

PolAm

A Publication of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota www.pacim.org

December 2009

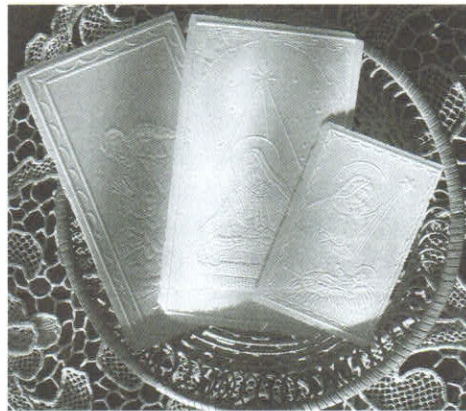
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Vol. 31, Num. 12

The Wigilia Oplątek

The tradition of using the oplątek at the Christmas Eve Wigilia meal had its origins among the Polish szlachta before the 16th Century and during the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth the tradition spread throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. The name itself comes from the Latin “oblatum” meaning offering.

The sharing of the oplątek is central to the traditional Polish Wigilia celebration. As such it represents a “communion of spirit” and is offered to family, friends and all Poles. It is sent to those loved ones not present, most often in Christmas cards, and some families will also take the oplątek to the graves of their loved ones and symbolically share it with them. The spirit of sharing, togetherness and



forgiveness is not taken lightly.

At the Wigilia table the oplątek is placed prominently, often times upon a few pieces of hay which symbolize Christ’s manger crib. Upon sighting the

first star, the family begins its Wigilia with the eldest in the family breaking and sharing the oplątek with the next eldest along with best wishes for the coming year; this sharing and breaking continues down to the very youngest child present.

Poles continue the tradition throughout the world wherever they find themselves on Christmas Eve. Many Polish Americans likewise continue this tradition in their families. Obtaining authentic Polish oplątki for your Wigilia table is now made very easy with many online sources. Local ethnic Polish parishes make them available as well just before Christmas. Other than your local church and online shopping a trip to Chicago is necessary to obtain Polish oplątki.

Twin Cities Polish Festival Awarded 2009 Project of the Year

The Twin Cities Polish Festival Awarded the 2009 Project of the Year Award by the Project Management Institute

At its November meeting on Monday, November 16, the Minnesota chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI) honored the Twin Cities Polish Festival with its Project of the Year award in recognition of superior performance and execution of exemplary project management. TCPF Vice-president Steven Ukasick along with TCPF Project Manager Deb Callahan accepted the

award on behalf of the entire TCPF board. Anastasia Dzenowagis, a member of PMI, nominated the TCPF organization for making the Polish Festival a reality this past August.

PMI is the world’s leading non-profit association devoted to the project management profession. It is found in over 170 countries and has over a half a million members. The local chapter covers the five state region of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and the Dakotas. More on PMI can be found at their website: www.pmi.org



Members of TCPF Committee: L to R: Steven Ukasick, Jerry Drinka, Anastasia Dzenowagis, Deb Callahan, Bruce Rubin, Phyllis Husted, Sue Anderson, Judith Blanchard and Marcia Novak.

Membership Form For
Polish American
Cultural Institute of Minnesota
612-378-9291

www.pacim.org

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— Newsletter 15
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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 it will be 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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Contributing Writers, Reporters and Staff:
Judith Blanchard, Events Coordinator
Mietek Konczyk, Writer
Patricia Beben, Proofreader

We appreciate your continued support. Dziękuję!

Thoughts

This publication is dependent upon volunteers to get it into your home each month. During this season of giving, I want to thank all of you who give of your time and talents to make this the publication that it is.



