



# Gen Dobry!

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Editor: William F. “Fred” Hoffman, e-mail: <[wfh@langline.com](mailto:wfh@langline.com)>

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\*\*\* WELCOME! \*\*\*

to the latest issue of *Gen Dobry!*, the e-zine of PolishRoots®. If you missed previous issues, you can find them here:

<<http://polishroots.org/GenDobry/tabid/60/Default.aspx>>

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**\*\*\* MORE DETAILS ON “THE ROAD HOME” \*\*\***

*Editor*—In my admittedly fallible judgment, the most interesting news in Polish-American genealogy in recent months has dealt with upcoming tours of Poland. Last month, we discussed the “Return to Your Polish Roots Tour” sponsored by the Polish Mission, as well as the PolishOrigins Galicia Tour for 2014. Now, more information is available on “The Road Home,” the tour being sponsored by PGS-Connecticut/Northeast. So let’s give them their moment in the spotlight. This is information put together by Dorena Wasik and featured on the PGSCNE website at <<http://pgsctne.org/Announcements.aspx>>.

**THE ROAD HOME**

**A special tour of Poland to reconnect with your roots  
Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast  
May 3, 2014 through May 15, 2014**

The trip cost is \$2,795\* per person, double occupancy. There will be an additional \$350 fee for single occupancy. The cost includes airfare between New York JFK and Warsaw, hotels, two meals daily, professional tour guide, private tour bus, and admission for scheduled attractions.

***You must sign up for the trip by January 2, 2014***, submit a \$100 non-refundable deposit, and fill out the pre-trip questionnaire.

Payment for 50% of the trip (non-refundable) is required by February 1, 2014.  
Non-refundable payment in full is required by March 1, 2013.  
You must have a valid passport for this trip.

If you are traveling alone, would you want a roommate and save the single supplement charge? Please let us know if you would like a roommate and we will try to accommodate you.

\* Price subject to change due to fluctuations in the exchange rate or airline fees.

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**INDIVIDUAL VILLAGE DAY TRIPS**

There are a limited number of day trips available so you can travel to your ancestral village. There will be an additional cost for this service. The village must be within 75 miles of a city we are visiting.

Requests must be submitted by January 2, 2014. We will notify you by January 20, 2014 if your trip is possible and the cost for the trip. The village day trip must be paid in full by February 1, 2014.

Two professional genealogists will serve as tour escorts: **Jonathan Shea**, an Accredited

Genealogist from New Britain, CT, and **Aleksandra Kacprzak**, Grudziądz, Poland will be available to answer genealogy questions on a daily basis.

## DAILY ITINERARY

Saturday, May 3

Depart from New York on LOT overnight flight.

Sunday, May 4

Arrive in Warsaw: Tour of Old Town and Royal Castle. After lunch, depart for Łomża. Dinner in Łomża. Overnight in Łomża.

Monday, May 5

Presentation at the State Archives. Tour of Łomża, Town Square, St. Michael's Cathedral, and Łomża Fort. Free time for research in the Archive. Village visit day for those with arranged village trips. Overnight in Łomża.

Tuesday, May 6

Visit to Białystok and Wasilków. Visit to the wooden mosque in the Muslim village of Kruszyniany. After lunch, depart for Zamość. Dinner and overnight in Zamość.

Wednesday, May 7

Tour of Zamość and the Fort. After lunch, depart for Przemyśl. Tour the Old Town at Przemyśl. Overnight in Przemyśl.

Thursday, May 8

Visit to the Przemyśl State Archives. Free time for research in the Archive. Village visit day for those with arranged village trips. After lunch, depart for Krasieczyn Castle. Overnight in Sanok.

Friday, May 9

Visit the outdoor Ethnographic Museum in Sanok. After lunch, depart for Zakopane. Dinner in Zakopane with a folk dancing and music show. Overnight in Zakopane.

Saturday, May 10

River raft ride on the Dunajec River and a visit to scenic mountain overlook. Free time for shopping in Zakopane. Overnight in Zakopane.

