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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

School arts festival takes on an edgier side

By Charles Sercombe

Is Hamtramck High School getting ... ah ... avant-garde? Judging by Tuesday evening's arts festival at the community center, you might walk away from the event thinking this school is cool and far out.

(OK, for you kids, the term "cool and far out" is old fogey talk for saying it was ... uh ... oh forget it, we have no clue what the current lingo is for saying something is "groovy." Oh, there we go again.)

More to the point here, the arts festival showcased drawings and photos from the district's students, as well as some live performances. Highlights included a choral version of Bon Jovi's "Livin' on a prayer," two percussive

pieces featuring wood items and another one played solely with yellow-painted brooms.

There was also a funky hip-hop dance by a troupe of high school girls and a way-out-there concert performance featuring the clanging of saws, hammers and what-not.

This definitely wasn't your standard high school variety show.

Considering the show started at 5 p.m., it was amazing to see students pack the place. If the performances did push the envelope of what's considered traditional entertainment, the kids didn't seem fazed. They hooted and applauded all evening long.

Go Cosmos.



Hamtramck High School students took part in an arts festival held at the Community Center this past Tuesday evening.



State loan now looking iffy at best

By Charles Sercombe

Will Hamtramck still get a \$2.5 million state emergency loan?

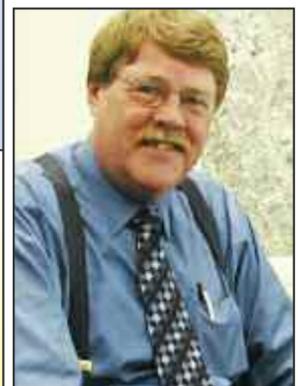
That's a question floating around the city now that Hamtramck and Detroit worked out a deal on how much tax revenue money each city will share from GM's Poletown plant.

Part of that agreement calls for Detroit to hand over a check to Hamtramck worth \$3.2 million, from tax monies withheld for the last two years. This September, Detroit is due to give the city at least \$1.4 million from taxes collected from the plant.

Hamtramck could receive more than that amount, depending on a number of factors.

On top of that, income taxes will soon come in, and later in the summer, property taxes. In other words, the city doesn't appear to be facing the financial crisis it projected earlier in the year.

Not so fast, said City Manager Bill Cooper. While the city's financial picture is certainly rosier, the city still has more money going out than coming in.



City Manager Bill Cooper said he won't be surprised if the state turns down the city's request for an emergency \$2.5 million loan.

"The Detroit payment will only last for eight to 10 months," Cooper said. "We're going to need it (the loan) at

Continued on page 2

Quick Hits

This is breaking news ...

Because of the number of Japanese families who are now homeless due to the recent tsunami, US Homeland Security is relocating them to select cities across the country. The government is now offering to purchase Hamtramck homes for top value in order to house the influx of Japanese refugees.

Also, this just in ... today is April 1 - Gotcha.



Quote of the week ...

Who said this, and what is it about? You can find the quote and the story it belongs to somewhere in the pages of this issue.

"At this point I'm not seeking re-election, but I am getting a certain amount of pressure."

Census number on housing stock raises questions

By Charles Sercombe

Let's get this out right up front.

The 2010 Census numbers are still raw to city officials, and they have not had enough time to digest what little has been released so far.

But here are some disturbing numbers, at least at first glance, and take note that city officials are already questioning them.

This one is about the number of housing units, but first just what is a housing unit? It's the consensus of city of-

ficials that a housing unit is a single-family house—for sure — and quite likely a single flat in a house that may contain two or more flats.

In other words, if you live in an upper or lower flat, you are living in a housing unit.

So, let's roll to the Census numbers. According to the 2000 Census, the city had a total of 8,894 housing units. Jump forward a decade to the 2010 Census, and Hamtramck now has a total of 8,693—a mysterious loss of

Continued on page 2



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State loan now looking iffy at best

Continued from front page

some point."

Cooper said he won't be surprised if the state rejects the loan request.

"That's fine, we can go back," he said. "We already did the paperwork."

Cooper said the financial windfall is offset by a cut of \$600,000 in state revenue this coming year as well as increasing costs for employee health insurance and pension costs.

Also, the city could lose hundreds of thousands of dollars more if it doesn't measure up to new budget conditions set by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Snyder is insisting that cities reduce labor costs by forcing public employees to kick in 20 percent of their health care costs. Snyder also wants cities to privatize or merge services.

