



POLISH AMERICAN CITIZENS' CLUB OF CAMDEN COUNTY, NJ

Established in Camden, New Jersey on June 8, 1914

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Larry Gasperone—Editor in Chief
[http:// www.pacc1914.org](http://www.pacc1914.org)

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JANUARY - APRIL 2015

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President's Message

I would like to wish a Very Healthy and Happy 2015!

Also a Big Thank You to Past President, Joe Prorok for his service to the Club over the years.

Our new executive Board will do their best to keep the Club on course.

SZCZESLIWEGO NOWEGO ROKU !
Happy New Year!

Until next time,
Be Happy, and Stay Healthy!

Danny Steiner, President

Keep up to date about PACC events,
just visit our website www.pacc1914.org

2015 Meeting Dates

*Board Meets Monthly on
the 1st Monday at 7:00pm
*(**Except September, meet
on Last Monday in August**)

**Membership Meets
Monthly on the 2nd
Wednesday at 7:30pm**
VFW Post # 3324
E. 6th Avenue
Runnemede, NJ 08078



PACC 2015 ANNUAL RE-ORGANIZATION



Fr. Edward J Lipinski administers the "Oath of Office" to PACC Officers at the January 2015 meeting.

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Visit the PACC website on the Internet, for up to date information at:
<http://www.pacc1914.org>



CORRESPONDENCE:

**POLISH AMERICAN
CITIZENS' CLUB
OF
CAMDEN COUNTY
PO BOX 344
OAKLYN, NJ 08107**

-or-

Email us at:
mail@pacc1914.org

If you have email,
please send a message
to:
mail@pacc1914.org

We will add you to our
email list.



Are You Moving?

Please let us know in
advance so that you
may continue to
receive this Newsletter.

Send notice to:
POLISH AMERICAN
CITIZENS' CLUB
PO BOX 344
OAKLYN, NJ 08107-0344
-or-
Email us at:
mail@pacc1914.org

**Leave A Legacy
Remember the PACC
in
Your Will**

POLISH AMERICAN CITIZENS' CLUB NEWSLETTER



Pinochle Tournament News
New Season Starts on January 19, 2015

Games begin
at 7:30pm Monday Nights!
(8:00pm on Board Meeting Nights)
For more info contact:
John Mojta, Chairman
856-234-0143

Sick Report

**Bob Maciejewski, Sr
Walt Malinowski
Paul Wagner**

Contact Tim Popiolek at 609-680-5787
or Walt Piatek at 856-767-4284
"Get Well" wishes in the form of a card will sent.

IN MEMORIAM 2014

Rich Kozieja 1931 - 2014
Nick DiVirgilio 1927 - 2014
Len Zubrzycki 1932 - 2014
Ron Kidawa 1943 - 2014

Funeral Visitation

Members meet at the Funeral Home (½) hour
after the start of the viewing, as reported in
the newspaper.

Important Meeting Date !

**February 11, 2015
General Membership
Meeting @ 7:30pm**

**Vote on Proposed Changes
To The
Constitution
&
By-Laws**

IMPORTANT DUES NOTICE

The following changes to the By-Laws were approved by the membership at the February 2013 meeting and apply to all current and former members.

SECTION I - DUES AND PAYMENTS

- 4) Current yearly dues must be paid by **March 1st**, any dues not paid by April 15th will be assessed a late fee of \$5.00. Any member not paying dues by April 30th, will forfeit his membership.
- 5) Any former member applying for re-instatement will pay any dues in arrears plus a \$15.00 penalty.
- 6) Only one re-instatement will be permitted.

*******UPCOMING EVENTS*******



**Spring 2015 PACC
St. Joe's / St. Pat's Social Dance**
Sunday March 15th, 2015
3:00pm to 7:00pm
*See Flyer on Last Page



The "Old Neighborhood" Do You Remember?

Kevin Riordan, Inquirer Columnist

Posted: Thursday, December 11, 2014, 11:59 PM

All the guys who hung out at 10th and Lowell in Whitman Park had nicknames. There were Moose, Winky, Dickie Doo - and a wiry fellow they called Muscles.

"That's because I didn't have any," explains Stan Bednarczyk, who's written and published *My Wagging Tail*, a detailed, deeply felt memoir about a Camden corner boy, the neighborhood he loved, and the man he became.

The author, now 81, grew up the youngest of five children of an immigrant Polish couple who spoke little English. He was shy, and he loved baseball, movies, and music, as well as Poznan Baking Co. pumpernickel, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, and the sports columnists in the *Evening Bulletin*.

Bednarczyk and his wife, Connie - married 56 years - are my neighbors in Haddon Heights, which is how I learned of *My Wagging Tail*. The book is available through Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com. About that wry title, more in a moment.

