

## The Spirit of the Season

Zbyslaw Petryka



Weneta Stefan and Kasia

A Traditional Polish Christmas Eve organized by the Polish Club of Laguna Woods in Clubhouse Seven on Saturday, December 15, 2007. Guests arrived early and spent time socializing with friends, especially with friends not seen for a long time. Traditional drinks were served.

An invocation by Ron Raridon was followed by wishes for Happy Holidays and sharing of the "Oplatek". Everybody participated and enjoyed this very Polish tradition of braking the waver, wishing the best and hugging and kissing..

At 5:00 p.m. guests moved into traditionally decorated dining room. Irena Glowacka-Lawyer, organizer of the event, welcomed guests and raised a toast with traditional shot of Polish Król Vodka donated by Import KRÖL Spirits, Llc, of Beverly Hills, CA.

...Christmas Eve dinner was served according to old Polish tradition: a meatless dinner with an uneven number of dishes served. Number 13 as represented by number of participants at the Last Supper. The dishes were made from beets, cabbage, beans, potatoes, fish, dried fruit, fresh apples and dry nuts. The supper at the Christmas Eve consisted of beef soup, sauerkraut with mushrooms, herring, noodles with poppy seed and a compote made from dry fruits..

The entertainment was provided by the talented Kosmala Family. Weneta Kosmala, mother with her two children Katerina "Kasia" Kosmala-Dahlbeck, and Stefan Kosmala-Dahlbeck played classical music and Christmas Carols on violins and piano. The young children enchanted the audience and inspired to join in singing Christmas Carols. Kasia and Stefan are not newcomers to the stage.

Dr. Jerzy Kosmala, father and grandfather established himself as one of the world's premiere violinists. He has performed all over the world, and currently is a visiting professor of many Universities and at the Royal Academy of Music in London, England.

Tables were colorfully and traditionally decorated and bottles of red and white wine were part of the decoration. Guests enjoyed the wine donated by Joe and Lucy Borik. Hostess Bożena Saduddin was very busy to welcome guests and take care of the event.

The Polish Christmas Eve at the Polish Club of Laguna Woods was enjoyed by over 150 guests. Christmas gifts were distributed to lucky winners in a drawing of numbers provided to each guest on arrival. Children of the organizers were personally giving the gifts to the winners. Official closing of the ceremony by Irene Lawyer did not stop the conversations and joyous atmosphere of the event. The guests were enjoying each other's company for much longer.

Irena Lawyer wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked members, supporters and guests for coming and showing their enthusiasm for our Polish culture and traditions. □

## The Polish Club of Laguna Woods

### Traditional Easter and Eighth Anniversary of Club Celebration

On Saturday, March 15, 2008, Polish Club will celebrate Traditional Polish Easter and the Eighth Anniversary of the Club at 12:00 noon, in Clubhouse Two. The Program will start at 12:00 noon with an invocation, sharing Easter eggs with wishes, and a Polish Easter Buffet. A gourmet lunch, choice of: salmon or lamb with wine will be serving at 1:00 p.m. An Anniversary cake will be served with champagne. Entertainment will be provided by pianist and vocalist Robert Corwin.

Cost for members \$ 25 non-members \$ 28. Please make your reservation by check payable to P. C. L. W and send to 811-Q Ronda Mendoza, Laguna Woods CA 92637 Deadline is March 10, 2008 Everyone is invited to celebrate with us.

The Polish Club of Leisure World was formed in 2000, as a social group that promotes Polish culture and traditions. When Leisure World changed its name to Laguna Woods in 2005, the Club also changed its name to the Polish Club of Laguna Woods. Programs are educational, entertaining, and consists of lectures, films, performances and trips to places with Polish heritage. Dues are \$15 per year. All residents are welcome to join the Polish Club. Meetings are in English.

For information call (949) 206-9122. □

## The News of Polonia welcomes articles about your Polish organization

### Polish plumbers packing their bags as pickings get richer back east.

A February 16 article by Alexi Mostrous and Christine Seib in the British website *TIMESONLINE* reports, Jarek Djano looked back six years to when he first arrived in England from the small village of Zamrow. "Each pound I sent back home could buy three or four loaves of bread. Now it can buy only one," he said.

"Now I have to work six, seven days a week. Before I only worked five. It's getting to be a strain on my wallet."

Mr Djano, 41, a builder, moved to London two years before the Government lifted restrictions on the movement of Polish workers. Since 2004 an estimated one million Poles have settled in Britain, taking advantage of the higher wages British employers were prepared to pay. They became so much a part of the country's life that Tesco, Asda and Sainsbury's – as well as innumerable small local shops – started stocking Polish food and drink, and libraries began to stock books and newspapers in Polish.

But a crumbling pound, a tightening economy and boom time in Poland have persuaded thousands like Mr Djano to return home. "I want to go back in May," he said. "A lot of people I know are going back. It's not worth being here any more. Everything is very expensive. And the pound doesn't buy much. My wife was never happy with me being in London. She came once, but it was too crowded, too much traffic. My family lives in a village, it's completely different.

"My children are 18 and 15 and they need lots of money. Every time they call, they say, 'Papi, give me more money'."

Seven years of hard work have left Mr. Djano with a glowing reputation among the

middle-class residents of Twickenham, but he would not advise friends in Poland to come here now. "I could survive in England, but if I were in Poland I'd say, forget it. If you have a job you're fine. If you work only one week a month, it's not good.

"My friend came to England a month ago, he's still waiting for work. His boss told him there might be a job in a month. He tells me, 'No more England, I'm going home'."

