

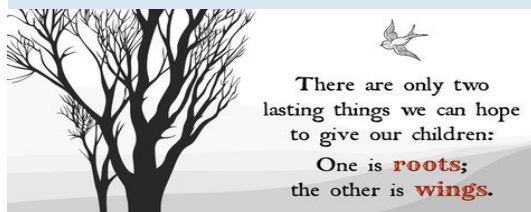
Roots and Wings

Bimonthly newspaper

From the editors.

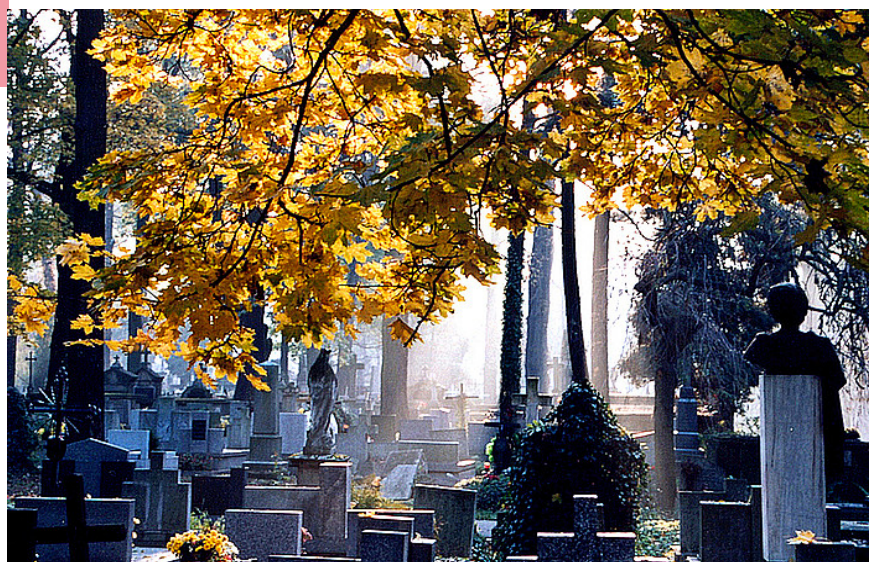
You are just reading the fifth number of our family newspaper (this is such a small but important first anniversary!!). In October we have celebrated Teacher's Day and recently the All Saints' Day, that's why we are dedicating this edition, among others, to outstanding, deceased pedagogues from our family. From many generations the teaching profession has clung to our family. Starting from the multi-generational Grochmalicki family, organists from Błazowa, ending with professors from many modern universities. Even in our group on Facebook there are us - teachers of several dozen. Although we rarely remember this on a daily basis, teaching is a unique profession that can have a real impact on the lives of young people. As Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize winner, said: „One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world. I believe this is true. And the All Saints' Day is a time when memories come back to life of those who passed away, of our deceased relatives, friends and those we knew „only for a while” so we met at cemeteries and lit candles on their graves - a proof of our love, friendship and memories. Perhaps you would like to share these memories in our newspaper? Each such story will be a small jigsaw puzzle - Our Family.

Jacek Kulasa



November

To have a chance to return to Ithaca, Odysseus did not hesitate to join Hades and ask for advice from those who had left. He asked for the way Tiresias himself; he learned not much: the journey will be long and hard, and the home visit will be marked by bitterness and blood. Talking to the deceased in times like ours, asking them for advice, although inscribed in our culture and tradition, may require, as in the case of Odysseus, courage, nay - heroism.



I am referring to Homer not by accident. Time has spared us dramatic attempts lately. Tied to the daily routine, repetitive gestures and behaviors, we have been unexpectedly thrown into new, dramatic realities. It takes a lot of strength to calmly analyze the situation, not to give in to fears, to help each other and to endure with dignity the period of pandemic trial.

We have always been in good contact with the deceased. When they died, they left us a request to remember, to keep the flame of love and attachment to them. The presence of the Dearly Departed in our lives we

confirmed not only with the story of the dreams in which they appeared, but also with the remembered advice and requests.

November is a dangerous time. Going out to the graves is always transgressive, it involves crossing the borders of two worlds, and for all of us this is connected with necessary, but still, with trauma. By lighting the candles, we illuminate with them the darkness of separation, the radicality of death, its undoubted advantage. The death dictates the conditions, defines the rules of the game. At the same time we have against her fragile tools of resistance: candles, ce-

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metry trinkets and stubborn memory of faces, gestures, words. In this way we create a great community of the living and the Dearly Departed. This helps to live and create fragile threads of hope in a constant dialogue of life.

