

THE POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA

POLAM

FALL 2020 VOLUME 42 ISSUE 3 WWW.PACIM.ORG

Message from the PACIM President

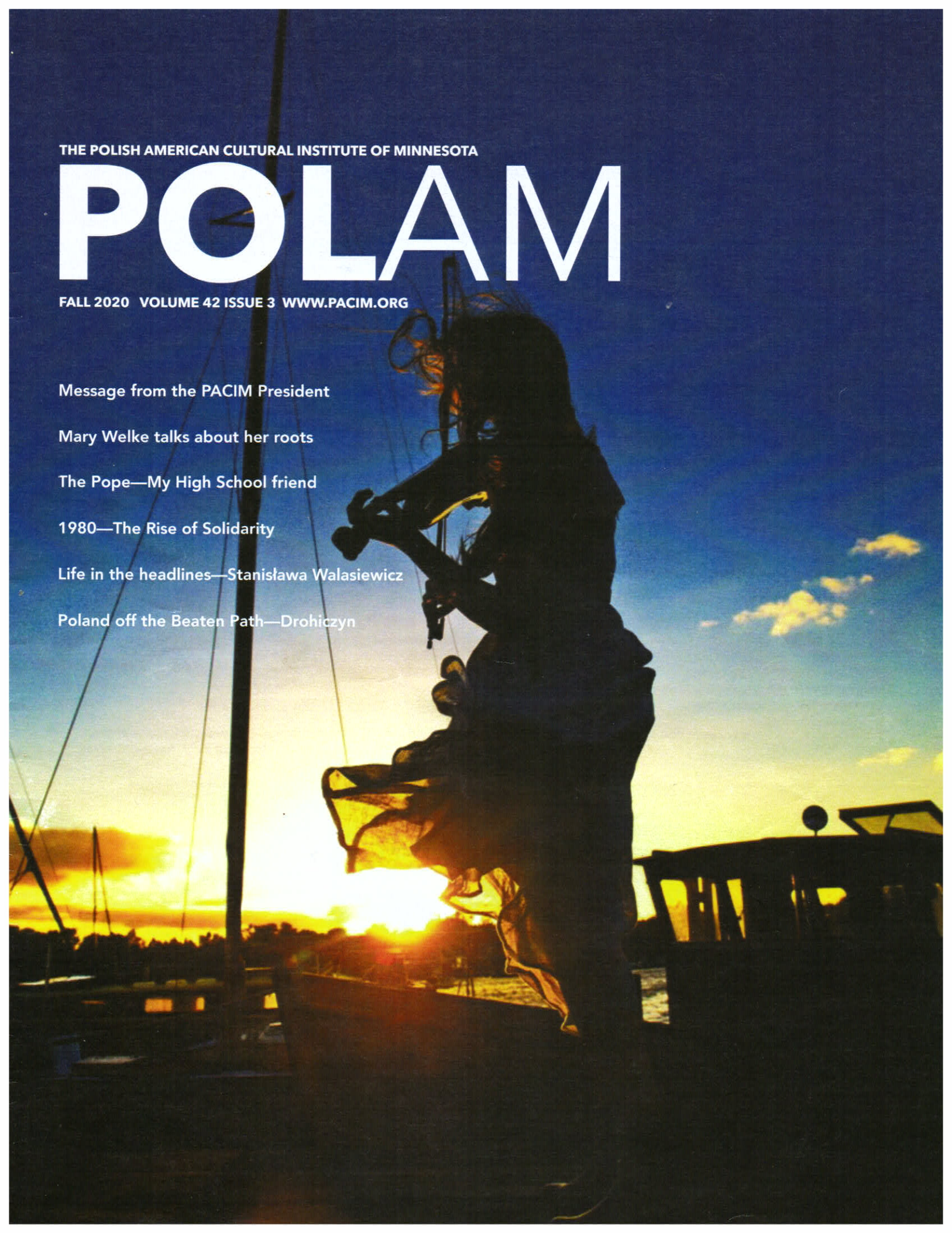
Mary Welke talks about her roots

The Pope—My High School friend

1980—The Rise of Solidarity

Life in the headlines—Stanisława Walasiewicz

Poland off the Beaten Path—Drohiczyn



From the Editor:



Dear POLAM Readers,

This year, we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of “Solidarność” in Poland. Thus, the Solidarity movement became the main focus of this issue. Many of us can recall the days of August 1980 when the whole world was looking at Poland. Certainly, the current COVID-19 pandemic overshadowed this jubilee. “Solidarność” and the creation of the first free trade union in the Soviet Bloc triggered a chain reaction that swept through Central and Eastern Europe and contributed to the Soviet Empire's dissolution.

The year 2020 brought us many unexpected changes and challenges. Nothing will be as it was before. It is very much true to me. I experienced the loss of a close family member. At present, I need to slow down and focus on my family. With regret, I must inform you that I decided to step down from the position of the Editor-in-chief of POLAM. Consequently, this is my last issue.

Many thanks are necessary. I am particularly grateful to POLAM 2020 contributors: Connor Arneson, Krystyna Borgen, Mark Dillon, Grzegorz Litynski, Gosia Mroz, Ola Schmelig, and Iwona Srienc. My work as Editor-in-chief would not have been possible without the great help from coeditors Donna Sisler and Mark Litak.

I want to express my gratitude to members of PACIM for making the vital changes in its management possible. As I initiated PACIM governance transformation, including fiscal transparency, accountability, and adherence to non-profit reporting obligations, I received strong support from many members. I want to mention John Bieniek, Rich Bleyhl, Elizabeth Brodziak, Mark Dillon, Aubrey Fonfara, Elzbieta Haftek, Phyllis Husted, Elzbieta Iwanczuk, Karen Karkula, Kasia Leville, Mark Litak, Pawel Mroz, Martha Pachnik, Robert Papke, Kristopher Sabas, Maciej Skorupski, Dolores Puente Strand, Chris and Daria Walega, Danuta Warec, Mary Welke, Patricia and Joseph Wesley and many others. These PACIM members involvement, encouragement, and investment in the organization's success has been unprecedented. Without their determination, PACIM would not get a chance for a fresh start.

Thank you, Tony Roszak, for assisting PACIM with the financial records reconstruction! Thank you, Phyllis, John, and Renata, for sharing PACIM policies and processes from the previous years!

Special thanks belong to those of you who have provided me with valuable feedback and support. It was always a great pleasure for me to read your comments and notes of appreciation for the quality of POLAM 2020. Thank you again!

Katarzyna Litak,
Editor-in-Chief

POLAM

A publication of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM) Published four times per year. Non-profit bulk permit paid at Twin Cities Minnesota.

PolAm (Minneapolis, Minn.)
ISSN 2693-681 (print)

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PACIM is a 503(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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Printed at
The Printmakers, New Hope,
MN

Cover: Fall Concert. Photo: G. Litynski.
This page: Fall Colors. Photo: K. Litak.

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From the President:



Dear PACIM Members,

Summer has passed, and a short Fall prelude to the famous Minnesota Winter is upon us.

I hope each and every one of our PACIM members has had the opportunity to find some respite from what many have now called “the new normal”. Things we wouldn’t have imagined just a couple of months ago are now deeply ingrained in our society. The new way of social interaction called “social distancing” is now universally understood to mean meeting with people while standing six feet apart from each other. A recent addition to this new social contract is wearing a face mask particularly, if we are in a public indoor space. We do this to both protect ourselves as well as our fellow citizens, neighbors, elderly parents and anyone who might be at risk for COVID19 infection. We do this because the science and experts tell us that such measures will help to contain the spread of this pandemic so we can return to what used to be the “old normal”.

PACIM board has spent the Summer time working on plans to meet this new and unexpected challenge so we can safely and responsibly “meet and greet” our Members again. We needed to examine PACIM priorities and focus on what is fundamental to what we do: work together to more transparently serve the PACIM community, to continue to provide education opportunities to PACIM members and to fulfill our programmatic mission of preserving our Polish-American heritage.

