

POLAM

Proud to be Polish!

"Jestem polakiem bo tak mi się podoba." I am a Pole because it is pleasing to me.
— Julian Tuwim, a Polish poet of Jewish descent

We observe Polish Heritage Month in October. It's a time to step back for a moment and celebrate our Polish heritage; it's a time to pass it along to future generations and take pride in being Polish.

When you are asked what has Poland contributed to the world and why you are proud of your Polish heritage, what do you say? Perhaps you might want to consider the following:

1. Poland became a Christian land in 966 AD, when the Polish ruler, Mieszko I, was baptized. His line was the beginning of the Piast dynasty.
2. Poles stopped the advance of the Mongol hordes at Legnica on April 9, 1241 thereby saving the rest of Christian Europe. Even though victory on the battle field belonged to the Mongols, they retreated back to Ukraine never to surge this far west again.
3. Poland brought Christianity to the pagan Lithuanians in 1385 when Polish Queen Jadwiga married Duke Jagiello of Lithuania. Duke Jagiello was baptized a Catholic Christian as were the rest of the pagan Lithuanians. This Union Treaty of Krewa brought Poland and Lithuania into dynastic union which was to last until 1795.
4. Kazimierz the Great ruled from 1330-1370. He expanded Poland's borders, reigned over a period of great peace and prosperity. During his reign he

extended royal protection to the Jews being persecuted elsewhere in Europe and made them, "people of the king," and great numbers found safety and a home in Poland.

5. Mikolaj Kopernik (Nicolaus Copernicus), mathematician and astronomer proposed that the planets orbit the sun; this marked the beginning of modern astronomy and science.
6. King Jan III Sobieski of Poland lifted the siege of Vienna in 1683 and saved Europe from the Turks which marked the beginning of their decline.
7. The Polish Sejm ratified the first modern European Constitution granting freedoms to the people on May 3, 1791.
8. Polish patriots, Kazimierz Pułaski and Tadeusz Kościuszko were notable commanders in the American Revolution.
9. Ignacy Łukasiewicz designed the first kerosene lamp in 1853.
10. Frederic Chopin is one of the most famous, influential and admired composers for the piano.
11. Poles stopped the advance of the Soviet communist army into Europe at Warsaw in 1918.
12. Marie Skłodowska Curie and her husband developed the theory of radioactivity. They discovered two new elements radium and polonium which they named for her homeland Poland.

Proud continued on page 3

A Big Polish Wedding in All Its Glory!

by Jerzy Hornik

On Sunday, September 10, 2006, the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota hosted the first-of-its-kind in the Twin



The wedding couple, bridesmaid and best man.

Cities reenactment of a turn-of-the-century rural Polish wedding at St. Maron's Cedar Hall in North East Minneapolis.

In Polish culture, weddings, whether they are centuries-back or closer to our times, tend to be lavish in food, joyful atmosphere, and replete with a communal spirit. The Polish wedding is seen as the crowning of a successful relationship. However, before the couple utter the time-celebrated "Biorę Ciebie za żonę (za męża) i ślubuję Ci miłość, wierność i uczciwość małżeńską oraz że nie opuszczę

Polish Wedding continued on page 6

**PACIM's 17th Annual Soup
Fest on October 27. Page 7**

Membership Form For
 Polish American
 Cultural Institute of Minnesota
 612.378.9291
 www.pacim.org

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 ___ Newsletter 15

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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

PACIM
 P.O. Box 18403
 Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403

Pol-Am

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We appreciate your continued generosity and support. Dziękuję

Good Books

Here are some good books available both locally and nationally to help further Polish heritage. Buy one or more and help the organizations that take the time, energy, and expense of publishing such books to keep on continuing this commendable work.

A Question of Honor by Lynne Olson and Stan Cloud

An excellent history of Poland during World War II and the contribution of her fighter pilots to the Allied cause in Great Britain.

Forgotten Holocaust by Richard Lukas

This book outlines the horror and tragedy of the Polish people during World War II.

Rising '44 by Norman Davies
 A History of the Warsaw Uprising in 1944.

God's Playground by Norman Davies
 An excellent history of Poland

A Polish Son in the Motherland by Leonard Kniffel

An American of Polish descent travels back to the village of his grandparents and takes up residence there for a time and writes about his life there.

