

**8 Halina Walkiewicz-Małowiejew - John Paul II County Hospital**

**Halina Walkiewicz-Małowiejew (1906 - 1981)** physician and pioneer of cytopathology. She was born in 1906 in Samara, Siberia. While studying medicine in Vilnius, she met her future husband, physician Sergiusz Małowiejew. From 1938 to 1945, she worked in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Clinical Hospital of St. Jacob. After the Red Army entered Vilnius, her husband was arrested and sent to Siberia. In the summer of 1945, Halina and her children were repatriated to Poland. She settled in Wadowice and began working at the County Hospital in the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics. At that time, she worked alongside the facility's director, Dr. Józef Soltysik (a surgeon), and Dr. Bronisława Romaszkan (a radiologist). Sometimes, in the middle of the night, she would venture into the forests to provide aid to wounded partisans. During this period, she completed the Central Physicians' Training Course in Warszawa and was the first to obtain both the first and second degrees of specialization in obstetrics and gynecology. In Warszawa, she developed an interest in the cytopathology of the reproductive organs, which inspired the idea of creating a specialized laboratory. In 1958, Halina and her family moved to Grodzisk Mazowiecki, where she became the head of the District Hospital. There, she established the cytopathology laboratory she had dreamed of. She was one of the first to begin research on the prevention of reproductive organ diseases. After the war, she learned that her husband had survived the Gulags and settled in the UK but never returned to Poland for fear of reprisals. The couple met in 1962 in England. Halina died in 1981 and was buried in the Dojlidy cemetery in Białystok.



Photo: doctor Halina Walkiewicz-Małowiejew with her son Michał and daughter Kira, from the article by H. Kozłowska 'W cieniu syna,' Czasopismo, 1/05, pp. 28 - 32.

**9 Magdalena Strzelecka - House of Divine Providence of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth**

**S. Magdalena Strzelecka (1935 - 2020)** a Nazarene nun and curator of the papal museum in Wadowice. She was born in 1935 in Szczekociny as Daniela Strzelecka. After graduating from high school in 1957, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in Kielce. From 1959, she studied at the Higher Catechetical Institute and later at the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Kraków. After Piekoszów and Kraków, Wadowice was Sister Magdalena's next catechetical posting. She initially worked in a social welfare home run by the sisters and then served as a catechist for another 25 years. She received a medal for her efforts, recognizing her significant contribution to the formation and religious education of many generations of Wadowice residents. From 1984 to 2010, she, along with three other sisters, guided tourists and pilgrims to the John Paul II Family House at 7 Kościelna Street in Wadowice. She would also visit the Vatican from time to time. Thanks to her friendship with the Sacred Heart Sisters, who served the Holy Father, the John Paul II Family Home Museum received priceless gifts that are now on display. In 2008, she was honored by the President of Poland for her involvement in organizing papal visits to Poland and for her efforts in preserving the papal spirit in the region. She died in 2020 and was buried in the Wadowice parish cemetery on MB Fatimskiej Avenue.



Photo: sister Magdalena Strzelecka, custodian of the papal museum in Wadowice, from the collection of the Town Museum in Wadowice

**10 Ada Sari - Tenement house**

**Ada Sari (1886 - 1968)** opera singer, actress and educator. She was born in 1886 in Wadowice, in a tenement house at 3 Lwowska Street, as Jadwiga, the daughter of lawyer Edward Szayer. At the age of three, she and her family moved to Stary Sącz, where her father was a lawyer and, from 1920 to 1930, the mayor. Ada attended grammar school in Cieszyn and then in Kraków, where she began studying singing in 1903. She later attended a private music school in Vienna. Her first public performance was a concert at the Duchess of Lichtenstein Palace in 1906. From 1907 to 1909, she trained her voice with Antonio Rupnicka in Milan. In 1909, she made her stage debut at the Teatro Nazionale in Rome. The peak of her career came during her collaboration with the La Scala Theatre in Milan, where she participated in various productions, including a role as the Queen of the Night in Mozart's opera 'The Magic Flute'. She sang in 11 languages, achieving triumphs on stages throughout Europe and around the world. After the war, she focused on her career as an educator, leading singing classes at the State Higher School of Music in Kraków and Warszawa, among other institutions. She died in 1986 in a sanatorium in Ciechocinek after suffering a heart attack. She was buried in the Avenue of Meritorious at the Powązki Cemetery in Warszawa.

