



PUBLISHED BY URBAN ANTHROPOLOGY INC. NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2012

# Polish heroes: Those who rescued Jews

## Milwaukee Inter-ethnic Forum

In June 2012 a Yahoo Groups forum was organized to connect ethnic leaders and active participants in ethnic activities to each other. Currently representatives of Latino, Polish, Jewish, African American, Arab, Slovenian, German, American Indian, and pan-African groups are participating.

Anyone wishing to join can contact Yahoo Groups and search for the Milwaukee Ethnic list, and then sign on.

*Exhibit at Polish Center of Wisconsin thru November 30*

## Ethnic mall idea being explored

Urban Anthropology Inc. is working with a building owner near 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Cleveland Avenue to explore the interest in turning this old warehouse into an ethnic grocery and artifact mall. The warehouse is currently owned by a well-known historic restoration company and is in very good condition.

The surrounding neighborhood has residents of 110 national groups. Currently, the only ethnic grocers in the area serve Mexicans and Poles. Other groups that could benefit from specialty grocers at this location are Middle-Easterners, Germans, American Indians, Africans, Puerto Ricans, South Asians, and Hmong. Call Rick at (414) 271-9417 if interested.



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## *Polish heroes exhibit, continued*

*(from page 1)*

“Polish Heroes: Those Who Rescued Jews” pays tribute to more than 6,000 Poles who have been honored as Righteous Among the Nations by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Authority in Israel.

### **Focus of exhibit**

The exhibition focuses on 21 such individuals from the Krakow region. Their stories, written in English and in Polish, accompany portraits by the late photographer, Chris Schwarz.

Co-curated by the Auschwitz Jewish Center, the Galicia Jewish Museum, and the Polish/American/Jewish Alliance for Youth Action, the exhibit is on loan from the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow, Poland.

### **Where and when**

The exhibit will be open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm at the Polish Center of Wisconsin, 6941 S. 68<sup>th</sup> Street, Franklin, Wisconsin.

## **New Members Sought**

The KRAKOW POLISH DANCERS of MILWAUKEE COUNTY is very interested in NEW MEMBERS!! It is time to REFRESH and build ANEW and consider the accomplishments of our past and strive for the FUTURE. Our mission is very steadfast with a sincere commitment to our youth, young adults, and community. Our award winning non-profit charitable/educational organization was established September 7th, 1967, this marking our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The KRAKOW POLISH DANCERS of MILWAUKEE COUNTY is internationally acclaimed as a troupe that "specializes in the artistry, character and style of the American/Pol."--Official Cultural Ambassadors from Wisconsin to Poland, Holiday Folk Fair and WI International Institute Representatives Toledo International Festival and featured throughout the Midwest, Hawaii, Washington D.C., New York City and England, The Netherlands, Germany, Bavaria, Austria, France, Switzerland, Italy and Australia.

Our company offers equal opportunities to all individuals and welcomes prospective members age 9 and up. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. Membership is decided on the ability and compliance with our policies and procedures and commitment to family values, our community and our Krakow Mission.

Rehearsals are on Wednesday from 6:45-9:00 P.M. at Collins-Meyer-Knutson 2304 VFW Clubhouse at 2900 West Lincoln Avenue, Milwaukee, WI.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Annette M. Kuligowski, Founder/Executive Director; 5391 South 45th Street-Greenfield, WI 53220; TELEPHONE: 414-421-5750; EMAIL: [AMKuligowski1@aol.com](mailto:AMKuligowski1@aol.com)

## *Brookfield's first German Market and Tree Lighting Ceremony*

On December 1, the City of Brookfield is hosting their first ever German Market and Tree Lighting Ceremony. The festivities will take place from 3 pm until 7 pm at the City Plaza on Calhoun Road.

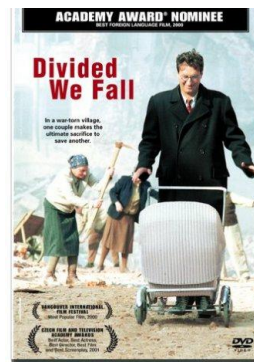
The United Donauschwaben of Milwaukee is heavily supporting this event. The Kinder, Jugend, and Kultur groups will be singing and dancing, starting at 4pm. The UDoM will be serving brats, hot dogs, and rollbraten along with hot and cold drinks.

## **Free 2013 Czech & Slovak Film Series**

### *Films hosted by Milwaukee Sokol*

Milwaukee Sokol presents free movies highlighting the history and culture of the former Czechoslovakia. The films are open to the public at Norway House, 7507 W. Oklahoma Ave. A social hour follows. The next film offering is in January.