First and foremost to Bruce Rubin and Rubin Cordaro

Design for graphic design
Our writers throughout the year: Joseph Beben, Gilbert Mros, Anastasia Dzenowagis, John Radziłowski, Evelyn Sadowski
Our columnists: Judith Blanchard, Mietek Konczyk, Phinee Zak, Jowita Haugen
Our Proofreader: Patricia Beben
Those who prep PACIM for mailing: +Don Paidosh, Lucy Marsalek, Irene Colston, Jacki & Frank Padula, Phyllis Husted, Gloria Bergstrom, Fran Toler, Pat Stowman, and others

The employees of the United States Postal Service

The Board of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota who underwrite the newsletter, and All of you members and readers for whom we gladly endeavor each month to do our best.

Thank You!

And if you want to join this crew in any manner, please call and leave a message for Steven at 612-378-9291 or email him at info@pacim.org.

Steven

Steven Ukasick

News From Poland

by Mietek Konczyk

US Vice President Joe Biden Jr. visited Warsaw to discuss with Polish President Lech Kaczyński and Prime Minister Donald Tusk Washington's newly proposed anti-missile defense plan. After meeting with Biden, Tusk said that Poland is ready and willing to participate in the US new anti-missile shield on the necessary scale.

The leader of Poland's Solidarity movement, former Polish President Lech Wałęsa, and Prime Minister Donald Tusk were in Berlin for the 20th anniversary celebrations of the fall of the Berlin Wall. During the celebrations, Wałęsa pushed the first domino block in the series of blocks that symbolized the process of collapse of communism in Europe.

The average corporate monthly gross wage in Poland stood at 3,283.18 zlotys (approx. \$1,200) in September, a growth of 3.3% year-to-year.

According to PricewaterhouseCoopers consultancy data, Poles will spend 15 billion zlotys (approx. \$5.5 billion) on private medical services in 2009. Public health care in Poland is generally free for everybody, but not up to the needs of many Poles.

Polish news from the USA: Gen. Casimir Pułaski finally became an American citizen, 230 years after he died fighting in the Revolutionary War. President Obama signed a joint resolution of the House and the Senate that made Pulaski, a Polish nobleman, an honorary citizen.

News From Poland continues next page

New Members. Witamy:

Alissa LaChapelle
Judy McArdell
Ruth Powers

Judy McArdell
Martha & Chester Pachnik
Donor:
Andrew Zimba

To make a tax deductible donation to help needy Polish children, make your check payable to PACIM with Polish Children on the memo line and mail to:

Generous Members. Dziękuję:

Friends:
Stephen & Ania Antus
Ed & Kay Grochowski
Joe Lineweaver

Polish Children's Fund

Thomas Glodek \$100
Sandra Gryfinski \$200
Gregory Logacz \$50
June Malluege \$25

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PO Box 18403
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News From Poland continues

Polish Foreign Affairs Minister **Radostaw Sikorski** wrote to NATO secretary general **Anders Fogh Rasmussen** asking for NATO reaction to the Russian September military maneuvers simulating an attack on Poland.

The decision by General Motors not to sell Opel's European operations to Magna and Sberbank consortium was good news for the Opel plant based in **Gliwice** (southern Poland) because the old deal heavily favored workers in Opel's German factories.

Poland has sent **humanitarian aid** to Ukraine to fight the H1N1 flu epidemic and the Polish health authorities are monitoring the outbreak to be able take measures in case of emergency. However, the Polish government decided not to purchase the H1N1 vaccine for the time being, controversially arguing that it may not be safe.

Silent Auction Items Bal Karnawałowy

We are looking for donated items and services for the silent auction at the Bal Karnawałowy coming February 13th. Your donation is tax deductible and will help with Bal expenses. Please call and leave a message for Terry Kita at 612-378-9291 or email Terry Kita at info@pacim.org for more information on how to make a donation.

Click on the Puppet

Polska Akcja Humanitarna (PAH) is a non-governmental Polish humanitarian charity and you can help them provide poor Polish children with lunch at their schools by going to www.pajacyk.pl and clicking on the pajacyk (puppet). PAH is currently feeding 3,269 children 133 sites in 13 provinces and it does this by people clicking on the puppet and sponsors providing the funds in return for ad space.