Sunday, May 11

Morning departure to Wieliczka and visit the Salt Mines. Depart for Kraków and tour Wawel Castle. Overnight in Kraków.

Monday, May 12

Morning visit to Oświęcim (Auschwitz) or Żywiec. Tour of Kraków, including Old Town, Cloth Hall, St. Mary's Church, Underground Museum, and the Kościuszko Mound. Free time

for shopping. Overnight in Kraków.

Tuesday, May 13

Morning departure for Częstochowa. Visit the Monastery at Częstochowa and the Black Madonna icon. After lunch, depart for Warsaw. Overnight in Warsaw.

Wednesday, May 14

Tour of Warsaw including Warsaw Uprising Museum and Łazienki Palace and Park. Free time for shopping. Overnight in Warsaw.

Thursday, May 15

After breakfast, depart to New York.

Click here for Reservation Form:

<http://pgsctne.org/Announcements%20trip%20signupform.aspx>

For more information, e-mail [Dorena726@yahoo.com](mailto:Dorena726@yahoo.com).

*Editor*—I'm pleased to say Jonathan Shea informed me that enough people have signed up to make the tour a go. That's always a concern—if enough people do not enroll, it's impossible to go forward for fear of economic disaster. It sounds as if this tour is on solid footing, which is very good news.

For those on Facebook, visit this page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Road-Home-Polish-Genealogy-Society-of-CT/609509092432082>.

For those who go, I hope you have a great time. And to all of you, I wish a "Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku"!

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**\*\*\* LETTERS TO THE EDITOR \*\*\***

Subject: The Chicken Song and Dance

*Editor*—In the November issue of *Gen Dobry!*, Dianne Zak asked about "the chicken song and dance." I received several notes, of which this seemed the best reply.

The "Chicken" dance was a popular favorite among the students in the elementary school where I taught in Iowa for several years. The song & dance was trotted out at school musical event, much to the delight of the young performers and audience.

I found this YouTube rendition performed by some young children at a Polish festival. I don't know exactly what your reader is looking for, but one cannot help but enjoy the enthusiasm expressed by the dance troupe in this video! [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzWcArx\\_Oh4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzWcArx_Oh4)

I hope that your reader does find the rendition of the chicken dance she is looking for. After all, it couldn't be any more difficult than finding one's Polish ancestors!

Karen Hartlep

*Editor*—I told Karen I'm not sure this is the same thing Dianne was talking about; I don't recall ever seeing this dance and song performed with the words she mentioned. But then again, I may be dead wrong. I figured it would do no harm to pass along what she said, for whatever it's worth. And in any case, the clip is a pleasure to watch!

Another reader didn't recognize the song or dance, but suggested posting the question to one of the Polish genealogy groups on Facebook. I'm not a huge fan of Facebook, but I do recognize that it sometimes is a source of quick info. The Polish Genealogy group is good, as is the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan group. There are no promises, of course; but I've seen folks ask questions and receive all kinds of answers in a matter of minutes.

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Subject: Researcher Łucjan Cichocki

*Editor*—This is a note sent to Debbie Greenlee and CC'ed to me. In it, John Bernacki responds to Debbie's efforts to help him find researchers in Poland to help him.

Hi Debbie,

Apologies for taking so long to reply. Just after I contacted Fred I found a new lead for my research, which required much digging but yielded good results. As I expected however, I ended up still needing a professional genealogist for some of the research to trace the German branch of my Polish family, to their place of origin.

Of the professional genealogists that you told me of, I tried to contact one; but after several weeks, I received no reply or any acknowledgement.

I then contacted Maciej Orzechowski, who told me he had so much work it would be a very long time before he could to do it and suggested Łucjan Cichocki, at Przemyśl: <[luczekcichocki@gmail.com](mailto:luczekcichocki@gmail.com)>.

