

# Kopernik Memorial Association Newsletter

Member of Polish American Congress  
American Council for Polish Culture  
Kosciuszko Foundation  
Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute

Website: [cnykopernik.com](http://cnykopernik.com)  
Phone Number (315) 818-4212

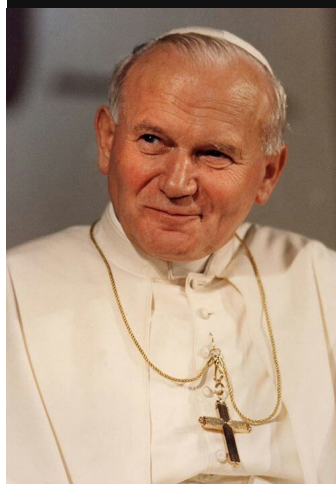
## OFFICERS

Richard Noga -President  
Carol Dinger- 1st Vice-President  
Joanne Szczygiel- 2nd Vice-President  
Valerie Elacqua -Treasurer  
Mary Currie—Recording Secretary  
Dan Jadlofski - Corresponding Secretary  
John Ossowski—Cultural Center Director



Spring/ Summer Newsletter 2020

Issue 26



## 100th Birthday

### Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Karol Josef Wojtyla 1920-2020



## A Message From Our President

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Kopernik Association, I hope you are all staying safe and healthy. As you well know, community groups such as ours have not been able to meet due to COVID-19 restrictions.

We miss not being able to hold activities, as we have been "on hold" since early Spring. Our Executive Committee has been "meeting" remotely and discussing future plans. We have set dates for certain events, and are being cautiously optimistic that they will come to fruition. It is our hope that we may all get together for our activities (tentatively) planned.

In the meantime, we wish you all well, and eagerly look forward to seeing you again.

Sincerely,  
Richard J. Noga, President



## BULLETIN BOARD

Sat. Aug. 22, Noon KMA Summer Picnic  
Forestport

Sun. Aug. 23, 11:30

Mass in honor of Our Lady of Czestochowa  
Holy Trinity Church (Polish)

Mon. Sept. 14, 6:00 KMA Meeting PCC

Mon. Sept. 25, Noon Flag Raising, Utica  
City Hall

Mon. Sept. 27, 2:00 Wreath laying Pulaski  
Monument, Memorial Parkway

Wed. Oct. 7 at 2:00 Free John Paul II Book  
Holy Trinity Church Marian room.

Mon. Oct.12, 6:00 KMA Meeting PCC

Sun. Oct.18, 2:00 Movie version of the play  
written by St. John Paul II, Holy Trinity  
Gymnasium

Thurs. Oct. 22, 6:00

Mass Feast Day and day of papal installation of  
Pope St. John Paul II Holy Trinity Church

Sun. Oct. 25, Open House 1-3 p.m.  
Kopernik Cultural Center Polish Community  
Club JP II Exhibit

# OCTOBER 2020

## *Polish American*

### **HERITAGE MONTH**

#### **HERITAGE MONTH BOOK TALK**

Celebrating the 100th Birthday of St. John Paul, interested readers are invited to read the selection titled "*Saint John Paul The Great: His Five Loves*" by Jason Evert c.2014 by Totus Tuus Press. The author, Jason Evert, has written more than a dozen books and has travelled extensively around the world to speak about the Catholic faith. A few questions will be provided with the book as a reading guide. Free books will be available in August as soon as those interested register. Group limit 10. The group will meet **Wed. Oct. 7 at 2pm** at Holy Trinity Church's Marian room.

Francis Cardinal George OMI, Archbishop of Chicago is quoted to say about this book, "Jason Evert has synthesized the life and teaching of Pope John Paul II around the motives that mark a saint's life: what great loves moved him to be the witness to the Gospel, the apostle to the modern world, a mystic who was also philosopher and pastor. Reading this book, those who knew him will find themselves smiling and nodding; those who never met him will come to know him." **To register contact Mary Currie 315-941-0551 by August 15th**, and to make arrangements to receive your book to read. Registrants will be notified of date and time confirmation as well as any COVID updates.

