POLAM

A Publication of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota

November 2007

Vol. 29, Num. 11

PACIM's Polish Children's Fund and Wigilia Benefit

For many years now the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota has been doing what we can to better the lives of Częstochowa, Kraśnik and the school for blind children in Laski.

Each summer one or more of our board



disadvantaged children in Poland. With Chester Rog we boxed up used clothing, toys and toiletries and asked for monetary donations to cover the shipping costs to Poland for these items. Two years ago we shifted our focus from sending care packages to presenting monetary donations to the institutions that care for these children. In this way, 100% of the money we raise for the "Polish Children's Fund" goes directly to the needs of the children. In this manner we have since given over \$2,000 to orphanages in Toruń,

directors investigate institutions with pressing needs and assess whether our donation will directly benefit the children. The board then authorizes disbursements from the fund in the form of a donation directly into the hands of the administrator thereby establishing a personal link between the institution and PACIM.

This past July, Joe Beben and Charlene Delaney who taught at the 2007 UNESCO English Language Camp in

Children's Fund continues on page 3

Ruling Party of Poland Defeated in Sunday Election

Donald Tusk, leader of the pro-business Civic Platform party has ousted prime minister Jaroslaw Kaczyński's conservatives in parliamentary elections, early results said.

It is the strongest showing for any single party since the eastern European country overthrew Communism in 1989.

Voters across the nation of 38 million turned out in record numbers to deal a bruising verdict on Kaczyński's two-year crusade to belatedly purge former Communists and fight for the country's interests in the EU with combative methods that have left the nation marginalised in Europe.

The Incomparable Mazowsze

The incomparable Mazowsze Dance Troupe will whirl, leap and glide in a glorious out pouring of sound and motion, rhythm and music to celebrate the cultural legacy of Poland when the worldfamous Mazowsze lands its feet on the stage at O'Shaughnessy Auditorium this November 19th, after a fifteen year absence as part of their 2007 North American Tour.

Mazowsze continues on page 3

Membership Form For Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota 612-378-9291 www.pacim.org Patron.....\$150 Donor......100 Household/Friends 40

Member (includes newsletter)....25

1st Class Postage (optional) 6

ACPC Membership (optional)5

Total:

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

Subscription Note: With the postal increase this spring we have made the following changes effective immediately. Since nonprofit mail is NOT forwarded but returned 75 cents postage due if you travel south for the winter please add \$6 to your basic sub scription 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 wish es to receive their Pol-Am by first class mail all year long should add \$6 to their renewals.

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Make checks payable to PACIM and send this form with your check to: PACIM

PO Box 18403

Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403

PolAm

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Founder: Czesław Róg Managing Editor: Steven Ukasick Design: Bruce Rubin, Rubin Cordaro Design Contributing Writers, Reporters and Staff: Judith Blanchard, Events Coordinator Jerzy Hornik, Writer Patricia Salo, Proofreader

We appreciate your continued generosity and support. Dziękuję!

Thoughts

I hope everyone has ordered their tickets for the Mazowsze Dancers performance on November 19th, if not; I encourage



you to do it as soon as possible before all the good seats are taken. This is a toetapping performance where you'll have to fight the temptation all night to get up and join in the song

and dance. We are fortunate to be able to bring Mazowsze here and saving everyone a trip to Milwaukee or Chicago. Let's pack the house.

Every time I research a story or article on Poland I am constantly amazed at all the "undiscovered" parts of Poland, I asked several people who have traveled there over the years for some reflections and experiences of their trips and threw it together into a story on traveling to Poland, not as a comprehensive article or even one on all the tourist sites, but merely a story to whet people's appetite for planning a trip there. The pictures really say it all, and these are but a tiny fraction of what awaits the traveler to Poland.

Finally, the Bal Karnawałowy committee is looking for items for the Silent Auction. The money made from the auction helps with putting on the Bal since the room, the band, etc. is not cheap, and by having the auction, they can keep the ticket prices more reasonable. So if you have any items you like to donate (and get a tax-deduction) please call Aneta at 612-644-0745. This might be the year to clean out that attic. Be creative...

