

PolAm

A Publication of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota

January 2007

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Dr. Bochniarz honored

On November 30, 2006 the University of Minnesota honored Zbigniew Bochniarz with its Award for Global Engagement which is given to faculty and staff members in recognition of outstanding contributions to global education and international programs in their field, discipline, or the University.

Dr. Zbigniew Bochniarz has worked throughout his career to increase the exchange of ideas, faculty, interns, curricula, and students across cultures, borders, and oceans.

A former senior fellow at the Humphrey Institute, Bochniarz's interests center on sustainable development of economies in transition. As director

for the Humphrey Institute's Center for Nations in Transition for 12 years, he helped countries in Central and Eastern Europe move from a command to a market economy. Under his leadership, the Humphrey Institute and other faculty at the University developed and delivered four multi-year education projects that trained more than 42,000 participants.

His institution building has gone beyond academia to building new economic, political, and non-governmental institutions. Bochniarz has been called "a master at building effective collaborative

Bochniarz continued on page 3



Zbigniew Bochniarz (left) with Robert Jones, Meredith McQuaid, and Harry Lando.

Bonnie Prince Charles: Scottish and Polish Prince?



Prince Charles Edward Stuart (December 31st, 1720–1788) was the grandson of the Catholic King James VII of England who was deposed in 1688. His daughter Mary and her husband William of Orange (both Protestants) were crowned King and Queen. After Queen Mary and then her sister Queen Anne died without heirs, Parliament asked George of Hanover, Germany in 1714 to be king. However, their brother, James Francis Stuart, son of the former King James VII had a stronger right to the throne.

In 1718, James Francis Stuart married Princess Clementina Maria Sobieski of Poland who was one of the richest

Prince Charles continued on page 2

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PolAm

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We appreciate your continued generosity and support. Dziękuję.

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Thoughts

Pol-Am Renewals:

Please check your address label for your expiration date and use the form on the



left to renew. Your renewal now saves us the cost of billings and reminders.

I'm writing this just before Christmas and it's difficult to think about the New Year when I'm just hoping to get through the next week. I want to offer a heart felt thank you to all of you who have written such kind words about *Pol-Am* and my part in it when you have sent in your renewals. I'm very glad that so many of you enjoy our newsletter. Thank you to everyone who has already sent your renewals for 2007. Please remember that there is a 2 week delay from when *Pol-Am* goes to the printer until it is in your mailbox so, if you've mailed in your renewal and the expiration date on your mailing label still reads Jan 2007 don't be concerned.

With this issue, we introduce a freshened up version of the newsletter. Thanks to graphic designers Bruce Rubin and Jim Cordaro (Rubin Cordaro Design), the new look is clean and a little more contemporary—a reminder that the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota celebrates today's Polish culture as well as the traditions of the past.

Departments are bold, straightforward and easy to find and the cover will always include some callouts directing you to "not to miss" articles and events.

Lastly, our editorial department will continue to bring you fresh new perspectives on the culture we so enthusiastically embrace.

We wish all of you a Happy New Year and all God's blessings in 2007!

— Steven Ukasick, *Managing Editor*

Prince Charles continued

princesses of all Europe. Their son, Prince Charles Edward Louis John Casimir Silvester Maria Stuart, was born in Rome on 31 December 1720 and known as Bonnie Prince Charles. He claimed the throne of England in 1745 by sailing to Scotland and leading the Jacobite Uprising. By 1746 the uprising was defeated by King George and Prince Charles fled back to France. The well known Scottish tune, "Skye Boat Song" relates his escape from the British.

His mother, Princess Clementina Sobieski (1702-1735), was the daughter of Polish Crown Prince James Sobieski (1667-1737) and grand daughter of King Jan III Sobieski of Poland (1629-1696). The brother of Prince Charles, Henry Benedict (1725-1807), was made Cardinal of the Catholic Church. After Charles' death the Jacobites referred to Henry as King Henry IX, being Cardinal and heir to a throne.

Prince Charles, Prince Cardinal Henry and their parents Princess Clementina Sobieski and Prince James are all buried in crypts at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. At St. Peter's is a Monument to the Royal Stuarts which was curiously in part paid for by King George IV who defeated the Jacobites in 1746.

