



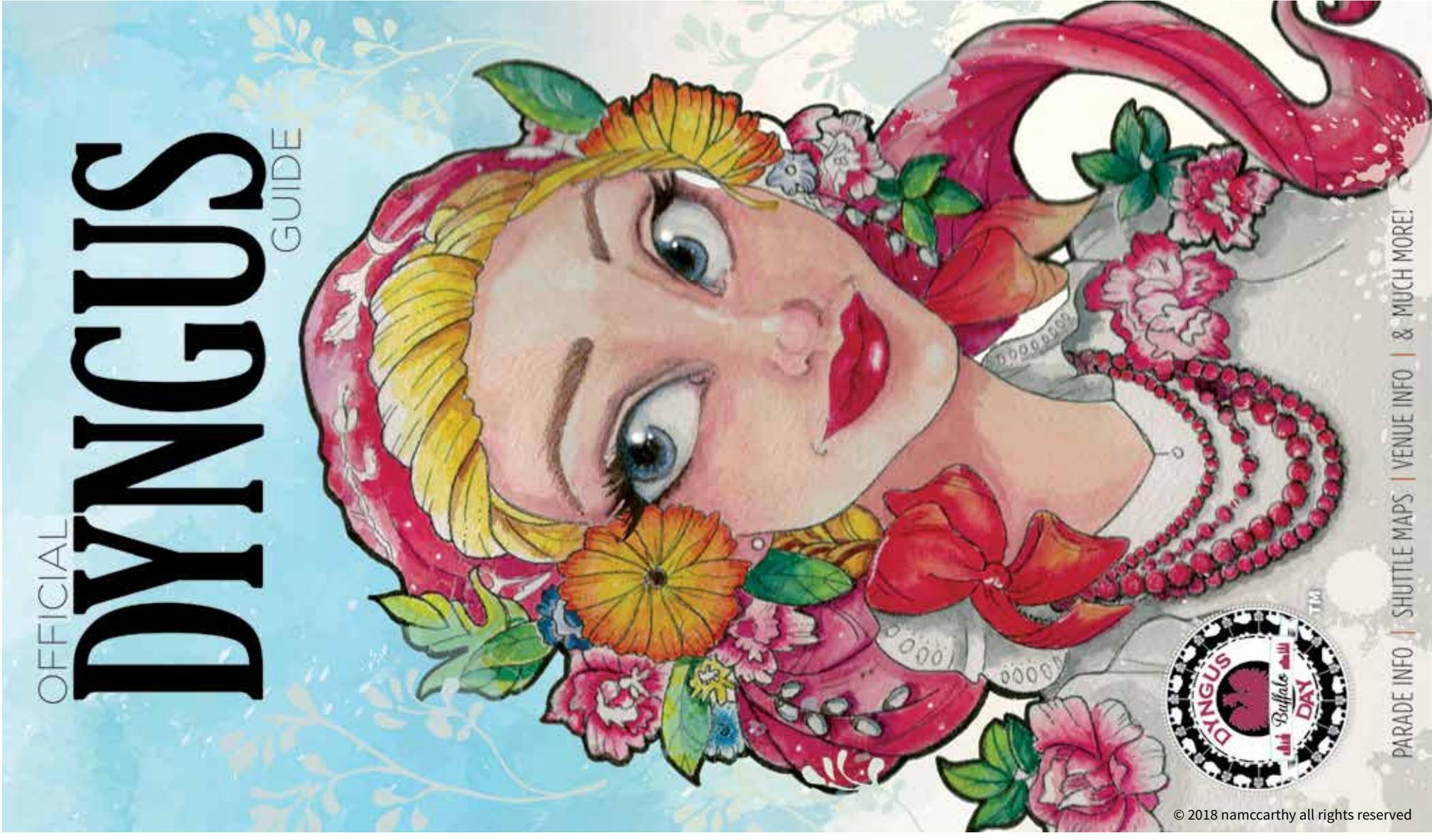
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PARADE INFO | SHUTTLE MAPS | VENUE INFO | & MUCH MORE!



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WELCOME DYNGUS DAY DENIZENS

remember the first time I went to Poland and tried to explain what Dyngus Day in Buffalo was like. They looked at me as if I were suggesting a festival dedicated to a rodent poking his head out of a burrow in order to forecast weather for the next two months. That's how bizarre the concept of Dyngus is everywhere except Western New York. No one in the motherland could believe that this obscure observance was heralded with tens of thousands of revelers chasing each other with pussy willow branches, and splashing water while garnering national publicity because of such silly quirky antics. In Poland the day is low key, a day of relaxation after 40 days of penance and sacrifice signifying new life and our salvation because of Jesus' suffering and sacrifice.

It's true that this springtime celebration is an ancient Polish custom, and as such, Polish pride is abundantly evident on the day after Easter. Red and white flags unfurl in the breeze everywhere you look. The smell of pierogi cooking while polka music plays is apparent all over town. But in Buffalo N.Y., Dyngus Day is something more than Polish pageantry.

Here on the eastern tip of Lake Erie, the end of Lent not only means the end of the introspection that goes along with the abstinence and self denial of temporal turn ons, it also signifies strength and fortitude. You see, it takes a special kind of individual to be able to endure months of short gray days and long dark nights punctuated by howling winds and swirling snowstorms. But there are many places in the world where inclement

weather affects day to day existence. What makes us so different? Here in the Queen City it's not just the ability to endure the elements, it's the prodigious propensity we have to rally. Whether it be weather related, a sports competition or the weakened economy of a rust belt city, Buffalonians bounce back.

If you debate this declaration, simply look at Dyngus Day. This phenomenon is distinctly demonstrated every year with the budding of blossoming bulbs heralding new beginnings along with the anticipation of reinvention and reclamation. As thousands of people of all sizes, shapes and color gather to parade and polka through the streets of a once mighty, but now neglected neighborhood, that spirit is as evident as the business end of a pussy willow branch on your bottom.

Here on these shores, we celebrate life and we celebrate each other. Adversity does not stop us. It makes us stronger. Diversity does not divide us. It brings us together. Our journeys may have been different but in many ways they are all the same. Because no matter what your story is...once again on Dyngus day our story begins anew.

EDDY DOBOSIEWICZ
DYNGUS DAY BUFFALO

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LET'S GET THIS POLKA STARTED

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FOR TICKET INFORMATION CONTACT:
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DYNGUS	DAY	AT A GLANCE	04022018
		PUSSY WILLOW PASS ABBREVIATED Pwp	

VENUE MENU

VENUE	ADDRESS	TIME	COST	INFO
PVT LEONARD POST VFW	2450 Walden Ave. Cheektowaga 716-684-4371	6PM	\$10	Easter Sunday Official Festival Kick-Off Blessing Of Instruments Polka Music Dance Food
POTTS DELI & BANQUET HALL	41 S Rossler St. Cheektowaga 716-826-6575	4PM	Free	Easter Sunday Party Live Polka Music Traditional Polish Food
ANCHOR INN	2437 William St Cheektowaga 716-896-9762	8 AM	Free 8-4PM \$10/\$2 Pwp 4-11PM	Authentic Music Food Free Polish Breakfast w/ Purchase
R & L LOUNGE	23 Mills St. Historic Polonia 716-896-5982	9AM	Free	Authentic Food Authentic Polish Sound System
POLISH VILLA 2	1085 Harlem Rd. Cheektowaga 716-822-4908	9:30 AM - 2AM	\$10 \$2W Pwp	Brunch Bloody Mary Bowl Authentic Live Music Authentic Food All Day & Nite
NOWAK'S TAVERN	1458 Lovejoy St. Sloan 716-235-8256	11 AM	Free	Authentic Live Music Authentic Food All Day & Nite
CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH	199 Clark St. Historic Polonia 716-896-1050	11 AM - 2:30PM	Free	Easter Monday Mass Church Tours
CORPUS CHRISTI A.C.	169 Sears St. Historic Polonia 716-896-1050	1-5PM [Free] 5-11PM [See Next Column]	\$10 \$2W/Pwp [5-11PM]	Pre & Post Parade Parties Authentic Live Music w/ Box On Traditional Dance Food
ST GABRIELS R.C. CHURCH	5271 Clinton St. Elma 716-668-4017	11:30AM-9PM	\$10/ \$2W/ PWP	Polka Mass Polish Lunch Extendend Menu Auth Live Music Auth Food
CLINTON BAR & GRILL	2460 Clinton St Cheektowaga	12 PM	\$10/ \$2W/ PWP	Traditional Live Music Authentic Polish Food Polish Drink Specials
R BAR & GRILL	2139 Broadway Sloan 716-894-1336	12PM	Free	Authentic Live Music Food
THE BROADWAY MARKET	999 Broadway Historic Polonia 716-893-0705	12 PM	Free	Kielbasa Making Contest Live Authentic Music
PORKY'S LOUNGE	2028 Clinton St. Kaiser Town 716-822-3816	12 PM	Free	Polka Jukebox Food
THE HAPPY SWALLOW	1349 Sycamore Historic Polonia 716-894-4854	12 PM	Free	Authentic Music Authentic Polish Buffet All Day Wonderful Family Owned Tavern
ARTY'S GRILL	508 Peckham St. Historic Polonia 716-856-6027	12 PM	Free	Authentic Food Polka Sound System
POLISH CADETS	927 Grant St. Black Rock 716-875-3211	1 PM	\$10 \$2W Pwp	Authentic Live Music Authentic Food Authentic Folk Dancers
POLISH FALCONS	445 Columbia Ave. Depew 716-684-2373	1 PM	\$10 \$2W Pwp	Authentic Live Music Authentic Food
POLISH VILLA 2 VIP TENT	Pussywillow Park Historic Polonia	2 PM	\$10 \$2W Pwp	Live Polka Music Traditional Polish Food Authentic Spirits
PUSSYWILLOW PARK PARTY TENT	Memorial Dr. Historic Polonia	2-11 PM	\$10 \$2W Pwp	Main Stage "Brave Combo" @ 7:30 Box On @ 3pm Ludowa Nuta @ 5pm Al Piatkowski Kielbasa Kings @ VIP Tent Redeem Wegman's Vouchers Here @ Noon Best Place To Watch The Parade Beer Garden & Much More!
POTTS DELI & BANQUET HALL	41 S Rossler St. Cheektowaga 716-826-6575	2PM	\$10 \$2W Pwp	Traditional Polka Music Polish Buffet
FOOD TRUCK ALLEY	Pussywillow Park Historic Polonia	2 PM	Prices Vary	Polish Street Eats Food Truck Fare
BACIAS ELKS CLUB	33 Legion St Outer Polonia 716-685-1478	2 PM	\$15 Day Time \$7 Evening	Authentic Live Music Authentic Polish Food Traditional Dance Polish DJ
RAY'S CATERING	2070 Clinton St. Buffalo 716-824-3227	3 PM	\$10 \$2W Pwp	Authentic Live Music Authentic Food Lite Menu Starting At 3 Polish Buffet Starting At 3
ST STAN'S R.C. CHURCH	Fillmore Ave. Historic Polonia 716-854-5510	3 PM	\$10 \$2W Pwp	Authentic Live Polka Music Traditional Polish Food
ST. CASIMIR'S SOCIAL CENT.	1833 Clinton St. Kaisertown 716-984-0051	3 - 10PM	\$10 \$2W Pwp	Authentic Live Music Polish Kitchen
PVT LEONARD POST VFW	2450 Walden Ave. Cheektowaga 716-684-4371	4:30PM	\$10 \$2W Pwp	Family Friendly Live Polka Music 2 Bands Traditional Polish Food
 12TH ANNUAL DYNGUS DAY PARADE	Historic Polonia	5 P.M.	Free	Authentic Fun! Over 150 Floats & Participants All Dressed Up With Polish Pride. Not To Be Missed!

SEE OUR CALENDAR ON PG 10 & 11 FOR COMPLETE DELTAILS!

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US

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[vouchers available at all wegman's locations]
for only
\$10.

redeem vouchers starting at noon at the pussywillow park party tent
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plus all day - all night, free, unlimited use of the official dyngus day buffalo shuttle system
any other wristbands or voucher purchased at non-participating locations
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PUSSYWILLOW PASS
HOW TO

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any wegman's [in the nation] receive a voucher
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clinton bar & grill | corpus christi
leonard post vfw | polish cadets | polish falcons club | polish vill 2 | pott's deli
pocketeer billiards | pussy willow park party tent | ray's catering
st. casimir's [hector's hardware] | st. gabriel's church | st. stan's b.m. church

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DYNGUS DAY DISCOURSE

WHAT IS DYNGUS DAY?

What is Dyngus Day?

How do you explain to a novice that there is a day every year when people actually chase one another while brandishing pussy willow branches, trying to swat each other to show their affection, then reciprocating that pursuit by dousing the other with water? Without being laughed at uncontrollably by a national news correspondent that is.

Well, it's really quite simple. Picture Fat Tuesday on the other end of Lent. It's really just a party signifying the end of Lent as opposed to the start. The ancient roots of the post Lenten bacchanal known as Dyngus Day had their start in pagan rituals, signifying the beginning of the growing season, but over the centuries have evolved into a whole different experience.

Historically a Polish-American tradition, Smigus-Dingus or as we call it, Dyngus Day, celebrates the end of the often restrictive observance of Lent and the joy of Easter. Over the decades, Dyngus Day has become a wonderful holiday to celebrate Polish-American culture, heritage and traditions. There are many stories that attempt to explain the origins of the day. Many Polish religious customs date back to pre-Christian, Slavic practices. The custom of pouring water is an ancient spring rite of cleansing, purification, and fertility. The same is true of the complimentary practice of switching with pussy willow branches. Since 966 A.D., Dyngus Day has been associated with the baptism of Prince Mieszko I. Tradition states that Prince Mieszko I along with his court were baptized on Easter Monday when he adopted Christianity as the national religion of Poland. Thus, Dyngus Day and its rites of sprinkling with water have become a folk celebration in thanksgiving for the fact that the first king of Poland was baptized into Christianity, bringing Catholicism to Poland. In more modern times, the tradition continued when farm boys in Poland wanted to attract notice from the girls of their choice. It was customary to throw water and hit the girls on their legs with twigs or pussy willow branches, cologne was used instead of water by the more gallant lads. The ladies would reciprocate

by throwing dishes and crockery and Tuesday was their day of revenge, imitating the same tactics. These days they would probably be arrested for such frivolity.

Where is Dyngus Day Celebrated?