To this end we have worked on reopening PACIM library. Board Member Donna Sisler has led this effort that included several logistical challenges and implementation of COVID19 related safety measures. The library was successfully opened on October 4th and PACIM members can now visit and enjoy PACIM books again. Please visit our website for more information on how to prepare for the library visit or email our librarian at library@pacim.org.

Speaking of PACIM website, we undertook the effort to refresh its looks and improve its usability. It now offers more up to date information and allows for faster communication with PACIM members. Websites are like living organisms however, and require constant maintenance and updates. We therefore welcome new ideas for content to make the website even more useful to our members. Please visit our website at pacim.org or email communications@pacim.org with content ideas.

Another Board undertaking over summer was launching a new PACIM.org Facebook page. This is intended to offer PACIM members more direct communication with the Board as well as each other and a more immediate ability to share news about PACIM events. Please join/follow/like us on Facebook.

We continue the efforts to recreate and review PACIM financial records. PACIM Treasurer Edyta Dudek has overseen this effort and substantial progress has been made. The 2019 taxes have been filed and the 2016-2017 records have been reconstructed.

The Education Committee led by Gosia Mroz oversaw a very successful application process for the Polanie Scholarship and based on the Committee recommendation PACIM Board awarded two scholarships to Julia Temple and Adela Leville. Congratulations and best of luck in your future endeavors!

PACIM has also continued to offer online Polish Language Classes throughout the summer and a new Fall Semester has recently started. PACIM Board hired a new Instructor Ms. Agnieszka Huszno to join Dr. Gosia Mroz and 5 online courses are being offered with 24 students enrolled.

Since there is nothing like a hearty Polish soup to warm the spirits PACIM continues its longtime tradition of Polish Soupfest. Board member Renata Stachowicz is making preparations for the November 15th event with our Chief Kora Korczak. PACIM members can pre-order 3 soups and bigos to go. Please visit PACIM website to learn more how to pre-order the soups!

This last quarter of 2020 is inevitably dominated by elections. PACIM will also hold the elections to the Board of Directors. In this issue of PolAm members will find an application form that is required to be considered as a candidate for the PACIM Board of Directors during the PACIM elections. I would like to encourage everyone who has bold ideas, is passionate and wants to work for the benefit of PACIM and its members to put their name forward and submit the application form to PACIM via mail or email. As citizens and members, we’re actively engaged in conversations about how we as individuals can most impactfully create change in our community. And the most powerful tool for members to create change is exercising their right to vote. Building a strong team is one of the most important tenets of a successful organization and PACIM elections are the best opportunity for members to have their say who will be on their team. Therefore, I would like to strongly encourage every PACIM member to participate in PACIM



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

SUPPORT PACIM:

PACIM grows through contributions from our members, donors and organizations who believe in our mission to connect the Americans and Poles through art, science and culture. As a non-profit charitable organization PACIM uses your gifts to host the library and sponsor new and exciting programming for our community.

Memberships: PACIM's Membership Program is designed for dedicated supporters to play a significant role in sustaining the organization while gaining preferred access. All members receive free access to our library, POLAM publication, email notifications and invitations to our events.

Membership levels (membership form on page 20)

Patron \$200.00

Donor \$150.00

Sponsor \$80.00

Household \$60.00

Individual \$40.00

Add \$5.00 for **ACPC**

Membership

For expanded information about our programs and events, please check our website: www.pacim.org

Location:

43 SE Main Street Ste. 228
Minneapolis, MN 55414

elections because electing smart, talented and passionate members to the Board of Directors gives us the best possible shot at success. Please exercise your most important right as an American citizen and vote.

On November 1st please join Poles around the world to celebrate the All Saint's Day (Dzień Wszystkich Świętych). This is not only a national holiday in Poland but a unique Polish tradition during which Poles from all over the country and the world travel to their hometowns to light up a candle and lay the flowers on the graves of their deceased relatives and friends. This is a solemn day that calls for a reflection but also the opportunity to remember the ones that are no longer with us. This year we will also remember 220 thousand American citizens and over 1 Million worldwide victims that succumbed to COVID19.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone blessings of health and happiness this Thanksgiving. There are many things that I am thankful for this year and one of them is the opportunity to serve this community and this organization.

To close, I would like to encourage members to reach out to PACIM Board at office@pacim.org with ideas and proposals that will benefit this organization and PACIM community. Your input is immensely valuable as we continue this journey together.

With best wishes,

Dr. Pawel Mroz

President, Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota

October 20, 2020

Application for PACIM Board of Directors

Anyone who wishes to run for the PACIM Board of Directors must complete and return application form by **November 15, 2020**. Elections results will be announced at the PACIM Members Annual Meeting on December 19, 2020.

See page 5 or pacim.org website for more information and to download the application form.

PACIM Library Big News!

By Donna Sisler

The PACIM Library is reopening on Sunday, Oct. 4 from 1-3 p.m. Due to COVID-19, we are taking many precautions to make sure your visit is safe and convenient. When visiting PACIM Library please limit your stay to 20 minutes. This is like Hennepin County Library's "Grab and Go" system. Due to space constraints, only one individual or family will be allowed in the library at a time. You may be asked to wait outside the room until others leave. Masks are required inside the building Please maintain 6-foot social distancing from other visitors and volunteers.

Using PACIM Library During COVID-19

Volunteers are working to organize the library so books are easier to find. Books in Polish, including children's and young adult books, will be in the front of the library. Books in English will be in the back of the library. PACIM library books can be checked out for one month. There will be a bin to return books at the entrance of the library. Books will be quarantined for 72 hours before returning to circulation.

Fall 2020 Hours

The library will be open on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month:

Sun., Oct. 4 1-3 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 18, 1-3 p.m.

Sun., Nov. 1, 1-3 p.m.

Sun., Nov. 15, 1-3 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 6, 1-3 p.m.


Sun., Dec. 20, 1-3 p.m.



Contact Us

If you have questions or would like to volunteer in the library, please contact library@pacim.org or one of the lead volunteers:

Donna Linert Sisler dsisler@pacim.org 612.251.4511

 Maciek Skorupski mskorupski@pacim.org



Elections Announcement of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota Board of Directors

The elections for the PACIM Board of Directors at the 2020 PACIM Members Annual Meeting will be held on December 19, 2020. PACIM members interested to stand for the elections must complete a letter of intent and return it to the PACIM Nominating Committee by November 15, 2020. To be considered for the elections, the candidates must be PACIM member in good standing as of September 1, 2020. Members interested in running for a Director position need to fill out a form available on our website www.pacim.org, with a recent photo and a short biographical sketch to the Nominating Committee. The form may be completed on our website, or printed and submitted via mail or email: PACIM 43 SE Main Street - Unit 228, Minneapolis, MN 55414. E-mail: office@pacim.org

More information and the letter of intent is available on our website www.pacim.org.

The candidates will be asked to answer questions about the reasons they are running, the meaning of PACIM's mission, past board/non-profit organization or leadership experiences, their skills, connections, resources, and expertise do you have to offer and are willing to use on the behalf of the organization, time commitment to meetings and serving the mission, motivation, areas of interest within PACIM current structure (Multimedia, Social Media and Communications Committee, Education and Scholarship Committee, Membership and Community Outreach Committee, Arts and Entertainment Committee, Finance and Budget Committee, Library/Historical Committee). The candidates must agree to provide a clear background check report to the PACIM Board of directors.

Role Description – Director/Non-Officer

Time Period for Role: Elected, 2-year time limit with max 10-year limit. (MN Stat 317A.203,.207)

Committees: Any Committees depending on need, special skills, and interests.

Purpose: To be the hands of the organization and to carry out the mission of the organization both operationally and strategically.

Bylaws (August 2018) Definition: The Board of Directors of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota shall consist of 7-11 persons, including the (4) officers.

Responsibilities to the Organization:

Serve in good faith.

Attend monthly board meetings or obtain excused absences when unavailable.

Lead major event(s) or play a key role to ensure their success.

Assist at events as needed even if not on that event's team.