Snyder campaigned on a promise to "reinvent" Michigan, but community leaders across the state have become increasingly vocal in their criticism of Snyder's expectations.

Communities are saying Snyder is setting them up for financial failure in order to allow a state-appointed emergency financial manager to take over and rip up union

contracts and merge communities.

Cooper said he will soon be negotiating new contracts with three out of the city's four public employee unions. He said everyone knows what is at stake.

He said he will seek a 20 percent co-pay in health costs, but he's not going to force the issue.

"I'm trying not to do this in a heavy-handed approach," he said.

On the other hand, if the unions refuse, they may ultimately will have no choice anyway.

Census number on housing stock raises questions

Continued from front page

201 housing units.

In any given year, the city knocks down about 10 or 12 houses because they are damaged by fire or neglect. If all of those houses were two-family dwellings, well, OK, that would account for the loss of 201 housing units.

But, Jason Friedmann, the city's director of Community & Economic Development, doesn't think, at least at first glance, that everything adds up.

At the time we went to press, which is Thursday, Friedmann had not been able to check with other city departments to verify that number.

And now comes the next questionable Census figure.

The number of unoccupied housing units rocketed up from 861 in 2000 to 1,630 in

2010.

How's that?

Friedmann said, again just at first glance without being able to look at city records, the number is way off. True, the city lost a little over 500 residents during the past 10 years, but that doesn't explain the surge in empty housing units.

According to city officials, the number of empty houses is around 400, mostly due to a combination of the economic crash the metro area experienced, the resultant loss of jobs, and then the inevitable foreclosures.

Add it all up, and Hamtramck certainly took a hit. But just how severe it was is the bigger question.

As for the decrease in population, at least it wasn't as bad as previously estimated

from sampling taken by the Census Bureau. Back in 2009, the Census sampling showed a loss of 3,000 people.

Given that projection, it's reasonable to expect city officials to question the accuracy of the 2010 Census count. But that's the official count, and there's very little the city can do about it.

There is an irony of sorts here. During the past 10 years, the city oversaw the development of 100 new housing units. In the next two to three years, another 100 housing units will also be built.

Hamtramck may have taken a dip in people and housing, but it is poised for a major comeback.

Hamtown's movers and shakers...

(Because of the length in this installment of Movers and Shakers, we are splitting it up into two parts.)

By Alan R. Madeleine

Who she is: Tamara Sochacka is the Director of the Hamtramck Public Library. Since she was so wonderfully thorough in her responses, in spite of not having much time to get them back to us, why don't we let her fill you in on the rest?

How about if we get some all-important background on you first? Would I be correct in guessing that, like many of us who love to read, you perhaps have fond memories of libraries as a child? Where did you grow up, and what libraries did you frequent? Where did you go to high school and college, and what was your undergraduate background?

Sochacka: I was born in Poznan, Poland, where both of my parents worked in a performing arts theater. I was 2 years old when we moved to Zielona Gora, where my father (then) worked as a theater director. When I was 6, we moved again – this time to Gdansk, the most beautiful city in the world, situated on the coast



of Baltic Sea. There, I attended elementary school, high school and college (University of Gdansk). At first, I decided to major in Polish Literature, but after three years of study I switched to Education and Psychology. I was working on my Masters Degree (in Psychology) when Martial Law was declared by Poland's communist regime, and all schools were closed.

At that time I was already very much involved in the Polish opposition movement. As a student, I was a member of the Independent Student Association (an organization that worked closely with the Solidarity Labor Union), and I was also an active member of a political party (which was illegal under the communist "law"), the Confederacy for an Inde-

pendent Poland (KPN).

When Martial Law was declared on December 13, 1981, all eyes were on Gdansk's Lenin Shipyard, the place where – in the summer of 1980 – the Solidarity Movement was born. So, while thousands of Solidarity leaders and activists had been arrested and interned by the communists, the shipyard workers had organized a protest – an occupation strike – against Jaruzelski's regime. I joined that strike as a student representative.

On December 16, the Shipyard was attacked by the military militia (ZOMO). We were instructed that, in such a case, we should remain hidden on the unfinished ships, and we did hide – for a day. But it was a harsh, very cold and snowy winter; we had

Continued on page 5

This week at the library...

Piano Recital - Friday, April 1 at 7 p.m. Matthew Walczak, a young Polish pianist, will present his music program featuring works of Mozart, Chopin and Debussy.