Buffalo, NY is officially the Dyngus Day capital of the World, hosting the largest concentration of festival locations, polka bands and Polish traditions in the nation. Although the custom of such a quirky post Lenten celebration is based in Polish tradition, this city, situated on the south eastern shores of Lake Erie, has truly embraced this ancient custom and made it its own. Some smaller events have been exported from Buffalo into other communities where Polish-Americans have settled. However, there is no dispute that if you truly want to Dyngus there is no other place than Buffalo to do so. Ironically, it's not widely observed in Poland. But we're working on it.

Pussy Willows or Water?

This is a yearly debate among Dyngus Day revelers. The tradition holds that on Easter Monday boys would sprinkle the girls with water and tap them with pussy willows. On Easter Tuesday, the women would return the favor. At modern Dyngus Day parties, it is common practice that both men and women trade water splashing and pussy willow spanking equally.

Why Pussy Willows?

Pussy willows play a major part in Buffalo's Dyngus Day celebrations as men and women flirt with playful "taps." Branches of the plant are used as the pussy willow is one of the first "budding" plants of spring. But how did the pussy willow get its name? This, like the use of water, is directly related to the emerging "life" associated with a new growing season. According to Polish legend, many springs ago, baby kittens fell into a raging river while chasing butterflies. The mother cat sadly wept at the river's edge, pleading for help for her drowning kittens. The willows heard her mournful cries and swept their long graceful branches into the water. The kittens grabbed the branches, held on tightly and were safely brought to shore. Every spring, since then, the willows sprouted fur-like buds where the tiny kittens once clung.

OLD SCHOOL COOL

dyngus day doors open
1pm

LIVE MUSIC
ludowa nuta
1pm-3pm
tom mroczka & the music box
4-11pm

POLISH DANCE
rodzina

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PRE-PARADE & POST-PARADE PARTIES

1-5PM
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Games • Bounce House • Bowling

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LIVE MUSIC 7-11
POLISH DANCE 8
With Rodzina Dancers

CCC ATHLETIC & SOCIAL CLUB
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corpuschristibuffalo.org • Pussywillow Pass Available To Purchase All Day



LABOR LEADS TO BIRTH GOOD OVERCOMES EVIL

LESS than fifty years after it originated as a small trading post, Buffalo NY became one of America's most powerful cities because of its role as a trans shipment center. The transfer of goods from one method of transport to another made the Queen City of the Lakes a hub for all kinds of goods. Lumber, grain, livestock, steel and ore all made their way through Buffalo on their way to various points throughout the world, making the region an economic and manufacturing powerhouse. But the biggest commodity that made its way to the Eastern shores of Lake Erie was the cheap human laborer that was needed to process all those raw materials into finished goods.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, huge waves of immigrants from Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland and beyond made their way to the United States in their quest for economic, political and religious freedom. Many settled here in WNY filling the need for workers in the factories and transportation industries that fueled them.

By the time WW2 ended most of the European immigrant communities had by then assimilated into American society including the Poles that began their colony here in 1873. However there was a huge wave of immigration from Poland and surrounding areas following the war, which basically started the cycle again in Polonia. This is why the Polish community still has such a strong identity in Western NY.

Why such a massive influx from there and not France or Spain lets say? Well, basically because of the devastation inflicted on Poland by both Hitler and Stalin. The Poles had nothing to go back to. Many Poles were murdered as a result of Nazi and Soviet atrocities. Of the ones that survived, many were hauled off against their will and sent to concentration camps or forced into labor camps where they were basically slaves for the Nazi regime. During that time entire families were herded together to work in the factories that were needed to supply armaments for the Nazis or sent to farms to tend crops for the invasive troops. It was a dark terrible time in humanities history.

Sophie Hodorowicz Knab recalls her family's ordeal in her new book *Wearing the Letter P: Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany 1939-1945*: "My mother and father spent over a decade caught up in the crisis that was WW2. First they were forced la-

borers in Nazi Germany for years, then as displaced individuals waiting to find a home. While in the camps, they had three children, myself included. The communists had taken over Poland and the news drifting back to the camps wasn't good."

While the war ravaged on through Europe, the devastation on the Eastern front was beyond comprehension. The conflation of both Hitler's and Stalin's quest for world domination resulted in the destruction of entire towns and cities in Poland leaving surviving families no choice but to start their lives over after the armistice was signed. After the war, millions of Poles were left with nothing to return to.

Eleven to twenty million people were displaced as a result of WW2. After the war many of these refugees spent years inside "displaced person" camps waiting for a chance to be sponsored to a new country. Camps were setup in Germany, Austria, Italy, and other European countries by the end of 1945. One camp was even set up in Guanajuato, Mexico. It was hard but the perseverance and unstoppable nature of these refugees was unflappable.

"My father took work in France, outside Paris in a textile mill." Sophie writes. "They applied for acceptance to the US under the Displaced Person's Act. My youngest brother was born there. It took three years for the paperwork and acceptance to be completed." The need for cheap immigrant labor offered new hope and opportunity for these displaced people. Countries like Australia, Canada, Brazil as well as the United States started offering new beginnings for these victims of war. Once they arrived here their American dreams slowly began to take form but the path to the "land of milk and honey" certainly was not easy by any means.

The journey to their new lives in Buffalo was a long and arduous passage for these immigrants. Some had to walk from Siberia through Persia into Europe before eventually making their way to New York City and ultimately Western New York. Many made the long harsh crossing across the ocean by boat. Emily Lemieszek Klinski remembers what it was like when her mother and father came across with their 7 surviving children (One of their daughters died of tuberculosis while they were imprisoned by the Nazis), "I was only six years old but I remember weeks of moving from one camp to the other then

POTTS PICK A POLKA... BAND!

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2 EVENTS, TWICE
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non-stop polka from 5 — 11PM

MONDAY JOHN STEVENS
DOUBLE SHOT • 3 — 8PM
CONCERTINA ALL STARS • 8PM — 1AM



POTTS BANQUET HALL // 41 SOUTH ROSSLER ST // VALUPLAZA // 826.6575

finally getting on the ship. It took us nearly two weeks to cross the Atlantic ocean and make the trip to America. We slept on bunks like a military barracks and it was not very pleasant.”

Sophie Hodorowicz Knab's family came across a different way, by air. Quicker, but not necessarily any more pleasant - at least not for her Mom. “We flew TWA (now defunct) from Paris to New York, and young as I was, I do remember my mother throwing up in the paper bag from the rough plane ride (it was propellers back then). But somewhere I still have the postcard of the plane that my mother bought in Paris. She kept it as part of our family history.”

Although these families were now safe from the ravages of war and oppression their odysseys were just beginning. They all came here sponsored by an American citizen, either an employer or a relative who would take responsibility that these new immigrants would not become charges to the country. Many of them were basically indentured servants brought here by factories or by farmers in order to pick crops as were the Lemieszek family. “We were sponsored by the DeCarlo Family that had a farm in North Collins,” recalled Emily. I remember getting on the train at Grand Central Station. I had never seen anything like that before, with all the marble and huge windows, it was magnificent. When we arrived in Buffalo the DeCarlos sent an old bus to take us to the farm where my parents and the older children picked beans and berries until we had paid back our debt and my father got a job on the assembly line at the Ford plant. That’s when we moved to the East side, bought a small home, and became parishioners at Saint Stanislaus Church.”

Strangers in a strange land, these families not only had to learn a new language and culture, but they had to continue with discrimination and hardship. But at least the threat of execution wasn’t looming as it was under Stalin and the Nazis. At least now they were free.

“Two things remain clear to me,” Sophie remembers. “There were people who were very, very kind - both Polish and non-Polish - who helped us in those early days and people who really looked down on us. DP (Displaced Persons) was used in a very derogatory way. At first we lived with my mother's uncle but it was a tight fit, what with another six people. As soon as my dad got a job in a radiator factory, friends helped my parents find a place of their own. We lived in a flat above an abandoned bakery where the pipes froze in winter and bees nested between the walls in the summer. We were signed up for school. My parents struggled. We managed.”

And manage they did, as did the thousands of other war refugees that came here in those years following WW2. They wound up in the factories and steel mills, they worked on the rail-

roads and waterways, and they injected a strong work ethic into their children and grandchildren that is still prevalent throughout our city and community. They were strong loyal workers and proud Poles that infused a community with old world customs and traditions that may have been waning prior to their arrival. As the founding Polonia generations had begun to homogenize into mainstream America by then, this influx of foreigners brought not only their ethical values but they also brought their customs and culture.

Their descendants grew up to be business leaders, professionals and parents themselves. As hard as it may be to imagine, their struggle to survive those war atrocities and their subsequent upheaval had a purpose. Maybe they were meant to teach others about survival, perseverance and acceptance. It prompted Hodorowicz Knab to share the tale with others, so that they too could know of the value associated with struggle and endurance.

“Here's the thing. My mother always spoke about her experiences during the war. When we kids grumbled about some food we didn't like, she'd tell us about how hungry she was during her time as a forced laborer, how she couldn't sleep because hunger kept her awake. The war scarred her in ways we couldn't begin to understand but when I tried to find something that would help me understand her experience, it just wasn't there. There was a lot to read about concentration camps but nothing, absolutely nothing about the forced labor camps. I was in high school when I started looking for anything that would help me understand my mother and what happened. I took notes on stuff she would tell me. There was no rhyme or reason to my notes. When she told me something I wrote it down. I was still waiting for a book about forced labor camps during WW2 forty years later. That's when I decided that if I wanted to know anything I'd have to do the research and write the book myself. I couldn't wait around anymore. It took me fourteen years to research and write the book. Finally, I understood what she had gone through.”

While some people may become hardened and embittered because of such experiences, Emily Lemieszek Klinski reflects on all that they went through and is grateful. “ I am so very thankful that my Mother insisted that we come to America to begin a new life. It's hard to imagine that with seven children, two small trunks of possessions and only \$12 to their name we would wind up safe in a strange land, be able to raise our families and have our children be successful. Even though at times things are hard and unbearable, life truly is good”.

Are you interested in learning more? Visit www.sophieknab.com.



Hodorowicz family:
Dunkirk NY, 1954



Lemieszek family:
Buckhorn Germany DP camp, 1946



Emily Klinski with sisters Regina & Lola,
Osnabruck Germany, 1948



Sophie's brother, Andy Hodorowicz (with chalkboard)
Vesinnes, France 1952

KROWN KING

polish princess crowns



see us at the broadway market
&
pussy willow park party tent on
dyngus day!

having a big polish party
or celebration ?
wholesale opportunities
order online

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LIONHEART

AUCTION

JUNE 9TH
2018

ITEMS INCLUDED:
CONDO STAYS IN
ELLICOTTVILLE & OR FLORIDA
DUKE BASKETBALL PACKAGE
DINNER FOR 6 AT CRAVING CHEF TABLE
DINNER W/ FR. JOE AT THE RECTORY
BIG GREEN EGG GRILL · BUBBLE HOCKEY
& MORE!

TO DONATE
PURCHASE TICKETS
OR FOR INFO
716-836-1191

to benefit

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL
399 WOODWARD AVE.
BUFFALO



SUNDAY, APRIL 1ST OUTER POLONIA

Pvt Leonard Post VFW 6251

Official Kick Off Event Of
The Dyngus Day Buffalo Festival
Blessing Instruments 7:30pm
Live Authentic Music
Buffalo Touch &
Almost Dyngus Day Players
alternating 7pm -12am
Authentic Food
Admission \$10 non-refundable
Doors Open 6pm
2450 Walden Ave. Cheektowaga
716-684-4371

Potts Banquet Hall

Non-Stop Polka
Live Authentic Music
Lenny Gomulka & The Chicago Push
Special Guest Band The Knewz 5-11pm
Authentic Food 6-10pm
Admission: Free
Doors Open 4pm
41 South Rossler St.
Cheektowaga
716-826-6575

MONDAY, APRIL 2ND DYNGUS DAY HISTORIC POLONIA

R & L Lounge

21 and over
Dyngus Day Party
Authentic Polka
Sound System Noon
Authentic Food: Lotties Famous Kitchen
Admission: Free
Doors Open 9am
23 Mills St.
Historic Polonia
716-896-5982
Official Shuttle Stop

Corpus Christi Church Pre-Parade Party

Family Friendly
Official Dyngus Day Catholic Mass
Holy Mass 11:30am
Guided Church Tours 12:30 -1:30pm
Free Pre-Parade Party 1-5pm
Corpus Christi Athletic Club
Kids Activities & Games
Authentic DJ with
DJ Red White 4pm
Authentic Food
Polish Bar serving Polish Beers & Wine
Corpus Christi Athletic Club
169 Sears St.
Historic Polonia
716-896-1050

Corpus Christi Church Post Parade Party

Family Friendly
Dyngus Day Party
Authentic Music with:
Box On 7pm
Authentic Polish Food
Polish Bar serving Polish Beers & Wine
Bowling All Day Long
Admission \$10 or \$2 with Pussy Willow Pass
Party Begins 6-11pm
169 Sears St.
Historic Polonia
716-896-1050
Official Shuttle Stop

The Happy Swallow

Family Friendly
Dyngus Day Party
Authentic Polish Buffet Noon
Authentic Polish Bar
Door Open 2pm
1349 Sycamore St.
Historic Polonia
716-894-4854
Official Shuttle Stop

Arty's Bar & Grill

21 and over
Dyngus Day Party
Authentic Polka
Sound System Noon
Authentic Food
Admission: Free
Doors Open Noon
508 Peckham St.
Historic Polonia
716-856-6027

The Broadway Market

Family Friendly
Dyngus Day Celebration
Authentic Live Music with
Melody Line Noon-4pm
Kielbasa Eating Contest Noon
Beer Tent
Polish Beer
Admission: Free
Great Place To Watch The Parade
Free Parking
999 Broadway
Historic Polonia
716-893-0705

Pussy Willow Park Party Tent

21 and over
Dyngus Day Extravaganza
5 Bands 2 Tents 1 Huge Party
Pure Polka Power



Ludowa Nuta • Polish Cadets • 1pm



Al Pitkowski • Polish Villa 2 • 6pm

Authentic Live Music Under The Big Tent!