Because this is about life. Showing its meaning and values, which exceed the ad hoc every day, every moment. We are thanks to those who have passed away, and we build the foundations for the next generations. I think that this responsibility should remind us of the sco-

pe of commitments and plans that build our existence.

And yes - let us start our annual „Dziady” - „Forefathers’ Eve”, let us share a little bit of kindness, milk of love, the fruit of longing with the memory that some of us managed to come back and confirm the hope that this return will also be a part of us.

Mariusz Kalandyk

Unforgettable teachers.

On 1st of November we celebrated All Saints and on 14th October a National Teachers Day. That’s why we’ve decided to remember some wonderful teachers from our family. Apart from them, there are lots of teachers in our family, who we owe so much personally and our country owes them so much in the past. Lots of them lived not only for themselves, but through the love to people, sacrifices, they lived for others, for their pupils. This truth describes a life as a teacher. Today we remember, just a few of them, noble, faithful people, who left behind traces of educational and tutorial struggle. Despite the fact they are not longer with us, we still see the fruits of their hard work, sacrifice and goodness. We can see it in the lives of their pupils, today, adult men. We say thank you for all they’ve done.

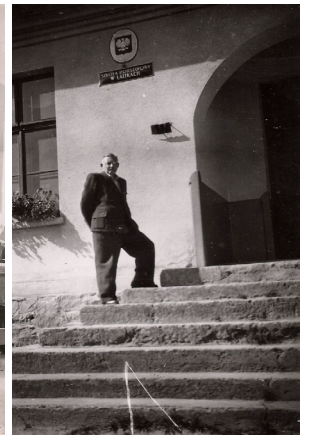


Jan Gabriel Grochmalicki (1883-1936) prof, phd. zoology. Born in Blazowa, one of many children in the family. From his many siblings only he graduated from University, the rest of them stopped their education on teaching qualifications. After primary school he attended secondary school in Rzeszow (currently I LO [college]). After he started studying zoology at University of Lviv, where he continued to work after. He completed his phd studies there and became a professor. He fought in World War I in Polish Legions. From 1919 he worked as professor in the University of Poznan where he’s been a principal twice. He left behind huge academic achievements, lots of studies and publications. He’s buried in Poznan. His daughter, Janina Grochmalicka Mikolajczyk prof. phd. followed his footsteps, she’s an academic teacher at Medical University in Poznan.





Maria (1906-1988) and Stanislaw (1904-1961) Górski. They spent their whole life teaching children in the village of Laliki, next to Zwardon. Stanislaw started philosophy studies at Jagiellonian University in 1925. In 1927 he married Maria Mazurkiewicz. After marriage they both started work as teachers, passing their teaching qualifications exam after a few years. Stanislaw in 1930, Maria in 1932. They work in really difficult teaching accommodation. First classrooms in Laliki were created in 1918, in areas of Piekło and Groniczek, and were located in private homes. They taught different age kids in the same classroom. Term times depended on field work kids had to do at family farms, so proper classes could take place only during winters. Often before 1918 kids were taught individually in households. That was only possible if one of these parents could read and write. Stanislaw in 1934 created the School Building Committee and raised funds to build a proper school. Building was completed in 1937. New school had living accommodation for both teachers Maria and Stanislaw. Stanislaw was school principal till his death in 1961. After that his wife Maria took charge. Stanislaw is buried in a cemetery in Zwadron, Maria in Tarnobrzeg.



Zofia Wencel (1914-1992) was a teacher from a family of organists in Blazowa, Grochmalicki family. All her life she worked in education. After primary school she went to the Female Teachers Seminar in Ropczyce. After matura exam (A-levels) she went to teach in Lyski, next to Rybnik and Zamyslow. During World War II she worked in polish school in Zwieczycza, next to Rzeszow and then in Blazowa, getting involved in secret teaching of polish children. After war she worked in Zabrze for 1 year, then with her husband Ignacy (teacher as well) she moved to Blazowa, where she worked in primary school as polish teacher and early years teachers. She retired there. She's buried in Blazowa.



Ignacy Wencel (1915-1991) born in Silesia, in Chwalowice, next to Rybnik. From 1949 moved to Blazowa. After primary school he attended the National Teacher Seminar in Myslowice. Before World War II he worked as a teacher in the Silesia region. 31st August 1939 he got a call as a soldier and fought in the war on Bielsko-Krakow-Mielec-Janow Lubelski route. He was captured, but then released by german occupiers. Because he was born in the Silesia region he was forced into german army and for a year he worked to protect french coast. In 1944 he deserted german army and joined american army. He was shipped to Scotland where he joined the Parachute Brigade. After the war he came back to Poland and married Zofia Początek, they both moved to Blazowa in 1949 to work in primary school. He was a history teacher,

looking after the library, he could bind books like a professional introligator and teach PE as well. He played violin and guitar, he was the life of the party, adored by people. His final resting place is in Blazowa in the family tomb.



