

Kopernik Memorial Association Newsletter

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

Website: cnykopernik.com
Phone Number (315) 818-4212



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Richard Noga -President
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Spring/ Summer Newsletter 2021

Issue 29

Holy Trinity Church Giving Thanks for 125 years of God's Love and Mercy

By Ken Szczesniak

Holy Trinity Church, the seat of Polish identity in Utica and the surrounding Mohawk Valley, is celebrating its 125th Anniversary this year! The large grey Church, bordering the North-South Arterial, is an iconic structure built by our ancestors as a place to worship, to celebrate, to honor, and give thanks for all the blessings bestowed. Our ancestors established a parish within the city to provide not only for spiritual needs but to support and continue our beloved Polish culture.

The early Poles sacrificed much to ensure that this culture would continue for generations within this region and established the Parish through the benevolent society of St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr in 1896. The society raised money as early as 1894, when \$79 was collected for the purpose of starting a parish.

On December 25, 1896, the newly ordained and newly assigned Pastor, Rev. Simon Pniak said the first Mass in the name of Holy Trinity Church at St. John's school hall in Utica for the Polish people. Within a couple years, the Parish had purchased a wooden house to use as a chapel and built a brick church for the community. While this building was sufficient for a time, the ever-growing Polish community during the early part of the 20th century sought the need for a larger space.

On May 22, 1910 the current church building was blessed after four years of construction and a total cost of \$150,000.

(Continued on page 3)



BULLETIN BOARD

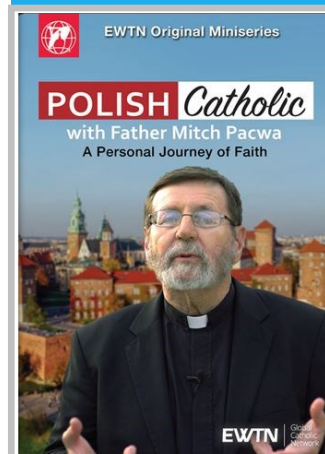
Sat. May 8 Photo Deadline for Holy Trinity Church anniversary display (see special request)

Sun. May 30, 11:30 125th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving Holy Trinity Church
125th Anniversary display in the Marian Room following all masses for the weekend 5/30 & 6/6.

Sun. May 23, 12:30 till gone
Chicken BBQ Holy Trinity Church grounds
Take out only \$12.

Mon. June 14, 6:00 Last KMA Meeting before summer break PCC

Sat. August 21, noon Kopernik Summer Picnic Rain date Aug. 28



**Polish Catholic
A Personal
Journey of Faith**
with Fr. Mitch Pacwa

Watch for this new miniseries on EWTN or join us for a viewing at the Cultural Center in the Fall.



Palm Sunday
Easter Traditions
Workshop

On Palm Sunday March 28, Holy Trinity school's spacious gymnasium was the alternate site for Kopernik Memorial Association's annual Palm Sunday workshop. With COVID precautions supervised by Ed Nowak, a safe and roomy environment welcomed many families and individuals to the annual opportunity to learn about the Polish cherished traditions of Easter.



The hands on activities included Pisanki (egg decorating) with Pawel Dworek, wife Dorota and daughter Maria, butter lamb sculpting with Val Elacqua, Matthew and Alaina Franco and Palm weaving demonstrated by Sue Moszak. We also had an active children's craft corner activity table staffed by Eileen Waskiewicz and Yvette



Piper as well as room for free play.

Under the direction of Mary Currie, the Kopernik boutique provided a combination of lovely Easter and Polish items for sale. It was staffed by Phyllis Gowarek and Michelle Krul.



Gary Moszak and Richard Noga handled the raffles. The door prize of three Polish Wooden eggs was won by Jennifer Synakowski and the Easter raffle basket was won by the Synakowski family. Special thanks to Fr Canon John Mikalajunas and Val Elacqua for donating the basket items.



Palm Sunday 2021



(Holy Trinity con't from pg. 1)

Since this time, the Parish has gone through many changes, as the area's economy prospered and declined. Through all of the days, Holy Trinity Parish has stayed focused on the mission of providing for the spiritual needs of the Polish community and preserving the culture for future generations. Today, Holy Trinity shares this spiritual and cultural heritage with the greater Utica community as the parish continues to serve well into the 21st century. To mark the 125th Anniversary, the Parish is celebrating in different ways this year due to the current pandemic. A chicken barbecue will be held on May 23rd, and a Mass of thanksgiving will take place on Trinity Sunday, May 30th 11:30 am. Collections for donations will be taken throughout the year to help various community agencies and organizations. A final celebration will occur next year with Bishop Lucia celebrating the Mass. Please refer to Holy Trinity's website, Facebook page and bulletins for details and photos of the Parish's life. All are welcome to join us every Sunday and for special Masses and events. Come and join as we give thanks for the past 125 years of God's love and mercy!