Doctor Honoris Causa Granted to Danuta Malejka-Giganti

Danuta Malejka-Giganti, a Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, University of Minnesota Medical



School, and a retired Senior Research Career Scientist at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis, received the highest distinction of Doctor Honoris Causa at the Karol Marcinkowski University of Medical Sciences in Poznań, Poland. The ceremony took place on October 22, 2009.

Professor Malejka-Giganti is a native of Poznań, where she earned her doctorate in Pharmaceutical Sciences (1959) at the Poznań University of Medical Sciences. Her post-doctoral studies involved research on metabolism of carcinogens sponsored by the National Cancer Institute at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL. Since 1968, she and her husband, Joseph R. Giganti, Ph.D. (Medical Physics), have resided in Minnesota.

The "Laudation" of the Honoree delivered by Professor Wanda Baer-Dubowska emphasized the significance of the Honoree's research in environmental carcinogenesis and chemoprevention of chemically induced cancers. The Honoree was also praised for maintaining lively and productive contacts with her Alma Mater in Poznań throughout 50 years, and facilitating post-doctoral studies for numerous Polish scientists in the U.S. In her acceptance lecture, Professor Malejka-Giganti presented highlights of her research, and outlined the direction of future efforts of medicine and pharmacy toward individualized therapies. In the 90-year history of the Faculty of Pharmacy in Poznań, Professor Malejka-Giganti is the first woman to receive the honorary doctorate following nine previous awardees.

Carrot and Dill Soup

Many people asked for this recipe from our 20th Annual Soup Fest. Enjoy!

Thank you for your enthusiasm over my soup. It is relatively easy to make and can be frozen and reheated quite well. Other vegetables can be used in place of the carrots for an equally delicious soup. Try cauliflower, parsnips, beets, sorrel, and mushrooms or just leave out the veggies and add much, much more dill for a delicious spring soup.



Marchew i koperkiem (carrot and dill soup)

1 gallon chicken broth
1 pound carrots (peeled and cut small)
1 pint sour cream
2 egg yolks
1/4 cup flour
juice of one lemon
One big handful of fresh dill weed,
chopped
salt and pepper

Boil carrots in chicken broth until soft. Blend until smooth. In a small mixing bowl, combine sour cream, egg yolks, flour and lemon juice. Whisk until smooth. Add a cup of the hot broth to the sour cream mixture to temper it, then add all to the pot of blended carrot soup. Bring soup to a low simmer and add fresh dill weed. Season to taste with salt and pepper. May be served hot or cold.

—Jane Flanders

Gniezno

The Eagle's Nest and Cradle of the Polish Nation

Three brothers—Lech, Czech and Rus—were exploring the wilderness to find a place to settle. Suddenly they saw a hill with an old oak and an eagle on top. Lech said: this white eagle I will adopt as an emblem of my people; and around this oak I will build my stronghold; and because of the eagle's nest (gniazdo). I will call it Gniezno. The other brothers went further on to find a place for their people. Czech went to the South and Rus went to the East.

This ancient story relates not only the beginnings of the Polish people (Lechia being an ancient name for Poland), but also the importance of the first capital of Poland and its significance in the early history of the Polish nation.

Gniezno was the major city of the early Piast rulers of Poland and they made it their capital in the 10th century. When Mieszko I was baptized a Christian 966 and brought with him the early Poles, Gniezno grew in importance and one of the first bishoprics in Poland was established in that city. In 1024 Boleslaus I was crowned in Gniezno cathedral as the first King of Poland. The city was destroyed by the Teutonic Knights in 1331, suffered major fires in 1515, overrun by the Swedes in the 17th century, and was devastated by the plague in 1708, all of which led to declines in population; but by 1768 it became the seat of the Gniezno Voivodeship. In 1793 the city passed to Prussia under the Second Partition and in 1920 it became part of the Second Polish Republic.



