

Roots and Wings

Bimonthly newspaper

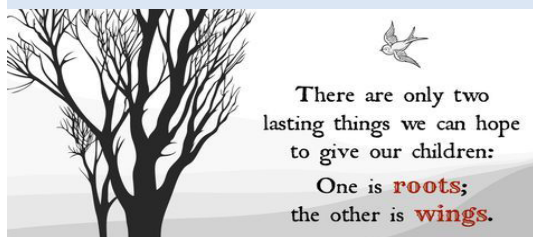
From the editor.

The year 2020 will undoubtedly remain in our memory. The pandemic brought with it many threats and challenges. The past 12 months were also special for our family. Yes, my friends, it's been a year since the first issue of our magazine was published. It was a year of very intensive work, learning new things and building a magazine that satisfied us all. We managed to achieve a lot during this year, while we are fully aware of how much is still ahead of us. We sincerely thank you for being with us. It is thanks to your approval - our family - that we are trying our strength in new directions, and your keen interest in our actions is the spiritus movendi of our actions. So let this New Year bring you joy, love, prosperity and the fulfillment of all your dreams, and when they come true, let them add a handful of new dreams, because only they give life meaning! Many happy moments in the New Year. Happiness at home and wherever you are.

Jacek Kulasa

Christmas memories

The atmosphere of Christmas leads us, especially slightly older, to memories. With memory we return to years gone by, especially to childhood, recalling joyfully spent holidays among people dear to us. Christmas in the Polish tradition has a warm and family character. We sat down to Christmas Eve dinner when the first star appeared in the sky and it began with sharing a wafer. Below are some memories of the traditions, customs and Christmas dishes of our cousins who wanted to share their memories with us.



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Christmas Eve and Christmas day with us in the USA do not deviate from the customs that we celebrated in Poland. The smell of the Christmas tree and the first

star in the sky creates the mood to start celebrating Christmas Eve, most often the host reads the chapter from the Bible, followed by the making of wishes, of course it is a very pleasant experience. On Christmas Eve, fasting is in force, and everyone is waiting for the supper to begin. On the Christmas table

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there are usually 12 dishes, the first is sour soup with dried porcini mushrooms, then several types of dumplings, some dumplings with a surprise, golabki, different types of beans, sweet and sour cabbage and fish. Much attention is paid to the décor of the table and the decoration of the room is festive – along with a real Christmas tree from the forest. On the table is a hay and a holy family with the newborn Jesus. We put on the table one more cover, for a lonely newcomer. At the very beginning we put a wafer under the plate for good luck. We try to taste every dish, even just a little bite. After Christmas dinner - time for Christmas gifts, Santa Claus comes, it is a great experience for children and for all participants of the Christmas supper a lot of joys and surprises. On Christmas eve we play and sing Christmas carols. If possible, we go for a midnight mass.

Czesława Kulasa



I'll tell you the truth I can't imagine Christmas this year, I can't even describe it. We are sad that we will not be together either on holiday on the Caribbean islands or even together. All of us are worried about health, to look forward to vaccines. Even my 30-year-old granddaughter. What was planned no longer going to

happen, we are convinced that Christmas is not in any stores, only at home with a healthy family.

After the war, my parents settled in the mountains without electricity, in the log cabin by the river. We had a pump for the water from a well in the kitchen. The oven was made of tiles, had a plate and a place to bake bread. Our cottage had two chambers, bedroom without heating only suitable to use in the summer. Through the hallway there was a passage to the stable with cows, 2 horses and a pig sow, chickens were also close. Everything we ate parents made from their own work for a year. Even there was more for sale at the fair. Christmas started already in the autumn when we smoked sausages and ham. The meat supply was in a barrel of salt water. Vegetables in the basement underground. Grains, straw and hay in the barn. Mommy liked to bake cakes for the holidays, there was a sweet babka cake, a poppyseed cake and I grinded poppy seed for kutia. I liked to do it as I also liked to make butter. Daddy supplied us with a Christmas tree and wood for all needs all year round. I really liked to walk for a midnight mass, it was too cold for the horses to stand in front of the church and wait for us. I liked to carol with my parents in the villages until once instead of hot tea I got vodka, and it was a lot of laughter. To this day I give away handmade gifts, like my parents used to, even if it was a small jar of jam. My life, though poor, was beautiful and family orientated, and I miss it to this day. Warm greetings, Krystyna with family.