URGENT PHOTO REQUEST

The Kopernik Center's Cultural Team along with Holy Trinity's church historian Kenny Szczesniak will be preparing two special displays devoted to the 125th anniversary celebration. The first is scheduled for May 30 under the church in the Marian Room. The name of the room is taken from the beautiful selection of Marian statuary which were prominently displayed in each classroom from Holy Trinity School. Other items ranging from church blueprints to priestly vestments worn by our first pastor, Fr. Pniak will be on exhibit. The second presentation will be part of the Kopernik Association's celebration of Polish Heritage Month this October at our Cultural Center.

Our team is requesting your assistance by providing photos of the physical building, special events, processions, Easter or Christmas photos, sacraments (Wedding photos in church if possible with the name of the couple and date of marriage, first communion group pics with the year, baptisms etc.) Call or text Val at (315)725-1651 Deadline MAY 8. Thank you for your assistance.

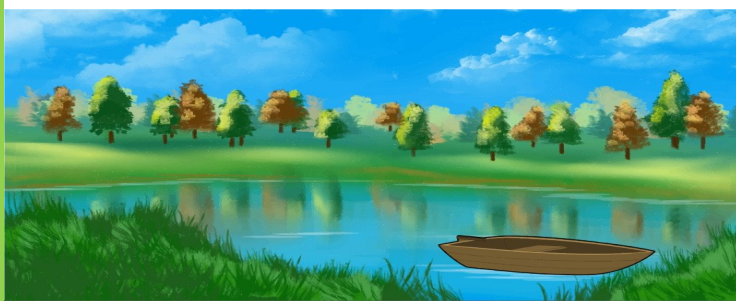
Election RESULTS

Congratulations to our Officers

Richard Noga -President
Gary Moszak- 1st Vice-President
Joanne Szczygiel- 2nd Vice-President
Valerie Elacqua -Treasurer
Mary Currie—Recording Secretary
Dan Jadowski - Corresponding Secretary

Kopernik Summer Picnic

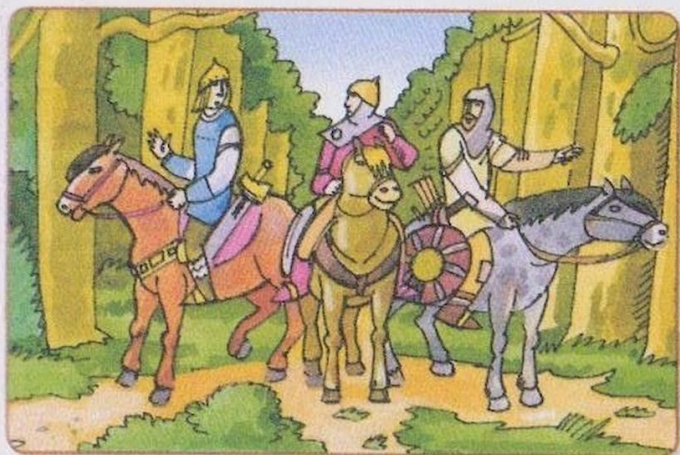
On Saturday August 22 at Noon, join us for a relaxing outdoor afternoon on the lake in Forestport for our summer picnic with our host Michele. Please let us know what dish you will bring to pass by calling her at (315) 725-8075 and for directions to camp! Don't miss a fabulous time!!



Coming this Fall to the Kopernik Cultural Center

Polish Folk Tales and Legends Exhibit

In recognition of Polish Heritage Month this October, the Kopernik Cultural Center will feature a new display in its main room. With the guidance of Pawel Dworek, three well known legends will be presented. The selection includes the **Legend of the Three Brothers Lech, Czech and Rus.**

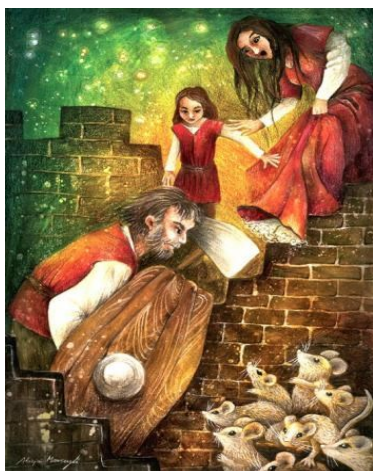


The three brothers are symbolic founders of three Slavic states – the brother Lech (founder of the early Poland), Czech (founder of the Czech Republic), and Rus (associated with Russia in many popular versions of the legend, but more probably telling about the Ruthenian people). The display will include a reenactors costume of Lech.