Gniezno from across the lake



Adalbert Becomes Bishop



The ransom of Saint Adalbert



Lech, father of the Poles



Gniezno Cathedral by night



Saint Adalbert at prayer



Martyrdom of Saint Adalbert



Tomb of Saint Adalbert



Gniezno Cathedral doors

Saint Wojciech or Adalbert is closely connected to the city. This Bishop of Prague was warmly welcomed by Bolesław I the Brave and, after a short visit, Adalbert went to Prussia along with soldiers provided by Bolesław I with the intent to bringing Christianity to the Prussian pagans. For his efforts he was martyred by the Prussians and Bolesław I reputedly ransomed the saint's body for his weight in gold. Adalbert was canonized as Saint Adalbert of Prague a few years after his death.

He was later made the patron saint of Bohemia, Poland, Hungary, and Prussia. His body was buried in the Cathedral of Gniezno and attracts many pilgrims to this day. The cast bronze doors of the cathedral, known as the Gniezno Doors, depict eighteen scenes from the life of Saint Adalbert.

Although modern history seems to have left Gniezno behind—Poznań is now the capital of Wielkopolska, the kings of Poland were soon to be crowned in Kraków and Warsaw, and its population is still only about 70,000—Gniezno still retains a place of honor in the Polish nation. Indeed, to this day within the Roman Catholic church of Poland the Archbishop of Gniezno traditionally holds the title of Primate of all Poland to this day.

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

Koń ma cztery nogi a potknie się.
A horse has four legs and still will stumble.

Kalendarz

DEC 13 Wigilia Benefit
JAN 16 Kulig
FEB 13 Bal Karnawałowy
FEB 28 Chopin/Paderewski Celebration

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 27th.
Any books coming due during this period may be returned on January 3 without penalty.

Thanks to Marta Everson for her book donations.

We are so grateful for the donations received during the year. Our collection now numbers 4,862 with 262 pieces added during the last year.

We thank the AIGA (American Institute of Graphic Arts - Minnesota Chapter) for presenting the Freedom on the Fence screening and discussion of Polish posters on November 18 and for graciously extending their member discount to PACIM members. We are so pleased to have had this opportunity to work with the AIGA.

PACIM's traditional Wigilia Dinner to benefit disadvantaged Polish children on December 13 at 6 pm at Gasthof Restaurant located at 2300 University Ave NE, Minneapolis. This community Christmas Eve celebration features sharing of the opłatki, eating traditional foods, and singing Christmas carols in Polish and English. Tickets available online at www.Pacim.org or send your \$35 check payable to PACIM to PACIM, c/o Mietek Konczyk, 209 8th St. E #404, Saint Paul, MN 55101 no later than December 5, 2009. Please indicate if you have specific seating requirements. For more information, call Mietek Konczyk at 651-222-7455. If you cannot attend the event and wish to donate to this cause, please send your check made out to PACIM-Children's Fund to PACIM, PO Box 18403, Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403. Thank you.

We invite you to join us in entertaining the residents of Catholic Eldercare (817 Main St NE, Minneapolis) with Polish Christmas carols on January 3. We meet in the atrium at 1 pm to practice. You are also invited to attend a Christmas sing-along at River Village (2919 Randolph St NE, Minneapolis) at 3:30 pm. Words and music provided by Bob Gacek and his accordion. Please call me at 763-571-9602 before you come to check for cancellation in case of sickness at the homes.

PACIM's 3rd Annual Kulig Sleigh Ride Adventure. Come and experience the Polish Kulig here in Minnesota from 3-5 pm on January 16, 2010. See EVENTS on page 7.

PACIM is celebrating the Chopin-Paderewski Birthdays on February 28. See EVENTS on page 7.

Mark your calendars! PACIM's Bal Karnawałowy will be at the Saint Paul Hotel. "The Retractions" will play a good mix of dance music beginning with a traditional Polonez. See EVENTS on page 7.

