



## City officials: Genesee St. mansion sold to Polish princess

Woman hopes to build cultural center here

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**Observer-Dispatch**

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UTICA — Is a Polish princess headed for Utica?

A woman who claims to be a descendant of Polish royalty has purchased a downtown Genesee Street building with plans to establish a “cultural embassy” there, city officials say.

The Royal Order of the Kingdom of Poland — which is based in Rhinebeck, N.Y. and run by Diana Lenska — now is the co-owner of 294 Genesee St., which was used for years as the headquarters of the Catholic Women’s Club.

Lenska has told city officials that she is a Polish princess, but the validity of those claims was unclear as of Friday. Lenska did not return messages left by phone at her Rhinebeck business or through e-mail.

City Urban and Economic Development Commissioner Robert Sullivan said he was unsure what exactly Lenska has planned for the building.

“She knights people,” Sullivan said. “There are all these guys who she’s knighted, and they get together and have cultural activities.”

Jeff Karas, president of the Polish Community Club on Columbia Street, said he had never heard of Lenska or her plans in Utica.

Lenska claims to be descended from Marie Leszinska, a Polish princess who married Louis the XV in 1725 and became queen of France, according to the royal order’s MySpace page.

The organization, which says on the page that it is establishing a cultural embassy in Texas and New York, wants to “establish an international order to promote the greater historical periods of Poland from its ancient history to the pre-19th century kingdom.”

“Steeped within the history and traditions of monarchy, the embassy will host balls, concerts, investitures, musicals, art exhibits, official functions within the etiquette, and protocol of the 18-19th century,” according to the MySpace page. “The cultural embassy will also serve as a royal bed and breakfast for visiting knights.”

The building, which was purchased for \$202,000 from the John H. Kane and Rosalie D. Kane Revocable Trust, was built as a residence mansion.

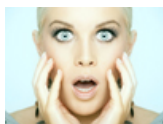
“It’s really in amazingly good shape,” Sullivan said. “It’s a really tremendous and magnificent building. That’s why she loved it, because it looks like the kind of place where a princess wants to live.”

A Better Tomorrow Limited, a Hong Kong-based investor, is also on the deed for the building.

According to the Web site manta.com, Lenska runs a private Historical Organization called Lenco Equities, which has an annual revenue of \$51,000 and of which she is the only employee.

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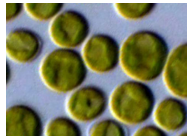


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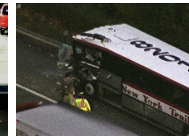
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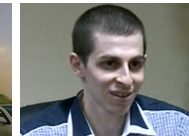
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