The second legend, **The Trumpeter of Krakow**, takes place in the ancient capital of Poland. This 13th century tale tells of the city's watchman in the tower of the church



of St. Mary's located in the Market Square. He alerts the inhabitants of imminent danger to the city by playing the 'Hejnal' as the hoard of Tatars approaches the city. He repeats the melody four times but it ends abruptly on a broken note as an arrow pierces his throat.



The third is the gruesome tale of **Prince Popiel**, a 9th-century Slavic ruler, and his German wife, Brunhilda, who were eaten alive by a horde of mice in their tower. This unsavory end was the consequence of the pair's unholy deeds. A diorama of a scene from the tale is being designed by Janet Kosuda Dwyer and Barbara Krauza using a hand-felting technique of the characters.

Lastly, a dramatization of the legend of **Smok the Dragon of Wawel Castle** will be presented in the White Eagle room adjoining the Cultural Center. The production will welcome children and teens interested in acting out this famous story set in Krakow, the ancient capitol of Poland which is beset by a fearsome fire-breathing dragon. The city is delivered from this menace by an astute young shoemaker who receives the hand of the daughter of Prince Krak in gratitude.

Hope to see you in October at Cultural Center Open House in celebration of Polish Heritage Month.





Kopernik Scholarship Awards

Attention all College students. Time to apply!

The Scholarship application deadline is June 16, 2021.

Please find the online application at cnykopernik.com

Kopernik Association Mourns Longtime Active Supporter, Philanthropist

Sally L. Maka 1939 - 2021

ROME - Sally L. Majka, 81, passed away on Thursday, January 28, 2021, peacefully in the comfort of her home.

Sally was born on February 5, 1939, in Utica, the daughter of Adam and Bertha (Willgos) Lachut. On June 26, 1966, Sally married Donald J. Majka in Holy Trinity Catholic Church, a blessed and mutually supportive union of 54 years. Sally grew up in a modest home on Spring St., in the brewery district of West Utica. She attended Holy Trinity School and UFA. After high school, she earned a Bachelor's Degree from Utica College and continued her education at Syracuse University where she earned a Master's Degree in Education. Later, she attended Catholic University, Washington, D.C., attaining a Master's Degree in Library Science. Her great love was the teaching of children. She taught at Vernon-Verona-Sherrill, Potter's School in Utica's inner city and Fairfax County School District, Fairfax, Virginia.



Sally can be characterized by a statement that she made at her retirement celebration, "Some of my days were good, all of the rest were wonderful." After retirement, Sally returned to Utica where she was involved in volunteer work for political, educational and civic organizations. Eventually, she joined the staff of Congressman Sherry Boehlert and was elected to the Board of Trustees at Utica College. She was a generous person, having established scholarships at Utica College for students in need. She also funded several prizes for the Utica College Science Fair. Sally also was a conservationist working with Don to manage 1,000 acres of forest land and planting 60,000 seedling trees in the north country. She was also an avid quilter.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Donald, Rome; and her sister, Pauline Lachut, Whitesboro. Sally will be missed by those who loved her.

The Sally and Don Majka Legacy

In 2017, Sally and Don Majka honored the Kopernik Memorial Association by establishing the Copernicus awards presented during the Utica College Regional Science Fair. The awards are presented to a recipient in the Junior (gr. 7-9) division and Senior (gr. 9-12) Division. At this event, inspiring student work from several area schools is displayed and judged. To qualify, students had to first win at their own district's science fair.

The 42nd Annual Utica College Regional Science Fair was held on March 27th and concluded with a virtual Awards Ceremony on the 30th. It was announced that the Junior Grand Prize has been named in Sally and Don's honor. Sadly, Sally's passing in January was sensed and their longtime presence in support of the fair was missed. They will continue to support students pursuing their education and interests in the sciences as a result of the Majka endowment to the college, with 12 special awards presented annually.

This year's Copernicus awards were presented to Emily Smith, 8th Grader from Poland Central School and Louis Misiaszek, a senior from Whitesboro Senior High School.

We offer Don and his family our deepest condolences as well as our continued support during this difficult time. We have been blessed to have them part of our association.