Until next month,

Steven UKasick

Steven Ukasick, Editor

PACIM Annual Meeting

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota held its annual meeting on October 7th. President Steven Ukasick briefly outlined the past years activities which included: the Wigilia Orphan Benefit Dinner, Soup Fest, Beginning Polish Language Instruction, Bal Karnawałowy, 2007 Urban Expedition: Poland! at the Landmark Center, TPT Pledge Drive, PACIM bus trip to Polish Chicago, Festival of Nations Café, Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. This year, we will be adding a Bus trip to Chicago's Christkindl Market.

PACIM membership has reached 360 full members, which reflects a doubling of membership over the past two years. Another exciting development is that fully 1/3 of the PACIM board is under the age 35 and includes a great range of talent, skills and business contacts. This all provides great promise and hope for the future of the organization. Many Polonia groups in the nation cannot say the same. Our finances remain very strong. There was some worry that the rent on our space would cut into our reserves; but the opposite has been the case. Our reserves have grown, including the funds we have earmarked for purchasing a building sometime in the future. Our website at

Annual Meeting continues on page 6

New and Generous Members:

New members: Sally Reyzer Joan Smith

Patrons: Cecelia Kava Dolan Steven Ukasick

Marie Fierck Przynski Michaeline D. Pajor

John & Alina Armstrong Pete and Joy Kamrowski James Szczukowski

Friends: Krzysztof & Jennifer Nickowski Chester & Marta Pachnik Walter & Renata Remiarz Sally Reyzer Joan Smith

Children's Fund continues

Toruń, visited one of the few hospices in Poland serving children stricken with cancer. The hospice movement is in the



embryonic stage in Poland and lacks the development seen in this country. Poland lacks the resources we take for granted. But the hospice they visited in Toruń, Hospicjum dla Dzieci "Nadzieja," was a shining example of what sheer determination can accomplish. Two elderly grandparents have persisted over the last six to eight years to establish a remarkable facility for terminally ill children in Toruń and the surrounding region. They were impressed by the warmth and loving care shown the critically ill young patients.

However, what is lacking is the more sophisticated equipment for diagnosis, medications and simple things such as vans for transporting patients and their families. Money for these items is hard to come by in Poland and they were asked to help; they promised to do what they could.

How can you help? Each December we sponsor our Wigilia Benefit for Polish Children in which \$5 of each ticket goes the Fund. This year the benefit will be on December 16th. Please see EVENTS on page 6 for details. As always, we accept donations to the Fund throughout the year, simply make your check payable to PACIM (with Children's Fund written on the memo line) and mail to

PACIM

PO Box 18403

Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403.

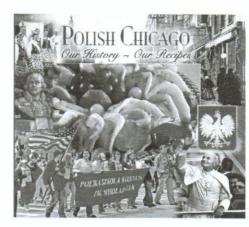
All donations are tax-deductible. We are very grateful to all of you who have supported the Fund in the past and invite everyone to continue to come to the aid of these poor Polish children who face so many hurdles in their young lives.

Book Review

Polish Chicago, Our History~Our Recipes

By Joseph W. Zurawski

G. Bradley Publishing sent the PACIM Library Polish Chicago, "Our History~Our Recipes" by Joseph W.





Zurawski for us to review. This is the most fantastic book of the history of Chicago's Polish organizations, businesses, and traditions with recipes from families and popular restaurants. People who have traveled on the bus with us to Polish Chicago will no doubt recognize the names of the restaurants and the special foods we ate there. Those wanting to experience the Polish culture of Chicago will want to use this book as a guide.

Very little of Chicago's Polish culture is included in the popular guidebooks and trip planners. Incredibly, we are told again and again by the Chicago Tourist Bureau that there are no Polish restaurants, stores, or churches in the city. This book is so beautiful; it pains me to have to return it to the library. The \$37.50 price may put some potential buyers out of the picture. But, it is worth every cent!