Zofia Marcinek (1915-2000) was a teacher in Private High School (GRN) in Zolynia in 1945-1950, then a primary school teacher until 1973. She was born in Zolynia. In 1930/31 she passed the exams to attend the National Teacher Seminar in Stanislawow and in 1935 passed A-levels. For the first year she worked in a common room, in the village of Bednarow, teaching young women female works. After that she was hired as a private teacher of three children in the village of Markowice. Her results were satisfying and she got offered work at different courts. During summer 1939 she came to Zolynia. During the war she was looking after her nieces, whose parents got sent to Sybir. She worked in secret teaching. She was awarded a ZNP (Polish Teachers Association) badge for that in 1985. After the war she worked hard against illiteracy, she was a local instructor for initial learning. For 4 years she was a school principal deputy. She retired in 1973. For her solid work she was awarded a Golden Cross of Merit in 1973 and a medal of KEN (National Education Committee) in 1980. She died in 2020. She's buried in a cemetery in Zolynia.

Janina Wanda Świetlik (1924-2016) from Grochmalicki family as well with teaching tradition. Her parents Teofila and Tomasz were also teachers - at the beginning in Glogow Malopolski then in Rzeszow. The second world war she spent in Blazowa in Blazowa participating in Armia Krajowa (Polish Army) movements. After the war, thanks to family help, she moved to England, where she finished high school. She continued her education at McGill University in Canada. She worked as a teacher in different regions, inter alia native American kids. The last 22 years she spent teaching Eskimo kids in Baffin Island. It was in her will to be buried there, on a family tomb in Blazowa there is a memory board with her name engraved.



Konstanty Kulasa (1928-1988) was born in Kakolowka, next to Blazowa, son of Jakub and Emilia Sapa. During German occupation he finished agricultural school. He was looking after the family farm when his father died. He finished high school and Wladyslaw Jagiello College in Debica, then Pedagogical College for Adults in Debica, completing A-levels in 1949. In the same year he started to work as a teacher in Primary School in Wampierzowo, Mielec district. From 1 XII 1952 he worked as maths teacher in S. Konarski National College in Mielec (I LO currently). He was studying at the same time for 4 years at Wyzsza Szkola Pedagogiczna in Lodz, which he finished in 1958. In 1975 he graduated from the Maths and Physics Department of WSP in Rzeszow and completed his Master degree. He was working as a full time maths teacher in college and at the same time he worked part time in Pedagogical College and Mechanical College in Mielec. From 1 IX 1970 he was working as deputy principal in I S. Konarski College in Mielec, from 1983 as school counselor. He helped school to develop and become a successful place. He retired 31 VIII 1984. He was awarded Knight's Cross OOP and in 1972/1973 Education Minister Award 3rd Degree for his achievements in education. He died 7 XI 1988. Buried in Krolowa Jadwiga street cemetery in Mielec.



Alicja Gil (1962-2012) worked as an early years teacher in Primary School no.3 in Chmielnik. She started her teaching career straight after finishing Teaching Study in Lancut. She finished her Master degree in Early Education at Rzeszow University a few years later. Alicja adored her school children. She was not just a teacher, she was also helping them whenever she could. She was giving away toys and clothes her own children outgrew to the poorest families of the children she taught. The school principal, all the kids who attended her classes (and it's a lot of them in her 20 years of teaching) add the community of Chmielnik, remember Alicja as a warm and genuine person. She was a role model to follow for her two daughters, Agnieszka and Magdalena, who both got into teaching. Alicja dies in 2012 and she's buried at Chmielnik cemetery.



Irena Wencel, Jacek Kulasa

Wspomnienie dziadka

"If you don't know the history of your family, you know nothing at all. You're a leaf, who doesn't know, it belongs to a tree".

Michael Crichton

Great heroes have a place in the memory of the- against their will got pulled into world conflicts and their offsprings and on the pages of history books. It's had to fight for their life. They had to prove their co-different with normal people, who more than once urage, stamina and strong will, but not everyone re-

members them. This is the story of my great grandfather from my mother's side, Andrzej Bolanowski.

