, a nie o sobie, powinienem tu opowiadać.

Więc w telegraficznym skrócie: Agata Tuszyńska, pisarka, poetka, dramaturg (dramaturżka?), scenarzystka, reporterka, autorka kilkunastu książek, w tym „Naręczona Schulza”, przyjechała na początku maja do Cleveland na zaproszenie uniwersytetu Case Western Reserve.

Odbyła tu parę spotkań ze społecznością akademicką, z Polonią, dała kilka publicznych wykładów. Jeden z tych wykładów, czy też wieczorów autorskich, miał miejsce w czwartek, 2-go Maja 2019, w sali konferencyjnej Suburban Temple Kol Ami w Beachwood, a zatytułowany był „Love, Literature and the Legacy of Bruno Schulz” („Miłość, literatura i dziedzictwo Bruno Schulza”). Wykładu (w języku angielskim) wysłuchała i w dyskusji udział wzięła około czterdziesto-osobowa publiczność, złożona z przedstawicieli Polonii, Fundacji Kościuszkowskiej, oraz członków Temple Kol Ami.

Schulz poznał Józefinę Szelińską w 1933 roku w rodzinnym Drohobyczu. Mijali się często na ulicy i Schulz zawsze kłaniał się jej uniżenie i ustępował drogi. Oboje byli nauczycielami (choć w różnych szkołach), więc widywali się też na miejskich zebraniach pedagogicznych. Bruno nie miał jednak śmiałości aby się formalnie przedstawić. Toteż poprosił jednego ze swoich przyjaciół aby ten zagrał rolę „swatki”. Schulz był wtedy nauczycielem rysunku więc pretekstem miała być propozycja pozowania do portretu. Józefinę intrygował cichy i niepozorny artysta, więc się zgodziła. Fotografował ją i szkicował jej portrety. Dyskutowali o sztuce i literaturze. Postanowili razem przetłumaczyć na polski „Proces” Franza Kafki (gros pracy wykonała Szelińska, ale Schulz, jako znany literat, firmował przekład swoim nazwiskiem). Nazywał ją Juna. W 1936 roku zaręczyli się. Do ślubu jednak nie doszło. Ogrom formalności związanych z uzyskaniem zgody na ślub



nie przynależącego do żadnej wiary (Schulz wypisał się z gminy żydowskiej) z katoliczką ciążył bardzo na ich związku. Ale główną przyczyną była prawdopodobnie niemożność Schulza do całkowitego poświęcenia się swojej wybrance - był już przecież w intymnym związku ze sztuką. W roku 1937, Szelińska podjęła nieudaną próbę samobójstwa i wkrótce zerwała narzeczeństwo.

Nigdy się już z żadnym innym mężczyzną nie związała. Po wojnie osiadła w Gdańsku, gdzie najpierw pracowała jako nauczycielka, a następnie jako bibliotekarka. A dokładniej, była organizatorką i pierwszą dyrektorką biblioteki na Wyższej Szkole Pedagogicznej (później przekształconą w Uniwersytet Gdański). W 1991 podjęła drugą próbę samobójstwa, tym razem skuteczną. Pochowana jest w Gdańsku.

Agata Tuszyńska nazwała swoją książkę o Szelińskiej apokryfem. Czyli utworem o wątpliwej autentyczności, jakby mieszance prawdy i zmyśleń. Chciała bowiem napisać o niej ciepło, a na podstawie samych suchych faktów byłoby to niemożliwe. Więc dorysowała trochę, może nawet podkolorowała portret znaleziony pośród szkiców Schulza. W rezultacie powstała książka, którą się czyta jakby to była narracja do filmu fabularnego. Zresztą autorka ma podobno w szufladzie swojego biurka sztukę o miłości Bruna i Juny. Może więc doczekamy się kiedyś i filmu.

