

PolAm

A Publication of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota

March 2008

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Vol. 30, Num. 3

Sto Lat! May you live one hundred years!

by Karina Rajtar

Sto Lat

Trad. Polish Tune

POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA

“Sto lat, sto lat,
Niech żyje, żyje nam.
Sto lat, sto lat,
Niech żyje, żyje nam.
Jeszcze raz, jeszcze raz, niech żyje, żyje nam,
Niech żyje nam! (Sto lat!)”

If you have ever been to a Polish celebration of any kind, from a birthday, to an anniversary, to a wedding, you have likely heard this sung (or, more likely, sung it yourself). This song, which serves as a “happy birthday” or general “congratulations,” wishes the person being celebrated or honored a long life. Roughly translated into English, it is saying:

“A hundred years, a hundred years,
May he/she live for us.
A hundred years, a hundred years,
May he live for us.

Once again, once again, may he live,
live for us,
May he live for us!”

This is the most common verse, but it is often followed by a faster verse that restates the first and adds to the festivity of the event:

“Sto lat sto lat, sto lat sto lat,
Niechaj żyje nam.
Sto lat sto lat, sto lat sto lat,
Niechaj żyje nam.
Niech żyje nam, niech żyje nam,
Sto lat sto lat, sto lat sto lat,
Niechaj żyje nam!”

Although nobody is exactly sure of the author of the song or where and when it was written, it has taken on a significant

Sto Lat continues on page 2

Poles on Top of the World

In what world-wide endeavor, in which skill, physical toughness and psychological resilience are absolutely essential to succeed



Mount Everest is the highest mountain on Earth, as measured by the height of its summit above sea level, which is 8,848 meters or 29,028 feet. The mountain is located on the border between Nepal and Tibet, China.

let alone survive, do Poles lead the world with unequalled success? The answer is wintertime high-altitude mountaineering. Of the world’s fourteen peaks above 8,000 meters (26,246 feet), Poland’s “Ice Warriors” have successfully climbed eight. No other high-altitude mountaineers have even dared such a feat.

The article by Mark Jenkins, in the January 2008 issue of the *National Geographic* magazine, entitled “Ice Warriors” is one you will not want to miss reading and passing on. These Polscy Alpiniści are remarkable men in the world of mountaineering, unequalled by their peers. Much of their success

Poles on Top of the World continues on page 3

**Membership Form For
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612-378-9291**

www.pacim.org

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Total: _____

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

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

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Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403

PolAm

PolAm (Permit #31798) is the official publication of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota and is published monthly with a July/August issue. Non-profit bulk permit paid at Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is located at 2514 Central Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN. Please direct all inquiries to our mailing address at PO Box 18403, Minneapolis, MN, 55418-0403, or email us at pacim2006@yahoo.com, or call Steven at 612-822-2322.

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We appreciate your continued support. Dziękuję!

Thoughts

Well, another successful Bal is now history...over 130 people attended this year's event despite its being held on a



Sunday, and Super Bowl Sunday at that. Next year's Bal will be even better...and on Saturday night!

It's been over 2 years now that I have taken upon

my shoulders the responsibility of keeping *Pol-Am* the great periodical that Chester Rog created and nurtured for 13 years. Many people ask me how he is doing...and he is doing well. He does not get out so much now, however, since he is kept busy caring for his wife and does not drive at night. He does remain active and still keeps a close eye to all things in the Polish community. We are blessed to have him here in Minneapolis.

I and my rather large jade plant had a little row this week and I managed to really tear up a muscle in my back. I felt sorry for the plant since it was too heavy to drag out of the basement last spring and has spent the last 1 1/2 years in the dark and cold of the basement. I noticed that it was bravely trying to grow despite the neglect so I brought it upstairs and didn't quite get it to the window. I'm feeling a little bit better each day, and my two week vacation begins soon so after a week of convalescing in Mexico I should be back to my usual self by the end of the month.

As always, I am very grateful for all the nice things you say about me and *Pol-Am* newsletter. I am happy so many of you find it interesting.