Łucjan found enough information to fill in missing generations of my German branch in Poland. With that information, combined with what I already knew from researching German emigration to Sitaniec, Zamość, I was able to confirm my German ancestor who emigrated with other colonists to Poland in 1784 and his village of origin! Success!

It was the first time I ever employed a professional genealogist but I found Łucjan to be honest and earnest. He arranged for copies of relevant microfilm to be transferred from Lublin Archive to Przemyśl Archive and there were no travel costs for me to pay. He always kept me updated, and at each stage he checked with me to make sure he would do as I wanted. I sensed however that Łucjan is quite young and may be not very experienced at running a professional service. He told me that he has very limited ability to read Russian Cyrillic records, but he was not set up to

readily overcome this problem. I was quite surprised about this for professional genealogist in the former “Russian Poland.”

Anyway, some of your readers may need a professional genealogist in southeast Poland where they are hard to get. I would happily employ Łucjan again, especially if reading Russian Cyrillic was not a major requirement.

Kind regards,  
John Bernacki

*Editor*—We’re always glad to share the names and contact info of Polish researchers who have proved their worth to our readers. Once an established researcher, such as Maciej Orzechowski, becomes known to American genealogists, he or she often ends up with so much work that taking on new clients in a timely manner is impossible. So it’s always good to hear new names. With time, Łucjan will gain experience, and will undoubtedly become more familiar with the Russian encountered in older records. If he is honest and motivated, and keeps on doing this sort of work, experience will only increase his expertise.

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**\*\*\* PGS-MICHIGAN’S SHINY NEW WEBSITE \*\*\***

Valerie Warunek posted notes to the Facebook page of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, explaining that the Society has a new website. It’s at the same address as the old one, but has far more features. Even if you’re not a member, take a moment to visit and explore the new site: <<http://pgsm.org/>>. And if you are a member, check out the “Members Only” section!

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**\*\*\* ARTICLES IN *THE GALITZIANER* \*\*\***

*by Pamela Weisberger*

*Editor*—In a note posted to the JewishGen newsgroup on December 30, Pamela Weisberger summarized the contents of the quarterly journal *The Galitzianer*. The first article is by a name that is, or should be, familiar to all our readers. I wanted to list the contents so that those who might benefit from reading the articles can learn more.

The December issue of *The Galitzianer* (the quarterly journal of the Gesher Galicia SIG) is at the printers. This is our last issue for the 2013 membership year.

GG members will be receiving PDF copies within days, and paper copies should reach you within two weeks. In this issue are the following columns and articles:

“Austrian Census Returns 1869-1890 with an Emphasis on Galicia” - **Jonathan Shea, A.G.**, founding president of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast (The history of how an 1853 gathering in Brussels of the “International Statistical Congress,” lead to the idea of conducting decennial censuses throughout Europe, along with the evolution of the Habsburg Monarchy’s enumerations over the years.)

“All Thing Come to Genealogists Who Wait: The Tarnopol 1910 Jewish Census” - Pamela Weisberger (What a difference a decade makes: a 2002 visit to the Tarnopol Regional Archives in Ukraine, contrasted with a return ten years later.)

“Galician Record Images are Online” - Mark Jacobson  
(Updates on new JRI-Poland indexes and AGAD images online.)

“Turner? Your Name Must Have Been Changed!” - Steven S. Turner  
(Turner challenges our notion of what is an “Americanized” name, and how Mayflower-sounding names can actually have their origins in the shtetl.)

“The Man Who Stood in His Own Grave - Twice” - Waitman W. Beorn, PhD  
(Beorn is working on a major Holocaust project concerning the Janowska camp in Lwów. This article about Leon Wells, born Weliczker, author of *The Janowska Road*, details one man’s incredible story of survival.)

“Surnames Extracted from the 1910 Jewish Census” - Pamela Weisberger, Ann Harris & Renee Stern Steinig  
(Including explanations of double names and naming patterns, the oldest and youngest people in the census, and unexpected oddities found in the 14,000 entries.)

