

Poland's showcase of communism becomes offbeat tourist draw

On the Tropical Medical Bureau website dated September 30, 2007, Jonathan Fowler wrote the following... Clad in a dirty blue overall, the young man planted his feet squarely on the floor of the stifling bus, raised his megaphone and hectoring the passengers: "You stinking capitalists!"

Headed by the aging 1960s bus, the rattle-trap convoy of communist-era vehicles, which also included a couple of Trabant and Lada cars, lumbered off to the heart of what was once the showpiece of the People's Republic of Poland.

Nowa Huta is a mostly working class community on the edge of Krakow, in southern Poland, and home to 200,000 people -- a large slice of the overall population of 780,000.

It is only a short ride from the spires and tourist-trap cafes of Krakow's picturesque Old Town.

But with its grid of streets lined with Stalinist concrete buildings fronted by neo-classical colonnades, it might as well be on another planet.

Even its name is a turn-off for potential visitors: Nowa Huta means "New Steel Mill," in honour of the vast complex which was long its raison d'etre.

A handful of enterprising young Poles, however, decided that Nowa Huta was the ideal spot for tourists to get a taste of life before the fall of communism in 1989.

As their company's name, Crazy Guides, suggests, their goal is partly tongue in cheek.

Bartek Nowak, the megaphone-wielding twenty-something on the bus, spent much of a four-hour tour playing the role of an unfriendly communist-era tour guide.

As the convoy passed a brand new shopping mall on the edge of Nowa Huta, he harangued a party of British teenagers and teachers.

"Dirty, stinking capitalists built this. They took away the fields where our workers used to be able to rest after work and think about Marxist-Leninist ideology," he yelled.

"Think what your parents missed by not bringing communism to Great Britain!" he continued. "We are going to show you the workers' paradise, so you can see the happiness around you."

Nowa Huta was the brainchild of Stalin and the new communist government he installed in Warsaw as Poland, which was trying to recover from the destructive Nazi occupation, fell under barely-concealed Soviet control after World War II.

Construction began in 1949, drawing Poles from across the country into a melting pot where they toiled under vast propaganda posters, received political education and were encouraged to follow the example of "Stakanovite" workers who vastly exceeded targets such as the number of bricks to be laid in a day.

Nowa Huta's new housing blocks, theatre, sports stadium and artificial lake were meant to symbolise the bright future heralded by communism.

The initial goal was to house 100,000 people. For many, moving in to an apartment with running water and indoor toilet indeed represented a massive contrast with their previous life.

The district was meant to overshadow middle-class Krakow, the former seat of the kings of Poland and an important cultural and religious centre which was the home of the future Pope John Paul II.

As the visit drew to a close, Nowak slipped out of character to explain that the tour is about more than playing to the gallery and trying to paint communism as pure kitsch. "The goal is to help people avoid the same old tourist route. We want to show people something more like the real world."

Wiktór Bruchal, 21, who was born in Nowa Huta and who had only joined the company the day before, added: "Architects come here because they study this, but not so many ordinary tourists. They don't know what they're missing!"

"This is a relic of the communist period.

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Nobel Committee Bypassed Holocaust Savior for Al Gore

By: *Noel Sheppard*

As media do a victory lap over Friday's Nobel Peace Prize announcement, it seems a metaphysical certitude that few Americans are aware of the other 180 nominees for the award besides the Global Warmingist-in-Chief Al Gore.

For instance, meet Irena Sendler, a 97-year-old Polish woman who saved 2,500 Jewish children from certain death in the Warsaw ghetto during World War II.

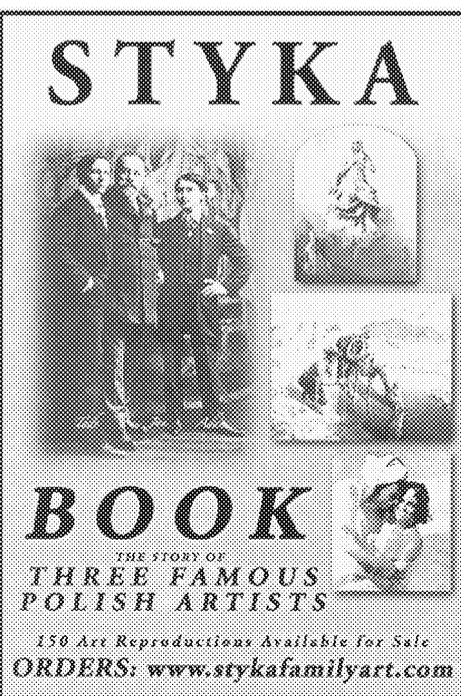
Hadn't heard of her? Well, don't feel bad, for since the Nobel Committee announced the nominees in February, there have only been 107 reports about Mrs. Sendler being one of them. By contrast, Al Gore and "Nobel" have been mentioned in 2,912.