Until next month,

Steven

Steven Ukasick

Sto Lat continues

role in Polish culture. "Sto Lat" is played not only at informal family gatherings, but also at many formal celebrations. It has been played at Polish presidential inaugurations and visits by the late Pope John Paul II.

"Sto Lat" was an intrinsic component of maintaining Polish culture in immigrants to the United States, and it has clearly remained that way to this day.

*In Memory
of a Proud Pole,
Helen Cardinal*



*May Choirs of Angels Lead You
to Paradise and Eternal Peace.
L. Schroeder, pd.*

New and Generous Members:

New Members:

James Bueltel
David Jendrzejek
Polish Wellness Club of Isanti
Mary Renteria
Tamara Samkowicz
Pete Stoffel

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Rudolph Borowicz

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Zygmunt & Barbara Osada

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Anthony Belinski
Chester Bielowski
Elmer Czech
Angeline Guminga
Pat & Stephen Kile

Donations to PACIM's Children Fund

Robert Sitko \$25
Robert Fox \$25

Poles on Top of the World continues

springs from their personal fortitude and skill, but also from their being Polish; a point Jenkins makes very clear in this



The Himalaya Range is a mountain range in Asia, separating the Indian subcontinent from the Tibetan Plateau. Together, the Himalayan mountain system is the planet's highest and home to the world's highest peaks: the Eight-thousanders, including Mount Everest and K2.

article. He says, "They are Polish, after all, and this is a peculiarly Polish pursuit: high-altitude winter mountaineering."

He further writes,

"As a people, Poles had long ago learned to bear up against terrible odds, recognizing that heroes who struggle and lose may be heroes all the same. At least five times during the past millennium, conquerors had erased the nation from the map of Europe, vowing to obliterate its memory, yet somehow the Polish identity had survived."

Who are these Polish bohaterzy? Andrzej Zawada is perhaps the most well-known. Leszek Cichy and Krzysztof Wielicki were the first men in the world to climb Mount Everest in the winter in 1980, but the list of these men goes on: Tarasewicz, Szulc, Berbeka, Hajzer, Załuski, and many others too numerous to mention here.

Jenkins ends his article with these words:

"In this story of mountains and men, winter and willpower, suffering and survival, eight chapters have already been written. There are only six left and there's no doubt the Poles will write them. Who else could?"

This is an article you should not miss...and if you like it, let the *National Geographic* magazine know. Good press is not easy to come by and we need to thank those who speak so well of the Polish spirit. —Steven Ukasick

All quotes are from the *National Geographic* magazine.

"Man of Marble" directed by Andrzej Wajda

Review:

Andrzej Wajda's *Man of Marble* (*Człowiek z Marmuru*) is an award-winning drama that attacks Polish government



corruption during Stalinism. The main character of the movie, a bricklayer

named Mateusz Birkut (played by the famous Polish actor Jerzy Radziwiłowicz) is a national hero in the 1950s due to his skills at his trade. Several years later, Birkut has inexplicably fallen into obscuri-

ty. In making a film of the bricklayer's life, a Polish documentary director Agnieszka (played by Krystyna Janda) discovers that this bricklayer used his sudden fame to become involved in labor politics—whereupon the repressive communist government did its best to wipe out all traces of his accomplishments. Throughout this experience, Agnieszka discovers the truth about the bitter years in Poland in the 1950s. This climactic revelation was, ironically, deleted by the Polish censors when *Man of Marble* was first released.

Date: March 28

Show Time: 7 pm

Where: PACIM Institute

2514 Central Ave NE

Minneapolis

Popcorn and refreshments provided.

Jowita Haugen will present a short Polish retrospective before the movie.

Pierogi Humor

—from the internet

An elderly Polish man lay dying in his bed. While suffering the agonies of impending death, he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favorite pierogi with fried onions wafting up the stairs.

He gathered his remaining strength and lifted himself from the bed. Gripping the railing with both hands, he crawled down the stairs.