Main Tent
Box On 3 - 6pm
The ORIGINAL Polka Fusion Band
BRAVE COMBO 7:30pm
Vip Tent
Al Pitkowski and Kielbasa Kings
alternating starting 2pm
Main Tent & VIP
Ludowa Nuta 5-10pm
Authentic Polish Beer/Zywiec
Authentic Polish Food wih Polish Villa II
Food Truck Alley
Official Dyngus Day Gear Sold Here!
BEST PLACE TO WATCH THE PARADE!
Admission: \$10 or \$2 with Pussywillow
Redeem Wegman's Vouchers Here
Beginning Noon
Gates Open 2pm
Memorial Dr. at Peckham St.
Historic Polonia
716-833-5211
Official Shuttle Stop

St. Stanislaus B & M R.C. Church

Family Friendly
Dyngus Day Party
Authentic Live Music
Stephanie and Her Honky Band
Mon Valley Push
alternating 4pm
Authentic Polish Food
Admission: \$10 or \$2 with Pussy Willow Pass
Doors Open 3pm
389 Peckham St.
Historic Polonia
716-854-5510 or 893-3627
Official Shuttle Stop

12th Annual Dyngus Day Parade

Family Friendly
Polonia On Parade
Over 150 Participants/Floats
Authentic Polish Pride
Admission: Free
Parade Blessing & Kick-Off 5pm

OUTER POLONIA

The Anchor Inn

21 and over
Dyngus Day Party
Free Polish Breakfast with Purchase 8am
Live Authentic Music
Phocus Polka Show 1-4pm
Authentic Polish Sound System
Authentic Polish Food All Day & Night
Authentic Polish Beer & Spirits Specials
Admission Free: 8am-1pm
Admission: \$10 or \$2 with Pussy Willow Pass
Doors Open 8am
2437 William St.
Cheektowaga
Outer Polonia
716-896-9762
Official Shuttle Stop

Polish Villa II

21 and over
Sto Lat Of Fun Dyngus Day Party
Bloody Mary Brunch & Buffet 9:30am
Live Authentic Music
New Direction 9:30am-2pm
Buffalo Touch 2-6pm

Piatkowski Brothers 6-10pm
Authentic Food: 10am- Late Night
Official Dyngus Day After Party 11pm -2am
Polish BBQ Grille
Polish Drink Specials
Admission: \$10 or \$2 with Pussy Willow Pass
Doors Open 9:30am
1085 Harlem Rd.
Cheektowaga
Outer Polonia
716-822-4908
Official Shuttle Stop

Nowak's Tavern

21 and over
Dyngus Day Bash
Authentic Live Music
Donny Krew 2-6pm
Authentic Polish Kitchen 11am-7pm
Admission: \$10 or \$2 with Pussy Willow Pass
Doors Open 11am
1458 Lovejoy St.
Sloan
Outer Polonia
716-235-8256
Official Shuttle Stop

St. Gabriel's Holy Name Society

Family Friendly
Dyngus Day Mass & Brunch
Polka Mass
Rare Vintage 11:30am
Authentic Polish Lunch Noon
Family Entertainment
Polish Menu
Dyngus Day Party
21 and over
Authentic Live Music
Tony's Polka Band and
Polka Method 3-9pm
alternating
Authentic Polish Food/Zywiec Beer
Admission: \$10 or \$2 with Pussy Willow Pass
Doors Open Noon
5271 Clinton St
Elma
Outer Polonia
716-668-4017
Official Shuttle Stop

R Bar & Grill

21 and over
Dyngus Day Party
Authentic Live Music
Kenny Krew Noon
Open Mic
Authentic Polish Food Specials
Admission: Free
Doors Open Noon
2139 Broadway
Sloan
Outer Polonia
716-894-1336

Porky's Amber Lounge

21 and over
Dyngus Day Party
Authentic Polka Juke Box
Authentic Polish Food Specials
Admission: Free
Doors Open Noon
2028 Clinton St.
Kaiser Town
Outer Polonia
716-822-3816
Official Shuttle Stop

CALENDAR

piwa | polkas | pierogi | parties



12th Annual Dyngus Day Parade • 5pm



Rare Vintage • St Gabriels Polka Mass • 11:30am



Box On • Corpus Christi Athletic Club • 7pm



Carl Finch & Brave Combo • Main Tent • 7:30pm

Clinton Bar & Grill

21 and over
Dyngus Day Party
Authentic Live Music
Dyngus Day Jam Band Noon
Kielbasa Kings 7pm
Authentic Polish Grill
Admission: \$10 or \$2 with Pussy Willow Pass
Doors Open Noon
Free Parking
2460 Clinton St.
Cheektowaga
Outer Polonia
Official Shuttle Stop

Polish Falcons Depew

Family Friendly
Dyngus Day Celebration
Live Authentic Music
Special Delivery 2pm
Phocus 6pm
Authentic Polish Kitchen 2pm
Admission: \$10 or \$2 with Pussy Willow Pass
Doors Open 1pm
445 Columbia Ave.
716-684-2373
Official Shuttle Stop

Polish Cadets

Family Friendly
Dyngus Day Party
Authentic Live Music
Ludowa Nuta 1-3pm
Tom Mrocza & Music Box 4pm
Authentic Polish Dancers
Rodzina @ Polish Cadets
Authentic Polish Food Specials 1pm
Admission: \$10 or \$2 with Pussy Willow Pass
Doors Open 1pm
927 Grant St.
Black Rock
Outer Polonia
716-875-3211
Official Shuttle Stop

Pott's Banquet Hall

21 and over
Dyngus Day Party
Live Authentic Music
John Stevens Double Shot 3-8pm
Concertina All Stars 8pm-1am
Authentic Polish Buffet 5-8pm
Authentic Polish Bar & Drink Specials
Admission: \$10 or \$2 with Pussy Willow Pass
Doors Open 2pm
41 S. Rossler Street
Cheektowaga
Outer Polonia
716-826-6575
Official Shuttle Stop

Babcia's Pierogi At The Elks Club

Family Friendly
3rd Annual Dyngus Day Party
Authentic Polish Music
New Direction 3-6pm
Authentic Polish Dancers
Polish Heritage
Dancers of WNY 7pm
Authentic Polish Dinner 3-7pm
Admission: \$15, 2-7pm, \$10 kids under 12
21 and over after 7pm
Dyngus Day Party
Polish DJ

DJ John Piniewski 6-10pm
Admission: \$7 / Pussy Willow Pass Holders
\$2 after 7pm
Doors Open 2pm
33 Legion Pkwy
Lancaster
Outer Polonia
716-685-1478

St. Casimir's Social Center

Family Friendly
Smigus Dyngus
Authentic Live Music
Buffalo Good Times
with Special Appearance from
Accordion Bill 6-10pm
Authentic Polish Kitchen 3-10pm
Admission: \$10 or \$2 with Pussy Willow Pass
Doors Open 3pm
1833 Clinton St.
Kaisertown
Outer Polonia
716-984-0051
Official Shuttle Stop

Ray's Catering

21 and over
Dyngus Day Party
Live Authentic Music
Mid Life Crisis 6pm
Lite Polish Menu 3pm
Polish Buffet 4-10pm
Admission: \$10 or \$2 with Pussy Willow Pass or
Admission: \$5 without Pussy Willow Pass
Doors Open 3pm
2070 Clinton St.
Buffalo
Outer Polonia
716-824-3227
Official Shuttle Stop

Pvt. Leonard Post VFW

Family Friendly
Dyngus Day Party
Live Authentic Music
The Knewz
Special Delivery
alternating 4:30pm-12am
Authentic Polish Kitchen
Admission: \$10 or \$2 with Pussy Willow Pass
(non-refundable)
Doors Open 4:30pm
2450 Walden Ave.
Cheektowaga
Outer Polonia
716-684-4371
Official Shuttle Stop

MONDAY, APRIL 2ND & SATURDAY, APRIL 7TH

DYNGUS DAY DIARY SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Live Television Broadcast WKBW Channel 7
With Your Hosts
Eddy Dobosiewicz & Autumn Lewandowski
Monday, April 2nd 7pm
Streaming at www.wkbw.com
Encore Presentation Saturday, April 7 Noon

Don't Mess With Texas

In 1979 this lil 'ol polka band from Texas started something very few bands could even dream of, creating a new music genre. Not to mention a Simpsons guest shot. Their spirited approach & melding of musical styles turns regular polka into Nuclear Polka. If you missed them last year don't make the same mistake twice. They have re-assembled the original two time Grammy winning lineup that will raise the roof off the mainstage tent. We'll see y'all at Pussy Willow Park.

Grab Your Balls We're Going Bowling

Corpus Christi a beautiful church and home to one of the coolest prohibition era social clubs still in existence. Once inside the vintage barroom get ready for fun. You got kids? Then let 'em loose in the Krakow castle bounce house, which is located in the gymnasium. How about some kegging? You can polish up your balls and let 'em roll down the perfectly preserved bowling alleys. Hungry? Don't forget to try their famous pierogi pizza. That alone is well worth the trip. Of course, make sure to walk up to the main hall to do a little polka dancing with the First Family of Polka, Box On! Rick and Alicia Vinecki packed up the bus to bring their polka playing family to the Nickel City all the way from Grand Rapids. Kind of like a Polka version of the Partridge Family without Reuben Kincaid.

Swallow The Leader

Back when Dyngus was just developing, neighborhood taverns were as common as a man bunned barista at a coffee shop today. Alas, most family owned gin mills have gone the way of cassette tapes and VCRs. But lucky for us there are still a few cool joints left in our part of town and the coolest one of all is the Happy Swallow on Sycamore Street. Owned and operated by the Goliowski family for the last 31 years but it's been in business since 1942. Step inside this shrine to corner bars cool and you will find yourself slipping back to a time when everybody liked Ike and the biggest scandal in the country involved Eddie Fisher and Liz Taylor. The only controversy here will be whether to load up on smoked or fresh kielbasa at their famous polish buffet. Lunch at this place is a must do. Plus...it's called the Happy Swallow. You gotta go here for the name alone.

Sounds Right

Ludowa Nuta means Folk Note in Polish. In English it means fun! If you've never experienced this gathering of folk musicians you're in for a treat. This year Ludowa Nuta joins our festival for the first time, though they are

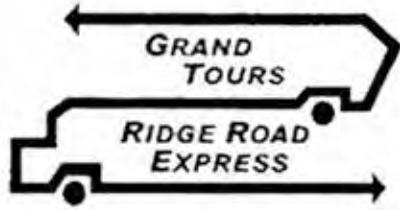
from nearby Hamilton. Their only goal is to promote authentic Polish folk music and do they ever. From handmade costumes to rare instruments all imported from the motherland, everything they do will make you think you went directly to Krakow (although they represent every region of the old country). Catch them at the Polish Cadets Hall from 1-3pm or Pussy Willow Park before and after the parade. No passport necessary.

A Clinton Affair

We are always thrilled when we have a new venue to promote, and this year is no exception. Just across the Buffalo city line right around the corner from the polka pioneers at Polish Villa 2, stands a modest looking building with a small deck out front next to a strip mall with a big parking lot. Don't let that fool you. Once inside you'll feel like you stepped through a time machine when you get a load of the old school style dance hall dining room. Although it's their first year as an official Dyngus Day Buffalo venue, they haven't missed a beat. This attentive staff is as excited about this years event as they are about serving up piles of kielbasa and polish style grilled meats along with the delicious Polish beers and spirits behind their vintage wooden bar. Now add the Dyngus Day Jam Band that kicks off their party at noon plus the renowned Kielbasa Kings polka band from Dearborn and you transform this post parade polka party into a 1960s style polka paradise. Welcome aboard Clinton Bar and Grill.



Our Buses Are A Trip, Take One.



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The Official Shuttle For Dyngus Day Buffalo

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LOCKPORT, NEW YORK
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Today

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OR
1-800-847-4887



LADIES & GENTLEMEN, STEP RIGHT UP
THE SHOW IS ABOUT TO BEGIN

TRUTH is, the big tent at Pussy Willow Park will be more fun than a circus. Official gear, official beer, a swanky Krupnik lounge, the most energetic polka band in the world, food truck alley, lights, cameras, action. all on the parade route with shuttle buses next door.

Even before the parade starts, there's plenty of action at the tent. The one and only Al Piatkowski kicks off the day with his legendary sound. You'll see why he was inducted into the International Polka Association nearly twenty years ago. But there's so much more. As the day goes on you will delight in numerous sets from Dearborn Michigan favorites, the "Kielbasa Kings" and "Box On" featuring the First Family of Polka – the Vineckis. Another group making their Dyngus debut are the renowned Polish Canadian folk choir, Ludowa Nuta from Hamilton, Ontario.

And of course the Dyngus Day parade, which rolls right by the tent at 5pm. That's just the beginning!

There's plenty of cool inside the ultra hip PV 2 "Polka Parlor." If you are a fan of fine Krupnik, Polish vodka, Polish boys, Polish girls and Dyngus Day action, here's where you need to be. This year even your tastebuds get in on the action with food and drinks by Polish Villa 2, which undoubtedly is the most authentic Polish dining experience this side of Warsaw.

This convergence of energy is THE hub of Dyngus delirium. That's why Channel 7 is once again broadcasting the Emmy nominated television show, "Dyngus Day Diary." From the party tent, Autumn Lewandowski and Eddy Dobosiewicz will present all the action live from the Red and White carpet at Pussy Willow Park (at Memorial Dr & Peckham St.) beginning at 7pm.

After the broadcast on WKBW, we take it up a notch or seven, as the legendary "Brave Combo" once again take the mainstage. After their first appearance last year at the Dyngus Day festival in Buffalo, the demand for an encore performance has been unending. The anticipation about this show has been growing for months, as fans from all over the nation will again make their way to Buffalo to catch this pioneering group and their pussy willow inspired performance. "Brave Combo" founder Carl Finch has reassembled the original Grammy winning lineup to make the trek to the Queen City to create a gig that he promises will be unforgettable. This is not your Babcias polka, this will be a nuclear polka party!!! And it will be In Tents!!! Literally.

Whether you come to watch the parade, eat, strike a pose or polka your eyes out, this is the only way to welcome spring and do some pussy willow spanking.



