

*IWWG*  
*“Remember the Magic”*  
*E-Book Anthology*  
*June 2006*

*Melody’s Computer, Writing and  
Internet Class*

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*The End to Computer Intimidation*  
*by*  
*Kathryn Varuzza*

*You blink at me,  
You blank screen, daring me to format my Word document  
HA! It mocks me, saying slyly, you don't know how to save, and save as,  
I will eat your words whole, and not give them back!  
Oh, you are wrong! I do know how!  
Thanks to the Great Melody and her Internet and Computers Class!  
OK, that's baby stuff, it replies, but do you know how to copy and paste?  
Send photos over email?  
Create photo pages in Power Point?  
Easy as Pie! I coolly reply.  
How can this be? This is so weird!  
You can't possibly know how to create a Blog, or set up a website!  
I got you now! Ha! I will torture you forever!  
Oh come on! Is that all you got? Creating a blog and website are child's play!  
No, this cannot be happening, the computer whined. How?  
A few days ago, you were not wise! You didn't know my secrets  
What happened?  
Melody's internet and computers class  
At Skidmore 2006  
Melody taught me your tricks and your secrets, no more ripping my hair out and  
moaning and groaning, trying to unlock your secret codes  
No Sir!  
You will not torture me any longer!  
I have the Power of computers and internet  
Thanks to the IWWG and Melody!*

*Healing Earth Prayer*  
by  
*Laura Eaton*  
*auralaura@twcny.rr.com*

*This came out of Judi Beach's Ritual Writing class.*

*Great Mother of the Universe, may I walk with gentle steps.  
As the sun shines on the sparkling waters,  
Allow peace to ripple through me  
Guide me to honor all life – human, plant, animal, insect,  
hard stone, soft moist fertile ground.  
Help me to remember that we are all sharing one space,  
And to honor that space  
For I know actions start with one step.  
May that step begin with mine.*



*Dispossessed*  
by  
*Stacie Ann Leininger*

*. . . and on my mantel sits my most prized possession .  
. . my engagement ring still adorning the finger of  
your lover.*

*Pledge Of Allegiance For The 21st C*  
by  
*Linda Durnbaugh, planetary citizen.*

*I pledge allegiance to the sentient beings of the planet and to the consciousness  
from which it evolved – one lovely experience of recycled stardust, co-created with the  
heavens, indivisible as one, with liberty and justice for all.*

*Owner's Manual*  
*by*  
*Bridget Seguire*  
*June 2006*

I've been coming to Skidmore for seven years now and I think it's only fair that you become familiar with my operations manual.

***Rule Number One***

If you follow my rules, no one gets hurt.

***Rule number Two***

I have a personal space problem because I suffer from bad breath and gas due to an all vegetable diet. It is for your own protection.

***Rule Number Three***

I don't talk to thin people, but I'm willing to consider exceptions when warranted. But don't expect me to talk about buttocks, collagen to plump your lips, liposuction your eyebrows, or complain about your pathetic pimple you call a stomach or I'll show you one you won't soon forget.

***Rule Number Four***

No talk of Cancun, or your 13 trips to Disneyworld, or the condition of your in ground pool. If while speaking to me, my eyes glaze over and I not my head, Move on! This conversation is Over!

***Rule Number Five***

During meals, there will be no talk of medical problems, i.e., hemorrhoids, irritable bowel syndrome, constipation or oozing sores.

***Rule Number Six***

Don't tap me or get in my face or say hello too cheerfully without identifying yourself. Assume I don't know you and give me a brief synopsis of your business and I may or may not get back to you.

***Rule Number Seven***

I don't do pictures of babies, trips, or want to hear cutsie sayings, fluffy animals or girly stuff. Don't expect me to carry on conversations of awe and wonder over a leaf or a magical pinecone. It ain't going to happen.

No, I won't sit in the sun. I sweat like a pig and the hair on my chin becomes magnified. I don't do nights, go to your house, participate in idle chit chat . Don't ask, I'm burning daylight as it is. I don't want to hear your creative writing on after-births, orgasms or inadequate men. That's common knowledge. What do I write? I write nothing, do nothing and I sleep a lot. While at Skidmore, I must get my naps in preferably every two hours. So catch me between naps if you dare.

*Bored*  
*By*  
*Florence Friedman*

“I really must tell you that your hair looks great,” said my hairdresser, moving back to admire his handiwork.

“Well, if you hand me my eyeglasses I’ll be able to see what you are crowing about. I always like to see what the artist prides himself in.”

Had I not indulged myself in that brief interchange my day would have been different.

Just as I reached the corner my number 22 bus pulled into the bus stop on the opposite side of the avenue. I waved to the driver but he shrugged his shoulders indicating that what we both knew – none of the passing drivers had enough generosity in their souls to allow me to cross.

The baby-faced security guard who was there to examine passengers before they entered the bus gave me a sympathetic smile.

“You may as well sit down, Auntie. Another one will come in about 20 minutes.”

*This is damn boring – not that I’m in such a hurry. It’s simply a waste of time. There is nothing to focus my eyes on so that I might gather fodder for a story. The traffic is sparse except when I needed to cross the street. Not even a passerby in a bizarre get up to relieve the monotony.*

*Boring. Boring. Boring.*

May as well sit back and relax – all things come to those who wait.

I put my cheek on the handle of my trusty cane; might as well doze off for a while.

Suddenly, I heard a commotion. I lifted my head, turning to the left, from whence the noise had come.

A tall, heavy-set man was being chased by a few people who were shouting, “Thief, thief! Stop him!”