Bitter Glory by Richard Watt
 A history of Poland from 1918 to 1939.

Enigma: How the Poles Broke the Nazi Code by Władysław Kozaczuk
 Describes the Poles all important contribution to the breaking of German codes that aided the Allied cause immeasurably.

Push Not The River and *Against a Crimson Sky* by James Conroyd Martin
 The first book is a historical novel based on the diary of Anna Maria Berezowska and takes place in Poland during the last Partitions. *Against the Crimson Sky* is the sequel and is the fictionalized account of Anna after the events of the first book.

Polish Heritage Cookery 2005 by Robert and Maria Strybel
 One of the best, if not the best, cook-books on Polish cuisine.

My Thoughts Managing Editor

Polish Heritage Month is here. I believe it is vital for us to reclaim our Polish roots here in Minnesota. We must not



shy away from our Polish heritage; we need to share it with our families and friends.

Wanda Urbanska said about passing on of our Polish heritage, "If a story is not told, it

is not heard." We have progressed from the "Polish joke" to pride in our ethnic background and to this we must give much credit to John Paul II. But, we must do our part as well. In Wanda's words, "Visualize a time and place where prejudice is gone and make it happen." Promote a world without prejudice at home, at work and at play. Until next month...

Steven Ukasick, Editor

Books by Minnesota authors or organizations:

Zupa! by the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota

A collection of Polish soup recipes including those served at their annual Soup Fest.

Poles in Minnesota by John Radziłowski
 A history of Poles in Minnesota

A Traveller's History of Poland (Traveller's History Series) by John Radziłowski
 A great history of Poland

Treasured Polish Christmas Customs and Traditions by Polanie Club
 A history of Polish traditions of the Holidays with sheet music and recipes.

Treasured Polish Recipes for Americans by Polanie Club
 Besides recipes includes suggested Wigilia meals and folk illustrations by Marya Werten.

Proud continued

13. In the years leading up to World War II, Polish cryptographers broke the top secret German Enigma cipher system and sent prototypes to the French, English and Americans.

14. Polish airmen in the RAF provided invaluable aid to helping save England during the Battle of Britain.

15. The Polish 2nd Corp under Liet. General Anders, took Monte Cassino in Italy after three previous failed Allied attempts thereby opening up the road to Rome during World War II.

16. Polish peasants stubborn resistance to the communists and their attempt to collectivize farms in Poland was successful; Poland was the only Communist Bloc country where most farmland was privately held.

17. The only independent university in all the Communist Bloc was the Catholic University of Lublin.

18. Polish art and film receive critical acclaim throughout the 1960's and 70's.

19. Karol Wojtyła, was elected the first non-Italian pope in centuries in 1978. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said the collapse of the Iron Curtain would have been impossible without John Paul II.

20. The first independent union in the communist bloc, Solidarność, was born in Gdańsk in 1980 — its success was unprecedented in the Communist Bloc.

21. The wave of independence encouraged by Pope John Paul II and Solidarity in Poland set loose a domino effect that spread through out the Communist Bloc, ultimately brought down the Soviet state, thereby ending the Cold War.

22. In 1999 Poland became a member of NATO

23. 2004 Poland became a member of the European Union.

24. Poland produced many great writers and poets five of which are Nobel Prize winners.

25. Poland's Nobel Prize Winners:
Maria Skłodowska-Curie: Physics 1903
and Chemistry 1911

Henryk Sienkiewicz: Literature 1905

Władysław Stanisław Reymont:
Literature 1924

Isaac Bashevis Singer: Literature 1978

Czesław Miłosz: Literature 1980

Lech Wałęsa: Peace 1983

Józef Rotblat: Peace 1995

Wisława Szymborska: Literature 1996

Finally, Poland was at the center of two major world changing events in the 20th Century, developments that changed the course of history and advanced democracy in the world: World War II and the Solidarity Trade Union movement.

What can you do? What is your Polish heritage worth to you? Here's what you can do:

1. Join a local organization that is committed to our Polish heritage:

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is an all embracing organization committed to preserving, promoting and celebrating Polish and Polish American culture here in Minnesota. For more information: www.pacim.org

Dolina Polish Folk Dancers, a nationally and internationally recognized Polish folk dance group. For more information: www.dolina.org

The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota (PGSM) For more information, see following article.