He was born in 1880 in Glebokie, in a poor farming family. He was a grown man when the Great War happened, he had a wife, Teresa and two daughters - Stefania and Marysia and a three month old son, Jozef. Like many other Polish nationals he was forced to join an Austrian-Hungarian Army. He didn't fight for them out of the love for the emperor, he fought for his life so he could go back to his family. At this time they hoped for quick victory over Russia. That didn't happen and most of the Galicja region went under Russian occupation. My great grandfather survived the battle for Galicja, but didn't come back home. He got captured and taken away to Russia.

This time the fate was kind for him, because he ended up with "good chaziaj"(russian host, farmer). He didn't work over his strength and wasn't going hungry, but he missed his family and couldn't forget about them. When he heard the war was over he decided to go back to Poland. His host wife helped him, she gave him a

single bread loaf for his journey. He was traveling mostly during the night, walking, sometimes he managed to sneak on and sit on the trees cut in taiga. It was an exhausting, devastating, almost hopeless few years journey. He managed to come back to Poland in 1922. He came back with frostbite legs. Few years later he couldn't walk because of that and spent the rest of his life in bed.

It was a warm autumn day when 8 year old Jozef was playing by the river next to his house. Suddenly he noticed a weird man walking in his direction. He was dressed in a big hat and dirty coat and he was barely walking.

"Mum, mum, close the door! Some dirty duffer is coming this way!" - he was shouting and running towards the house. My grandmother was still waiting for her husband, she believed he would come back and she wasn't disappointed. She recognized her "Jedrek" in this old dirty duffer.

My mum was born in 1935. She was 7 years old when my great grandfather died at the age of only 62.

Marta Hanus

Halloween in the United States

Every year in the United States, at the end of October, the streets fill with goblins, ghosts, superheroes, and even a scarecrow or two. While this may sound horrifying to those, who do not know the custom of „Halloween” I assure you there is nothing fear. These spooky specters are not interested in you, but rather the candy you have.



Halloween is a contraction of „All Hallows Eve” and is celebrated on October 31st in the United States and many other countries around the world. The tradition of Halloween came from the late Middle Ages when many people believed that the „veil” between the material world and the afterlife was most transparent, allowing ghosts and other-worldly beings to enter the realm of the living this one night. In fact, up until the 19th century, Halloween was treated very much as a pagan holiday. And it wasn't until the mass migration of the Irish to the United States that it came to be a celebrated holiday.

Halloween is a time of celebration in the United States and is now included with other fall celebrations throughout the U.S. People in the United States celebrate Halloween in a multitude of ways. And each state of the U.S. has a distinct regional customs and traditions. In the Midwest, we celebrate by decorating our houses, buying candy and food to share,

and visiting amusement parks with haunted houses and scary theme parks set up just for the month.

We also have many parties all themed with spooky drinks and food made to look like bats, or pumpkins, or ghosts. Many people have social gatherings around a fall campfire or special Halloween themed dinners or parties where a horror movie or two is sure to be shown.

But the big event for the children is the trick-or-treating. Trick-or-treating is where children, and sometimes even teenagers dress up in costumes and travel around their neighborhood or sometimes farther to collect candy. When a child gets to the front door, they will knock on the door, and when answered, the children will yell, „Trick or treat!” This chant that the children shout is a statement to the homeowner; it means, makes your choice, provide us a treat, or risk getting a trick played on you. If the owner of the home offers candy or other gifts to the costumed children, then the children will leave the owners home alone and unscathed. Of course, no one plays a trick on the owner. This tradition stemmed from the late 20th century when Halloween had devolved into a night of vandalism of property and other bad behavior of children and teens. Interestingly enough, this tradition of trick-or-treating didn't start until 1912 or so, when several organizations came together to help stop the annual mischief.

Overall, Halloween is a way to say goodbye to the warm summer months and prepare for the entrance of the fall harvest and chilly nights, which will bring winter.

Casey Dean DeBruyn

Calendar

September

5.09.1939

Stanisław Garbarczyk died. A soldier of the „Łódź” Army in Poland’s defensive war in 1939. He died in the defense of the Homeland on September 4-5, 1939.

6.09.1915

Zofia Marcinek was born. She was a teacher. During the war and later, she took care of her nieces, whose parents were deported to Siberia. She worked in the Secret Teaching, for which she was awarded the ZNP Badge for TN in 1985. In the post-war period, she worked a lot to eliminate illiteracy - she was the Commune Instructor for Initial Learning. For solid professional and social work, she received the Golden Cross of Merit in 1973 and the Medal of the National Education Commission in 1980.

6.09.1919

Stanisław Kulasa was born - a soldier of the Home Army, a member of WEDETA.