I surely was not thinking when I spontaneously slid my cane forward as he ran passed me.

He tripped but not before he grimaced at me. I immediately placed the cane, held firmly, in the small of his back.

The baby-faced guard ran up, pistol in hand. “Stay where you are. I’ve got you covered. Better not move.” With the other hand he called for the police.

“You did enough. Better sit down, Grandma.” In a few short minutes, I became Grandma instead of Auntie. Life sure flies.

The police car raced to us. The young policewoman, though slight and gentle-looking, was quite capable of handcuffing the alleged culprit and shoving him into the back seat of the police car.

Meanwhile, her brawny partner was doing the necessary paper work and took the witnesses into the lobby of an adjacent building. The sidewalk was too narrow to accommodate the multiplying busybodies.

My bus finally pulled in. I hurriedly got up from my ringside seat and was the first to board the bus. There was no way that I would wait around for the police to get my name. I remembered the horrible look the trapped man gave me. He'll have to get his revenge somewhere else in some other time.

My fellow bus travelers asked me what had happened. I told them it was just another routine daily happening. And it must have been. It was neither mentioned on the TV news that evening nor in the morning newspapers.

The incident had relieved my boredom but added guilt. Supposing he was innocent?

Getting tired of playing with that scenario, a nagging thought raised its ugly head.

Supposing it never happened and it was just a figment of my fertile imagination while trying to escape boredom.

*Megan Grows Up*  
*By*  
*Melody (Mary) L. Cryns*

She was supposed to be my little girl forever, my baby, my little companion who went with me everywhere, even to my writing classes with Floyd Salas where she'd sit on the floor with Rocky the Dog and to the guitar class where she'd draw on the chalkboard while we played guitars. She was still that little girl who used to sing "Hello Good-Bye" by the Beatles at the top of her lungs in the car – because it was the first song she learned to sing.

It seemed like just yesterday when Megan and I hung out at my favorite coffee shop in Mountain View all the time. Megan would sit and color pictures or roller blade up and down the street. I'd watch her glide back and forth, back and forth, her bright red hair blowing in the wind. Aaron, the guy who worked at the coffee shop would let Megan swing on his big strong tattooed arm and always threatened to "sell her to the gypsies."

Hadn't I fantasized about running away from home with Megan to get away from my three teenagers and all of their friends who were driving me nuts? I pictured me in the car with little, sweet Megan driving north on Highway 101 past the ocean and the huge redwood trees. I'd look in my rear view mirror, and there they were in the next car...a car load of teenagers, my teenagers and their friends, waving their arms out the window and yelling.

When Megan began fifth grade she cried when she read the piece I wrote about her first day of school when I said that "soon Megan won't want to ride with me in the car and listen to Beatles songs. She'll want me to drop her off down the street."

"No, Mom!" Megan had assured me through the tears. "I'll always want to hang out with you and listen to Beatles songs!"

I smiled even though I knew, yet I didn't want to think about it.

Then there were moments when I'd embarrassed her, like the time I sang a Beatles song on the karaoke machine at Megan's after-school program. But she still loved her Sponge Bob and her stuffed animals as well.

I remember when Megan was at the Mountain View Public library – with one foot in the children's section and the other in the "Teen Zone" section. Even though I could see the signs and I knew she was leaning

towards that Teen Zone, something in her eyes told me that she was almost there, but not quite yet.

I breathed a sigh of relief then.

Last year, when Megan traveled to New York with me for her first experience at the IWWG conference, she carried Mrs. Monks, her stuffed monkey dressed in her best outfit, with her on the plane and throughout the entire trip from California to Saratoga Springs, New York. Although I let her choose her own classes, she actually did listen to a couple of my suggestions.

Last year Megan was happy and full of life the entire week, even when we traveled to New York City for the weekend, just beginning to blossom like a butterfly coming out of its cocoon.

This year, Megan has opened the door and plunged into the Teen Zone, into the dark abyss of adolescence where it's more difficult for me to see her. But, if I hold out my hand, I know she's out there someplace.

This year, as I traveled to New York with Megan once again making that magical journey, I realized that my little girl has disappeared. In her place is a beautiful, emotional, sometimes brooding, yet independent and stubborn young lady.

Hey, who took my little girl away?

This year, I am not allowed to make suggestions to Megan about class choices or anything else for that matter.

So I savor the moments when Megan and I sit side by side and she puts her head on my shoulder or when she gives me a hug and says she loves me, knowing that all those other moments are a phase, a part of life that Megan must go through to travel down that adolescent road of life.

One part of me wants to shake her and yell, "Come back Megan, come back!" I want to see her carrying Mrs. Monks again, but I know in my heart that isn't possible now. She's turned at the crossroads, and I must let her travel that path.

As I sit here now and listen to the music, I hear the wise words of the Beatles, "Speaking words of wisdom, Let it be."

*You Don't Have to Speak Farsi*  
by  
*Anita Swanson*

“You don’t have to speak Farsi,” the talk show host said as he smiled and shook my hand. “All you have to do is answer the questions. I’ll do all the translating.” And for the next two hours that’s exactly what he did as question followed question about the book that I’d written on my healing journey from child abuse victim to adult thriver.

The fact that I was doing a radio interview in LA didn’t surprise me; radio book tours have always been a popular way to bring media attention to recently published books, and mine had been receiving a lot lately. What surprised me, perhaps even stunned me, was the fact that I was sitting in an Iranian radio station in the middle of Universal City, CA surrounded by Iranian newspapers, magazines, and looking at walls covered with giant travel posters to Iran.