- Judith Blanchard

Mazowsze continues

M I 1

The Dolina Polish Folk Dancers and the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota need your help to make this a success. First, if you haven't bought your tickets yet, by all means do so. Second, we invite you to be co-sponsors of this event by helping to underwrite this show with your financial support by contributing to one of the levels of support and having your name or memorials listed by level in the Mazowsze program of that evening; show the community that you support Polish heritage and arts.

| \$500+ |
|--------|
| \$100 |
| \$75 |
| \$50 |
| \$25 |
| |
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| |

Please print clearly the name as you would like it to appear in the program.

Mail your check made payable to PACIM to: PACIM, c/o Steven Ukasick, 5317 Bryant Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55419 (email: pacim2006@yahoo.com or phone 612-822-2322) Your donation is tax-deductible. Dziękuję!

Call for Silent Auction Items

The PACIM Bal Committee is looking for items for its Silent Auction that night. Items can be Polish or non-Polish merchandise and goods, tickets to sports or cultural events, professional services, timeshares, alcohol, artwork, etc. (Please no books unless they are high quality or someway special.) Proceeds from the auction help to defray the costs of the Bal. Please call Aneta Toporowska at 612-644-0745 if you wish to donate. Bal is on February 3, 2008. Dziękuje

Polska Czeka na Ciebie!

Poland, the Land of Kings, awaits you in Central Europe. Traveling today in Poland can't be much easier, if retired ladies with limited Polish language skills can have a successful and exhilarating trip so can you. Scattered through this article are observations and reflections and advice from Irene Colston, Judith Blanchard and Phyllis Husted who have all made the trip to Poland alone, together or with a tour. So grab a map, guidebook, and a fistful of złoty and go explore Poland.







Proszę and Dziękuję go a long way when accompanied with a smile; you need not be fluent in Polish to enjoy the country.

—Irene



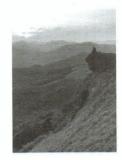
The travel book Poland published by Lonely Planet is one of the best books in my opinion. Read it; all of it. Then create your own tour. —*Irene*



Warsaw is as exciting as Kraków; there's an undercurrent of energy surging through the streets so get out and walk, walk and walk some more. Then seat yourself at a sidewalk café and watch the life of the city pass by with all its pageantry. —*Irene*

Don't be afraid to stop in the little shops along the way and chat with the shop keepers; you didn't travel to Europe to shop at Walmart! —*Irene*





Watch out for luggage weight limits! Commuter planes within Poland restrict you to just 34 lbs. —*Judith*



If you don't want to drive or take public transportation hire your own driver. Most hotels know of people who will provide this service. Expect to pay a minimum of \$100 a day, plus gas and meals. If an overnight stay is involved, the driver's room must be paid for as well. Make sure the payment details are worked out before you set out. — Judith





Be prepared to be met with instances of extreme kindness by those you encounter and don't forget to leave a tip. -Iudith



Poles keep saying, "To jest nie daleko" and "Jest blisko." "it's not far" and "it's near" Well, I know now what "blisko" means to Poles; be prepared for a good walk! - Judith







The best time to go is late September and early October. This time is called the golden autumn which I think refers to the wonderful weather. The weather is around 70 degrees and sunny during the day and cool at night. Otherwise, the weather in Poland is much as it is here. Many places don't have air conditioning and the heat is not turned on until October 15 (no matter what). - Judith



The advantages of traveling independently in Poland is that you can go where you wish, when you want and at your own pace. In addition, you have much more opportunity to interact with the "person on the street." Your hotel is a great source of help....use them. - Phyllis



The highlight of many a trip is meeting the distant cousins. Be prepared for traditional Polish hospitality including an elaborate meal followed by shots of vodka "for the stomach." If you want to be treated like royals visit your distant relatives in the villages of Poland! - Judith





The advantages of traveling with an organized tour are that all the logistical arrangements are already made for you. You will see a lot, but not in depth. It's a pretty hassle free way to travel, since meals, accommodations, guides and translation is all taken care of. - Phyllis



A lot of tourists don't go to Lublin. It's a shame because they miss so much. The castle has a wonderful museum of ethnic clothing and arts. Attached to it is a chapel built by King Jagiełło with the only known remaining picture of him. Along a band running about five feet from the floor are a group of signatures which look like graffiti. The guide explained to us that they were the signatures of all of the people who signed the Polish/Lithuanian treaty. - Judith

Some local resources to check into: Carrie Caldwell at Book It! Travel: 612-253-3383 or Toll Free 1-866-265-1428. She has extensive information of traveling on her website www.bookittravel.com. She can set you up for your own independent travel or she also does tours to Poland.

