

PolAm

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October 2008

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Vol. 30, Num. 10

Blessings from My Ancestors: The Gift of Being Polish American

By Anastasia Dzenowagis



Perhaps like some of you I wasn't certain of my own ethnicity. My grandparents came from Eastern Europe in the early 1900s, the exact whereabouts, countries and language we weren't completely clear about. They spoke Polish, but also other languages. My mother Helen Kazanovicz said: "You just didn't ask your parents about those things." This was not uncommon. Immigrants to America came from countries where they lived lives of poverty, hardship, forced military service or worse. Immigrants of that generation tried to put their pasts behind them as they risked it all to build

new lives in the New World. After all, isn't that why they came?

While my nationality as a second generation American was clearly American, what was my ethnicity? If my relatives weren't from here, where and to whom did I belong?

The journey which answered these questions began with a childhood memory. On our annual visits to Taunton, Massachusetts, my father's brother John showed us beautiful pictures of familiar looking faces, and faded letters in a

Blessings continues on page 3

Polanie Club Announces 2008 Scholarship Recipients

The Polanie Club Scholarships were awarded based on Polish heritage, academic achievement, community involvement and a composition. Each student will receive \$2000 for the 2008/2009 academic year. Please visit our updated and improved website at: www.polanieclubmplsstpaul.com to find information about our published books and club history. Please check back in the spring of 2009 for next year's scholarship information.

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, for 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.

The five recipients are:



Emily Fitzgerald
Allen
of Edina, MN
University of
Missouri-Columbia
major Broadcast
Journalism

Scholarships continues on page 2

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

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- ___ Newsletter 15
- ___ 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 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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Karina Rajtar, Writer
Patricia Beben, Proofreader

We appreciate your continued support. Dziękuję!

Thoughts

Well, my dear readers, your editor has been so busy this fall that I don't have much to say this month. Imagine that!



PACIM's annual Polish Soup Fest is coming up on Sunday, October 26th. We've changed the location to Kolbe Hall at Holy Cross Church in

Northeast Minneapolis since we were running out of room at the International Institute. This year Blueberry soup will return as well as all the other favorites. Rumor has it that Flaki (tripe soup) will make its first appearance. This Warsaw specialty will give the most adventurous something to sink their teeth into. See you there!

Until next month,

Steven

Steven Ukasick

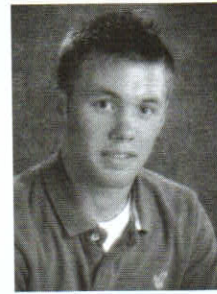
Samull's 2009 Polish American Calendar

Learn about the richness of your Polish heritage day by day with the new 2009 Polish American Calendar. Each day highlights an event from Polish history or culture on that day.

Accompanying these daily recollections are monthly Polish recipes from the files of the author's own family: Breaded Pork Chops, Kielbasa, Sorrel Soup and Potato Pancakes, among other family favorites.

This attractive calendar, with all 365 days of recollections of Poland's past and 12 special recipes, can be had by sending \$6.95 (includes shipping) to its author, Don Samull, 1312 N Drexel, Dearborn, MI 48128. And don't forget to say you saw it advertised in *Pol-Am* Newsletter.

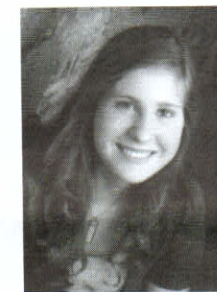
Scholarships continues



Zachary Daniel Moline of Mendota Heights, MN University of North Dakota major Physical Therapy/International Business



Elizabeth Malack of Fridley, MN Art Institute of Minnesota major Baking and Pastries Associate



Emilia Kaczynska of Prior Lake, MN University of Chicago major International and Environmental Studies



Angelika Korsak of Minneapolis, MN Hamline University major International Management

New and Generous Members:

New Members:
Russell & Doris Brown
Mietek Konczyk
Robert Papke
Dan Schyma
Adam Sroka
Richard Wiermanski
Jim Slowinski

Sponsors:
Gene & Janet Retka

Friends:
John Marszalek

Blessings continues

language we thought was Polish. The mysterious letters kept coming after my father's parents passed away. No one could read the letters or write back. A sensitive child, I used to cry for those far away ancestors who wrote to their loved ones, waiting for an answer which never came. I worried that these relatives didn't know my grandparents had died and vowed to let them know someday.

This silent childhood promise led me on a lifelong journey of study, exploration and adventure. I learned Russian and Polish, and beginning in 1981 wrote to the authors of the cherished letters. I kept my long-ago promise and let the authors of that heartfelt correspondence and their descendants know of the death of my grandparents, and about the many

more relatives now living.