I’d always known that abuse, whether it was emotional, physical, verbal or sexual, existed in other cultures, but I’d been told (and believed) that it was never mentioned, and as the interview progressed I found myself wondering, “What am I doing here? Who is going to hear this broadcast? My book explores religious oppression why did the host invite me, of all people, to talk about this subject?” And so eventually I said, “With all due respect could I ask you a question?” He looked surprised and then nodded.

“Why am I here?” I went on. “I mean I know abuse exists in every culture but not many people are willing to talk about it and even fewer seem to be talking about religious oppression.”

His brilliant smile which had initially been so disarming was now filled with confidence. “Because, I’m interested in transformational work and it’s time my people took a closer look at themselves. Your book intersects with my culture. Your book is a beginning. It allows people to start a dialog about abuse and even if that’s all we can do for now, then that’s what we will do.”

And so it was that the sound engineer took a copy of the show to play it for his girlfriend who was also from Iran, and the radio show went out in Farsi to the thousands of Iranians living in LA and from there it went into the world. And the dialog began.

I live in a small town. My book is not a critical thesis about the effects of child abuse. *Slow Hope* is simply a story, told to the best of my writer’s

ability, about what happened to me as a child and how God and I survived it together. I am awestruck by the book's fascinating journey.

“Transformational work.” It's a phrase the talk show host used and it keeps going through my mind. Transformations can occur in any culture. Courage can be grown. Hope lies in the effort.

*Valentine*  
*By*  
*Megan Hutchinson*

It was that dreadful day where I felt sad and lonely and cold – Valentine’s Day. All the rest of my friends were excited as they went through the yearbook looking for guys they would ask to the Valentine’s dance. As I sat there without a sound, I heard my friend yell, “Ricardo!” with a shy little laugh, and he came over. I sat there watching them mingle, sharing a bit of air between them and exchanging body heat. The boy I liked passed by, so I sat up. He looked so good in his tight black jeans that I could just die just to have him hold me. He gave me a little smile and ran off. The bell rang for First Period and my little shredded heart seemed to be getting fixed very slowly.

I walked into class and saw a note on my desk with one single rose. I opened the note slowly in fear it was from the boy who sits next to me who collects pokeman and talks to himself. As I opened it, I noticed it wasn’t his handwriting and sighed with relief. It said, “Dearest Megan. I’m not sure if you know me. I hope you do, but by the time you get the third rose, you will know who this is.”

I was thinking of all the possibilities of who he could be as I looked around. Josh? Sean? Jake? It was a struggle inside of me. I couldn’t stop my heart from racing fast. The bell rang for break as I walked outside. My friends Rocky, Olivia, Selina, Bryon, Robert and Josh, the normal gang, greeted me with a big “Hey!”

As Bryan passed me, a rose and a note.

“Some random guy left this on your locker,” he said.

I smiled and looked over by my locker, but nobody was there.

“Bryan?! You can’t tell me who it is?”

Bryan shrugged. “Well, I don’t think I should. It’s a secret admirer. Keep it a secret hun!”

Bryan was a typical gay guy and is such a sweetheart, but sometimes he ticks me off. I finally opened the note and held the rose up to my heart as I read aloud, “Your beauty fills my soul and body. I can’t wait to give you the third rose.”

I shed a tear of joy from that moment. The day started to rush by fast. Finally I found the last rose. It was sitting on the bench where I go to read, but I didn’t see anybody. So I read the note fast. “Meet me at the poetry circle, mwah!”

I ran to the poetry circle fixing my hair as I was running. I came up to a small girl. "Who are you?" I said.

"I am Darren's little sister," she said.

I thought for a while. "You mean the guy who looks so sexy in the tight black jeans?"

"Huh?" Darren said, showing up out of nowhere. He walked up to me really close and put one knee on the ground. "Megan Mary Hutchinson, will you be my valentine?"

"Phew! I thought you were gonna ask to marry me!"

He laughed his cute laugh and said, "Well...?"

"Oh yes! Of course I will," I said trying to look for the right words. And we lived happily ever after.

*How to sleep with...*  
*An Activated Medical Reserve Officer on Leave*  
*by*  
*Marjohn Love*

After 25 years, six long, lonely, anxious months and an arduous 36 hour flight ending with a mysteriously missing, carry on bag of all my valuables instead of his promised smile at the gate, new reserves of courage and strength formed inside my hollow shell.

Thank God for competent women. With her help I discovered my undies, prescriptions, MP3 music and jewelry were commandeered back in San Francisco as a suspected bomb. When he arrived two days later, just a few hours after a courier delivered my innocent but much maligned bag; it took me nearly a week to allow myself to have sex with him.

When he startled me awake moaning his terror in the night, the exact same way I used to, I reversed our roles and caressed his fears murmuring, "I'm here Baby. I am right here."

Thus named and clamed, once again he scaled my walls of resentment and resistance. My rage relented and physical fire flared.

Spooned, my tender rose nipples met wiry black curls which no longer whispered to me while his body slept. His suddenly aged visage upon the crumpled pillow scared me with a surge of love one only feels for an infant at ones breast, yet mine were aching empty. As a smooth sheet allowed seeping of skin's heat while shielding my areola, absorbing our sticky sweat, I wondered how on earth I could possibly shelter him with my body or protect him from incoming mortar, angry insurgent's small arms fire or those awful IEDs, or improvised explosive devices in the roads which have claimed so many lives.

My abandoned heart relented and forgave him the fear fraught separation and like magic my wise, intuitive husband awoke. Knowing truth when he felt it, he made his move.

He let his hunger for union transcend our two skins and excruciating intimacies ensued.