Provide a sounding board to the Event Managers on event details.

Provide a face of the organization at Events.

Identify and implement ways to promote and grow the organization.

Identify and implements ways to improve efficiency and reduce costs of the organization.

Build relationships with other individuals and groups in the community interested in Polish culture.

Competencies Needed to Succeed (Knowledge, Skills, Education, Experience):

A sincere interest to promote the mission and vision of the organization.

Ability to support others and provide recognition.

Ability to interact successfully with a wide group of people and interest them in the organization's mission (ex. organization members, event attendees, community members, and other organizations, both corporate and non-profit).

Ability to manage an event (budget, plan steps, manage a team, organize venue and supplies, arrange publicity, track expenses and profits, document results).

Polish language ability helpful, but not required.

Ability to identify their own strengths and how they could be used to benefit the organization (ex. creative, artistic, financial, reconciliations, language, community knowledge, etc.)

Desired Outcomes and Performance:

Successfully manage one profitable Event per year.

Assists in at least one profitable Event per year.

Identifies and implements one improvement to the organization.

Makes the organization better by his/her involvement.

"Art will remain the most astonishing activity of mankind born out of struggle between wisdom and madness, between dream and reality in our mind." Magdalena Abakanowicz

KORZENIE

ROOTS eng

Adapted by Katarzyna Litak

Burn by Mary Welke. Photo: Sarah Whiting

Mary Welke

was amazed when she received notice that she was awarded the prestigious and highly competitive \$10,000 Artist Initiative Grant 2020 from the Minnesota State Arts Board. By making a commitment to submit the lengthy application along with samples of her paintings, Mary began a journey to imagine and then later craft her detailed yearlong project about prairie and farmland renewal.

The Artist Initiative grants program helps artists complete projects that enhance their careers and help them reach and serve a wider audience. As a visual artist, Mary Welke will use the funding to create new, mixed media paintings about prairie, farmland burns, and land renewal.

When I asked her if she has a farming background she replied,

"I have it in my blood. My grandparents were from a farming area in southern Poland near Nowy Targ. They came to America with a strong connection to the soil. It also explains why they ended up in the Midwest."

Mary spent the early part of her childhood in NE Minneapolis helping her grandma weed the large family garden that was literally right next to the railroad tracks. It was here she learned a deep respect for plants and soil. *"When you get on your hands and knees and use your bare hands to weed rows of vegetables, you learn a lot about nature along the way."*

The tall weeds around the edge of the garden were home to garter snakes, caterpillars, rabbits, mice, butterflies, and birds. It was a world worth close examination. Mary would frequently walk on top or "scale" the railroad tracks one block to the West to the Mississippi River where she could investigate the fields and River shoreline in all seasons.

If she "scaled" the tracks two blocks to the east, she would arrive at her father's place of employment, Fleischmann Malting Company where he worked nights as a Maltster. His job was to turn Minnesota grown grain into malt to be used for brewing beer or for other uses. Some of it may have been used at local breweries such as Grain Belt, Gluek, Schmidt or Hamm's Brewing Companies. Minneapolis was once considered the milling capital of the world. Today, there is renewed interest in partnerships between Minnesota restorative, grain farmers and bakers to

create freshly milled flour products available to the local, NE Minneapolis community.

If there is one thing that ties Mary's early childhood, artistic development, and this local history together it is the slow-moving trains bumping, clanging, and winding along NE railroad tracks. Boxcars full of corn, wheat, rye, and barley spilled onto the railroad ties and along the tracks where germinated seed would sprout to create their own miniature prairies. With her family and ancestral roots connected to the land, it is no surprise Mary would later choose nature as a subject for her art.

She had a natural talent for art at an early age which was encouraged by her teachers. Her first official art class was in third grade when her teacher, Mrs. Anderson, called Mary's mother to encourage Mrs. Welke to register Mary for a children's summer class at the Art Institute, now known as the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Mrs. Welke agreed but instructed Mary, *"You need to register and take yourself to the Art Institute."* Mary was determined to attend the class. Waiting at the corner of 17th and

Second Street NE, in front of Fleischmann Malting Company with token in hand, the eight-year-old climbed the steep steps to the bus and asked the driver to help guide her to find her way to the Art Institute on the other side of the City.

She is grateful to the many people who guided her along the way to her current success as an artist. *"My mother died suddenly when I was fifteen years old. Her death resulted in the end of my family as we knew it. It was the beginning of life on my own."* Mary told me she was accepted into the Minneapolis Vocational Technical Institute to study commercial art three days after graduation from Anoka Senior High School where she attended school and lived with her older sister Carol and husband. Mary bought a used car and moved into her first apartment in NE Minneapolis at the age of seventeen. She supported herself, worked part time and went to school. This pattern would continue for most of her adult life until she completed her bachelor's degree at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and many years later, a master's degree from Pratt Institute in New York City.

After her undergraduate and before her graduate degree, Mary had an opportunity to study in Poland on three separate occasions as a recipient of Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarships. She studied Folk Art, Beginning Polish Language and later, after completing the two-year Polish Language course under Professor Polakiewicz at the University of Minnesota, was awarded her third Kosciuszko scholarship for the Year Abroad Program in Krakow at the Jagiellonian University. This was all during the Communist era in Poland.

The experiences of study and life in a foreign country governed by a communist regime helped shape Mary for the rest of her life. Many officially arranged field trips to original castles, churches museums and cultural events enriched her studies and allowed her to see firsthand the intellectual, cultural

sophistication and previous wealth of Poland. Trips to the countryside revealed a self-sufficient people full of historical and cultural pride who generously shared their folk arts and local cuisine which turned out to be the same food her mother cooked at home in NE Minneapolis. Mary witnessed the daily lifestyle of people in constant need of bare necessities, often waiting in long lines to get the something as simple as an orange or toilet paper. She observed a gray environment in the City where the water or electricity was often turned off for hours at a time in Krakow. "It taught me what it means to be an American; to appreciate the place I was born with so many privileges and opportunities."

Returning to the United States, Mary spent many years of working art related jobs in Minneapolis, Chicago, New York City, San Antonio, Portland, and Seattle while she continued to create and exhibit her fine art. She finally reached a point where she can now maintain her own art studio, exhibit her art at Tres Leches Art Gallery in the Northrup King Building in NE Minneapolis and occasionally teach beginner art workshops to children and adults. She taught a half dozen popular workshops for PACIM in recent years on Reverse Glass Painting, Zalipie Flower Painting, Collage, and Beginner Painting.

An upcoming intergenerational beginner workshop on the topic of Prairie and Farmland Renewal is scheduled for Saturday, September 26 in the Northrup King Building. This mixed media workshop will be offered free for a limited number of students due to the Covid-19 pandemic and will be Covid compliant per the mandates of the State of Minnesota. The workshop is one of the self-imposed requirements of Mary's approved project for her Artist Initiative Grant award. She will also host an exhibition of her new mixed media paintings on the same topic later in the year.



Mary Welke. Photo: Sarah Whitting

Mary's journey into prairie and farmland renewal using land burns started over lunch with her son, Jeff. Aware of her interest in landscape and the cycle of nature, Jeff vividly described a scene of a controlled land burn he observed while driving home from his trip up north. Based on that description, Mary painted her first prescribed land burn painting and hung it in Tres Leches Art Gallery.

This subject resonated with Mary because it was about the renewal of nature and the cycle of life. The visitor response was overwhelmingly enthusiastic with people from a five-state area sharing farm and prairie stories with Mary. The painting sold with two buyers interested in the same piece.

But Mary was also sold on the stories she heard and the idea of exploring deeper into the burns, prairie, and farmland renewal. She realized this is a particularly important topic known and understood by a segment of the population which is pretty much the people who grow up on farms or have a background in prairie restoration. She was moved by the amount of enthusiasm

from the visitors. "Most people will glance at a painting and wordlessly move on to something else. What happened with my burn painting was visitors stopped and talked to me about the piece. They shared their personal stories!"