ESL Class for Beginners - Saturday, April 2 at 10:30 a.m. Christine Templin is the instructor for the ESL class for beginners. Everyone is invited. Free to the public.

Storytime for Children - Saturday, April 2 at noon. All children are invited to library storytime. Don't get caught in the rain, join us in making April Showers umbrellas, during the arts and craft session - and hear a story about "April Foolishness" by Teresa Bateman.

Computer Classes for Advanced Users - Monday, April 4 at 11 a.m. Adults with basic computer skills can enhance their computer literacy each Monday at the library. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

Computer Classes for Beginners - Tuesday, April 5 at 11 a.m. Basic instructions on computer use for beginners will be held on Tuesdays. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

Reading and Conversation for ESL Students - Tuesday, April 5 at 5:30 p.m. Jide Aje is the instructor for the reading and conversation ESL classes.

Math Club Meeting - Tuesday, April 5 at 4 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the instructor for the math club and math tutoring.

Movie Wednesday - Wednesday, April 6 at 3:30 p.m. Every Wednesday is movie day at the library. Come and enjoy our feature presentation, which

includes free popcorn and snacks.

Jeopardy at the Library - Thursday, April 7 at 4 p.m. Sign up and participate in Jeopardy games held on Thursdays at the library. Compete against friends, win prizes and have fun developing your knowledge skills.

Movie Screening - "Exit Through the Gift Shop" - Tuesday, April 12 at 7 p.m. The movie follows an eccentric shopkeeper turned amateur film-maker as he attempts to capture many of the world's most infamous vandals on camera, only to have a British stencil artist named Banksy, turn the camcorder back on its owner with wildly unexpected results. Free to the public.

Meeting of the Library Board - Thursday, April 14 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.

Open Mic Poetry Reading - Wednesday, April 20 at 4 p.m. In celebration of the National Poetry Month, the Hamtramck Library will hold Open Mic Poetry Readings with cooperation of our local poet Vievee Francis. Everyone who wishes to participate, or just listen, is invited.

Friends of the Library Meeting - Thursday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday, invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting and election meeting of the FHPL.

Special Thanks Donations to: Angela Jones, dvd's; John Suchara, books; Beverly Johnson, books; Lisa Grochowski, books; Anita Martinez, books.

For more information about events at the library call (313) 365-7050, or visit our website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> where you can also access our online catalog.

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Second Front Page

Want to run for city council? Now's the time

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's election season is officially up and running.

Nominating petitions for three City Council seats are now available at the City Clerk's Office. The council race is the only local office that will appear on the August Primary ballot.

Councilmembers Shahab Ahmed, Cathie Gordon and Catrina Stackpoole are up for re-election – if they choose to seek it, that is. So far, Councilmember Stackpoole is the only one saying she doubts she will go for another term.

"At this point I'm not seeking re-election, but I am getting a certain amount of pressure," Stackpoole said about whether she would run again.

She has increasingly shown frustration during council meetings, some of which drag on for three or more hours while councilmembers endlessly debate issues.

She has lashed out at councilmembers for taking up too much time in discussing topics, and for their habits of repeating them-



For those who have lived here for awhile, the above stencil graffiti is indeed a likeness of perennial candidate Richard Fabiszak. And yes, Fabiszak is one of the first candidates to pull a nominating petition to run for City Council.

selves and interrupting others.

Stackpoole said she would prefer to serve the city by being appointed to one of a dozen or so committees.

Speaking of councilmembers who seem to get under Stackpoole's skin, Councilmember Cathie Gordon, who is finishing her first term, said she will likely seek re-election, barring a decline in the health of her mother or aunt.

"God willing I will run again," Gordon said, sounding very much like a seasoned politician.

Councilmember Shahab

Ahmed, who has been in office for seven years, said he has not yet decided whether he will run again. There has been much speculation about whether Ahmed will go for another term, and for that matter how electable he even is.

Ahmed seems to have been eclipsed by other elected officials and by other candidates in the Bangladeshi community. He was the first Bangladesh-American to win public office in Hamtramck, and possibly in the state.

As for who else will run? There are always the usual candidates you can count

on seeing, as well as a whole new generation coming up. So far, two people have pulled petitions for the council election: Richard Fabiszak and Dilshad Chodhury.

Hamtramck's political landscape has undergone tremendous change in recent years. Once dominated by Polish-Americans, the community now has a larger Bangladesh-American population.

Bangladeshi candidates appear to be on the verge of winning a majority of elected offices in the city.