This issue also marks the debut of a new column, “The Preservationists Corner,” by Marla Raucher Osborn, where she will share the positive steps being taken in Eastern Europe to recapture the lost Jewish presence, as reflected in the remnants of “material heritage” or “immovable heritage,” such as abandoned synagogues, cemeteries and cheders. Here she highlights the new “Rohatyn Matzevot Memorial Project,” being spearheaded by herself and Dr. Alex Feller, head of the Rohatyn BOF.

My “Research Corner” discusses “Lost and Found Genealogical Treasures,” including the discovery of a Shlomo Adler, age 90, living in Tel Aviv, who was listed in the Grzymalow Children’s Census of 1926 as a two-year old. The name of his father, which was unreadable on the document, was clarified by him—the most primary of primary sources—and finally corrected. The connections between the documents we discover and the relationship to living people should never be discounted.

To learn more about *The Galitzianer*, go here:  
<<http://www.geshergalicia.org/galitzianer/>>

Thanks to our editor, Janice Sellers, and all of our contributors.

Pamela Weisberger  
President, Geshher Galicia  
<[pweisberger@gmail.com](mailto:pweisberger@gmail.com)>  
<<http://www.geshhergalicia.org>>

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**\*\*\* THE TRAVELS OF THE GALICIA-POLAND-UKRAINE GROUP \*\*\***

Well, the wanderings of the Yahoo Group devoted to Galicia-Poland-Ukraine continue. You may recall, after Yahoo implemented its new “Neo” interface, the owner of the Galicia-Poland-Ukraine group, Laurence Krupnak, found that the new interface required enormously more time and effort just to administer the group properly. The part that really infuriated him was that it took far more time to do the same things he’d always been doing with ease; the changes and added difficulty didn’t bring any benefit at all.

So he decided to suspend the group and look for alternatives. He moved it to the French version of Yahoo, which still used the old interface. But sadly, the French version then switched to Neo as well—and Laurence was back where he started.

I guess he’s going to try to put up with Neo, because this is the current address of the group:

<<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GaliciaPoland-Ukraine/>>

In other words, the group is back where it started!

I hope Laurence can find a way to administer the group without too much trouble. I know it is galling to find that the “new, improved” version of software (or anything else) is a hundred times worse than the old reliable version. Why do people insist on “fixing” something that wasn’t broken to begin with?

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**\*\*\* FROM THE POLISHORIGINS CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER \*\*\***

*by Zenon Znamirovski*

*Editor*—This is from the issue of the PolishOrigins newsletter published earlier in December. While the timing of *Gen Dobry!*’s publication makes the Christmas wishes come a little late, I think many readers will enjoy the quotation that begins the article, and Zenon’s good wishes.

“We are the chosen. In each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again. To tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve.



“Doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts, but instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the story tellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called, as it were, by our genes. Those who have gone before cry out to us: ‘Tell our story’. So, we do.

“In finding them, we somehow find ourselves. How many graves have I stood before now and cried? I have lost count. How many times have I told the ancestors, ‘You have a wonderful family; you would be proud of us.’ How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me? I cannot say.

“It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who am I and why do I do the things I do. It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference and saying I can’t let this happen. The bones here are bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh. It goes to doing something about it. It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish. How they contributed to what we are today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giving up, their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family. It goes to deep pride that the fathers fought, and some died to make and keep us a nation. It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us.

“It is of equal pride and love that our mothers struggled to give us birth, without them we could not exist, and so we love each one, as far back as we can reach. That we might be born who we are. That we might remember them. So we do. With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence, because we are they and they are the sum of who we are.

“So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer the call and take my place in the long line of family storytellers. That is why I do my family genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and restore the memory or greet those who we had never known before.

“Author: Della M. Cummings Wright”

These words written by Della M. Cummings and cited by Mike on his blog My Genealogical Quest <<http://blog.polishorigins.com/category/my-genealogical-quest/>> helped me better understand why I am so deeply engaged in genealogy. They provided an excellent explanation of the meaning of uncovering our roots to others who ask us the question: Family history? Why do you care???