Mary saw the potential for a project based on land renewal that could be shared with the public to create awareness of prairie and farmland soil renewal and encourage community dialogue about the importance of soil health. The subject was close to her artistic interests in landscape and nature. It was an "aha!" moment that made Mary imagine the connection of this topic, her creative work, and the possibility of a grant support. Things took off from there with the creation of more burn paintings, preliminary research and conversations with artists, prairie restoration experts and a few farmers to develop crafting the lengthy grant application.

All this took work took place during the year when Mary's older sister Carol was seriously declining and later died from Dementia. During the rapidly ticking closing hours of the application process and within hours of Mary's sister dying, Mary pressed the send button on her computer to complete her grant application.

Since the award of her Artist Initiative Grant, Mary has been busy doing her own research into prairie and farmland renewal and sharing that journey on Instagram and Facebook. She photo documented several prairie sites in southern Minnesota including Oronoco Prairie Scientific and Natural Area, Winona Pleasant Bluff remnant prairie, Mankato Minneola State Park, Northfield Cowling Arboretum and Nerstrand State Park, Red Wing Spring Creek Prairie Scientific and Natural Area, and a prairie burn in Burnsville.

"My favorite research trip was the visit to a soil restoration, large commercial farm owned and operated by Dave Legvold, in Northfield, MN. After two hours going over the land with Dave, I will never look at a farm the same way again. He took a shovel,



Prairie Transformation by Mary Welke. Photo: Sarah Whitting

scooped up some dirt, leaned over and grabbed a fist full of soil to enthusiastically show me the richness in color, embedded organic material, angleworms, and worm holes. He explained how "soil snot" which is Dave's term for the mucus the worms leave behind as they travel through the soil, enriches the soil health. Dave told me how soil can become like concrete at just two inches below the surface so he makes sure his soil is chiseled eight inches deep using his Soil Warrior seeder to help the angleworms do their job and move freely in the soil. He discussed water runoff, erosion, and prairie buffer zones to help replenish soil, stop erosion, a habitat for pheasants and other critters and a barrier to stop the spread of pesticides into the water and air. At the end of my visit Dave invited me to climb up to the driver's seat of his John Deere tractor!"

An equally important trip for Mary was to observe and document a controlled prairie land burn. These planned burns are one of the quickest ways to regenerate the soil and are as old as when Native Americans used them on prairies to encourage new plant growth which in turn attracted buffalo and other animals. They burn off invasive species which have short roots, leaving the prairie grasses and wildflower roots which extend extremely deep into the soil. Buffalo grasses have roots that

extend up to six feet deep to help prevent soil erosion. Farmers also use these burns on their fields and surrounding prairie buffer zone areas to break down plant matter and put nutrients back into the soil and revitalize the land.

"I can't wait to torch my canvas!" exclaimed Mary after learning about prescribed burns of prairie and farmland. It was from this idea of prairie and farmland burns for soil renewal that prompted her to take a two-hour workshop from a fellow artist outside, in back of the Northrup King Building to learn how to use a torch for the first time. Mary is now torching directly onto her stretched canvas resulting in scorched burn holes and blackened canvas. Part of her creative process is adhering scraps of torched burlap, organic matter, and ash directly onto the canvas which was gathered from prairie and farmland.

Mary is learning about handmade papers with native grasses and wildflowers imbedded into the paper to be used as a collage layer on her paintings. She currently has a variety of other works on paper such as her prairie buffer zones call Field and Fence Line Studies. These are sketches

of the prairie grasses and wildflowers that grow along the farming property fence lines.

Another group of experimental work is a series of small collages using burlap and rough linen to create simple, abstract Silo and Grain Elevator Studies. This work is influenced by Midwest farming and the agricultural economy in Minnesota and across the country. When I asked her if her father's employment had anything to do with this series, she smiled and replied, "It's hard to avoid, isn't it? We are surrounded by so many silos and grain elevators in this area. Most people don't even notice them." Mary is currently developing her new body of experimental artwork from her research into prairie and farmland which will then be shared with the public in an exhibition and used to facilitate conversation about prairie and farmland soil health.

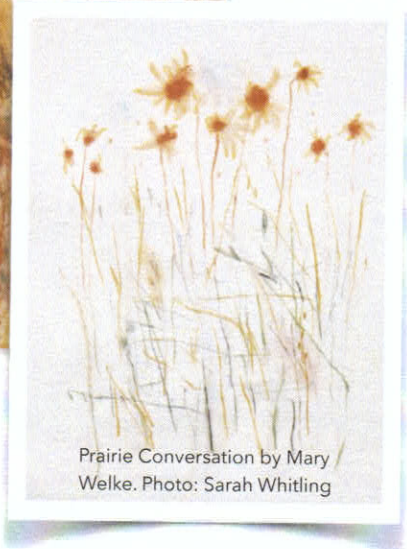
"Artistically, the best thing about my grant is that I have the official endorsement of the Minnesota State Arts Board, time and money for one year to explore and develop new avenues in my approach to making art. Any serious artist knows how important it is to try new things and stretch your boundaries. That means allowing myself to make mistakes."

During this exploratory period and learning from mistakes, Mary is also experiencing several successes. Her work is already included in many private and some corporate collections such as Nordstrom, Regions Hospital and US Bank Corporation. She continues to exhibit and sell her paintings at Tres Leches Art Gallery and has already sold some of her latest prairie and farmland studies. Mary's painting *Harvest Field* was accepted into the juried fine art competition at the Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition 2020. She just won the Judges Award and ribbon for her mixed media painting called *Steward of the Land* in the current juried exhibition at the Hallberg Center for the Arts in Wyoming, MN as part of their current Art Show and Competition.

Prairie and farmland burns, soil health and regeneration, grains and agriculture, pollinators and habitats, land erosion and water runoff are all topics contained one way or another in the body of Mary's grant.



Prairie Tempest by Mary Welke.
Photo: Sarah Whitling



Prairie Conversation by Mary Welke.
Photo: Sarah Whitling

Curiosity and inspiration are the driving forces in her risk-taking artistic experiments to find a visual language which speaks to us by evoking feelings of our connection to the land while allowing us to feel the emotional power of nature. Whether it is the hypnotic effect of fire and its impact in the larger scheme of our lives or the rejuvenation of the environment, Mary wants to make us stop, take a longer look and think about the health of our ourselves and our soil.

Finally, I had to ask Mary Welke about her favorite artist. Without hesitation, she named the recently deceased, world famous Polish artist, Magdalena Abakanowicz because of the powerful, rough, organic nature of her monumental sculptural and tactile fiber work as well as her ability to capture the ethos of Poland during the Communist era and beyond. ■

www.marywelke.com

Mary Welke is a fiscal year 2020 recipient of an Artist Initiative grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature, and by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.





This page clockwise:

Top Left: Eugeniusz with Pope John Paul II

Top Right: Karol Wojtyla 2nd from the left, first row. Eugeniusz Second from the right, second row.

Bottom: Wadowice, May 1938. Graduates and Teachers of Marcin Wadowita Public HS. Karol Wojtyla first in the second row on the left.

The Pope-My High School Friend

By G. Litynski

2020 marks the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's birthday. Born on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, Karol Wojtyła was better known as John Paul II (1920-2005). He was very popular in his native country. So popular, that hundreds of people claim to have attended school with him. Some say that the future Pope's desk must have been "the widest school desk in the World."

Mr. Eugeniusz Mróz of Wadowice was a high school friend and classmate of Karol Wojtyła. He organized the Pope's high school class reunions for many years. At first, they happened in Poland. After Karol Wojtyła became Pope John Paul II and moved from Cracow to the Vatican in 1978, so did the reunions. Eugeniusz was a lawyer by education but also a passionate tour guide. He used to take Polish pilgrims to the Vatican, and that way had even more occasions to meet his dear school friend.

Mr. Eugeniusz Mróz, who celebrated his 100th birthday in March 2020 in Poland, shared with us little known pictures from his private archive.