For those who like to keep track of Hamtramck politics, this year promises to be high drama.

Nominating petitions for the August Primary must be turned in by May 10 and contain at least 25 valid signatures from Hamtramck registered voters. Candidates can opt to pay \$25 instead of seeking voter signatures.

In the November election, two school board seats will be on the ballot. Boardmembers Dennis Puchaski and Jerome Balcerzak are up for re-election.

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Hamtramck's income tax deadline is coming up

By David Piestrzynski
 Special to The Review

deadline to file Hamtramck's city income tax is April 30.

Just a reminder – the

What, you didn't know

Hamtramck has an income tax?

"Ignorance is not an excuse," said City Finance Director Nevrus Nazarko.

Hamtramck has a two-tier tax rate. For those who live here, it's 1 percent. And for those who only work and earn money here but are not residents, it's a half percent.

If you think you can pull a fast one on the city and skip paying the tax, think again. The Income Tax Department is able to cross-reference state tax records to see who claims to live here or work here and use that info to

see if they filed taxes in Hamtramck.

If you get caught failing to pay Hamtramck income taxes, there will be penalties, fees and you could possibly face misdemeanor charges. This process can take up to a year to complete, but the penalties will eventually be enforced, Nazarko said.

Last year, the city collected \$2 million from income taxes. The city's annual budget is approximately \$18 million.

Coming Events

APRIL 3, Sunday, 2 p.m. – The Holy Cross Parish Mission Committee will host a bowling fundraiser to support the Hamtramck Friendship House. The event will be at Universal Lanes, 2101 E. 12 Mile Rd. in Warren. For more information and tickets, call (586) 558-7321 or stop by Srodek's Campau Quality Sausage at 9601 Jos. Campau. Ask for Maggie Srodek.

APRIL 9, Saturday, 1-4 p.m. – People's Community Services (8625 Jos. Campau) will host a Service Fair for the South Asian Community. The Fair will offer access to a number of agencies for help in social and economic issues, such as tutors, financial support, job skills, help with utility bills, job search and much more. There will also be free food, free childcare and entertainment. For more information, call (734) 922-5799.

Development causes safety concern



By Charles Sercombe

No, it's not going to fall down.

That's the verdict from Martin Ladd, the city's director of Public Services, about a redevelopment project going on at a building on Jos. Campau and Poland.

A city contractor, Steve Shaya, raised concern over

whether the building is going to hold up because much of the front and side of the building had been removed.

Ladd said that while it looks like hardly anything is keeping the structure standing, there is indeed sufficient support. He said the city's structural engineer investigated the building and determined it

was sturdy.

Still, to the casual observer, the building indeed looks like it could collapse at any moment. On Monday, however, a new brick wall was going up.

"It's going to look like hell for a while, but it's structurally sound," Ladd said.



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Talk back ...

Ever wonder about the story behind the story in Hamtramck? It's not often we get a chance to pull the curtain back and let our readers in on some of the behind-the-scenes of events and stories we have covered.

By Charles Sercombe

One of the joys of working at a newspaper is looking through the photo archives.

Although The Review has been here for only two years, I had the pleasure of working at the former Citizen newspaper for over 20 years. We had thousands of photos taken over The Citizen's 75 years of existence.

Unfortunately, a former editor, who will remain unnamed, had one of those moments that many of experience. A moment of profound bad judgment, of "what was I thinking?"

I was new at the paper at the time, so when this unnamed

editor had a fit of house cleaning and decided to throw out our "old" photos, I remained silent but in a state of "this is so wrong but what can I do?"

I managed to grab a few photos from the garbage bags. To this day, I'm still stunned I witnessed the loss of a treasure. Gone in one afternoon was a city's history in photos.

But, go ahead and cry all you want in your beer, or my beer if you ever belly up next to me at one of our local pubs. What's done is done.

Hundreds of other photos were handed over to the city's Historical Commission for safekeeping when The Citizen moved to a smaller office.

So ... with this weird introduction out of the way, here are some of the photos I saved. I took them for no particular reason other than they spoke to me or maybe I found them humorous.

Or maybe I just grabbed what

I could without causing a row at work.

Let's go straight to the humorous. The photo labeled "1" is from Channel 7 Rita Bell's "Prize Movie" program that ran during the 1960s and '70s.

If you are a longtime Detroit-er – and by that I mean anyone who is at least 50 years old or so – you will remember Rita

dearly.

