

# PolAm

A Publication of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota [www.pacim.org](http://www.pacim.org)

December 2008

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Vol. 30, Num. 12

## Narodowe Święto Niepodległości

90th Anniversary of Polish Independence  
November 11, 2008

On Sunday, November 9, the Polish Committee at the Church of the Holy Cross in Northeast Minneapolis organized a special commemoration of Polish Independence Day. During the Polish Mass, Tadeusz Majewski on piano and Ewa Bujak on violin performed during the Communion reflection. After Mass, all were invited to the gymnasium for a light luncheon and program. Fr. Waldemar Matusiak began the program with a few reflections, champagne was served and all toasted the Independence of Poland.

Students and staff of the Adam Mickiewicz Polish Saturday School presented a slide show they created and interviewed people on what Polish Independence meant to them. The Dolina Polish Folk Dancers performed and led everyone in a Polonez. Topola Choir led everyone in song. Then 90 red and white helium balloons were distributed and the assembly proceeded out to the front of church and released them while everyone sang the Polish national anthem, Mazurka Dąbrowskiego.

November 11th is a national holiday in Poland to commemorate the Independence of Poland on this date in 1918 after 123 years of occupation by Russia, Austro-Hungary and Prussia. This momentous event was made possible by the events of World War I in which



Germany and Austro-Hungary (the Central Powers) went to war with Russia and Great Britain (the Entente Powers). The territory of Poland was in the middle of this conflict. When the tide of war turned against the Central Powers, they set up the Regency Council of the Kingdom of Poland in November of 1917 and promised independence to Poland if Poles would help them defeat the Russians. By November of the next year, revolution rocked Germany and Austro-Hungary disintegrated leaving Poland free to declare its independence.

However, independence was not assured since Russia still existed and Poland's eastern border was not demarcated. Poland and Russia went to war in February of 1919. Hostilities lasted until the Soviet Union sued for peace in October of 1920. The Peace of Riga was signed on March 18, 1921 and set the eastern boundaries of Poland, thereby ensuring the Independence of Poland gained in 1918.

## Gość w dom, Bóg w dom

One of many hallmarks of Polish culture and tradition is hospitality. "A guest in the home, God in the home" is the Polish phrase that exemplifies this truly Polish sense of hospitality. It has been said,



tongue in cheek perhaps, that Poles have gone into debt to offer a guest the proper hospitality. Travelers to Poland in the last part of the 20th century were amazed to be entertained at the homes of their long lost cousins with tables heavily laden with food and drink when the store shelves themselves were bare.

It should be obvious that Polish hospitality is different from American hospitality (although I find surprising similarities between it and that of Minnesota rural farm communities). In Poland, hospitality is more structured, with specific roles assigned to host and guest; yet what at first glance might seem to be "superficial" roles belies a profound sense of sincerity.

A good Polish host offers everything, does everything to see to it that the guest is comfortable and doesn't allow the

Gość w dom continues on page 3

Membership Form For  
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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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Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403

## PolAm

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We appreciate your continued support. Dziękuję!

# Thoughts

Over the past few years this newsletter has run several articles on the topic of immigration as it pertains to Poland,



present and past. This issue's center spread article, "White Immigrant, I'm a Minority Too," comes at this topic from a different perspective: that of a young

Polish girl growing up in America in her immigrant family. Many of us 2nd and 3rd generation Polish Americans need to be reminded of what our parents and grandparents went through. Although, if they are like mine, very little was said of their experiences and questions about it were usually ignored. In my opinion these immigrant experiences are important; they are a part of the life experience of every Pole who came from the Old Country to America whether it was one hundred years ago or five years ago.

I want to remind everyone that the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota will once again be hosting its Wigilia on December 14th. This is our fundraiser for our Polish Children's Fund, and five dollars of each ticket goes to this fund (and is tax deductible as well). Donations to this fund are welcome at anytime.

