

PolAm

A Publication of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota

May 2008

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Vol. 30, Num. 5

Celebrating May 3rd

A Reflection By Karina Rajtar

From my first few years of school, I learned about the United States Constitution. I learned about the process of writing it and the process of ratifying it. I filled in worksheets based on its contents and memorized names and dates. Despite everything I learned about it, I never exactly celebrated it.

I did, however, grow up celebrating Polish Constitution Day every first week-end of May. I never really learned much

about the Polish Constitution, but I knew that it was something important to feel proud of as a Polish American because there was always an Akademia at church with poems, songs, and Dolina Polish Folk Dance performances. As a member of the children's group, Słoneczniki, I often participated in these celebrations, but I still did not completely comprehend their significance.

Now that I am older and can understand politics and history, I realize the importance of the day. The Polish Constitution was the second constitution in the world, after that of the United

States, and the ideas set forth within it were very much ahead of their time. It proposed democracy, equality, and free elections. These ideas helped keep Polish hopes for a free, independent society alive during the partition of Poland, World War II, and communist rule, until the day in 1990 it could be reestablished as a national holiday. It was, and continues to be, a symbol of hope and unity, rather than simply a document with a plan and provisions. It is a day that I will continue to celebrate, though now with more appreciation and respect.

Remembering the Veterans of the Polish II Corps

By Joseph Beben

"Passerby, tell Poland that we fell faithfully in her service, for our freedom and yours, we Polish soldiers gave our souls to God, our bodies to the soil of Italy, and our hearts to Poland"

This is a translation of the Polish epitaph engraved on the monument in the cemetery at the foot of the abbey at Monte Cassino. It is the living memory to the soldiers of the Polish II Corps who fought so valiantly to break the Germans' fierce Gustav Line defenses holding up the Allied advance in 1944 to free Rome.

The linchpin in the German' defenses was Monte Casino made famous by the ancient Benedictine Abbey high atop its heights. It dominated the battlefield and, starting in January of that year, the Allies launched three disastrous attempts to wrest



it from the Germans. Brought to the front in April, the Polish Corps was placed on the far right in preparation for the Allies' fourth assault to open the road to Rome.

The men and women of the Polish II Corps had endured almost five years of unimaginable turmoil and violence in their lives to reach this point. Many were proud representatives of "Anders' Army," the Polish troops who had first organized in the Soviet Union after being captured in the September 1939 Campaign and subsequently evacuated to Persia where they

allied with the British. Now they were over 45,000 strong, a formidable fighting machine of two infantry divisions and



Monument at Monte Cassino

armored and artillery forces.

Beginning on May 12, 1944 the Poles assaulted the hills leading to the abbey but were repulsed, suffering appalling casualties. They attacked a second and third time, even pressing support personnel into the line. Finally, the pressure became too great and the Germans, outflanked and the Gustav Line penetrated, began withdrawing. Brushing aside the defender's rearguard, the Poles captured

Veterans continues on page 2

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

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

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PolAm

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We appreciate your continued support. Dziękuję!

Thoughts

Well, after a much belated start, I think spring is finally here, and for a gardener like me that's a welcome relief from this



long drawn out winter.

On May 15th at 1 pm I am looking for a volunteer or two to help with the clean-up (not much) and planting the

back of our Institute on Central Ave NE. We've got lots of cannas to put in, petunias to plant and some general weed pulling and raking. Come join the fun! (If it's rainy and wet, the rain day will be on Sunday the 18th at 1 pm.) Brings gloves, a garden trowel, or shovels.

I truly appreciate the art of Jan Matejko. Here is an artist who loved his country and did his best to memorialize all the great events of Poland's past in his painting. In this age of YouTube, oil on canvas may be a bit passé, but it has lasting power to inspire and to fill one's heart with pride.

Since it is spring, and it would seem that warm, sunny days are at a premium; this will be short so I can get out to the garden and finish all the spring chores.

