

“Keep Alive This Heritage”
Pope John Paul II

A Newsletter About Polish Culture
And Current Events
Established In 1979

POLAM



Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota to Move to Lowry and Central



Photo illustration of the new PACIM Library at 2514 Central Ave. NE

At their March meeting, board directors of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM) voted to sign a 3 year lease at 2514 Central Ave NE in Northeast Minneapolis. They expect to complete the move to their new location sometime in early April with an Open House scheduled for later this spring.

This new location offers a larger space for their expanding Polish American Library and multi-purpose space for hosting cultural events, Polish language classes as well as greater visibility in Northeast Minneapolis and to the public at large. PACIM, now well into its second

decade, is excited to take this next step in their growth as a Cultural Center and sees this as a natural progression from the original vision of two of its founders, Mary Jane Sokolowski-Gustafson and Chester Rog to be a center of Polish culture and heritage and to preserve and promote this heritage in Minnesota and beyond.

PACIM's longer term goal is to own rather than lease a building that can be a readily identifiable Polish Cultural Center, known not only to Polish Americans but the broader community as well, where all Polish organizations are welcome and space will be available for events, exhibits, classes, etc.

Dyngus Day Lesson Is Part of Any Well-Rounded Education

By JACK COLWELL
South Bend Tribune

Smart as they are, my Notre Dame journalism students didn't know the reason there will be no classes Monday.



“Because Monday is Dyngus Day,” I instructed them. “Dyngus Day?” Puzzled looks greeted my

explanation. They thought having Monday off had something to do with Easter, specifically with allowing time for travel back to campus after going home for Easter. Most of them, except for a couple who come from around this area, had never heard of Dyngus Day. What do kids learn in college these days? While the observance of Dyngus Day is the reason for no classes Monday, there actually is a connection with Easter. Easter is a moveable feast, I noted. They were all aware of that. Well, with Easter coming at different places on the calendar, people always are asking: “Is Easter early or late this year?”

Here is how you always can tell the exact date of Easter in any year: Easter always is the Sunday before Dyngus Day. Now the students know. Lest the bishop have another tizzy about goings on at Notre Dame, let me add quickly

Dyngus continued on page 3

Dziękuję

To all those of you who have renewed your Pol-Am Subscriptions. We appreciate your support! (If your name on your mailing label is yellow that means we've received your paid subscription for 2006 as of March 20th)

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If you have any questions please email polamnewsletter@yahoo.com or call Steven after 4 pm at 612-822-2322.

We appreciate your continued generosity and support. Dziękuję!

Pol-Am

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Jerzy Hornik, Writer

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Heartfelt Sympathy

We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of the following subscribers who have recently passed away:

Albin Jalouszinski
Camille Budarz
Jadwiga Babowicz
"God grant them peace and eternal rest. They will be greatly missed."

Pol-Am gratefully acknowledges a gift of \$50 in memory of Bernard Szymczak by George Shimshock

Generous Subscribers

We thank the following subscribers who have renewed above the basic subscription rate. We appreciate your support and commitment to *Pol-Am* Newsletter. Serdeczne dzięki!

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K. Rajtar

My Thoughts Managing Editor

I confess that I have not had many "thoughts" this month. I have been kept very busy with all the Pol-Am renewals and making sure that the transition in billing from Chester to PACIM goes smoothly with the minimum of disruption. We apologize for any confusion that has occurred and please don't hesitate to call if you have questions on your account.

In addition my elderly mother underwent surgery in Sioux Falls and being at the hospital from 7:30 am to 9:30 pm on Valentine's Day was not how I hoped to spend the day, but, there was no other place I would have wanted to be anyway. Her recovery has been painfully slow with many setbacks and a constant worry for me, especially since I could not be at her side beyond the first three days.

I am an avid gardener and winter is always a time of anxious anticipation for spring for me. Our center spread article on Białowieża Forest is one I've wanted to do for some time, and with spring here I thought it was time, especially now with 10 inches of March snow on the ground. But March snow never lasts long...

We here at *Pol-Am* wish everyone a Happy Easter. Niech Jezus Zmartwychwstały pobłogosławi całą rodzinę.
— Steven Ukasick, *Managing Editor*

OUR APOLOGIES

Last month's issue incorrectly identified the Polanie Club Scholarship winners. They are presented again on page 8.