— Steven Ukasick

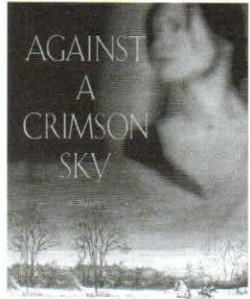
Generous Members

<i>Member Level:</i>	Louise Schroeder
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Dorothy Pierzina	
Charles Ptasinski NEW	<i>Patron + Level:</i>
Bogdan Remiarz	Bill & Bonnie Frels

Against a Crimson Sky

Book Review by Nancy Maciolek Blake

Historical fiction is my favorite genre—both for intriguing reading and for bringing a personal dimension to events that



are usually portrayed in a dry, factual way. James Conroyd Martin's book, *Against a Crimson Sky*, is the best of all possible worlds: a well-plotted, well-written, fascinating account of a strong and unique heroine. The setting in Poland is the piece de resistance: my ancestors, while not of the nobility (minor or otherwise), were Polish, and Martin's book brings to life a time and place that has been difficult for me to imagine.

Against a Crimson Sky continues the story, begun in the author's first novel, *Push Not the River* (St. Martin's Press, 2003) of Anna Maria Berezowska, an ancestor of Martin's friend, John A. Stelnicki. The Stelnicki family kept Anna's diary, written in her teens, sealed in wax for several decades and only recently translated it from the original Polish. Set in partitioned Poland in the 1790s, some of the events in *Push Not the River* seem hard to believe: Anna's dangerous winter journey and Zofia's promiscuous behavior among others. As the story develops, however, both the individual characters and the historical events taking place in Poland bring this important era in Poland's history vividly to life. As the book closes, Poland has been erased from the map of Europe by those who feared her Third of May Constitution, the first democratic constitution in Europe. Anna's stormy early years take a turn to what she hopes will be a quiet life with her handsome suitor, Jan Stelnicki.

Against a Crimson Sky picks up where *Push Not the River* ended. Anna's diary did not continue past 1794, therefore

Martin had to imagine Anna and Jan's life over the next 20 years. His imagination is more than equal to the events laid out for him in the diary: the emotion and turmoil of the first book are not abated in the second. Anna becomes Jan's wife and is mother to three children, only two of whom are Jan's. A strong Polish woman struggling during bitter and lonely times, Anna does whatever is necessary to keep her children safe from those who would manipulate or harm them. Her cousin Zofia's eyebrow-raising exploits add another bittersweet note to the story, and provide a glimpse into the life of the Polish szlachta (minor nobility) as well as some of the Polish social customs of that era.

Poland's situation at the turn of the 19th century provides a riveting setting. It is the time of Napoleon, who plays on the hopes and dreams of the Polish people, promising much in return for their support of his ambitious plans. Hoping for a return to an independent Poland, Jan joins those who fight for Napoleon. Ultimately, his sons participate in Napoleon's ill-fated march to Moscow, where Poland's hopes of liberty are crushed along with Napoleon's reputation.

While Anna and Jan's story will captivate any reader who enjoys historical fiction, Poland's story is even more compelling, especially for those of us whose ancestors originated there. The ideals and strength of these determined people, who vowed never to lose their national identity—and did not, through many years of partition and expatriation—will resonate with anyone of Polish ancestry.

The Polish-American community has recognized Martin's contributions. The American Institute of Polish Culture recently chose him as a Gold Medal recipient, to be awarded in January 2007. But even beyond that, James Martin is a fine writer, whose skills in his first book are even more evident in his second. Whether or not he chooses Poland as the subject matter, I eagerly await his next book.

Visit Mr. Martin's website at www.JamesCMartin.com
<http://culture.polishsite.us/>
Against a Crimson Sky
James Conroyd Martin
St. Martin's Press
ISBN: 0-312-326-823

Bochniarz continued

networks in many different cultures with many different languages.”

Born in Poland, Bochniarz holds a doctorate in economics from the Warsaw School of Economics, where he was an associate professor. Since 1999, he has been an honorary professor at the University of Warmia and Mazury in Poland, and holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Miskolc in Hungary.