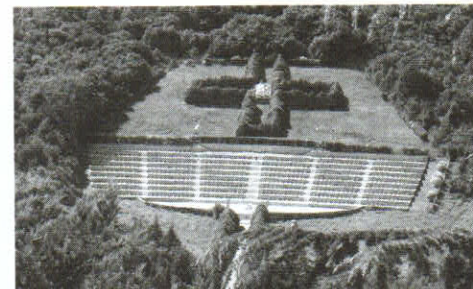
Until next month, or the 15th hint, hint :),

Steven

Steven Ukasick

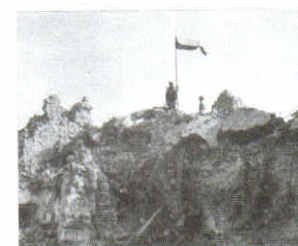
Veterans continues

Monte Cassino the morning of May 18, 1944. It was a costly victory indeed: the Poles suffered 923 KIA, 2,931 wounded and 94 MIA.



Polish Cemetery at Monte Cassino

Some of the saddest stories of the battles for Monte Cassino come from Polish veterans. When the war was over, after so much



Polish flag at Monte Cassino

hardship at the hands of the Nazis, Russians and German paratroopers, they had no home to return to.

Monte Cassino had

no happy ending for the Poles. They were made to believe, and really did believe, they were fighting to liberate not just Cassino but their beloved Poland. The politicians, however, had already determined their and Poland's fate. So now, 64 years later, remember their hardship, loss and deprivation and how it may have helped you be in a better place today. We must honor them and always be proud of our heroes.

New and Generous Members:

New Members:
Carleen Lewno
Lorraine Caouette
Malgorzata Arbudzinski
Joseph Korman III
Malgorzata & Tedros Gebre
Walt Andrychowicz
James Bueche
Beata & Andrew Galas
Stephanie Mackenthun
Joseph Batkiewicz
Roland & Monika Miezianko
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Vivian Walkosz
Florence Zimmiewicz

Polanie Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul Scholarship

The Polanie Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul is again offering a limited number of \$2000 scholarships for 2008–2009 academic year. Qualifying applicants are US citizens or permanent residents of Polish-American ancestry who are Minnesota residents with a GPA of 2.5 or higher. Scholarships are available to individuals ages 18–25 who are seeking financial aid for further education beyond high school.

To apply, please go to the Polanie Club web site:

www.polanieclubmplsstpaul.com and click on the scholarship page to download and print out the application form and instructions.

To have the application sent to you please send a self-addressed and stamped envelope to:

Polanie Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul
Attn: Scholarship Committee
643 Madison Street NE
Minneapolis MN 55413

Applications must be postmarked by July 1, 2008. Applicants will be notified about the decision in August 2008.

Jamestown Art Contest

The Washington Metropolitan Area Division of the Polish American Congress announced the start of its “Polish Craftsmen in Jamestown Colony Art Contest.”

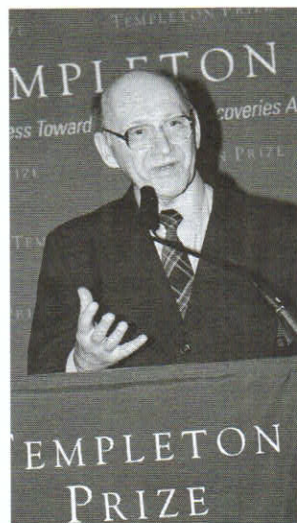
The art contest highlights the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Polish pioneers in Jamestown. These craftsmen although few in number, were skillful and industrious, and soon after their arrival the colony began producing glass, pitch, tar, soap ash and other products for export to England.

The Art Contest has two categories. The Coloring Contest for youth ages 3–14 and The Free Design Contest for students age 12 and older. The contest runs from April 20 to August 15, 2008. Winners will be announced by September 30, 2008, and will be awarded a cash prize; rules and coloring contest drawings are available on their website at www.pacwashmetrodiv.com.

Templeton Prize

For Progress Toward Research or Discoveries about Spiritual Realities

The Reverend Michał Heller, a Polish cosmologist and Catholic priest who for more than 40 years has developed sharply



focused and strikingly original concepts on the origin and cause of the universe, often under intense governmental repression, has won the 2008 Templeton Prize which comes to over

1.6 million dollars. The Prize will be officially awarded to Heller by HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, at a private ceremony at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday, May 7th.

Fr. Heller plans to dedicate the Templeton Prize money to help create the Copernicus Center in conjunction with Jagiellonian University and the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Kraków to further research and education in science and theology as an academic discipline.

Fr. Heller was born in 1936 in Tarnów. During WW II he along with his family was exiled to Siberia; after the war they returned to Poland where he entered seminary and was ordained in 1959. He earned a master's degree in Philosophy and a Ph.D. in Cosmology from the Catholic University of Lublin. He joined the faculty of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Kraków in 1972.