IN MEMORY OF
BERNARD SZYM CZAK



MAY FLIGHTS OF ANGELS
LEAD YOU ON YOUR WAY
TO PARADISE AND
HEAVEN'S ETERNAL DAY.

Od serca do serca Heart To Heart

As I prepare to retire to my ancestral home in the beautiful mountain country—Podhale in southern Poland—I am glad to report



that my friend whom I have known for thirty some years said “yes” when I asked her to take over the shipment of parcels to Poland which I have been doing for twenty five years. Elizabeth

Suszynski, well known for her involvement in the Polish community, teaches two classes of Polish in the Minneapolis Public School community events programs. As of May 1, please call her if you wish to send parcels to Poland—763-479-1642.

St. Agnes Men’s Club in Saint Paul still continues to send parcels to the foster homes in Poland (Domy Dziecka) via Polish American Services. Each care package, in addition to clothing, includes toilet articles, school supplies and always a five pound bag of assorted wrapped candies to make sure there is something for everyone. They have also asked for single bed linens and laundry soaps. Can you help them?

As we approach the most important day of Christianity—Easter Sunday—let us remember the time-honored practices passed down by our earlier generations like the sharing of blessed Easter eggs before Easter breakfast.

Tolstoy has described how Russian peasants used to greet one another joyously at Easter time with “Christ is risen!,” as though this momentous event had only just happened.

Poles greet one another with “Chrystus Zmartwychwstał” and repeat it three times.

See you next month, God willing,
— Czesław Róg, *Editor in Chief*

WANTED: POLISH WORKERS

Install Epoxy Floors

ArmorCoat Coating, Inc.
New Brighton
Michael Krulas
612-991-9134

Dyngus continued

that students are indeed smart enough to know that Dyngus Day jokes are not a challenge to church doctrine. They can safely contemplate the customs of Dyngus. And Dyngus Day, an event popularized in Polish-American neighborhoods in South Bend and observed in some form in such other cities as Buffalo, actually has roots going back to when Christianity was embraced in Poland in 966.



Mass christenings then are said by Polish historians to have a link to the later custom of dousing maidens with water on the Monday after Easter. That tradition was carried from the old country and was practiced in Polish-American neighborhoods around here in decades past. So, too, was the practice of switching girls’ legs with willow branches. Some of the young ladies in my class didn’t seem too positive about the switching bit.

“It apparently was not to hurt anybody. It probably was actually flirting,” I explained. “Some way to flirt,” said a student, shaking her head in disapproval. While I didn’t warn that celebrants sometimes went a little too far, a bishop — not the one here but the bishop of Poznan in Poland in 1420 — issued a “Dingus Prohibitur,” forbidding conduct that would “pester or plague” others on Dyngus Day, spelled with an “i” back then.

Dousing, it seems, had expanded from tossing buckets of water to tossing some girls into icy ponds in Poznan, a health danger. Nothing like that awaits those who will go Dyngusing tomorrow at the many celebration sites around here. Although the West Side Democratic and Civic Club on South Bend’s West Side remains the center of Dyngusing, the celebration has spread from Polish-American neighborhoods to Irish bars, Italian restaurants and just about any other type of establishment that can offer kielbasa. That’s Polish for Polish sausage.

Dyngus Day now is observed at places in Mishawaka, Elkhart and other communities near South Bend. Former area residents have carried the tradition to far-off cities as well, even way up north to Alaska. While South Bend would seem to have clear title to the Dyngus Day capital of the nation, folks from Buffalo sometimes reject that claim.

Sure, Buffalo has polkas, sausage and liquid refreshments, too, but it doesn’t seem to have attracted the political attention that has marked the South Bend event. National attention was focused on the 1968 South Bend celebration when Bobby Kennedy, campaigning in the Indiana presidential primary, a very important primary back then, came to the West Side Club and attracted the largest, wildest crowd ever. The club was packed. So were the streets along his route. He won the Indiana Democratic presidential primary just a month before he was slain in California.

