



*Sara & Scott Nintzel and Dasher were among the hundreds of attendees at the Twin Cities Polish Festival who expressed 100th Independence Day "birthday" card greetings to the people of Poland. Card signing will continue through year's end. See page 7 for more festival photos.*

## *A night of Nordeast reunions* **Nye's fans, Stokowski family reunite at new art gallery**

*By Mark Dillon*

Three Stokowskis flew up from Clearwater, FL just for the event – a final tribute to Nye's Polonaise Room on the night of Aug. 6 at the grocery store-turned- art gallery that her grandparents operated in Nordeast Minneapolis.

To a polka beat version of *My Heart Goes On*, Barbara and four relatives –granddaughters of Julius and Elizabeth Stokowski --had to see what real estate agent Aaron Neumann had done with 501-503 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, a two-story, red and white, prairie-style mixed use building that was also the home of Eugene E. and Anne K. Stokowski, the former Minnesota state senators (Senate District 55).

What Neumann and photographers Mike Madison and Steven Cohen offered was multilayered trip back in time as the Stokowski family recalled Smegal & Stokowski, a grocer that operated at the site from the mid-1920s until 1965. It later became a vending machine repair shop.

"The butcher shop and smokehouse were in the back" said Kathy Paulson, one of the quintet as they met for a tour with Neumann's wife Susanna Dodge.

Since April, Neumann has hung his Parkway Realty shingle at the property, which he purchased for \$275,000, Hennepin County records show. It is also home to the Corner Store Art Gallery, whose tin ceiling with period trim features ornate 1930 art deco light fixtures from the former convent at St. Bridget Parish on Emerson Avenue. "We got them at an antiques shop" Neumann said.

Most of the folks visiting the gallery were fans of Nye's. Madison and Cohen provided a combined photo essay exhibit that included exterior shots of Nye's neon signs and the Polonaise Room, the piano bar, carousing patrons and bittersweet memories of Nye's final act in April 3, 2016.

*Continued on pg. 6*

## **Goodbye to Di's Print**

After more than three decades in business in Nordeast Minneapolis, the presses stopped rolling at Di's Print on June 30. Owners Diana and John Halvorson have decided to retire to enjoy a lakeside place at Mille Lacs and a home on 40 acres in Central Minnesota.

"Now it is time for us to relax" the pioneering Polish-American businesswoman said in August as she was busy packing to head north while also helping Minuteman Press transition account relationships that a franchisee acquired.

Di's started from scratch 34 years ago and gradually grew to become one of the neighborhood's major commercial printers, remaining a family enterprise in a industry that has been consolidating for more than a decade.

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## **2018 PACIM Board Elections are at 2pm Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017**

PACIM will hold elections for open director seats at this year's annual meeting on Oct. 22 at 2pm at Pulaski Hall, 520 22nd Ave, Minneapolis (next to Sacred Heart of Jesus PNCC). Each director serves a two-year term. Candidates must submit a Letter of Intent by 6pm Friday Sept. 29 and be a PACIM member. See the [pacim.org](http://pacim.org) website for a form and details. PACIM members must be present in order to vote at the annual meeting.

## Mark Your Calendars

### Starts Sept. 14 **Cooking with Kora** **The Good Acre, Roseville**

Learn the secrets of great Polish dishes from Kora Korczak, the chef behind our bigos at Festival of Nations. Classes limited to 18 chefs. Second Thursdays: Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Jan. 11, Feb. 8 & Mar. 8. See [www.pacim.org](http://www.pacim.org) for registration beginning Sept. 1 and details.

### Sept. 30 1pm **Holy Cross Church**

#### **An Architect for All** **The Story of Victor Cordella**

Hear the untold story of Krakow-born architect Victor Cordella and how he designed more than 20 landmark Minnesota churches, restaurants and homes between 1893 and 1927. Presented by Geoffrey Gyrisco with research from Michael Retka of Little Falls.

### Nov. 5 **Polish Soup Supper**

#### **Sunday afternoon, Kolbe Hall, Holy Cross Church**

Savor old favorites like barszcz and zurek plus a lot more.



*Photo of  
Victor Cordella  
courtesy of Our  
Lady of Lourdes,  
Little Falls*

## *Our summer success plus a look at our fall lineup*



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello, everyone. My apologies for the absence of my column in *PolAm*. In June I had my daughter's wedding. Then I was preparing the Dolina dance group for its trip to Poland to participate in the XVII World Polish Folk Dance Festival. I also helped organize and prepare the Cultural Stage at the Twin Cities Polish Festival.