The sound he made when he allowed part of his soul to soak into me with his semen tore open the coffer of my heart. Seizing that moment in the same susurrus cadence I affirmed

"I've got you. I've got you." Feeling his warm tears mingle with my own, I finally found my way home, both of us absolutely oblivious to the bruises blooming under his fingers.

*How to Sleep With...  
A Long Pillow...  
by  
Marjohn Love*

*Sew a blue brushed polyester pillow slip whose hand is half way between silk and skin.*

*Turn the electric bed pad heater on at least an hour before retiring.*

*Wear a stretchy spandex sleep shirt and panties.*

*Put a large thermos of ice on the night stand next to the knife.*

*Climb under the fluffy pink duvet.*

*Open your knees so the long pillow can cushion shins and ankle bones.*

*Hug it as hard and long as you need to while you let the fabric soak up your tears.*

*Let the fluffy feathers comfort you.*

*When you stop shivering, turn off the bed pad, so it doesn't roast you while you sleep.*

*When you wake in the night with your heart pounding in your throat and your tongue stuck to the roof of your mouth, teeth plastered painfully to your lips--sip the melted ice.*

*Pray one more time into that soggy pillow's softness for his safe return.*

## *Praise on Father's Day*

*By  
Janice O'Brien*

*(Written in Jan Phillips' Class)*

- ❖ Praise the beads of sweat along my father's brow as he repaired my old, red bike on a hot summer's eve
- ❖ Praise the campfire at Lake Seneca where Dad fried bacon in Mom's discarded, iron skillet on Sunday mornings in July
- ❖ Praise the tree house Dad built in the back yard next to the old chicken coop where I climbed and read my favorite book, *A Tree Grows In Brooklyn*
- ❖ Praise the puppies Dad safely placed in my old playpen keeping them apart from over anxious, affectionate cousins
- ❖ Praise big orange pumpkins Dad skillfully carved into jack-o-lanterns on All Hallows Eve
- ❖ Praise jump ropes Dad patiently turned with Francine's Dad talking of Roger Maris' home runs as we skipped through double Dutch loops
- ❖ Praise every schoolbook Dad neatly covered for me each September with brown paper grocery bags
- ❖ Praise the old Woody Dad taught me to shift and drive along with a quick tune up and oil change
- ❖ Praise all the mountaintops where Dad showed me our own personal view of the world
- ❖ Praise the stories Dad told of Depression, war and Frank Sinatra performing at the Paramount

- ❖ Praise the generosity and kindness Dad showed others, stopping to change every flat tire noticed along 95 from Jersey to Florida
- ❖ Praise Dad's addiction and anxiety that kept him prisoner year after year
- ❖ Praise lessons learned about coping, surviving when life is rough
- ❖ Praise Dad's bruised spirit, tormented soul and broken heart
- ❖ Praise Dad's entire being, his triumphs, his gifts and his troubles, so he may find eternal rest



# Polish Americans



*by Alice Deck*

Over the years, Polish-Americans have contributed in many fields including explorers, educators, inventors, medicine, business, science, military, etc. The following are a few of some lesser-known Polish-Americans and their contributions:

**1475**

**Jan of Kolno**

A Polish sea captain under the sponsorship of the King of Denmark, he reached Labrador and explored the Atlantic Coast as far as Delaware in 1475. Poland is one of the countries that claim a pre-Columbus discovery of the New World, so, maybe we should be calling the capital of Ohio, Kolno instead of Columbus.

**1608**

**Zbigniew Stefanski**

Glass production expert, he was one of 8 Polish passengers who arrived in Jamestown, Virginia in 1608. Soon after their arrival, these artisans constructed a glass furnace a mile from Jamestown. They not only built the first factory in America but also produced the first goods for export to England. When they were denied the right to vote because they were not of British descent, they staged the first strike for the right to vote in 1619. In addition, the sport of baseball resembles the game brought to America by the early Polish settler of Jamestown. In his *Pamiętnik Handlowca* (An Industrialist's Memoirs) of 1625, Zbigniew Stefanski gives the facts of the Polish game and even names some of its players.

**1659**

**Alexander Karol Kurczewski**

A Polish schoolmaster, he came to the colonies at the request of the New Amsterdam officials and was appointed to the prestigious position of teacher in 1659. Known in American history as Dr. Curtis, he established the first Latin school in the New World. His academy was one of the oldest institutions of learning, predated only by Harvard University.

**1712**

**Anthony Sadowski (? - 1736)**

Pioneer, trader, teacher and the first Polish musician in America, he bought brass jews harps from England and taught

Indians and his own children how to use them. Known as the Polander of Manatwny, he settled on a farm in 1712 on the Schuylkill River. In 1749, 120 jews harps were traded for land from the Indians at Logstown, Pennsylvania where he had traveled. Even the Sadowski historical marker on Route 422 unveiled in 1966 adjacent to the graveyard by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in Douglasville, Pennsylvania does not list all his accomplishments.

**1735**

**James Anthony Sadowski**

Prominent adventurous frontiersman, Indian trader and interpreter, he was the first white settler from the English colonies to sail the Mississippi to New Orleans and from there to Baltimore. In 1735, he crossed the Alleghenies into Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee and was one of the first white men to explore and settle in this region. Sandusky, Ohio was named after him.

**1774**

**James II & Jacob Sadowski**

Sons of James Anthony Sadowski, they distinguished themselves in the history of the state of Kentucky as companions of Daniel Boone and were instrumental in the exploration of what is today Kentucky and Tennessee. In 1774, they sailed with about 40 men down the Ohio and the Monongahela rivers and camped at the site of modern day Cincinnati.

