

# PolAm

A Publication of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota

April 2008

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Vol. 30, Num. 4

## Coming of Age in America

by Sebastian & Angelica Korsak

*As first generation Americans, Sebastian & Angelica begin their journey as adults.*

Growing up in the United States in a Polish family, our Polish traditions and customs have had an enormous effect on our lives and choosing a college. As individuals growing up in a multi-cultural Minneapolis, we have been exposed to a diversity of cultures and social circles throughout our lives. Since we are first generation Poles it has always been important for us to cultivate Polish traditions at home. Our connection to Polish culture has remained strong since we continue to embrace the Polish language by only speaking Polish with our parents and community life with our involvement in our Polish church. Maintaining Polish traditions in our home remains very important to us because we are proud of our Polish heritage and we want to extend a strong connection to Polish culture. Since most of our family lives in Poland, we feel that it is important to continue to connect with Polish traditions in order to preserve a strong relationship with our family.

Growing up as first generation Poles has been beneficial for us with our advantage of being bilingual. The knowledge of two languages at a young age gave us an advantage making learning more languages easier. In addition to speaking two languages starting at a young age, our



Angelica & Sebastian's Graduation Party  
Saturday, 6:00 p.m.  
June 9th 2007

Polish traditions at home lead to our curiosity with other cultures exposing us to diversity at a young age. Growing up bilingual has inspired us to learn more languages and thus today we are dabbling in our fourth language in hopes of becoming quad-lingual someday.

Ever since we were very young we have been involved in the Polish community of Minnesota, from the time we were in Polish Saturday school, singing in the Polish youth choir to dancing in the

**Coming of Age continues on page 3**

## Spisz, Zips, Spis or Szepes

by Steven Ukasick

If one takes a close look at an historical map of Poland from the 15th to the 18th centuries one will notice a tiny bit of



Poland in what is today the country of Slovakia. On some maps this takes a form of a tiny finger jutting south over the mountains and on others a few closely connected dots just south of the mountains. After the first Partition of 1772, these anomalies were absorbed into the Hapsburg Empire never to be seen again. This is the story of Spisz.

After the Mongol Horde made its torturous way through Poland and Hungary many areas lost a considerable number of inhabitants. Such was the case of towns in the Spisz area. This area, populated by Slovaks, was decimated so the Hungarian King invited Germans to settle these small towns and other areas of his Kingdom (and hence the better known Transylvanian

**Spisz continues on page 3**

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- \_\_\_ ACPC Membership (optional) . . . . . 5

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Subscription Note:** With the postal increase this spring we have made the following changes effective immediately. Since non-profit mail is NOT forwarded but returned 75 cents postage due if you travel south for the winter please add \$6 to your basic subscription rate of \$15. This ensures you will receive your *Pol-Am* by first class mail all year long and forwarded by the Post Office to your winter abode. Anyone else who wishes to receive their *Pol-Am* by first class mail all year long should add \$6 to their renewals.

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## PolAm

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Founder: Czeslaw Róg  
Managing Editor: Steven Ukasick  
Design: Bruce Rubin, Ruben Cordaro Design  
Contributing Writers, Reporters and Staff:  
Judith Blanchard, Events Coordinator  
Jerzy Hornik, Writer  
Karina Rajtar, Writer  
Patricia Salo, Proofreader

We appreciate your continued support. Dziękuję!

# Thoughts

This month we are especially pleased print for its very first time "The Mythical Polish Cavalry Charge" by Gilbert J.



Mros as our center spread feature. You will be the first to read this intensely researched article about whether the Polish Cavalry attacked technologically superior

German tank divisions in WW II as touted by Nazi propaganda and then accepted without question by the gullible French, English and American press. It would seem that every time one finds oneself in a discussion about Poland and the war, this tired old myth of "horses against steel" comes out as gospel truth.