The 9th annual TCPF was an amazing success! I hope you all had a chance to stop by the PACIM booth to offer 100th Independence Day "birthday" greetings to Poland on behalf of the people of Minnesota to the people of Poland, to mark the occasion of Poland's journey to freedom since Nov. 11, 1918. PACIM also arranged to have the Hejnal Mariacki played on the Cultural Stage on Saturday and Sunday by Tamara Mecum of Minnetonka. It brought back wonderful memories of standing in the Rynek in Krakow and hearing the alert from the tower of Kosciol Mariacki.

We are extending a \$5 discount on new and renewing memberships that we began at the festival through the end of September. That reduces the cost of an individual membership to just \$2.08 a month, the cost of a cup of coffee.

During my trip to Poland this summer, I visited two new places. One is Pułtusk, an hour northeast of Warsaw. From the 15th to 17th centuries, it was one of the most important economic centers in Masovia. It has a beautiful castle nestled on the banks of the Narew River. Over the course of 1,000 years, Pułtusk was possibly the most invaded town in Poland. Despite the extent of the destruction, especially during World War II, the town was reconstructed, and is now one of the nation's most recognized and admired northeastern tourist destinations because to its historical and unique architecture. It is one of the most popular weekend places for the people of Warsaw. I'd call it the Wisconsin Dells of Poland.

Lesko is the other town I had never been to, nestled in the Bieszczady Mountains, It also has a very interesting history. The town's population was 45% Jewish at one time, and there is a beautiful former synagogue there that is currently being used as a gallery for local artists. I am working with the gallery in the near future as we reinvigorate the PACIM artist exchange program. More PACIM items worth noting. Check [www.pacim.org](http://www.pacim.org) and Facebook for details about each event or program.

- We are sponsoring **The Story of Victor Cordella: Architect for All**. *Learn about* one of most of Minnesota's foremost designers of churches. See above..
- **Fall Polish language classes** at PACIM Library begin in October. See page 5.
- **Cooking with Kora** classes begin Sept. 14 at The Good Acre, Roseville. Sign up starts Sept. 1.
- We have a new **Literary Fund** to support speaking events and promote Polish and Polish-American authors, literary and poetry readings. See page 4 for more.
- Enjoy **Soup Supper** on Nov. 5 and a **Wigilia** dinner in December, a fundraiser for youth programs.
- We have **board elections on Oct. 22**. If you would like to be a candidate, a letter of intent must be submitted by Sept 29. The form can be downloaded from [www.pacim.org](http://www.pacim.org).

If at this time, you can't run for a position on the board, there are several committees and events that could use your volunteer help. If you have a talent or skill that to share, please go to the website and click on the volunteer opportunities tab to see the areas where we can use assistance. Enjoy the Fall!

# Poland off the Beaten Path — Introducing Wroclaw

**By Kasia Litak**

With a population of 628,000, Wroclaw is larger than Minneapolis and nearly twice as large as St. Paul. The fourth largest city in Poland after Warsaw, Lodz and Krakow, Wroclaw is a regional government capitol for Lower Silesia, a leading arts center that last year was named a European Capital of Culture, and a global engineering and economic powerhouse.

Landing at Wroclaw's growing two-terminal Copernicus Airport, a business traveler might think one was at a small scale MSP Airport given the familiar corporate names, among them 3M, Medtronic, IBM, Hewlett-Packard, LG, Google, Volvo and Whirlpool.

Make no mistake, though. Wroclaw has a unique, incredibly rich cultural history that begins some 1,500 years before the first fur traders canoed to what is now Minnesota. The city was first mapped by the Romans in 142 AD. It was Poland's capital before Warsaw and Krakow and the arts crossroads of medieval Europe – situated at the intersection of Poland's Amber Road and the Royal Highway (Via Regia) of the Holy Roman Empire.

The city's modern arts scene, as well as its popularity as a film location has flourished since the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989. It was a set for Roman Polanski's "The Pianist" where it valiantly stood for WWII Warsaw, Spielberg's "The Bridge of Spies" and "St. James Place." One expression of art I saw when I visited there in June is that the city is adorned with over 160 Krasnale statues. The tradition dates back to the 1980s, and the absurdist, anti-establishment movement "Orange Alternative" that originated in Wroclaw, a stronghold of Solidarity. See <http://krasnale.pl/en/> for more.