**1776**

**Paul Mostowski**

Explorer, he wanted to found New Poland in 1776 in what are today the southern states. Instead of referring to that part of the country as Dixie, we might have been calling it Nowy Polska.

**1783**

**Thomas Kajetan Wengierski**

He arrived in Philadelphia in 1783 after winning a name for himself in Warsaw with his brilliant but malicious satires against the Russian regime. His diary

containing his keen observations on men and events is a welcome addition to American historical data.

**1824**

**Brevetted Brigadier General Wladimir Krzyzanowski** (1824 - ?)

After the failure of the Mierowslawski Insurrection in Poznan, he was forced to flee. Upon his arrival in New York, he learned English and became a civil engineer eventually working in the forests of Virginia. During the Civil War, he went to New York to raise a large militia unit, which became the 58<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry, also known as the Polish Legion. He distinguished himself in the battle of Bull Run, was later honored by Congress and is regarded as the most distinguished Pole of the Civil War. Postwar he served in the Treasury Department and the Customs Service in Panama and New York.

**Father Leopold Moczygamba**  
(1824-1891)

After his ordination in 1825 as a Franciscan Monk, he was sent to Texas in 1852. He is best known as the founder of the oldest permanent Polish settlement in the United States - Panna Maria (Polish for "Virgin Mary"). His legacy in Texas included the formation of the first Polish settlement and Polish Catholic parish, the establishment of the first Polish school in America and major contributions from 1854-1857 as the superior of the Franciscan Minor Conventual missions in Texas. For the next 25 years, he worked among Germans and Poles in New York, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan. He founded several parishes, established numerous schools and participated in the formation of the Polish Roman Catholic Union, the largest Polish Catholic organization in the United States. However, he is best known as the cofounder of Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan - the only successful major Polish seminary in the country.

**1829**

**Marie Elizabeth Zakrzewska**  
(1829-1902)

Polish-American physician and medical pioneer, she enrolled in midwifery studies at the Royal Charite Hospital in Berlin, graduated in 1851 and became a teaching assistant. After immigrating to the US to study medicine, she went to Cleveland's Western Reserve College and graduated with a Doctorate of Medicine degree in 1856. From 1857-1859, she served as the resident physician and general manager at the New York Infirmary for Women and Children. In 1859, she moved to Boston and became a resident physician and professor of obstetrics at the New England Female Medical College.

In 1862, she established her own hospital- the New England Hospital for Women and Children, the first in Boston and the 2<sup>nd</sup> hospital in the U.S. to be run by women physicians and surgeons. She served as resident physician (1862-1863), attending physician (1863-1887) and advisory physician (1887-1899). Her hospital continues to serve patients today as the Dimock Community Health Center in Boston. She contributed greatly to the eventual acceptance of women physicians and was also a supporter of women's suffrage.

**1834**

**Marcin Rosienkiewicz**

He wrote the first book in America using the Polish language entitled, "Dialogues to Facilitate the Acquisition of the English Language by the Polish Emigrants". He also opened the first Polish school in the United States in 1834 in which he taught the English language.

**1938**

**Peter Kiolbassa** (1838-1905)

Polish American businessman, alderman and building commissioner, he emerged as an important local Chicago leader. In 1864, he organized the first Polish Society of St. Stanislaus Kostka, which prepared the community for the development of the first Polish Roman Catholic parish in the city. The first Polish elected official in Chicago, he served as in the state legislature (1877-1879 and as city treasurer (1891-1893).

**1861**

**Rudolf Modrzejewski**[Ralph Modjeski]  
(1861-1940)

[Polish American](#) civil [engineer](#), he studied at *L'Ecole des Ponts et Chaussees* in [Paris, France](#), where he graduated in [1885](#) at the top of his class. He returned to American and opened his own office. His first project as a chief engineer was the railroad bridge across the [Mississippi River](#) at [Rock Island, Illinois](#). He took over the mis-designed [Quebec Bridge](#) after the [1907](#) disaster that killed 75 workers, and succeeded in creating the longest [truss span](#) in the world which is still the longest [cantilevered bridge](#) in the world. During his career he served as chief or consulting engineer on dozens of bridges around the country and "one of the twentieth century's most famous designers and builders of bridges". In 1929, he was awarded the John Fritz Gold Medal, the highest American engineering medal, with a citation for his genius in combining strength and beauty.

**1869**

**Stephan Nowaczyk** (1869-?)

Polish American founder and first publisher of the newspaper Gwiazda

(Star), he emigrated to the U.S. with his family in the 1870's. In 1902, he purchased some second-hand printing equipment from his employer and began to publish Gwiazda.

#### 1871

##### **Henryk Arctowski** (1871-1958)

Polish-American geophysicist, geologist, geographer and explorer, he participated in the Belgica Antarctic Expedition from 1897-1899 and became the first to winter in the Antartic. In addition to observations of sea-ice formation and types of icebergs, he obtained a full year's cycle of meteorological observations and prepared a bathymetric map from soundings he made during the ships drift. In the field of geology, he formed the "Antarktand" hypothesis involving the analogy between the formation of the South Andes (particularly Tierra del Fuego) and the Graham Peninsula of the Antarctic continent. With respect to glaciology, he found that the snow boundary had risen by 800 meters since the last glacial maximum. From 1911-1919, he organized the natural sciences division and held the post of division director at the New York Public Library. Jan Kazimierz University had conferred upon him in 1912 the degree of "Honoris Causa" Doctor. In 1919, he prepared maps and a memorandum regarding Poland's independence for the US delegation for the peace conference in Versailles. He returned to Poland in 1920 and accepted the chair of Geophysics and Meteorology at the Jan Kazimierz University in Lwow. In 1935, he became a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters and published 133 papers in the institute's journal. He had participated in the Congress of the International Geodetic-Geophysical Union as President of the International Commission of Climatic Changes in Washington, DC at the outbreak of World War II in 1939. Since it was impossible to return to Poland, he accepted a position at the Smithsonian Institute. His first scientific success at the Smithsonian was to demonstrate a positive correlation between 24-hour changes in the solar constant and sunspot area based on material collected between 1926-1930. A Polish stamp honoring him was issued in 1986.