Photos 2, 3 and 4 are fascinating portraits of people of their time. The brunette gal is identified only by her last name Motyko. The other gal's last name is Mudryj. Judging by the hairdos of the gals, it looks like the 1960s. The guy's name on the back of the photo is partly erased, but his first name is Adam. In handwriting the year says it's 1948. I like his tie and his whole get-up. Pretty stylish.



#1

Bell's weekday movie feature, which featured local Detroiters playing some sort of game of chance in between the showing of a feature movie.

Here is a photo of a grandmotherly woman, identified on the back of the photo as Mrs. Veronesi, who apparently lived in Hamtramck or in the nearby Detroit neighborhoods. On the back of the photo the woman is identified as "Mrs."

I have no idea if her family is still around, but if you are related, I would love to hear the story behind this.

And as for why I find this humorous? I'm not sure. She sure is a sweet looking grandmother kind of woman who I would enjoy knowing and having as a neighbor.

Maybe I find it "funny" because of the juxtaposition of the prim, modern look (at least for those days) of Rita Bell and the Old World grandmother in question.

Whatever, I just want to hug the old gal. She reminds of a place, a time and a people who are long gone and who I miss



#2



#3



#4

out of me. It's a combination of hearing tales of woe from my Catholic buddies about mean nuns, and the fact that their long black dress and hair-covering garment, called a habit, spook me.



#5

I have looked closely at this photo, and I can't tell if I see a mean – or stern? – nun or a kindly one. Maybe there's a combination of the two.

And for the record, I don't mean to cast all nuns as mean. I have gotten to know a number of them in my years of covering the news of this town, and I can honestly say there



#6

the day when we had gas station attendants?

Believe it or not, kids – and by kids, again I mean anyone under the age 50 – there was

Continued on page 8

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Review: Opinion Page

Pressure builds for cities to cut costs, or else

Now that Hamtramck is about to receive \$3.2 million from Detroit, a question comes up:

Does the city still need an emergency \$2.5 million state loan?

If we were to bet, it's a good guess that state officials are going to reject the loan since the city settled with Detroit over the GM Poletown tax dispute. But there's another reason why the state might reject the loan.

The loan would seem to contradict Gov. Snyder's position that municipalities have to start cutting expenses. The key to curbing expenses is directly aimed at public employees, which

includes firefighters and police officers.

Snyder is insisting that public employees pay 20 percent of their health costs and eliminate minimum staffing requirements. On top of that, he wants cities to merge services with other cities.

At the very least, he wants communities to combine their police and fire departments into one public safety department. That means police officers would also be firefighters when the need arises.

It's a concept that many cities have tried in the past. It has been successful in some cities and a disaster in others.

No matter what, if Hamtramck can't cut its costs, the governor can send in an emergency financial manager who can rip up union contracts and re-shape this city.

A lot of people don't like that notion. But the reality is, Snyder and his Republican colleagues now have a majority in state government. They have two years to enjoy this majority.

In the meantime, they have the ability to make sweeping changes in the state.

Hamtramck employees face a difficult future. One thing is for certain, time is not on their side.

Odds & Ends

Poetry in motion ... Hamtramck poet Matthew Scott Olzmann will be reading some of his works in a poetry reading performance at the N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art this Saturday (April 2).

The center is located at 52 E. Forest in Detroit, and the reading starts at 3 p.m. Hamtramck's own Vievee Francis is the curator of the show.

Panic in Detroit ... Word is that auto production here in the metro area may grind to a halt because of the tsunami damage to car parts plants in Japan. We don't mean to be facetious or come off as uncaring to those in Japan, but here's a novel idea: Why don't we bring back parts production here to the U. S. of A.?

There is certainly no shortage of idle plants to take up the work. And besides, with the nuclear meltdown going

on over there, who wants anything from Japan that might likely be contaminated with radiation?

Oh yeah, we forgot, workers here expect to be paid a decent salary, although these days there are millions of unemployed who would be happy to take anything.