Poles Returning from the UK and Ireland

—*The Warsaw Voice*

Polish emigration to the UK and Ireland is easing and many Poles are returning to their home country. The main reason is homesickness.

According to the British employment registry, the Working Registration Scheme, only 38,000 Poles registered in the third quarter of 2007, which is the fewest since May 2004 when Poland entered the EU.

According to research by the Interaktywny Instytut Badan Rynkowych (IIBR) 12% of Poles in the UK and Ireland are thinking of returning to Poland compared to 6% last year. 50% of poll respondents in the islands said they would be returning to Poland within five years. The reason: 35% of respondents wanting to return to Poland said they were homesick.

With the złoty growing stronger and wages rising rapidly in Poland, there is a significantly lower economic incentive to stay in the UK and Ireland. The reason wages are rising so rapidly (upwards of 10% on an annual basis) in Poland is because labor has been mobile since Poland joined the EU in 2004. There have been shortages of workers in Poland for the past two years or so.

Baltic Imports

Help Wanted

Specializing in high quality amber and folk arts, Baltic Imports is seeking a part-time (15–20 hours/week) customer service specialist with a passion for cultural traditions and folklore. Polish and/or other Eastern European language fluency is strongly preferred. Please email resume with cover letter including details of availability to info@balticimports.com.



The Constitution of 3 May, 1791

Jan Matejko

Poland's Master Painter and Patriot

Matejko is perhaps Poland's most noted painters but more importantly one of its most patriotic. He was a Pole through and through, except his father was Czech and his mother was half-German and half-Polish, another example of not having to be 100% Polish to be Polish. He was born in 1838 in the then "Free City of Kraków" which by this time was ruled de facto by Austria and de jure after 1846. He excelled at painting and less so in other subjects. Because of this exceptional talent he studied at the School of Fine Arts in Kraków from 1852 to 1858 under Wojciech Korneli Stattler and Władysław Łuszczkiewicz. After a brief stay in Germany and Vienna, he returned to Kraków and spent the rest of his life there and was the chief of the Academy of Fine Arts for many of those years.

He was a master of historical painting... and used his talent to remind Europe that Poland still existed despite the Partitions. He is most known for painting scenes from Poland's glorious past in order to promote "interest among the Polish people in an effort to intensify their patriotic feelings. This role first became widely associated with Matejko with his painting of

Stanczyk, the court jester to King Sigismund I (1437-1548), to whom Matejko gave his own features. The jester is presented as a symbol of the nation's conscience: he sits glumly in a chair apart from the other figures, alone in seeing that events during the wars against Moscow would ultimately end in tragedy." — Wikipedia

His most famous work is "Bitwa pod Grunwaldem" (Battle of Grunwald) one of his many paintings of historical Polish events. He also painted all the Polish kings and "compiled in his book Portraits of Polish Kings (1890); his dedication to detail is evident in that he attended the opening of Queen Jadwiga's sarcophagus in 1887 to make sketches of her skull." — Wikipedia

In his career as an artist he painted 320 oil paintings, and many sketches and watercolors including the monumental polychrome in St. Mary's Basilica in Kraków. During WWII his paintings were hidden away across Poland and after the war were gathered and restored. Most of them can be found in Warsaw's National Museum (Muzeum Narodowe w Warszawie).



The Royal Jester



Angel



Jadwiga



The Children



Angel



The Astronomer



Boleslaus



Self Protrait



The Devil



Władystaw Lokietek

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. 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.

The Board of Directors of PACIM holds their monthly meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Institute: 2514 Central Ave NE. All are invited.

Przystawia Polskie

W maju jak w raj
May is like a paradise

Kalendarz

May 30 Film Night at the Library
Aug 10 PACIM Picnic
Sept Warsaw Artist, Joanna Sułek-Malinowska
Oct 5 PACIM Annual Meeting

PACIM Library

PACIM Library
2514 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
Hours: Sundays from 1 to 3:30 pm
Closed: May 25 for Memorial Day

We are still looking for one more volunteers to work in the Library on Sundays once every month to six weeks.

Training will be provided. The work isn't hard and it is fun meeting and talking with the people who come in. Please call Judith at 763-571-9602 for more information.