Thank you, Mr. Mróz, and Congratulations! ■

Top: Eugeniusz Mroz with Pope John Paul II

Bottom: Eugeniusz Mroz (B 1920) the last living HS classmate of John Paul II. Photo by G. Litynski.





December 1970 Tragedy in Gdańsk: communist police and army opened fire on the workers demanding livable wages and protesting food price hikes. More than 40 people were killed, 1,100 wounded, and over 3,000 imprisoned.

Memorial of the Fallen Workers of December 1970, Gdańsk, Poland.

Photo: G. Litynski.

strike caused a severe break in the supply chain and chaos in the delivery of goods across the country.

The worsening quality of life drove all the strikes in July 1980. The workers' demands were economic, included wage increases, cancellation of the price hikes, and general improvement of the living conditions. An estimated 80,000 workers went on strike. Their protest ended in partial success: some decrease in the food price and some increase in workers' salaries. What was important was that no violence was used by the communist regime to resolve the conflict. This was distinctively different from what happened in the past—in 1956, 1968, 1970, and 1976. Previous anti-communist protests in Poland ended in bloody clashes with the police.

The communist government seemed convinced that buying the workers off would be enough. Although the Lublin strikers did not have any political demands, "Lublin July" encouraged workers to fight for their rights. The workers became better prepared and organized than ever. They were printing and distributing illegal newspapers and

leaflets, organizing Strike Committees, and spreading information across Poland.

August 1980—The Political Demands

August 10, 1980: Bogdan Borusewicz (b. 1949), one of the co-founders of the Free Trade Union, decided to start a strike in Gdańsk Shipyard. The strike's date was set up during a meeting with Jerzy Borowczak, Bogdan Felski, and Lech Wałęsa.

August 14, 1980: Around 5:00 AM, several conspirators spread thousands of illegally printed leaflets among workers heading to their workplaces. Shortly later, a few workers employed in the Shipyard in Gdańsk started their protest. They had handwritten posters demanding a salary increase by 2,000 PLN, a cost of living adjustment and reemployment of crane operator Anna Walentynowicz (1929-2010). She was a highly regarded worker who had been fired for her political activities a few days before. Around 10 AM already about 1,000 workers participated in the rally. A strike committee was established. An electrician Lech Wałęsa of the Gdańsk Shipyard became its leader. He lost his job at the yard for his political activities and involvement in an illegal trade union in 1976.

The Turning Point

August 16, 1980: The Gdansk Shipyard management agreed that Anna Walentynowicz and Lech Wałęsa would return to their Shipyard jobs. The workers

also secured an increase in the salaries by 1,500 zloty per month. The majority of the striking committee agreed and voted to finish the strike. Only a small group of the leaders including Anna Walentynowicz and Lech Wałęsa wanted to continue the walkout.

About 2 PM that day, the shipyard speakers announced the end of the strike. The workers started to leave the plant and head to their homes after three days of the occupational strike. It seemed that buying off the strikers worked.

There was resistance against the decision of the Gdańsk Shipyard Striking Committee to stop the walkout. Ewa Ossowska, Anita Pienkowska, and Anna Walentynowicz closed the gates of the Shipyard and started to speak to the workers. They argued that the Shipyard strikers could not leave striking workers from other factories alone.

"How will we now look into the eyes of everyone who supported us in the city!?! We should be in solidarity with them now!" The powerful neighborly Repair Shipyard workers decided to go ahead with their own walkout a day before. Andrzej Gwiazda and Bogdan Lis set up MKS (Inter-factory Striking Committee) and sent representatives to Gdansk's striking factories with the message: *"We go ahead with the strike. Together."* Simultaneously, the representatives of other striking factories present in the Gdańsk Shipyard pressured Wałęsa and other leaders to

continue the strike. This way, only hours after the Gdansk Shipyard strike was declared over, the solidarity strike began. Twenty-eight factories in the Gdańsk area joined it. The Gdansk Shipyard management canceled the agreement made previously with the workers. Lech Wałęsa was elected the Chair of the MKS. Its task was to coordinate strike activity throughout the Tri-City (Gdańsk, Gdynia, and Sopot).

On the night of August 16, 1980, the list of Twenty-One Demands (Postulaty) was created. Among them: the demand to legalize the Free Trade Union, independent from the communist government, dismantle the ruling Polish United Workers' Party or PZPR, limit its members' privilege, release the political prisoners, and abolish the censorship. Hung on the Gdańsk Shipyard gates, the Twenty-One Demands became one of the symbols of the new wave of protests.

August 17, 1980: About 100 state-run factories joined the strike and MKS. The general strike began in the Gdańsk area; only a few critical public services were still running. The communist government cut off the phone lines between Gdańsk and the rest of the

country. The official mass media did not inform about the unrest. Radio Free Europe, a United States government-funded organization, had the key role in spreading information about the strikes. Its Polish broadcast from Munich was heard across the country, despite the communists' continuous efforts to jam the signal.

August 18, 1980: A shipyard located in Szczecin, west Poland, began to strike. Szczecin Shipyard workers organized their own Strike Committee and supported MKS's demands in Gdańsk under the leadership of Lech Wałęsa. The communist government at first refused to negotiate with the workers in Gdańsk and Szczecin. As the strikes spread to other regions like wildfire, the position of the communist rulers changed.

August 22, 1980: Communist government negotiators under the Deputy Prime Minister Mieczysław Jagielski (1924-1997) arrived from Warsaw in Gdańsk. They recognized MKS as the negotiating partner. They also accepted its Board of Experts lead by Tadeusz Mazowiecki (1927-2013), one of the respected Polish dissidents and opposition leaders from Warsaw. The

Board of Experts consisted of numerous well-known artists, scientists, and academic teachers. The cooperation between intellectuals and the workers was very successful and led to the formation of a strong negotiation team.

In time, more MKS committees were organized in Wrocław, Łódź, Nowa Huta, and heavily industrialized Upper Silesia. By the end of August 1980, an estimated 750,000 workers were on strike in the whole country. The pressure on communist rulers was higher than ever before.

"The longer the strike lasted, the stronger the will to endure became. In those days, the shipyards' gates and entrances to other plants were drowning in flowers because the August strike was both a dramatic struggle and a celebration. A struggle for and a celebration of the right to hold yourself straight and to hold your head up high " wrote Ryszard Kapuściński (1932-2007), Polish journalist, poet, and author.

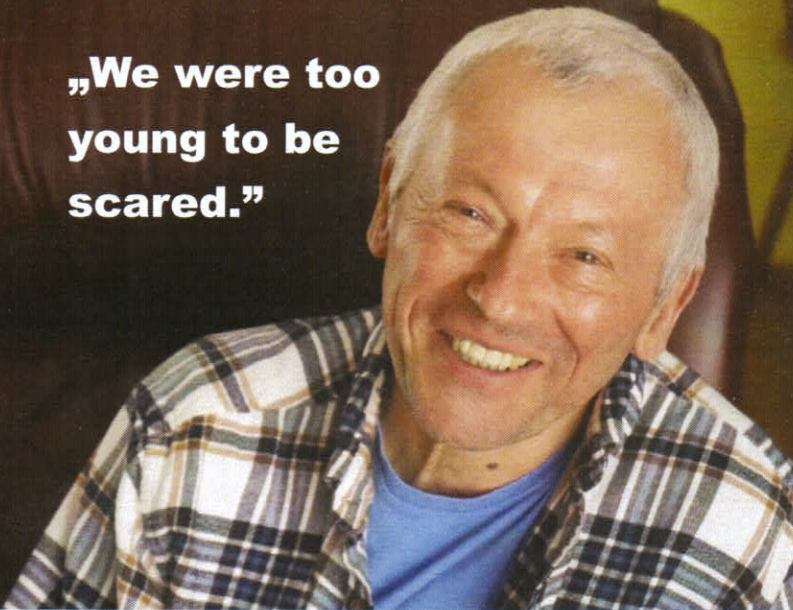
"The mood of the streets is calm, but tense, the atmosphere of seriousness and certainty born out righteousness. In the cities where the new morality took hold, no one drank, no one caused trouble, no one woke up crushed by an incredible hangover. Crime fell to zero, aggression against each other disappeared, people became friendly, helpful, and open. Total strangers suddenly felt that they needed each other" noted Ryszard Kapuściński.