On main card: photo: opera singer Ada Sari (Jadwiga Szayer), c. 1909, from the collection of the National Library, polona.pl



1. **Princess Agnieszka** - Basilica of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Wadowice (Pl. Jana Pawła II 1)
2. **Maria Gedl** - The Gedl Family Tenement House (ul. Kościelna 4)
3. **Anna Huppert** - Tenement house (ul. Zatorska 2)
4. **Janina Zagórska** - Tenement house (Pl. Jana Pawła II 10)
5. **Janina Brzostowska** - 1st General High School named after Marcin Wadowita (ul. Mickiewicza 16)
6. **Halina Królikiewicz-Kwiatkowska** - 1st General High School named after Marcin Wadowita (ul. Mickiewicza 16)
7. **Wanda Krahelska-Dobrodzicka** - District Court in Wadowice (ul. Żwirki i Wigury 9)
8. **Halina Walkiewicz-Małowiejew** - John Paul II County Hospital (ul. Karmelicka 12, today a non-existent building)
9. **Magdalena Strzelecka** - House of Divine Providence of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (ul. Lwowska 31)
10. **Ada Sari** - Tenement house (ul. Lwowska 3)

EDITORS:  
Tourist Service Office  
Municipal Office in Wadowice  
[www.it.wadowice.pl](http://www.it.wadowice.pl)

Wadowice Commune  
[www.wadowice.pl](http://www.wadowice.pl)  
Issue I  
Wadowice 2024  
FREE COPY

**Following the Footsteps of Women - a City Walk**



**#WalkInWadowice**

*In medieval documents, Wadowice was referred to as 'Frauenstadt', which means 'city of women'. A walk along the trail of extraordinary women is our suggestion for discovering Wadowice. You will learn about remarkable figures who played a significant role not only in the life of the local community.*

**Discover the history of Wadowice. Join us for a walk!**





**1 Princess Agnieszka - Basilica of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Wadowice**

**Princess Agnieszka (1477/1480 - 1505)**, daughter of Duke Władysław of Zator, tenant of Wadowice. She was born between 1477 and 1480. She was the daughter of Duke Władysław (Włodek) of Zator (c. 1455-V/II 1494) and Duchess Anna (died 1494/1504).

In 1492, her father granted his wife Anna an estate in Wadowice and its appurtenances, allowing their daughter to inherit the town. In 1494, the ecclesiastical court in Kraków declared the marriage of the princess's parents invalid, resulting in the offspring from this union being deprived of their inheritance rights. Duke Władysław was succeeded by the King of Poland, in accordance with prior agreements. After her father's death, Agnieszka took possession of Wadowice without waiting for the court ruling. Ultimately, her father Władysław's will from 1492 was declared invalid, and Agnieszka was regarded only as a tenantry of the town, whose authority was temporary and illegitimate.

The princess was the wife of Jan Kobierzycki of the Odrowąż coat of arms. Their only son, Ernest, did not assert his claim to Wadowice after his mother's death. In 1503, the King of Poland granted Wadowice to Piotr Myszkowski, Voivode of Łęczyca. Agnieszka opposed this decision and refused to leave the town, despite the Royal Court's ruling of 1504. The execution of the ruling was carried out by Mikołaj Kamieniecki of Kamieniec. The princess died shortly afterward, and her funeral took place in Wadowice in 1505, where she was then buried. As late as 1552, there was a tombstone in the Wadowice parish church inscribed: 'In the year 1505, the most illustrious Duchess Agnieszka, by the grace of God Duchess of Zator and Lady of Wadowice, and benefactress of this church, passed away. Pray for her'.