Until next month,

*Steven*

Steven Ukasick

## Help St. Agnes Men's Club Send Packages to Polish Orphanages

Bring joy to the Polish children in Poland's orphanages and the Children's Home and School for the Blind in Laski/Warsaw. The Men's Club of St. Agnes Church in St. Paul has prepared 25 packages filled with clothing, candy, school supplies and toiletries, packed by our Polish native, Alina Kraszkiewicz. Funds are needed to ship these holiday packages. Please send contribution to St. Agnes Men's Club  
c/o Bernard Koalska  
96 W Rose, St. Paul  
MN 55117-1827  
651-489-1438  
or to the  
Polish Cultural & Educational Assoc., Inc.  
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— Chester Rog

## Sending Christmas Packages To Poland?

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Robert & Sandra Gryfinski \$100

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Niech czas Bożego Narodzenia upłynie w atmosferze radości i miłości, a Nowy Rok spełni wszystkie Wasze marzenia. Wszystkiego najlepszego życzą... all of us here at *Pol-Am*!

## Gość w dom continues

guest to leave. Now the guest's role is to sit back, eat and drink with gusto, ply the hosts with compliments about the proven-der and to stay a long time. Of course there are a myriad of variations on this theme.

So what do you do as an American when you find yourself in a Polish home for dinner? Here are a few tips. A good rule of thumb is that, as a guest, you cannot go wrong with politeness. When offered an item say, "Tak, proszę." — Yes, please. To politely say no, say, "Dziękuję." with a shake of the head. Declining an offer of something in this case is good, since it gives the host another chance to offer it again... and again. Usually, declining a third time is a charm. (This is much like "Minnesota Nice" wherein one ought to decline two or three times before accepting an item or favor.)

Now for the most difficult part of the evening... leaving. A good host does not let the guest leave. A Polish host will never hint that it's time to leave either, despite the circumstances. In one sense it's hard to "overstay one's welcome" in a Polish home; but the reality is that a leave-taking must take place at some time. Any attempt to leave, either physically getting up or talking about leaving, is met with protestations that it's still early — "Nie, jeszcze jest wczesnie" or "What's your hurry?" — "Co wam się tak śpieszy?" One final effort may be "Strzeżmiennego." One for the stirrups, that is one last drink.

Finally, the guest is at the door and ready to depart, and politeness dictates compliments on the evening, the food, the drink, the hospitality, etc. "Dziękuję za przyjemny wieczór." — "Thank you for the pleasant evening" is a nice way to make your departure. Be very careful not to make a vague or generalized offer to meet again unless you have a specific time and date to carry through with your suggestion. Poles do not make generalized offers, like the American empty promise, "Let's do lunch." They will be hurt if you don't follow through on your offer.

So when you are in Poland and invited for an evening at someone's home, sit back, be gracious, and enjoy being treated like a true Polish guest; it is, after all, what Poles excel at, more than most cultures.

## Artist Exchange Program To Poland

PACIM will be selecting an artist to travel to Poland for approximately 30 days to exhibit his/her art, participate in various art programs and interact with Polish artists of all genres as part of PACIM's Artist Exchange Program. Expenses will be paid.

### Eligibility

Applicant must:

- Be a Polish American artist born in the U.S. who has a parent or grandparent of Polish descent, and has resided in Minnesota for at least one year.
- Be an emerging artist. Emerging artists show significant potential, yet are under-recognized by their peers and art professionals. Emerging refers to artistic development, professional accomplishment and recognition.
- Be able to substantiate this information.
- Have a valid U.S. passport and agree to actively participate in fundraising and promotional events when requested.

### Submissions

1. Write a 450 word essay on why you would like to participate in this program, what you hope to accomplish and how you will represent Minnesota and the United States in Poland.
2. Submit a current resume on one 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper.
3. Send samples of artwork, photos, CDs. Do not send original work. If you want submitted materials returned, provide a self addressed envelope with proper postage. Send to Artist Exchange Program, 5357 35th Ave S, Mpls. MN 55417-2121 Include your telephone number(s).
4. All submissions must be postmarked by January 16, 2009.

Preliminary judging will be done by a panel independent of PACIM. Two finalists will be invited to meet with the Officers and Board of Directors who will make the final decision.

Officers and Board of Directors of PACIM are not eligible to participate in the Artist Exchange Program.