August 30, 1980: The strikers in Gdańsk became surprised by the message that the Shipyard in Szczecin had just signed an agreement with the government and finished the strike. Only economic demands were covered in the Szczecin



Gdansk Shipyard and the crowds outside Gate number 2; August 1980. Photo. Wikipedia.org

„We were too young to be scared.”



Bogdan Borkowski (Born in 1954 in Dębica, Poland) was a Deputy of the Chairman of Strike Committee in the Ironwork "Huta Katowice" in Dąbrowa Górnicza and signatory of the respective agreement with the government ("Porozumienia Katowickie") in early September 1980. In December 1981, he was arrested and held in a communist prison for almost a year. In 1983, Borkowski emigrated to the United States as a political refugee. He worked in St. Paul, MN for almost forty years.

From the Project "Kalejdoskop Polski, Spotlight on Polish Americans in Minnesota."

Photo: G. Litynski.

agreement, and there were no political demands. Simultaneously, Edward Gierek provided authority to governmental negotiators in Gdańsk to sign an agreement with its striking workers. It is believed that this decision was made without the Soviet Union's knowledge.

August 31, 1980, Sunday, 4:40 PM. Lech Wałęsa, Anita Pienkowska, Anna Walentynowicz, and other MKS members signed an arrangement with the Deputy Prime Minister M. Jagielski in the presence of thousands of workers, journalists, and running TV cameras.

Right after signing the agreement, Lech Wałęsa noted: "I am pleased to say that we ended our dispute without the use of force, through talks and negotiations. We demonstrated that Poles can always communicate with each other if they want. It is a success for both sides. I declare the strike over!"

This arrangement came into world history as the Gdańsk Agreement (*Porozumienia Gdańskie*). The striking workers' personal

safety was guaranteed, and freedom was granted to the political prisoners.

Changes in the communist censorship and social rights were promised. This was a historic achievement as the communist government recognized the right to strike and establish an independent Free Trade Union.

November 10, 1980: The NSZZ or Independent Self-Governing Trade Union Solidarność was registered in the Warsaw Court. Soon, it had more than 10 million members and became a massive social movement.

"What made it special was that workers drove the movement. That gave it its impetus and power...When a couple of intellectuals take to the streets, it doesn't make a revolution. But when there is a strike at a business that a state relies on for part of its revenue, it very much calls into question a communist system that legitimates itself by claiming to represent the proletariat" notes Prof. Peter Oliver Loew, the Director of the German-Polish Institute in Darmstadt, Germany.

The success of "Solidarność" was an unprecedented event in the whole Eastern Bloc. "The motivating factor of this movement was human dignity, the drive to create new relations between people, in every place and at all levels, based on the principle of mutual respect, imperative to everyone, without exception" observed Kapuściński.

Solidarność also broke the communists' monopoly on information as hundreds of independent newspapers and magazines sprung afterward. Its influence led to the spread of anti-communist ways of thinking and wind of change throughout the Eastern Bloc. Finally, Solidarność triggered a chain reaction across the Soviet Union's empire and its satellite countries. This led to the opening of the Iron Curtain between Austria and Hungary, accelerated the fall of the Berlin Wall, and finally contributed to the Soviet Union's dissolution in the early 1990s. ■

"For the first time, we learn from experience, not from mistakes."

Unknown Shipyard worker from Szczecin. Noted by Ryszard Kapuściński.

"The success of the Gdańsk strike in 1980 became a turning point and the first stone to be removed from the Berlin Wall. This is why the "Twenty-One Demands" of August 1980 is one of the most important documents of the 20th century. It is a testimony to a turning point which was of primary importance to the history of the world and which not only changed Poland, Europe and the world at that time but also changed their future fate."

<https://en.unesco.org/>

THE AFTERMATH

"I do not know if we are all aware that whatever happens, we have been living in another Poland since the summer of 1980. I think that the difference lies in the fact that the workers spoke—on the most essential matters—with their voice. And that they are determined to continue to speak" observed Ryszard Kapuscinski in 1980.

On 13 December 1981, the communist authorities imposed martial law in Poland. The military troops were on the streets, prominent Solidarity leaders were imprisoned, phone connections were cut off and the country's borders were closed. After release, most of the activists continued to support by then outlawed Solidarność movement, despite ongoing communist surveillance. In June 1989, as the result of the Round Table negotiations, the first partially free election was carried out. Soon, the democratic forces took control over the country. Below we present a very brief description of the fate of some heroes of the Gdańsk strike after 1989:

Bogdan Borusewicz (b. 1949) became a member of the Parliament (Sejm) between 1991 and 2001 and the Deputy of the Minister of Internal Affairs. Borusewicz was the Marshal of the Senate for as many as three terms.

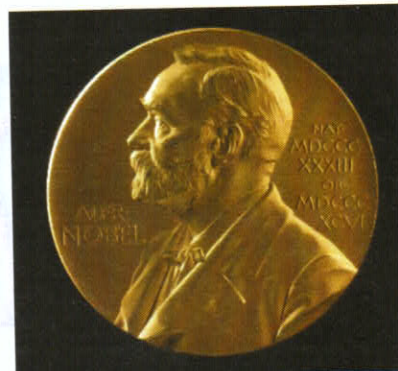
Tadeusz Mazowiecki (1927-2013) became the first non-communist Prime Minister in Poland and in the whole of Eastern Europe in August 1989. He was a member of the Polish parliament for three terms (1991-2001). Mazowiecki was appointed the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia.

Ewa Ossowska disappeared from public life.

Alina Pienkowska (1952-2002) became a member of the Senate for one term in 1991. Later, she was elected a member of the city council in Gdansk. Alina Pienkowska became an honorary citizen of the City Gdańsk.

Anna Walentynowicz (1929-2010) distanced herself from Lech Wałęsa and Solidarity. In 2000, she refused to accept the honorary citizenship of the city Gdańsk. On December 13, 2005, Walentynowicz accepted the Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom in Washington. A year later she received Poland's highest honor, the Order of the White Eagle. She died in an airplane crash near Smolensk, Russia along with President Lech Kaczyński and numerous prominent Polish civic and military leaders. She was among 100 Women of the Year named by Time Magazine in March 2020, featuring women who defined the century.

Lech Wałęsa
(August 1980).
Photo:
[wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org)



Lech Wałęsa
was awarded
1983 Peace
Nobel Prize

"For me and for millions of Europeans, "Solidarność," or Solidarity, has shown the importance of freedom for all Europe. The motto, 'There is no liberty without Solidarity' remains a guiding light for Europe today. With passion, and through peaceful means, Solidarność sought freedom and not revenge; national identity and patriotism, but not aggressive nationalism. In fact Solidarność gave a great contribution to the removal of the bricks of the Berlin Wall. Without Solidarność, we would not have today the Europe, the European Union we have."

José Manuel Durão Barroso, former President of the European Commission, August 30, 2011

Lech Wałęsa (b. 1943) was one of the leaders of the Round Table negotiations with the communist government in 1989. In 1990, Wałęsa became the first president of non-communist Poland (1990-1995). His active role in politics declined after the loss of the next presidential election in 1995.

Wałęsa used to be the most recognizable figure of Solidarność. No wonder that he received numerous awards and honorary titles. Wałęsa was called "Man of the Year" by the Financial Times (1980), the Observer (1980), die Welt (1980), die Zeit (1981), Time Magazine (Jan 1982), and some other well-known journals and magazines. Wałęsa has been awarded over 100 honorary doctorates, including Columbia University (1980), Harvard University (1983), University of Paris (1980), London Metropolitan University (2009). He also received numerous official state awards, including the Grand Cross of Legion of Honor (France, 1991), the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (2009), the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic 1st Class (1991), the Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath (UK, 1991), the Orbis Guaranticus Medal (UNESCO), and many others.

