

Music News from 3

Wide Web, Wanda Wilk launched the Polish Music Center Website in 1994. Countless visitors who have used this popular site since its inception found comprehensive information on composers, history of concert and folk music, competitions, festivals, and other items of interest to anyone researching Polish musical culture. An online Newsletter - another web-based project that Wanda Wilk initiated that same year—has appeared on the Polish Music Center website on a monthly basis for the past fifteen years.

In 1992, together with her husband, Stefan, Wanda Wilk established *Ars Musica Poloniae*, a charitable foundation that facilitates a variety of projects in Polish music from publishing and recording to scholarships for Polish students in Los Angeles. The most recent success of the Foundation was its successful partnership in providing grants for author Joseph A. Herter, and publishing his *Zygmunt Stojowski - Life and Music*, the latest volume of the Polish Music History series. The Wilks were also benefactors of the Kosciuszko Foundation, where they endowed the "Wanda Wilk Polish Music Fund" in 2001. The purpose of the fund is "to provide stipends to music scholars regardless of their ethnic background who are interested in doing research in Polish music with preference given to Polish art song and its promotion."

For her extraordinary service to Polish music Wanda Wilk was awarded the highest state award of Poland, the Polonia Restituta medal in 1996. Her enthusiasm and far-reaching achievements have encouraged the awareness and appreciation of Polish music throughout the world, and will continue to be an inspiration for generations. Wanda Wilk's ever-present smile and boundless goodwill towards mankind will chart the course for others to follow her footsteps.

Brief Biography of Wanda Wilk

Born in Hamtramck, Michigan, on 13 January 1921, Wanda (Harasimowicz) Wilk graduated from Wayne State University in Detroit in 1943 with a Bachelor of Music Degree, specializing in Music Education. After teaching in Detroit public schools for several years, she moved with her parents to California in 1949. She enrolled in a Master's Degree program at the University of Southern California, but interrupted her studies to teach in conjunction with the UCLA Teacher's Education Program, while continuing to perform as a pianist at various charity benefits and Polish functions. In 1952 she married Dr. Stefan P. Wilk, and in 1955 became a full-time mother and homemaker.

In 1974, Mrs. Wilk returned to the USC School of Music to finish her Master's degree, alongside her daughter Diane, who was enrolled at USC in the School of Architecture. Wanda Wilk's thesis, a bibliography on Polish music, led to a summer session at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. In 1976 Mrs. Wilk completed her thesis and graduated from USC with a Master of Music degree, but the lack of reference materials on Polish music at USC had planted the seed of an idea that would eventually become the Polish Music Center.

In 1980 Mrs. Wilk received the Mayor's Certificate of Appreciation for her participation in the Polish Cultural Exhibit at the California Museum of Science and Industry in Los Angeles, for which she organized the music section and presented seventeen musical programs. In 1981 she secured the sponsorship of the USC School of Music for a Szymanowski Centennial. There she established the Friends of Polish Music and organized a week-long series of symphonic concerts, recitals, lectures, discussions, a banquet and an outdoor festival with the participation of artists, musicologists and

students from England, Poland and various parts of the United States. Between 1983 and 1984 she prepared a travelling exhibit on Szymanowski which was shown in twenty-four university libraries throughout the U.S. and Canada. In 1983, she received the Perspectives' Award from Perspectives Magazine in Washington, DC.

In 1988 Wanda Wilk and her husband were awarded the Polonia Award from the Southern California chapter of the Polish American Congress, and a Gold Medal from the Polish Composers' Union (ZKP), an organization of which Mrs. Wilk is an honorary member. The American Council of Polish Clubs honored Wanda Wilk in 2004. In that same year, she was named an honorary member of the Polish Singers Alliance of America, the oldest cultural organization of Polonia in North America. Mrs. Wilk's efforts at USC have been lauded by the University on numerous occasions, including the Director's Award from the USC School of Music (1982), the Torchbearers' Award (1992), and the President's Commendation (2005). In 2004, she was made an honorary citizen of her hometown, Hamtramck, Michigan, where she also served as valedictorian of the Hamtramck High School Class of 1938.

Wanda Wilk is survived by her daughter, Diane Wilk-Burch and her spouse, Michael Burch, their three children, numerous cousins and other relatives in Southern California.

A concert for this champion of Polish women composers

The forthcoming Polish Music Center Spring Concert will be dedicated to Wanda Wilk's memory. The concert, entitled "Bacewicz Centenary," will feature the music of Grażyna Bacewicz (1909-1969), one of the most talented and prolific female composers of her time. It will be held on March 28, 2009 at 3 p.m. at the Alfred Newman Recital Hall on the USC campus. Admission is free. Please call 213-821-1356 for details. □

Investments - 401K from 3

be allowed to maximize their contributions.

Administration: Plan participants want to receive correct and timely statements and benefit payments from the plan trustee. When the administration of the plan is inept, employee participation — and confidence in the plan — can plummet. Do you monitor the timeliness and the correctness of your plan statements and participant benefit payments regularly?

When you take the time to regularly review the basic components of your 401 (k) plan, you help ensure that the plan will continue to operate smoothly and confer its many benefits on both employees and you, the employer. If we can help you in your review, please contact Joanna Moran at (619) 236-1331. □

Polka Deli

*The Best Polish Deli
in Orange County California*

Polish Traditional Deli Products

Sausage, meat cuts, pierogi
Stuffed cabbage
Polish bread and cakes

Imported from Poland

Candies, cookies and chocolate
Great Polish beer, wine and spirits
Cosmetics, Newspapers and magazines

1710 Tustin Ave - Orange, CA

Tel/Fax (714) 974-8276

Mon to Fri - 10 - 6, Sat 10 - 4

Walter Ciszek from 6

was driven by some parish teenagers to a barbeque with him in New Rochelle. We arrived in the quiet suburban neighborhood in a noisily combusive van painted in psychedelic designs, used by the boys for their rock band. My last sight of him was in the garden, bouncing a small girl on his knee. His hair was very white and his radiance was not of the summer sun. "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Rv 7:14).