Not to be missed in June is the annual Survival Art Review. It is the biggest interactive art event in Poland in public space. <http://www.survival.art.pl/en/> Year round, Wroclaw offers many galleries and sights with appeal to artists and tourists alike. Here's a brief look:

- **The Pavilion of Four Domes located near Century Hall(Hala Stulecia)**, a convention center adjacent to Szczytnicki Park focuses on 20th century art. It is an expansion of the Polish National Museum. The collection starts with the avant-garde collections of 1918-1939, going into the present, and includes works of Magdalena Abakanowicz, <http://pawilonczterechkopul.pl/en/> I noticed that some installations have been moved from the Polish National Museum. The Museum is worth visiting if you are interested in older collections dating back to the 12th century. <http://www.en.mnwr.art.pl/>
- **The Museum of Modern Art** is located in a fascinating air raid shelter. A provocative sculpture of an awkwardly positioned locomotive invites one inside. This collection focuses on modern art of the late 20th century, with a focus on local artists. The museum is interactive, has a lot of workshops and seminars. <http://muzeumwspolczesne.pl/mww/?lang=en>
- **Galleries BWA** offer Polish contemporary art, to thematic shows, other visual arts, film, and theater. The building itself is an adaptation of of an 18th century palace damaged during WWII. The gallery also works closely with the Wroclaw Academy of Fine Arts, and celebrates the best works of the Academy's graduates. <https://www.bwa.wroc.pl/index.php?b=1&w=3&l=en>
- **Jatki**, one of the most engaging streets in town, especially the Jatki passage near Market Square. It was converted in the 1960s from a meat market into small shops and galleries. In the communist era, Jatki was a bright and exciting spot that contrasted with the gray and bleak reality of empty shelves. Jatki's Galeria M, has become an institution in its own right, supporting and promoting over 70 local and internationally recognized artists. The gallery focuses on contemporary paintings, sculpture as well as Wroclaw's famous glass and ceramics. <http://galeriam.com/>

With its cobbled streets, impressive architecture with breathtaking Rynek and vibrant art scene, I found Wroclaw to be an exciting place, easily accessed on foot. Just go out and enjoy!

**Coming soon in PolAm:** Leaders and workers at 3M reflect on more than a quarter-century of growth, expansion and cultural ties between Wroclaw and Minnesota.



*Wroclaw's Old City Hall is an arts museum.*

## Fall Fruit Harvest Baked Apples with Red Wine Jabłka na Winie Czerwonym

### Ingredients

**6 Apples (Honeycrisp, Jonathan, Braeburn, Rome, Gala or MacIntosh)**  
**6 oz jam (cherry, strawberry, rose, raspberry, mulberry or huckleberry)**  
**1 cup red wine (a cabernet, merlot or shiraz)**  
**1/2 cup brown or white sugar**  
**1/2 teaspoon cinnamon or ground cloves**

*Source: a modified version of a recipe in Treasured Polish Recipes for Americans, 1948 edition*



### Preparation

Wash apples and remove cores, leaving a half inch of the core intact at the bottom of the apple. Fill with jam. Place in a baking dish and cover with wine, sugar and spices. Cover and bake for one hour at 350 degrees. Chill and serve. Optional: Serve warm and pair with one scoop of vanilla ice cream per serving.

This is a very flexible recipe that can be easily adapted to many varieties of apples, jams and wines. While not traditionally Polish, a variation for people who have allergic sensitivity to red wine can be using Granny Smith apples with honey and white wine or mead.

Heirloom apple varieties grown in Poland include Kosztela, Złota Reneta, Ananas Berżenicki, Antonówka, Kronselska and Malinówka. Growers have been adding Gala Royal, Golden Delicious, Idared, Jonagored, Must and Szampion, along with Granny Smith, McIntosh and Pink Lady.

### ***PACIM creates new Literary Fund for speaking events, poets***

At our Aug. 3 board meeting, PACIM created a new Literary Fund to provide a dedicated, rapid-response resource to enable Polish authors, poets and writers on topics of interest to PACIM members and the Polish-American community to speak about their works. A Literary Committee was established to manage requests for funding, with initial funding from the board. Additionally, the family of Ela Haftek donated \$100 to the fund. The board's intent is to help facilitate more speaking events such as the talk in St. Paul given several months ago by Polish author Filip Springer. Members and non-members may contribute and know that the resources they provide will be specifically committed to this purpose. Speaker and topic suggestions are welcome.