Downstairs, he leaned against the door frame, gazing into the kitchen where, if not for death's agony, he would have thought himself already in heaven for there, spread out upon waxed paper on the kitchen table, were hundreds of his favorite pierogi.

Was it heaven? Or was it one final act of love from his wife of sixty years, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man?

He threw himself towards the table; landing on his knees in a crumpled posture his parched lips parted, the wondrous taste of the pierogi was already in his mouth. With a trembling hand he reached up to the edge of the table, when suddenly he was smacked with a wooden spoon by his wife.

"Back off!" she said. "Those are for the funeral!"

Come with us to Polish Chicago!

May 2-4, 2008

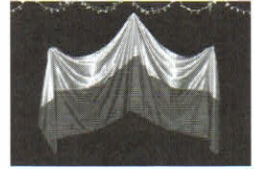
The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is once again sponsoring its very popular motor coach tour to Chicago for "Polish Constitution Day." Trip includes:

- March (or ride) in the Constitution Day Parade in downtown Chicago
- Dine at traditional Polish restaurants
- Shop in the Polish district for gifts and food to bring back, including stops at Alexandra's Pierogi Factory and the Amber Gallery
- Opportunity to attend Mass at St. Hyacinth Basilica
- Other Polish events to be announced.

Leave May 2nd at 8 am and return approximately 8 pm May 4th. \$255 per person: includes bus, hotel (double occupancy), 2 lunches and 2 dinners.

To register or for further details call Phyllis Husted at 763-566-8812 or email: pahusted@aol.com. Or call John Bieniek at 320-746-2578 or email jvbien@msn.com.

Register early for a fun-filled Polish weekend. This tour fills quickly!



Carnival In A Grand Polish Way *Niech żyje Bal*

by Jerzy Hornik



It's a wintry Sunday evening in Downtown Saint Paul. Undisturbed streets, soundless corners and a chilly February wind set the mood for an invigorating evening indoors. The sparkles of intricately ornamented chandeliers light up Cedar Avenue through the two-story-high windows of the Historic University Club.

It's the Eve of the 7th Annual Bal Karnawałowy (Carnival Ball)—an enchanting evening of Polish hospitality, entertainment, and a display of impressive cuisine.

"This is my first time at PACIM's Bal Karnawałowy—what a spectacular and heart-warming event," says Joanna Jakubczak Dwyer, sipping wine in a foyer reminiscent of the grand hotel lobbies of the early part of this century boasting magnificent marble floors and stately columns.

More than 130 guests attended PACIM's signature annual ball gala on Sunday, February 3 to celebrate the long-standing tradition of Polish Carnival.

The evening began at 6:30 p.m. with the mesmerizing sound of Bonnie Frels' piano recital by the wood-burning fireplace in the main lobby, painstakingly restored to its original 1917 appearance.

"The University Club is the ideal venue for this glamorous event. Its beautiful balconies draped with white and red banners and the majestic coffered ceilings provide the perfect backdrop to the exquisite gowns and tuxedos," says Wiesia Korsak.

In the third floor dining room, PACIM president Steven Ukasick, accompanied by board members Aneta Toporowska and Jerzy Hornik, initiated the ball by inviting everyone to enjoy an evening of friendship, conversation and dance citing Ovidious' words, "In dance, we reveal our human side."

Guests enjoyed a celebratory toast of Krupnik and a highly imaginative meal with a selection of Mediterranean bread salad, stuffed pork loin with Portobello and sun-dried tomato, open-faced ravioli, and a white chocolate pear torte for dessert ordered especially for the occasion.



In grand ballroom tradition, Ewa Bujak conducted a 30-minute violin recital of classical favorites, and the Mike Macken Band performed a program replete with New York ballroom classics and songs on request, giving everyone a pleasurable dining and dancing experience.

PACIM president Steven Ukasick honored Bonnie and Bill Frels for their outstanding service in the Polish American community, applauding their efforts and volunteer hours to promote the Polish and Polish American cultures on various state and national cultural boards.