7.09.1950

Józef Ziajka was born. He studied at the Jagiellonian University, Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences, where he obtained a master’s degree in geography. Work at the Economic Secondary School Mikołaj Kopernik in Łańcut began on September 1, 1975. In 1981, by the decision of the Superintendent of Education in Rzeszów, he received an award for special achievements in didactic and educational work. From the time of his teaching, he was closely associated with the Polish Geographical Society. While conducting commercial activity, he was a member of the Congregation of Entrepreneurs of the Łańcut Region from its very beginning. As a member of the Łańcut City Council, he worked in three committees: culture, audit and city economy (as deputy chairman).

10.09.1986

Roman Gołuchowski, a graduate of the Mielec primary school, and then a student of the teachers’ college in Tarnów, died. In January 1918, he reported to the Recruitment Commission in Mielec and was sent to Bolekhiv, where he was assigned to the Polish Auxiliary Corps. After February 16, 1918, when about 1.5 thousand PKP soldiers under the command of Józef Haller disobeyed Austria and switched to the Russian side, he found himself in the unit, which was interned by the Austrians. However, he managed to escape and return to Mielec. After World War II, he returned with his family to Wejherowo, where he was employed in the powiat administration and worked as a powiat clerk until his retirement.

October

1.10.2005

Aniela “Topola” Bałda died - a soldier of the Home Army, a member of WEDETA.

5.10.1887

Franciszek Kazana was born. In July 1914, he was mobilized into the Austrian army and until 1916 he participated in military operations. F. Kazana himself became a valued entrepreneur and, inter alia, he was an advisor to the Chamber of Industry and Commerce of Eksportu Nierogaczny and a member of the Supervisory Board of the Syndicate of Swine Export in Warsaw. His comprehensive activity was appreciated by the inhabitants of Mielcz in 1927, because he was elected to the Municipal Council, and then entrusted with the function of the vice-mayor. After the next election, at the session of the Council, he was elected the mayor of Mielec and held this position until 1939. On March 10, 1940, along with several other Mielec officials and secondary school teachers, he was arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned, and on July 7, 1940, he was sent to a concentration camp in Oranienburg. After the war, he made the effort to rebuild the company. In 1952, he moved with his family to Kraków, but returned to Mielec the following year. In 1997, on the 40th anniversary of his death, ceremonies were organized in Mielec, during which a commemorative plaque was unveiled on the family tomb.

12.10.1919

Jan “Żbik – Piotr” Bałda was born - second lieutenant, officer of the Home Army. Born in Chmielnik. After graduating from high school, he completed military service and graduated from the Infantry Reserve Officer Cadet School in Jarosław at 24 Infantry Division. After graduating from the Cadet School, he was sent to the 17th IR in Rzeszów, in which he took part in the September 1939 Campaign. „VEDETY”. In 1943, the „Na Posterunku” duplicating plant was accidentally discovered in the house of Paweł Sitarz in Chmielnik. Piotr decides to liquidate the police expedition. He dies in the village of Matysówka in an unequal fight.

14.10.1923

Stefan Pajda was born in Kielnarowa. In December 1943 he was sworn in at the Tyczyn Post in the Rzeszów District of the Home Army. A soldier of the subversive and propaganda unit „WEDETA”, co-editor of the underground magazine „Na Postunek”. From February 1945, a soldier of the post-AK independence underground, from September 1945 to October 1947, he was active in the „Freedom and Independence” Association. Honored with the Knight’s Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, the Cross of the Home Army, the „Pro Patria” Medal and other decorations.

24.09.1918

Aleksander Kulasa was born - a soldier of the Home Army, a member of WEDETA.

19.10.1943

Stefan Rudnicki and Józef Sitarz, Home Army soldiers, members of WEDETA, died in the fight against the German military police.

24.10. 1979

Ludwik Bałda died - teacher, editor of the underground press of the ZWZ-AK and the WiN Association. During World War II, he started to organize secret education for outstanding soldiers of the ZWZ, assuming the pseudonym „Bartek”. Ludwik received the Gold Cross of Merit with Swords. Ludwik Bałda became the literary editor of „Na Posterunku”. After the Soviets entered, he polemicized with the propaganda of the Polish Committee of National Liberation in the pages of „Na Posterunku”. After the end of the war, he left for Kraków. He spent the last period of his life in his family home in Chmielnik.

29.10.2002

Gabriel Brzęk died - Polish zoologist and historian of science, specializing in zoology, history of zoology in Poland, hydrobiology, and water melioration. A soldier of the Home Army with the rank of lieutenant, a Knight of the Silver Cross of the Order of Virtuti Militari.



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