Lech Wałęsa received numerous awards on American soil as well, such as the Medal of Merit of the Polish American Congress (1981), the George Washington Honor Medal (1983), the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1989), the Philadelphia Liberty Medal (1989), the Gold Medal of the American Institute of Polish Culture (1991), the Democracy Service Medal (1999), the International Freedom Award (1999), the Ronald Reagan Freedom Award (2011) and the Lincoln Leadership Prize (2012.) He was the first foreign non-head of state to address the joint meeting of the US Congress on November 15, 1989. A five-minute standing ovation accompanied his historic speech. Wałęsa stated that United States aid to Poland "will not be wasted, and will never be forgotten."

In some respect, these awards and honors can be viewed as recognition for the Solidarity movement as a whole. ■

K. Litak and **G. Litynski** on behalf of PAMSM (Polish-American Medical Society on Minnesota) Kalejdoskop Polski, Spotlight on Polish Americans in Minnesota project, 2020 fiscal recipient of grants from Minnesota Historical Society and Metro Regional Arts Council.
www.pamsm.org/kalejdoskop



This publication was made possible in part by the people of Minnesota through a grant funded by an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Any views, findings, opinions, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the State of Minnesota, the Minnesota Historical Society, or the Minnesota Historic Resources Advisory Committee.



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



Life in the Headlines

By Connor Arneson

Stanisława Walasiewicz

(Stella Walsh) was born in the small town of Wierchowina on April 3, 1911. Like many other Poles in the early 20th century, she found herself on a boat to America, settling in the city of Cleveland as a child with her family, where she adopted the Americanized name of Stella Walsh.

By 17, Walasiewicz was already the best runner in Cleveland, getting first in her heat in the preliminary tryouts for the 1928 Olympics. She did qualify, but did not become part of the team because she did not have US citizenship. Later that year, she sealed her reputation with championship victories in the 60, 100, and 200-meter sprints at a worldwide meet in Europe.

Walasiewicz's skill and reputation as an elite athlete only grew in the intervening years. In January of 1930, Walasiewicz set a new record for the 50-yard dash at the Millrose Games and was the first woman to be recognized as the meet's outstanding performer. It would be another 47 years before another woman

would receive that honor. Walasiewicz then went on to set more records for both the 45 and the 220-yard sprints. But her 220-yard record would only last for a couple of months, when, in that April, it was broken by an astonishing 2.6 seconds. The new record holder: Walasiewicz.

At that year's U. S. National Championship, Walsh was victorious in the 100-yard, 200-yard, and long jump events. Before she died, Walasiewicz would sweep those three events two more times. Only one other athlete in history has swept all three events even once.

In 1929, Walasiewicz started participating in athletic meets in Poland. She was unbeatable. She was admired in Poland and won many popularity polls. Her reputation was so great that Poland offered her to run for the Polish National Team in the 1932 Olympics. Walasiewicz's run for Poland was unpopular in the United States, but she did not receive US citizenship until 1947. Thus, when Walasiewicz won the gold medal for the 200-meter dash, America did not celebrate her victory.

Walasiewicz tripped over a railroad track while in Poland, spraining her ankle. She

made a full recovery and began running again in preparation for the 1936 Olympics. She had set record after record and had accomplished feats thought impossible for a woman.

In the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Walasiewicz ran the 100-meter dash. The American media questioned her supremacy on the track, but Walasiewicz was more determined than ever to win the Gold medal. But, 11.5 seconds after the gun went off, it was all over. Walasiewicz had been beaten by an 18-year-old from Missouri, Helen Stephens. She placed second.

Walasiewicz then returned to the United States and continued setting records, even with the Olympics' future uncertain after the outbreak of war in 1939. That year, she set a pitching record for women, proving that her athletic ability did not lay solely on the track. Further proving this point, in 1943, Walasiewicz fell 16 points short of setting a scoring record for women's basketball. In 1946, at the age of 35, her time for the 100-meters was faster than it had been when she was 19. Finally, after setting American records for the 50, 60, and 80 meters in 1947, Stanisława Walasiewicz was granted American citizenship.

In the years 1929-1944 Stanisława Walasiewicz set 37 track records.

In 1956, Walasiewicz married the American wrestler Harry Olson. That same year, at the age of 45, Walasiewicz failed to qualify for the American Olympic team and split with her husband but stayed in their adopted home of Los Angeles. Finally, moving back in with parents in Cleveland in 1964, Walasiewicz was close to penniless and relied on government welfare to survive until the mayor of Cleveland offered her a job running the city's Junior Olympics, a position she excelled at. After her retirement, she continued to be active in various Polish sport associations in the US, where she organized championships and helped young athletes. She also funded a variety of awards for Polish sports people living in America. In 1974, Stanisława Walasiewicz-Stella Walsh was inducted into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame.

It was during this stage of her life that Walasiewicz would once again fill the headlines of America. On December 4th, 1980, she wanted to buy ribbons for a welcoming ceremony for visiting Polish basketball players. She was walking out of a department store in her neighborhood when two men approached her and attempted to snatch her purse. Fighting back, Walasiewicz resisted the men, and an altercation ensued. One of the men pulled a gun. Walasiewicz jostled for it. The weapon went off, and Walasiewicz fell to the pavement. It took several minutes before she was noticed by another customer who notified an off-duty police officer about the incident. The officer called for an ambulance, but she was



Stanisława Walasiewicz received the Gold Cross of Merit (Złoty Krzyż Zasługi) in 1932 and 1946, one of the highest honors awarded by the President of Poland.

driven to the hospital in a police cruiser when none came, but it was too late. She died on the operating table a few minutes later.

News of her death rippled throughout Cleveland but was especially shocking to the city's shrinking Polish population. A massive funeral was organized, and a great sadness filled the Slavic Village as its most famous resident passed on. Yet, the night before her funeral was to be held in the local Catholic church, a Cleveland TV station questioned Walasiewicz's gender, based on speculation and unconfirmed reports from the coroner's office.

The Polish community rallied around Stanisława Walasiewicz, and to save her reputation, created a fund to hire defense lawyers and keep the autopsy reports sealed. In the end, it was revealed that Walasiewicz was genetically atypical, with mixed male and female chromosomes. About 400 mourners crowded into Sacred Heart of Jesus church in Cleveland to pay respects.

Stanisława Walasiewicz was once considered one of the world's greatest female athletes. She was a world-class athlete who trained relentlessly. She was

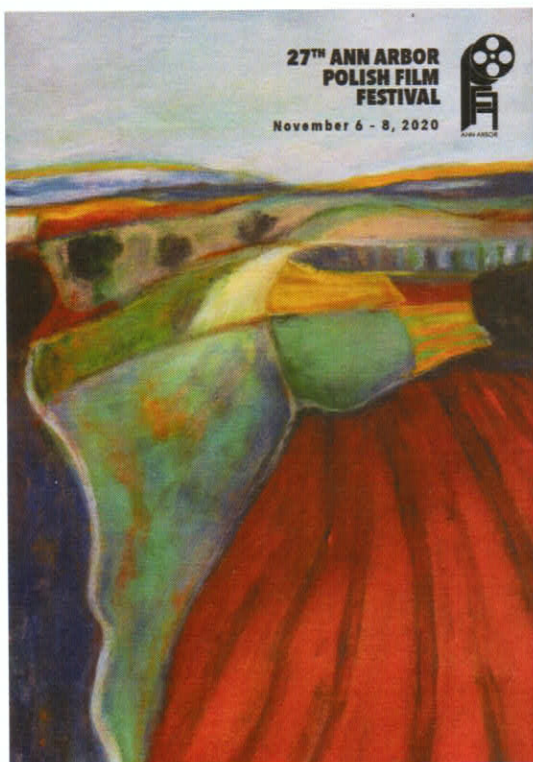
an Olympian ... She was an athletic hero, a role model, and a mentor who lead an incredible life. ■

MEDAL RECORD

Olympic Games	1932	100 m	Gold
Olympic Games	1936	100 m	Silver
Women's World Games	1930	60 m	Gold
Women's World Games	1930	100 m	Gold
Women's World Games	1930	200 m	Gold
Women's World Games	1934	60 m	Gold
Women's World Games	1934	100 m	Silver
Women's World Games	1934	200 m	Silver
Women's World Games	1934	4x100 m relay	Bronze
European Athletics Championships	1938	100 m	Gold
European Athletics Championships	1938	200 m	Gold
European Athletics Championships	1938	4x100 m relay	Silver

Stanisława Walasiewicz won the title of the Best Athlete in the readers poll of magazine *Przegląd Sportowy* (Sports Review) in 1930, 1932, 1933 and 1934.