Months ago I spoke with Gilbert about this issue and how frustrating it is not to find any clear cut discussion of this myth; it would seem all the articles and discussions are simply rehashes of non-substantiated claims. Gilbert is a great researcher and spent months researching this topic, corresponding with many others and even going to the source by consulting articles in Polish which hadn't been translated, so I knew he would be the perfect person to set on this quest for the truth on this issue.

The Polish Party Posse is planning a party for April 5th (check the details at [www.PACIM.org](http://www.PACIM.org)). They are very generously using the party as a membership drive for PACIM, which we appreciate most sincerely. This dynamic group is an informal group of young people whose purpose is to bring European partying to Minnesota and to keep their Polish heritage alive here in the 21st century. It is not an official part of PACIM, but when our interests coincide we help each other out. If you have been attending PACIM events and noticed that there are a lot more young people attending them lately, it is the Polish Party Posse that is responsible. Dziękuję!

Also in this issue is an essay by first generation Poles about their attempts to feel their way through our society as bi-

cultural individuals. What a difference there is between them and my father's generation who did the same in the 1920s and 30s.

Finally, the article on Spisz is nothing more or less than one of your editor's quirks, i.e. his passion for cartography, especially the changing borders of Eastern Europe.

Until next month,

*Steven*

Steven Ukasick

## Polanie Club Scholarship

The Polanie Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul is again offering a limited number of \$2000 scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year. Qualifying applicants are US citizens or permanent residents of Polish-American ancestry who are Minnesota residents with a GPA of 2.5 or higher. Scholarships are available to individuals ages 18-25 who are seeking financial aid for further education beyond high school.

To apply, please go to the web site: [www.polanieclubmplsstpaul.com](http://www.polanieclubmplsstpaul.com) and click on the scholarship page.

To have the application sent to you please send a self-addressed and stamped envelope to:

Polanie Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul  
Attn: Scholarship Committee  
643 Madison Street NE  
Minneapolis MN 55413

Applications must be postmarked by July 1, 2008. Applicants will be notified about the decision in August 2008.

### New and Generous Members:

*New Members:*  
Judith Rapp  
John Kukielka  
Michael Kukielka  
Leona Pizzicone

*Sponsor:*  
Helen Pietrowski

*Friends:*  
Emeline Dziabas Cook  
Bozena Dimants  
Lee Javorski  
Celeste Mazur  
John & Jola Schrandt

## Coming of Age continues

Polish folk dance group “Chabry.” Our connection with Holy Cross church has compelled us to become involved in the local Polish community by interacting with other Polish-American youth. Most of our inspiration to become more involved with the Holy Cross church comes from the dedication of other Polish-Americans who have been involved in the church for decades. We feel very connected to other Polish-Americans who have become in a way like our family here in the States.



As first generation Poles, the determination of our parents and Polish family friends in Minnesota motivates us to strive for our best achievement. The importance and value of education in Poland influences our life goals and journey through college. Like us, many of our Polish-American friends are also college bound. One of the main factors in our choosing Hamline University was the opportunity to be a part of a diverse community of students. We intend to bring our Polish culture along with us on our new endeavors at Hamline.

Though there are many opportunities for an amazing college education in the US, the cost of putting twins, let alone one child, is quite expensive. We are very grateful and give thanks to the institutions that have helped Polish-American youth like us through the journey of college.

## Spisz continues

Germans). These towns of Spisz became mostly German and received special recognition and rights from the King. These rights and privileges from the King of Hungary were not to last.



In 1412 Hungarian King Sigismund of Luxembourg pawned 13 of the towns to King Władysław II Jagiełło of Poland for about 7 tons of silver in order to finance his wars against Venice. This was meant to be a short term loan and neither he nor the King of Poland expected that this agreement would stretch to some 360 years.