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Photos: Magdalena Abakanowicz on her website and her Agora sculpture in Chicago.

## Recalling Magdalena Abakanowicz A Giant in International Art

*Editor's Note: With this issue, PolAm introduces a new column focusing on the global Polish art scene. Mary Welke has her own studio at the Northrup King Building in Minneapolis and has taught art classes at PACIM Library such our Zalapie painting workshop.*

**By Mary Welke**

An architect friend recently asked me, "Why don't we ever hear about any famous Polish people besides the ones from history that everybody already knows?" Well, here's one you should hear about: Magdalena Abakanowicz! She is somebody worth knowing if you like contemporary art or even folk art.

Think about this for a moment: Many Polish Americans ask about paper cutting, reverse, glass painting, egg painting, straw designs, and weaving.

Learn the traditional methods and practice them. Take it to another level by becoming familiar with the techniques and then apply them in a new direction, perhaps using them in a way that reflect our current lifestyle or society.

This is what Magdalena Abakanowicz did in her art.

Yes, she had formal training in the arts and for part of her studies attended the Warsaw Academy of Fine Art. It was there that she took the required textile design and fiber design

classes. Polish weaving has a long history and is well regarded throughout Poland. These classes would influence her to change her academic approach to art. Remember, this was during the Soviet, Communist controlled era so the Art Academy was monitored by Communist censors and hence, very conservative. She left the Academy and started searching for her own way to create art.

During the 1960s, she developed an original weaving technique with found materials such as sisel ropes that she collected in the harbors on the Baltic Sea. She unwound the huge ropes to create thick threads which she later hand dyed for her art. From these materials, she created shocking, original, weavings that hung from the ceiling instead of the wall, some as tall as 13 feet. Her work later, in the 1970s and 1980s, evolved into a soft sculpture of human like figures made out of a coarse sackcloth which she pieced and sewed together and bonded with a resin. She made many huge figures with these materials.



### Polish Language Classes Start in October at PACIM Library

**Advanced class:** Monday 5:30-7:15pm, Oct. 02 - Dec. 18

**Beginner class:** Monday 7:30-8:45 pm, Oct. 02 - Dec. 18

**Continuing Beginners:** Tuesday 5:30-7:15pm, Oct 03 - Dec 19

**Cost for 12 sessions:**

**\$80 for PACIM members, \$90 for non-members**

All classes use three books: 1. HURRA "Discovering Polish" a Learners Grammar 2. HURRA PO POLSKU 1, Zeszyt Cwiczen, Malolepsza, Szymkiewicz 3. HURRA PO POLSKU 1, Podrecznik Studenta, Malolepsza, Szymkiewicz All available on Amazon.com

Classes are at 43 Main St. SE Suite 228, MPLS

**Register at [www.pacim.org](http://www.pacim.org) Questions? email [info@pacim.org](mailto:info@pacim.org) or call 612.378.9291**

In the 1980s and 1990s, she used metal, stone and clay to create a series of work called, **War Games**. These pieces were made of old tree trunks from which she stripped the bark and branches. She bandaged them with rags and steel hoops to create militaristic looking sculptures.

Magdalena Abakanowicz died on April 21, 2017, at the age of 86. However, her creative spirit and work continue to live, inspire and challenge us to think about our human condition.

If you are ever in Chicago, visit an outdoor installation of her later work, **Agora**, at the South end of Grant Park. Stroll between the giant figures and consider the driven, young woman from Communist controlled Poland who rose to international acclaim.



Above: Part of the Nye's photo exhibit on Aug.6 in Minneapolis. Shining overhead, a vintage art deco era light fixture from St. Bridget's convent.

The Stokowski grandchildren. Barbara Stokowski of Minneapolis, Renee Zimmerman of Clearwater, FL, Jan Land of Minneapolis, Michelle Mattocks of Clearwater and Kathy Willis Clearwater pose in front of the former Smegal & Stokowski store, now the Corner Store Art Gallery, 22nd Ave.

## Northbound retirement

*Continued from pg. 1*

The shop was the preferred brochure, flyer and invite vendor for many area non-profits and Polish groups, including PACIM and the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota.

"I started in my garage and stayed there for a year. Then we got too big for that and so moved to 22<sup>nd</sup> and Central Ave. and leased a 2,200 sq. ft. store front for 15 years," Diana said. A lease expiration prompted the Halvorsons to buy 1420 Hennepin Ave. 19 years ago.

