THE POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA

POLAM

FALL 2021 VOLUME 43 ISSUE 3 WWW.PACIM.ORG

- PACIM Wigilia: December 12th
- Medieval Castle Experience in Golub-Dobrzyń
- Summer Picnic Reminiscences
- PACIM Board of Directors Elections on November 7th

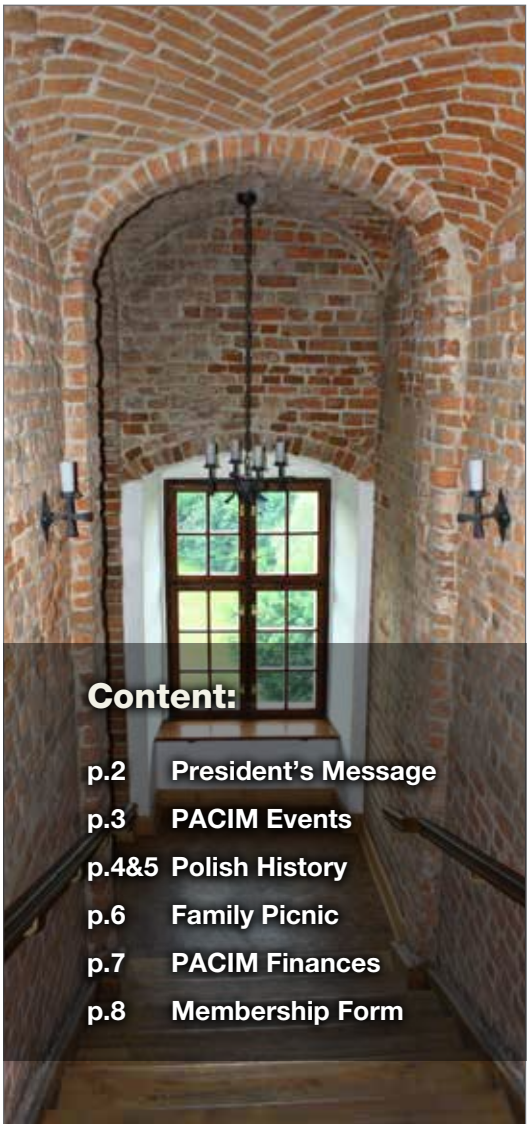
From the President

Dear PACIM Members!
Witam wszystkich serdecznie!

I hope you enjoyed beautiful Minnesota summer; I know I did! I believe it was the first time in 20 years that I didn't leave the state from Memorial Day until the Labor Day for even one day!

Summer was also a busy month for PACIM. We organized the first PACIM Family Picnic on August 14th and were surprised with a higher-than-expected attendance. The event that started at 12pm was supposed to end at 6pm but many participants lingered for more than an hour after the event closing. And did I mention that the weather was just amazing? You can read more about the PACIM Family Picnic in this issue of Polam.

It is a long-standing PACIM tradition to offer scholarships for the college-age students. This summer was not different. The Scholarship Committee nominated a few outstanding young people with Polish roots to receive Polanie Scholarship. However, some of these students did not reside in Minnesota and at the August meeting the Board approved only one out-of-state candidate from the three proposed by the Scholarship Committee. The other two Scholarship recipients approved by the Board were from Winona and Little Falls in Minnesota.



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The Scholarship Chair and PACIM Treasurer, Mark Dillon, resigned from the Board at the beginning of September. Luckily Bogdan Kukla stepped in immediately as a PACIM Interim Treasurer. Thank you, Bogdan!

Now that the Covid travel restrictions eased perhaps you are ready to visit the Old Country? The cover page of the Fall Polam shows the Golub Castle. A few years ago I had an opportunity to attend the family event there. I highly recommend visiting this historic place and perhaps renting the entire castle for your group! You can find out more what the Golub castle has to offer on page 4.

Please mark Sunday, November 7th at 1:30pm for the PACIM Annual Membership meeting at PACIM office location at 43 SE Main Street, unit 228 in Minneapolis. We will be electing 2022 Board Directors and discussing some important PACIM issues such as a New Home for PACIM, since our current lease at Riverplace expires in May 2022.

I hope to see you soon!

Edyta Dudek
PACIM President

POLAM

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The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is a non-profit organization offering broad ranging programs and events that provide opportunity to grow deeper in understanding and appreciation of Polish and Polish American traditions, culture, and history.

SUPPORT PACIM:
PACIM grows through contributions from our member donors and organizations.

PACIM Officers:
Edyta Dudek – *President*
Adam Ramczyk – *Vice President*
Maciej Skorupski – *Secretary*
Bogusław Kukla – *Interim Treasurer*

Board Members:
John Bieniek
Iwona Srienc
Michał Wojtak

Cover:
Great Knightly Tournament organized in Golub-Dobrzyń castle since 1980s.