## PACIM Movie Night

Dekalog (The Decalogue) (1988) is a Polish film series originally made for television directed by Krzysztof Kieślowski and co-written by Krzysztof Piesiewicz. It consists of ten one-hour films set in Poland, each exploring the possible meaning of the Ten Commandments.

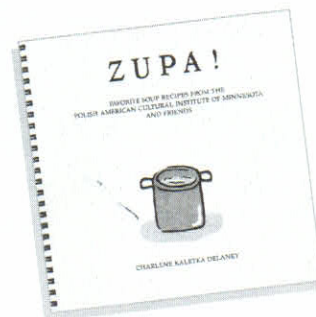
During PACIM's next movie night on December 12th, we will present the first two parts in the series. In Decalogue I, a scientist (Henryk Baranowski) puts his faith in science and logic above all else to govern his daily life. In Decalogue II, a violinist (Krystyna Janda) imposes an impossible decision on her husband's physician (Aleksander Bardini).

Dekalog won many awards at several film festivals (including the Venice and San Sebastian film festivals).

As always, PACIM will provide refreshments, along with more accessible viewing on our new projector. (The technical difficulties of the projector experienced last time have been rectified)

## ZUPA!

Favorite Recipes From The  
Polish American Cultural Institute  
of Minnesota  
Annual Soup Festival



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# “Notes from a White Immigrant. I’m a Minority Too”

By Rose Symotiuk



I’m a white American, so I suppose that immediately means I have this great white privilege, like I got a VIP card in the mail or something. Let me say, to start, that I absolutely believe that racism is still around. Institutionalized racism and white privilege are both very real in modern American society. I’m not denying that at all.

I’m uncomfortable being associated with white privilege, because I wasn’t born here. In fact, I’m a refugee.

I came from Poland to America as a baby. In my early days, we lived in Section 8 housing and my mother worked at a Kmart in the ghetto. It was I who taught my mother how to drive: Along with English, driving really stumped her. I had to learn the fundamentals from our teacher in English and then drive around yelling “CLUTCH!” in Polish. I also translated for my grandma when she lived with us. We went to refugee groups with the Vietnamese, and attended “poor” family activities at the YMCA.

At about seven years old, I remember riding the bus with my mother with an incredible tension inside me. My mother had taken the civil service exam and aced it. Having studied half a dozen languages

growing up, she found written English far easier than spoken. Now she was going to find out if she had landed a job at the post office. In our home country she had a job as a newspaper editor, and now our only salvation was the post office.

She got it and has worked there for over 20 years now. The reliable pay and good benefits of that government job slowly pulled us out of our lives as poor immigrants. I went to Catholic school, where I was ostracized for my Nutella “chocolate sandwiches” and thrift store clothes. She eventually pushed me to go to a “fancy” private university, where I felt very out-of-place among the 98 percent very rich, very white population. I hung out with the poor kids on scholarship like me. My best friends were a black woman from Atlanta and a redneck from Mississippi.

I was hurt when my black friend started hanging out with the girls in the black sorority. They and the other minority students in my junior high and high schools got to bond in their ethnic clubs once a month.

From kindergarten through 12th grade, we spent half a year reading black history books and researching the Holocaust. To this day, I’ve only met two other

Eastern European refugees. I've never learned in school about what happened to me and my family.

I'm white, right? I get a passing grade if not privilege.

As an adult, my skin color has allowed me to drop almost all issues of being an immigrant and of being poor, within a matter of years. I do get it: Fat people get hassled in grocery stores and restaurants because they can't hide their weight. Black people get turned down for loans and jobs because they can't hide their skin color. Fourth-generation Americans get pulled over by airport security for "looking like" terrorists. My Asian friends, despite saying they are from America or Canada, get asked, "But where are you from originally?"

By contrast, I tell people I wasn't born here and "that's right, I'm a stealth foreigner, here to take your jobs." Sure, there's no big "FOREIGNER" stamp on my forehead, but sometimes I want to share in that struggle with my fellow "underclass." That's why I live in Harlem and eat in Greenpoint.

I feel as if I spent my childhood with all the poor immigrants and at some point

in my teens someone ran in and said, "Wait! Dear God, what's a trustworthy, white American girl doing mixed in with these people?"