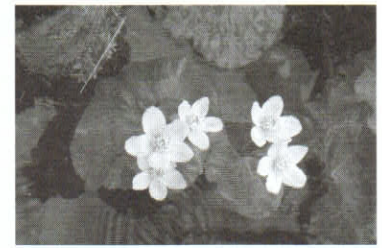
Even before the Kennedy appearance, the event attracted political candidates, mainly because Dyngus Day always comes in the middle of the primary campaign in election years. Candidates go where the crowds are. After Kennedy attracted so much attention to Dyngus Day, it became an absolute must for most serious candidates for city, county and state offices. Notre Dame students sometimes understand this strange Dyngus Day a little better when it’s likened to a Polish version of St. Patrick’s Day. Both days have roots in religion from centuries past. Each features food, music and customs of a land across the ocean from which came the ancestors of many Americans. And each day is one of celebration, with participation now by folks of any ethnic background

“Let me be clear, however, that I was joking with the students about having Monday off because it is Dyngus Day. It of course was a day without classes because of being Easter Monday and an extra day for the kids to return to campus after spending Easter at home with their families.”

— Jack Colwell

ACPC Raffle Tickets

Proceeds to benefit *The Polish Heritage*, ACPC scholarships and Youth Leadership Conference. Fundraiser is a 50/50 raffle: split 20%-10%-10%-10%. Booklet of 6 tickets—\$10. Available at PACIM Library on Sundays or call 612-822-2322 after 4 pm. Booklets and checks MUST be returned by June 20th.



B I A Ł O W I E Ż A

When one thinks of the continent of Europe with its centuries and centuries of history and millions upon millions of people all living in an old land with limited space it may come as a pleasant surprise that there still exist some pockets of primordial wilderness. A puszcza where ancient oaks, maples and elms, hoary with age, still reach toward the sky, where creatures found no where else in Europe still wander freely under the canopy of the trees in dappled shade among wild flowers and bracken, where you need not even close your eyes to be transported back to a Europe that existed thousands of years ago, to the one that the last glaciers left. One such treasured place is Białowieża Forest in northeastern Poland.

Just 40 miles southeast of Białystok as the crow flies is the village of Białowieża, gateway to Białowieski Park Narodowy. One of the oldest National Parks in Europe and first in Poland it was established in 1932, before that the wilderness was a royal hunting preserve for the kings of Poland and later, after the Partitions, the Tsars of Russia. In 1979, it received international recognition and protection when UNESCO

named it to its World Heritage List. The park is over 40 squares miles in area of which over 18 square miles are designated as a "strict preservation area" with another 338 square miles across the border in the country of Belarus.



Each year almost 100,000 tourists visit Białowieża of which 30% visit the strict preservation area which is limited to guided tours only. Guides

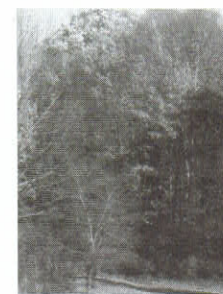
are provided by the local tourist office and tours are taken on traditional horse drawn wagons. The tourists come to hear the soul of a long lost Europe still beating in the primeval depths of the forest. They come to see the only free ranging



European Bison left in the world, to see 42 other mammal species, including moose, deer, wolf, lynx,

beaver, wild boar and the tarpan, the Polish wild forest horse, to see over 232 species of birds and an extremely diverse plant life of over 1200 species including

oak, hornbeam, maple, elm, spruce, linden and rare plant species now found nowhere else in eastern Europe.



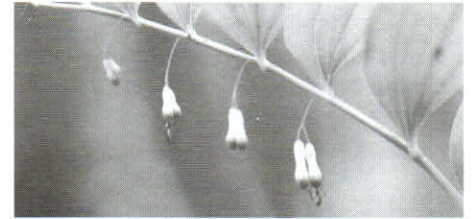
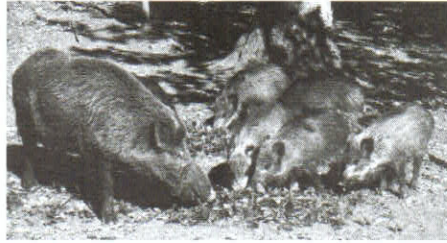
Yes, Białowieża is a special place. The next time you find yourself in Poland consider a side trip to this enchanting forest that exists just 125 miles to the east of Warsaw. Spend a

day away from the crowds and noise of the city and experience the Europe that our ancestors did when they came north following the retreating glaciers, a place of unspoiled beauty where the rustle of the breeze can still be heard along with the song of the warblers welcoming you back home.

EUROPEAN BISON / BISON BONASUS This creature above all is associated with Białowieża and is its most famous denizen. The European bison, not to be confused



with its cousin, the American bison (buffalo), is making its last stand at Białowieża. The



F O R E S T

Polish name for this bison is the żubr. The żubr once roamed from Great Britain all the way to Siberia but now is found only in a few zoos and Białowiecki Park.