2. Do you have children? Send them to Polish Saturday school where with other children they learn Polish, Polish culture and get to meet their peers from around the Twin Cities and beyond.

3. If you are a member of the above organizations volunteer your time for their events. If you are unable to volunteer consider making a donation to them... expenses for these organizations are great and if you believe in what they are doing, help them continue with your contributions (and for many it is tax-deductible)

4. Please attend their events! People take notice when a Polish cultural event is well attended.

5. Support writers of books on Polish history, culture, events, etc. Book publishers only look at the bottom line: how many books can we sell. If you want to continue to see books and films on Polish topics, well then, buy books and films on Polish topics!!!

6. If you aren't interested in these books and films, buy them anyway and give them away as gifts to family and friends. Culture does not exist in a vacuum or a museum. It needs to be lived and celebrated!!! See the list of books on page 2 every Polish American should consider buying or at least reading

7. Share your knowledge about your heritage with your children and family and friends.

8. Take classes and learn Polish!

9. Take classes in Polish arts and crafts like wycinanki, pisanki, etc.

10. Travel to Poland

11. Finally, give a gift of this newsletter, *Pol-Am*, to a friend or family member. Either a full one year subscription for \$15 or the special one time offer of 3 issues for \$5 (see following for details)

Pol-Am Newsletter: 3 Issues for \$5!

To celebrate Polish Heritage Month why not give a friend or family member a subscription to *Pol-Am* Newsletter? We are offering 3 issues of *Pol-Am* for only \$5 as a special promotional offer. (Of course we will also accept full one year gift subscriptions for \$15 as always) Simply send your check made payable to PACIM and the name and address of your gift recipient to *Pol-Am* Newsletter, PO Box 18403, Mpls, MN 55418 by November 15th. A card acknowledging your gift will be sent to the recipient.

The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota (PGSM)

PGSM was founded in 1991 and is open to anyone with an interest in Polish family history. Its major focus of interest is the Polish American community in the upper Midwest. It promotes interest in Polish ancestry and heritage; genealogical research; exchange of information through meetings, forums and publications; and preserves the family and institutional history of Polonia in Minnesota.

Membership entitles you to full access to their library which includes research guides, histories, dictionaries, atlases, travel aids, family compilations and also includes a Church and Local History Collection and much more. You will receive a quarterly newsletter with articles, genealogical data compilations, book reviews and columns, including member's research queries. The PGSM also has research and travel guides and aids, maps and more for sale.

*Check them out at:
rootsweb.com/~mnpolgs/pgs-mn.html
Dues are only \$15 a year. If you have any interest whatsoever about your family's Polish roots this is the group to join!*

Polanie Club Scholarships Winners Announced

Founded in 1927, the Polanie Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul was formed to perpetuate the language, traditions, customs and ideas of our forefathers, their music, literature and arts, and to foster in Americans of Polish descent a consciousness and pride in their heritage; to spread the knowledge of Polish culture to all interested persons, and to encourage higher education and scholarship among people of Polish background.

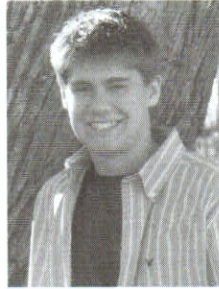
This year Polanie awarded five scholarships of \$2,000 to:



Jonathan S. Malack
Fridley



Stephanie Parusse
Corcoran



Phillip Pearson
Roseville



Jessica Ann Rajtar
Moundsview



Jessica Zorawski
Coon Rapids

We have included several of their essays that answer the question, "What person influenced you most to be proud of your Polish heritage?"

Jessica Ann Rajtar

She stands no taller than five feet, yet the roots of her heritage anchor her whole being. At a glance she is a typical woman weathered by years of experience and worn by the elements of life. However, if one stops to examine her closely, it is realized that her weathered look is really her life story etched upon her face. It is this story that is filled with loss, love and ultimately tradition. This woman's story is my grandmother's story. It is the story upon which my family was built and is the reason I am proud and privileged to say that I am of Polish heritage.

Her story begins as a girl living through one of the most horrific events that the world has ever seen—the Holocaust. The Nazis invaded Poland with the intent to obliterate all traces of Polish history and culture, ultimately forcing subservience upon the inhabitants of the land. Faced with the terrors the Nazis caused, her family fled to areas deemed safe havens for people of Polish descent. She was only a child, yet already in her short lifetime she had experienced nameless hate and persecution first hand.