#### 1894

##### **Tadeusz Sendzimir** (1894-1989)

Polish American engineer and inventor of international renown, he had 120 patents in mining and metallurgy, 73 of which were awarded in the U.S. His name was given to revolutionary methods of processing steel and metals used in every industrialized nation of the world. He established the US company, T. Sendzimir, Inc in the 1940s. His successful methods of galvanizing steel eventually were

implemented in the first Z-mil silicon steel making it pliable for aircraft radar and in 1974, he invented a spiral steel looper. In 1975, he received the title of doctor "Honoris Causa" from the AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow and was awarded an Officer Cross in the Order of Polonia Restituta "Restoration of Poland".

#### 1897

##### **Gittel Kaimowitz** [Gertrude Blanch]

(1897-1996)

Polish American mathematician who did pioneering work in numerical analysis and computation, she worked for 14 years to save enough money for schooling. She received her BS in mathematics (minor in physics) from New York University in 1932 and her PhD from Cornell in algebraic geometry in 1935. In 1938, she began work on the Mathematical Tables Project of the Works Project Administration (WPA) which entailed designing algorithms that were executed by teams of human computers under her direction. The project later became the Computation Laboratory of the National Bureau of Standards. During World War II, she worked for the Office for Scientific Research and Development and oversaw calculations for the Army, Navy, Manhattan Project and other institutions. She published over 30 papers on functional approximation, numerical analysis and Mathieu functions.

##### **Jozef Mazur** (1897-1970)

Artist, he studied at the New York Art Institute and worked in a variety of media. His stained glass works are located in churches in Philadelphia, New York City and Buffalo. By 1930, he had distinguished himself as an ecclesiastical painter in this genre. His first commission was the complete decoration of St. Stanislaus Church in Buffalo. Among his secular works are the sculpted bust of Frederick Chopin and a life-size portrait of Kazimierz Pulaski in Olean, N.Y.

#### 1898

##### **Teofila Samolinska**

Poet and leader in Polish American organizations, she founded the Polish Women's Alliance in 1898 which became the first Polish fraternal-type federation for women and was active in the Polish National Alliance.

#### 1902

##### **Rev Casimir Zeglen**

Catholic priest of St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church in Chicago, he invented a 1/8" thick, 4-ply bulletproof vest at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century that was able to protect the wearer from the lower velocity pistol bullets of that era. He personally submitted to a test in Chicago in 1902. His vest was not a financial success because it was comprised of thick

layers of pure silk and beyond some heads of state, there just wasn't a market for an invention this expensive.

#### 1905

**Mieczyslaw G. Bekker** (1905-1989)  
Polish-American engineer and scientist, he graduated from Warsaw Technical University in 1929 and came to the United States in 1956. He was a leading specialist in theory and design of military and off-the-road locomotion vehicles and an originator of a new engineer discipline called "terramechanics". He lectured at several U.S. universities, worked in General Motors Laboratories (1960-1970) and consulted Canadian and U.S. armies. He authored the general idea and contributed significantly to the design and construction of the Lunar Roving Vehicle used on the Moon. Also, he held several patented inventions in the area of off-the-road vehicles including those for extraterrestrial use. His publications include *Theory of Land Locomotion* (1956), *Off-the-road Locomotion* (1960) and *Introduction to Terrain Vehicle Systems* (1969) which contains his first research results pertaining to the design of the Lunar Rover Vehicle.

#### 1914

**Dr. Jan Koziellewski** [Karski] (1914-2000)  
Polish World War II resistance fighter and scholar, he initially served in a small artillery detachment at the outbreak of the Polish Defensive War at the onset of World War II, was captured by the Red Army, escaped and joined the ZWZ - the first resistance movement in occupied Europe. In 1944, he published a story of a Secret State in which he related his experiences in wartime Poland. After the war, he made his home in the U.S., graduated from Georgetown University with PhD in 1952, and taught at Georgetown for 40 years in the areas of East European affairs, comparative government and international affairs. He became a citizen of the U.S. in 1954. In 1985, he published the academic study *The Great Powers and Poland*. His wartime role was officially acknowledged and he received the Order of the White Eagle (Poland's highest civil decoration) and the Order Virtuti Militari (Poland's highest military decoration awarded for bravery in combat, the equivalent of the U.S. Medal of Honor).

**Julius Frank Anthony Kuczynski** [Pee Wee King] (1914-2000)  
Polish American country music songwriter and recording artist. His songs include *The Tennessee Waltz*, *Slow Poke* and *You Belong to Me*. He was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1970 and the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1974.

#### 1915

**Louis Dlugosz** (1915-2002)  
Like the unique pretzel-bending technique of much of his sculpture, his career was filled with many twists and turns. Known as the steelworker sculptor, he alternated between blast furnace and kiln for most of his career, not quitting his day job at Bethlehem Steel until his retirement. BUT there was a time when he was the toast of the art world, an opportunity that was crushed by World War II.