Photo left:
Horse stairs leading to the second floor of Golub castle.

Photos purchased at alamy.com

2021 Wigilia

PACIM Board would like to invite you, your family, and friends to

2021 Wigilia

THE EVENT IS OPEN TO EVERYONE

December 12th

4:30 pm
Kolędy and Christmas activities

6:00 pm
Wigilia dinner

Kolbe Hall,
1621 University Ave NE,
Minneapolis

We are thrilled to put together a **special evening for our Polish – American community**! The event will start at 4:30 pm with Polish Carrols and Christmas activities for All Ages. Everyone will get an opportunity to make a special Christmas ornament and join our karaoke style "kolędowanie". You could take your ornament home or decorate the Christmas tree in Kolbe Hall.

The dinner with **traditional Wigilia dishes** prepared by the outstanding Polish American chef will follow at 6pm. You can join other diners at the festive tables or reserve entire table exclusively for your family and friends. Please let us know in advance if you have any special seating preferences.

The cost of the event:
- $40 for PACIM members
- $50 for non-members
- $15 for Children 15 and under

Please join us for this Special event! The venue, which is located at the corner of 17th Avenue and Fourth Street in Northeast Minneapolis, is fully accessible via the entrance in the courtyard between Holy Cross Church and the School. There is limited handicapped parking in that area as well as several well-lit lots around the building.

Please send a check to:
43 Main St, SE unit 228. Minneapolis, MN 55414
or pay online at www.pacim.org

State Fair Ethnic Baking Contest

Our long-term PACIM members are winners at the 2021 Minnesota State Fair! **Danuta Warec** won **first place** and **Mary Welke** placed **fourth** in the Fair's Ethnic Baking Contest with their szarlotka. Over the years Danuta has served on PACIM Board and Mary has taught art classes for PACIM. There were 27 applicants even during this difficult time of COVID. **Congratulations Danuta and Mary!!!**

Fall Soup Festival

Continuing with PACIM tradition,
Polish Fall Soup Festival
will take place on **Sunday, October 24th**,
from 11:00am until 5:00pm
at the Kolby Hall of the Holly Cross Church.

For $10 ($5 children) you can
try 7 varieties of delicious Polish soups.
You can also buy more soup for later, or as a gift
for those who could not attend.

Medieval Castle Experience in Golub-Dobrzyń

By Edyta Dudek

Past

The life on eastern border of Kuyavia-Pomerania region in the twelfth century was not easy. For decades the area was attacked by the pagan Prussian clans. In 1230 the Duke of Masovia and Kuyavia, Konrad Mazowiecki believed he found a solution how to protect Polish population from the raids from the east. With the support from the Pope, he invited a Christian religious order that was founded as a military order to come to Chełmno Land to fight Prussians. By the 1280s the Teutonic Knights conquered and converted Prussians. However, after the Knights accomplished their mission, they didn't leave Poland, instead, they built dozens of fortifications and grew in power.

Teutonic Order was divided into commandries, which consisted of Amts. The knights promptly constructed castles in each Amt, where the Pfleger, a chief administrative officer was stationed. Within a century the State of Teutonic Order was formed, and hundreds of castles were built in Chełmno Land and beyond. (See the map.) Poland fought many wars with the Knights and after 1410 Battle of Grunwald the Teutonic Order fell into decline. In 1525 after the 1519-21 war the Grand Master Albert of Brandenburg resigned and became Duke of Prussia, a vassal of Poland. Polish author and Noble Prize winner Henryk Sienkiewicz wrote a novel about Teutonic Knights. The book titled "Krzyżacy" or "The Knights of the Cross", can be purchased in Polish or in English respectively.

In 1304, the seat of the Teutonic Pfleger, responsible for the management and defense of a castle was established in Golub. The construction of the brick castle in Golub started in 1300–1311. At that time, the perimeter walls and two wings of the upper ward: south and west, and later north and east were erected. In 1320 the castle was strong enough to withstand the army of Polish King Władysław Łokietek. The construction of the castle continued until the late fourteenth century when the towers adapted to firearms use were added. During fifteenth century the castle often changed hands. Only in 1466, the town was finally captured from the Teutonic Knights, and based on the Second Peace of Toruń, was integrated into the Kingdom of Poland. The final reconstruction took place in 1616 by then owner Princess Anna Wazówna. She added late-renaissance attics, turrets in the corners, and changed the shape of the windows. The castle survived in the gothic-renaissance form to this day.

Present

Today the Golub castle is open not only to those who are interested in learning about the history of the region but also allows visitors to immerse in the Medieval culture. There is an opportunity to rent a period hotel room, for a decent price, and if your group consists of about 20 people the castle could be yours for the night! You will also have a Medieval restaurant available to you with staff dressed in period outfits.