**Sunday, January 13, 2013, 1:30 pm**



***Divided We Fall.***  
In a small Nazi-occupied town in Czechoslovakia, Josef and Maria do their best to ignore the war until the Jewish son of Josef's former employer appears at their door.

David escaped from a concentration camp in Poland and returned to the only place he knows. Hiding David in their pantry over the next three years, Josef and Maria must appear to be collaborators.

The film was an Academy award nominee for Best Foreign Film in 2001. Time is one hour, 57 minutes, in Czech with English subtitles. PG.

## *Friendship Force's Diversity Dinners*



At Diversity Dinners sponsored by Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee, the cuisine is potluck and the conversation is seasoned with a wide variety of perspectives on every topic. And politics, religion, and current events are all topics on the table. The idea is to bring together a group of eight to ten people who are able to meet every four to six weeks for one year.

### **The philosophy**

The dinners are not designed to change opinions or reach a consensus, but to create a place where participants can simply understand the viewpoints of others. For example, the first group met to talk about Haiti and the different perspectives on that country—whether they are political, religious, racial, or ethnic.

### **Who can get involved**

Membership in the Diversity Dinner groups is open to anyone willing to commit to the schedule, complete a background questionnaire and engage in a lively nonjudgmental conversation. Deeper understanding of the issues facing Milwaukee and the world are icing on the cake.

Interested individuals can learn more or contact leaders by visiting [friendshipforcemilwaukee.org](http://friendshipforcemilwaukee.org).

## **Ector Rodriguez: Educated, talented, successful musician**

By Alan Eisenberg

Ector Rodriguez is many things to many people. He has been recognized for his musical genius as a composer, a teacher, and a performer. Because of his classical training, he almost seems to be a 21st century re-incarnate Segovia.

### **His bio**

Ector first studied for his undergraduate degree at the University of Puerto Rico, and has earned his Master's degree at Mount Mary in Milwaukee. The son of a guitarist, Ector has lived in Milwaukee for 27 years. His specialty is classical guitar and composition. He performs locally with Puerto Rican 3 and Minor 5, with a broad range of styles.



Ector loves all music: religious, Latino, classical, cover tunes—and now boogie woogie! He is widely recognized as a teacher who gives private lessons. There is no disconnect between his brain and his fingers, the music flows. It's natural, and he loves creative improvisation. He can be reached for bookings and lessons at 414-552-1120.



## *Play on fair housing marches*

*November 3 performance tickets still available*



Tickets for the play, *The March to Kosciuszko*, can still be purchased at the door the night of the performance at \$10 each. The time is Saturday, November 3, 8 pm, and the location is the Basilica of St. Josaphat at 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Lincoln Avenue. The play is a production of Urban Anthropology Inc., and is based on the organization's collected stories of residents of the former Bronzeville and southside Polonia communities.

### **Synopsis of play**

Two fictionalized families struggle with an appropriate response to the upcoming fair housing march to Kosciuszko Park. A southside family wants to hold on to their Polish neighborhood that has recently lost housing as a result of freeway construction. On the north side, a black family that has also lost housing during freeway construction, questions whether they should risk participation in the potentially violent march. The events are narrated by General Thaddeus Kosciuszko. As he speaks, the audience learns the historic Kosciuszko—not the one both sides conceptualize.

### **Post-play discussion**

Two guests will lead a discussion following the performance. Local black historian, Rueben Harpole, will recall life in old Bronzeville and how the loss of this community fed into the fair housing marches. James Groppi's widow, Dr. Margaret Rozga, will discuss her experience with the march to Kosciuszko Park and the overall impact of the civil rights movement in Milwaukee.

## **The Restore Kosciuszko Monument Project receives City funds**



Long-time City of Milwaukee DPW employee David Dombrowski passed away in 2011 and generously left his entire estate to the City. The Common Council has approved a contribution of \$50,000 from Mr. Dombrowski's gift to help restore the monument to Kosciuszko in his namesake park on 9th Place & Lincoln Avenue.