Unlike the American bison which graze on grass, the żubr

browse on shrubs, twigs, berries and grass where they can find it. Bulls can stand over 6 feet tall, be longer than 9 feet and weigh over a ton. Bulls lead solitary lives only gathering harems of females during the breeding season, another major difference with the American bison which live in mixed herds all year long.

The last truly wild żubr was shot in Poland by a poacher in 1919, but soon a drive began to reintroduce them from the 54 animals that remained in European zoos. In 1929 Poland purchased a bull and two cows from Sweden and Germany and brought them to Białowiecki Park and started a breeding program. During World War II, both the Nazis and Russians protected the żubr by making killing one punishable by death. A free ranging herd was established in 1952. Today there are 300 on the Polish side of the park and 240 on the Belarus side. Unfortunately, the

Belarusian government has clear cut the trees along the border and erected a fence cutting off the free interchange of the once free roaming herds.

ŻUBRÓWKA VODKA

Distilling vodka had its origins in Poland and oftentimes they would infuse it with herbs, roots, spices and other flavor additives to cover the



sometimes off flavors. By the 16th century there were over 72 flavored vodkas in Poland. Żubrówka was the local flavored vodka of the area around the

Białowieża forest since it took its name from the grass, żubrówka, favored by the żubr. This sweet smelling grass retains its aromatic flavor long after it's cut and resists all attempts at cultivation. Local families jealously guard the location of the secret glades in the forest where it grows. It became famous throughout Poland because the king and other princes who would come to hunt at Białowieża favored it and would serve it back at their courts in Kraków and later Warsaw.

Unlike the Polish custom of slamming back shots of vodka, the sweet and mellow żubrówka is sipped and savored in Poland and oftentimes mixed with unsweetened apple juice.

Importing żubrówka was banned in the United States in 1978 because it contained unacceptable levels of coumarin which occurs naturally in żubrówka grass. Coumarin is the main ingredient in many prescription blood thinners, but it also added flavor to this vodka. Distillers were able to reduce the amount present and it is now legal again in all 50 states. It also has acquired the reputation as being an aphrodisiac as well as a source of virility and stamina, which was no doubt a factor in its popularity with the noblemen of Poland over the centuries and now again for us Americans.

— Steven Ukasick



Photos by Andrzej Milko, Mateusz Szymura, Adrian Tołkacz, Ireneusz Zacharewicz.
www.bpn.com.pl

PACIM NEWS

News from the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota

Our tour to Chicago is more than half full. Please consider joining us, we can take 10-12 more travelers. For more information, call Judith at 763-571-9602.

New Members:

Hanna Stankiewicz

Generous Members:

Sponsor:

Maria Zorawska
James Murzyn
Kevin Batko
Stella Lundquist

Sustaining:

Roger Grusznski
Joan & Richard Niemiec
Helen Pietrowski

Patron:

Genevieve Desmond
Frank & Janet Rog

Bal Karnawałowy

PACIM and their guests danced and celebrated Karnawał on February 25th at their Bal Karnawałowy at the Saint Paul Hotel in Saint Paul. The evening's festivities included Bonnie Frels entertaining us at the grand piano, silent auction, catered dinner, program by Dolina Polish Folk Dancers, Polonaise and Dancing. Our special award this year went to Bruce Rubín of Rubín Cordaro Design for all his work on behalf of PACIM and *Pol-Am* Newsletter.

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the extent limited by law. Please consider including us in your tax and estate planning. We appreciate your generous support.

**Polskie Przysłowia—
Polish Proverbs**

Przysłowia są mądrością narodu.
Proverbs are the wisdom of a people.

Z dobrego gniazda, dobre dzieci.
From a good nest, good children.

From the Library

The Library will be temporarily closed while we move to our new location at 2514 Central Ave. NE. Look for a Grand Opening after Easter. As always, everyone is welcome. However, only PACIM members may check out materials.

The Library will be closed Sunday, April 2nd Moving Day & April 16th for Easter.

**Thank you to the following for
book donations:**

Greg Tomczyk
Peggy Bistodeau

On Ebay, I bought 13 brand new hardcover Agatha Christie books translated into Polish for only \$9.95 plus shipping. What a deal! They are already on the shelves.