I posted this quote in our Forum and we now have there a very inspiring and revealing discussion. Let me quote only one of many invaluable thoughts by Dave:

“I find the words about what we received from our ancestors especially meaningful at this time of the year. My maternal grandfather would always begin his Wigilia wishes by referring to ‘co

dostaliśmy od naszych ojców” (“that which we have received from our ancestors”) as he referred to the *opłatek* and the whole traditional Christmas celebration.”

As some of you wrote, the thoughts of Della are a perfect Christmas gift. So I share it with all of you in this Christmas Newsletter.

*Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku z kraju Twoich przodków!*

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the country of your ancestors!

Zenon & PolishOrigins Team

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**\*\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS \*\*\***

*Note: see also <<http://calendar.eogn.com/>> for a large selection of upcoming events in the world of genealogy.*

**January 13–17, 2014**

**SALT LAKE INSTITUTE 2014  
Radisson Hotel**

Course 1: American Research and Records: Focus on Families with Paula Stuart-Warren, CG, FUGA

Course 2: New York Research with Karen Mauer Green, CG

Course 3: Research in the South, CG

Course 4: Advanced Research Tools: Land Records with Richard G. Sayre, CG, and Pamela Boyer Sayre, CG, CGL

Course 5: Credentialing: Accreditation, Certification, or Both? with Apryl Cox, AG and Elissa Scalise Powell, CG, CGL

Course 6: Producing a Quality Family Narrative with John Philip Colletta, Ph.D., FUGA

Course 7: Researching in Eastern Europe with Kory Meyerink, AG

Course 8: Advanced Evidence Analysis Practicum with Angela McGhie and Kimberly Powell

Course 9: Advanced Genealogical Methods with Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS

Course 10: Problem Solving with Judith Hansen, AG, ML

For more information see these Web pages: <<http://www.infouga.org/aem.php?eid=8>> and <<http://www.infouga.org/aem.php?lv=p&epg=51>>

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**May 2–5, 2014**

**UNITED POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES (UPGS) CONFERENCE**  
**Salt Lake City**

Plaza Hotel in downtown Salt Lake City (steps away from the world-renowned Family History Library and historic Temple Square).

122 West South Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101  
(800) 366-3684

Discounted Room Rate in effect - \$85, for single or double, good for the shoulder dates as well. Please use the full title "United Polish Genealogical Society Conference" when applying for special rate, no abbreviations.

[From the December 2013 issue of PGSA Notebook]

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**July 27 – August 1, 2014**

**34TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY**  
**Hilton Center Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah**

For more information on this event, which is one of the annual highlights of the entire genealogical calendar, visit the website:

<<http://www.iajgs2014.org/>>

Note that the December 29, 2013 issue of *Nu? What's New* said, "For the second year, for those who cannot attend the conference, selected lectures will be streamed live on the Internet. These broadcasts will be accessible on a computer, smartphone, or tablet via Internet connection ... Cost for this form of registration, which is called 'IAJGS 2014 LIVE,' is \$149." You can learn more at the Conference website.

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**August 12–15, 2014**

**FEEFHS Annual Eastern European Research Workshop**  
**Salt Lake City, Utah**

This annual workshop focuses on the records, tools, and methodologies needed to conduct research in Eastern European records, online, in microfilm, and on site. Additional Research Essentials track provides skills and background. Country tracks to include Germany, Poland, Russia, and more. Opens with an orientation of the Family History Library; closes with a banquet and keynote speaker. Includes individual consultation. Call for presentations soon going out. Full details on schedule and registration to be posted by Feb 1, 2014.