## 10 Commandments in Winona

The exhibition of “10 Commandments 2 Visions” presented last summer in Winona’s Kashubian/Polish sister city of



Bytów just arrived at the Polish Museum in Winona. The exhibition opening is April 5, 2008. It presents 22 paintings from 2 different Kashubian-Polish artists and also represents 2 different art styles. First, Józef Chelmowski, a naïve artist. Naïve art style is characterized by childlike simplicity. Chelmowski is currently the most famous naïve artist in Poland. Born 1934 in Brusy, Poland, he still lives there on the same farm with his wife. His whole house and other farm buildings, inside and out, are one big gallery of his art, even the garden and beehive collection made by

Over time the German character of these Polish towns of Spisz faded away and Slovaks again predominated, yet they retained their “German” rights. This convoluted political and economic situation, along with the fact that they were “German towns with Slovak subjects in the Kingdom of Hungary pawned to Poland,” gradually returned to simple villages with very little economic value to either Crown.

In 1769 Empress Maria Theresa of Austria occupied the towns while the Polish Crown was distracted by an insurrection of its nobles. This seizure of Spisz was confirmed in the First Partition of Poland in 1772, which also cleared the debt without its having been paid...and so ends the peculiar history of Spisz, probably of no interest to anyone but those who live there and to those who wonder “why.”

him. Józef Chelmowski is not just a painter; he also creates sculptures in wood and different “machines” such as “The Machine for Catching the Elements.” He makes musical instruments which he names and also makes glass paintings.

The second artist, Stanley Frymark, is a young artist, writer and also B & B owner in Kashubia. He painted his first painting in 1987 but the “10 Commandments 2 Visions” is his first exhibition. Born 1972 in Leśno in the township of Brusy, his work represents modern art—partly realistic—partly abstract. Most of his “10 Commandments” paintings are collages—mixing oil paints with different materials.

Both artists show the 10 commandments but in 2 very different styles and forms with different points of view or their imaginations and interpretation of forms and symbols. They present the spectator a number of messages which can be readable or misunderstood, giving an idea of what the art is all about. Better not to be too obvious to understand right away. The exhibition will be on display at the new Polish Museum annex building from April 5-12. 102 Liberty St, Winona, MN. For more information, call 507-454-3431 or winpole@hbc.com.

—excerpted from “Nowy Wiarus”

# Cavalry Charge



Polish designed 7TP light tank carried a Bofors 37mm anti-tank gun and was the first diesel powered tank to see combat.

*Pomorska Cavalry Brigade gallops to the front wielding sabers and lances like their medieval forebears.”*

## FAR FROM MEDIEVAL

The myth led to the belief that the Poles had no armored vehicles, and that they were so primitive that they thought military tanks could be attacked and destroyed with saber and lance. The truth, however, is quite the opposite. Polish cavalry units were trained and equipped to combat both tanks and infantry.

Polish cavalrymen were essentially mounted infantrymen using their horses to move quickly from one location to another, and the weapons that they normally used against enemy infantry were their rifles. Sabers and lances were seldom used in combat except for close-in fighting from horseback where they were more effective than rifles with affixed bayonets.

However, there was no need for the Polish cavalry to use sabers or lances against German tanks. Each cavalry battalion carried deadly Swedish Bofors 37mm anti-tank guns and Polish-designed Maroszek WZ 35 anti-tank rifles for use against enemy tanks. A projectile from the Polish anti-tank rifle, with a muzzle velocity of over 4000 feet per second, could penetrate the armor of any German tank in the field. Polish anti-tank rifles were so effective that hundreds of them captured by Germany were reissued to German military units that then used them against French tanks when Germany invaded that country in 1940.

Nor was there reason to believe that the Poles were ignorant of the nature of tanks. In 1939, Poland had more than 600 tanks. Most of them were small tankettes armed with only machine guns. In addition to these, Poland fielded 38 British-built Vickers 6 ton tanks and 135 7TP tanks of Polish design based on the Vickers tank. Each single-turret version of these Polish 7TP tanks carried a 37mm main gun and up to 17mm of armor plate. They were superior in both armor and armament to most of the invading German tanks, and they were the world's first diesel powered tanks to see action.