#### **MOVIE THE JEWELER'S SHOP**

John Paul II's play, *The Jeweler's Shop* was made into a movie starring Burt Lancaster. Join us for a showing on **Sunday Oct. 18 at 2p.m.** Holy trinity Gymnasium. Free

#### **Kopernik Cultural Center Exhibit**

#### **JOHN PAUL II HIS LIFE AND LEGACY**

The Cultural Center team has been preparing a special display in honor of the 100th Birthday of St. Pope John Paul II, Karol Wojtyła. The Ellie and Ed Sluszarzyk Library is being transformed for **Sunday, October 25 from 1-3 p.m.** with a variety of artifacts from our collection to honor one of the most influential spiritual and political figures from the last century.

The display will include biographical photos of his youth, priesthood and papacy. Beautifully illustrated prints of his poetry about the impact of faith on his beloved country, a variety of paintings and Polish folk items bearing his image, a display of his many published books, and a map detailing his prolific pastoral visits will be on display. A movie about his life will be available for viewing in the Kopernik room during the event.

The reception room outside the Cultural Center will provide ample room for social distancing for visiting groups with beverages as well as a variety of Polish sweets. Polish items from our boutique will be available for purchase so you can shop early for Christmas and promote your Polish Pride.

If anyone has any UNIQUE item they would like to lend us only for this exhibit please contact Val at (315) 725-1651.

Special thanks to our exhibit committee, John Ossowski, Sue and Gary Moszak, Valerie Elacqua, Betty Matuszewski, Mary Currie, and Michelle Krul for all of their efforts.



## Kopernik Scholarship Awards

Unfortunately, due the COVID-19 crisis, the Kopernik scholarship awards program has been suspended for this year. We plan to resume the program in 2021.

### Kopernik Association Mourns Former President and Supporter

Jeanette Nawoj, 94, beloved wife of the late John F. Nawoj was called to join her husband and family on January 22, 2020. Jeanette was born in Utica, NY, on July 19, 1925

Jeanette was a pillar of the Polish community. She was very proud of her Polish heritage. She was the first woman elected to serve as president of the Kopernik Memorial Association as well as serving as first vice president and treasurer. She and her husband maintained Kopernik Park for 30 years.

Jeanette was active in the Solidarity Movement and was instrumental in organizing EMS Global where she was a member of the board of directors. She served as president and vice-president of the Utica Polish Community Club. Jeanette was an excellent Polish cook and cooked many Polish delicacies for the Polish community.

was a member of the White Eagle Association Kopernik Memorial Association and The Polish Community Club.

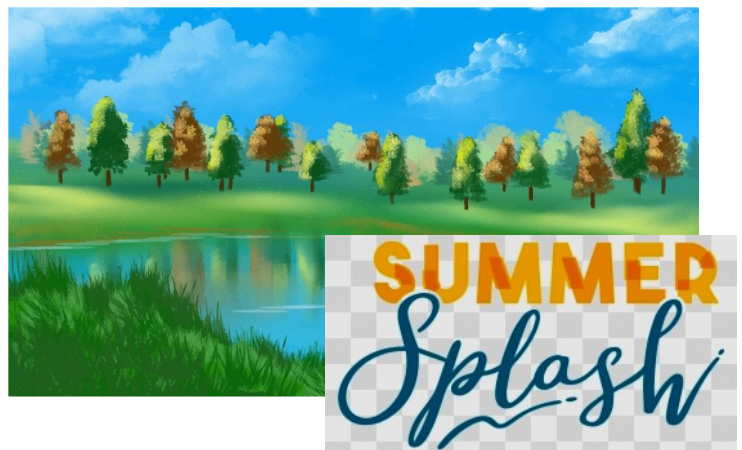
She took great pride in teaching her sons the true meaning of their Polish heritage. Jeanette was the organizer of the General Casimir Pulaski parade, the wreath-laying ceremonies and the Military Ball and Dinner for many years. The last parade Jeanette organized in 1994 was dedicated to the 416th Bomb Wing at Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, NY. On October 6, 1991, a resolution was presented by the Dept. of Legislation, City of Utica, wherein it stated: "Whereas, Jeanette Nawoj has promoted numerous Polish-American events in grand style and tradition and is appreciated for her contributions to our community." In 1996 she was the recipient of the traveling Michael Dziedzic Award for her contributions to Polonia in chairing the parades and military balls. Jeanette was the recipient of the 1998 Kopernik Distinguished Polonian Award in recognition of outstanding service. In 1999, she was the recipient of the Utica Polish Festival Award of Excellence for Outstanding Leadership in promoting Polish culture and Polonian ethnic ideals.

