

Genofewa (Genia) [Genevieve] Płusa
November 3, 1929 - December 2, 2025
Holy Cross Cemetery, Colma, California
Mausoleum Niche, North Entry, NE/N709



Genofewa Płusa was born the Winter of 1929 in the Kresy (borderland) Polish village, Murowanka, Nowogródek, Poland (now Belarus) to Jan and Genia Płusa (née Czaboćko). Genia's early life was spent in rural Poland with her three siblings, Tadeusz (Ted) (born January 1929), Jan (John) (born January 1, 1931) and Wanda (born June 26, 1933). At an early age the children lost their mother. Shortly thereafter, on September 17, 1939, the Soviet Union invaded Poland. This invasion took place 16 days after Germany's initial attack on Poland on September 1, 1939 and was carried out in coordination with Germany under the secret protocols of the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact. Genia's father was arrested by the Russians and later executed. The Płusa children were deported to Siberia with thousands of other Poles. The Soviet Union forcibly deported approximately 1.9 million people to Siberia, Kazakhstan, and Central Asia. During these mass deportations many perished from the harsh conditions, including relatives of the Płusa family. The loss of their mother at an early age, and the deportation and separation of the family created some confusion about the children's birth dates. Genia and her sister Wanda were separated from their brothers. In 1942, General Władysław Anders who commanded the Polish II Corps (Anders' Army) rescued over 115,000 Polish soldiers and civilians from Soviet labor camps. Following amnesty, he led survivors from the USSR to Persia (Iran), India and Africa. Jan found refuge in India where the Polish army constructed camps for displaced Poles thanks to the warm hospitality of "The Good Maharaja," (Maharaja Jam Saheb Digvijay Sinhi). Genia and Wanda were sent to New Zealand in November 1944 with over 730 children, the country's first invited refugees. They lived in a camp at Pahiatua, known as "Little Poland" after surviving deportation to Soviet labor camps. Genia returned to New Zealand dozens of times for reunions of the Pahiatua Children. She arrived in the United States from Auckland, New Zealand on May 14, 1960 as a "stateless" refugee. Ted settled in England after WWII with other displaced Poles who chose to not return to Russian-controlled Poland. There he married and raised a family. John made his way to the United States where he married and fathered three children. Wanda married and raised a daughter in the US and became a US citizen in 1955.

In 1968 in San Francisco, Genia became a naturalized US citizen. She made her home in the City until her death in 2025 at Heritage House in the Marina District.

Genia was an avid traveler and an enthusiastic walker. She collected memorabilia from her many travels. She was an expert City navigator, very familiar with the City's public transportation system, having never owned a car. She was a long-time parishioner of St. Vincent De Paul Church on Green Street where she made close friends. Genia also attended the Church of the Nativity of Our Lord on Fell Street to maintain her ties with Polish immigrants. She loved taking classes at the Fromm Institute at the University of San Francisco.

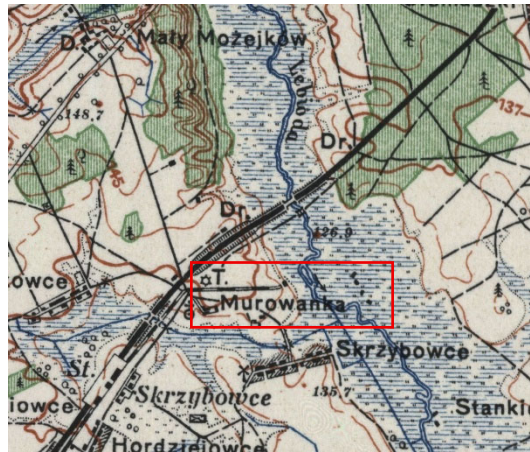
For 33 years (1960-1993), Genia worked at Utah International (a multinational corporation) where she met her long-time friend, Merly Arboleda and many others.

In her declining years, her devoted friend Matthew Rothchild brought communion and bagels on a weekly basis to Genia's lovely condominium on Divisadero St.

Genia is preceded in death by her parents, and her brothers Ted and John.

She is survived by her sister, Wanda Pandolfo, and many nieces and nephews and their families.

P34 S36 Suchowola	P34 S37 Grodno (Zachód) Горадня	P34 S38 Grodno (Wschód) Горадня	P34 S39 Różanka Ражанка	P34 S40 Bielica Белица
P35 S36 Knyszyn	P35 S37 Sokółka Саколка	P35 S38 Indura Індура	P35 S39 Mosty Масты	P35 S40 Wiązowiec Вензавец
P36 S36 Białystok	P36 S37 Zabłudów Заблудаў	P36 S38 Swisłocz Сьвіслач	P36 S39 Wołkowysk Ваўкавыск	P36 S40 Slonim Zachód Слонім



(1) My full, true, and correct name is GENOWEFA PLUSA
(Full, true name, without abbreviation)

(2) My present place of residence is apt. 102, 2351 Washington Street San Francisco
(Number and street) (City or town)
California 94115
(State) (ZIP Code)

(3) I was born on November 3, 1929, in Murowanka
(Month) (Day) (Year) (City or town)
Poland
(Country)

Genowefa Plusa
 (Signature of Petitioner)

NOTE.—In renunciation of title or order of nobility, add the following to the oath of allegiance before it is signed: "I further renounce the title of (give title or titles) which I have heretofore held," or "I further renounce the order of nobility (give the order of nobility) to which I have heretofore belonged."

Petition granted and Certificate No. 9048836 issued Mar. 12, 1968
~~Petition denied: List No. 4503~~



Recommended reading:

- <http://cosmopolitanreview.com/new-zealand/>
- <http://cosmopolitanreview.com/qnew-zealand-on-screen/>
- <http://cosmopolitanreview.com/trail-of-hope-the-anders-army-an-odyssey-across-three-continents/>
- <http://cosmopolitanreview.com/isfahan/>
- <http://politanreview.com/february-1940/>
- <http://cosmopolitanreview.com/once-upon-a-time-in-africa/>
- <http://cosmopolitanreview.com/the-africa-connection/>

-- Maureen Mroczek Morris
<https://www.PolishClubSF.org>