Film Night at the Library May 30th at 7pm 2514 Central Ave NE

"Blind Chance" ("Przypadek")
Directed by Krzysztof Kieślowski and stars Boguslaw Linda, one of Poland's most famous actors. "Blind Chance" focuses on what can happen in the outcome of one's life just by the simple act

of fate. The movie presents three possible outcomes of one man's life based upon a chance. It also takes place during Poland's martial law, so the historical and political messages are unmistakable, as Kieślowski paints a picture of Poland as a state of instability during communism's iron fist. Because of that, it was banned in Poland for five years before it released in theaters.

Thanks to:

Tamara Samkowicz for yet another dozen books.

Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann who donated her book, *The Exile Mission: The Polish Diaspora and Polish-Americans, 1939-1956*.

Marta Everson who donated the four-volume hardcover set of Chichy Don.

Katyń

Several people have contacted us asking for more information after I mentioned that we had purchased the DVD of Wajda's Katyń. Our Library contains quite a number of books about Katyń, both in English and Polish, as well as a vhs on the subject. There is a Polish website that allows people to search the records to see if their relatives were killed in the forest. I think most English speakers would be able to navigate the site.

The address is:
<http://www.indeks.karta.org.pl/wyszukiwanie.asp>.

Dolina Polish Folk Dancers' Fundraiser. They are selling Linders Gift Coupons in \$10, \$25 & \$50 denominations that can be used at the Linder's store on Larpenteur year long and ALL the Linders Flower Marts in shopping mall parking lots this spring and summer! To order you can contact any Dolina member or Bev Piorek 651-774-8296 or send check with phone number to :

Dolina Gift Cards
1385 Ripley Ave
St Paul MN 55109

Also, May 16th through the 19th is "Weekend of Fundraising" at all Linders stores! Please request that your purchase amount be credited to Dolina. Thanks.

Judith Blanchard, *Librarian*

Echos from the North

News from Little Falls, Minnesota

"April Showers Bring May Flowers," but what does April Snows bring besides a mess? As I write this we had our share of snow within the last few days, but things can only get better.

At the last meeting of the Polish Echos it was decided that we would wait until next year to give a scholarship to some High School graduate. In the application we will be asking the young people to write something of their Polish genealogy. Hopefully they will become interested in the history and customs of the Polish people.

Our next big event is the Polish Dinner which will be the end of April. By the time you read this, it too will be history. I started doing the Polish Dinner as a fund raiser for the American Legion Auxiliary about 10 years ago and it was a hit because we do have many Polish people in the area and eventually I moved it to Our Lady of Lourdes Church and each year it has continued to be a success. It is a lot of fun because I don't cook as much as I once did. Actually this year we will celebrate Polish Constitution day in connection with the Polish Dinner.

As our entertainment for our March meeting, we had an April Fool's joke. We watched an Abbott and Costello Movie in Polish. It was really neat even if I don't understand a lot of Polish.

Casimir Pułaski was born March 4, 1747. We also had a delightful historical reading and discussion about his life and especially about his heroic involvement in the American Revolution.

Remember you're always welcome to join us, and remember bring a friend, and if you're ever in Little Falls, stop at the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish House I'd love to meet you and give you a tour of our beautiful Polish Church. God's blessings to all!

Phinee Zak, *President, 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

By Judith Blanchard

Many events are given to us well in advance of the actual date. Please call the contact information to verify particulars.

To list your event or to be added to our last minute email updates (put "Polish Update" on the subject line), contact Judith at judytam@usfamily.net

Month of May

Soup Sales

Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish Catholic Church will be selling soup for \$3.00 per container after their 10:00 mass in Pułaski Hall. For more information, call the Church at 612-781-9328.

May 2-4, 2008

May Days

Activities at the Polish American Club, 1003 Arcade Street, St. Paul, for the weekend include:

Friday, May 2: Polish Music Jam Session from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Bring your instrument and join Bob Novack on his concertina for an afternoon of musical fun. Polish hamburger sandwiches will be served from 5:00 PM until they are gone for \$3.00.

Saturday, May 3: Walking Parade from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM or 4:00 PM. Meet at the Club, 1003 Arcade Street, St. Paul and visit every bar on Arcade Street for a half hour or so. Most bars have hired bands for your dancing/listening pleasure.

For more information call the Club at 651-774-6748.

May 3

Minnesota Sister Cities International Annual Conference

Annual Conference for 2008 will be at the Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road in Bloomington. This year's theme: Tools, Resources and Opportunities. For more information call 952-563-8713 or visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us.