Wieczór autorski nie może się rzecz jasna obejść bez czytania fragmentów dzieła przez autora. Tak było i tym razem. Ze względu na publiczność, autorka czytała fragmenty z angielskiego tłumaczenia książki. Niestety wersja angielskojęzyczna nie została jeszcze opublikowana (choć książkę wydano już w wersji francuskiej, ukraińskiej i macedońskiej). Polonii więc musi na razie wystarczyć wersja polska. A dlaczegoż by nie? Polecam i mam nadzieję, że lektura „Narzeczonej” zachęci też do sięgnięcia po dzieła samego Schulza. Naprawdę warto.

P.S. Schulz zawsze był dla mnie bardzo bajeczny. W sensie, że patrzył jakby na świat oczami dziecka, czyli z dołu. Może nawet z prowincji. Tak też widział kobiety – jako istoty wyższe. Być może nie dorósł do tego aby być z Juną. Być może jej tragedia polegała na tym, że chciała widzieć w Brunonie partnera a nie chłopca na posyłki, lokajczyka.



Kathleen Maciuszko

### *Facts and Features: The Museum/Library (June 2019 edition)*



The above photograph was taken in the 1920s. Two women in the photo, the one on the far right and the one on the far left, came to America and settled in Pennsylvania. The location is outside a church in Haczow in south-eastern Poland. This article will focus on those who came from the Old World to settle in Cleveland.

In our library one finds a number of relevant books dealing with the topic:

*Swiaty imigrantow: tworzenie polonijnego Cleveland 1880-1930* (Adam Walaszek)

*Polonia Amerykanska: przeszlosc i wspolczesnosc*

*The Poles of Cleveland* (Charles W. Coulter)

*Polish Americans and Their Communities of Cleveland* (J.J. Grabowski, et al.)

*The Polish American Encyclopedia* (edited by James S. Pula)

*Ethnic Groups in Ohio with Special Emphasis on Cleveland: an annotated bibliographical guide* (B. Wynar)

The Catholic Church has played a central role in the lives of Cleveland's Polonia. The library houses tomes that cover the history of several prominent parishes: *St. Casimir Parish 1891-1991*, *St. Stanislaus - A People: 100 years* and *Sacred Heart of Jesus Church 1888-2001*.

Our library houses books authored by immigrant members. They include the following: Eugene Bak (*Life's Journey: autobiography* and *Podroz Zycia: autobiografia*), Attorney Maria Szonert-Binienda (*World War II through Polish Eyes* and *Null and Void: Poland case study...* and *Katyn: Justice Delayed or Justice Denied?: a symposium*), Stanislaw Kwiatkowski

(*Niedokonczone Lot and Anioly Nie Placza*), Dr. Jerzy Maciuszko (*The Polish Short Story in English and Poles Apart: the Tragic Fate of Poles During World War II*), Dr. Wojciech Rostafinski (*Szefsztabu artylerii: Edmund Zagorski and Niedostrzegalne Swiaty and Listy Marii z Ebertow Jozefowej Rostafinskiej z lat 1881-1890*), Dr. Maria Siemionow (*Face to Face: My Quest to Perform the First Full Face Transplant*).

The museum displays a reprint done by internationally recognized Cleveland immigrant artist and major contributor to the “Op Art” movement, Julian Stanczak. Also, an original painting by Adam Grant (born Adam Grochowski) hangs in the museum. Although a Polish-Toledo, Ohio artist not directly connected to Cleveland, he is an excellent example of an immigrant who left a mark in America. A prominent figure painter, his art is in public and private collections throughout the country.

There are several excellent area resources. The Western Reserve Historical Society Library has materials related to Cleveland’s Poles. They range from print items to photographs to manuscripts to newspapers. The staff can help with tracing one’s Polish lineage and family history. There is also information in the online version of the *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History* under the heading “Poles.”

We need and cherish our immigrants for they are crucial to promoting Polish beliefs and customs. Below are the words of two members who anonymously share their thoughts: “When in Poland, it was normal to count on help from family members. Leaving Poland meant leaving behind that entire support system. Having to rely only on friends or acquaintances for help was the most difficult aspect of my immigration experience. I survived a lot of rejections, bad will or even malice at the hands of people that I thought were my friends at the time. One positive aspect I found here is American patriotism – I admire it and identify myself with it. I realized as well that my patriotism towards my former country is now stronger because of the display of American patriotism. I am humbled by the achievements of Polish immigrants from the turn of the century and those who came right after World War II. They deserve our admiration. We have inherited the beautiful churches they built, often with their own hands. They created various organizations not only for camaraderie but, more importantly, to preserve Polish culture and traditions.”