He and his wife fled Poland 21 years ago. He was a member of Solidarity Trade Union and his opposition to the Communist government made it impossible for him to continue to teach at the Warsaw School of Economics after martial law was declared.

Bochniarz is the author and/or editor of more than 80 publications, including 15 books. He is a founding member of independent environmental think tanks in Budapest, Prague, Sofia, Warsaw, and Katowice, and leads a multi-year training project on business management curriculum reform and academic capacity building in Ukraine.

As an international scholar he continues to work on collaborative and interdisciplinary research focused on the transformation process in Central and Eastern Europe. He is currently working on an executive program on the microeconomics of competitiveness for the State of Minnesota.
— Office of International Programs,
University of Minnesota

Abakanowicz Statues in Chicago

Noted Polish Artist, Magdalena Abakanowicz, designed and created 106 individual 9 foot tall cast iron figures for



Chicago's Grant Park along Michigan Avenue and Roosevelt Road. Titled "Agora" for the Greek word meaning "meeting place" in a town, the project will fill

the 3 acre site. The dedication was held this last November and the \$10 million price tag was a gift to the city of Chicago from the government of Poland and a private donor.

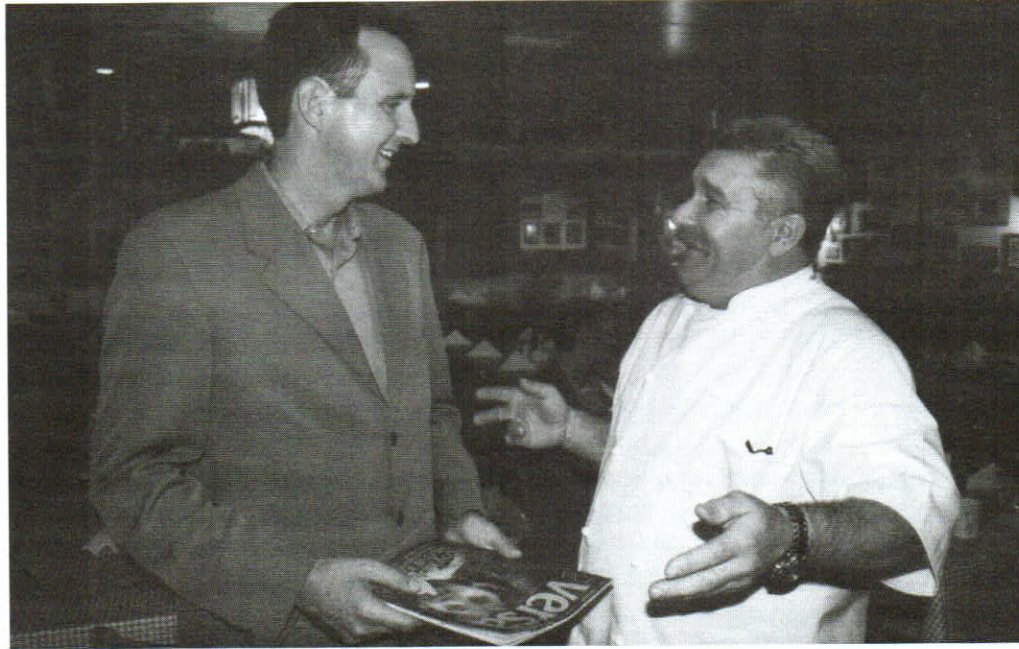
An American Success Story

One of the fascinating little known things about Northeast Minneapolis is that the owner of the popular German restaurant Gasthoff zur Gemutlichkeit is Polish. Even more fascinating is the story of his life — the life of Marion Pierzchalski.

Born in Communist Poland, life was not kind to young Marion. His grandparents fled Lithuania at the end of WW II leaving behind their bakery. They settled in the village of Aleksandrówka, just south of the city of Kozenice, which itself is about 25 miles northeast of Radom. Times were rough for the family. He lived with his grandmother until she was unable to care for him and then found himself in an orphanage. It wasn't until he was thirteen that his mother was able to come back and care for him. His years in the orphanage were hard ones, but he learned many life lessons there.