Another, perhaps less familiar, fact regarding Polish knowledge of tank technology is that the rotating Vickers Tank Periscope used in 40,000 allied tanks during the war was originally called the *Gundlach Peryskop obrotowy* and was invented in Poland in 1936. It was the first periscope to provide a tank commander a 360-degree view without turning his head.

## CAVALRY VERSUS TANKS!

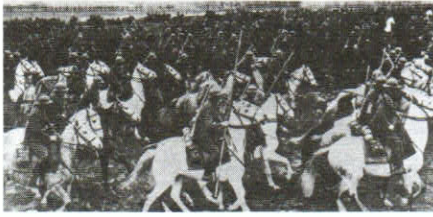
While the battles at Krojanty and Graudenz ended badly for the Polish cavalry, this was not always the case. On September 1, the same day of the Battle of Krojanty, the German 4th Panzer Division clashed with the Polish Wolyńska Cavalry Brigade at the village of Mokra, about 126 miles southwest of Warsaw. The German 4th Panzer Division lost over 100 armored fighting vehicles including at least 50 tanks. During the thirty-six day 1939 campaign against Poland, Germany lost 674 tanks and 319 armored cars.

However, the mechanized German war machine did prevail over Poland's mounted cavalry, but it was not because the Poles were ignorant of the nature of tanks or that they could not design a suitable tank.

To view Poland's cavalry from an historical perspective, it should be pointed out that all of the other major combatants also deployed mounted cavalry during World War II including Germany, France, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and the United States, whose last horse-mounted cavalry charge took place near Morong, the Philippines, on January 16, 1942. Contrary to the myth that the entire German army raced across Europe on modern vehicles, most of Germany's ammunition and equipment was transported by the Third Reich's 2,750,000 horses and mules.

Early successes with its tanks prompted Germany to start dismantling its cavalry force. However, after 1942, the German army started increasing the number of its mounted cavalry units for some of the same reasons that Poland had initially employed its cavalry — insufficient industrial production capability, and the need to fight the Soviet Union on the great trackless wasteland, impassable marshes, and forests of Eastern Europe.

Ironically, as Germany was rebuilding its cavalry in Europe, the Poles were in Great Britain rebuilding their tank force. Ultimately, tankers of the Polish 1st Armored Division fought their way from Normandy to Wilhelmshaven where they entered the German port city on May 5, 1945. There they accepted the surrender of its German garrison and naval fleet of over 200 warships and vessels.



Polish Cavalry during maneuvers. January 1, 1939. In addition to the lances chosen by some of these mounted cavalymen, all of them were issued sabers and carried rifles slung on their backs.

# The Mythical Polish

By Gilbert J. Mros

## A CLASH AT KROJANTY

In the early morning hours of September 1, 1939, military forces of Nazi Germany invaded Poland. Later that day, events unfolded that would lead to one of the most fanciful and enduring legends of World War II.

The Polish 4th Army, or Army *Pomorse*, had been placed in the Pomeranian area known as the Polish Corridor to prevent Hitler from taking this northwest section of Poland unopposed as he had done in the Czech Sudetenland a year earlier. However, since a full-blown war had broken out, the Army *Pomorse* was in the process of withdrawing while continuing to oppose the German advance.

By late afternoon of that first day, the German 20th Motorized Infantry Division was approaching the city of Chojnice, in the Tuchola Forest, about 165 miles northwest of Warsaw, and it was threatening a key railroad junction in the village of Krojanty about 4 miles northeast of Chojnice. Army *Pomorse* forces in this area consisted primarily of the 18th Lancer Regiment of the *Pomorse* Cavalry Brigade, commanded by Colonel Kazimierz Mastelarz.

Having been ordered to hold the area, Colonel Mastelarz decided to take the regiment's 1st and 2nd Squadrons through the forest and attempt to attack the German infantry positions from the rear. That evening, Mastelarz's two cavalry squadrons surprised a German infantry battalion in an open area.