—Judith Blanchard, Librarian
763-571-9602

Echos from the North

News from Little Falls, Minnesota

Christmas and all the hustle and bustle is upon us. Times have changed since our ancestors came to these shores. Christmas, family and friends have always been very important to the Polish people. Think back to your childhood. I lived on a farm and Christmas gifts were always plentiful but mostly made by my parents. Mom was great with a needle and thread, the sewing machine, the crochet hook, and knitting needles. Gifts ranged from caps and scarves, socks, pajama and quilts and many other things. Dad was creative with wood so items ranged from boxes, night stands, cedar chests and sleds. We were always thrilled, and oh yes, how many of you remember the actual candles on the Christmas tree, of course they were only lit on Christmas Eve, but I wonder how we managed to prevent a fire. When did all these gifts get made without us kids seeing them? I found out when I had kids of my own. Days and nights were long and sleep at a minimum.

As for all the delicious food provided for the family at Christmas, neighbors and relatives would join together and while the men "solved the problems of the world" the women would be busy in the kitchen. No precooked turkey, frozen pies, canned cranberries, or bakery bread.

Wouldn't it be a good idea if we all slowed down a bit and enjoyed the season?

May we all remember to keep Christ in our Christmas and God's blessing to all.

— Phinee Zak, *President*, Polish Echos
320-632-265

Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota
Affiliate Member of the
American Council for Polish Culture

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Contact them at info@pacim.org

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 5

Start the Holidays Dance

The Doctor Kielbasa band will play for the dance from 7 - 11 pm at the American Legion, 12450 Business Park Blvd in Champlin. General admission is \$8 per person, MPA members \$7 per person. For more information, email Jim Carlson at k.carlson55110@yahoo.com or call 651-426-1079. For location directions, call 763-427-6870.

December 5

Bake & Craft Sale

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish is hosting its 2nd Annual Christmas Bake and Craft Sale on Saturday December 5 from 9 am-1 pm at the church hall, 2114 5th St NE, Minneapolis. For more information call 612-781-9328.

December 6

Wigilia at Jax with Polanie Club

The Polanie Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul wishes to share Poland's most beloved holiday celebration by hosting a traditional Christmas Eve dinner, Polish Wigilia, at JAX Café, 1928 University Ave NE. \$35 per person and includes tax and gratuity. Social hour at 5 pm, dinner at 6 pm followed by music and kolędy (the singing of Polish and American carols). For information and reservation please call Fran Chorzempa 651-639-1464, Marie Tromiczak 763-566-2132 or Marta Swica 651-638-9577.

December 13

Wigilia Benefit for Polish Children

See NEWS on page 6

December 24

Pasterka

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

December 25

Christmas Day Mass

Christmas Day Mass in Polish will take place at Holy Cross Church, 1621 University Ave NE, Minneapolis at 11:30 am. For more information 612-789-7238.

December 31

Sylvester Dinner and Dance

The Topola Chór invites everyone to a New Year's Eve celebration at the Polish National Alliance Building, 13th & 4th St NE. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Janina at 763-521-5321, Kora at 763-571-5041, or Walter at 952-544-1860.

January 2, 2010

After New Year's Eve Blast

Join MPA members and friends at the Fridley VFW, Osborne Rd & Central Ave (Highway 65) in Fridley from 7 pm - Midnight. Music for dancing and listening by the Twin Cities Soundz band.

Celebrate with a champagne toast before midnight. Admission is \$12 per person. For more info, email Jim Carlson at k.carlson55110@yahoo.com or call 651-426-1079. For location directions, call 763-780-3694.

January 3

Caroling

See NEWS on page 6

January 10

Jaselka

At Holy Cross Church, 1621 University Ave NE, Minneapolis, after the 11:30 am Mass. The Christmas story will be re-enacted by Polish Saturday School children and others.

January 16

PACIM's Kulig - Sleigh Ride Adventure
Come and experience the Polish Kulig here in Minnesota from 3 - 5 pm on January 16, 2010 at Bunker Hills Regional Park in Andover. We will start with an hour-long horse drawn sleigh ride through woods and end at a bonfire where we will roast Polish sausages and marshmallows. Bring your friends, some spirits, plenty of warm clothes, and enjoy as authentic Kulig as we can offer. Cost is \$12 per person and space is limited to the first 30 people. It begins promptly at 3 pm. It is recommended that you be there a half hour early. Sausages, apple cider, etc will be provided. Registration and pre-payment at www.pacim.org. Also, RSVP to Aneta Toporowska at andz-ius@hotmail.com or 612-605-2425.