The family was known for its rebelliousness and independence. His grandfather fought with Piłsudski against the Russians and his step-father served in General Anders' army during WW II before returning to Poland. The Radom Food Riots in 1976 brought more harassment and arrests. Young Marion learned early on to be independent and not to take a back seat to anyone.

Marion moved to Radom to find work and be near the woman who would soon be his wife. He worked in a construction company of over 1300 workers. When the Solidarity movement began in Poland, Marion and his co-workers joined and they elected Marion as their head. Those were exciting days and even Wałęsa and Kuroń came to Radom and Marion joined with them in negotiations with the government about food and



other issues. But those heady days of freedom and power were not to last. In December of 1981 Martial Law was declared in Poland but Marion and others continued to work underground to help arrested workers' families with food, clothing, money and information. The authorities would come and arrest people and would even leave young children abandoned in the homes. But he who did so much for others became one who needed help when he was arrested and jailed on January 6, 1981.

He was sent to prison for four months and was released on May 3, 1981, but still faced 6 years of probation. The

authorities harassed him and arrested him more than once and threw him in "forty-eight hour holds," sometimes not even informing his wife and family of his whereabouts. This harassment and trumped up charges continued until Marion decided to take his pregnant wife and daughter and leave the country. He went to the American Embassy and received permission to immigrate to the United States in July of 1983. With only \$40 hidden in luggage (Marion was strip searched by the Poles before he left), the family soon found themselves just outside of Frankfurt, Germany, where they waited two months for American sponsorship and the birth of his daughter.

Marion was dumbfounded when he arrived at the Frankfurt airport. It became immediately obvious to him that the Polish government had been lying and deceiving its own people for years about how poor, backward and filthy the West was. Marion and his young family were encouraged to come to Minnesota because the state was known as a family



friendly state and good to immigrants. Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis sponsored the family.

Marion arrived in Minnesota not able to speak a word of English and with a wife and two youngsters to support. His first job was that of a dishwasher at what would be the Marriot Hotel in downtown Minneapolis. The job was not enough to support his family so he worked several different jobs, including one that provided a place for the family to stay. He was not content, but always set goals for himself on how to better his position and work. At the Marriot he was soon working in the bakery and working along side of chefs from Germany, Austria and France, putting to good use his skills honed back in the family bakery. After six years in the kitchens he went to school for heating/cooling/ventilation and joined the engineering department at Marriot, which was a far better paying job.

Then came the fateful day in July of 1993 when a friend told him about the German owner of the Gasthaus who needed help since there were few customers and the restaurant was saddled with debt and about to close. Marion started work there in July, by November he was a partner in the business, and by January 1994, the owner gave up and went back to Germany. Marion was faced with almost insurmountable hurdles: a restaurant heavy with debt, few customers, and lack of knowledge of how to run a company in

America. Relying on his determination, hard work and commitment to top notch customer service, he and his wife turned the business around by 1997.

Some would say Marion was lucky, in the right place at the right time. Granted there was some of that, but by far most of the credit was with Marion and his family. Marion dedicated himself to providing the customer with a high quality product, maintaining excellent customer service, being honest in all business dealings, treating employees with loyalty and respect and, above all, working hard. These were the keys to his success. Even today, Marion still works the tables, greeting customers with handshakes, hugs and his ever present smile, making sure customers leave with a smile on their faces. His philosophy is that a restaurant is like a church — open to everybody. And the bottom line in the restaurant business is that you have to like your customers.

It was always Marion's dream to someday own a business, but he always imagined it would be a bakery, in the tra-

dition of his family. He's a firm believer that you always have a chance in life and, if you don't grab it, you will lose it. Marion grabbed hold of his chance and through dint of his personality and hard work realized his dream. Arriving penniless and not speaking a word of English, he is now an American success, and he is proud that he never had to rely upon one day of welfare to make it happen. This is why he loves America. It's the only place where you can achieve success through merit and hard work regardless of your station in life and without having to pay bribes or know the right people.