There are snobby, rich people in every country, but I always found it somewhat sweet that so many wealthy people in the United States are completely egalitarian. Even as they earn six figures, most "middle-class" friends of my mother and me are quick to defend the fact that they work, have only part-time cleaning services, and that their kids' cars are used.

My fiancé's family is fairly well-off, though I suppose they're still middle-class by American standards. They've only had positive things to say about my family's early struggles, and openly embrace the color I bring to their lives. I imagine it is taboo in their culture to consider themselves above people like me.

Still, the other day we were driving through Connecticut, and I mentioned that my cousin lived and worked there.

"Illegally?" my fiancé asked, and I murmured an affirmative. There was no judgment, just surprise. Just a bit of weight in the air between us, as my other life — the

life of a poor refugee — drifted into the car and sat between us. It left quickly though.

We were a nice white couple driving through Connecticut, after all.

This article was published on September 2008 in InTheFray at <http://inthefray.org/content/view/2940/235/> by Rose Symotiuk. Rose works for a literary agent in New York City. She grew up in Northeast Minneapolis and has written all her life and is now working on a novel.



Rose with her mother, Ela.

# News

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.

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

Nie dla psa kielbasa.

*The sausage is not for the dog.*

## Kalendarz

DEC 12 PACIM Night At The Movies

DEC 14 Benefit Wigilia

JAN 4 Polish Caroling at Eldercare

JAN tba Kulig!

## PACIM Library

PACIM Library

2514 Central Avenue NE

Minneapolis, MN 55418

Hours: Sundays from 1 to 3:30 pm or  
by appointment

**The Library will be closed on December 28th.  
Any books coming due during this period will  
be due on January 4.**

## Thanks to

– Stanley Wiatros for his monetary donation to the Library.

– Gil Mros for the DVD movie “To Be or Not To Be” starring Jack Benny. This movie is considered Benny’s best. In it he plays a Polish actor in Warsaw in 1939.

Jack Benny’s heritage was Polish. His birth name was Bennie Kubelsky.

– Edyta Dudek for 10 exciting Polish books.

– Julia Skowroński for her donation of 15 like-new children’s books.

We are so grateful for the donations received during the year. Our collection now numbers 4,576 pieces. Having these donated materials allowed me to spend most of the \$500 allowance PACIM so

generously allows us on DVDs which are so popular with our patrons. At any period of time, 70 percent or more of these documentaries and Polish movies are checked out. I did recently purchase the new life history of Casimir Pulaski which was highly praised in the Polish American Journal. We still have only a few children’s DVDs. They are the same price as the adults’ so it is hard to spend the money on them. However, if somebody is looking for a tax write-off before year end, I’d be happy to accept a donation to be used in this manner.

We had a lovely evening at Orchestra Hall on November 1. Ewa Kupiec played remarkably. Many people said they could have stayed there all night listening to her. Both she and Skrowaszewski were surprised and pleased by our presentation of flowers during the Q&A. During the intermission, we were able to round up additional Polish people to stay after the performance and we sang a robust *Sto Lat* in celebration of the maestro’s 85th birthday.

If you are still thinking about attending the Wigilia Benefit, please call me at 763-571-9602 before you send a check. As of the time of the writing, we were filling up quickly. If you cannot attend but wish to donate to the Polish children in Lithuania, please send your check made out to PACIM-Children’s Fund and mail to:  
PACIM  
PO Box 18403  
Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403

Finally, we invite you to join us in entertaining the residents of Catholic Eldercare with Polish Christmas carols on January 4. Please meet in the atrium at 1:00 PM to do a little practicing before we walk through the halls. Catholic Eldercare is located at 817 Main Street NE, Minneapolis. People are also invited to attend a Christmas sing-along at River Village, 2919 Randolph Street NE, Minneapolis at 3:30 PM. Words and music provided by Bob Gacek and his accordion. If you have any questions, call me at 763-571-9602.

— Judith Blanchard, *Librarian*

## Echos from the North

### News from Little Falls, Minnesota

October was Polish American Heritage month, which is a national celebration of Polish History and Culture. Many thanks to Rita Hoeschen for arranging and doing a wonderful Polish display at our public Library. Various members of the Polish Echos submitted items to her and she did a beautiful display which was shown the entire month, resulting in many good comments.