KMA is grateful for her leadership and contributions to our organization.



## Kopernik Summer Picnic

Join us for a relaxing outdoor afternoon on the lake in Forestport for our summer picnic with our host Michele Krul. Please let us know what dish you will bring to pass by calling Joanne at (315) 272-8556 and for directions to camp! Don't miss a fabulous time!!



## MEMBERSHIPS 2020

\*indicates ACPC dues

Joseph Bednarczyk \*Clara Biedrzycki

John & Patricia Biernat Elizabeth Buck

\*Theresa Bunk Jane Carville \*Helen Chomin Jane Cognetto

\* Mary Currie Irene Czuryla

\* Mary Demco Carol Dinger Fr. Paul Drobin Nicholas & Genevieve Dudish Janet Dwyer

\* Valerie Elacqua Denise Erwin Lorraine Fava \* James Gemza Jane Godlewski

\* Phyllis Goworek Gerald Guzski Michael Hayduk \* G.Irene Hummel Dariusz Jablonski

Daniel Jadowski Henry Jaworski Bob Johnson Dennis & Sybil Johnson

Michael Jordan Mark Kantor Jeffery Karas Brian & Karen Karwowski Patricia Key

Joseph Kowalczyk Theresa Kozien \* Sandy Kujawski Charles Kupiec Edward & Krystyna Lambrych Edmund Lasek \*Thomas & Ewa Lawrence \* Mary Ann Lepkowski \*Lorraine Lewandowski \*Stephen & Angela Lewesko and daughter Frank and Virginia Loin

Theresa Mack Danielle Mangini Sylvia Mantelli \* Robert Maziarz Carol McCoy

Wanda Miller Suzanne Mlynarczyk Zosia Murray Karen Neary \*Richard Noga

John Ossowski \* Bernard Peplinski Ginger Pieloch Camille Pryputniewicz Ted & Joan Rajchel Dr. Robert & Patricia Roback Sharon Scotti Stacey Scotti Ellie Selwach Jim Skorulski

\* Gary Sroka \* Arlene Stanulevich \*Judy Stanulevich \* Edward Starczewski Joanne Szczygiel

Denise Tan Marlene Tupaj Constance Vendetta \* Kay Venitelli Theodore Wadas

Stanley & Barbara Walerski Eileen Waskiewicz James Wasielewski Holly Wise

\* Jean Wolcott Joanne Wrobel Thomas Zdanowicz



### Popular PBS Series About Poland seeks Financial Support

"Flavor Of Poland" is the 13 episode series that has been shown on PBS since January 2020. In each episode the host, Alexandra August, provides highlights of a specific region of Poland, telling viewers about local history, heritage, and features of the area. Featuring a glimpse of regional cuisine, Alexandra recreates, in her own kitchen one of the popular dishes. The program successfully promotes Poland around the USA. The last episode about Zakopane aired on Mon. July 27, 2020 CREATE, part of the PBS network.



Due to its great success on American television, viewers are requesting DVDs of the shows as well as an album cookbook with pictures of the regions, history and culinary recipes. The DVDs will come as a set of 4 with all 13 shows included. To finance the project donations can be sent in. Organizations or groups are encouraged to support the project. There is an immediate need for three hundred donations of \$100. each. Everyone who donates \$100. will receive either a DVD set or an Album-Cookbook. For information to advertise a person, family, company, foundation, etc. in each set, or to make a donation of \$100, please contact: Halina Koralewski, 83-37 264th St., Floral Park, NY 11004.