CELEBRATE DYNGUS DAY & NIGHT

Sto Lat Of Fun

at wny's

•Most Authentic Polish Restaurant•

The Tastes & Sounds Of Poland

OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY

OFFICIAL SHUTTLE STOP

9:30AM TO MIDNIGHT ENJOY LIVE MUSIC WITH TOP POLKA BANDS

•NEW DIRECTION • THE BUFFALO TOUCH • PIATKOWSKI BROTHERS•

•KICK OFF DYNGUS DAY AT PV2•
9:30 AM • BRUNCH & BUFFET
FEATURING PV2'S FAMOUS BLOODY MARY BOWL

•END THE NIGHT RIGHT AT PV2•
MIDNIGHT • EATS & AFTER PARTY
BIGOS • BBQ • BAR

•VISIT US IN HISTORIC POLONIA
2 PM • PUSSY WILLOW PARK VIP TENT
LIVE MUSIC • FOOD • SPIRITS

DOORS OPEN 9:30AM

POLISH VILLA 2

1085 HARLEM RD • 822-4908 • CHEEKTOWAGA

Chicken OR EGG



The question has been presented so many times over the years, it now has its own entry on Wikipedia.

Regardless of what side you take in the debate over whether the chicken or egg came first, there is absolutely no argument that both the fowl and its reproductive vessel are key components in the dietary habits of Poles all over the world. Let's for the moment, assume that the egg is first in this discussion. After all, we need to start someplace.

At this time of the year, no one that has ever carried an Easter basket or participated in an Easter egg hunt would dispute the symbolic prominence of the organic ovals that we decorate so brightly and boldly before devouring them with a slathering of horse radish after we've had them blessed in church. However the consumption of these elliptical protein packages is certainly not relegated to the celebration of the Resurrection. In fact, eggs (particularly

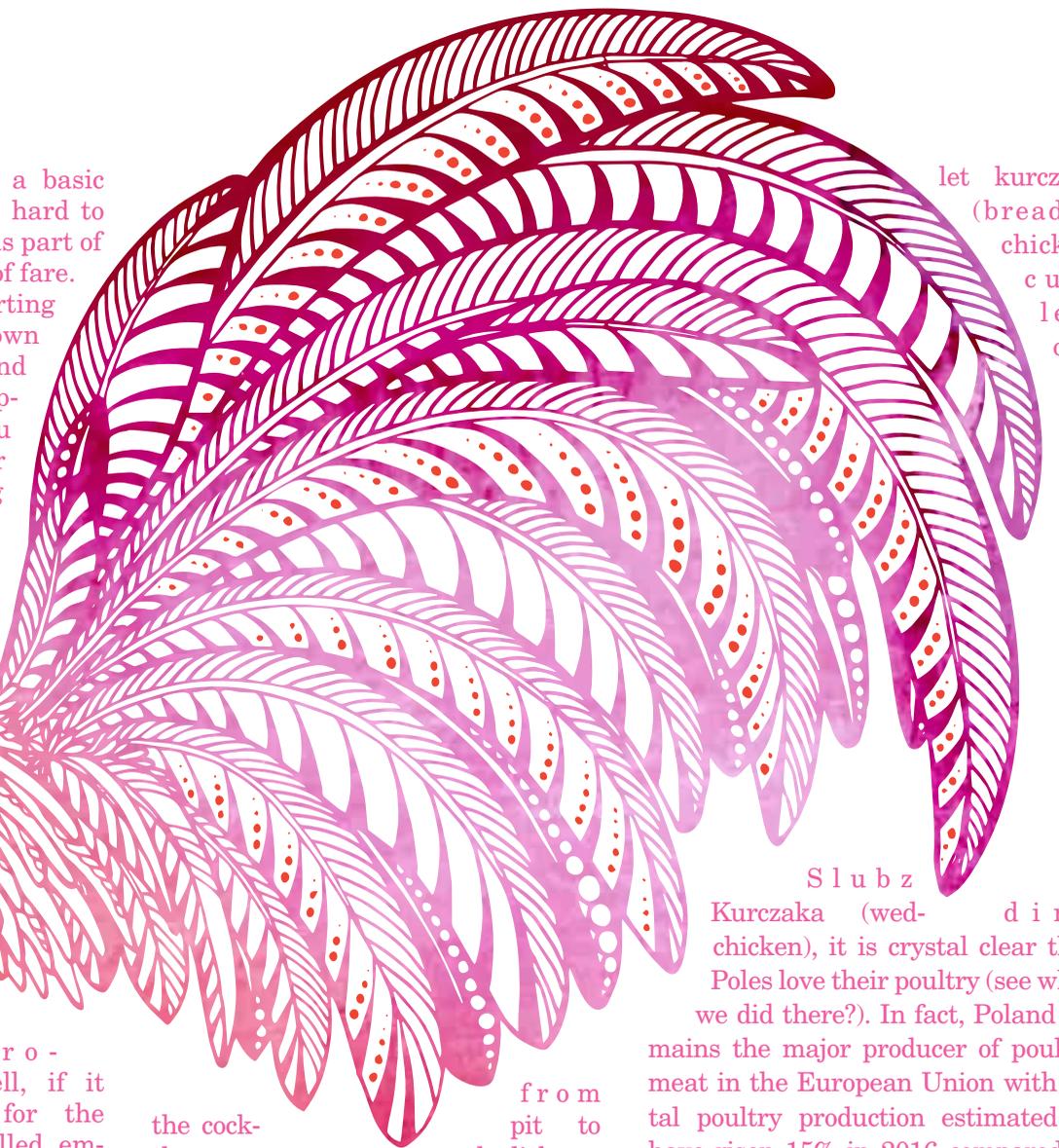
the chicken egg, are such a basic staple of global cuisine, it's hard to imagine not utilizing them as part of any given nationalities bill of fare. Who could imagine not starting your morning by sitting down at the counter of a diner and being asked by a gum snapping waitress how do you want your eggs, honey? Or utilizing the emulsifying nature of the bird pods to bind together the ingredients for a placek or the dough of your Babcias

pierogi? Hell, if it wasn't for the hard shelled embryos, we would never even have the egg McMuffin!!!

But if it weren't for the egg we would never have chicken nuggets either. Wait, what? Ok never mind let's

not start that conversation again. Let's assume that the egg and the egg layer are equally as important.

Although the origin of the bird we now know as the chicken was first domesticated in various places throughout Asia, Africa and Europe for the purpose of cockfighting, the prolific reproductive habits of the jungle fowl and pheasants of the Indian subcontinent seems to have pushed the birds



let kurczeta (breaded chicken cutlet) or

Slubz

Kurczaka (wedding chicken), it is crystal clear that Poles love their poultry (see what we did there?). In fact, Poland remains the major producer of poultry

meat in the European Union with total poultry production estimated to have risen 15% in 2016 compared to 2015. It is forecast that in 2018 poultry consumption will increase by an additional 2% because of higher production and a decrease in retail prices.

So whether you cross the road to find a decorated Easter egg or a chicken sandwich, I think we can all agree both the pullet and its potential progeny are both integral to the Polish psyche as well as the palette. It doesn't really matter which came first, does it? They are both equally as popular and plentiful. Not only on the table but in decorative art, costumes, folk lore and fertility rituals, in Poland, the egg, as well as the hen and cock are always at hand. Any way you look at it, either a symbol of strength or a symbol of new life, they both taste the same. Delicious. Smacznego!

the cock- from the case- pit to role dish.

The cocks and their hens made their way to Europe around 3,000 BC and have been a mainstay of Polish dinner tables ever since. In fact, many households would not even think of starting a Sunday dinner without serving a bowl of rich nutritious Rosól, or good old fashioned chicken soup, first. It is one of the most popular Polish soups and is not only served at family dinners, but also as a traditional soup for weddings. It's also said to be a great remedy if one catches a cold. The name "rosól" derives from a dish made of salted meat and the Polish word for salt "sól" (an old conservation method) cooked in water to make it more edible. Later, fresh meat was used instead of salted. Much later, that dish of cooked meat became the soup that we know today. Whether it's kot-

EGGSTRA!! EGGSTRA!!

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Eastern European cultures, particularly Slavic ones, have a strong tradition of decorating eggs at Easter time. Chicken, duck and goose eggs are decorated variously with batik dyeing, applique, scratch-work, wax encaustic and carving. Even the renowned Russian court artist & jeweler, Peter Carl Fabergé, made exquisitely decorated precious metal & gemstone eggs for the Romanovs. These Fabergé eggs resembled standard decorated eggs, but they were made from gold and precious stones.

The practice of decorating eggshells as part of spring rituals is ancient, with decorated and engraved ostrich eggs found in Africa that date back over 60,000 years, way before Poles were putting eggs in their Świąconką baskets.

The Christian custom of Easter eggs, started among the early Christians of Mesopotamia, who stained eggs with red coloring in memory of the blood of Christ shed at his crucifixion. This is still common in Orthodox and Eastern Catholic churches.

The Christian Church officially adopted this custom with the Roman Ritual, the first edition of which was published in 1610 but has texts of much older date, containing among the Easter Blessings of Food, one for eggs, along with those for lamb, bread, and new produce. The blessing is for consumption of eggs as a food, rather than a decoration.

The Easter egg tradition may also have merged into the celebration of the end of Lenten sacrifices in the west. Historically, it was traditional to use up all of the household's eggs before Lent began. Eggs were originally forbidden during Lent as well as on other traditional fast days in Western Christianity (this tradition still continues among the Eastern Christian Churches). Likewise, in Eastern Christianity, meat, eggs, and dairy are all prohibited during the Lenten fast.

This established the tradition of Pancake Day being celebrated on Shrove Tuesday. This day, the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday when Lent begins, is also known as Mardi Gras, a French phrase which translates as "Fat Tuesday," to mark the last consumption of eggs,

NATURAL EASTER EGG DYES

Ingredients

Red:

2 pounds beets, peeled, diced

Yellow/tan:

1 pound onion skins

Yellow/orange:

1 1/2 cup (1.9 ounce) jar turmeric

Purple:

2 small heads red cabbage, sliced

Warm brown:

1 (6-cup) pot of strong coffee

Distilled white vinegar

For all but coffee color, use 5 quart saucepan add 1 vegetable or ingredient. Add 4 quarts water, bring to boil & cook until the color is very dark(1/2 hour). Allow to cool to room temperature & strain out vegetables. Add 1/4 cup distilled white vinegar, then add hard boiled eggs to each color. Refrigerate overnight. For coffee color: brew coffee. Cool to room temperature. Add 1/4 cup distilled white vinegar, add hard boiled eggs, refrigerate overnight.

Tip: For better adhesion the wash eggs gently with soap and water before cooking.

dairy and fat before Lent begins. Or, as the Poles call it, Pączki Day.

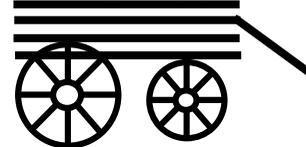
The dyeing of Easter eggs in different colors is now commonplace, with color being achieved these days through artificial dyes. However, boiling the egg in natural substances such as onion peel, tea, walnut shell, or beet juice can be used as well. Decorating eggs for Easter using wax resistant batik is a popular method in some other eastern European countries, particularly in Ukraine where these types of decorated eggs are called Pysanky. The word comes from the verb pysaty, "to write", as the designs are not painted on, but written with beeswax to achieve beautifully intricate designs that have significant regional, familial or religious significance.

REGULAR NON-HOLIDAY
HOURS
monday - saturday
8am-5pm
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special holiday hours

sundays march 18 & 25 9 - 4pm

holy thursday march 29 6am-7pm

good friday march 30 6am-7pm

holy saturday march 30 6am-5pm

dyngus day event noon-6pm

kielbasa making contest 12pm

live music with melody line 1-4pm

beer tent • polish beer

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OFFICIAL DYNGUS DAY PARADE & TRANS

ADAMS MARK HOTEL

PARADE BUS

FROM: ADAMS MARK HOTEL
TO: PARADE

[approx] scheduled run: *3:15PM & *4:15PM

POST-PARADE RETURN BUS

FROM: MEMORIAL DRIVE AT PECKHAM STREET -
NEXT TO FOOD TRUCK ALLEY

TO: ADAMS MARK HOTEL VIA POLISH CADETS

[approx] scheduled run: *7:15PM 9:15PM & 11:15PM

*times are estimated, actual times may vary

BLACK ROCK - ZONE D

PARADE BUS

FROM: POLISH CADETS
TO: PARADE

[approx] scheduled run: *3:00PM & *4:00PM

POST-PARADE RETURN BUS

FROM: PARADE

TO: POLISH CADETS

[approx] scheduled run: *6:30PM

RETURN

FROM: MEMORIAL DRIVE AT PECKHAM STREET -
NEXT TO FOOD TRUCK ALLEY

TO: POLISH CADETS

[approx] scheduled runs: *7:00PM *9:00PM & *11:00PM

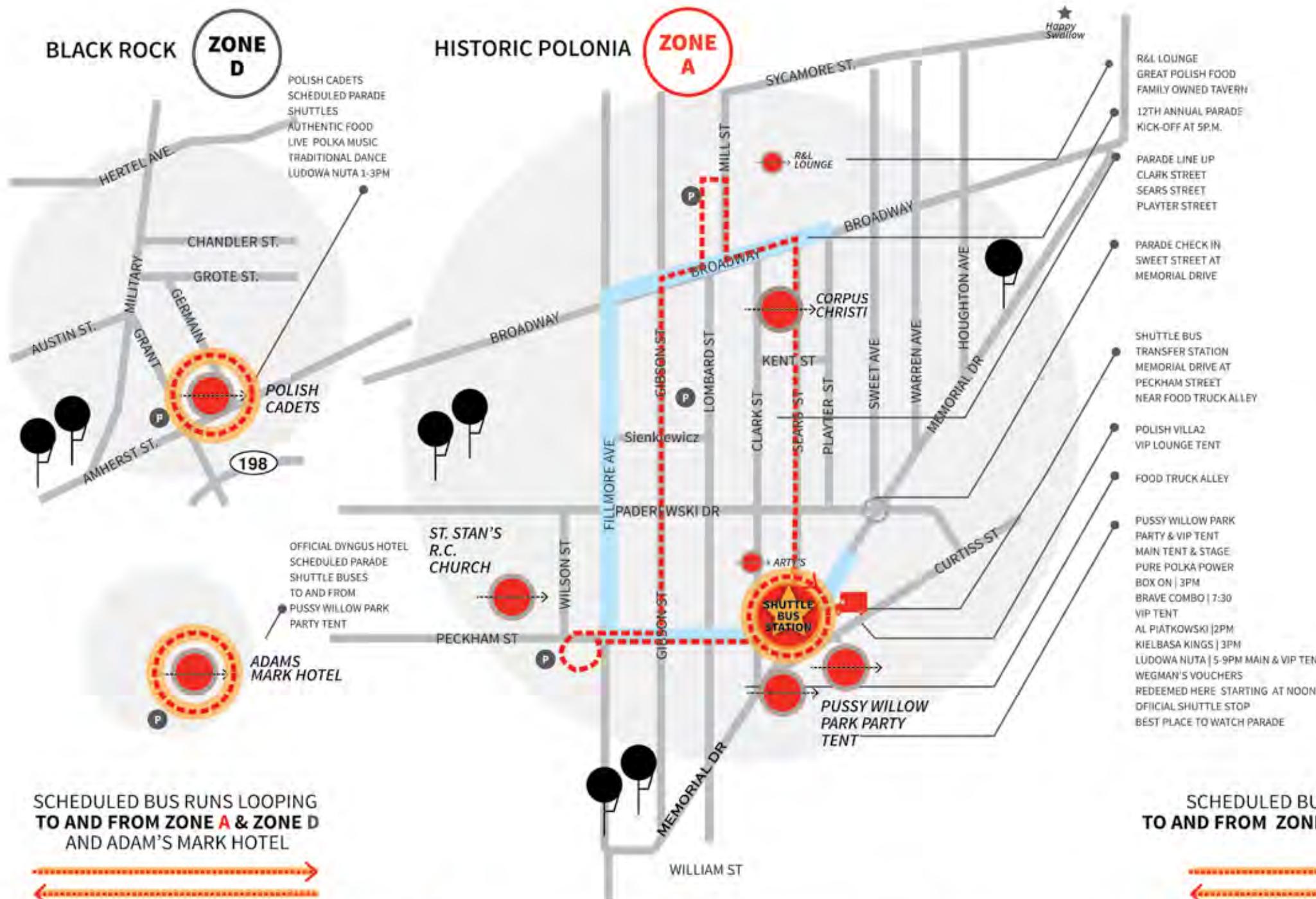
*times are estimated, actual times may vary