John Bieniek: 320-746-2578 leads tours to Poland call and put your name on his call list for future tours.

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

Nie budź licha kiedy śpi Don't awaken the devil when he's sleeping.

Kalendarz

Nov 19 Mazowsze Dance Troup Nov 30-Dec 2 Bus trip to Chicago's

European Christmas Mart

Dec 16 Wigilia

Feb 3 2008 PACIM Ball

From the Library

PACIM Library 2514 Central Avenue NE Minneapolis, MN 55418

The Library will be closed November 25th for Thanksgiving weekend.

We added three Polish children's DVD this month: "Bolek & Lolek on Vacation," "The Adventures of Reksio," and "Please Mr. Elephant." The first two have English subtitles. We also now have the Oscar-nominated "Young Girls of Wilko" by Wajda and a donation of "The Girls" from Nowolipki. Also, we added "Polish American Studies" vol LXIII num 2 which contains John Radziłowski's article on Poles in St. Paul. Thanks to Dolores Strand for Frantic 7, Amerykańska pomoc dla powstania warszawskiego. It's the story of American pilots who dropped food and supplies to the people of Warsaw during the Uprising. The book tells of Walter Szymczak's plane being shot down and his execution by the Nazis during questioning when it was learned that he had Polish heritage.

Thanks to Dorothy Breza, we now have a copy of the Polish Museum of Winona's video entitled, "Crying in the Winderness." Their first effort, "Papa's House" is also available from our library.

On Friday, November 16, at 7 pm, for our Movie Night we will be showing the video "Pan Tadeus" on our 27-inch TV. Prior to the actual viewing, Jowita Haugen will give a short talk on the history and culture of the time so people can understand more easily what is occurring and why. There will be free popcorn. I would encourage you to bring a lawn chair. The plastic chairs we have are not comfortable for extended sitting.

Remember, November 19 is the only Twin Cities performance by the Magnificent Mazowsze, Poland's national dance group. Attendees are invited to attend an after-performance reception to meet the dancers at the Gasthof Restaurant. Get your tickets at O'Shaughnessy or Ticketmaster.

December 16 is the date for our community Wigilia which is a benefit for Polish children. We try to make this event as authentic as possible with all of the sharing of the oplatek, traditional foods, and singing of carols. Many people attend this event every year because it is a pleasant, relaxing evening filled with such friendliness, not to mention the fantastic home cooked Polish food by Marion Pierzchalski.

Please see the Events page for the particulars of our sponsored events and others being held in the area. PACIM also sponsors an e-mail Polish Update which reminds people of upcoming events and informs them of activities which come to us after PolAm Newsletter. To sign up for this e-mail Update, send your e-mail address to judytam@usfamily.net. Chester Rog from Polamer Package Service reminds everyone that it is time to start putting together those packages for Christmas in Poland. It takes 4-6 weeks for a box to reach Poland by sea. By appointment only at 2623 NE Jefferson St NE, Minneapolis. 612-789-6445.

- Judith Blanchard, Librarian

Annual Meeting continues

www.pacim.org is under construction and the new site will be user friendly, informative and a convenient resource for all things Polish in the Upper Midwest.

Elections were held for vice president and secretary and for seven board positions. Judith Blanchard and Paul Rog were elected to those positions respectively. Newly elected board members include: George Hornik, Justyna Kottke, Jowita Haugen, Charlene Delaney, Phyllis Husted, Terry Kita and Bruce Rubin. They join Irene Colston, Marie Przynski, Aneta Toporowska and Steven Ukasick.