Krystyna Styrna

Every year my dad, Edzieu Jr, makes halumpkis (stuffed cabbage), bolbikie (dough balls with sauerkraut and butter), haluski and pierogies. We enjoy these at our annual Christmas party with family and friends. We also participate in the Christmas Eve Wigilia meatless feast and then we share the oplatki wafer with the blessing. We eat the golabkis on Christmas Day as well as ham, kielbasa and the pierogies.

Theresa Lea



to Christmas morning Mass. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sandra Bator Napierkowski



of German origin. These Polish holidays had a special atmosphere and magic and will remain forever in my memory.

Jolanta Teubert-Vicari



At the sign of the first star we would gather at the table and after we said grace we passed the Christmas wafer.

Marilyn Wiater Swanson



We waited until the first star and then sat down to Christmas Eve dinner. The dishes we have cooked, like I'm cooking now. Borscht with mushrooms, 3 types of dumplings, fish, cabbage with peas, potatoes with onions and then we sing Christmas carols. It does not last long, because the children go for second dinner to the other parents. I have more

than 20 people on Christmas Eve. I greet you nicely..
Danuta Kozak



Well, what I remember from my teenage years - the Christmas tree was decorated on Christmas Eve just before dinner, then we sat together at the Lord's Supper, shining candles on the Christmas tree and Gromnica candle on the table as the presence of God himself,

who is the light. Then the oldest person in the family read a chapter from the Bible, about the birth of Jesus and the common prayer and for the dead of the family who were no longer with us at Christmas and departed to the Lord. Then mom or dad, when he was alive, broke with all the wafers making wishes - and we as children apologized to the parents for the misconduct by kissing on the hand for disobeying them. Then the first dish was a traditional white borscht with mushrooms and potatoes in a large bowl in the middle of the table, located on a wafer and everyone took by hand and borscht on plates, each had then, traditionally fish, cabbage with peas or with beans, Russian dumplings and cabbage dumplings, golabki but with mushrooms and mushroom sauce and traditionally so-called compote from dried apples and prunes. After the supper we caroled until midnight mass and then we all went to church at midnight. On Christmas Eve everyone has fasted, first meal at Christmas Eve dinner without meat. Sometimes mom made the so-called Kutia. That's how Christmas Eve looked like with us in Blazowa. I greet you by wishing you from merry Christmas, full of love of God's Child.

Danuta Demczak



At my house there was always borscht with the uszka (similar to ravioli). There was also carp in jelly as well as fish in Greek style. And, of course, dumplings with cabbage and mushrooms and ones with potato and cottage cheese. I was waiting for the first star and sharing a wafer. Oh, these were marinated herring - the

specialty of my Mommy

Anna Maria Słonina Oczóś



In principle, there were no special traditions and dishes with us. But as I mention the old Christmas Eve, I remember that from the morning at my grandmother's house in the kitchen she was cooking cabbage with mushrooms. My grandmother and I were making uszka with mushrooms to have with borscht.

And that there were usually

about 300 pieces, then grandma recalled the pre-war times and the time of war. And in general, these stories were not terrible. Traditionally, on Christmas Eve we consumed the following dishes:

1. Red borscht with uszka.
2. Breaded carp, for this cabbage with mushrooms and charka bread.
3. Compote from dried prunes.

And then cakes: cwibak, poppy seed cake and sometimes cheesecake. I don't remember the gingerbread from my childhood, but now I'm baking them with Adas. We started the Christmas supper with the first star. And after we ate, we sang Christmas carols. From the memories of grandma Zosia I know that Christmas borscht recipe is due to grandfather Tadek, because in his family home such was cooked. My grandmother family home did not have borscht only fish soup, cooked probably on the basis of carp. But fortunately, our supper was with borscht, which my brother and I loved.

Izabella Cieśla



The magic of Christmas has accompanied everyone since childhood. After the Second World War, life was not easy. So everyone longed to prepare and waited for this special evening. I remember that we had been fasting since the morning and we couldn't wait for the first star in the sky to shine.