**2 Maria Gedl – The Gedl Family Tenement House**

**Maria Gedl (1865-1947)** a townswoman and housewife, heiress to the Schwartz estate.

She was born in Lviv in 1865 to the family of Rudolf Schwartz, a merchant, musician, and director of the Conservatory. The family owned an estate in Frydrychowice (the so-called 'Schwartz Estate') and in Wadowice, which included a salt house, a manor house, and two gardens. In 1884, Maria married Mieczysław Gedl, a physician. He was Viennese by birth and a Wadowice resident by choice. In the town, he served as a forensic and prison doctor, as well as a town councillor. Gedl was also a member and even served as the director of the 'Sokół' Gymnastic Society in Wadowice. Mr and Mrs Gedl lived in Wadowice in a tenement house on 4 Kościelna Street, which was part of the extensive Schwartz estate. At that time, Maria was responsible for running the household, which became a centre for the town's social and intellectual life. After her husband's death in 1901, she single-handedly raised their five children and managed the family estate. She lived to a ripe old age in her flat. She died in 1947 and was buried in the parish cemetery on MB Fatimskiej Avenue in Wadowice.



Photo: Maria Gedl with her children, from the collection of the Town Museum in Wadowice

**3 Anna Huppert - Tenement house**

**Anna Huppert (c. 1852-1942)** president of the Jewish Women's Association and grandmother of Jerzy Kluger, a childhood friend of Karol Wojtyła.

Anna and her husband, Israel Huppert, who was the chairman of the kahal and a town councillor, lived in a tenement at the corner of the Market Square and Zatorska Street. There, they operated a so-called propination, which was the licensed sale of spirits. This made them one of the wealthiest families in the town. Anna was the president of the Women's Association for many years (until 1919), a Jewish organisation focused on supporting women before and during childbirth, providing them with material, medical, and spiritual assistance. Anna's daughter Rozalia lived in the house with her family, which included her husband Wilhelm Kluger, lawyer and president of the Jewish community, and their two grandchildren, Antonina and Jerzy. After the outbreak of World War II, Anna, her daughter Rozalia, and her granddaughter were placed in the Wadowice ghetto (today the area around Ghetto Heroes Square). As a result of a selection by the Nazis Germany in 1942, she was sent to the German Nazi extermination camp in Belżec, where she was murdered at the age of 90.

**4 Janina Zagórska - Tenement house**

**Janina Zagórska (1896 - 1952)** pianist and music teacher. She was born in 1896 in Zator near Wadowice. She attended grammar school in Lviv, Mielec, and the private H. Strażyńska grammar school in Kraków. In 1914, she married engineer and grammar school teacher, Mieczysław Zagórski, with whom she moved to Wadowice around 1920/1921 and lived in a tenement house on the Market Square (now 10 Jan Paweł II Square).

During this time, Janina studied piano at several institutions, including the Highest Course in Piano Playing at the Conservatory of the Music Society in Kraków and with Professor Egon Petri in the Concert Course.

After honing her skills, she opened a private music school in her flat. During the interwar period, she also developed a passion for mountain hiking and became a member of the Wadowice branch of the Babia Góra Section of the Polish Tatra Society in 1927.

During the German occupation, her husband Mieczysław was involved in clandestine teaching organized in Wadowice by Dr. Józef Sołtyś. The war years and the strain of hard work took a toll on his health. He died in 1952.

Janina continued to teach piano throughout this time, and at the end of each year, she showcased her students' skills in the theater room of the Wadowice Cultural Centre. Janina died in 1973 and was buried in the family tomb at the Wadowice parish cemetery on MB Fatimskiej Avenue. Her concert grand piano was donated to the State Music School in Wadowice, which was being established at the time.



Photo: Janina Zagórska, pianist and music teacher, from the collection of the Wadowice Town Museum

**5 Janina Brzostowska - 1st General High School named after Marcin Wadowita**

**Janina Brzostowska (1897 - 1986)** poet and literary translator. She was born on 9 July 1897, in Wadowice as the daughter of Jan Dorosiński, the headmaster of a grammar school and an expert in Polish and classical literature, and Julia, née Berner, a pianist. She deepened her love for classical literature in her native language at the Wadowice grammar school. She made her debut in the school newspaper 'Nasz Ian' and performed in several productions of the school theatre. From 1917 to 1922, she studied Polish and Romance languages at the Faculty of Philosophy at Jagiellonian University. After completing her studies, she married Ludomir Bończa-Brzostowski, a captain in the Polish Army. They initially settled in Lviv, where her husband earned a doctorate in law at the university, and later moved to Warszawa, where their son, Witold Konrad, was born. In the capital, Major Brzostowski worked at the General Staff of the Polish Army and later, as a civilian, he became a judge at the Warsaw-Praga Municipal Court.