The highlight of the evening was a performance by Dolina Polish Folk Dancers who enacted a traditional dance from Łomża and led guests in the magnificent Polonaise. The ballroom was instantly filled with smiling faces and energy, which signaled just the beginning of dancing through the end of the evening.

“I was so pleased to see everyone really have a good time,” said Ukasick. “It was great to see our friends and colleagues dancing, conversing, and making new acquaintances—in the carnival spirit.”

The ball’s silent auction was one of the most successful to date, with auction items ranging from a weekend getaway in Wisconsin, assorted wine baskets, and a Bolesławiec vase to a broad selection of traditional Polish craft items.

Already full of new ideas for next year, “We’re looking forward to an event even more spectacular and breathtaking,” said Ukasick. “Because of the strong success of this year’s ball and the generosity of all attending, PACIM can continue to develop and deliver programs focused on promoting the Polish American and Polish cultures in the Twin Cities.”

On April 5th the Polish Party Posse, PACIM’s latest effort to bring Eastern European style entertainment to the Twin Cities, is gearing up for a Polish Bunny Party in Downtown Minneapolis—it’s a must-see evening of cross-cultural music and surprises, as well as a breathtaking display of innovative bunny costume ideas. For more information, please visit www.pacim.org.

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the extent limited by law. All contributions above \$15 will be acknowledged as donations by written receipt. Please consider including us in your tax and estate planning. We appreciate your generous support.

Przysłowia Polskie

Na Świętego Grzegorza zima idzie do morza. *On St. Gregory's Day (March 12th) winter is running away to the sea. (spring thaw)*
A po lutym marzec spieszy, koniec zimy wszystkich cieszy.
March rushes after February; the end of winter makes everyone really happy.

Kalendarz

Mar 28	Film Night
Apr 5	Polish Party Posse Party
May 1-4	Festival of Nations
May 2-4	Chicago Polish Trip
Aug tba	PACIM open house & picnic
Sep tba	Warsaw artist, Joanna Sułek-Malinowska

Volunteers Needed for Festival of Nations

We need volunteers for the Festival of Nations on May 1-4 for both our Café and the Culture Booth. If you are interested, please call Steven at 612-822-2322 or email us at: pacim2006@yahoo.com and we will find a place for you. (Some of our Festival volunteers have worked ever since we started participating in the Festival; isn't it time you join the fun?)

Work for four hours then spend the rest of the time enjoying the Festival. Free tickets to the Festival included. We really need people for the Culture Booth on Thursday and Friday. No experience or knowledge necessary...just a willingness to talk to people about Poland and its heritage.

PACIM Library

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

The Library will be closed Sunday, March 23

Thanks to Tamara Samkowicz for 28 volumes of Polish mystery and romance. With the 26 books we received from Bozena Durda last month, we now have over 50 new easy reading books waiting for you. Come on in!

Last month for movie night we showed "Zemsta" on our new DVD recorder. What a difference from the VHS! It was so clear and the subtitles were so easy to read. Since the first of the year, we've started a DVD buying program. Finding DVDs that have English subtitles and are still reasonably priced is not easy. We currently have 18 DVDs in our collection and many have English subtitles:

Young Girls of Wilko, Posze Słonia (children), Przygody Reksia (children), Bolek & Lolek on Vacation, Pulkownik Kwiatkowski, Tydzien z życia mężczyzny Zemsta, Dług, Głosniej stykowka, Vinci, Tylko mnie kochaj, Battle for Warsaw (English), Quo Vadis (modern) Jak rozpetalem II Wojne Swiatouu I, II, III, MIS, Mazowsze, Pan Tadeusz, Spis cudzolożnic

Bal Karnawałowy

Many thanks to Aneta Toporowska and her committee for a fun-filled pre-Lenten Carnival celebration at the University Club in Saint Paul.

Festival of Nations

On May 1-4, the International Institute of Minnesota will present the 75th Annual Festival of Nations which celebrates the richness of 97 diverse cultures at RiverCentre, 175 West Kellogg Blvd, Saint Paul.