Eventually her father made the decision to relocate the family to America. It was a safe place that was filled with opportunity and hope for a better future. This assurance of safety came at a price. It meant leaving everything she had ever known. Everything familiar suddenly became an ominous place filled with strange people and traditions very different than her own.

In spite of all the changes and sacrifices she managed to find love. She met him, my grandfather, in Winona while he was playing soccer, and the rest is history. Together they had eight children, each of whom they raised to be proud of who they were and where they came from. She had left their homeland but it still remained emblazoned in her heart as well as in the hearts of the children she raised. From there, her children raised their children to be proud of their Polish heritage as well.

It is to this generation that I belong. At every holiday, our family comes together. It is there that I become witness to what an incredible woman my grandmother really is. She withstood loss, leaving everything she knew and loved. She found love and raised a family, which even now is still growing in num-

bers. Ultimately, she helped instill a tradition that continues to bring our family together. Exuding love, she is a heroine in my eyes and is the foundation of our family. Without any form of doubt I can say that it is because of this extraordinary woman that I am proud and privileged to say that I am of Polish heritage.

I am a member of a family whose history is rich in Polish culture. My grandparents were and are intricate members of those involved in starting the Polish Masses at Holy Cross Church. My father was an altar boy as well as lector for those Masses. My uncles and aunt danced for the Polish folk dancing group known as Dolina, as well as taught the young children's group. To this day my family participates in the Festival of Nations displaying Polish eggs and dressing in the traditional Polish folk dancing garments. We continue to practice the traditional twelve course Christmas Eve meal, the Wigilia, as well as participate in forty hours devotion at Holy Cross during the Easter season. In all we are a family that continues to be proud of where we came from and the traditions that continue to bring our family together.

Jonathan S. Malack

After reading this question two names instantly came to mind, Pope John Paul II and Genevieve Lach. Almost everyone has heard of the former Pope, but few outside Northeast Minneapolis have heard of my grandma. The former Pope did make me feel proud to be both Polish and Catholic, but if it wasn't for my grandma I wouldn't know what it meant to be Polish. She taught me the origin of many Polish customs and how to make Polish food. She has had a profound influence in my upbringing and has truly made me proud to be Polish.

Early in my childhood I joined a Polish folk dancing group and grandma was so proud that I was embracing my culture. For as long as I can remember grandma would tell me stories of what it was like for her growing up. It is from these tales of how the world used to be that I learned how much people valued their culture. When immigrants came over from Europe they settled as a group with others from the same country, making the transition from the Old World to the New World a less drastic change than it would be settling alone. It is still possible to see this practice in Northeast Minneapolis where recent immigrants from the Middle East are settling in groups across the city.

Grandma always included a plethora of knowledge whether she realized it or not. I learned that Northeast Minneapolis or Nordeast, was primarily a Polish neighborhood. You couldn't walk down the block without smelling the delightful scents of Old World cooking, especially if you walked past Blackies' Bakery on 22nd Ave or down the block at Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church during one of their many din-

ners or festivals. I still enjoy going to the bakery and Sacred Heart Church with grandma, but nothing beats the taste of a home cooked meal when you make it yourself.

Throughout my entire childhood my favorite part of going to grandma's house was the food. She was always ready to teach me how to make whatever she was cooking, be it Polish or not. She has taught me how to make everything from gołąbki to my personal favorite, pierogi. I have always enjoyed making pierogi, even though I was moved from cooking to rolling dough after I kept eating at least one from each batch I cooked, but I make up for it at every holiday. Before Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving the family gets together and makes enough Polish food to feed a small army so that everyone can leave with a taste of the Old Country. It is quite a sight to see a dozen people making food all under grandma's direction. She is quite a leader because she knows all the recipes and the history of why we make the food we make.

Until I wrote this paper I never realized how much I had really learned about my culture, especially from my grandma. The rich tapestry that is my Polish culture has been a profound influence in my life; I even keep a key chain with the Polish flag on my car keys to remind me of my culture everyday. The history of Poland and the transfer of its culture and customs to each generation has been an unending process filled with joy and hardship and I am glad to say that I am part of it. With all that my grandma, Genevieve Lach, has taught me I am proud to say that she is the person that inspires me to declare my Polish ancestry and teach those that are interested.