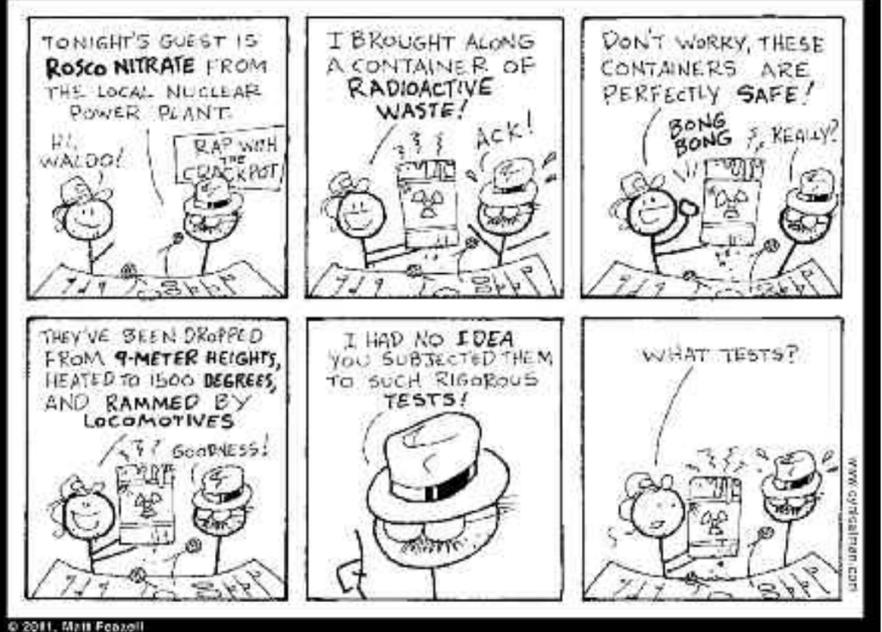
Super bowler ... Last week NFL Super Bowl star Frank

Zombo, of the Green Bay Packers, not only dropped in at Dickinson School to read to students, he also visited with the fun folks at Post 6, where he posed for this photo with Gary Koliba (on the left) and Chef Walter.

Oh yeah, did we mention that Koliba is Zombo's father-in-law? Hey Gary, how about some Super Bowl tickets for next year?



The Amazing CYNICALMAN by Matt Fezell



Hamtown's movers and shakers...

Continued from page 2

neither electricity, nor water in our hiding place, and ZOMO were already everywhere within the shipyard and (also circling) above it, in helicopters. They broadcast messages, promising that those who would surrender would be free to go home. After a night on (that) ship, we gave in.

I remember being led, under the (watch of men with) machine guns, to the same building where the August Agreements were signed 16 months earlier, and where Solidarity was born. There, we were kept for hours, standing, facing the walls, and waiting for interrogations.

A few days later, in prison, I heard a fragment of the speech by the President of the United States, who appealed to the world for support for, and solidarity with, the Polish people. This was the first time I thought about one day going to America. Just for a visit - I never planned, nor wished, to leave Poland for good.

After I was released from prison, I wanted to continue my studies at the University of Gdansk. I already had a Bachelors Degree in Education, and was working on my Masters in Psychology. But since I was now listed as an enemy of the regime, I was deprived of my student sta-

tus - unless I would agree to sign a so-called "declaration of loyalty" to the rulers of communist Poland. Of course I did not agree, and therefore lost my student rights.

For over a year I tried to find some meaningful work in Poland, but that proved impossible too. So, in October 1982, I decided to leave Poland - just for a while, I thought.

I went to France first and, after a year in Paris, then moved to West Berlin. I believed that communism, in Poland, would not last much longer, and that as soon as it crashed, I would go back.

In the meantime, however, I had to decide on my status in Germany. Even though I loved Berlin, I still did not want to ask for political asylum there. In truth, I was still hoping I'd be able to return to Poland. Maybe not as soon as I would wish, but certainly within a few years.

I applied for refugee status in the United States. I did receive an invitation for an interview, and by the end of 1985 I had arrived - as a political refugee - in North Carolina. There, in a small village called Saluda, and later in Hendersonville, I stayed for about half a year altogether, working in a bakery while learning English. In 1986 I moved to

Michigan, and in 1987 to Hamtramck specifically, and I have lived here ever since.

Now, as to my childhood: Despite the fact that life was never easy in a communist country, I had a very happy childhood. My father taught me how to read when I was about 5, and as far back as I can remember, we have always had a huge home library, with all kinds of books - those published in a communist Poland (there, they were all censored) as well as those coming from elsewhere abroad, particularly France, where the most prestigious Polish language publishing house (Instytut Literacki) was located in Maison Lafitte, near Paris.

Both my father and my mother loved books, and we all loved to read together when my sister and I were young, or to all read the same book at the same time, and then share our thoughts, feelings, and comments. The last book that I had so shared with my father, before he passed away in January 2007, was "Memory and Identity" by John Paul II.

