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Polish Chicago: Our History, Our Recipes



Synopsis

Polish Chicago: Our History - Our Recipes is the most ambitious work on the Polish community of Chicago to date. Author Joseph W. Zurawski, a historian, educator and author of the Polish experience in both Poland and America for almost 50 years, brings a wealth of insight and knowledge to this groundbreaking work. By elegant prose and stunning photograph (often rare and previously unseen), and poignant personal profile, Zurawski documents the full dramatic saga of Chicago's Polonia. In free and optimistic Chicago, these Polish Americans not only supported their beleaguered homeland, they also forever enriched their new home by contributing their tremendous work ethic, unending patriotism, fervent faith, tireless charity and beautiful culture to create a vibrant and ever-evolving Chicago Polonia. Polish Chicago: Our History - Our Recipes recounts the amazing story of these indomitable people. Moreover, for many food is simply nourishment, but for Polish Americans, food means family. It is a means by which to share with others, celebrate tradition and show affection. Thus, this book highlights culinary contributions by turning an inviting light onto 12 of Chicago's award-winning Polish eateries, with each providing recipes of their excellent fare. As an added bonus, 24 Polish-American Chicagoans have opened their kitchens and their hearts to readers. Each shares family recipes along with cherished family photographs and private family stories, some whimsical, some poignant, each offering an authentic glimpse back into worlds often hidden to the readers by time, political walls or both. Brought to you by G. Bradley Publishing of St. Louis, in cooperation with The Polish Museum of America, Polish Chicago: Our History - Our Recipes is a handsome, 240-page hardbound volume containing 720 rare historical photographs and exquisite food photographs shot by nationally renowned photographer Katherine Bish.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Contrary to myth, Chicago's Polish Community is not the second largest in the world after Warsaw. But it is large, and its many facets are featured here. I could not put this book down! It has everything: Polish recipes, Polish shops, Polish churches such as Holy Trinity Parish and St. Stanislaus Kostka, the annual Holy Saturday Easter-basket blessing, long-term institutions such as Malec Funeral Home and Przybylo's White Eagle Polish Restaurant, the Polish National Museum, Polish-Americans in local American sports teams, photos of the visits of Pope John Paul II before and after he became pope, the Kosciuszko statue that I saw as a child in Humboldt Park but which now is downtown, St. Adalbert's cemetery wherein my parents are interred, the Pulaski Park fieldhouse where I played as a child in the Polish Cub Scouts (Zuchy), Holy Trinity High School--the then-site of the General Pulaski Saturday-morning Polish School that I attended as a child, the annual Labor-Day-weekend Taste of Polonia foodfest, the fight against anti-Polish mischaracterizations in the media and in Holocaust materials, and much more. The old Chicago photos from decades back, some of which go back to the 1800's, alone make this book priceless. There are also some old pictures from pre-WWII Poland of relatives of Polish Chicagoans.

This book blends a cookbook featuring authentic Polish cuisine with the history of the Polish immigrants and their descendants in Chicago. We bought a copy for each of my daughters. They used it as a guidebook. When they and my wife visited Chicago this weekend, the book sent them on a journey to uncover a bakery with exceptional Polish pastries. I am still enjoying these. What more can I say!

Most informative book. Being raised in Chicago in a Polish family and now living in Atlanta, this book brought back fabulous memories and also some wonderful recipes were found and used.

The book on Polish culture in the Chicago area was a big hit for my brother-in-law as a Christmas gift. His family is from the area and the recipes were very familiar to him. He has made several old Polish dinners and he really enjoys sharing the book with his family. Thank you, Eileen

Bought this for a table book for my father. He grew up in the old Chicago Polish neighborhood. He

just couldn't put the book down! He was amazed at how every page of the book hit home. The author put into print all the words and stories Dad told. Would strongly recommend if you want to know about the Polish life in Chicago, IL.

Purchased this as a gift for my Dad for his birthday. He is in his 80's and hard to buy for. I was a little worried because he doesn't read much, but he really loved this book. It brought him back in time to when he was a little boy growing up in Chicago in a polish neighborhood. I keep borrowing it too, for the wonderful recipes!

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