#### 1916

**Hilary Koprowski** (1916-)  
Polish-American physician, educator, virologist and immunologist, he graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Warsaw University in 1939 and received a music degree from Warsaw Conservatory in 1940. He discovered the first oral vaccine against polio that could provide lifelong immunity and the vaccine was used for immunizations on four continents by 1960. After moving to the US, he became the Director of The Wistar Institute in Philadelphia in 1957. Presently he is Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at the Jefferson Medical College in Thomas Jefferson University. He serves as a consultant to the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization. Co-editor of several journals, he is the author of over 875 articles in scientific publications. His awards and honors include the Nicholaus Copernicus Medal of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw (1989), the Philadelphia Award (1990), the Great Order of Merit by the President of Poland in 1998 for his polio research and the Pioneer in Neuro Virology Award from the International Society for Neuro Virology (2004).

#### 1919

**Lt. Colonel Matt Louis Urban** (1919-1995)  
Polish-American World War II hero, he joined the army in 1941 and served during six campaigns in the Mediterranean and European theaters of operation during World War II. He received 29 awards including the Medal of Honor and became the most decorated American war hero, earning virtual every combat medal. He studied at Cornell University and got a BA in history and government with a minor in community recreation. After the war, he served as Recreation Director for Port Huron (1945-1952), Director of the Monroe Community Center (1952-1968) and Director of the Civic and Recreation Department of Holland, MI from 1968 until his retirement in 1989. His death was a result of complications from a collapsed lung brought on by one of his seven war wounds.

#### 1924

##### **Stanley Stawski (1924-)**

Polish American businessman, he survived the 1939 invasion of Poland by the Germans and took part in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising as a member of the underground Home Army. Captured and sent to a prisoner-of-war camp, he joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Polish Corps after his camp was liberated. After his unit was demobilized in 1951, he left for the US with \$20 in his pocket. By 1954, he was working as a liquor and wine salesman in Chicago and opened his own company, Stawski Distributing Co, in 1960. For almost 40 years his company has been the leading importer of fine liquors from Central Europe. The history of Stawski Distributing Co is based on hard work, identifying potential markets and following the high road of business ethics in dealing with customers. His company was the first to distribute beers from Switzerland before the imported beer trend became popular.

#### 1928

##### **Warren Winiarski (1928-)**

Polish American winemaker, he spent a year of study in Naples which convinced him that he should be a winemaker. After working for, and learning from various wineries, he bought a carefully selected 50-acre ranch in 1970 which he turned into a vineyard. He planted Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot along with the existing Petite Sirah vines and became make wine as Stag's Leap Wine Cellars. A bottle of 1973 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon is now in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. In 1976, a bottle of his was selected for competition in the Paris Wine Tasting of 1976 where it one first place among the red wines.

#### 1936

##### **John Malchase David Shalikhvili (1936-)**

Polish American Army General, he graduated from Bradley University with a BA in mechanical engineering in 1958 and was sworn in as American citizens later that year - the first citizenship he ever had! He entered the US Army in 1958 and rose through the ranks to become the highest ranking member of the US Armed Forces, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (1993-1997). He is now a visiting professor at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University and is a Director of Boeing.

##### **Alina Surmacka Szczesniak (1936-)**

Polish-American chemist, she pioneered the study of food texture establishing standards and scales and developed the food texturizer which simulates the chewing motions of the mouth. She graduated from Bryn Mawr University and worked for General Foods Corporation for 30 years as a scientist, receiving 12

patents and publishing many technical papers. In 1985, she became the first woman to receive the Nicholas Appert Award, the highest honor bestowed upon its members by the Institute of Food Technology commending her pioneering work on food texture that led to its recognition as an important quality attribute affecting consumer acceptance and to its organization as a subdiscipline of food science.

#### 1937

##### **Roger Joseph Zelazny (1937-1995)**

Polish-American science fiction writer, he began reading science fiction at age 11. He graduated Columbia University with an MA in 1962 where he specialized in Elizabethan and Jacobean drama. The late 1960's was a period of great output during which he published dozens of short stories and some of his best novels. An optimistic writer, his stories draw from religion, mythology and psychology. His awards include 6 Hugo Awards and other awards.

#### 1950

##### **Stephen Wozniak (1950-)**

Polish-American computer scientist and inventor of Apple II computer, he is considered to be one of the greatest engineers of his generation. His inventions and machines are credited with contributing greatly to the personal computer revolution of the 1970's. It is unlikely that his feat of designing both the hardware and software for a platform that became a huge commercial success will be repeated. After leaving Apple, he founded a new venture called Cloud 9, which developed home remote control switches and brought the first universal remote control to market in 1987. In 2001 he founded Wheels of Zeus, a company that is creating wireless GPS technology to help everyday people to find everyday things. His honors and awards include National Medal of Technology (1985) and induction into the National Inventors Hall of Fame (2000).

#### 1951

##### **Franciszek (Frank) Wilczek (1951-)**

Polish-American physicist and 2004 Nobel Prize winner in Physics, received his BS in Mathematics at the University of Chicago (1970), MA in Mathematics at Princeton University (1972) and Ph.D. in Physics at Princeton University (1974). He worked as Professor in the School of Natural Sciences at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton (1970-1980, 1990-2000). He currently is Professor of Physics at MIT. In 2004, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery of asymptotic freedom in the theory of the strong interaction. The theory was important for the development of quantum chromodynamics. His current research includes pure particle physics,

application of particle physics to cosmology and quantum theory of black holes.