MEMBERSHIPS 2021 PAID DUES

*indicates ACPC \$5 dues ;ACPC membership closed April 1

Joanne Aughe Joseph Bednarczyk *Clara Biedrzycki
John & Patricia Biernat *Theresa Bunk Jane Carville *Helen Chomin
Maureen Croop * Mary Currie Irene Czuryla Carol Dinger
*Valerie Elacqua *Denise Erwin Lorraine Fava Marsha Furgal * James Gemza
Jane Godlewski Susan Gorga * Phyllis Goworek Stanley and Nancy Goworek
Gerald Guzski *G.Irene Hummel Michael Hayduk Dariusz Jablonski Daniel
Jadlowski *Henry Jaworski *Bob Johnson *Michael Jordan *Mark Kantor Brian & Karen Karwowski
Patricia Key Joanne Kosuda-Warner Theresa Kozien *Michelle Krul Charles Kupiec
* Mary Ann Lepkowski *Stephen & Angela Lewosko and daughter Carol Lernihan *Joanne Luczka
Theresa Mack Donald Majka Danielle Mangini Sylvia Mantelli * Robert Maziarz Carol McCoy
Robert McWethy Wanda Miller Zosia Murray Karen Neary *Ed Nowak *Richard Noga John Ossowski
John D. Ossowski Bernard Peplinski Ginger Pieloch Joanne & Ray Potasiewicz *Camille Pryputniewicz
Ted & Joan Rajchel Sharon Scotti Ellie Selwach Jim Skorulski *Gary Sroka *Judy Stanulevich
*Edward Starczewski Andrew Siuta Jennifer Synakowski Joanne Szczygiel *Denise Tan
Constance Vendetta Theodore Wadas Stanley & Barbara Walerski *Eileen Waskiewicz Holly Wise
Theresa Wojnas family * Jean Wolcott *Emily Ziembra *John Zdanowicz Thomas Zdanowicz



Local Polish History Attracts Hundreds

by Rebecca McLain, Executive Director, Oneida County History Center

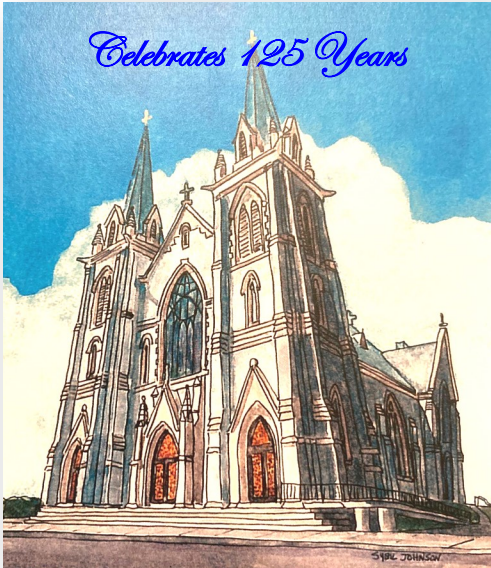
On January 26, 2021 Utica native Patricia Bury Yocum was invited to give a virtual lecture for the Oneida County History Center on Polish Immigration in Utica. Librarian emerita at the University of Michigan, Patricia has had a lifelong interest in studies of Polish immigration and Polish genealogy. She previously spoke in 2016, on Utica's Polish community's contributions to World War I and attracted 80 guests including many members of the Kopernik Memorial Association. We knew this talk would be popular, but didn't know just how many it would draw. "They Came to Work: The Early Polish Immigrants of West Utica" drew 300 registrants and over 200 participants, making it the biggest virtual lecture ever hosted by the History Center! This fascinating lecture focused on Patricia's quest to trace several local families who immigrated to the United States starting in the 1880s and lived in West Utica. It serves as both a story about the Polish history in the region and an inspiration to others who may want to research their family history through city directories, newspapers, archives, and other sources. For those who missed the talk, "They Came to Work" is available to view on the History Center YouTube channel through the spring and can be accessed via www.oneidacountyhistory.org/programs.html.

The Oneida County History Center is a non-profit dedicated to the preservation of Oneida County and Central New York history. The organization does not receive any government funding and is supported solely by the community. We invite you to help preserve local history by becoming a member during our upcoming 16th Annual Telethon, presented by the Bank of Utica, that will be broadcast live on WUTR-TV and streaming on CNYHomepage.com on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 from 5:00-800 pm. Call 315-735-3642 for more information or questions.

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

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Holy Trinity Church
First Polish parish in Utica, NY



From the original watercolor
 by Sybil S Johnson
 2014

Kopernik Association Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Individual Membership..... Renewal 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**