When you and your company arrive at the castle hill parking lot you could arrange to be welcomed by a cannon salute! You could be then taken to the castle in a horse-drawn carriage. It would be a short ride to the castle courtyard, where you could find a pig roasted on the open fire. You could even have a Princes Anna Wazówna court flute player accompany your delicious meal. After a short refreshing rest in your chamber, you could attend shooting games such as: ax throwing, javelin and archery, falconer show, or my favorite: "Hussars, the pride of Polish arms" horse show. You could end your day with the evening Polonaise dance with torches around the castle cloisters.

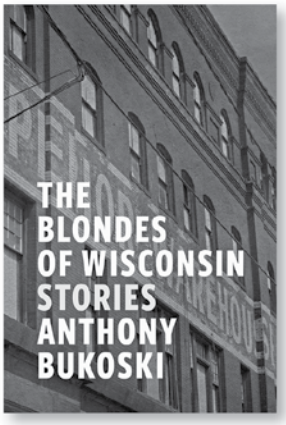
And don't forget to walk those famous horse stairs leading to the second floor! Knight's armor used to be so heavy that the soldiers rode their horses to their rooms, where their servants helped them to undress.

Last but not least! If you arrive in July, you could attend Great Knightly Tournaments, organized in Golub since 1980s. You could experience skills of Polish and foreign participants from Italy, Germany, Sweden, France, Denmark, Ukraine and Canada. (See the pictures)

THE BLONDES OF WISCONSIN

Polish-American stories by PACIM member Anthony Bukoski

paperback / $16.95



"An outstanding collection. Bukoski's stories are about the enduring beauty of the human spirit—as delicate as a dragonfly's wing, as indelible as the landscape of the heart. I will not soon forget them or this transcendent book."

– Lee Zacharias,
author of *Across the Great Lake*

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Family Picnic

John Bieniek presents one of the four signs he created for the picnic

PIKNIK PART I
Kapusta, Kapusta, Kapusta!

To the board,

I just want to tell all how much I enjoyed the live PACIM pre-Piknik meeting this last Thurs July 29. For me it was super special because the life of this meeting could not have happened in a Zoom meeting. If I had the foresight, I would have liked to film this meeting. If anyone wanted to experience truly original Polish culture at its best, this meeting would take 1st place by any stretch of the imagination. It was spontaneous humor at work while people were bantering and debating, getting work done. I am talking mainly about when the list of items for the Piknik was being reviewed. There was excitement and energy in the air! Everyone had an opinion and wanted to get it just right! Everybody had a chance to speak and contribute. The top item of discussion was without doubt that of kapusta, kapusta,kapusta; Where to buy for the best price and taste, maybe Menards? How much to buy? No, Chicago has the best, and where to buy? There was approximately 30-40 minutes on kapusta!

The kielbasa took 2nd place. There seems to be total agreement on what kind. Of course, GRILLOWA!! What else!? There was no other! Again, there was discussion about how many kielbasy to a pound, where to buy? How & where to store it? For sure, Chicago is the food capital for the Poles of Minnesota. I knew Poles traveled a lot to Chicago for food items, but I never knew the degree of allegiance Poles had to Polish foods in Chicago. After this meeting, I certainly have a deeper understanding of Polish-Americans born in Poland and immigrating for various reasons. You bring with you the wonderful world of Polish foods and how you miss them. And yes, pierogi Polish style, also among others! I enjoy you all.

THE PIKNIK CAST: ***PACIM board and spouses:***
Edyta Dudek, Adam Ramczyk, Iwona Srienc, John Bieniek, Bogdan Kukla, Michal Wojtak, Maciej Skorupski, Teresa Kreslo – accordionist, Czesław Raginiak - guitarist

PIKNIK PART II
At the Park

When one begins to enter the road to Sucker Lake Regional Park, it is like pulling open and shutting a curtain behind you, whether you are walking or driving. Immediately the traffic noise disappears, and you immerse yourself on a quiet, peaceful third of a mile winding road with dense trees and bush lining both sides the to the pavilion. The Park and pavilion were excellent choices, just right. The sheltered pavilion had everything one could expect for a piknik – abundance of electrical outlets, water, 14 piknik tables, grills, child playground, restroom facilities and hiking trails.
The Piknik started at 12 noon. Set up activity began at approximately 9-9:15 AM. It was like watching everything focused at high speed motion. The first thing I noticed, all piknik tables were covered with white tablecloths. They were thinking of the guests to come. They were PACIM's priority. This is in the DNA of the Polish people. Nobody goes hungry and with dignity.