When I was a student at the University of Gdansk, I traveled quite a few times to Germany and France, and then I smuggled those illegal publications back into

Continued on page 6

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Obituaries

GRZELAK

Veronica Grzeclak, 86, died March 23, 2011.

Mrs. Grzeclak was a member of PLAV Post 165 Ladies Auxiliary. She liked to cook and sew and was proud of her Polish heritage.

Mrs. Grzeclak was preceded in death by her husband, Mitchell.

She is survived by her daughters, Susan and Linda (John); son, Gregory (Sharon); grandchildren, Jason (Karla), Jaclynn (Brian), Brook and Blake; great-grandchildren, Hayden and Halle; step great-grandchildren, Jeremiah and Dylan.

Funeral arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, and funeral services were held on March 28 at Transfiguration Church. Burial was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

NAUSZELSKI

Helen Nauszelski, 96, died March 23, 2011.

Ms. Nauszelski was a Hamtramck resident, and was preceded in death by her parents, Nicholas and Mary; sister, Olga Bronowski; brothers, Joseph Nauszewski, Anthony Nauszewski and Mike Nash.

She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, and funeral services were held on March 29 at St. Florian Church. Burial was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Hamtown's movers and shakers...

Continued from page 5

Poland! During the late 1970s, and then especially in 1980 and 1981 (before Martial Law), our communist leaders wanted, as a sign of "peaceful co-existence," to show their "openness" to the West - in order to get more loans from the West—so it was easier for the Poles to travel abroad than before.

In our home library, we also have a great variety of books, magazines and brochures that had been published in Poland, but "underground." Some of those samizdat volumes are very precious to me.

Among my favorite libraries (there are many) are the Bibliotque Nationale and Bibliotque Ste. Genevieve in Paris, and the Freie Universitat Bibliothek in Berlin. In communist Poland, my favorite library was located in the house of Professor Alfred Rachalski, who organized the first underground public library in Gdansk!

I love books, cats, and trees - we have a beautiful, huge, tulip tree in our backyard in Hamtramck. I decided to buy this house because of that tree. We've also planted five more trees in our backyard since then.

I have loved books and trees since I was a kid, but my admiration of cats is quite new. I never realized how much I love those fluffy, intelligent, most-beautiful creatures until I turned 50. Regretfully, I have lost half a century, not even knowing what a great thing I was missing out on.

Many people aren't aware of this, but to be hired in most libraries in Michigan, except maybe for those in very small rural communities, one must obtain a masters degree in Library Science. There are only two universities in Michigan that offer the program, U. of M. and Wayne State (Western

Michigan's program was phased out in, I believe, the 1980s). Did your degree come from in-state, or did you get it elsewhere?

Sochacka: Yes, my MLIS degree is from WSU. In the late 90s it was a great program, and even though I worked full-time while studying at WSU's LIS (Library and Information Science) Department, I enjoyed it a lot - and learned a lot too.

Did you always plan to be a librarian, or (like many of us who ended up with the degree - I have one too) did you start down other paths first, and then decide on this one later?

Sochacka: No, I never planned to be a professional librarian (though I did work and volunteer in several libraries while still in Europe). As with many librarians, I have quite an eclectic background: Psychology, Education, Political Science (my

first degree from WSU is a Political Science degree; I graduated, Summa Cum Laude, in 1989 and continued my postgraduate studies there), Anthropology and Journalism.

As with many other important events in my life, this adventure with librarianship was, sort of, an accident. I had been working at the time as a lecturer of Polish Language, History, and Culture at - among other places - Macomb Community College, and also as a teacher in the Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish Language School, when I read the announcement in The Citizen: the local library was looking for a children's librarian. I decided to give it a try!

(Next week, part two of our talk with Library Director Tamara Sochacka.)

In Loving Memory



Keith Eric Vivoda
April 1, 1967 - January 12, 2010
Happy Birthday

We love-n-miss you so very much. You were much more than a brother and uncle. You were our best friend, to me (Val) you were like a son, to the kids you were like a big brother.

It's still hard to believe you're not coming home. Every day tears fall from our eyes, our hearts ache with pain for you. Life's not the same. We miss your smile, your deep voice, your silly self.

I sent my kiss to your cheek.
And I ... love you, Chow.

Always remembered-n-loved and painfully missed by brothers and sisters:

Bob V., Linda, Jo-Jo, Kay-Kay, Laura
Nieces and nephews: Crystal, Mariah, Ken, Lil' Keith, Nathaniel.