"It was a hard road at first," Diana said. "I bought one of every machine that I needed to get started, all used equipment, and I was a one-person operation for the first six years. My husband helped me when I was very busy. We bought new equipment as we could afford, paid for it and bought more."

When John lost his job, he took on a greater role at Di's.

"We are a good team. We worked fast to get all orders out, and deliver as needed," Diana said.

Technology changes and the recession a decade ago hit the printing industry pretty hard, but Di's came through. Added Diana "We struggled a bit in 2008 with the depression. But in 2009 it got better and better and we got back to the same pace as we were."

The printing industry still has a lot of small business owners, but larger printers have been capturing more market share. According to the Printing Industries of America trade group, printers with less than 20 employees account for 12% of industry sales, while large firms generate 62%.

## Reunited

*Continued from pg. 1*

The Nye's band – the three-man World's Most Dangerous Polka Band – reunited for the occasion.

Madison and Cohen had held separate Nye's photo exhibits in the past year, and thought there was enough community interest for one more collaborative round. Cohen added "we said, let's do it again" and so *Over The Rainbow, The Last Days of Nye's*, exhibit was born as part of the Open Streets Fair weekend in Nordeast Minneapolis.

*The Wizard of Oz* theme song was the closing tune at the former East Hennepin Ave. bar, which has since been gutted back to its original 1907 Grain Belt tavern yellow brick frame and will become a retail component of Montage Apartments.

## New DVDs at PACIM Library

**Zaćma/Blindness** (2016) by Ryszard Bugajski is a drama about Julia Brystiger, a real-life state enforcer who led brutal purges against dissidents during Poland's most repressive Stalinist period.

**Sztuka kochania/The Art of Loving** (2017) by Maria Sadowska, is the biopic of Michalina Wisłocka, who fought for the right to publish her book "Sztuka kochania"/English edition "A Practical Guide to Marital Bliss" (1978), a bestseller. The book started greater openness about sex in Poland.

**Wszystkie nieprzespane noce/All These Sleepless Nights** (2016) by Michał Marczak'. a film about 3 Polish young adults who roam Warsaw's streets to go to an endless series of parties, and fall in and out of love.

### New book in Polish

Anna Mazurkiewicz "Uchodźcy polityczni z Europy Środkowo-Wschodniej w amerykańskiej polityce zimnowojennej 1948-1954"/ Political Exiles from East Central Europe in American Cold War Politics (2016)

## ***PACIM at the 2017 Twin Cities Polish Festival Aug. 11-13 Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Present***



*Clockwise from top left. A painting of Sr. Mary's Church and the Market Square in Krakow was the top auction item at PACIM's booth, garnering a winning bid of \$120. Trumpeter Tamara Mecum of Minnetonka played the Hejnał Mariacki at 7:15pm on Saturday, Aug. 12 and the close of the festival at 5pm Sunday, Aug. 13. To our knowledge, it was the first time in America a woman publicly played the alert, traditionally performed by the Krakow Fire Brigade. Michael and Kathy Janicki of St. Paul won an early wedding bouquet at PACIM's prize wheel. The couple were married Aug. 18. Pianist Bonnie Kozub signs our 100th Independence Day "Birthday" greeting book to Poland. She also gave out complimentary copies of her CD –Bonnie's Touch of Polish Christmas Traditions. Walter Remiarz of St. Louis Park, veteran of the 2nd Polish Corps in World War II and the Battle of Monte Cassino in Italy, shares memories with Danuta Warec, whose father also fought in the battle in a different unit. Polish troops, including many such as Walter who survived Russia's invasion of Poland in September 1939 and served in the Middle East under British command, were instrumental in the Allied victory at the hilltop monastery. In the background is a painting illustrating Poland's century-long Voyage to Freedom that will accompany the 100th Independence Day greetings.*

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 - Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

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Send updates to [przynski@comcast.net](mailto:przynski@comcast.net)

PACIM is looking for more volunteers with financial, marketing, public relations, event planning, technology, library systems and youth programming backgrounds. To share your talents with us, contact [office@pacim.org](mailto:office@pacim.org)

Due to expanding spatial needs and costs, PACIM is searching for a new venue to relocate. All space suggestions are welcome. Please contact [office@pacim.org](mailto:office@pacim.org)

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