Mr Djano's decision means that finding a cheap, honest, eager-to-work builder in 2008 is going to be considerably harder than it has been in recent years. Polish builders, with a reputation for working long hours at a fraction of the price local workers charge, have spent four years forcing their British rivals to raise their game. But many are now questioning the economic benefit of staying in Britain, where the building trade has been hit hard by the credit crunch.

Inquiries from householders fell by 40 per cent in the last quarter of 2007, a result of the economic situation, the Federation of Master Builders said. "Consumers are being much more cautious about home improvement," a spokesman said. "I'm expecting the results for the first quarter to be worse than the last three months of last year. We think it's a direct result of the credit squeeze. The public's uncertain about what's going to happen with the economy and in these periods people hold back on working on their houses."

Poland, by contrast, is enjoying a construction boom. Profits at PBG, a Polish building company, rose by two thirds in the fourth quarter of 2007 as the country prepares to host the 2012 European football championships. An expected 500,000 visitors have led to a massive renovation of the country's sports complexes, road, airport and rail infrastructures, and tourist facilities. Polish builders are in high demand. "Lots of people are going back for Euro 2012," Darek Osiak, 26, a gardener from Warsaw, said. "There's building going on already. The economy is growing and people are very confident."

Maciej Pobug-Radalowicz, 40, runs his own builders' firm in Warsaw. "I see a lot of builders coming back from England now. They can't seem to save enough money over there any more, I'm sure it's because of the exchange rate. I also think it's because they haven't learnt to speak English while they are there and can get exploited by foremen."

The swing in migration is affecting all Poles, not just builders. Ryszard Multan, 26, took a break from his double shift at the Front Line restaurant in Paddington to tell *The Times*: "I've got my ticket to go home. March 30. I can't wait to go back to Poland. I started work in the restaurant on the minimum wage, £4.85 per hour, to save money to restore my parents' flat. At that time I could only have earned £1 an hour in Poland.

"But now the exchange rate means it's not worth staying. In Poland the situation is much better and I can earn three times more than I could two years ago."

Lewis Woodward, head of marketing at Reed Employment, said that fewer Poles

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## Pope John Paul II Polish Center

3999 Rose Drive,  
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

Mass Schedule:

**Saturday 4:00 PM ENG**

**Sunday 7:00 AM Tridentine**

**9:00 AM ENG 10:30 AM PL**

**Tuesday - Friday 8:30AM ENG.**

**First Friday of the month**

**8:30 AM Eng 7:30 PM. PL**

**First Saturday of month**

**8:30 a.m. ENG**

Director: Rev. George P. Blais  
Assisting: Rev. Henry Noga SVD

714-996-8161 office

714-996-8130 Fr. George P. Blais

www.polishcenter.org  
office@polishcenter.org

## Town & Country Travel Magazine prints a Polish slur

There is an article about Poland in the Feb. 2008 issue of the travel publication "Town & Country Travel" magazine. The article on the whole was fine and accurate, however, on page 85 is the statement, "Unlike Krakow, which cooperated with Nazi occupiers to avoid destruction, Warsaw was leveled by German bombs." The author must have learned history in a communist country. It is historically inaccurate to state that Poland cooperated with the Nazis in any way, shape or form and it is a terrible slap in the face to all Poles. The statement is highly defamatory. Poles did not cooperate with the Nazis and in fact fought fearlessly to prevent the Nazis from overtaking their beloved country.

I expect an apology to appear not only in the next issue of the magazine but also on the magazine's web site. That is the least the publisher can do. Hearst Publishing owns several magazines including "Cosmopolitan" "Good Housekeeping" and "Redbook," which should lose subscribers if this malicious lie is not retracted.

This heinous statement does not appear on the web edition of the story. For verification I would suggest reading the story at the bookstore/library rather than actually purchasing the magazine. I have already registered my disgust with Ms. Mitchell the editor of "Town & Country Travel" magazine and I urge every one in Polonia to do the same.

Write to:  
Ms. Heidi Mitchell  
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email: tnc@hearst.com

Deborah Greenlee  
Arlington, Texas □

**Editor's note:** *The war in Europe ended almost 65 years ago. The article's author, Susan Crandell is 53 years old. Where did the author get her information about the citizens of Krakow? Did Ms Crandell get her information in her formal schooling, independent research, reading books written by knowledgeable scholars who are experts in WW II Polish History? It is terribly sad that these lies are repeated from generation to generation. Polonia has to educate the general public about the truth regarding Poland's participation in WWII. There is an organization within Polonia which is making an effort to deliver that true message. To learn more about this organization, please contact the News of Polonia - GET INVOLVED IN YOUR POLISH COMMUNITY!!*

## Poles love credit cards

In 2007 the Poles' credit cards debts increased by more than half – from 5,800,000,000 up to 8,800,000,000 zlotys.

If this pace is sustained, by the end of 2008 debt may increase to 14 billion, a report by Open Finance company and "Polska" daily reveals.

Last year banks in Poland started to give out credit cards on a massive scale. The effect was a rapid increase of Poles' indebtedness. By the end of this quarter it will exceed a record breaking level of 10 billion zlotys.

Poles more and more often live on credit, because plastic money is easily accessible: one signature is enough and one can start to use his or her own brand new credit card.

Credit card debts are more expensive than for example fast cash credits – by 5 percentage points on average.

Customers are often not aware of the high costs of possessing a credit card, and this means a huge threat not only for them but also for the bank" analysts stress.

Analysts are convinced that in spite of the debt increase, credit cards will not cease to be popular in Poland. In consequence thousands of the Poles may soon face bankruptcy. □