Our November meeting was held on Veterans Day. November 11 is also Polish Independence Day. It is a special day for the Poles because it celebrates the return of Poland to the map of Sovereign European states after 123 years of foreign rule. Poland has been divided many times and was wiped off Europe’s map in 1795. Their fight to reclaim their country was not easy which is why they observe November 11 as Polish Independence day.

Veterans Day gave us the opportunity to again remind us of the contributions made to our Nation during the Revolutionary War by Count Casimir Pulaski, who is known as the Father of the American Cavalry. Also a reminder that Poland was one of the first countries to join with the United States in Iraq.

By the time you read this article you will be knee deep in Christmas plans. It is a wonderful time for family and friends. Christmas Eve was a very important time to our ancestors, and they had some great Christmas traditions. If you have never done any of these things in your own home, maybe this is the year to begin. One of the nicest is the sharing of the sacred *Oplatek* - the Christmas wafer with all who share your holiday.

May you have a Blessed Christmas.  
God’s Blessings,

— Phinee Zak, *President, Polish Echos*  
320-632-2652

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### PACIM Officers and Board of Directors:

President: Ania Scanlan, Vice-President: Judith Blanchard, Secretary: Paul Rog, Treasurer (interim): Steven Ukasick, Directors: Irene Colston, Charlene Delaney, Anastasia Dzenowagis, Jowita Haugen, George Hornik, Phyllis Husted, Terry Kita, Mietek Konczyk, Bernard Korsak, Bruce Rubin and 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

This Update is a service provided by the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota. We invite your membership and participation in our goal of promoting Polish and Polish-American culture.

## December 6, 2008

### *Holiday Bake and Craft Sale*

The Sacred Heart of Jesus PNC Parish Ladies Club is having a Holiday Bake and Craft Sale featuring baked goods, pierogi and assorted craft items. The sale will be held at the church hall, 420 22nd Avenue NE, Minneapolis from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There will be potato and cheese, sauerkraut, apple, and prune pierogi. To order your pierogi, please leave a message at 612-781-9328 with your name and telephone number and how many you would like. There will also be tea and cookies for \$1.

## December 6, 2008

### *Holiday Tea Fundraiser*

Holiday Tea sponsored by the Columbia Heights, MN / Łomianki, Poland – Sister Cities, International volunteers to benefit their various educational and humanitarian projects from 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM at The Historic Heights Bed and Breakfast and Event Center, 3980 Fifth Street NE, Columbia Heights. Tickets are available at \$15.00 from Sister City members. For more information, call Co-Chairs Dolores Strand at 763-571-1709 or Gil Mros at 763-571-1166.

## December 6, 2008

### *"Start the Holidays" Dance*

Midwest Polka Association dance to be held at the American Legion, 12450 Business Park Blvd. North, Champlin, MN from 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM featuring the Doctor Kielbasa band. General admis-

sion is \$8.00, \$7.00 for MPA members. For more information, email edbudzinski@embarqmail.com or call 763-428-9649.

## December 7, 2008

### *Holy Mass*

The new children's choir will be singing for the first time at the 10:00 AM Mass at The Sacred Heart of Jesus PNC Parish, 22nd Avenue and Fifth Street NE, Minneapolis. For more information, please call and leave a message at 612-781-9328

## December 12, 2008,

### *PACIM Night At The Movies*

PACIM Library, 7:00 PM. (See Page 3.)

## December 12, 2008

### *Candlelight Service*

Special pre-Christmas service at 6:00 PM observing the coming of Jesus, the light of world, at Sacred Heart of Jesus PNC Church, 22nd Avenue NE and Fifth Street, Minneapolis. For more information, please call and leave a message at 612-781-9328 (Candles provided)

## December 14, 2008

### *Wigilia Benefit for Polish Children*

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota will hold a traditional Wigilia dinner to benefit disadvantaged Polish children at 6:00 PM. at Gasthof Restaurant located at 2300 University Avenue NE, Minneapolis. This community Christmas Eve celebration features sharing of the opłatek, eating traditional foods, and singing Christmas carols in Polish and English. Tickets are \$34. Please call 763-571-9602 for availability.