During his 33-year career as a Camden letter carrier, Bednarczyk took a writing course at Camden County College in Blackwood. His byline occasionally appeared in the weekly *Camden County Record* and a Polish American publication.

But a decade ago, after Bednarczyk was diagnosed with cancer, what he called his "scribbling" took on a certain urgency.

"I didn't know how many years I had left," he says. "I started writing on loose-leaf . . . and the stories just flowed, one after another."

Like the memoir's opening chapter, which describes Bednarczyk's 1953 return to the rowhouse at 949 Jackson St. as an Army corporal freshly discharged after a tour of duty in Korea and Japan.

He was accustomed to exchanging manly handshakes with his father, Jozef, who surprised his son by welcoming home the soldier with "a long, emotional hug; my cheek rubbing against the sandpaper stubble of his face," Bednarczyk writes. "It was . . . the only time he showed that kind of sentiment."

The book covers the first 22 years of the author's life and includes a number of evocative scenes: Bednarczyk's mother, Katarzyna, playing baseball with him in her house dress; his confrontation with a nun at St. Joseph's High School; his realization that a clerk to whom he was bragging about Korea had lost an arm in World War II.

"I hadn't even seen any action," Bednarczyk says.

Though the Army chapters are well done, the author's rendering of pre- and postwar Camden - roaring industries, lively ethnic neighborhoods, safe streets - is the book's most powerful element.

"I was hanging out by our corner candy store, and I heard a car beep to me," Bednarczyk writes, setting a scene involving "Jersey Joe" Walcott, Camden's own heavyweight boxing champ. "I turned around, and there he was, a beaming Jersey Joe in his tan Cadillac with a miniature crown and JJ#1 on the license plates, waving to me as he drove by."

He also describes the dozens of businesses that lined the "Polish Boardwalk," Mount Ephraim Avenue, where couples stopped at the Dainty Sweet Shop and kids went to matinees at the Liberty Theater.

Later, Bednarczyk writes, he and the rest of his corner crew wore suits and ties - their dates, dresses and high heels - for Saturday-night movies at the elegant Savar Theater downtown. That is, when they weren't going to dances at the Polish American Citizens Club, a neighborhood hot spot.

Eventually, the corner gang got jobs and steady girlfriends; Bednarczyk and Connie were married in 1958. They moved to Audubon the following year, and have two grown daughters and three grandchildren.

Connie, 77, typed up the book on the computer from her husband's longhand. Her cousin Tom Weiss of Cherry Hill helped with the editing.

"This is a legacy Stan has wanted to leave for his family," Connie says. "And he's finally had the chance to do it."

As for the title, Bednarczyk says he grew up trying to please people but slowly grew to understand he needed to be more assertive and less like a friendly pooch. "I realized I was chasing my own tail," he laughs.

Bednarczyk credits Connie ("the best thing that ever happened to me"), family, and faith with sustaining him throughout his struggle with cancer. He hopes to be around for Pope Francis' visit to Philadelphia next September, and he hopes people will read his book.

"I can't believe I did it," the author says. "I'm very proud of it." He should be. It's a story well told - of a life well lived.



Book is available on Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com

The "Old Neighborhood" Photographs, Negatives or Slides Wanted!

Do you any have great memories of the old neighborhood in photographs or slides that you would like to share with fellow members in future PACC Newsletters? For example, the Pulaski Day Parade, Street Scenes, Neighborhood Sports, PACC Socials, PACC Events, etc. Just as long as it pertains to the "Old Neighborhood" You may submit them to us.

We will scan them into a computer file for future newsletters and return the photos or slides to you unharmed.

Please contact Larry Gasperone for more info, or you can email photos to: mail@pacc1914.org

2014 PACC CHRISTMAS PARTY PICTURES



More photos are on our website at: www.pacc1914.org



ST JOE'S / ST PAT'S
SPRING SOCIAL DANCE



SPONSORED BY:

POLISH AMERICAN CITIZENS' CLUB OF CAMDEN COUNTY

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2015

FROM 3:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

RUNNEMEDE VFW POST #3324

E. 6TH AVE & VETERAN'S WAY

RUNNEMEDE, NJ 08078



MUSIC BY THE "MUSIC BOX BAND"

\$25.00 Donation Per Person

Includes: Refreshments, Food and Music

CASH BAR FOR MIXED DRINKS (NO BYOB)



PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

Polish American Citizens' Club Social

650 Pierre Avenue

Mantua, NJ 08051

FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

DAN STEINER - 856-468-1215

-or-

LARRY GASPERONE - 856-745-2960