## SPECIAL REQUEST

The Kopernik Memorial Association was proud to welcome to Utica Dr. Rafal Kus from Jagellonian University in Poland during the Spring semester of 2019. Kopernik members met with him at the welcome reception held on campus and he attended some of our organization's events and dinners during his recent visit to Utica. Dr. Kus was a visiting professor at Utica College under the umbrella of the Joseph P. Furgal endowment fund at the college.

He was enthusiastic about our organization and its purpose and wanted to write an article about us for the online journal “**Studia Migracyjne**” **Migration Studies – Review of Polish Diaspora**. We have established such a wonderful relationship with him that we would be grateful if you would find some time to respond to his appeal as soon as possible. His request is simple. In his words:

“If you don't like any of my questions, just disregard them. Could you please distribute the questionnaire among the KMA members (and ask them to send their answers to [rkus80@gmail.com](mailto:rkus80@gmail.com))? I would be so glad to hear from friends from the Association!”

1. How long have you been associated with the KMA?
2. Have you served in a specific function (chairperson, treasurer) in the KMA?
3. What were your reasons for joining the KMA?
4. Are you associated with any other Polish American organizations in the U.S.?
5. What is – for you - the most important aspect of the functioning of the KMA?
6. What are the activities of the KMA that make you most proud?
7. Are there any aspects of the functioning of the KMA that you are worried about?
8. Would you describe the KMA as a political or religious organization as well?
9. Do young Polish Americans of Utica participate in the activities of the KMA as vigorously as the older generations?
10. What role does the KMA play in the Utica community? Does it cooperate with other ethnic associations? What is the general attitude of the American public and authorities towards the KMA?
11. How do you see the future of the KMA?
12. Have you ever been to Poland? Do you cultivate ties with your relatives in Poland?

### **Poland Marks Centennial of World-changing Battle**

*Reprinted with permission from the Polish American Journal July-August issue*

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — This year marks the 100th anniversary of the historic Battle of Warsaw, believed to have saved Europe from a bloody communist takeover. It was also been called the Miracle of the Vistula since Poland came very close to defeat. Poland's Chief of State Józef Piłsudski had hoped to create a federation of Poland, the Baltic States and Ukraine, approximating the sprawling pre-partition Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. To prevent a possible repeat of the 18th-century partitions, he felt Poland needed an ethnic buffer separating it from aggressive, land-hungry Russia. Piłsudski led a military expedition to Kijów (now Ukrainian Kyiv) to help safeguard the newly created independent Ukrainian republic. Unfortunately, the combined forces under his command and those of Ukrainian leader Symon Petlura could not withstand a massive Soviet counteroffensive. During the summer of 1920, Soviet forces managed to penetrate deep into Polish territory as far west as the city of Toruń. Although on the verge of total defeat, Poland ultimately managed to pull together, muster its forces and repel the invading Bolshevik hordes. Volunteers eagerly dug trenches around Warsaw. Boys of 13 and 14 tried to enlist and fashionable ladies donated their gold wedding bands and other jewelry towards the war effort. Polish cryptographers had broken Russia's secret military code and could intercept messages to and from Bolshevik commanders. Piłsudski's brilliant tactical maneuver took the Soviets by surprise and sealed their ultimate defeat. The 1921 Peace of Riga resolved the conflict and created a border that would last until World War II. Britain's ambassador to Germany, Edgar Vincent d'Abernon, called the conflict the “18th most decisive battle in world history.” Germany was then seething with revolutionary ferment and the Red Army would have been welcomed by German workers as liberators from capitalist oppression. Had Poland been defeated, Lenin may well have realized his dream of spreading communism across Europe all the way to the Atlantic. Since 1998, a re-enactment of the Battle of Radzymin is held annually on August 15. This year's event, which promised to be more spectacular than ever, was cancelled due to the pandemic.





## *Continuing our Genealogical Research during the Shutdown*

*Reprinted with permission from the Polish American Journal July-August 2020 issue*

by Stephen M. Szabados

Are you bored? Are you becoming a couch potato? Our libraries, historical museums, and Family History Centers are closed. How can we do research? Actually, now is a great time to do all the research we have been putting off because we did not have the time. Before the shutdown, there are many online opportunities, and many were free. Today, genealogy groups and companies are adapting to this new situation and trying to make many more resources available.