Books by Walter Ciszek

With God in Russia tells the astounding story of Father Walter Ciszek's twenty-three years in Russian prison camps in Siberia, the incredible rigors of daily life as a prisoner, and his extraordinary faith in God and commitment to his priestly vows and vocation.

He Leadeth Me is the deeply moving personal story of one man's spiritual odyssey and the unflinching faith which enabled him to survive the horrendous ordeal that wrenched his body and spirit to near collapse.

Acknowledgement: Rev. George W. Rutler "Walter Ciszek." *Crisis* (June 2006).

And from Wikipedia: Since 1990, Ciszek has been under investigation by the Roman Catholic Church for possible beatification or canonization. ☩

Submitted by:
Barb Soja Revoet
Connecticut □

Cheektowaga for Easter from 6

everyone with a plate of blessed hard-boiled eggs, which symbolize new life and an end to the long, 40-day Lenten fast. This year she also held out the egg plate, but all present went up to her to get their portion. There she sat next to her walker, thin and frail but happy and proud of her big, beautiful family. It was then and there that Keith decided next year he would bring Linda home to Cheektowaga for Easter. Maybe by then she will already be Mrs. Wiśniewski. □

**Distribution of the
News of Polonia
in the Phoenix area is
through the generosity of
Stan Żarkowski
Century 21 - All Star Realtors**

Hair from 4

poison used in the gas chambers of Auschwitz.

The ruin of the former Schaeffler factory still towers over Kietrz, which is about three hours by car from Auschwitz. The textile company, which had emerged from the Jewish company Davistan AG, formed the basis of later Schaeffler companies and of today's Schaeffler group. At the end of the war the Schaeffler brothers Wilhelm and Georg moved their company to Bavaria.

The Schaeffler group's official company history doesn't begin until 1946 with the foundation of the company INA. Two years ago, the Erlangen-based historian Professor Gregor Schöllgen researched the Nazi-era history of the company at the family's request.

While Schöllgen confirmed the use of forced laborers in Kietrz, he doesn't believe there is any evidence linking the Schaeffler company to the processing of human hair from Auschwitz. □

St. Joseph Day from 8

Coast) is found in Italian bakeries and restaurants throughout Chicago on that day, but is consumed by many Poles as well! The St. Joseph's table most often includes a statue of the saint with flowers, holy cards of St. Joseph, a bowl for free-will donations to be given to the needy, and sometimes a special St. Joseph's bread formed in the shape of the staff of St. Joseph. The bread is blessed ceremoniously before the feasting begins.

Having formed our identity in the cauldron of Chicago and Milwaukee's parochial schools, our Polish-American family celebrates St. Joseph's Day with a St. Joseph's Table in our home, which is decorated with red and white for the saint and for Poland. Holy cards and St. Joseph candles adorn the dining areas. Our American *Polskość* (Polishness) requires *zeppole* from Il Giardino Bakery on Harlem Avenue in Chicago alongside the *pierogi* (Polish dumplings) and *makowiec* (poppy seed cake). We continue to serve a meatless meal for the celebration and each year our son selects a charitable cause for which he collects donations during the feast.

* David's recipe for St. Joseph's pasta (Perciatelli con la Sarde)

* Visit our Home Altar to St. Joseph & say a Novena Prayer

* See Chicago Bakeries and Zeppole

Hymn to St. Joseph

The Poles have many hymns in honor of St. Joseph.

* Listen to / Sheet music for: *Duszo moja* (Ku czci św. Józefa) (My Soul [In Honor of St. Joseph])

* Listen to / Sheet music for: *O Józefie Ukochany* (Beloved St. Joseph)

* Listen to / Sheet music for: *Szczęśliwy, Kto Sobie Patrona* (You are lucky to be named Joseph)

Prayer for a Happy Death (to St. Joseph)

O Glorious St. Joseph, behold I choose thee today for my special patron in life and at the hour of my death. Preserve and increase in me the spirit of prayer and fervor in the service of God. Remove far from me every kind of sin; obtain for me that my death may not come upon me unawares, but that I may have time to confess my sins sacramentally and to bewail them with a most perfect understanding and a most sincere and perfect contrition, in order that I may breathe forth my soul to the hands of Jesus and Mary. Amen.

St. Joseph's Day Proverb

Święty Józef kiwnie broda, idzie zima nadół z woda. (St. Joseph shakes his beard, and see: Winter has disappeared!)

* Dla Dzieci / For Kids: St. Joseph to Print & Color

The Litany of St. Joseph

Poles are very fond of prayer via Litany (Litanie). Litanies are often chanted, a form of prayer made to be repeated: one phrase coming over and over again so that the person(s) praying is(are) caught up in the prayer itself. The Litany of the Saints is chanted on Easter Vigil, the Litany of St. Joseph, especially on his Feast Day.

* Full bi-lingual (Eng/Pol) Text of the Litany of Saint Joseph

The Prayer of Blessing for the St. Joseph's Table

All-provident God, the good things that grace this table remind us of your many good gifts.

Bless this food, and may the prayers of St. Joseph who provided bread for your Son and food for the poor, sustain us and all our brothers and sisters on your journey toward your heavenly kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

<http://annhettelgunkel.com/easter/swjosef.html>