Growing up, a trip to Dziadzia's house meant candy, Polish language lessons and boxes packed full with clothes for orphans in Poland. If he wasn't at home with Baba he was rushing off to an evening Polish lesson or to help an immigrant get settled. His home was always full of Polish folk art and endless magazines on Pope John Paul II. If he was coming over for dinner or a holiday it always meant there would be a Polish blessing or a Polish tradition with the meal.

When we helped clean my Dziadzia's office we learned many things about our heritage that might have never been found out. We learned Dziadzia gave tours of Poland and did everything possible to help the poor in communist Poland. He cheered with other Polish Americans at the news about the Solidarity movement and has packaged thousands of boxes headed for the orphanages in Poland. He edited a newsletter about the Polish community and took us to a church service or two in complete Polish.

When I was young these things I loved doing with my Mom's side of the family, but as I aged I realized their importance. Most kids my age know what countries their families are from but have no understanding beyond that. Just being around my Dziadzia has rubbed his Polish heritage off on me. I love singing *Sto Lat* at birthdays, having blessed food at Easter, sharing *Opłatek* at Christmas and watching the Polish folk dancers when they come to town. I love knowing that I come from a hardworking people that came to America poor and have become a successful segment of the population. Poles in the U.S. are very engaged in American society, but still make time to celebrate their past. My Dziadzia and the experiences I have had around him have become the reasons why I celebrate my Polish heritage and will continue to well into the future.

Editor's note: Phillip Pearson is the grandson of Czesław Róg.

PACIM NEWS

News from the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota

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 Przysłowia

Gdzie kraj to obyczaj.

—other country, other customs (an expression of tolerance)

Kalendarz

Oct. 1 PACIM annual meeting

Oct. 27 Soup Festival

Dec. 3 Wigilia

Feb 17 Bal Karnawałowy

Feb 18 Urban Expedition: Poland
(Landmark Center)

From the Library

We thank Angie Guminga for her donation of books and Polish folk blouse, Ed Sikorski for his donation of books and Marian Pierzchalski for his donation of children's books.

We apologize to Jan Prebble for our oversight in thanking her for her generous donation of books to the library awhile ago. We thank her for the donation of these books bought in Poland; and is a good reminder to all to remember to pick up books to donate while you are visiting Poland. The most recent popular books on sale in Poland are the most popular at our library as well.

This month, we added two books by Hanna Cygler which can be found in fiction, two new children's books, and several additional volumes on World War II (found in 909.1).

A special thank you to Marian Pierzchalski for preparing such a wonderful dinner for our Village Wedding and for all his helpful advice and donation of time and services. Dziękuję!

—Judith Blanchard, *PACIM Librarian*

PACIM Welcomes New Members:

Gene & Janet Retka

Generous Members:

Donor:

John Armstrong

Sponsor:

Pete & Joy Kamrowski

Sande & John Przytarski

Polish Wedding continued

Cie ię do śmierci!" (I do, and I promise to be faithful and committed to you until death do us apart), they must go through a lengthy preparation.



A blessing from the bride's parents.

Irrespective of religion, weddings are a festive and cheerful event. Extravagant parties are more and more popular these days, but traditional weddings are still highly celebrated in a folk-style, romantic, elegant, or in a new-age spirit.

This September's wedding was no exception. Guests had the opportunity to participate in an old ritual of the couple getting together, including all of the traditional formalities, i.e. zwiady, marsz weselny, oczepiny and tańce z Panem Młodym i Panną Młodą za pieniądze, and a wonderful Polish meal.

A traditional Polish wedding would take place after harvest time at the bride's home or in a central location in the village where everyone could attend. A good wedding was not a one-day event; it would last as long as a week.

A person overseeing the rituals was a swat. He or she would go to the bride's home with the groom to ask permission for the young couple to marry

— a solemn blessing from the bride's parents, as it was deemed to ensure the couple's happiness and well-being.



Women of the village (above) perform the capping ceremony; everyone (below) joined a very festive line dance.

The parents later would welcome the newlyweds and treat them to bread and salt. Following the wedding ceremony, the couple and the guests would engage in a period of festivities with dancing, drinking, and eating to celebrate the couple's future life together.