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**\*\*\* MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES \*\*\***

<<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war/>>

In a note posted to the JewishGen newsgroup, Jan Meisels Allen mentioned that a number of countries are making records available in connection with the anniversary of the beginning of World War I. The URL above, for instance, is a new portal for the First World War launched by the UK's National Archives. She also mentioned the site <<http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/>>, with access to records of Australians who served in the first Australian Imperial Force. The Canadian War Museum has a site <<http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/guerre/home-e.aspx>>, and <[http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015201\\_e.html#The%20War%20D](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015201_e.html#The%20War%20D)> deals with War Diaries from World War I. I did not notice any sites directly relevant to Polish research, but who knows? A search may turn up something.

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<<http://search.geshergalicia.org/>>

Pamela Weisberger posted a note to JewishGen explaining that Gesher Galicia reported a huge year-end update to the "All Galicia Database," due largely to the efforts of "data-meister, Brooke Schreier Ganz." Many of the records cover entire communities, so Polish, German, and Ukrainian Galitzianers' names are included. The whole Gesher Galicia site, <<http://www.geshergalicia.org/>>, is worth checking for anyone with Galician roots!

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<<http://dai.ly/xqlsm6>>

In the December 16th issue of *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*, Dick Eastman gave this link to a clip of the Three Stooges in "No Census, No Feeling," in which they play census enumerators. Eastman said, "I watched the movie today and now I understand some of census records I have looked at in the past! I think this is the same group that visited my great-great-grandparents' house." I had to include the link, for those who enjoy the Stooges and need a laugh.

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<<http://www.world-webcams.net/webcams,poland.html>>

Debbie Greenlee posted this address to various mailing lists. She said you can find a city of interest on the list and click to see the real-time web cams. But she said "Not all cities listed have active cameras ... Click on the picture next to the name of the city. This will take you to another page where you click on the picture again. Oddly enough, the cities are not all in alphabetical order, so you may have to go through all of the page listings. You'll find some out of order at the end (page 9). Don't expect to see any villages. The best you can do is find your ancestral village's gmina or old województwo capital." Note also that there are limitations in some cases as to how long you can view specific cameras, and how many users can view them at once. But it's a free look at many places in Poland—we can live with a few restrictions.

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<<http://www.lithuanianmaps.com/Maps1919-29.html>>

On the LidaRoots mailing list, Bob “krampetz” posted this URL, saying it has a wonderful collection of maps of the eastern sections of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Some of our readers may wish to bookmark this site for reference.

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<<http://threecomposers.pl/>>

Jim “jakrysiak” posted a note to the Polish Genius list, suggesting that this English-language site provides “a wonderful, varied sampling of music of three of Poland’s famous classical composers (Górecki, Lutosławski, and Penderecki).” It is produced by the Narodowy Instytut Audiowizualny (National Audiovisual Institute). After more than a month of trying to avoid saccharine Christmas music, a visit to this site was a welcome relief, at least for me!

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<<http://www.amazon.com/The-Crooked-Mirror-Polish-Jewish-Reconciliation/dp/0807050555>>

In another note posted to the Polish Genius list, Dorothy Petraitis praised the book *The Crooked Mirror: A Memoir of Polish-Jewish Reconciliation*, by Louise Steinman. Dorothy wrote, “Steinman’s memoir follows her journey into the history of her lost ancestors through the history of Polish-Jewish relations through the centuries of Poland as the epicenter of European Jewish life. She examines the complex history of this relationship to find Poles who are seeking the truth about the past while seeking reconciliation. It is a must-read for Poles and Jews alike. Steinman’s book brought me to tears of sadness and hope for the future.” If you’d like to learn more, this link will take you to the page where Amazon.com offers the book.

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<<http://www.ourstoryof.com/polish/index.html>>

Ceil Jensen posted this link to the Polish Genealogy page on Facebook. She explained, “Researchers might like to see all the work producer Keith Famie put into the documentary *Our Polish Story*. He chronicled the stories of Displaced Persons in Metro Detroit, and arranged for a reunion in Poland for Zofia Szostak, Home Army veteran, and her childhood friend from Gdansk. How does a community bring their story to the mainstream? With the help of a range of sponsors who contributed to the production, including the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan and the Polish Mission.”

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