HISTORIC POLONIA - ZONE A

BUSES WILL BE LOOPING ZONE A

continuously *6:30PM -11:30PM

*times are estimated, actual times may vary



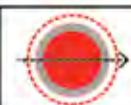
SCHEDULED BUS RUNS LOOPING TO AND FROM ZONE A & ZONE D AND ADAM'S MARK HOTEL



SCHEDULED BUS TO AND FROM ZONE A



KEY HISTORIC POLONIA | BLACK ROCK | OUTER POLONIA



VENUE LOCATION



BUS TRANSFER STATION



PARADE ROUTE



SHUTTLE BUS ROUTE

FER SHUTTLE SYSTEM SCHEDULES 2018

OUTER POLONIA - ZONE B

PARADE BUSES
FROM: ZONE B OUTER POLONIA
TO: PARADE
 [approx] scheduled runs _____ *2:00PM *3:00PM & *4:00PM
 &
POST-PARADE RETURN BUS
FROM: MEMORIAL DRIVE AT PECKHAM STREET -
 NEXT TO FOOD TRUCK ALLEY
TO: ZONE B OUTER POLONIA
 [approx] scheduled runs _____ *6:30PM

RETURN
FROM: MEMORIAL DRIVE AT PECKHAM STREET -
 NEXT TO FOOD TRUCK ALLEY
TO: ZONE B OUTER POLONIA
 estimated hourly runs
BEGINNING AT _____ *8:00PM - 11:00PM

BUSES WILL BE LOOPING ZONE B
 continuously _____ *6:30PM - 11:30PM

*times are estimated actual times may vary

OUTER POLONIA - ZONE C

PARADE BUSES
FROM: ZONE C OUTER POLONIA
TO: PARADE
 [approx] scheduled runs _____ *2:00PM *3:00PM & *4:00PM
 &
POST-PARADE RETURN BUS
FROM: MEMORIAL DRIVE AT PECKHAM STREET -
 NEXT TO FOOD TRUCK ALLEY
TO: ZONE C OUTER POLONIA
 [approx] scheduled runs _____ *6:30PM

RETURN
FROM: MEMORIAL DRIVE AT PECKHAM STREET -
 NEXT TO FOOD TRUCK ALLEY
TO: ZONE C OUTER POLONIA
 estimated hourly runs
BEGINNING AT _____ *8:00PM - 11:00PM

BUSES WILL BE LOOPING ZONE C
 continuously _____ *6:30PM - 11:30PM

*times are estimated actual times may vary

ALL BUS TRANSFERS

TO & FROM ALL ZONES: A, B, C, D
 MEMORIAL DRIVE AT PECKHAM STREET -
 NEXT TO FOOD TRUCK ALLEY

SEE THE PARADE!

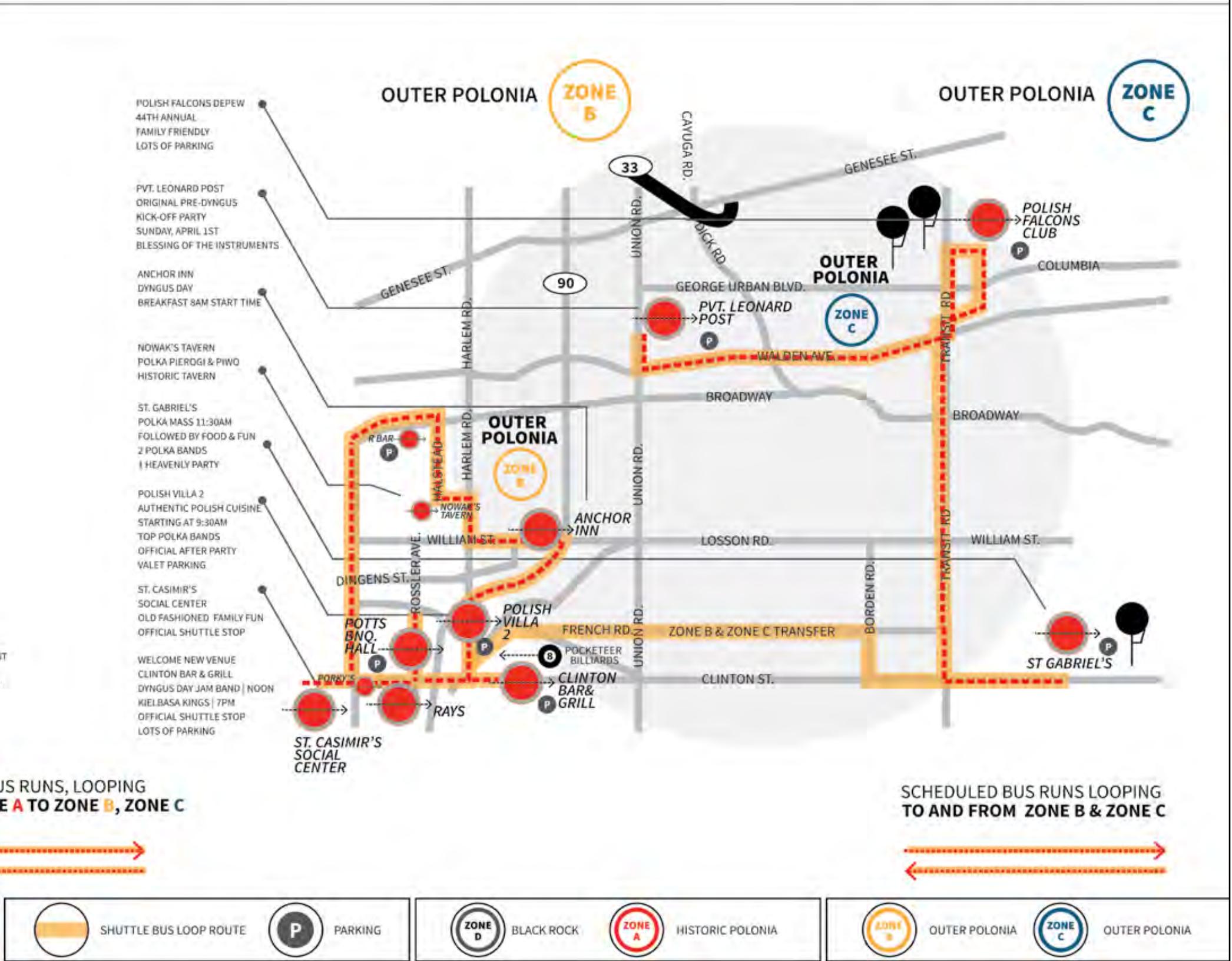
PARADE SHUTTLE BUSES
DEPART ZONE B & ZONE C AT _____ *2:00PM *3:00PM & 4:00PM ONLY!

FROM: ZONE B: POLISH VILLA 2 & OR POTTS DELI, THEN LOOPING ZONE B
 ZONE C: POLISH FALCONS & OR ST. GABRIELS & OR LEONARD POST VWV
TO: MEMORIAL DRIVE AT PECKHAM STREET -
 NEXT TO FOOD TRUCK ALLEY

PARADE SHUTTLE BUSES
DEPART ZONE D _____ *3:00pm & 4:00PM ONLY!
FROM: POLISH CADETS & ADAMS MARK HOTEL
TO: MEMORIAL DRIVE AT PECKHAM STREET -
 NEXT TO FOOD TRUCK ALLEY

return buses available
 (see zone listings on page 16 & page 17)

*times are estimated actual times may vary



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120 YEARS AGO 2DAY CORPUS CHRISTI TAUGHT THE FLOCK TO PRAY

If you were to take a walk through the area surrounding the intersection of Broadway Street and Fillmore Ave. in Buffalo, NY, you might be surprised to come across a beautiful, old, magnificent, Romanesque style church. However, if you continue to walk a few blocks in any direction you choose, you would likewise be amazed to find another. Shift your direction, and, again, a short walk reveals yet another church equally as impressive. In fact, while downtown Buffalo's architecture scrapes the skies with office buildings and civic centers, standing watch over commerce and trade, this neighborhood, located on the cities east side, scrapes the skies with copper domes and crosses, standing watch over spiritual strength, immigrant dreams and perseverance being realized.

Why so many churches in such a small area? Well, quite simply, there were a lot of Poles that moved to Buffalo. And Poles take their spirituality seriously. The city's census data of 1850 lists only 50 people born in Poland, but by 1940 that number grew to 76,465. And if you know anything about Polish culture, you know that Catholicism plays a big role in this Slavic nation. Their Diaspora was no different. Churches not only acted as spiritual centers but also as educational, financial, political and social hubs for this burgeoning population. Initially, the community was so densely populated it didn't seem odd at all that cathedral like structures were being constructed literally just a few blocks away from each other.

One of the most resplendent houses of worship in this former Polish colony is Corpus Christi church, located just steps from the historic Broadway Market. The parish was first established in 1898 by Fr. Hyacinth Fudzinski, a Franciscan Conventual friar, to accommodate this rapidly growing Polish immigrant community. The growth of this populace was so robust that even the parish itself could not keep pace with the surging colony. The original church he established was an existing frame house that immediately became too small for the ever-increasing congregation. A second church/school building with a seating capacity for 1,000, was built but also was outgrown within 10 years of its construction.

The cornerstone of the present Romanesque Revival church was placed over one hundred and ten years ago in 1907. Built of Onondaga limestone and faced with red Medina sandstone, Cor-

pus Christi was designed by noted Buffalo architects, Schmill and Gould. The colony, as well as the faithful flock of "Bozego Ciała," continued to grow and eventually the parish grew into a six building complex. As mentioned this church, like churches in all of Buffalo's immigrant neighborhoods, became the actual as well as the symbolic, focal point of community life. An elementary school, run by the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, instructed parish children until the 1980's. In addition, needlework clubs, dramatic societies, bowling, baseball and basketball teams, lodges, and mutual benefit associations all used the church as a meeting place. In its most prosperous years, the Corpus Christi parish served not only the spiritual, but also the educational, social and recreational needs of 2,000 families in its congregation.

The awe-inspiring church interior, featuring some of the finest ecclesiastical art in the city, has 11,000 light bulbs illuminating the sanctuary, which were once powered by their own coal-fueled power plant. Also in the sanctuary above the altar is a rendering of Raphael Santi's famous Disputa. It depicts the Church's illustrious theologians and mystics trying to grasp the mysteries of the Eucharist.

The remarkable stained glass windows inside the church, including the spectacular Rose window located behind the choir loft, were made by Franz Mayer Works in Munich, Germany.

"The Father Justin's Rosary Hour" radio program was originally broadcast from the sanctuary of Corpus Christi Church starting in 1931. It remains the oldest continuing religious radio program in the Polish language worldwide. History permeates every nook and cranny of this consecrated campus.

It's hard to imagine that just a few short years ago this historical house of worship almost met its demise. In June of 2003, the Franciscan Friars that founded the parish decided that the demographic shift that had occurred in the neighborhood and the overall erosion of regular churchgoers was insurmountable. As a result it was announced that they were leaving Corpus Christi and that the church would most likely close at the end of that year. After more than a hundred years, the last chapter in the story of Corpus Christi seemed to be near an end. However, some people weren't quite ready to go down without a fight. It seems that the Corpus Christi obitu-

ary wasn't quite yet ready to be written. Through the hard work and enormous efforts of many loyal and dedicated parishioners, and especially Monsignor Matthew Kopacz of St. Casimirs parish, the prayers of the people of Corpus Christi were answered, and the church's future was no longer in question. Msgr. Kopacz contacted the Pauline Fathers and Brothers, and after visiting Corpus Christi they decided to assume control of the parish. The Pauline Fathers and Brothers (the order in charge of Jasna Gora in Czestochowa, Poland, the home of the original icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa and the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania) agreed to take on Corpus Christi parish as a mission of faith and preservation. They have since given it a new life with many hopes and dreams for the future.

Under their leadership and the dedicated efforts of their parishioners millions of dollars have been invested in rebuilding the domes of the church, the surrounding properties, the social clubs and other properties on the campus, as well as meticulous restorations of priceless art work inside the church sacristy. Traditional Polish and English worship services take place on a regular basis, as well as countless social functions throughout the year. Everything from processions through the streets to commemorate the feast of Corpus Christi to an authentic Polish harvest festival and one of the best old school Dyngus Day parties in town take place annually at this eastside church property. Even the bowling alleys located inside the men's Athletic club have been meticulously restored.