Ordinarily, after cavalymen had arrived at a battle area, they would dismount and use their rifles and other weapons to engage the enemy. However, in this case, Mastelarz had the advantage of both surprise and mobility, so he ordered a mounted saber attack against the German infantry.

The 1st and 2nd Squadrons, a force of about 250, charged out of the forest across an open area and into the German formation. With only a few casualties, the Poles quickly gained the advantage during the close-in fighting, and the Germans started falling back.

Just when it looked like the Poles were going to win the skirmish, several German armored cars equipped with machine guns and automatic cannon appeared and opened fire on the Polish

cavalry who then broke off the attack and retreated from the battle scene. Losses to the Polish squadrons were about 20 killed, including Colonel Mastelarz, and an unknown number, probably about 60, wounded or captured. This was the first cavalry charge of World War II.

## A MYTH IS BORN

Two days later, General Heinz Guderian, commander of the 19th Corps, of which the German 20th Motorized Division was a part, wrote that, "...we succeeded in totally encircling the enemy on our front in the wooded country north of Schwetz and west of Graudenz. The Polish *Pomorska* Cavalry Brigade, in ignorance of the nature of our tanks, had charged them with swords and lances and had suffered tremendous losses."

The incident was not unlike other reported occasions where Polish cavalry, rather than surrendering, attempted to break through the encircling German forces giving Guderian's troops the impression that the Poles were attacking the tanks rather than trying to dash between them.

Afterwards, German military officials brought war correspondents William L Shirer and Indro Montanelli to the scene, and told them that the carnage they saw before them was the result of Polish cavalry attacking German tanks. Neither reporter witnessed the actual battle, so they could only report what they were told and the aftermath that they saw. From this, and the report of General Guderian, came the myth of the Polish Cavalry charge against German tanks that was to endure to this very day.

Shirer mentioned his experience in his 1941, *Berlin Diary*. Then, in his 1959 book, *The Rise And Fall Of The Third Reich*, he wrote: "Horses against tanks! The cavalymen's long lance against the tank's long canon! Brave and valiant and foolhardy though they were, the Poles were simply overwhelmed by the German onslaught."

References to the legendary charge occurred repeatedly since then in books, magazines, and so-called documentaries that included staged scenes of Polish cavalry charging German tanks. As recently as 2007, a *World War II Magazine* Special Collector's Edition article entitled *Blitzkrieg* contained a photograph of the *Pomorska* Cavalry Brigade on maneuvers taken eight months before the war began. It was captioned: "The

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. All contributions above \$15 will be acknowledged as donations by written receipt. Please consider including us in your tax and estate planning. We appreciate your generous support.

The Board of Directors of PACIM holds their monthly meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Institute: 2514 Central Ave NE. All are invited.

## Przysłowia Polskie

Co po trzeźwemu myśli, to po pijanemu powie.

*What one thinks when sober, one says when drunk.*

## Kalendarz

- Apr 5 Polish Party Posse Party
- May 1-4 Festival of Nations
- May 2-4 Chicago Polish Trip
- Aug tba PACIM open house & picnic
- Sep tba Warsaw artist, Joanna Sulek-Malinowska

## PACIM Library

**PACIM Library**  
2514 Central Avenue NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418  
Hours: Sundays from 1 to 3:30 pm

We could really use one more volunteer librarian-either someone who would be willing to commit to a spot in the regular rotation of once every 4-6 weeks or someone who could fill in on the rare times when everyone else is otherwise occupied. Please call me at 763-571-9602 for more information.

Thanks to Lee and Dick Budzynski for the Rick Steves Eastern Europe DVD and to Bozena Dimants for 13 volumes of Polish fiction. Since the first of the year, we have added 80 new articles to the library.

