

Music News from 3

USC. Public diplomacy, or the act of informing, engaging and influencing international audiences regarding a certain culture or nation, is practiced by the members of the PMC everyday. Through her continued study and work, Ms. Close hopes to promote Poland's growth as an emerging power in both the E.U. and international arenas. □

Investments from 3

way, even friends and neighbors may be able to provide unskilled services.

Be sure that assisted care facilities for Alzheimer's are not excluded, and that you can have private duty nursing care in a nursing home if desired.

A good policy will have built-in inflation protection, providing annual benefit increases. Once coverage begins, some policies waive premiums.

You must select several required options:

What do you want the monthly benefit to be? Most people choose between \$3,000 and \$5,000. In a good policy, the amount you do not use one month stays in the pool of available funds, thereby extending the life of the policy.

For how many years do you want coverage? The average stay in a nursing home is 2.4 years and home health care is longer. Therefore, many people choose 5 to 7 years.

How long will your elimination period be before benefits kick in? All policies have an elimination period - the amount of time you must pay expenses yourself before your coverage begins (e.g., 30, 90 or 180 days), which is like a deductible. The longer the elimination period, then the lower the premium will be.

Considering long-term care needs requires us to look far ahead. Since premiums are based on age, the younger you are, the less expensive the premiums can be.

Premiums are also flat - but rate increases have been made on some policies. Consumers should examine the history of rate increases made by companies they are interested in for long-term care. A financial advisor can help you select the coverage you need and determine a financially strong insurance company with a good track record.

Long-term care insurance provides a financial "safety net" to help preserve financial independence, choice and dignity in advance of any unforeseen circumstances or crises. It can be a thoughtful way to protect rather than strain family relationships when the time comes for you to need care. □

Legal from 3

qualified for permanent residence. In the case of second category A (spouses of permanent residents) the current "priority date" is **February 2003**. In the case of second category B (unmarried children of permanent residents) the current "priority date" is **November 1998**. In the case of third category (adult married children of U.S. citizens), the current "priority date" is **December 1998**. In the case of fourth category (brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens), the current "priority date" is **July 1997**.

In addition to per category limits to family-based immigration, there are also per country limits. Because of higher numbers of immigration to the U.S., persons coming from the countries of Mexico, the Phillipines, China, and India have an even longer wait than those from the rest of the world.

While it may seem absurd to file to sponsor your relative given that the wait is over five years, there still are good reasons to do so. If the annual limits per category are raised in the future, this waiting period will decrease. Moreover, some forms of amnesty in the past have required that a visa petition be filed before a certain date. In any case, the sooner you file to bring your relative, the sooner the person will join you here as a green card holder. □

Stella Dietz Kilis †

November 19, 1919
December 27, 2007



Stella (Stakelion) Dietz Kilis was raised on a farm in Indiana. She did everything from milking cows to canning fruits and vegetables.

She moved her family to Norwalk, Ca in 1946. The family consisted of her first husband Leonard Dietz and two children Juanita Dietz and Leonard (Buddy) Dietz.

In 1959 she married her longtime childhood friend Chester F. Kilis. She attended Excelsior High School to obtain her diploma, and graduated in 1967. She became an insurance agent, and also a licensed realtor. Eventually she became a broker owning her own Real Estate office in Norwalk, Ca. She was a member of "Women of the Moose", belonged to the Norwalk Women's Club, and participated in many activities at the Guardian Angel Polish National Catholic Church in Los Angeles. Stella was a "goer and a doer." She could do just about anything.

They loved to travel! Chester & Stella traveled 49 states by motor home, Stella being the Captain. They belonged to the Winnie Birds Club. Through the years they made many friends.

Stella was a great woman, and she loved her family. Stella struggled with Dementia/Alzheimer's, which later took her life.

She is preceded in death by her son Leonard (Buddy) Dietz. She is survived by her husband, Chester F. Kilis; sister Irene Borucki of New Albany, Indiana; one daughter and son-in-law Jim Booth and Juanita Dietz Booth of Norwalk, Ca.; five granddaughters, one grandson, and ten great-grandchildren.

Grandma always said there are two things you're guaranteed to do in life, pay taxes and die.

A little note she taped to her address book: "Grandmother" Her legacy is the smile she brought to those she loved. "Forget not those who cannot remember..."

Memorial Mass was held on January 19, 2008 at St. Linus Church in Norwalk, Ca.

Submitted by Granddaughter Julie Humphrey †

Justyna Ball from 2

mike" night. Among the performers is a funny Jewish guy who is playing his guitar and singing about... Leon Trotsky and how his childhood was affected by not celebrating Christmas like everyone else in the neighborhood.

It is only now that Hannukah, a relatively minor Jewish holiday, gained as much importance as Christmas. Since mid November we were torpedoed with Hanukah traditions, cooking tips on how to make perfect latkes, the meaning of the lighting of menorah candles to the history of Jewish suffering through the ages. That's really beautiful.