January 17

100th Birthday Celebration

Save the date for Roman Jaworski's 100th birthday party. Details to come.

February 4-6

Mozart, Brahms & Skrowaczewski

Stanislaw Skrowaczewski will be premiering in the US his Music for Winds. All performances are at Orchestra Hall. For tickets, call 612-371-5656 or online at www.minnesotaorchestra.org.

February 13

Bal Karnawalowy

St. Paul Hotel. Join with others to celebrate Polish Carnival. Special pricing available for Valentine's Weekend at the Saint Paul Hotel. Band will be "The Retractions" playing contemporary dance music for all tastes. If you'd like to donate a tax-deductible silent auction item or services, call us at 612-378-9291.

February 28

Celebrating 450 years of Chopin and Paderewski

PACIM is offering a Chopin-Paderewski Birthdays Celebration on February 28 from 1:30-4 pm at Holy Cross Church, 1621 University Ave NE, Minneapolis. The music will be provided by award winning gifted piano students. \$5 tickets sold at the door. A gathering with cake will be held afterwards in Kolbe Hall.

People



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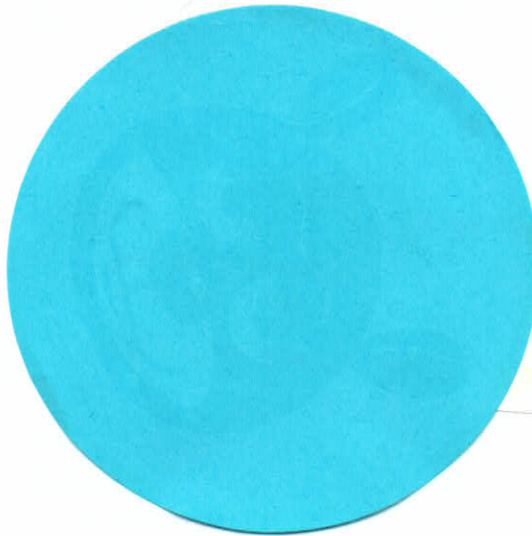


Jan Nagórski
First Arctic Pilot
1888-1976

Nagórski was born in Włocławek, then a part of Russian Poland. He became one of the first pilots of the Russian Imperial Navy and was sent to the Arctic Island of Novaya Zemlya in 1914 to search for a lost Russian expedition, thereby becoming

the first polar aviator. During the turmoil of the Russian Revolution he was listed as dead. In 1919 he returned to the newly independent Poland. In 1955, during one of his lectures, Czesław Centkiewicz gave a short biographical note of a "long-forgotten pioneer of aviation, Russian pilot Ivan Nagurski who died in 1917." Nagórski, who was at the lecture, stood up and announced that he was not Russian and definitely not dead!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Date: Oct-10

Włocławek, Poland



Population: 117,000

Włocławek is a town in northern Poland on the Vistula (Wista) and Zgłowiączka rivers. It is situated in the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship and until 1999 was the capital of Włocławek Voivodeship.

Volunteer Organizers and Coordinators Needed Now!



Last August's Polish Festival did not happen over night and next year's Festival is now being organized. Don't let the Polish Festival disappear for another 20 years. We need dedicated volunteers to help organize and coordinate the many different facets of the Festival. Join this award winning team, gain invaluable experience and be part of this great Polish experience. Please email the TCPF team at information@TCPolishFestival.org.

Your tax-deductible donation to help cover the operating loss of the 2009 Polish Festival is greatly appreciated. Mail your check made payable to TCPF to TCPF, PO Box 19312, Minneapolis, MN 55419-0312. A TCPF Financial Report will be forthcoming in the January issue of Pol-Am. Dziękuję!

We thank the following for their recent donations: Emilia Bernat

(This space donated to TCPF by PACIM)