This month, I purchased the following DVDs:

*Człowiek z Marmuru (Man of Marble)*

*Trzeci (Three)*

*Krzyżacy (Knights of the Cross)*

*Katyń.*

I ordered two copies of *Katyń* and we will limit the length of borrowing time for the first few months until all of the people who are waiting to view it are satisfied.

## Chicago Trip

I understand that the bus is filling nicely. Phyllis and John have put together a very fast-paced interesting weekend filled with Polish events. \$255 per person includes bus, hotel (double occupancy), 2 lunches, and 2 dinners. To register, or for further details, call Phyllis at 763-566-8812 (pahusted@aol.com) or John at 320-746-2578 (jvbien@msn.com).

## Festival of Nations

People seem to be waiting to commit to this event which makes all of the chairs nervous. We are looking for volunteers to work at any time during May 1-4 weekend but especially for the daytime hours on Thursday and Friday.

People working for four hours at the Festival in the Polish kitchen or the culture booth (sit down job) will receive free entrance tickets. There is also a shuttle bus to reduced-price parking. PLEASE CALL Marta at 763-546-5686 if you can work serving food or Renata at 651-428-9645 if you are interested in the culture booth. Thanks.

## \$1,000 Skalny Scholarships Available

For the year 2008, there will be two scholarships awarded to citizens of the United States, each in the amount of \$1,000. The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) will be the administrator in awarding the scholarships.

These scholarships are intended for students pursuing some Polish studies (major may be in other fields) at universities in the United States who have completed at least two years of college or university work at an accredited institution. The scholarships will be awarded for the fall 2008 term.

For details go to the ACPC website at [www.polishcultureacpc.org](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org)

Judith Blanchard, *Librarian*

## Echos from the North

News from Little Falls, Minnesota

HAPPY EASTER!! I hope everyone enjoyed this great celebration with family and friends. We are still in the Easter season so enjoy. Good Friday and the week after Easter give us the Novena to the Divine Mercy and the Chaplet which is said by many throughout the year. These prayers were given to us by St. Maria Faustina Kowalski, a Polish saint.

At our February meeting the Polish Echos formed a Scholarship Committee to begin looking into a scholarship which will be given. They will come back to our March 26th meeting with more details. Entertainment for the evening was a movie which included the Art of Egg Painting. I know that I will never be able to master that talent but it was good for a lesson in patience. I would like to thank our member Rita Hoeschen for her wonderful ideas for entertainment. She does a great job. Also Lois Stavish who has been doing a fantastic job on our library, which is located in the dining area of Our Lady of Lourdes Church. If you have the opportunity to stop at the library, it is open everyday from 8 am to 6 pm.

I invite each and every one of you to the 8 course dinner sponsored by the Polish Echos on April 26th at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Traditional Polish foods such as chicken in cream sauce, Polish sausage and sauerkraut, pierogi, kluski, and much more will be served. Price is \$15 per person. Mass will be said at 4 pm which is the same as a Sunday Mass. Everyone is invited. Reservations would be nice but not necessary. Please call Phinee Zak at 320-632-2652 for reservations. I hope to see you April 26th, I'll be the one in the apron.

Phinee Zak, *President of Polish Echos*

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PACIM Officers and Board of Directors:  
President: Steven Ukasick, Vice-President: Judith Blanchard, Treasurer: Marie Przynski, Secretary: Paul Rog; Directors: Irene Colston, Charlene Delaney, Anastasia Dzenowagis, Jowita Haugen, Phyllis Husted, Terry Kita, Bernard Korsak, Justyna Kottke, Bruce Rubin, Ania Scanlan, Aneta Toporowska

# Events

By Judith Blanchard

Many events are given to us well in advance of the actual date. Please call the contact information to verify particulars.