In the Neighborhood



AAPFF is an annual event organized by the Polish Cultural Fund – Ann Arbor in cooperation with the Ann Arbor Polonia Association and the Polish Student Association UM. Founded by Jolanta Nowak in 1993, the Festival has developed into a multifaceted program and currently offers feature films, documentaries and short films selected in a juried competition, as well as meetings with Polish filmmakers.

For information about streaming visit:

<https://www.annarborpolishfilmfestival.com/>

2020 Line up

Short Films:

Fikolek/Tumble
dir. Milena Dutkowska

Marcel /Marcel
dir. Marcin Mikulski

Okno z widokiem na ścianę/View to the Wall
dir. Kobas Laksa

Rykoszety/Ricochets
dir. Jakub Radej

Documentaries:

Dom literatów czyli kartoteka zebrana/House of Writers
dir. Marek Gajczak

My naród/We, the people
dir. Ewa Ewart

Na Górze Tyrryry/On the Top Tyrryry
dir. Renata Kijowska

Neurochirurg/The Neurosurgeon
dir. Magdalena Zagała

Membership Form



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Drohiczyn

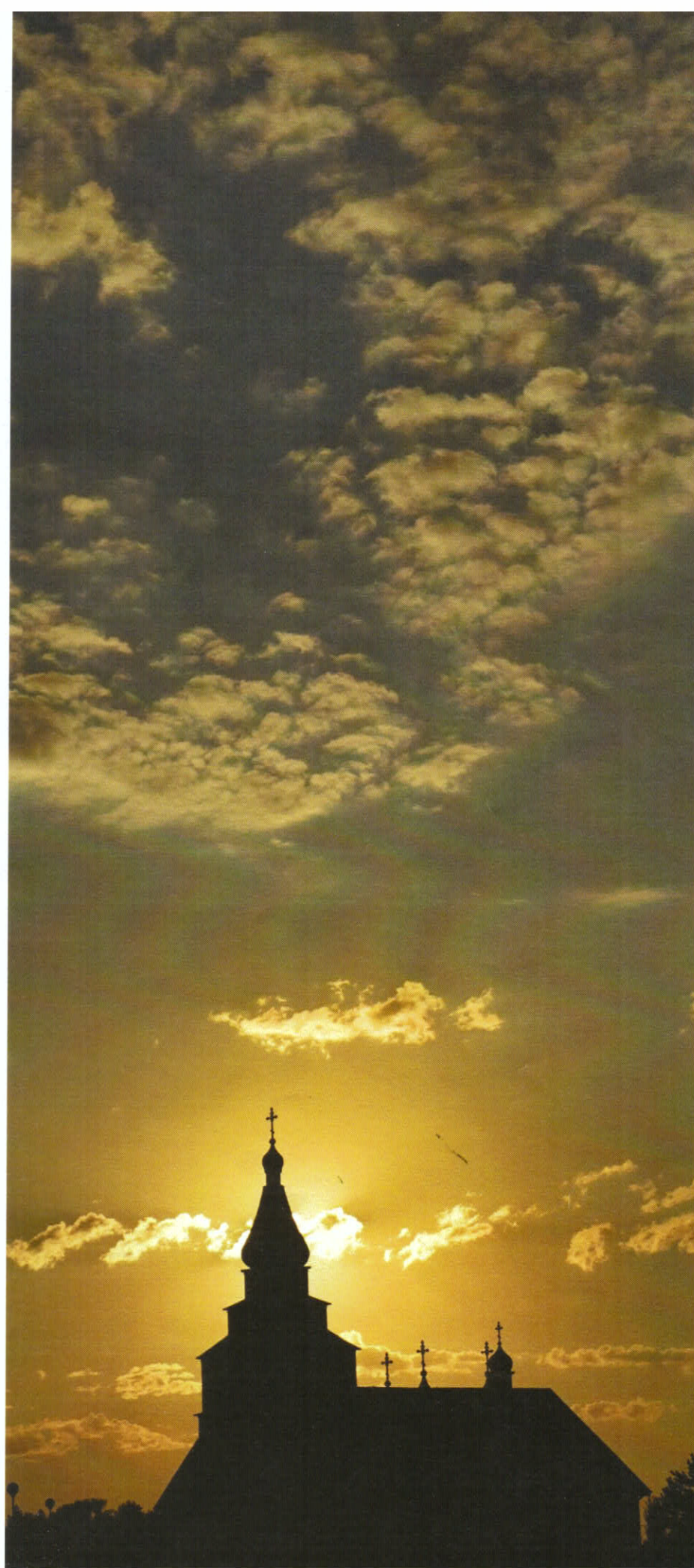
This thousand-year-old town is situated on a bank of the Bug River in Siemiatycze County in East Poland. It has a population of around 2,000. The Castle Hill dominates over the town and the bend of the river. Drohiczyn was probably set up as a defensive settlement. It had been mentioned in the Rus chronicles as early as 1061. At the end of the 15th century, Drohiczyn was granted the rights of a town. It is considered the historical capital of the Podlasie region.

In 1939, as a result of the Hitler-Stalin pact, Drohiczyn became a border town. The Soviets plundered it, and many of its historical buildings were destroyed. NKWD deported many of Drohiczyn inhabitants to Siberia in 1940. After 1941, with the Soviet Union's German invasion, the Germans continued the plunder and destruction.

The seemingly lazy Bug River has sandy islands around Drohiczyn. This pastoral landscape is filled with many small villages and tiny Catholic and Russian Orthodox churches reminding of the towns rich and multi-ethnic past. There are four baroque churches in Drohiczyn. This settlement used to be inhabited by the Jews, Lithuanians, Poles, and Russians. Wondering around, one can still get a glimpse of Drohiczyn glorious past. ■

The Sunrise at the Russian Orthodox Church,
Słochy Annopolskie, 12 km East of Drohiczyn.

Photo: G. Litynski.





Top: The picturesque Bug River in Drohiczyn on the outskirts of the town. Photo: G. Litynski.

Bottom: Russian Orthodox church of St. Nicolaus was built at the end of the 18th century. Photo: G. Litynski.





Top: The picturesque Bug River in Drohiczyn on the outskirts of the town. Photo: G. Litynski.

Bottom: Roman Catholic Cathedral built in the Baroque style between 1696 and 1709. Photo: G Litynski.



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PACIM Membership is changing to the annual/paid for each calendar year starting January 2021, due in the first quarter. The year 2021 is going to be a transitional year as some memberships paid in 2020 will continue into 2021.

If your membership expired recently, please consider renewing. All are welcome as we begin a new era, even though we can't be together in person. For a time, we are taking steps to bring Polish Americans in Minnesota closer in new and varied ways.

Renew today to help us build a better tomorrow!

PACIM Polish Soup Fest TAKE-OUT 2020

Fall Polish Soup Fest has been PACIM's tradition for many years.

The following soups will be prepared with COVID19 precaution standards by

- Chief Kora Korczak and her team
- Ogórkowa/Dill Pickle Soup
- Grzybowa /Mushroom Soup
- Grochowa/Split Pea Soup
- Bigos/Hunters Stew

COST \$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non members)

Prepay/preorder preselected SET of 3 servings of soups (16oz each)
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Order your soups on or before October 31, 2020

Pick up only (no walk-ins/taste-ins) Sunday November 15, 2020 10:30 am-2 pm

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