At midnight, the bride was led into the traditional folk ceremony called "oczepiny!" The bridesmaids would take the headdress from her head, cut her braids and put a band over her head.

One other custom was to put a barrier in the way of the young couple on their way to church. If the couple wanted to continue their way, the groom had to bribe those barring the way by offering them money, vodka or sweets.

Many of these old customs are still alive in Poland. A wedding in the Polish countryside is an amazing mixture of these old customs and contemporary Polish culture. The parents still bless the young couple, treat them to bread and salt, but the guests now dance to more contemporary music.

As one guest put it, "It was like a real wedding; it reminded me of home and the stories my grandparents told me when I was a child. I hope everyone gets to experience the traditional Polish wedding; it is a quintessential Polish custom!"

Co, Gdzie, Kiedy What, Where, When

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 email list.

Month of October

Polish Displays

During the month of October, there will be displays of Polish articles at the Columbia Heights Library (820 40th Avenue NE), Murzyn Hall (530 Mill Street), and Columbia Heights City Hall (590 40th Avenue NE).

October 7, Saturday, 5-11 pm

Fall Polka Dance

Knights of Columbus Hall, 6831 Central Ave in Fridley. Music by Grammy Nominated John Gora from Toronto Canada and Dave's Polka Choice from Minnesota. For information call 763-757-5458.

October 10, 1:30 pm

Sister Cities Meeting

Everyone is invited to attend the Columbia Heights-Lomianki, Poland Sister Cities International meeting at Columbia Heights City Hall, 590 40th Avenue NE.

October 14

Trip to Sobieski

Midwest Polka Association will be taking a bus to the Sobieski Lions Annual Polish Dinner and Dance on Saturday October 14 at the Sobieski Community Center in Sobieski. The bus will leave from the Fridley Knights of Columbus south-east parking lot at 6831 Central Avenue at 3 pm returning after the dance at about midnight. \$28. For info call 763-757-5458.

October 15, 9 pm-1 am

Dr. Kietbasa Polish Polka Band

Mario's Kellar Octoberfest
Gasthof zur Gemutlichkeit
2300 NE University Avenue NE

Minneapolis. Call Jim at 952-445-6019 or Tom at 218-879-6896.

October 15, 4-7 pm

Sister Cities Benefit

Delicious Spaghetti/Meatball Dinner to be served at Murzyn Hall, 530 Mill Street NE, Columbia Heights. Also silent auction, international store, music, entertainment. Adults: \$7, Students: \$5, Children under 5 years of age are Free. Advance tickets available at NE State Bank and Bobby & Steve's Auto World in Columbia Heights. Special raffle of a hand-painted Noah's Ark children's toy chest. Benefit is for the Children's Hospital in Lomianki, Poland. Donations for silent auction and international store will be appreciated. For more information or to donate, call Dorothy at 763-574-1489.

October 15

Fundraising Event for Epiphany Productions

5:15 pm mass at St. Olaf, 6 pm social and silent art auction, 6:30 pm dinner in Fleming Hall, 7 pm performance of Lolek, 7:30 pm remarks and live auction, 8 pm keynote speaker Bishop Robert J. Carlson. Tickets are \$50 each. Call 651-336-3302 for more information.

October 22

Polka Mass and Polish Dinner

10 am polka mass and 11 am Polish dinner at Sacred Heart Polish National Catholic Church, 22nd Avenue and Fifth Street NE, Minneapolis. \$10. For more information, call 612-781-9382.

October 27, 6-8 pm

17th Annual Polish Soup Festival

6-8 pm PACIM will serve 12 different Polish soups at the International Institute, 1694 Como Avenue, St. Paul. The cost is \$10. Any soup remaining at 8 pm will be sold. Zupa!, PACIM's very own soup book will be on sale for \$10. If you would like to make a soup for this event or want more information, please call 612-378-9291.

November 9, 7 pm

Polish Amber Class

Ambermaster Sean McLaughlin from Baltic Imports will present a class on buying amber at the Polish American Cultural Institute, 2514 Central Avenue NE, Minneapolis. Parking is also available in the back of the building. He will

bring some pieces for your early Christmas shopping. Class cost is \$5. For more information, call 763-571-9602.