In the orphanage, Marion learned how to be strong, how to survive no matter what the circumstances. He knew he didn't want to be pushed into a corner and forgotten, but rather to change his life for the better. His coming from a family that didn't acquiesce to Communist brow beating also honed his skills for a new life in America.

Finally, Marion is often asked how a Pole can run a German restaurant. First he learned from German and Austrian chefs at the Marriot. Second, central European food is pretty similar in many ways and he is committed to maintaining the Gasthaus as an authentic German restaurant. He challenges people to try other German restaurants and compare them to the Gasthaus and, when they do, they usually come back for the good German food (which is all made from scratch, by the way!), the great service and the smiles and hugs from the owner.

Next time you want to go out to eat, make it the Gasthaus for great food, great service and Marion Pierzchalski.

— Steven Ukasick

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.

Polskie Przystawia

Bój się w styczniu wiosny, bo marzec zazdrosny.

Beware of spring in January, for March is jealous.

Kalendarz

January 7 Caroling
February 17 Bal Karnawałowy
February 18 Urban Experience: Poland!
May 3-6 Festival of Nations

From the Library

Thanks to our librarians: Phyllis Husted, Pat Kile, Martin Koshiol, Bernard and Vicky Korsak, Kathryn LaVine, Marie Przynski and Halina Wozniak; and our translator: Walter Remiarz Our heartfelt thanks to Chester Bijoch for his generous monetary donation to our library.

I have purchased from Poland 4 additional translations of the works of the popular Minnesota author LaVeryl Spencer. I won on eBay three volumes of the Atlas of Polish Folk Costumes. We now have 18 volumes of this authoritative set that was published in the 1950's. I also purchased 4 Polish videos with English subtitles: "Colonel Wolodyjowski" (the third part of the Sienkiewicz trilogy), "Eroica" and "Bad Luck" both directed by Andrzej Munk and "The Leper" directed by Jerzy Hoffman. In all, we've added 90 new titles to the library in the last month.

Orphan Benefit Nets over \$300!

Thank you everyone who attended our Wigilia Dinner. We made over \$300 for our orphans in Poland. Special thanks to our host, Marion Pierzchalski, for the fabulous food. Thanks also to the people who contributed to the event: Pat Salo and Joe Beben for registration, Fr. Waldemar Matusiak for leading grace, Jadwiga Koson for arranging the music and Artur Skrzek and his son Artur for leading us in the carols. We were so pleased to have in attendance people from Little Falls and Clearwater, Minnesota. Next year's dinner will be on December 9, 2008 at the same place with a little different menu.

— Judith Blanchard, Librarian

Silent Auction Items

PACIM is looking for donations for its Silent Auction for the Bal Karnawałowy in February. Please consider donating an item for this event; your donations are tax deductible. In addition to items, tickets to sports and cultural events, gift certificates for stores or for other types of services are welcome as well. If you have an item you wish to donate, please call Aneta at 612-644-0745 or contact her at andzius@hotmail.com Thank you.

ACPC Summer Scholarship

College students are encouraged to apply and compete for the ACPC Summer Study in Poland Scholarship. To qualify for the \$1500 grant, applicants must be of Polish descent, attend an accredited school of higher learning, and be a member of or recommended by an ACPC affiliate or supporting organization (such as the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota). Completed applications must be postmarked by February 1, 2007. The winner will be announced in March 2007. For applications and further information contact: Camille Kopielski, 1015 Cypress Dr, Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Bal Karnawałowy

THE POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA INVITES YOU TO A FORMAL CARNIVAL BALL
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2007 AT THE ITASCA BALLROOM AT THE FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON
1330 INDUSTRIAL BLVD, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

\$50 PER PERSON (INCLUDES TAX & GRATUITY) FORMAL / SEMI-FORMAL ATTIRE SUGGESTED
ATTENDEES ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AT THE SPONSOR (\$100) AND PATRON (\$150) LEVELS TO SUPPORT THE PACIM FUND
THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND ARE INVITED TO MAKE A DONATION