Janina was discovered by the poets of the 'Czartak' Literary Group and made her debut in their almanac in 1925. She has published a total of 18 volumes of poetry. From 1938 to 1939, she served as the editor of the magazine 'Skawa'. In her work as a translator, her translation of the Songs of Sappho from Greek was particularly successful. Janina was also a co-founder of the International Academy of Poetry in Cambridge, England. She died in Warszawa in 1986. Lviv Polytechnic honoured her with an honoris causa degree, and her hometown commemorated her by naming one of its streets after her.



Photo: portrait of the poet Janina Brzostowska by Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz, 1939, private collection

**6 Halina Królikiewicz-Kwiatkowska**

**Halina Królikiewicz-Kwiatkowska (1921 - 2020)** theatre and film actress. She was born in Bochnia as the daughter of a secondary school teacher, Jan Królikiewicz, who was a classical philologist. She settled in Wadowice in 1934 when her father became the headmaster of the boys' grammar school. Halina was a pupil at the girls' grammar school, while Karol Wojtyła was studying at the boys' school at the same time. Together, they performed in the school's amateur theatre, including a production of Sophocles' Antigone. After graduating, she and Wojtyła dreamed of pursuing a great acting career. In 1938, they both started studying Polish philology at Jagiellonian University. However, they continued to dedicate their free time to acting.

During the war, they were both members of Mieczysław Kotlarczyk's Rhapsody Theatre ensemble. One of its members was Halina's future husband, the writer and publicist Tadeusz Kwiatkowski. Halina made her professional acting debut in a production of Juliusz Słowacki's 'The Ghost King' at the Rhapsody Theatre. After the war, she performed for many years at the National Stary Theatre and the J. Słowacki Theatre, among others. She also starred in films by Andrzej Wajda and Wojciech Jerzy Has, among others. She taught at the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Kraków for forty years. She was awarded several honours, including the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta and the Gold Medal for 'Gloria Artis' for Merit to Culture'. She passed away in 2020 in Warszawa at the age of 99. She was buried in the military cemetery on Prandoty Street in Kraków.



Photo: actress Halina Królikiewicz-Kwiatkowska, from the book 'Porachunki z pamięcią' by Halina Kwiatkowska, Kraków 2002.

**7 Wanda Krahelska-Dobrodzicka - District Court in Wadowice**

**Wanda Krahelska-Dobrodzicka (1886-1968)** political and social activist, artist and publisher. She was born on 15 Dec 1886, in Saviejki, Belarus, as the daughter of Alexander D. Krahelski, a participant in the January Uprising.

In 1906, as an accomplice in the unsuccessful bombing of the Russian Military Governor of Warszawa, General Georgij A. Skalon, she fled to Galicia. In 1907, she was detained by the Austrian police at the express request of the Russians. Earlier, she had entered into a fictitious marriage with Adam Dobrodzicki, an independence activist and painter from Wadowice. This made her extradition impossible, and the trial had to take place within the borders of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The court session took place in Wadowice on February 17 and 18, 1908. Crowds of people gathered in front of the court building to welcome the acquitted Polish heroine. A makeshift wooden triumphal gate was prepared for Krahelska as she left the court building, and she was carried through it in celebration.

After the trial, now known as Wanda Krahelska-Filipowiczowa (having married Tytus Filipowicz, an activist of the Polish Socialist Party (PPS), in 1908), she began her studies at the School of Fine Arts in Kraków. She later studied the history of art at Jagiellonian University and, from 1911, continued her studies at the Florence Academy of Fine Arts. During the Second World War, in 1942, at the initiative of Wanda Krahelska-Dobrodzicka and the writer Zofia Kossak-Szczucka, a Council to Aid Jews, code-named 'Zegota', was established within the Government Delegation for Poland. For her efforts, she was awarded the Medal of the Righteous Among the Nations in 1967. She died in Warszawa in 1968.



Photo: Wanda Krahelska-Dobrodzicka, political and social activist, artist, and publisher, as referenced in S.A. Radek, 'Rewolucja w Warszawie 1904-1909', Warszawa 1938