Since January 2004, when the Paulines arrived, some old parishioners have returned and new ones have joined. Their commitment and their parishioners' passion act as a beacon for others. In fact, for the first time since 1929 when over 600 families were displaced in order to make room for the building of the New York Central Railroad Terminal, Corpus Christi Parish membership is now expanding rather than contracting. The pastoral staff is working together with the parishioners to keep Corpus Christi alive and successful. Renovations to the Rectory, Church and former Convent have given the parish new life and hope for the future.

Rather than a canary in a coal mine, once used as a forewarning to miners that death was imminent, we submit that Corpus Christis' role is more that of an eagle signaling life and the reinvention of this formidable neighborhood so filled with history and culture. Whether it be for a truly traditional religious service eating some pierogi or knocking down some bowling pins, come see for yourself what resurrection looks like. Old school for the new school never felt this good. And, you're gonna love the classroom!



PVT.
Leonard Post
JR. VFW 6 251

day 1

Easter Sunday

OFFICIAL PRE-DYNGUS PARTY

Blessing Of The Instruments | 7:30 pm

LIVE MUSIC

The Buffalo Touch & Almost Dyngus Day Players | 7pm-12:30 am

Doors Open | 6 pm

day 2

Easter Monday

DYNGUS DAY PARTY

LIVE MUSIC

The Knewz & Special Delivery | 5pm - 12:30am

alternating

Doors Open | 4:30 pm

*2 days of
Dyngus*

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MUSIC DANCING FOOD
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OFFICIAL SHUTTLE STOP

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NOT JUST A PARADE
 IT'S A PLETHORA OF PRIDE

THE official definition of parade is, a large public procession, usually including a marching band and often of a festive nature, held in honor of an anniversary, person, event, etc. In the case of the Annual Dyngus Day Parade, here in Buffalo, it could simply be defined in one word. FUN!!!

Unlike any other event in recent memory, this parade gathers people together with a sense of camaraderie and joy mixed with nostalgia and hope. What started out as a rag tag group of passionate Poles with a few flags, a couple of pickup trucks and a band on a trailer, has turned into a big splash of Polish pride surfing a sea of red and white. Floats resembling medieval ships, dragons spewing smoke, fire trucks with sirens blaring and hoses squirting, polka bands playing and families sharing memories and laughter as they stroll through the neighborhood tossing candy and beads to the little wide eyed urchins gathered on the curbs. Who doesn't like a parade? Not anyone that has ever been to the Dyngus Day Parade in Buffalo NY, that's for, sure.

The origin of parades is rooted in the military and politics. Generations of rulers have projected their power through displays of strength and trepidation, going back to humanity's first civilizations. Later parades functioned as broad podiums that connected rulers to their subjects and allowed them to spread their authority as they made their way through the crowds.

Religious authorities and organizations used parades in much the same way. The parade offered a large platform for them to connect with the community and foster power. The public enjoyed the parades since they got a chance to be close to the powerful members of society who passed by.

But our parade is about fun, and frivolity. If there is any show of strength it's the strength of friendship and family. The tug of the forgotten neighborhood where so many people once lived and worked seems to draw people back, certainly to remember, but also to reinvent. This parade acts as a bridge from the past to the future. A generational gangplank allowing stories to become interactive. It's one thing for your Dziadzia to tell you about the fun he had with the Holy Name Society bowling team.

It's another to actually go to the same lanes and do the same thing.

The 12th Annual Dyngus Day Parade starts at 5:00pm and last about 90 minutes. An even better way to experience the parade is by participating in it. It's the difference between reading about pierogi & eating them.

Especially heartwarming is the amount of families that have been using the Dyngus Day Parade as an excuse to do something together, to bond and share their pride of family and community.

Since that first procession through the historic Polonia District back in 2007, the Dyngus Day parade has turned into more than just a line of marchers and decorated cars. As participants gather in preparation for the annual cavalcade, you can feel the pride of the former descendants of the neighborhood, and even more so from their children and grandchildren who never experienced this part of town when it was a vibrant densely populated neighborhood filled with churches, taverns, social clubs, railroads, industry and a business district that rivaled that of downtown Buffalo.

Families now gather from all over the world to take part in the revelry. They come to bond in Buffalo for Dyngus Day. The Easter holiday gives loved ones an added reason to reunite in WNY and stay the extra day or two to take part in something that not only draws the clan together, but creates life long memories for them and their offspring. They do it as a way to share an ancestral bond, to instill in their children a sense of history, and dignity along with ethnic and familial pride.

We do it because we know who we are and where we come from..... we are proud to be Polish!!!!!! And undoubtedly, so are the thousands that gather to celebrate this annual affair regardless of their ethnic background. Whether you're riding a bike, on roller skates, walking with an organization, or standing on the curb watching and cheering while waving your pussy willow branches, it doesn't matter if your DNA proves your lineage from somewhere other than Eastern Europe, because everybody's Polish on Dyngus Day.

OFFICIAL SHUTTLE STOP

DYNGUS DAY
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POLISH PILGRIMAGE OFF THE BEATIN' PATH

If you ever happened to be on the game show Family Feud and the question was "name a city in Poland?" the survey would probably say Warsaw, Krakow and Gdansk as the top three answers. However there are more than 100 major cities in Poland and hundreds more towns and villages that blanket a nation that is much larger than most people are aware of. In fact, if we were to super impose a map of Poland over WNY with Buffalo at the center, we would be able to cover most of Lake Erie all of Lake Ontario, half of Lake Huron, most of Pennsylvania, all the way to New Jersey, half of New York State and most of Southern Ontario. Now that's a lot of territory! Yet for the most part, except for some of the more populated areas in Poland, the country has been passed by as a major tourist destination. But things are changing. And if you are a traveler looking for an affordable adventure, you are in for a surprise. First a little background.

After World War 2 ended, the communist government nationalized all tourist organizations in Poland. Tourism was limited to the Comecon countries primarily of the eastern bloc. However, since the fall of communism and Poland's joining the European Union, the allure of Poland has slowly started to spread, as the enchantment of the nations plethora of attractions combined with its affordability have started to become known by savvy travelers all over the world.

If you have been wary to venture to another country because of safety

concerns, rest assured that Poland is considered one of the safest countries on the planet. The incidence of crime is extremely low even in big metropolitan areas in comparison to big cities in other nations. In fact statistics show that Poland overall, has less incidence of crime than many rural areas of the United States. Once you arrive within the countries borders the only concerns you will have are where to go, what to do and what to see first! Are you all about mountain climbing and yodeling into valleys? Poland's got that covered. Is the seashore and the sound of waves slapping against breathtaking beaches on your bucket list? You can check that off as well. Everything from big bold vibrant cities to cute charming villages, Poland has it all. Whether it's history, beauty, gastronomy or relaxation in a world-class spa to rejuvenate your entire being, Poland is an adventure the likes of which you may have never imagined.

Of course places like Warsaw, Krakow and Gdansk are undoubtedly historic, beautiful places that are worthy of visits in and of themselves, there are many other parts of Poland that are virtually undiscovered even by many Poles themselves.

Case in point the city of Rzeszow. Located in the southeast corner of Poland near the Ukrainian border, this metropolitan area has all the attractions of a major metropolitan area along with the charm and history of a centuries - old European village. Old castles, churches and architecture that date back thousands of years are intermingled with modern amenities and a public transportation system that some areas in the US can only dream about. Bike paths crisscross the entire metro area making two-wheeled transportation a very viable option for exploration. Add a university system that is now home to over 100,000 students and a burgeoning aerospace industry as well as a cradle for IT and computer software development and you have a destination that has something to offer to anyone regardless of age or inclination.

History buffs will devour the trea-

sure trove of options from its ancient underground market and old town square, (which just happens to be one of the best preserved in all of Poland) to the spectacular former palace residence of Łancut Castle just a short drive away from the city itself. Art galleries and museums abound in this cultural center that is the capital of the Sub Carpathian Province near the eastern border of Poland.

Modern mega malls combined with old world merchants and charming boutiques make shopping an exciting adventure not only for the unique array of items that can be found, but the fact that every US dollar equals about 4 of their zloty make shopping a bargain hunters dream.

The favorable exchange rate of currencies means that not only can you purchase clothing and gift items economically, you can also afford to stay in luxurious accommodations for the same price one would spend for a motel that might leave the light on for you here in the United States. In this case they will leave the light on for you so you can slip away to dreamland after a luxurious spa treatment or a sumptuous dinner. And speaking of food, the quality and assortment of cuisine available in Rzeszow will give your taste buds an adventure the likes of which they have never experienced. From tiny little kitchens to five star restaurants everything is meticulously and lovingly prepared and presented to dazzle your senses and warm your soul. And the hospitality will amaze you. The friendliness, the graciousness, and the accommodation of literally everyone you meet will not only be a pleasant experience but is a reminder of the spirit of hospitality that is such an important part of the polish DNA.

Although Jasionka Airport has been around since 1945, the last few years have seen dramatic changes not only in the new modern terminal itself, but the international airlines that service the city now offer even more flights into the area. Plus Rzeszow is only about a 90 minute train ride from Krakow which makes travel to this area easier, more affordable

and more pleasant then ever before, wheather by train or by plane. Now, the journey to the motherland can be comfortable, economic and efficient.

Rzeszow in many ways is a lot like Buffalo. In fact, the two are sister cities and have enjoyed a close relationship with each other since the 1970s. The origins of both of these places can be traced to their geographic locations as transportation and trade centers, and they are each experiencing a re-awakening and reinvention of sorts. Both have strong student populations, and both cities have a strong connection to the arts and culture in contrast to the industrial blue-collar grittiness of most of their histories. Much like the lowly caterpillar must go through a period of cocooning and metamorphosis before emerging as a beautiful butterfly, so it goes with both of these urban centers. Now, it appears that both sister cities, Buffalo and Rzeszow, are starting to come out of the cocoon to spread their wings and feel the sunshine.

Although collaborations between businesses, government and institutions in both cities have existed for decades, the conditions for mutual prosperity have never been better. Economic opportunities for entrepreneurs today seem to be ripe for the picking.

No matter whether you're intentions are to expand your business's global reach or to relax, meet new people and broaden your horizons, connecting with Poland has never been easier or more logical. It is safe, it is beautiful, it is inviting. It is time.

If you have been thinking about going to Poland, stop. The only thing you will get by thinking is older. There has never been a better time to visit this beautiful country. Whether it's to take in the majestic Baltic coastline, the awe inspiring beauty of Krakow, the cosmopolitan power of Warsaw, the invigoration of the Tatra mountains or the reconnection to your ancestry, you will enjoy every moment of your adventure as you savor the flavor of Poland. Bezpieczne podróże. Safe travels. Send us a postcard. 🇵🇱



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DYNGUS DAY DARLINGS WHAT TO DO WITH THE LITTLE SQUIRTS

YES we know the flirtatious debauchery associated with legendary Dyngus Day parties over the years would make one think twice about taking members of the younger set to experience first hand the Polonia pageantry that takes place on the day after Easter. But think again. There are plenty of things to do and see for kids of all ages.

A major motivation for Dyngus Day Buffalo has always been the education and promotion of our heritage. So gather the clan, stick a pussy willow branch in the stroller and teach the children what it is to be Polish and proud!

First of all, why not take the tykes to church? Before we feed our bodies, we must feed our souls. We have some of the most beautiful houses of worship anywhere in the world, smack dab in the middle of the historic Polonia district.

ST. GABRIELS CHURCH 5271 CLINTON STREET, ELMA, NY

If you are starting out in the burbs, why not add a little twist to your usual style of worship? Bet your kids have never been a part of a polka mass! Well, here's your chance. Rare Vintage provides the soundtrack for a Polka Mass at 11:30am. After feeding your spirit in the sanctuary, some lunch in the hall afterwards will feed your body as well. Mmmmm Smaczno. So after you light a candle, head on over to a place where Poles have been providing provisions for their families for generations. Not only is it one of the largest congregations in WNY, also one of the most vibrant. These people know how to throw a party. Your little ones will love the live, swirly, twirly polkas, and so will you. With lots of parking here might be a great place to start and hop on the bus.

ST. STANISLAUS CHURCH 389 PECKHAM STREET, BUFFALO

Founded in 1873, St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Church is the oldest Polish parish in the Diocese of Buffalo and the oldest in New York State. It was here and within the streets surrounding the church, that one of the largest Polish communities in the world was founded. In 1904, this parish was among the largest in the U.S. with close to 20,000 parishioners and a school of over 3,000 children. The current Romanesque style church was built in 1882. Since 2004, the parish

has undergone an aggressive series of capital improvements to stabilize and restore the entire campus. These have included the restoration of long-lost murals and rebuilding of its historic, 1893 Johnson & Son pipe organ. St. Stan's Sunday Noon mass has been broadcasted on the radio since 1945.

CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH 199 CLARK STREET, BUFFALO, NY

A few blocks away, there's another spectacular house of worship. The awe-inspiring church interior features some of the finest ecclesiastical art in the city, and has 11,000 light bulbs illuminating the sanctuary. A special Dyngus Day Mass begins at 11:00am.

After Mass, stroll over to the brick building directly behind the church. There's lots to do once you stop marveling at the vintage interior of one of the coolest old social clubs still in existence. There are bowling alleys for you to roll a few frames, a Krakow style castle bounce house in their gymnasium, plenty of games and coloring contests for your little crumb crunchers, as well as plenty of food and drink to fuel all that activity regardless of your age.

BROADWAY MARKET 999 BROADWAY, BUFFALO, NY

A Buffalo landmark since 1888, it was built to cater to the thousands of immigrants who flocked to the east side in the late 1800's. Although the Market site has undergone numerous changes over time, three different physical structures in fact, the old-fashioned concept of selling farm fresh, exotic and unusual products here has remained unchanged since the Market's inception.

Now that you've had a chance to allow the munchkins to munch on some traditional fare, show your little dyngus darlings some cool stuff like...

THE 12TH ANNUAL DYNGUS DAY PARADE - 5PM

As they sang in the Music Man, "76 trombones led the big parade"...Well we might not have 76 trombones, but we will have more than a few accordians, flags, floats, marchers, and thousands of smiling cheering revelers having a grand time celebrating the Polish Pride that has propelled this procession to such powerful proportions that people have been planning their participation with great anticipation. In other words, it's grown. And it's a lot of fun for kids of all ages.