MENU: LETTUCE & EGG SALAD, ROAST LOIN OF PORK WITH PRUNES AND FRESH MUSHROOM SAUCE,
VEGETARIAN ENTRÉE: WILD MUSHROOM STROGANOFF, STEAMED RED POTATOES
WITH DILL, BRAISED MIXED VEGETABLES, CINNAMON APPLE CREAM PUFFS, WITH VANILLA CREAM AND CARAMEL GLAZE

R S V P

BY FEBRUARY 10, 2007

NAME	ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP	TELEPHONE / E-MAIL

NUMBER OF TICKETS:
___ BAL (\$50) \$ _____
___ SPONSOR (\$100) \$ _____
___ PATRON (\$150) \$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

CHOOSE ENTRÉE:
___ ROAST PORK LOIN
___ MUSHROOM STROGANOFF
INCLUDE NAMES OF ALL
PEOPLE IN YOUR PARTY

SEND CHECK
PAYABLE TO PACIM TO:
PACIM BAL
PO BOX 18403
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55418

Events

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, contact Judith at judytam@usfamily.net

If you would like more timely and last minute updates to local events, email us at polamnewsletter@yahoo.com and put "Polish Update" on the Subject line. We'll add you to our Polish Events e-mail list.

January 7

Caroling in Polish for Seniors

Join us in singing kolędy at Catholic Eldercare, 817 Main St NE, Minneapolis. We will gather at 1 pm to practice before we go to the floors singing Polish Carols. Since Eldercare is in the midst of remodeling, we won't know exactly where we shall meet. Please check with the receptionist when you come in. Bob Gacek accompanies us with his accordion. After Catholic Eldercare we will go to River Village at about 3:30 pm. Further information: Judith 763-571-9602.

January 8

Beginning Polish Classes Begin

Mondays 7-9 pm, 2514 Central Ave NE, Minneapolis. Instructor is Londa Beachem and fee is \$25 (\$20 PACIM members). Mail checks payable to PACIM, 5317 Bryant Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55419.
Info: pacim2006@yahoo.com

January 9

Sister Cities Meeting

Columbia Heights/Łomianki Sister Cities Committee Meeting, 1:30 pm in the Columbia Heights City Hall, 590 40th Ave NE. Meetings are held in the council chambers, and new members are welcome. For information, call 763-571-1166 or 763-571-1709

January 13

Birthday Dance

Minnesota Polka Association Election Dance and Roman Jaworski's 97th Birthday Celebration at the Tri-City American

Legion, 400 Old Highway 8, New Brighton. Dance at 7-11 pm. Music by Dave Novak's Polka Choice. For more information, call Barb at 763-757-5458.

January 14

Oplatek Dinner

Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church is having their Polish Christmas Oplatek Dinner after the 10 am Mass. We invite everyone to join us for authentic Polish food and good fellowship. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 children 12 and under. Tickets may be purchased at the door. 5th St and 22nd Ave NE, Minneapolis. Information: 612-781-9328.

January 14

Strauss & Warschauer Concert

The Yiddish Vinkl presents Deborah Strauss & Jeff Warschauer. They were enthusiastically received when performing in Poland. Their concerts are an integrated and intimate blend of songs, translations and instrumental music grounded in tradition, yet thoroughly contemporary. Admission: \$5. 2:30 pm Sabes Jewish Community Center, 4330 S Cedar Lake Road, Minneapolis, MN. Further information: Roz Baker 612-377-5456.

January 19-20

Winter Gathering

The Polish American Club, 1003 Arcade Street, St. Paul will hold its annual Winter Gathering on January 19 with a cribbage tourney starting at 6 pm and on January 20 with fishing on White Bear Lake starting at 12 noon. For more information call 651-774-6748.

January 28

Oplatek Dinner

Oplatek Dinner and carols sponsored by the Topola Choir at PNA Hall, 13th Ave and 4th Street NE at 1:30 pm. Admission: \$10. For information/tickets, call Janina 763-521-5321 or Kora 763-571-5941. Tickets also available at Eva's Europol Deli or at the door.

February 4

Chopin Society Concert

Kevin Kenner: From fantasy and folk rhythms to searing passions, an American treasure conveys the essence of

Beethoven, Schumann and Chopin with insight and depth of feeling. Admission: \$20, Janet Wallace Center at Macalester College, St. Paul. Further information: www.chopinsocietymn.org or 612-822-0123.