May 3, 2008

Discussion of Cemetery Records

10:00am til Noon,
MGS Library
1185 N. Concord St.
South St. Paul
PGSMN will discuss cemetery records, and how they can be used for genealogical research. Membership not required to attend. Questions to Terry. Kita at 612-927-0719.

May 4, 2008

Mihaela Ursuleasa

Featured artist performing at 3:00 PM at Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center Macalester College
130 Macalester Street
St. Paul
(1 block west of Snelling and 2 blocks south of Grand).

Pre-concert talk by Aaron Jay Kernis 2:00-2:30 PM. Tickets range from \$12-\$20. For more information, contact the Frederic Chopin Society at 612-822-0123 or email chopinsociety@aol.com.

To purchase by credit card visit www.uptowntix.com

Program includes:

Aaron Jay Kernis: Ballad(e) out of the Blues
Chopin: Scherzos Nos. 2 & 3 and Ballades Nos. 2 & 3
Rachmaninoff: Etudes-tableaux Op. 39

May 16-19, 2008

Dolina "Weekend of Fundraising" at all Linder's Stores. Dolina is selling Linders Gift Coupons in \$10, \$25 & \$50 demonstrations which never expire! See *News* page for details.

May 17, 2008

MPA Polka Dance

New location for this dance! Chad Przybylski and His Polka Rhythms band from Pulaski, Wisconsin will be coming back to Minnesota! They will play for dancing and listening at the Sgt. John Rice VFW, 1374 - 109th Avenue North in Blaine (corner of 109th and Central Avenues) from 7-11 pm. Admission is \$10 per person. For more information, contact Ed Budzinski at 763-428-9649 or edbudzinski@embarqmail.com.

May 26, 2008

Memorial Day Service

Activities at Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery, 54th and 5th Street NE, Columbia Heights.

Include mass in the chapel at 9:00 a.m. and a memorial service conducted by the VFW at 10:00 a.m. Some chairs are available. However, it would be good to bring a lawn chair. For more information, call the Church at 612-781-9328. *Reminder:* If you go to Poland, please bring back a book for the library. Just ask the store clerk for the latest release. The library is built on donations. As we gain more readers, it becomes important for us to add new volumes to keep the readers' interest in the library. To donate books to the library, call Judith at 763-571-9602.

May 30, 2008

Movie Night at the PACIM Library

7pm 2514 Central Ave NE. This month's movie is "Blind Chance" ("Przypadek") See *News* page for details.

October 26, 2008

PACIM Annual SoupFest—New Venue

Kolbe Hall
Holy Cross Church
1621 University Ave NE, Minneapolis

Polish Language Class

PACIM is pleased to be able to offer a full academic year of beginning Polish starting this coming fall and ending spring of 2009. This weekly class will be held at the Institute at 2514 Central Ave NE. Details to be announced later this summer. If interested, please email us at pacim2006@yahoo.com and we will place update you on all the details as they become available or watch this space in future issues.

People



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Donald Franciszek Tusk
Prime Minister of the
Republic of Poland

Born in 1957 in Gdańsk and received a MA from the University of Gdańsk. He was active in opposing communism. He helped found the Civic Platform Party (Platforma Obywatelska) and became its party chairman in 2003.

Tusk ran for president of Poland in 2005 and lost to Lech Kaczyński. In the 2007 parliamentary elections Civic Platform received 41% of the vote and he was elected Prime Minister and took office on November 16th. He is married to Małgorzata and has a son, Michał and daughter, Katarzyna. He is proud of his Kashubian Polish roots.

Gdańsk, Lubin, Tarnów

Polish Word Tips



brygady
troops

bitwa-battle
army-armia

malarz
painter

malować
to paint

malarstwo historyczne
historical painting

Akademia Sztuk Pięknych
Academy of Fine Arts

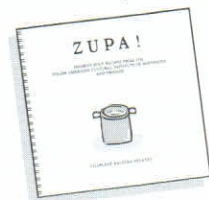
Name: Gdańsk
Population: 207,381

Name: Lublin
Population: 354,272

Name: Tarnów
Population: 117,109

ZUPA!

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



39 SOUP & 11 ACCOMPANIMENT RECIPES
WITH STORIES AND COOKING TIPS FROM THE CHEFS
56 PAGE SOFT COVER \$15 INCLUDES S&H CHECKS TO: PACIM

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