We thank directors Joe Beben, Martha Pachnik and Danuta Warec for their many years of service and hard work for PACIM. Joe is retiring out West and Martha and Danuta will remain involved but not as directors. We also thank John Radziłowski for his many years of service as director and president. He has taken a teaching position up in Alaska and continues to be an active member from afar.

Our outreach to the vounger generation of Poles here in Minnesota and Wisconsin continues to proceed. As mentioned above, we now have members of this group on the board thereby ensuring that PACIM will continue to grow and be an organization the remains and continues to grow in relevance to all age groups as well as to Americans of Polish descent and Poles. Life itself involves change and growth; all organizations that cease this activity soon find themselves withering away and finding themselves as mere shadows of their former glory. My goals for the organization are to grow the membership, maintain a healthy financial backing, aggressively reach out to the young and old, Pole and American alike and have some fun along the way.

-Steven Ukasick

Echos" from the North

Will return next month!

PACIM Officers and Board of Directors: President: Steven Ukasick, Vice-President: Judith Blanchard, Treasurer: Marie Przynski, Secretary: Paul Rog, Directors: Joseph Beben, Irene Colston, Charlene Delaney, Jowita Haugen, Phyllis Husted, Terry Kita, Justyna Kottke, Martha Pachnik, Bruce Rubin, Aneta Toporowska, Danuta Warec

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.

November 3 Polish Genealogical Society of MN (PGSM)

From 10:00 am-Noon at the LDS Library, 3801 N. Douglas Dr, Crystal. Deb Vevea, library director, will speak about the data available through the LDS libraries, especially little-known sources. Attendees will be able to use the library for research until 2:00 pm. For more information, contact Terry at terrykita@earthlink.net or 612-927-0719.

November 11 Independence Day

Akedemia held immediately after 11:30 am Polish Mass at Church of the Holy Cross, 1621 University Ave NE, Minneapolis. Event includes patriotic songs, skits, and poetry. For more information, call 612-789-7238 during business hours.

November 12 Jeff Cavins at All Saints Church

Talk by international speaker, Jeff Cavins, on "I'm Not Being Fed" why Catholics leave the Church and how to bring them back. 7-9 pm at All Saints Church, 435 4th St NE in Minneapolis. Limited seating and reservations required. Call Fran at 612-781-7694 or email aaniin3@earthlink.net. Free will offering.

November 16 PACIM Night at the Movies

7:00 pm. Bring a comfortable chair if you'd like (or not) to PACIM's headquarters, 2514 Central Ave NE, Minneapolis and watch the movie "Pan Tadeusz." Prior to the movie, Jowita Ciepielewska Haugen will speak about the epic poem the movie

is based on and give a little background on the times and customs. Popcom provided. Chairs too! (We thought our plastic chairs wouldn't be comfortable enough for an extended sit.)

November 16-17 Booya

Sponsored by the Polish American Club, 1003 Arcade Street, St. Paul. From 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm on November 16. On November 17 from Noon until it's gone. \$2.50 a bowl. Takeout is available. The Craig Ebel Band plays on the 17th from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Tickets at the door. For more information call the Club at 651-774-6748

November 19 Mazowsze Polish Folk Dancers

Fifteen years after its appearance in the Twin Cities, Mazowsze, Poland's preeminent national song and dance troupe, is back with a one-time performance on November 19, 2007 at 7:30 pm at O'Shaughnessy Auditorium in Saint Paul. Order tickets at www.ticketmaster.com or call: Ticket Master St. Cloud (320-253-3131) or Twin Cities (651-989-5151) or visit Ticketmaster Retail Stores at Macy's. Tickets also available at O'Shaughnessy ticket office, 2004 Randolph Ave, St. Paul.