FROM HOME, WE CAN DO THE FOLLOWING: Officials have closed libraries, but online resources are still available from your home. An added feature is that Ancestry is allowing access to AncestryLibrary Edition from home. This database is an excellent addition to our online arsenal during the shutdown. Do not forget to scour through newspapers.com pages for your ancestors if your library has this fantastic resource in their collection. HeritageQuest and MyHeritage are two other useful resources that some libraries offer. One downside to having your library closed is no access to Familysearch's film library. So far, FamilySearch has not flipped a switch and made these digital images available from home. However, you can go to your library's parking lot and should be able to connect to the library's server as if you are inside the building. From the parking lot, you should have access to FamilySearch's film library. This method is not the best-case solution but the only one available. Some people have reported that they have been able to access Family History Files from the parking lot of their Family History Center. However, I believe that you may need a church sign-on to do this. Lastly, do not forget the free websites we used before the shutdown for Polish records such as Geneteka, Metryki, Polish National Archives, and many more. (see the list on PGSA at <https://pgsa.org/polish-sites/>)

Do not forget last month's genealogy column – this is a great time to organize and start writing your family history. The method I described helps you organize your information to do better research, but it is also the beginning format for your family history. Get organized now. NOW IS A GREAT TIME to improve your genealogical skills and knowledge.

Genealogy conferences and local society meetings are canceled, but many groups are going online. Some state societies have been using online webinars, but now I see some local societies have begun using this format. In fact, I gave my April program to the DuPage County Genealogical Society as an online webinar. I have also seen some groups rescheduling their in-person conference to online webinars. Other sources for online webinars on videos: The Learning Center on FamilySearch.org has a vast collection of videos on most genealogical topics. This resource is free, and probably my first choice for a genealogical educational resource. Another great resource is the webinar library at FamilyTreeWebinars.com. This library is a collection of webinars that have been recorded from the live presentation. There is an excellent selection of topics, and all are well-done. The most recent webinars are free to view for a limited time after the live presentation. You will need a subscription to view the entire collection. The subscription costs \$49.95 is worth it.

So, stop being a couch potato. Keep going on your family history research. You have more time to do more. Remember to have fun. Niech Bóg Wam Błogosławi i otoczy opieką. God Bless and Stay Safe.



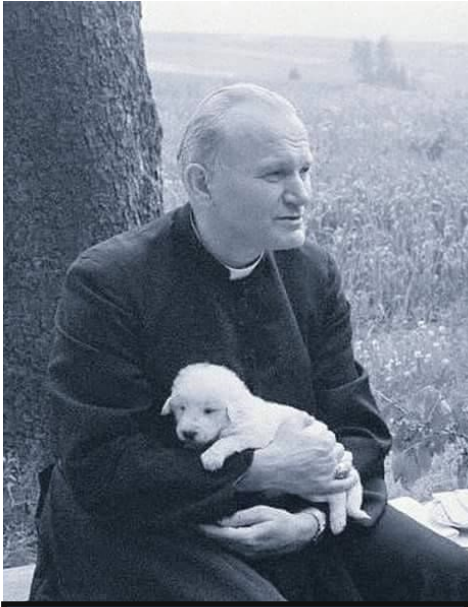
### **Polish Proverb**

Dużo grzybów sierpniowych, dużo zawiei śniegowych.  
Big August mushrooms, big winter storms.

**Kopernik Memorial Association**  
**P.O. Box 911**  
**Utica, N.Y. 13503**

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**100 years of  
John Paul II  
1920 – 2020**

# Kopernik Association Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member.....	\$15.00	\$ _____
*Add American Council for Polish Culture Membership.....			\$5.00	\$ _____
Student Membership.....			\$5.00	\$ _____

I am interested in making a donation to:

- Polish Cultural Center \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Association's Operating Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Association Year: January 1 - December 31, 20 20 **Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **Kopernik Association**      Mail checks to: **P.O. Box 911 Utica, NY 13503**