Work for four hours at the Festival in the Polish Café or the Culture Booth (sit down job) and receive free entrance tickets. We need people for every day but especially for the daytime hours on Thursday and Friday. Please call Marta at 763-546-5686 if you can work serving food or Renata at 651-428-9645 if you

are interested in the Culture Booth. There are 11 nations on the list just waiting to take our place if we cannot keep the Café and Culture Booth staffed.
Judith Blanchard, *Librarian*

Echos from the North

News from Little Falls, Minnesota

We Rise Again From Ashes. When you read this we'll be in the midst of Lent awaiting Easter. Let me reminisce a little and perhaps bring back some fond memories for some of you.

I grew up on a farm about 12 miles from Little Falls and belonged to the Polish parish of St. Stanislaus in Sobieski. Lent in those days was much stricter than today and my family lived by the rules.

No meat on Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent and fasting was a given. After 6 weeks of eggs, various fish and sardines, a lot of meatless soup and meatless hot dishes, Easter was certainly welcome even by the very young. I can certainly praise the wonderful mothers who had quite a job keeping the family satisfied, with no supermarkets with the wonderful variety of foods available now.

Church was a big part of our life, Stations of the Cross every Friday. Dare I forget that we always had 2 homilies every Sunday, one in English and one in Polish. Lent was over at noon on Saturday. Holy Saturday services were in the morning but we did have Resurrection Services on Saturday evening when all the little girls in their white dresses and boys in white shirts and ties marched in procession. This was a beautiful service which I never missed. The Polish Echos are busy. I would like to invite all of you to our annual Polish dinner which will be on April 27th. I'll write more about it next time. Be sure to join us and remember Bring a Friend.

Phinee Zak, *President of Polish Echos*

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

Events

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 pacim2006@yahoo.com and put "Polish Update" on the Subject line. We'll add you to our Polish Events.

There Will Be No Friday Fish Frys at Holy Cross this year.

February 8 Friday Fish Fry During Lent

St. Paul's Polish American Club will start their Fish Fry's on February 8 from 5-8 pm. Each week the dinner is sponsored by a different non-profit. A dance follows after. The Club is located at 1003 Arcade Street, St. Paul. For more information call 651-774-6748.

March 2 Imogen Cooper/Chopin Society

Featured artist performing at 3 pm at Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center Macalester College, 130 Macalester St., Saint Paul. Tickets range from \$12-\$20. For more information, contact the Frederic Chopin Society at 612-822-0123.

April 18-20 "First Love: A Bulgarian Tale"

O'Shaughnessy Auditorium
2004 Randolph Ave., Saint Paul
Ivan loves Tudora. Tudora loves Kolyo, and Kolyo loves...who? Find out at Ethnic Dance Theatre's "First Love" featuring the haunting music, beautiful costumes and captivating rhythms of exotic Bulgaria! With new choreography by Bulgarian choreographer, Petur Iliev, this full length concert blends traditional with contemporary dance forms and music (even hip hop!) to tell the story of a village love triangle. Live music by the EDT Folk Orchestra under the direction of Nikolay Gueorguiev, with musical guests, Mila Vocal Ensemble. Not to be missed! Tickets through O'Shaughnessy

Please visit the Ethnic Dance Theatre website for more information on these and other events at:
www.ethnicdancetheatre.com

April 19 Polka Dance

The Midwest Polka Association will host "Stephanie" from the state of New York "American's Polka Sweetheart" and her Honky Band on Saturday, April 19 from 7-11 pm at the Sergeant John Rice VFW Post, 1374-109th Ave NE, Blaine \$10. For more information, call Ed Budzinski at 763-428-9649 or edbudzinski@peoplepc.com.

April 20th Sister Cities Fundraiser Dinner

Dinner sponsored by Columbia Heights, MN/Łomianki, Poland - Sister Cities, International Murzyn Hall at 5:30 pm Mill St, Columbia Heights. Committee making plans for a silent auction.