December 3, 6 pm

Wigilia Benefit

Wigilia dinner to benefit Polish Orphans at Gasthof zur Gemutlichkeit 2300 NE University Ave., Minneapolis. For more information, call 763-571-9602.

December 10

Polanje Club Wigilia Supper at Jax Café.

To reserve your tickets please call: Fran 651-639-1464; Carrie 952-545-3254 or Roma 651-698-8733.

Language Classes

Free Polish Language, History and Culture Classes

Every 2nd and 3rd Thursday at Columbia Heights Public Library. For more information, call Gilbert Mros at 763-571-1166.

Polish Language Classes

Minneapolis Community Education
Northeast Junior High School
Instructor is Elizabeth Suszynski.
For more information, call David at 612-668-1515 or visit
www.mplscommunityed.com
Polish 1 - Beginning Wednesdays at 8 pm
Polish I - Continuing: Thursdays at 9 pm
Polish II - Conversation Thursdays 7:15 pm

Polish Saturday School (continuing)

Adam Mickiewicz
Polish Saturday School
Saturdays from 9 a.-12:15 pm
For children ages 3-16. Three levels of classes: for Polish children, for children ages 3-5, and for Polish children adopted by non-Polish speaking parents. For information: Bożena Jantzur at 651-452-9009.

Watch Your Tongue!

Police in the Polish city of Łódź ticketed over 200 people for swearing in public. In addition over 500 people were informed with warnings about the law which bans swearing in open street cafes and bars. The majority of those fined, both men and women, claimed ignorance of the law.

Figures Of Poland's Culture And History



Julian Tuwim
Poet
1894-1953

A Polish poet of Jewish descent, Tuwim was a leader of the Skamander group of experimental poets in Poland in the first half of the Twentieth Century. Born in Łódź and educated there and at Warsaw

University. He co-founded the Skamander group of poets in 1919 which championed a new type of poetry, a "poetry for the street", which dealt with general questions of identity in the newly independent Poland. He escaped Poland in 1939 by way of Romania, France, Portugal, Brazil and the US and returned to Poland in 1946. In New York in 1942 he wrote his major poem "Kwiaty Polskie" about his childhood in Łódź. Died in 1953 and buried at Powązki Cemetery in Warsaw.

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POL-AM's Spotlight On Things Polish

Polish Saturday School at Holy Cross Church

Polish Saturday School is an institution known across American Polish immigrant communities and beyond. Its goal is to provide a means for Polish immigrants to pass on to their children the heritage, culture, language and customs of Poland. The Adam Mickiewicz Polish Saturday School at Holy Cross Church in Minneapolis was founded 15 years ago by priests of the Society of Christ. Saturdays from September to May, volunteer teachers offer classes in history, literature, grammar and religion and teach the children to cherish their Polish culture, traditions and customs for all class levels. Instruction is given all in Polish.

The Society of Christ is a Catholic religious order founded in 1932 by August Cardinal Hlond, the Primate of Poland, to minister to the pastoral

needs of Polish immigrants in Poland and throughout the world. The beginnings of the order were difficult and interrupted by World War II. It was not until 1956 that Polish priests of the Order were able to leave Poland for their mission fields. Today, the Order has over 145 priests working in Poland and another 250 priests working in missions outside of Poland. Priests of the Order have been at Holy Cross Church now for 25 years.

Russian Language Classes Popular in Poland

After a decline of 15 years, demand for Russian language classes is rising in Poland. Under communism Poles were required to learn Russian, but when people could choose a foreign language to study interest in Russian dropped significantly. Now that knowledge of English is standard and German is popular in Poland, the popularity of Russian is increasing because it offers a Pole the ability to be a bit more competitive in the job market. Now that Polish

companies are expanding and investing in Russia, there is also a need for Poles who are fluent in Russian and its Cyrillic alphabet.

Young Pole Wins International IT Competition

In August, Filip Wolski a recent graduate from Gdynia high school, was named the best computer scientist in the world at the XVIII annual International Computer Science Olympics in Merida, Mexico. Over 100 countries were represented with up to four contestants from each country. Filip received his first computer at age 9 and is also a math whiz, receiving medals in many mathematical competitions. His classmate, Jakub Kallas, also received a medal. Both are students of high school teacher Ryszard Szubartowski in Gdynia.