The whole celebration began with prayer and singing Christmas carols. Most often during this period, guests came to us, with whom we joyfully celebrated together. With a beautifully decorated Christmas tree in colorful tissue paper, chains and other ornaments made of paper, baubles, candies, cookies, nuts and hung along the entire trunk red apples and lit colorful candles, we made our wishes by sharing a wafer. This moment was always very exciting for me, because in the eyes of my parents, great-grandmothers and visiting parents, I saw tears. I don't know, whether they were happy tears or longing for those who were not among us. After all, they were far from their loved ones, whom they left leaving Rzeszow area. First, they

thought they left for a while, and it turned out that they remained in Wrocław until the end of their days. Then we sat at a table covered with a white tablecloth and in the middle was the hay. Mommy put a big bowl of white borsch with mushrooms in the middle. And interestingly, everyone ate from this one bowl reaching with their spoons. Subsequent dishes were similarly served. Then everyone put them on their plate. Among the most popular dishes were dumplings with cabbage and mushrooms, baked carp, uszka, red borscht. All the dishes were meatless. With tea we also ate various cakes and sweets, which we got as a gift under the Christmas tree. For the children it was a great joy. The smell of Christmas trees and cakes spread throughout the apartment. Around 24:00, we went to the parish church. The midnight mass also aroused emotions in us. This Mass was extraordinary. Every day only organs played in the church, and now the whole brass band played on the choir. Carols and pastors in their execution made the whole church tremble. To this day, I remember these celebrations, and almost 70 years have passed. Over the years, this tradition has disap-

peared, although to some extent we continue it to this day. We no longer eat dishes from one bowl. Children do not wait for sweets and citrus fruits, because they have them every day, but they love granny dumplings. There is also a lack of white fluff outside. Once during the Holiday season, children played outdoors, because snow and frost are the only opportunity for sledging and skating, or playing with snowballs. And the cold winters were up to -40 degrees. Snow covered entire streets, that often could not be crossed. But there was a big snowman in every yard. Today, they mostly stare at the computer screen or mobiles. And that's sad. However, we are not missing anything in principle. In stores you can buy everything and we have it every day. No one hangs chains from colored paper. The tree, although alive does not smell like in childhood, because previously resin was pulled from it, and you will not get candy, cookies or apple from it, because now we do not hang such ornaments. The memories of our childhood are beautiful. It was poor, modest but cheerful..

Halina Walczak

Christmas time in Spain

While speaking about Christmas in Spain it is important to emphasize that this holiday season lasts from 22nd of December to 6th of January. Therefore these holidays last longer and embrace additional, especially important days for Spanish people.

Similar to Poland, celebration of Christmas in Spain is based on Catholic religion, but, in many ways, this celebration is different than in Poland. One of the Spanish traditions is a preparation of a small Christmas creche (Belen) in the beginning of December. Spanish houses barely have Christmas trees.

On 22nd of December a special holiday lottery called "El gordo" takes place in Spain. Winning numbers and prizes are announced in live television throughout the whole morning by school children singing them out loud. Everyone living in Spain plays this lottery; often buying one tenth of the ticket and betting the same numbers with friends and coworkers. It is the biggest lottery in the world with millions of Euro to win. Spanish people do not treat El Gordo only as a big chance to win, but also as a big event starting a holiday season in the whole country.

On Christmas Eve, both Polish and Spanish celebrate and eat to the fullest. Their tables are full of fine dishes. However in Spain, the Christmas Eve supper (Wigilia) does not exclude meat like in Poland - on this day Spanish eat various kinds of roasts and meats. Some Christmas dishes may seem exotic for us, however a lobster or shrimps are not anything extraordinary on Spanish Christmas table. Polish Christmas Eve supper (Wigilia) cannot happen without sharing the Christmas wafer with the closed ones. In Spain the Christmas wafer is replaced by "turon"; it is a type of a

dish (nugat) made of honey, nuts, and almonds. What is interesting, a "turon" is so popular that it can be also bought in many Spanish stores or stands besides a holiday season. Likewise, it is common to go to a church on Christmas Eve after a holiday supper to celebrate a midnight mass called "Misa del gallo" which exactly means a Rooster Mass.

During the Christmas season Spanish people celebrate the Day of the Holy Innocents (El Día de los Santos Inocentes) which is similar to our Polish Prima Aprilis. On this day everyone plays tricks and makes fun of each other, and media present fake news.

Epiphany (Día de los Reyes Magos) is even more important in Spain than in Poland. On this day children receive holiday gifts. On this occasion and a day before various kinds of parades and shows with Three Kings take place. Gifts are not delivered by Santa Claus, but this role belongs to Kacper, Melchior, and Baltazar. Also, traditionally on this holiday everyone eats Roscon de Reyes- a cake full of whipped cream and candied fruits on the top of it with a bean and a baked statuette inside of it. If in your piece of a cake you find a statuette with a small toy, you will gain a privilege of wearing a crown, but if you find a bean in it, you will have to pay for a "roscon" next year.