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Talk back ...

Continued from page 4

a time when we had guys dress in a work uniform and not only pump your gas, but also check your oil and clean your windshield. For no extra charge. This portrait is dated June 9,

took photo 8 in the 1990s. It illustrates a certain funky humor this town sometimes displays. Here's a guy dressed in a Santa outfit hustling Christmas trees in an empty lot,



1944, which was a year before World War II finally ended. The fella almost looks like he's a character from the old "Bowery Boys" movie series.

And talk of a movie-like look, check out photo 7. That's a science teacher for sure and that's a student also for sure. But what was this photo about? No matter, it looks something out of a theatrical production. Check out the dramatic lighting and angle and perfect poses.

That's one thing I like about old time newspaper photos, some were so stagey and dramatic looking.

From a Sister to a Santa. I

which is not to say that alone is funny.

What is? I'm not sure but maybe it was something to do with an unspoken attitude he displays. You can imagine him



– or at least I can – smoking a cigarette and taking a few swigs of whiskey or vodka here and there in between his street hustle.

Not that there's anything wrong with that.

And now maybe the most mysterious of all the photos, number 9.

I've lost count how many fires I have covered. This one wasn't particularly serious, which is easy for me to say. The woman in this photo lived in an apartment behind a party store that caught on fire.

The cause of the fire, I don't remember. Her belongings were mostly OK, but obviously heavily smoke-damaged.

I was taking this photo of a firefighter getting some gear ready when the fire victim zoomed into the frame out of nowhere. One click in an instant of a second, and there she is, caught forever by the magic of photography.

I have looked long at this photo and find her expression strangely disturbing.

Those eyes. That seemingly goofy grin.

I think she was probably fragile even before this fire.

Her look haunts me. Her presence that moment even more so. Here and then gone. To where?

What happened to her?

I can tell you, many if not most of the people I have met who have survived a fire were seriously traumatized. To be, in one instant, homeless and have your possessions wiped out is a primal fear. I guess that goes without saying, but

still, to experience their raw emotion close-up ... it gnaws at you.

My heart goes out to her – whoever she is – every time I revisit this photo, and I hope she is in a much better place now.

gardener's corner ...

By Kathleen Wojcinski

Anyone can grow their own groceries.

A window box in a sunny spot can provide you your own salad bar. Fill the box with seed-starting mix and two cups compost (shredded green kitchen scraps). Plant basil, greens varieties

like arugula, spinach, romaine and leaf lettuces.

Sprinkle seeds, lightly press down and keep wet. Use scissors to shear off tender leaves. Plants will give you two or three cuttings.

Now is a good time to start tomato and pepper

seedlings. Press a few seeds into soaked peat pellets and keep wet. After they

their first set of true leaves, transplant to soil mix in small containers.

By May, you'll get the second to third set of true leaves. Do not plant outside till mid-May.



Metro news ...

It's said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. If you were to rely solely on the local mainstream media, you'd think Detroit is no more than a crime-infested wasteland. Well, we're here to say that isn't so. Our friends over at modelmedia.com and metromode.com have been reporting on fascinating development projects for the past few years.

With their permission, here is a round-up of their reports from the past week:

The five James sisters had a dream – opening a raw juice stand in Detroit.

"Recently, all of us girls needed to have something to call our own. We just had the general desire to self-actualize and start something. We took our passion of health and wellness, and in particular, juicing, and turned it into a business," says co-founder Cait James.

They turned to Kickstarter, the crowdsourcing website which has quickly become Ground Zero for several of the city's dreamers and cre-

ators – and raised over \$13,000 from 151 different backers.

"Our original plan, just based on being the most economical and practical option, was to open up as a specialty vendor in Eastern Market. That's the project we pitched on Kickstarter," James says.

The overwhelming support they've encountered from Kickstarter followers, local entrepreneurs and members of Detroit's food community have the DROUGHT sisters re-thinking their original plan to begin with a vending stall at Eastern Market. They're now pursuing a commercial food license to take advan-

tage of bigger opportunities on the horizon.

"The food stall is still definitely in the plans, but we've had so much interest and opportunities open up to us, that we have to amp it up a bit," she says.

Cait is currently bouncing between Detroit and Manhattan, but she's excited to set up this business in Detroit proper.

"Our focus is still on the city and the Detroit area. We're from the suburbs," she says, "but we all have a natural inclination to go to Detroit – everyone for their own particular reasons."

Writer: Ashley C. Woods

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