February 17

Bal Karnawałowy

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota invites you to their formal Carnival Ball. Come celebrate with fine dining, entertainment and dance. Starting at 6 pm, Saturday, February 17th at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Minneapolis. Free Parking. Dolina Polish Folk Dancers will perform their Warsaw Suite, then we will begin the night's dancing with the Polonez. Dance Band is the Classics. Tickets: \$50 (see page 6 for further information).

February 17

Ostataki

Dinner and dance sponsored by Topola Choir at the PNA Hall at 7:30 pm. Band will be Bago Bago.

February 18

Urban Expedition: Poland!

Landmark Center in St. Paul. 1-3 pm. Admission is free. Enjoy an afternoon of Polish cultural exhibits, art and crafts with hands on activities for kids. Dolina Polish Folk Dancers will be performing.

Annual Meeting

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

Saturday, January 20, 2007

11 am-2 pm

Gastof zur Gemutlichkeit

2300 University Ave. NE

Minneapolis

\$14 (membership not required)

Our Annual Meeting will include election of 2007 officers, a typical Polish dinner, and a short program.

Send a check to:

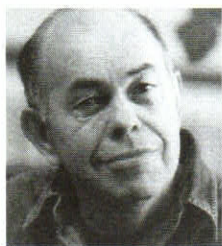
Terry Kita

5036 Queen Ave. S.

Minneapolis, MN 55410

More information: 612-927-0719

People



Jacek Jan Kuroń
1934–2004

A Polish historian, dissident and opposition leader with the Solidarity movement. He was well known for his sensitivity to social issues and served as an aide to the Solidarity trade union move-

ment. After martial law Kuroń was jailed. In 1982 he was once again sentenced to four years in prison for an alleged attempt to overturn the regime. He was released under the amnesty in 1984. Kuroń was awarded the Order of the White Eagle and the Légion d'honneur. He was famous for his disdain for social rules. Such traits won him the affection of many Poles and for some years after he consistently led polls as Poland's most trusted politician. He was called "our man in politics." — *Wikipedia*



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Kraków Named Top Travel Destination (and Minneapolis, too!)

Frommer's Travel Guide named Kraków, Poland to its list of top travel destinations for 2007. Amazingly, Kraków—the



capital until 1609—survived the destruction that befell the rest of the country during WWII and is now, with its amazing historic landmarks, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Among the things to see are the gargoyle-bedecked Sukiennice (Cloth Hall), a medieval covered market still bustling with tourists and street vendors; Wawel, the royal castle;

and the 14th-century Gothic Kościół Mariacki (St. Mary's Basilica), with its intricate spires. Wandering the cobblestone streets of the Old Town (Stare Miasto), aged landmarks coexist amid a modern shopping scene.

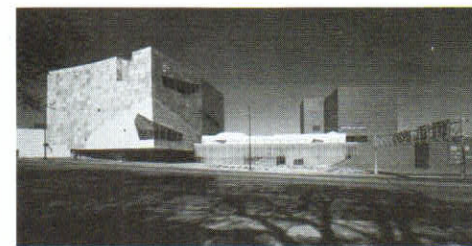
The town may have a rich history, but it has its feet firmly in the modern world—wireless internet access is every-



where, and festivals throughout the year (especially in summer months) showcase cutting-edge music and theater.

A Midwestern city already known for its gorgeous city layout and its fine arts community, Minneapolis is experiencing a cutting-edge design boom. The blockbuster new Guthrie Theater (now located in the Mill District along the Mississippi)

is a sight to behold—a sleek, dark-blue steel building designed by the architect Jean Nouvel. The Walker Art Center has been expanded and also in the works is an addition to the Frank Gehry-designed Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota, which some say evokes his later, more famous Guggenheim Bilbao. Though winters are harsh, Minneapolis is



a fantastic place to be outside. Alongside the Mississippi is a series of lakes that wind through downtown, where you can bike, jog, or just hang out. The Guthrie's new location, with its spectacular views of St. Anthony Falls, is also bringing more traffic to this neighborhood, in addition to shops and restaurants. — *Frommers*