#### 1958

**Elonka Dunin** (1958-)

Polish American game developer, writer and amateur cryptographer who is an expert on the Kryptos sculpture/cipher. She speaks several languages and has traveled to every continent including Antarctica, which she visited in 1999. In 2002, she was invited to speak at CIA headquarters regarding steganography and Al-Qaeda codes. She is also a founding member of the International Game Developers Association's Online Games SIG and senior editor of some of their annual White Papers on various aspects of the online game industry. In 2006, she published *The Mammoth Book of Secret Code Puzzles*.

#### 1962

**Marek Jan Chodakiewicz** (1962-)

Polish American historian, he earned BA degree from the San Francisco State University in 1988, MPhil from Columbia University and PhD with distinction from Columbia University in 2001. Since 2003, he is a Professor of History at the Institute of World Politics in Washington DC where he teaches and conducts research on East Central Europe and Russia. He specializes in East Central European history of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century including the history of Poland, Habsburg and Romanov Empires, Jewish-Polish relations, environmental politics, intellectual conservative tradition and extremist movements including communist and fascists. His special area of interest is World War II and its aftermath.

#### 1966

**John R. Koza**

Polish American inventor, he invented a board game concerning the Electoral College in 1966 called Consensus. He is a [computer scientist](#) and a consulting professor at [Stanford University](#), most notable for his work in pioneering the use of [genetic programming](#) for the

optimization of complex problems, and for the evolution of [computer programs](#) which solve them. He was a cofounder of Scientific Games Inc., a company which built computer systems to run [state lotteries in the United States](#). He was co-inventor of the rub-off instant lottery game ticket used by state lotteries since 1974. From 1973-1987, he was co-founder, CEO and Chairman of Scientific Games, Inc. Author of about 200 papers and co-author of numerous other papers, he was recently featured in [Popular Science](#) for his work on [evolutionary programming](#) that alters its own code to find far more complex solutions.

#### 1985

**Andrew Chojecki**

Polish American filmmaker, he graduated with B.S. in Food Technology from the Agriculture University of Warsaw before moving to the US. He worked as Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois, graduating with M.S. in Food Science Microbiology in 1985. After moving to California in 1985 to pursue his dream of working in the film industry, he graduated with a Film Production Certificate in Motion Picture/Television Arts & Sciences Dept. from the University of California Extension in Los Angeles. Since then, he has produced a number of television programs and feature films.

#### 2001

**Andrew Nagorski**

Polish American newsman, he served as Newsweek's Warsaw bureau chief from 1990-1994 and returned to New York as senior editor in 2000 after serving as a foreign correspondent in several postings. In his new job, he is developing the editorial cooperation between Newsweek International and its expanding network of foreign language editions and other joint venture partners including Newsweek Polska, which was launched in 2001. He has been honored three times by the Overseas Press Club for his reporting and also continues to write reviews and commentaries for Newsweek International

Compiled by Alicja Deck-Partyka, author of POLAND, A Unique Country & Its People

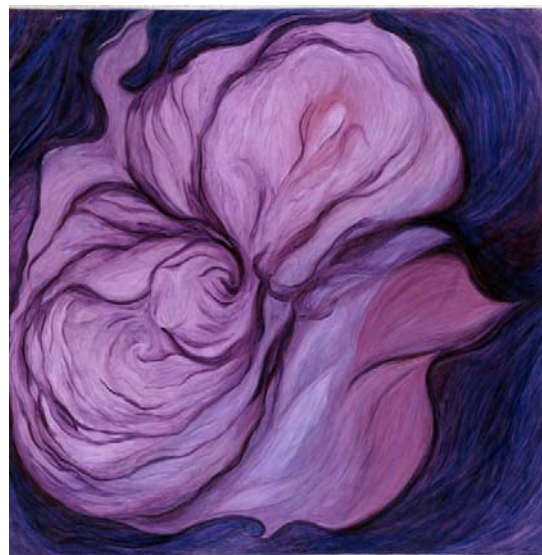
# *Deanne's Artwork*



*Mermaid*  
*Deanne Bosnak*



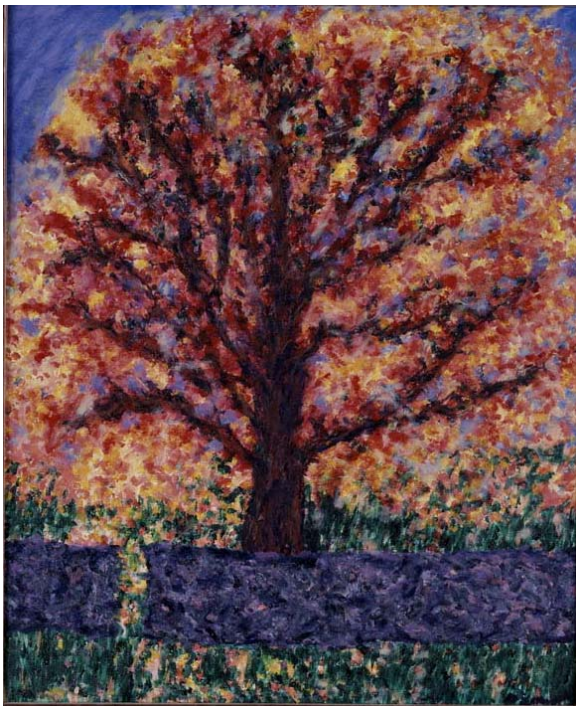
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*Deanne Bosnak*



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*Deanne Bosnak*



*Stone Wall*  
*Deanne Bosnak*



*A Tree Remembers IV*  
*Deanne Bosnak*