To put an even finer point on the astounding difference in media coverage, since the nominees were announced, Mrs. Sendler has been referred to in only six newscasts on television and radio, one by conservative Glenn Beck. Gore's Nobel nomination was discussed in 249!

With that in mind, here is Sendler's story - as presented by the Irena Sendler Project, the fabulous brainchild of some students in rural Kansas - which media have deplorably chosen to boycott in favor of championing a wealthy American liberal who made a movie containing egregious scientific falsehoods (h/t NBER mattm):

Irena Sendler, born in 1910, was raised by her Catholic parents to respect and love people regardless of their ethnicity or social status. Her father, a physician, died from typhus that he contracted during an epidemic in 1917. He was the only doctor in his town near Warsaw who would treat the poor, mostly Jewish victims of this tragic disease. As he was dying, he told 7-year-old Irena, "If you see someone drowning you must try to rescue them, even if you cannot swim." In 1939 the Nazis swept through Poland and imprisoned the Jews in ghettos where they were first starved to death and then systematically murdered in killing camps. Irena, by then a social worker in Warsaw, saw the Jewish people drowning and resolved to do what she could to rescue as many as possible, especially the children. Working with a network of other social workers and brave Poles, mostly women, she smuggled 2,500 children out of the Warsaw ghetto and hid them safely until the end of the war. Sendler took great risks - obtaining forged papers for the children, disguising herself as an infection control nurse, diverting German occupation funds for the support of children in hiding. She entered the Warsaw ghetto, sometimes two and three times a day, and talked Jewish parents into giving up their children. Sendler drugged the babies with sedatives and smuggled them past Nazi guards in gunny sacks, boxes and coffins. She helped the older ones escape through the sewers, through secret openings in the wall, through the courthouse, through churches, any clever way she and her network could evade the Nazis. Once outside the ghetto walls,

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If you, your family, your organization, or your business would like to send a holiday salutation message to the Polish community in this year's Christmas edition of the News of Polonia, please submit the layout content of your ad before December 7.

FOR EXAMPLE

**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year**

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The above ad...F. - 2" X 2 1/4 " - it spans one column your cost is \$35.00

A.) Full page	230.00
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D.) Eighth of a page	70.00
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F.) 2" X 2 1/4 (spans 1 column)	35.00

If you would like our staff to create the layout, please send us the basic information that you would like us to print. The ad will be sent to you for editing and approval.

Your support of the News of Polonia is deeply appreciated.

If you have a favorite Christmas experience that you would like to share with our readers, please give us a call or give us the facts, and we will help you organize the story if necessary. No stories are ever printed in the News of Polonia without your editing and approval.

Peres Boasts Israelis Are "Buying Out Manhattan, Poland, and Hungary"

Jean D'Eau writes on October 15, 2007 in the *HenryMakow.com Budapest Bureau*, "Maariv" is a popular Hebrew language newspaper in Israel. On the other hand, the "Magyar Nemzet" is the main oppositional (conservative) newspaper in Hungary. Recently, the Hungarian newspaper had the guts to publish a few lines (<http://www.mno.hu/porta/522600?searchtext=Peresz>) on a recent "Maariv" article which was about the October 10th Tel-Aviv speech of Israeli President Shimon Peres in a business circle. The Hungarian article quotes Peres as saying (Hungarian translation from Hebrew by the newspaper and translated by myself from Hungarian to English):

"Israel is getting through the economical crisis, a war as well as the withdrawal from Gaza and is reaching now an exceptional economic performance. The Israeli economy is flourishing. (...) It is possible to found empires today without settling colonies and using the military. Look at how big an empire has built Bill Gates without the use of police and military, see what a big power he represents today. Contrasting with this, governments are unable to use their power since, even if they make projects, they have no money to realise them. Thus, governments are limited in their functioning while the private companies have no such limits. Israeli businessmen invest in the whole world, the Israeli economy was never so successful we have conquered our economical sovereignty. Presently we are buying out *Manhattan, Poland, Romania,*

and Hungary." And the way I see it, we have no problems. Thanks to our talent, our contacts and our dynamism, we get almost everywhere. □

(Article submitted by Gordon Black - Mendocino, CA)

Warsaw to build High Rise building

An Oct. 29 earth times.org article reports that Polish officials announced plans to build a high-rise building, including a synagogue, not far from a WWII-era synagogue in Warsaw's former Jewish ghetto.

The Jewish community in Warsaw will participate in financing the building, to be erected in the center of the former Jewish part of Warsaw in the Grzybowski Square, Polish Radio said Monday.

The 680-foot-tall building will be near the only synagogue in Warsaw to last through World War II.

Apart from Warsaw's second synagogue, the new glass-tower building will house a kosher restaurant and a hotel for orthodox Jews, Andrzej Zozula of the Jewish community told the Polish daily Dziennik.

The building should be completed in four years, officials said. □

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