ST. CASIMIR'S SOCIAL CENTER
 1833 CLINTON STREET, BUFFALO, NY
 Now dive deep into the heart of another Polish neighborhood with a German sounding name. Truth be told, the name came about because the early inhabitants of the neighborhood anglicized the Polish pronunciation of Casimir and it stuck. This Dyngus Day party, inside what used to be Bishop Ryan High School, may not have been around as long as some of the others, but fear not, the folks at Saint Casimir know a thing or two about fun and tradition. Father Czeslaw Krysa, the Rector of the church, is undoubtedly the foremost bearer of Polish traditions this side of Krakow, plus he even makes homemade Krupnik. Pretty sure that's someone who knows about fun. But rest assured, there is an old school, family friendly vibe here. How could it not? It's inside an old school!



POLISH CADETS
 927 GRANT STREET, BUFFALO, NY
 The Polish Cadets at Grant and Amherst have been providing leadership and social activities for Poles of all ages since 1899. Not only are they one of the oldest social clubs of their kind in the nation, they will once again offer great live polka music, ethnic dancers and delicious homemade polish food in the heart of Buffalo's secondary Polonia neighborhood, Blackrock. You can bet your babushka it will be a good time. These guys know how to have fun.



DEPEW POLISH FALCONS
 445 COLUMBIA AVENUE, DEPEW, NY
 The Polish Falcon Club on Columbia Avenue isn't as old as the Cadets. The Falcons have only been around since 1903. Even though it's a few years junior to the Cadets, they know a thing or two about Dyngusing given that this will be their 44th year of throwing one hell of a pussy willow party. Again, great live polka music, dancing, plenty of food and family friendly fun.



BABCIA'S @ LANCASTER ELKS CLUB
 33 LEGION PARKWAY, LANCASTER, NY
 Just down the road a bit from the legendary club in Depew, in the heart of the quaint Lancaster business district, lies another great private club that many outside the area know nothing about. But don't let that stop you from checking out the Lancaster Elks Club latest digs on Legion Parkway. If last years debut effort was any indicator of their party-planning prowess, this year should be one that will leave the whole town dancing the polka. The good folks at Babcias Pierogi brought this event to life in 2016 and promise even more this year with live polka music from perennial favorites, New Direction, from 3-6, folk dancing performances, basket raffles, DJ John Piniewski from 6-10 and of course lots and lots of great authentic polish food, featuring plenty of delicious Babcias' Pierogi.



So grab your little ones, and your children too. Your kids will love these parties and so will you. The memories of celebrating heritage, ethnic pride, community and family will last a lifetime...that's the best part. Well, the food and the music are pretty good too, and of course the parade. Everyone loves a parade.

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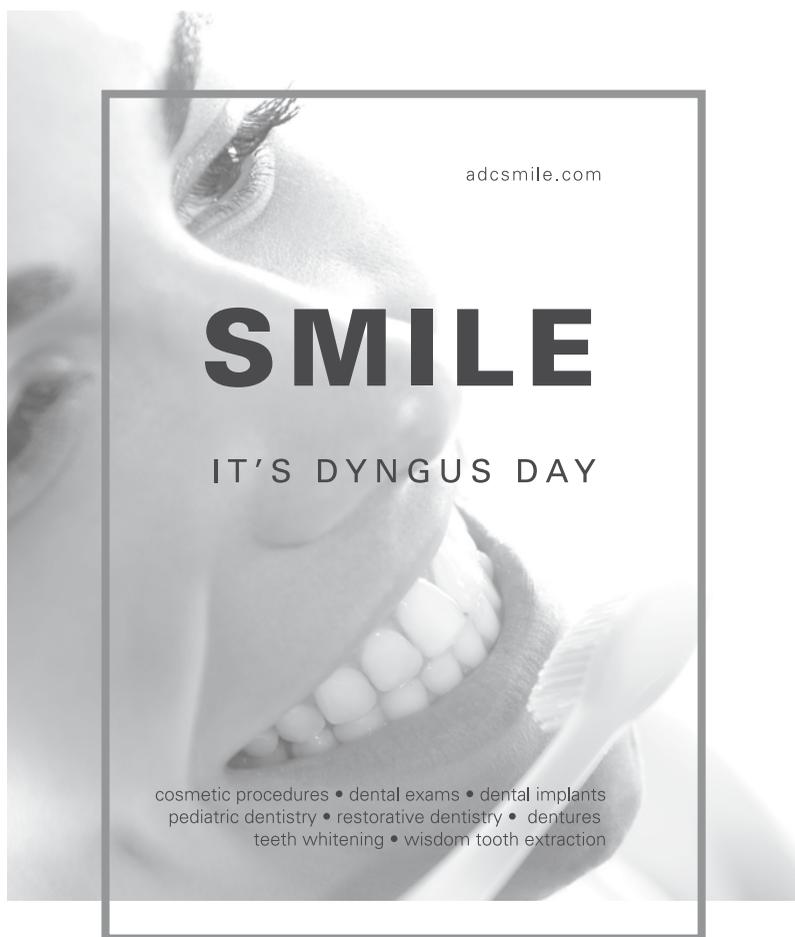
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THE POLKA STORY ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A LITTLE TWIRL

NOT only is Buffalo the Dyngus Day Capital of the World but, based on the amount of musical talent assembled at all the different festival venues that are part of this unique celebration, a strong case could be made that the Queen City of the Lakes is the Polka Capital of the universe (at least on Dyngus Day it is). But let's not get ahead of ourselves. First, let's talk about where it all began.

Although many consider Polka as a Polish creation the dances origins are actually attributed to Bohemia. The invention of the step is credited to Anna Slazak, a farm servant at Elbsteinit near Prague. Based in local Slavic folk music, by 1835 the Polka became a dance craze all over the ballrooms of Czechoslovakia before spreading throughout Europe by way of Vienna and Paris.

Within ten years the lively 2/4 step hopped over the "pond" to the US and it remained a dominantly popular dance in Europe as well as in North America until the 20th century, when it was displaced by ragtime jazz, and the dance crazes of the Roaring Twenties.

Polka did, however, experience a resurgence in popularity after WW2, when many Polish refugees moved to the US, adopting this Bohemian style as a cultural dance.

Although the origin can be traced back to one source, there are various styles of contemporary polka music all of which are American inventions. One of the styles found in the United States is the North American "Polish-style Polka", it's roots are in Chicago. Two sub-styles are, "The Chicago Honky" (using the clarinet and one trumpet) and the "Chicago Push" (featuring the accordion, concertinas, bass, drums and almost always two trumpets). North American "Slovenian Style" is fast and features the piano accordion, chromatic accordion, and or diatonic button box accordion, it is associated with Cleveland. North American "Dutchmen-style" features an "oompah," sound often with a tuba & banjo, and has roots in the American Midwest. "Conjunto-style" polkas have roots in northern Texas and Mexico and are also called "Norteno." Traditional dances from this region reflect the influence of polka-dancing European immigrants.

In the 1980's and 1990's a new genus began to emerge. A fusion of polka and rock, sometimes referred to as Punk Polka, Alternative Polka and team Dyngus' newly coined description "Rock & Rolka."

This style of polka not only attracted a new generation of listeners, it encouraged interest in some of the classic long time polka icons as well. Legendary performers like Marion Lush, Lil Wally and Frank Wojnarowski have all found new audiences, thanks in part to younger people discovering the genre through these "Punk Polka" bands. But that genre would not even exist had it not been for the group that started the whole concept of combining various styles of music with polka, the legendary, *Brave Combo*.

Back in 1979 Carl Finch, a musician from Denton Texas, wandered into a Woolworth's one day and saw some polka discs in the budget bin. Attracted by the strange covers, he took them home and started playing them. He became obsessed with the bouncy folk music that most Americans associated with Lawrence Welk.

Punk and new wave had also begun to rise up in the late '70s, so Finch said the idea of a "nuclear polka" band didn't seem all that far-fetched. So, Carl found a few other adventurous musicians and they set out on a journey that has earned them a devoted following, including David Byrne, of the Talking Heads, who used the band in his 1986 movie *True Stories* (the group also performed at Byrne's wedding) and Simpsons creator Matt Groening, who invited the band to play at a party celebrating the 200th episode of the animated sitcom (Groening has also used the music in episodes of *The Simpsons* and *Futurama*). Not only has their unique style earned them a huge loyal following all across the world, but by combining polka and punk, tangos, cha-chas, tejano, country, ska, rock and blues, just to name a few, Carl and his like minded Polka pals have also earned two Grammy awards.

Last year, *Brave Combo's* Dyngus debut was such a smash hit, people have been begging for an encore performance. So to make it bigger and better, Carl has assembled the five original members Bubba Hernandez, Jeffrey Barnes, Danny O'Brien,

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and Allan Emert along with Finch, who recorded both Grammy winning albums *Polkasonic* and *Let's Kiss*. If you thought last year was high energy... hang on to your babushka baby. You ain't seen nothing yet.

Catch these renowned multiple Grammy winners yourself, and see what the excitement is about up-close and in person during this highly anticipated appearance under the Big Tent at Pussy Willow Park after the parade, beginning at 7:30pm.

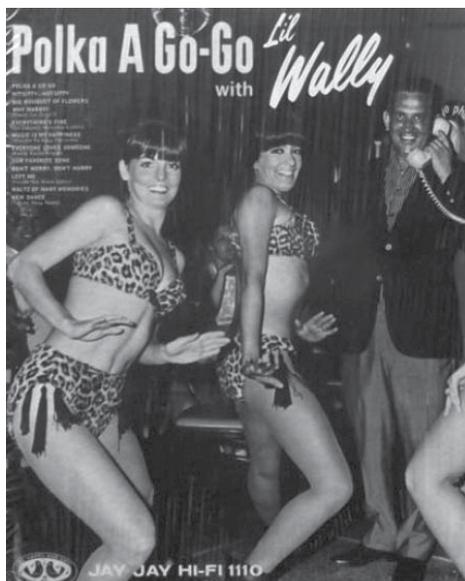
Even before Dyngus Day officially arrives the twirling of festive skirts and blaring horns will signal the start of the festival at the Official Pre-Dyngus Kickoff on Easter Sunday night at the Pvt. Leonard Post VFW. Perennial favorites *Buffalo Touch* will be joined by *Almost Dyngus Day Players* to make sure everyone is primed for the following day.

If adventure and exploration tickle your fancy, there are a myriad of other musical stylings to suit all of your interests. Try some new venues for a change we have plenty of places to go there's even a Polka Mass at Saint Gabriels Church with *Rare Vintage* if you want to hedge your bets for what you do later. Solid performers can be found all day long at Polish Villa 2 starting with *New Direction* at 9:30 to the *Phocus Polka Show* at the Anchor Inn in Cheektowaga. Nearby, the anticipation for the *Kielbasa Kings* from Dearborn Michigan has been growing at the Clinton Bar and Grill, which is quickly gaining a reputation as a new Polka palace in its own right.

If Historic Polonia is your preferred place for pussy willows, piwo and polkas, make sure you check out *Box On* also from Michigan, this polka playing family literally has polka in their DNA. Rick Vinecki and his wife Alicia met at a polka dance in Detroit. He was with the *Melody Kings* and she was part of the legendary *Polka Family*. Now along with their eight children they have been spreading pure polka fun all across the USA. This band is fun with a capital F!

As the festival unfolds on Monday, there are dozens of other polka bands to catch at venues all over town. Check out our calendar in this guide, or on our website www.dyngus-day.com, for a complete list of bands, venues, & more detailed information.

It doesn't matter whether you are just listening, watching, participating as a seasoned hooper of the polka twirl, or a new comer to the dance floor, rest assured that this European form of aerobics can be enjoyed without Dramamine by everyone. One thing is for sure in the Polka Story, everyone lives happily ever after!



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POLONIA POINTS OF LIGHT PROMINENT POLES PONDER THE PAST

WE often hear the term Polonia, but what does it mean? Literally, the word refers to the diaspora, (people of Polish origin who live outside Poland). Technically that explanation is right, however it is much more than that. Polonia is a collective sharing experience, of tradition, culture, food and celebration. As with most immigrant communities that took hold in the United States after a generation or two, we find that many become "Americanized" and old world traditions seem to wane or disappear. It was inspiring to find Poles of many generations in this year's "Polonia P.O.L." still adhering to the value of old world customs and traditions and holding dear the strong work ethic so prevalent in the Polish.

STANLEY & TOLA MARKUT

Stanley and Tola Markut were both born and spent their youth in Poland. Although through different paths, they were each ripped from their homes and sent to Siberian Slave Labor Camps. Ultimately spared, Stanley joined the Polish Army in Kazakstan, Russia and Tola, lying about her age, joined and was trained in the Polish Army in the Middle East. After joint efforts with the WW2 allies and the end of the war they found themselves in England, as going back to a free Poland was not an option. They met, got married in 1954, and left England to the dream of reaching America. Final stop, with only 4 suitcases, they established their home in Buffalo and started a family with a daughter and son. Stan's factory job and Tola's cleaning and sewing work provided the financial stability to raise their family, enjoy simple vacations, travel overseas to visit family, educate their children, build many wonderful relationships with so many friends and now enjoy a long and wonderful retirement. They have three granddaughters and four great grandchildren. They truly feel blessed and thank God everyday for everything they have and have been through.

What does it mean to you to be a part of Buffalo's Polonia?

After being in Buffalo for only a short time, we immediately embraced Polonia as well as America. It was easy, especially since we lived down the street from St. Stanislaus. There is a long list of Polish organizations that we were (and are) affiliated with and even were officers. We were blessed that we became citizens in 1963 and that we were able to raise our children with Polish culture, values, and traditions. We are

proud of that and know that Polonia afforded us many avenues and support of these teachings.

Do you have any favorite Dyngus Memories or recollections?

Stan's most memorable one was 34 years ago when he "spent" one of his first social security cheques. Broadway Grill cashed it (those were the days that bars cashed employment cheques) and Stan treated his son and daughters friends to a 'dyngus' of a time along with any other family and friends that were out celebrating. Tola is proud to see her grand and great grand kids dressed in red and white enjoying the 12 years of parades.

What is your favorite Polish Food?

Naleszniki, chłodnyk, smalec, galareta, mleczane zupa, kluski, kiszka, czarnina, kaszanka, barszcz (white and red), bigos, pierogi...should we continue?... (very weird but Stan does not like mushrooms at all ??).

Pussy Willow or water?

For Stan, even though Dyngus Day wasn't celebrated when he was growing up, he likes the water or actually the "perfumed liquids" that were also understood as a tradition. Tola says pussy willows are always a favorite.