Our book recommendation this month comes from Roma Kehne whose grandson gave her Slavomir Rawicz's "The Long Walk: The True Story of a Trek to Freedom." Roma was so impressed with the story (because the author came from her hometown in Poland and was imprisoned in the same area in Siberia she was), that she offered to purchase a copy for the library. We already have a copy just waiting for someone with an interest in this area of World War II.

One of our members has offered to give away Polish manual typewriter. Please call Judith at 763-571-9602 for more information.

Membership Form For
Polish American
Cultural Institute of Minnesota
612.378.9291
www.pacim.org

- ___ Patron \$100
- ___ Sustaining Member 60
- ___ Sponsor/Couple 30
- ___ Member 20

Please add \$5 to the above membership levels, if you wish to join American Council for Polish Culture, ACPC, through PACIM (a 50% discount).

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Send this form and your check to:
PACIM
P.O. Box 18403
Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403



Events

Many events are given to us well in advance of the actual date. Please call the contact information to verify particulars. If you would like your event listed, contact Judith at judytam@usfamily.net

Learn Polish Abroad This Summer:

The Kościuszko Foundation is again offering 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6-week Polish language immersion courses in Lublin, Kraków and Rome. For more information, see their website, www.thekf.org/edsummer_study.html or call 212-734-2130 ext. 210

Centre of Polish Language and Culture for Foreigners offers a two week intensive course of Polish in Toruń starts July 9 deadline to enroll June 1 \$690

Fosa Staromiejska 3

87-100 Torun, POLAND

<http://www.umk.pl/en/units/cpl/>

Other Summer Courses in Poland:

http://info-poland.buffalo.edu/web/arts_culture/language/plsummer/link.shtml

Month of April

Polish Poetry Evenings

Two additional meetings are planned yet for this spring. Anyone wanting to be added to the informal distribution list for these evenings should email: astanki@att.net.

They will feature the poetry of:

Tadeusz Zelenski (better known under his pseudonym Tadeusz Boy-Zelenski; 1874-1941) who was a Polish gynecologist, writer, poet, art critic, translator of French literary classics and journalist. One of the notable personalities behind the Young Poland movement, Boy was considered an enfant terrible of the Polish literature of the first half of 20th century.

Karol Józef Wojtyła who was a Polish poet long before he became known to the world as Pope John Paul II.

All Lenten Fridays, 4:30–7 pm

Fish Fry

Knights of Columbus Hall

6831 Highway 65 Northeast, Fridley.

All Fridays in Lent (except Good Friday). All you can eat baked and fried fish. Shrimp is also available. Adults \$9 Children 10 or under \$4. For more information call 763-862-6284

March 31 to April 2

Rekolekcje Wielkopostne

(Polish 40-hours)

Holy Cross Church, 17th and University Ave NE, Minneapolis. For more information, call 612-789-7328

April 1

Travel Program

The Polish Genealogy Society of Minnesota will present the program, "Travel in Poland." It will be held at the MGS Library, 5768 Olson Memorial Highway, Golden Valley, from 10 am until noon. PGSMN conducted a similar meeting 5 years ago, in which they presented different options for travel to & within Poland, for pleasure and research, with handouts and information. Bring your research or travel related questions with you. Questions to Terry Kita at 612-927-0719 or terrykita@earthlink.net.

April 7

Polka Dance

The Midwest Polka Association will hold its Fish Fry Fundraiser at the Polish American Club, in 1003 Acarde Street, EastSide, St. Paul from 5–8 pm with music upstairs by Twin City Soundz. For more information, call 763-757-5458.

April 7th and 14th, 5–8 pm

Fish Fry Dinner

Polish American Club

1003 Arcade St, St. Paul.

No music on Good Friday, the 14th. For more information call 651-774-6748

April 22

Polka Dance

The Midwest Polka Association. will hold from 5–11 pm its Spring Polka Attraction at the Knights Of Columbus Hall, 6831 Highway 65 in Fridley. Music will be provided by the Polish Connection from Mosinee, Wisconsin and Dr. Kielbasa from Minnesota. For more information, call 763-757-5458

April 23

Święconka

Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church, 22nd Avenue and Fifth Street NE. Dinner with the sharing of the blessed egg will be after 10 am Mass. Everyone is invited to attend Holy Mass.