To list your event or to be added to our last minute email updates (put "Polish Update" on the subject line), contact Judith at judytam@usfamily.net

## April 4 & 5, 2008

### *Chopin Concerts*

Free Sinfonia concert April 4 at 7:00 PM at First Covenant Church, 1280 Arcade Street, St. Paul April 5 at 2:00 PM at Basilica of St. Mary, 16th & Hennepin. Featured artist, Tadeusz Majewski playing Chopin's Second piano Concerto. Free admission. Call, 612-871-1701.

## April 5, 2008

### *Polish Party Posse Party*

Continuing their tradition of great parties, the Posse will be hosting a blow out party on the theme of "Polish Bunny." DJ techno music, entertainment, food and drink. PACIM members \$10, others \$15 if paid by March 31st; \$20 at the door. Check [www.pacim.org](http://www.pacim.org) for details

## April 5, 2008

### *Genealogical Resources Available*

10:00 AM until Noon, MGS Library, 1185 N. Concord St., South St. Paul. PGSMN will present Minnesota records available for genealogical research. Membership not required to attend. Questions to Terry Kita at 612-927-0719

## April 5-12, 2008

### *Art Exhibition - Winona*

The exhibition of "10 Commandments 2 Visions" from April 5-12, 2008 in Winona's Polish Museum Annex. See article on page 3.

## April 7, 2008

### *Young Artists Showcase*

The Columbia Heights/Łomianki, Poland, Sister Cities, International committee is sponsoring a public exhibit of art works by students ages 13-18 depicting the theme of "A Reflection of Your

Community" at Murzyn Hall, 530 Mill Street, NE, Columbia Heights, 7:00 PM. Free, light refreshments.

## April 13, 2008

### *Spring Concert*

Topola Chór Spring Concert at PNA Hall, 13th Avenue and 4th Street, NE Minneapolis. \$10. More information to come.

## April 17-May 3

### *International Film Festival*

See article on page 8

## April 18-20, 2008

### *"First Love: A Bulgarian Tale"*

O'Shaughnessy Auditorium, 2004 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul. Ethnic Dance Theatre featuring the haunting music, beautiful costumes and captivating rhythms of exotic Bulgaria! Tickets: <http://oshaughnessy.stkat.edu/allevens.html>

## April 19, 2008

### *Polka Dance*

Midwest Polka Association's 5th Anniversary Dance to be held at the Kraus-Hartig VFW, 8100 Pleasant View Drive, Spring Lake Park. Stephanie, America's Polka Sweetheart from Buffalo, NY—and one of New York's finest musicians—will play for dancing from 7:00-11:00 PM. Door prizes, cake and coffee. Admission \$10. Call Ed Budzinski, 763-428-9649 or [edbudzinski@peoplepc.com](mailto:edbudzinski@peoplepc.com).

## April 20, 2008

### *Fundraising Dinner*

4:00-7:00 pm; Murzyn Hall, 530 Mill Street, NE, Columbia Heights. Dinner, silent auction, entertainment, door prizes, etc. Tickets: \$7, Students \$5, Kids under 5, Free. Tickets available at Columbia Heights City Hall, Northeast Bank, and Jeff's Bobby and Steve's AutoWorld. Info: Dorothy Penate, 763-574-1489 or Dolores Strand at 763-571-1709.

## April 27, 2008

### *Constitution Day Celebration*

Akademia scheduled after 11:30 Polish Mass at Holy Cross Church, 1621 University Avenue NE, Minneapolis. For more information call 612-789-7238 during office hours.

## May 1-4, 2008

### *Festival of Nations*

See News on page 6

## May 2-4, 2008

### *Trip to Polish Chicago*

See News on page 6

## May 3, 2008

### *Discussion of Cemetery Records*

10:00 AM until Noon, MGS Library, 1185 N. Concord St., S. St. Paul. PGSMN will discuss cemetery records, and how they can be used for genealogical research. Membership not required to attend. Call Terry at 612-927-0719.

## May 4, 2008

### *Mihaela Ursuleasa*

Featured artist performing at 3:00 PM at Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, Macalester College, 130 Macalester Street, St. Paul. Tickets range from \$12-\$20. For more information call Frederic Chopin Society at 612-822-0123.