New Year's Eve in Spain is also full of traditions. When the clock counts down to New Year, everyone in every town square and in every Spanish house holds a bunch of 12 grapes. Instead of shouting "Happy New

Year” people are busy trying to eat all 12 grapes before the clock strikes 12 times. It has been said that if you are unable to eat all the grapes, you will have a bad luck next year.

Sabina Kulasa

Calendar

November

5.11.1713

John Hart was born. Signatory of the New Jersey Declaration of Independence. Born in Stonington. Hart sat in Congress on July 1, 1776. He voted for US independence. In late 1776, the British army approached Hopewell, and John managed to take his children to relatives and then escape. Hiding in caves and sleeping outdoors, he rejected a British offer of pardon. Eventually he returned to his farm, where he found his wife dead and the farm destroyed. He tried to find his children, but was never able to collect them all again due to the ruined health he lost as a fugitive.

6.11.2018

Albin Pajda, a fighter for the independence of the Republic of Poland, a soldier of the Home Army, a member of the „Freedom and Independence” Association, and a political prisoner of the Stalinist times died.

7.11.1988

Konstanty Kulasa, a longtime teacher of mathematics in Mielec schools, died. From 1970, he was the deputy director of the 1st Secondary School of General Education S. Konarski in Mielec, and from 1983 a school educator. He contributed to the development of the school and its teaching and educational success. He was awarded, among others With the Knight's Cross of OOP and in the school year 1972/1973 with the Award of the Minister of Education and Upbringing for outstanding teaching and educational achievements. He died on November 7, 1988. He rests at the municipal cemetery in Mielec.

8.11.2006

Stanisław Plaza - Polish historian of law, professor of legal sciences, long-term (1981-1997) head of the Department (formerly the Department) of the History of Polish Law at the Jagiellonian University has died. His scientific work focused mainly on the history of pre-partition Poland: the history of parliamentarism, historical and legal comparative studies, the history of the sources of law, and the history of the Polish countryside. His life's work remains the monumental History of Law in Poland against a comparative background (three volumes, the fourth volume contains detailed indexes), the most accurate study of this type in Polish literature so far. For this work he was awarded the

December

17.12.1876

Fr. Tomasz Sapeta, a fighter for independence, sentenced by the Court of Appeal in Wrocław to two years in prison. Fr. Sapeta died in Prison No. I at ul. Kleczkowska. In the nineties the priest's body was exhumed and buried in field 94.

26.12.1963

Mariusz Kalandyk was born - a Polish poet and literary critic. Laureate of the Poetry Award Kazimiery Iłakowiczówny 1997 for the best poetic debut of the year for the volume *Return of Atanaryka*. Member of the editorial board of the *Nowa Okolica Poetów* quarterly. Editor-in-chief of the *Educational Quarterly*. He published, among others in *Fraz*, *Gazeta Wyborcza* and *Topos*.



ded the highest university distinction - Laur Jagielloński.

10.11.1923

Henry Kulasa was born. Henry was a World War II veteran. He was a member of VFW Post 9423, a member of AMVETS Post 911, La Porte Falcons and the Rolling Prairie Conservation Club. He was awarded the following medals: Bronze Star Medal - awarded for courage in the face of the enemy, heroism or exemplary service and the Purple Heart - American military decoration for the wounded.

12.11.1901

Natalia Gołuchowska (née Małkiewicz) was born, murdered in the German Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau.

14.11.1933

Juliusz Burski was born - Polish film, theater and radio director, screenwriter. In the years 1989–1990 chairman of the Cinematography Committee and deputy minister of culture and art in the government of Tadeusz Mazowiecki. He initiated the reform of Polish cinematography in the period of the systemic transformation after 1989.

28.11.1992

Czesław Pajda, a member of WEDETA and a Home Army soldier, has died.

29.11.1948 ,

Marek Gołuchowski was born, son of Leszek (from the Gołuchowski family of Mielec) and Janina née Cichocki. A few weeks before the December events in 1970, he was employed at the Shipyard. Of the Paris Commune in Gdynia. He took part in the December demonstrations. After these events, he could not work because he was treated as a „subversive”. In 1980-2011 he worked on ships as a seaman in ship engine rooms, and then retired. His additional activity is collecting data about the Gołuchowski family, including the Mielec line. He is in constant contact with Mielec. Moreover, he systematically helps in collecting materials for the „Encyclopedia of the city of Mielec”, searching for information about Mielec.



Jacek Kulasa

e-mail: jkulasa@mybigfamily.pl

www: <http://mybigfamily.pl>

fb: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mojafamilja/>