Not once was it explained why potato pancakes? There were no potato fields in Palestine; these days, potato seeds are actually imported to Israel from Holland. Potatoes were and still very much are widespread in Central and Eastern Europe. In Poland potato pancakes are as old as the invention of the cooking stove. I wanted to say "frying pan" but it wouldn't have fit right, it would have been an underestimate.

Due to the climate factor, in Europe, as the Diaspora moved around, the Jewish people

Dr. Frances Tuszyński from 1

were always welcome in their home and were provided aid to the extent of their ability.

Being fluent in 5 languages (Polish, German, Latin, French, and English) she translated documents and provided notary services and eagerly conducted seminars at the request of Polish organizations.

For her achievements she has earned recognition and awards.

Francis leaves behind a grieving husband, three sons and their families: five grandsons and one granddaughter. Friends have lost an involved and contributing Pole. †

often absorbed the food grown locally, rather than bringing their food with them, unlike in the US. Here they brought their customs and recipes.

In ancient times what we now call "latkes" (Ukrainian for something oily) were actually made of ...cheese. In the Middle Ages, when Jews escaping persecution in Western Europe, settled in Poland (and Ukraine) they used potato instead of cheese because it was easy to store in winter and it was locally grown. Moroccan Jews to this day use... fried chicken instead.

Often mentioned are the "Jelly donuts" eaten by Jewish people all month, which Christian Poles fill with rose jam or apple, and call them "pączki" (poh-ch-key.) They are traditionally eaten on Fat Thursday (Fat Tuesday in the US).

No traditional Christmas Eve supper in Poland can go without carp, a Jewish fish. After Poland entered the European Union and several hundred of thousands of Poles immigrated to Great Britain, the sale of carp around Christmas increased 600%. Special restrictions were posted like the forbidding of fishing in ponds to prevent some Poles from acquiring it in a less conventional way.

The custom of keeping a live carp in the tub prior to the Wigilia is known but it actually started as a Jewish ritual. In medieval Poland, rich Jews bought (if they did not own a fish pond) a carp, the Jewish poor dined on dried herring. The market day fell on Thursday so when they brought the fish home they needed to keep it fresh in the tub till Friday night when it was prepared for the Sabbath, no cooking or any activity, even pulling the bones of the fish was not allowed on Saturday. A Goy person was sometimes hired to conduct some chores. To get rid of the carp's muddy taste, the water had to be changed several times. As remnants of this custom, to this day, one of 12 dishes of Polish Christmas Eve's meatless Wigilia is carp - Jewish style.

During my childhood, the only time (although it was the 24th of December) when I saw carp in a tub was on a TV screen when each year the same comedy was aired over and over. And then I saw it in small tin tubs or plastic ones used for babies or to soak heavy soiled clothes. So the story of Poles going un-bathed for days because of some fish occupying their tub is just a myth created by the American media. (Just like the story about Polish Lancers charging German Panzers.)

As of today this issue is distributed to our homes, my Polish Christmas tree, in all its glory, still sits in the corner of my New England home's living room. In Poland, the tradition was to decorate the tree on Christmas Eve, and take it down on February 2nd. On that day, the holiday called The Purification of Mary or Presentation of Jesus at the Temple officially ends the Christmas Season. It is exactly 40 days after the birth of Jesus. (Although many take a shortcut and wait only till Jan 6, end of Epiphany.)

Due to the old Jewish law, a mother who gave birth to a baby boy was considered "unclean" for 7 days and then needed to be "purified" for another 33 days. So exactly 40 days later she was expected to bring her firstborn to the temple to sacrifice a child to God. "Buy it" out with the sheep or birds, depends of her financial status. That day in Poland is celebrated as Święto Matki Bożej Gromnicznej (in short, blessing of the candles), in the Protestant church it is called

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Candlemas. It was also celebrated by Protestant Germans who brought it to the US (to Pennsylvania, to be exact.) That day the old weather prediction was that if it was sunny, winter will last another 6 weeks. Later, the motive of animal was added. So in US the Candlemas was stripped of religion meaning evolved into... Groundhog Day.

Feb 2nd, either it's 6 more weeks to the end of winter ...rather than 40 days from the birth of Jesus? You decide.

The funny thing is that young Poles who lately try to separate themselves from practicing old Catholic customs are now picking up on... Groundhog Day, an American tradition.

The day of January 6th known as Three Kings, is widely celebrated in Spain equally festive as Christmas in Poland or New Year's Eve in Russia.

What can be more beautiful (beside the story about the baby being born in manger) than the idea of traveling Priests from ancient Persia (supposedly three, but this account is based only on the number of gifts they brought with them) coming to worship the new King of the Jews. The group, known for great astronomy skills, was navigated, through their journey, by the stars.

For the next Christmas Season, spend less, cherish those very old traditions as they fade away, find time for reflection. And remember, those "12 Days of Christmas" start on December 25th.

Imagine, if Jesus was to be born today, the celebration had to go on without "the Kings from the East," they probably wouldn't make it." There might be one big obstacle on their way to Bethlehem, a 25 feet high, 436 mile long, Israel's concrete "security fence." □

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