### **History of monument**

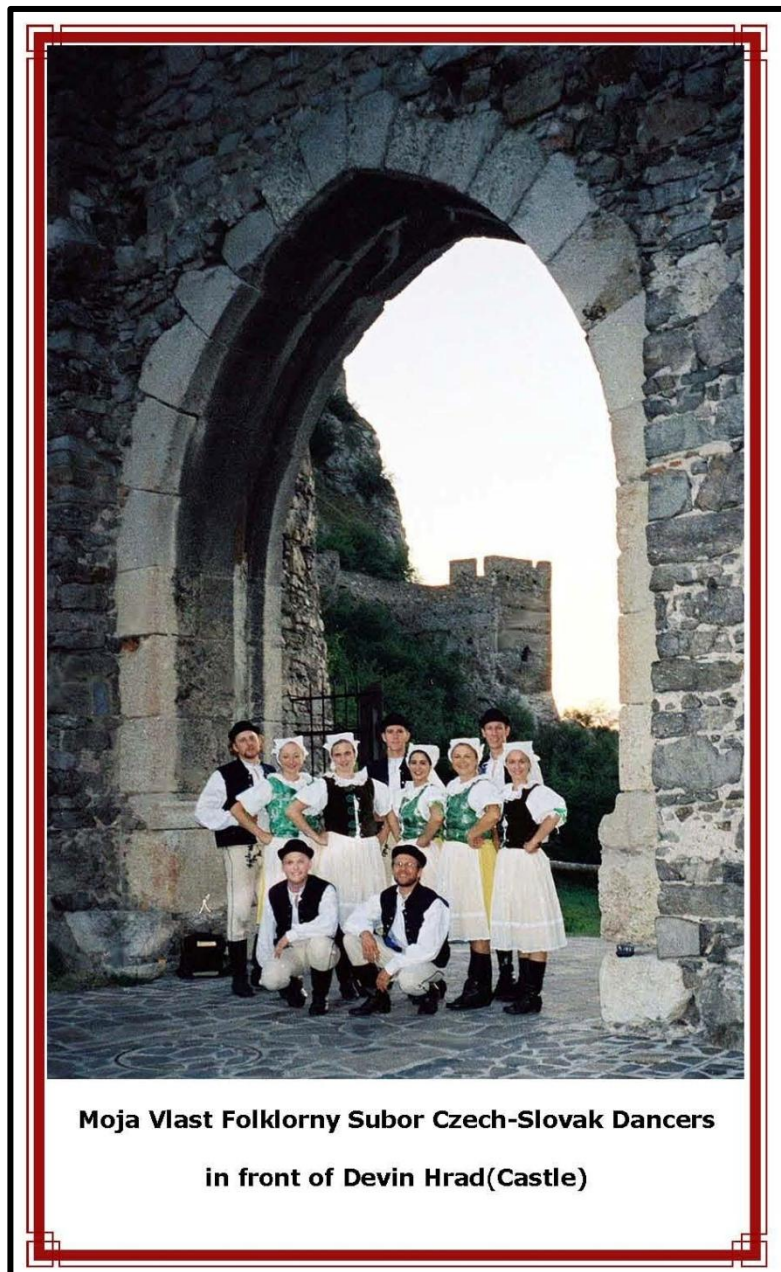
In the late 1800's and early 1900's, thousands of Polish South-Siders contributed whatever they could spare from their meager incomes to help build this magnificent monument to Kosciuszko. The monument was dedicated in 1905, as a gift from the Polish community to the City of Milwaukee and has now stood for over 100 years as a symbol of freedom and enlightenment and a reminder of the struggles made by both Poles and Americans to bring freedom and equality to all.

Today it is in need of extensive repairs and restoration work after years of neglect and some well-intentioned, but botched, restoration work done during the 1950's.

Please see [www.rkmmilwaukee.org](http://www.rkmmilwaukee.org) for more about the man, his monument and our mission.

# *Moja Vlast Folklorny Subor*

*Czech-Slovak dancers aim for authenticity*



Moja Vlast Folklorny Subor was founded in 1945 in Milwaukee in order to preserve homeland customs from generation to generation. Authenticity is a key aspect of the director's vision. Through the direction of Sonka Suvadova Tostrud and Sonia Riecan, the costume choices to music selection, dance steps, and choreography seek to portray and preserve accurately the folk traditions of its ancestors, and has been warmly received all over the United States, and in the Czech and Slovak Republics. In addition, Moja Vlast is a student

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## **DNA is transforming the ethnic landscape**

*Research shows that most  
African Americans hail from  
just over 40 ethnic groups*



Increasingly, DNA studies are providing more information on the migration paths of ethnic ancestors. This has been particularly important for African Americans whose specific ethnic roots were lost through generations of slavery.