December 2 A Polish Christmas (Milwaukee, WI)

Carols, the Polish Masters, Chopin and others, and spirited folk songs and dances. Guest pianist, Maria Gabrys of Warsaw playing Chopin and the Lira Ensemble performing. Sunday, December 2, 3 pm at the Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W Kilbourn Ave. Tickets \$25-50 at Ticketmaster. Co-sponsored by Polanki. Info at Lira: 1-800-547-5472

December 9 A Polish Christmas (Chicago, IL)

Same program as the Milwaukee one on December 2. Sunday December 9, 3 pm at the Arie Crown Theatre at McCormick Place, 2301 S Lake Shore Dr. Co-sponsored by the Lira Society and Polish Women's Alliance of America. Tickets \$30-65 at Tickemaster.

Info at Lira: 1-800-547-5472

December 9 Polska Wieczerza Wigilijna (Polish Wigilia)

The Polanie Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul invites you to a traditional Polish Christmas Eve dinner at Jax Café, 1928 University Ave NE, Minneapolis. The traditional Wigilia menu of our favorites will be served, including pickled herring, beets, cucumbers in sour cream, barszcz, walleye pike, pierogi, sauerkraut, and cheesecake. Social hour begins at 5 pm with dinner at 6 pm followed by the Dolina Polish Dance Group and an always popular sing-a-long of Polish and American carols. Tickets for this non-profit Wigilia event are 35.00, including tax and gratuity. Please call Frances Chorzempa at (651) 639-1464 or Roma Kehne (651) 698-8733 to reserve your place.

December 16 PACIM Wigilia Benefit for Polish Children

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota will hold a traditional Wigilia dinner to benefit Polish children on December 16, 2007 at 6:00 pm. at Gasthof Restaurant located at 2300 University Ave NE. This community Christmas Eve dinner celebration will feature the sharing of the Opłatek, traditional foods, and singing Christmas carols in Polish and English. See notice on page 8.

January 12, 2008 Annual PGSMN Meeting

The Annual PGSMN meeting will be held at the Gasthof Restaurant, on January 12th from 11 am - 3 pm. Lunch will be served, followed by a program and meeting. Information: Terry Kita 612 927 0719 or terrykita@earthlink.net

January 13, 2008 Richard Goode

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

February 3, 2008 Bal Karnawałowy

This year's event will be at the St. Paul Club. More information to come.



Św. Szymon z Lipnicy (c1435-1482) St Simon of Lipnica

On June 3rd, 2007His Holiness PopeBenedict XVI canonized Szymon making him one of over thirty Polish saints. Simon was born in Lipnica Murowana. The preaching of the Franciscan, St. John of Capistrano inspired Simon and he was ordained a Francican

priestin 1460. In 1463he becamethe preacher at the Wawd Cathedralin Kraków When the plague came to Kraków Fr. Simoncom forted the sick and dying untilhe himselfwas infected. On July 18, 1482he died and he humbly requested to be buried under the threshold of the church so that all could tramplehim.



POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA PO BOX 18403 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55418-0403

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Lipnica Murowana



Name: Lipnica Murowana County: Bochnia Population: 890

The village is the site of Saint Leonard's church, built in the end of 16th century. This is one of the six Wooden Churches of Southern Little Poland, on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites since 2003.

Polish Word Tips

Kierowca autobusu Bus driver Koszta przejazdu autobusem Wolny od odpłaty celnej Bus fare Opłata celna Custom duty

Odprawa celna Custom inspection Duty free Ruch jednokierunkowy One-way traffic

Prawo jazdy Driver's license W nagłym wypadku In case of emergency Na wapadek pożaru In case of fire

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Wigilia Dinner to Benefit Polish Orphans

Join us in sharing a community dinner featuring the foods and activities of a Polish Christmas Eve on December 16 at 6 p.m. - traditional time of the first star

Gasthof Restaurant

2300 University Avenue NE, Minneapolis

Tickets are \$33.50 (\$5 tax-deductible). To reserve a space, send your check made out to PACIM-PDD to Judith Blanchard, 6220 Baker Avenue NE, Fridley, MN 55432 Be sure to include the names of the people in your party and your phone number if you wish her to confirm receipt of your check. No actual tickets will be issued. Space is limited. Reservation deadline is December 10 No tickets will be sold at the door.

For more information, call 763-571-9602