Łomianki's Burmistrz Wiesław Pszczolkowski has invited students from Columbia Heights (ages 16-18) to be guests of the City of Łomianki during the summer of 2008. Students from Łomianki will visit us during the summer of 2009. Students will provide their own airfare and insurance. All housing, meals, supervision, transportation, and travels to other Polish sites during an approximate two week period will be provided by the City of Łomianki. Our local Sister Cities' committee has scheduled the last week in July and first week in August, 2008, for this initial venture. For questions and to offer to host a Polish student in 2009, contact Dolores Strand 763/571-1709 or Gilbert Mros 763-571-1166 for more information.

May 1-4 Festival of Nations

At the 2008 Festival of Nations, 97 different ethnic groups from around the world will share their foods, crafts and traditions that form the mosaic of our American culture. The International Institute of Minnesota presents the 75th Festival at RiverCentre, 175 West Kellogg Blvd., Saint Paul

Work for four hours at the Festival in

the kitchen or the culture booth (sit down job) and receive free entrance tickets. Call Judith at 763-571-9602. Please call; we especially need volunteers for Thursday and Friday.

May 2-4 Trip to Polish Chicago *(See article on page 3 for details.)*

May 4 Mihaela Ursuleasa/Chopin Society Featured artist performance *More details next month*

May 17 Polka Dance The Midwest Polka Association *More details next month*

Chester S. Rog Endowment Fund Applications Due April 1

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM) has set up an endowment fund to honor one of its founding members, Chester Rog. The fund's objective is to benefit and promote the local community and its Polish heritage. It will grant stipends totaling \$1,000 per year to individuals and/or groups who seek professional growth, Polish language, arts and cultural study either locally or abroad and who are committed to using what they have achieved to benefit the cause of Polish heritage here in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Two \$500 stipends/scholarships for transportation, tuition and other expenses will be granted for the year 2008 (subject to change). Qualified applicants must send all of the material described above by April 1st, 2008 (faxes not accepted) to: PACIM, Rog Endowment Committee PO Box 18403, Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403

Successful applicants will be notified no later than May 1st, 2008.

For a detailed description of Qualifications and Application Requirements, see last month's issue (February) of *PolAm* or contact: Charlene Delaney at 651-423-5020 or panid@aol.com.

People



Jerzy Kukuczka
Alpinista
1948–1989

Born in Katowice. Considered one of the most outstanding mountain climbers in the world. Second man in the world to capture the “Crown of the Himalayas” for climbing the fourteen highest peaks in the world above

8,000 meters. Raced Reinhold Messner, who finished a year earlier, for this title; however Kukuczka accomplished his feat eight years faster and on new routes to the top. Died on Mount Lhotsa using a 2nd hand rope and is buried there in a crevasse. A religious man, his prayer was, “From death in the valleys, Lord deliver us.”



POLISH AMERICAN
CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA
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Katowice, Poland



Name: Katowice
Population: 317,220 (2006)

Katowice is an urban community in the eastern part of Upper Silesia. It lies between the Vistula and Oder rivers, on the Silesian Highlands. The climate of the area is continental humid. The average temperature is 46°F (average 29°F in January and up to average 64°F in July).

Polish Word Tips

Dzień Świętego Patryka
St. Patrick's Day

Pierwszy dzień Wiosny
The first day of Spring

Wielki Piątek
Good Friday

Wielkanoc
Easter

Święconka
Baskets with food to be blessed which Poles bring to church on Good Saturday

Pisanki
Easter eggs

Śmingus Długus
a Polish tradition on Easter Monday during which people pour water at each other

Szczyt
peak

Wspinaczka górską
mountain climbing



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CHEF JAMES BUECHE IS 100% POLISH ON HIS
MOTHER'S SIDE. VERY REASONABLE, \$8 TO \$11
AND GREAT AMBIENCE. CHECK IT OUT.
JAMES IS PROMISING A ŚMINGUS DŁUGUS PARTY
SO WATCH THE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

—THE JOHN PAUL II PIZZA IS REALLY GOOD, ED