ALEX KUTAS

At first glance this 19 year old appears to be a typical all American kid, more interested in playing hockey and hanging around with friends. But don't be deceived by his youthful appearance. This young man has higher expectations for himself than snowboards in the winter and jet skis in the summer. Although he enjoys all of those activities, his real joy is working in the kitchen at his parents restaurant the Polish Villa 2. He looks at the art of cooking as just that. "Instead of drawing on a piece of paper you put it on a plate. It's art that is delicious. I love experimenting with spices and different flavors. I'm still learning but my Dad's a great teacher. Alex's life goals are simple. "I'd like to take over this restaurant and be a great cook."

Asked about what he would like to share with the youth of Polonia, this young sage paused for a moment and replied, "Keep trying, whatever you want to do, just stick it in your head and tell yourself you can do it. Just keep going with it. Don't ever listen to anyone that says you can't and you'll get it done one way or another." As we digest those words of wisdom from this young old soul, how about another bowl of bigos please?

What does it mean to you to be a part of

Buffalo's Polonia?

I like to cook so for me it's all about the food. I think we could spread the culture around to everyone whether they are Polish or not through the delicious food of Poland. I guess it's sort of like being a Polish food ambassador. It's part of my upbringing. You know my Dziadzi and Nama started the Polish Villa then my Mom and Dad opened the second location on Harlem so the food thing really has been with me my whole life.

Do you have any favorite Dyngus Memories or recollections?

I remember once seeing a bunch of these guys laughing real hard and making a big deal out of stacking up cans of Zywiec beer. Lots of laughs and lots of dancing. I've never celebrated Dyngus Day other than here at the Polish Villa.

What is your favorite Polish Food?

Pierogi are real good but I think I have eaten way to many. Maybe lazy pierogi are my favorite.

Pussy Willow or water?

Oh, Pussy willow all day.

JOE REDLINSKI

His people have been in the business of feeding Buffalo's Polonia since 1947 so I guess it would be safe to say that kielbasa is in his blood. This fourth generation Redlinski started working the family stand at the Broadway market when he was just 12 years old. After overseeing the production facility on Sienkewicz St., Joe took over the store on Walden near Harlem in Cheektowaga which first opened in 1982. The Redlinski reach extends far beyond WNY through their other project BuffaloFoods.com, a website where expatriated Buffalonians can order local food favorites like white hots, beef on weck, Webers mustard, sponge candy and even Swiss Chalet sauce. Folks craving the taste of home have had items shipped as far away as Alaska and Hawaii.

When he's not busy curing hams or cutting chops or trimming some succulent steaks he manages to carve out time for his sons. He has been a hockey coach for his sons Jack and Joey's, travel teams for the last 12 years and looks forward to the next generation of Redlinskis carrying on the family tradition of nourishing Polonia for generations yet to come.

What does it mean to you to be a part of Buffalo's Polonia?

I love being a part of all the Polish celebrations. Knowing that so many people have our products as part of their holiday meals is something very special to me. Another thing that really impacted me was how people in this community help each other out. I remember when I first started working at the market when I was 12 years old, a truck would come in and maybe it was a load of butter lambs for Malczewskis stand, my father would have me go and help unload the truck with them and then when we had a similar situation, they would do the same for us. We all worked together to help each other when it was needed.

Do you have any favorite Dyngus Memories or recollections?

Ha. Not many that I could share haha.

The sausage plant is next door to what used to be the Market bar. I remember when I was a kid wheeling sausage on a cart from the plant to the market and people would run out of the bar and try to buy sausage from me as I was crossing the street and that was way before Dyngus Day. I remember my aunt Susie would come out and direct traffic with a whistle and everything. It was pretty great.

What is your favorite Polish Food?

Polish sausage obviously. But I think if I was stranded on an island and could only choose one thing it would have to be a plate filled with sweet and sour cabbage, chopped up polish sausage and pierogi.

Pussy Willow or water?

Without hesitation, pussy willows.

EMMA ARENT

You couldn't find a better suited (or cuter) ambassador for Polonia if you tried. Meet Emma Arent, an eight year old from Holland NY. Dancing is in this young girls blood. That's no surprise given that her Grandma is the President of the Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble and her Mom is Vice President. Emma has been a proud member of the troupe as soon as she started to walk. In fact no one is really sure if she started walking or dancing first, but this is now her seventh year of dancing and performing with the cultural group. Soon she plans on sharing her knowledge of folk dancing with her little sisters Amelia (2) and Ilianna (1) but is waiting for them to first learn the fine art of walking. In any event this kid is just getting warmed up. Last year she was named a General Pulaski Princess and represented the Pulaski association and all of Polonia at various functions throughout the year. She is excited to be making her first Holy Communion this year and loves to be involved in the 4H horse program almost as much as dancing with her friends at Harmony. She is in the third grade at Holland Elementary School and loves learning science even if the math part is sometimes an obstacle. When asked what she was looking forward to she replied, "Summer vacation, but first Dyngus Day."

What does it mean to you to be a part of Buffalo's Polonia?

I love being part of Polonia in Buffalo because I always get to meet new people and learn new things about my Polish heritage.

Do you have any favorite Dyngus Memories or recollections?

Dyngus day is a big part of my life because I love going out and celebrating! I also love sharing our Polish dancing with everyone who comes out to see us! We love dyngus day so much, we named our dog Dyngus!!

What is your favorite Polish Food?

I love golabki & sweet & sour cabbage!

Pussy Willow or water?

Water!



Stanley & Tola Markut



Alex Kutas



Joe Redlinski



Emma Arent

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PUSSY WILLOW POWER

THE WHOLE STORY FROM BEGINNING TO END

FROM an old world tradition to a modern, world class ethnic festival, Buffalo's Dyngus Day celebration has undoubtedly turned into one of the largest festivals of its kind anywhere on the globe. To so many people that now take part in the refreshingly ridiculous revelry year after year, it seems as if this unique celebration has always been a part of the unveiling of Spring here in Western New York. But it wasn't always that way...

Although the post Lenten observance known as Dyngus Day has been noted in the City's traditional Polish neighborhoods dating back to the 1870s when the city's Polish colony began taking root, it was referred to as Smigus Dingus, back then. Modern Dyngus Day in Buffalo had its beginnings with the Chopin Singing Society when they had their clubrooms on the east side of Buffalo in the city's historic Polonia district. Judge Ann Mikoll and her late husband, Theodore, held a "Smigus Dingus" themed party at the Society's clubrooms on Kosciuszko Street in 1961. The idea was born after a trip to Poland, where the Mikolls renewed their love of the colorfully obscure customs of the Polish people. The event, originally meant to boost the declining membership of the society, soon became an annual event in Buffalo. Political and business leaders made their way to the Chopin's Clubrooms every year on the day after Easter to begin the day with a ceremonial "Święconka" luncheon. Polka music was played throughout the building's meeting and bar rooms, and there was plenty

of revelry to be had by all. Because of the quirky nature of the associated traditions, i.e. the splashing of water and swatting with pussy willow branches, the party turned into a much anticipated yearly affair.

But as the neighborhood waned so did Dyngus activity in the city. Chopins left the Eastside in the early 1990s and moved out to new clubrooms in the eastern suburb of Cheektowaga where they tried to attract a whole new generation of Polonia.

But by that time the younger members of Polonia were used to looking at other types of music and recreation. And Polka music was not part of what they were looking for. As the next generations of Poles became completely assimilated with modern American culture, Polka music and old world style customs started to become obsolete and unhip. These were things your "Babcia" did. There was nothing cool about "Dyngus" back then.

That all changed in 2005 when the website DyngusDayBuffalo.com was born. The following year Dyngus Day Buffalo was founded by two friends that wanted to shine a positive light on a forgotten neighborhood and a misunderstood culture. The hope was that by providing marketing and organizational support to a number of combined events across the region, more people would show up to these parties and a younger demographic would be attracted to something that wasn't deemed hip by anyone under the age of fifty. The ultimate goal was to promote the unique ethnic, religious and cultural aspects of

Polish culture throughout the world and the influence of Poles nationwide through this quirky celebration that was now known as Dyngus Day. In 2007, the streets of the Historic Polonia District were once again filled with polkas and pussy willows as the Inaugural Dyngus Day Parade was organized, making its way through the streets of Old Polonia. Today, the Parade routes through the historic neighborhood, past numerous party sites and concludes at a number of large outdoor parties near Buffalo's old railroad center in the shadow of two prominent historic Polish Catholic churches.

In subsequent years, the number of parties in the Historic Polonia District continued to expand with even more events, as well as numerous family owned taverns getting in on the act again. In addition to the "old neighborhood," the suburban venues hosting sizable Dyngus Dances have more than doubled, as well as other city neighborhoods, including Buffalo's Blackrock neighborhood, (which is really Buffalo's second Polish Colony), as well as Kaisertown. There are now dozens of different festival sites that are officially part of what has turned into one of the most unique ethnic celebrations of its kind on the planet.

The introduction of an extensive system of shuttle buses connecting all the official venues together has spurred participation to new heights. Attendance in 2017 was estimated at over 50,000 for Dyngus Day events across Western New York, making it one of the largest, one day ethnic festivals in North America.

A lot of attention was drawn to Buffalo's Dyngus day by the reaction of CNN's Anderson Cooper a few years ago, which may have angered some who thought that his uncontrollable laughter associated with the quirky customary rituals of the observance was insulting. However, the resulting awareness and other national media coverage only fueled the growth of the celebration. The ABC affiliate in Buffalo, WKBW, be-

gan airing a live television special in 2014 entitled "Dyngus Day Diary" that earned an Emmy nomination for the station and its producers.

All this notoriety has now born fruit. In addition to the growth of the festival, more people are now coming in by the busloads from places like Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, etc. It seems that Dyngus Day in Buffalo, NY has now turned into a tourist attraction. Who would've even thought that to be possible thirteen years ago? But as Buffalo continues to reconnect with its history, and more of us realize the potential draw of our area's authenticity, we now see the value of old world traditions.

The compelling stories we have to tell about the different ethnic communities that settled here, working the factories or railroads and raising families while striving to realize their American dream, appeal to a new generation and have revealed themselves to be powerful marketing tools for the city.

As a result of all these efforts, the neighborhood that was once home to this large Polish colony (and in fact the entire Polish American culture of WNY) has been experiencing a re-awakening of sorts, a new found appreciation of its significance and potential. In addition, because of the marketing efforts of dyngusday.com and their promotion of Polish culture throughout the years, an unprecedented swelling of Polish pride has been taking place throughout the region for over a decade, with no signs of letting up.

After all this and more than a half century of polkas and pussy willows, no other city on the planet can claim to celebrate Dyngus Day like we do in the Queen City. It has turned into a point of civic pride, not only for Buffalo's Polonia, but all of Western New York. Thank you for participating in history as we continue to spread the story about Dyngus Day and the heritage of Buffalo's Polonia. Dziękuję bardzo!



HAVE NO FEAR
WE HAVE DYNGUS GEAR

DYNGUS Day is only one day out of 365, but we do our very best to provide you, our Dyngus disciples with ways to extend this joyous celebration and spring like state of mind. So as we do every year, Dyngus Day Buffalo once again is offering up some great souvenirs to not only put you in a party frame of mind, but to keep it going all year long. Because everyone is concerned about global warming and the eventual disappearance of winter weather altogether we decided to shelve the idea of Dyngus Day parkas, mukluks and toboggans. But something tells us there will be plenty of 'ski's in the parade anyway. In any event fear not because we've got you covered.

Because of the tremendous retail success over the past few years, with many Wegman's and Tops locations hosting Dyngus Day activities and selling Dyngus Day gear, this year once again all Tops and Wegmans locations in WNY have hopped back on the Polonia Express, selling brand new t-shirt designs, hoodies, crew neck sweatshirts, baseball caps, embroidered knit caps, polka cd's, and even baby sized t-shirts that are so cute and are perfect little stuffers for your dyngus darlings' Easter baskets. These are just some of the way cool tokens we have to offer as evidence of your Dyngus dedication. A few of our official festival venues will have certified Dyngus gear as well on. If you can get it now, why would you want to wait until the big day to get your gear? With Tops, Wegman's and the Broadway Market acting as official Dyngus Day "pop-ups", run don't walk, there's a red shirt with your name on it in your neighborhood.

Oh, and while you're there, look for great specials on Zywiec Beer, and all of your favorite Polish foods. Maybe even pick up the ingredients to make your own pierogi.

In the event that you already have your outfit planned and don't need any attire because oh, let's say you are planning to wear a suit made of pussy willow catkins, or have decided to dye your hair red and white and don't want to divert attention from you new coiffure, there's still something for you. What's that you say? A Pussy Willow Pass that's what!!

Vouchers are available at every Wegman's in the nation and are re-

deemable in the express lane at the Pussy Willow Park Party tent. You can even use your voucher to get to the tent from any venue on the route, just show it to your bus driver and tell him to step on it! Now that's customer service. Or you can pick up a bracelet at the Broadway Market, or any of the participating festival venues, ahead of the big day. The idea here is to save time. Why wait in line and cut into prime Dyngusing time? This is an important point to remember when you are making your annual pilgrimage to the Broadway market in preparation for Easter. As long as you are there already, stop by the Official Dyngus Day booth and pick up all of the afore mentioned loot plus, only at the Broadway Market outlet, you can find our carved, wooden Dyngus Day Buffalo coasters or customized key fobs. There were only a small amount of these made, but they make great affordable gift items. It's also come to our attention that people are clamoring for Dyngus Art to display in their homes and offices and show the world how WNY Polonia celebrates springtime. That's why we will be offering prints of the original official Dyngus guide cover art painted by renowned artist Nancy McCarthy. This is a very limited run so don't delay.

While time management is very important when trying to maximize your dyngus delight, it's important to remember the poor souls that aren't able to join us in the festivities here in the Dyngus Day Capital of the world. Those poor working stiff's that either couldn't scam a day off from work or (this is hard to understand but) do not grasp the importance of celebrating springs arrival at this bacchanal bash in Buffalo. Our swag is sweet and our Dyngus duds not only demonstrate that you are a true red and white blooded Polonian, but our "official" gear lets all of your out-of-town friends and relatives, and those not yet indoctrinated, know that you really do love them when you come home with or send them a little goodie bag filled with Dyngus Day gear: an official Dyngus Day guide, maybe some Redlinski kielbasa, and a jar of horseradish. Who knows, maybe it's just the thing you need to get them to join you or have them move back home to the Queen City.

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-FRANK SINATRA



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