## LANGUAGE CLASSES

### *Beginning Polish*

Elizabeth Suszynska  
Polish language, culture, traditions, and grammar for all ages. Waite Park, 1800 34th Avenue NE, Minneapolis for 7 Wednesdays—April 16, 5:45 PM-7:15 PM. \$52. For more info contact: Tony Walker or David Warnest at 612-668-1590, or [dwarnest@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:dwarnest@mpls.k12.mn.us), [anthony.walker@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:anthony.walker@mpls.k12.mn.us)

### *Polish Conversation Class for Beginners*

PACIM is happy to offer a beginning Polish conversation class for those with little or no fluency in Polish. If you find yourself with only Polish vocabulary and struggle to make conversation in Polish, this class is for you. Perfect for those intending to travel to Poland. This six week class will be Tuesday evenings at 7pm starting April 15th to May 20th. Instructor is native speaker, Wiesia Korsak and classes will be held at the Institute, 2514 Central Ave NE, Minneapolis. Cost is \$30 for PACIM members and \$40 for others. To reserve a spot, call Steven at 612-822-2322 or email: [pacim2006@yahoo.com](mailto:pacim2006@yahoo.com)

# People



**Sir Joseph Rotblat**  
Scientist and Nobel  
Peace Prize Winner  
1908-2005

Born Józef Rotblat in Poland and received his education there then moved to Great Britain just before the War to work as a nuclear physicist. While in Poland he realized the possibility of creating a nuclear bomb and feared that Nazi

Germany would do it first and wanted Britain to have it as a deterrent. He was part of the Manhattan Project and later worked on the issue of nuclear fallout. He was an ardent critic of nuclear proliferation and a proponent of the need for ethics in science. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995 as member of the Pugwash Conference for its work on nuclear disarmament.



POLISH AMERICAN  
CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA  
PO BOX 18403  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55418-0403

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## Spisz, Pomorze, Poland



**Name:** Spisz  
**Population:** 320,000

A region in north-eastern Slovakia, with a very small area in south-eastern Poland.

**Name:** Pomorze  
**Population:** n/a

A region in north-western Poland stretching from Szczecin to Gdańsk.

## Polish Word Tips

Choć już w kwietniu słońce grzeje, nieraz pole śnieg zawieje.

*Despite warm sun in the month of April, snow will also stay us for awhile.*

Kwiecień-plecień, bo przeplata - trochę zimy, trochę lata.

*April is a month of changes; you will get a taste of both winter and summer.*

Suchy kwiecień, mokry maj, będzie żyto jako gaj.

*If April is dry and May is wet, that means crops will grow really quickly in this year.*

## Film

**3 Polish Films at the Minneapolis / St. Paul International Film Festival**  
April 17-May 3

Andrzej Wajda's long-awaited "Katyń" to highlight selection. World-famous film director Andrzej Wajda, who has brought Polish history to the screen as no other filmmaker, now, at 81, has made a film about the key event for his generation that has haunted his family history for decades. "Katyń" is the story of the 1940 Stalin-ordered mass murder of more than 15,000 Polish officers, prisoners and intellectuals in a remote forest on the eastern borderlands near Russia.

"I see my film as a story of a family separated forever by Katyń," Wajda said at the Berlin Fest Int'l premiere last February.

Also showing is the gripping "Saviour's Square," directed by Krzysztof Krauze, about a family facing today's rapid changes in Poland and "Extras," a comedy set in a small town when a Chinese film crew arrives needing to cast Europeans "with gloomy faces" and residents flock to audition for big-time exposure.

Fest locales include St. Anthony Main theaters, Oak Street Cinema and selected screenings at Riverview, Kerasotes Block E. **For times, tickets, and theater information check fest website: [mspfilmfest.org](http://mspfilmfest.org)**