“Coming to the US in my 20s, I found the most difficult parts, besides leaving family and friends behind, were learning how to speak the language and how to blend into this culture and life. Especially having a heavy Eastern European accent made it hard to blend in. The USA is a wonderful country for immigrants. We can make a good life for ourselves and our families. In general, people are very helpful and nice. Also, if we work hard here, it is much easier to afford a home, vacations, etc. Since we leave our families and friends behind, we miss them. So, we go back home to visit and then, after a few weeks in Europe, we realize that it is time to go HOME. We start to miss the USA and our lives here. We also realize that we are part of this life and part of this country.”

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## *Personal Reflection Paper*

### **Marissa Griesmar**

There are many reasons why I wanted to go on the trip to Poland. I was initially drawn to the program because of my Polish heritage. I was interested in learning more about the history, the country, and the people. From a social work perspective, I was also interested in the theme of this program. I love learning about social policy and social justice, so examining the policies, structures, and service delivery procedures of another country was very exciting to me. Additionally, as an advanced standing student it has been difficult for me to get involved with the Mandel School, so I felt like this was a good opportunity to get involved and meet other students that I wouldn’t normally have classes with.

We visited so many amazing agencies to learn about social welfare in Poland. We visited the Migrant Info Point and learned about efforts to assist immigrants. We visited a residential rehabilitation center for youth struggling with addiction. We visited the Muslim Community Center and heard about how difficult it can be to be an outsider in such a nationalistic country. We visited a nursing facility for children with severe disabilities. We visited institutional homes for children without guardians. It was so amazing to be able to tour all of these places and talk to the people working there. I think the biggest surprise to me was how much we have in common with Poland. I thought it was surprising that many of the social service agencies operated relatively similarly to how we operate in the United States. It was also surprising how kind and hospitable everyone was to us during our visit.



I personally gained a lot from this trip. First of all, I gained more confidence to travel on my own. I realized that there are so many amazing people all over the world. I also learned that it's important to be open, present, and vulnerable in order to make authentic connections with others. I learned a lot about my family before the trip and so I feel a stronger connection to my own personal history now. Overall I just experienced a great sense of personal development and feel like this trip was really beneficial to me as a person. I gained a lot from this trip as a professional as well. I just think it's so important to have a global perspective for life in general. I feel like learning about social work in other countries is extremely valuable. The definition of social work is different everywhere, so it's interesting to learn about how the profession has evolved and taken shape in different location based on the history and context of their social problems. I also think it's interesting to learn about the needs of other countries and about how the profession has worked to address those needs.

I really enjoyed visiting Wierzenica because of our interactions with the residents there. I also enjoyed visiting the nursing home run by the nuns. Many of the people we interacted with (Lukasz, Ksenia, Kamila, Patrick, etc.) were extremely smart, kind, pleasant, and made the trip much more enjoyable. I was a little disappointed with the food because I never did get to have a good pierogi... But I did eat a lot of other good food! I really liked all of the places we visited and I'm glad that our first day of the trip included a comprehensive history of Poland. I was less impressed with the museum we visited on Cathedral Island because at that point I felt like I had learned enough... There was not a lot to look at there, it was just lots and lots of information.

I would definitely participate in a project like this again and I would encourage others to do so as well. I enjoyed being able to take this trip through the school so that I could travel with a group of like-minded people, but I think the most valuable piece of this project is just being able to access and explore agencies that you normally wouldn't be able to see as a regular tourist. In this way, school trips are extremely valuable and worth the expense. I think it's so important to participate in these types of opportunities because it truly expands your perspective, personally

and professionally. Even if another country does something the same way as your country, it's interesting to see how they came to practice that way based on their history. It makes you think about the history of your own systems. I really had a great experience on this trip and as a social work student I feel like I learned a lot about the profession!

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