Scientists were once skeptical of claims made by early DNA ancestry-tracing services that they could identify one's "tribe" or "ethnicity" in Africa. The available data didn't sustain such claims. But new ways of calculating ancestry from the genome and larger African samples can make more accurate ethnic identifications. Today DNA results can connect an African American living in, say, Chicago or Milwaukee with an African who identifies himself by a name—say, Asante or Ibo—and who lives in Ghana or Nigeria. By matching genetic anomalies in an African American and an African, one can establish that these two individuals had common ancestors two centuries ago.

The more popular DNA labs for testing are 23andMe.com or FTDNA.com.



## *Czech-Slovak dancers, continued*

(Continued from page 5)

organization at Marquette University since 1997 and a proud member of Sokol/Sokolice since 1945.

Moja Vlast means “my homeland” and in its 63 years of existence has received prestigious awards for interpretation and authenticity of the dances and costumes, both nationally and internationally.

### Contact information

Moja Vlast rehearses on Sundays at Marquette University and is always looking for new members. Call Sonia Riecan at (414) 313-3063 or visit us at [mojavlast@aol.com](mailto:mojavlast@aol.com).

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## Championship for Felix Mantilla League Juniors All Star Team

*First time ever for southside team*



For the first time in its thirty-nine year history, the Felix Mantilla League (FML) Juniors All Star Team won the District 6 Championship. They competed in the state tournament in West Bend where they were knocked out by Madison.

Named in honor of the former Milwaukee Braves' great, this year's FML Junior's All Star team beat a previously undefeated South Milwaukee squad twice in the double elimination district tournament at Oak Creek. FML won the title on Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup> with pitcher Jon Caban going the distance for the 6-3 win.

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## Events calendar at the Polish Center of Wisconsin



### November 11

Polish music for violin, piano, and voice. 7 pm. Admission is \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. A \$2 discount is applied for PHA members. Students are \$5 with a valid ID.

### December 2

Polish holiday bazaar. 10 am to 2 pm. Event is free and open to the public. Shop for traditional Polish Christmas ornaments, Boleslawiec pottery, amber jewelry, glassware, gifts and much more.

### December 2

Champagne brunch. Prepared by Jack Norman Catering. All you can eat buffet served from 10 am to 1:30 pm. Adults \$18.50, PHA members \$16.50, children 8 to 12 \$8.50, 5 and under free. Reservations, call 414-529-2140.

### December 8

Wigilia: A Polish Christmas celebration. Guests will learn about Polish Christmas customs and savor a family style Wigilia meal. More information will follow.

For more information, call the Polish Center at 414-529-2140

# Baseball championship, continued

## Felix Mantilla League

“The Felix Mantilla League is a long standing tradition in the Southside community,” said All Stars’ Manager Julian Haliga. “It represents generations of families that have spent summer after summer cheering our youth. For some, it offers a chance to move on to higher levels of competition. This title represents proof to the kids, parents and the city that everything we do is paying off. The long hours at the park, giving up Saturday nights for a twenty week winter baseball camp, and traveling is all paying off. That flag hanging at our park gives our program respect. People will now know that Felix Mantilla is a league that works hard, is successful, and that we have talented kids.

“The best part is the kids believe in what we are doing and want to be a part of something. Why not baseball?”



*Rogelio “Robot” Macias, runner-up in the nationwide Pitch Hit and Run competition, proudly displays the team’s championship award.*

## The heroes

Throughout the tournament, clutch hitting and solid pitching by Jon Caban, Andrew Tapiz, Lupe Rivera, Dezmen Campbell, Jaime Tiessionare, Vic Cortez, Keaton Rock and Jorge Olmo was balanced by great defense and base running by Alexander Diaz, Edwin “Alex” Rojas, Alex, Rogelio “Robot” Macias, Maxwell Montgomery, Giovanni Lex, and William Ayling.

The Milwaukee Brewers Community Foundation is a generous sponsor of the Felix Mantilla Little League.

## Arcadia book published on Milwaukee’s Old South Side

*Photo history will focus on ethnic settlements*



Urban Anthropology Inc. has created this historic publication on the Milwaukee area originally settled by the Poles. The book is part of Arcadia Press’ *Images of America* series. Including nearly 200 photographs, the volume tells the story of the various ethnic migrations to the area, which resulted in a community of 110 nations today.

**Pre-orders now taken**

Anyone wishing to pre-order this book can contact Rick Petrie at (414) 271-9417 or email him at [RickPetrie@gmail.com](mailto:RickPetrie@gmail.com).



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[RickPetrie@gmail.com](mailto:RickPetrie@gmail.com) Home of the award-winning Old South Side Settlement Museum