## December 24, 2008

### *Pasterka*

Traditional Shepherd's Mass (in Polish and English) will take place at Church of the Holy Cross, 1621 University Avenue NE, Minneapolis at Midnight. Singing of carols will begin at 11:30 PM. For more information, call 612-789-7238.

## December 24, 2008

### *Carols and Shepherd's Mass*

Carols and Mass starting at 7:30 PM at Sacred Heart of Jesus PNC Church, 22nd Avenue NE and Fifth Street, Minneapolis.

Mass will feature the new children's choir. Information: 612-781-9328

## December 25, 2008

### *Nativity Mass*

Christmas Day Mass at 10:00 AM at Sacred Heart of Jesus PNC Church, 22nd Avenue NE and Fifth Street, Minneapolis. Information: 612-781-9328

## December 25, 2008

### *Christmas Day Mass*

Christmas Day Mass in Polish will take place at Church of the Holy Cross, 1621 University Avenue NE, Minneapolis at 11:30 AM. Information: 612-789-7238.

## December 27, 2008

### *Pre-New Year's Eve Blast!*

Midwest Polka Association dance will be held at the North Air Event Center (former Fridley KC Hall), 6831 Central Ave (Hwy 65), Fridley, MN from 7:00 PM - Midnight featuring the Twin Cities Soundz band. Admission is \$10.00, which includes a champagne toast. Information: email edbudzinski@embarqmail.com or call 763-428-9649.

## December 31, 2008

### *Sylvester Dinner and Dance*

The Polish Committee of Holy Cross Church invites everyone to a New Year's Eve celebration at John Paul II School starting at 7:00 PM with a gourmet dinner and dance. To purchase tickets, call Andrzej at 952-929-3020.

## January 4, 2009

### *Caroling*

Join the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota in singing kolędy. See NEWS (page 6) for more information or call Judith at 763-571-9602.

## January 17, 2009

### *PGSMN Annual Meeting*

The annual meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society-Minnesota will be held on January 17, from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM, at the Gasthof Restaurant, 2300 University Ave. NE, Minneapolis. The cost will be \$17.00. For reservations or more information, contact Terry Kita at 612 927 0719 or terrykita@earthlink.net.

# People



**Józef Piłsudski**  
1867-1935  
Political Leader and  
Prime Minister

Born Dec. 5, 1867 in Zułów in Russian occupied Poland and died May 12, 1935. Leader of the Polish Socialist Party (PSS) whose aim was Polish independence and no accommodation with the Russian Empire. He formed the Polish Legions to fight the Russians during WWI and demanded that the Central Powers support Polish independence. They set up the Regency Council to that aim and on November 11, 1918 Piłsudski was appointed to lead its armed forces. He then declared Poland's independence and negotiated the evacuation of the German military. Once Poland was independent he disavowed his socialist roots.



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## PACIM's Polish Children Fund Appeal

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota has chosen the Polish school, Dziewienszki, as the recipient of its 2008/2009 Polish Children's Fund donation, in order to help these poor ethnic Polish children with their schooling.

\_\_\_ Yes, I want to help. Please make your check payable to PACIM, with Polish Children's Fund on the memo line and send to:

PACIM: Polish Children's Fund  
PO Box 18403  
Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403

PACIM is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization and donations are deductible to the extent limited by law. A receipt will be sent acknowledging your donation.

Dziękuję!



Board member Aneta Toporowska presenting Minnesota Orchestra Conductor Laureate Stanislaw Skrowaczewski with flowers on behalf of PACIM on his 85th Birthday. Mr. Skrowaczewski—music director of the Orchestra from 1960 to 1979—returned to the Orchestra Hall podium October 30–November 1 to continue his long-standing annual tradition of conducting subscription concerts. On the program was Chopin's exquisite First Piano Concerto, featuring the Orchestra Hall debut of pianist Ewa Kupiec, who hails from Skrowaczewski's native Poland, as well as Strauss' dramatic Also sprach Zarathustra, which was famously excerpted in the film 2001: A Space Odyssey. (See page 6 for story)