At noon the food was being served cafeteria style. The food layout was magnificent. It was as good as it looked. The servers were on hand to help. Whether it was the nice weather, or festive atmosphere, I've tasted non better. As the pavilion began to fill, and it did, the entertainment started. First was the talented accordionist Teresa playing East European accordion music during the festive mid-day table. The music was soft, selections appropriate for during food consumption, the guests were able to easily converse. It was just right! Almost on que, when after many were finished dining, the second entertainer began. Czesław was a solo artist on the guitar. His talents were many. He sang solos, serious and humorous. He was very interactive with the guests, cajoled them, challenged them to sing with him. The guests loved it all. The entertainers alternated and the accordion music began again. There were other venues, such as historical displays, the information tent with a Stork/Bocian nest display for children, a map of Poland for finding ancestry location, and a Wycinanki table. We feel the Piknik exceeded our expectations, and we are so grateful to all the guests who came to make it such a success. We are delighted. Thank you always.

John Bieniek

PACIM Finances

June 30 to Sept. 1 Treasurer's Report

PACIM's finances continued to benefit from strong stock market conditions this past summer. Year to date through Sept. 3, 2021, the S&P 500 Index was up 21.95%. Our net assets reached a record high at the end of August. In addition, PACIM's operational revenues improved as:

- Individual and household membership renewals rebounded
- Class tuition came in for Polish language classes that began September 7
- The August 14 picnic raised $1.100
- PACIM had more unrestricted donations, and a new $500 gold level membership.

In August, PACIM also awarded $6,000 in $2,000 scholarships each to three talented students. This was the largest annual amount in PACIM's history under the Polanie program. We did not have any completed applications this year for the much smaller Rog scholarship program.

2021 POLANIE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES:

Shelby Krebs, of Sobieski, MN, a fourth generation Polish-Minnesotan. Crowned as both a Beef Princess and a Dairy Princess by farming trade organizations, Shelby is pursuing a degree in Veterinary Medicine and Ag Business at the University of Minnesota- Crookston, and raising her own beef herd.

Natalia Wolny, a native of Chicago and an English major and minor in Film Studies at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. A dancer for the Chicago-based Wici Polish folk group, Shelby is considering careers as either a diplomat or journalist. She is an intern at the Double Exposure Investigative Film Festival & Symposium.

Carolyn Makon of Winona, MN – award deferred until 2022

Shelby Krebs

Natalia Wolny

PACIM Elections

On Sunday, NOVEMBER 7TH we will be voting on three candidates for PACIM Board of Directors:

EDYTA DUDEK – Incumbent Director

Edyta is an engineer and a math and computer science educator. Before coming to the US she volunteered for the Catholic Intelligentsia Club in Warsaw. In Minnesota she served in many Polish organizations: as a Vice President of the Polish Saturday School, a Treasurer of the Polanie Club, a President of the Polish Independence Celebration Committee, a Vice-President, Treasurer and in 2021 President of PACIM.

ADAM RAMCZYK – Incumbent Director

Adam was born in Lebork, Poland. Immigrated to USA in 1992 with wife Mirosława and son Kamil. He lives in Blaine and has three children: Kamil, Dominik and Julia. He is a member of Holy Cross Church and works as a Production Manager at Starkey. In 2021 Adam served as PACIM Vice-President.

MIETEK KONCZYK – Former Director

Mietek joined PACIM in 2008 and soon after became a member of the board and Director of Technology, a position he held until 2010 when he moved to Colorado. He designed and maintained the pacim.org web site and for many years edited the News from Poland column for POLAM. He was born and raised in Krakow, Poland. In 1986, he arrived with his family in Minnesota as a political refugee, residing first in Winona, next for many years in Rochester, and then moving to Saint Paul. He holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree from Jagiellonian University in Krakow and Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Computer Science from Winona State University.

Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM) is a membership driven non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

PACIM is grateful for the many gifts, endowments, and donations that make its mission a reality in the programs, events, publications and library collection under its guidance.

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- $30 [one time]
- $150 [one year]

One-quarter page display ad:
- $100 for a single ¼ page display
- $180 two ¼ page display ads, [half year]
- $350 four issues ¼ page ads [one year]

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- ☐ $60 Household
- ☐ $40 Individual
- ☐ $25 Student under 26y old
- ☐ $25 Senior over 70y old
- Age if student or senior

- ☐ Add $5.00 for ACPC
- ☐ I can volunteer and contribute my talents to PACIM
- ☐ Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of $

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Membership Form:
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pacim.org

2021 Annual Meeting and Election

On Sunday, November 7th at 1:30pm PACIM will hold its 2021 Annual Membership Meeting and Election for Board Directors. We will meet at PACIM location: 43 Main Street SE, room 228, Minneapolis.

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Stay connected and learn about upcoming events!

Facebook.com/PACIM.org
Or, use your smartphone camera to scan this QR code and go directly to our Facebook page. ►