April 29

Majówka

Come celebrate the annual "Majówka" May Days in Duluth, MN at Holy Family Catholic Church, 2430 West Third Street, with music by the Dr. Kielbasa Band

May 5–7

Trip to Polish Chicago

Join folks from the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota on a bus trip to experience the Polish side of Chicago. The bus leaves 8 am on Friday, May 5 and returns around 6 pm on Sunday, May 7. Travelers will take part in Chicago's famous Constitution Day Parade. They will also eat at several Polish restaurants and attend mass at St. Mary of the Angels Church. On Sunday, they will visit a pierogi factory to purchase any (or all) of their 20 different flavors at prices as low as \$2 per dozen. We will also stop at a Polish grocery-meat-market-bakery-liquor store to purchase goodies to bring back. Bringing coolers is recommended. Food provided: 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners. Price \$235 per person. For more information, call Judith at 763-571-9602.

May 21, 1:30–4:30 pm

Polka Dance

Mayslacks Polka Lounge music by Roger Majeski from Mosinee, WI

Sunday, May 21, 3–7 pm

Sunday, June 18, 3–7 pm

Historical Village Playhouse Benefit

1701 W. Houghton Lake Drive,

Houghton Lake Michigan

The Polish Kid & Company—\$10

Polkas, Waltzes, Country, Swing, Ballroom

Food and Beverages available

Information: 989-389-4374,

989-728-7724, 989-422-6393

Help Feed Hungry Children in Poland

By going to the website:

www.pajacyk.pl and clicking on the wooden puppet, you will be helping provide supplemental meals for children in the poorest regions of Poland. The program is administered by Polish Humanitarian Organization. PHO is a charity registered in Poland. Their mission is to make the world a better place through alleviation of human suffering and promotion of humanitarian values.

POL-AM's Spotlight On Things Polish

Polanie Club Scholarships

The Polanie Club of Minneapolis and Saint Paul is offering a limited number of \$2000 scholarships for the academic year 2006-2007. Qualifying applicants are United States citizens or permanent residents of Polish-American ancestry who are Minnesota residents with a GPA of 2.5 or better. Scholarships will be available to those persons ages 18-25, who are seeking financial aid for further education beyond high school.

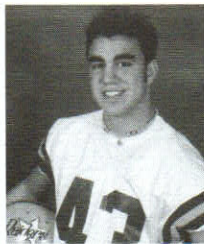
Applications must be postmarked by July 1, 2006. Applicants will be notified about the decision in August 2006.

To request an application or additional information, please contact and send a self-addressed and stamped legal size envelope to:

Polanie Club of Minneapolis
and Saint Paul
Att: Scholarship Committee
643 Madison Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413



Ewelina Marut
Champlin
University of Minnesota
Psychology



Cameron Cylkowski
Saint Paul
U of W/River Falls
Advertising



Malgorzata Paidosh
New Brighton
St. Mary's University
Music



Brett Uchanski
Eagan
Dakota County Tech
Computer Programming

2005 / 2006 Scholarship Winners

At the Polanie meeting on January 6 the following officers were elected for two-year terms:

Irene Patrek, President and
Loretta Anderson, Vice President

Polish Word Tips

Dla słownych kaczątek — for beginners

Dobry wieczór – Good evening
Smacznego – Bon appetit
Ile masz lat? – How old are you?
Skąd jesteś? – Where are you from?

Dla słownych słowików –
for advanced learners

Wyruszyć – to hit the road, set on sail
Mam lwi apetyt – I have a huge appetite
Cicha woda brzegi rwie –
Silent water rubs the banks
Kto pod kim dołki, ten sam w nie wpada —
a rendition of “what goes around, comes
around,” and literally, “when you dig
holes in front of others, you fall into
them yourself.”

April Fool's Day Expression

Głupi Jaś – depending on the situation,
the expression denotes a “joke” or a per-
son who has been fooled on Fool's Day.

Robić sobie żarty z innych – to misguide
or make fools out of people (plural).

Figures Of Poland's Culture And History



Tadeusz Mazowiecki
*Politician,
Journalist, Lawyer*

Born April 18,
1927 in Płock,
Mazowiecki came
to fame as an advi-
sor to the
'Solidarity' trade
union in 1980, later
editor of the weekly
'Solidarność.' An
active participant in
the Round Table
talks of 1989. He
was the first non

communist prime minister in Eastern
Europe serving that role in Poland in
1989-90. He was the UN High
Commissioner on Human Rights' Special
Envoy to the former Yugoslavia in 1992-
1995. He also wrote the preamble of the
1997 Polish constitution. In 1998 he was
awarded the French Legion of Honour
and has received many other internation-
al awards.

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