Receiving answers back from Belarus and Poland, piecing together the puzzle of our family's ancestry brought a joy to my life. In 1991, my siblings and I began taking my parents back to Poland and Belarus to visit the homesteads of their parents, and connect with relatives still living there. In 2004, nearly 100 years after my grandfather Vincenty Dzenowagis left Vilno (now in Lithuania), I found the house where he was born and surprised the Dzenowagis relatives still living there! Relatives living in what is now Lithuania (at one time Poland) they still speak Polish and claim it as their ethnicity. In Matwica, Poland, we organized a family reunion for the relatives of my maternal grandmother Anastazja Pokornicki. Speaking Polish gave all of us a way to communicate.

Walking back through time, visiting the churches, family cemeteries, grave-stones with familiar names, clear lakes and tiny villages, I felt my ancestors close by. Sharing meals in the houses in which my grandparents were born, with our common descendants, gave my family a new sense of belonging in this modern world. Speaking Polish, eating the familiar foods of their childhood, meeting new cousins and understanding the world of their parents brought healing to my mother and father.

100 years ago, by taking a big risk, my ancestors blessed me with the opportunities and prosperity I have today. But just as beautiful a blessing has been the clues they left along the way, leading me back to them, and to the gift they have given me — the gift of being Polish American.

Blanche Krbechek Honored Medal "Zasluzony Kulturze, Gloria Artis"

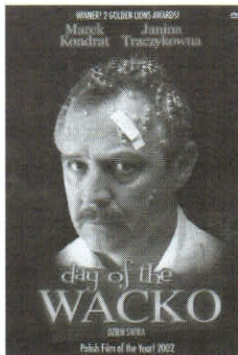


This summer PACIM member and Founding President of the Kashubian Association of North America (KANA) Blanche Krbechek received Poland's Bronze Medal, "Gloria Artis". This medal granted for merit to culture is granted to Polish and foreign nationals and organizations for merit rendered to Polish culture, as well as for supporting Polish culture and art abroad and strengthening cultural relations between Poland and other countries. The award is conferred on behalf of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage.

Fortune Magazine's 500 Largest World Corporations

The Polish PKN Orlen Group once again made Fortune's 500 largest world companies. This year it ranked number 477,

compared to 432 last year, with over \$17 billion in revenues. Its main activity is refining petroleum piped to Poland from the Urals in Russia. Once refined, PKN ships the gasoline and other products throughout Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic. PKN is based in Plock.



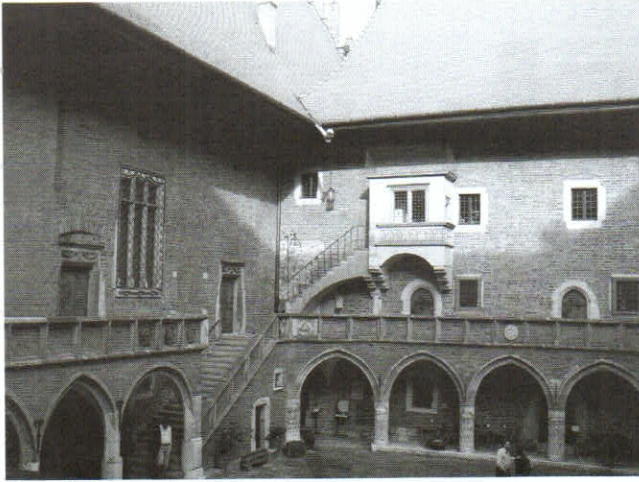
Polish Film Night at the Library "The Day of the Wacko"

PACIM is proud to announce the return of Polish Movie Night at the PACIM Institute Library, 2514 Central Ave NE in Minneapolis. The next movie will be "The Day of the Wacko" ("Dzień Świra") 7 PM, Friday, October 24th.

"The Day of the Wacko" was released in 2002 and stars the famous Polish actor Marek Kondrat who won a Best Actor Award for this role at the Gdynia Film Festival. It's

a dark comedy that reflects how middle-aged Polish citizens cope with living in the modern, post-communist world.

Also, with the return of Polish Movie Night PACIM is excited to introduce the new film projector that will enhance the viewing experience on a big screen, along with the complimentary refreshments that you've come to expect. See you there!



Jagiellonian University

The Jagiellonian University of Krakow, Poland was founded in 1364 by King Casimir III, who saw a need for a class of educated people.

Originally named the Cracow Academy (Akademia Krakowska), the school's development was stalled by Casimir III's death and was re-established in 1400 by King Wladislaus Jagiello and his wife Jadwiga. The queen donated all of her personal jewelry to the academy. The school would later be renamed as the Jagiellonian University in 1817 for Jagiello and the entire Jagiellonian dynasty of kings.

The university educated the majority of the intellectual elite of Poland for centuries, boasting students such as Nicolaus Copernicus (from 1491-1495) and Karol Wojtyla, better known as Pope John Paul II (from 1938-1939 and from 1942-1946).

By the Polish Renaissance, which lasted from about 1500-1535, the school had become quite popular. 3,215 students attended during this 35 year span, a record not surpassed until the late 18th century.

World War II brought perhaps the biggest obstacle to the university. On November 6, 1939, the Nazis invited the professors of the Jagiellonian University to a lecture by Obersturmbannfuhrer Muller. This was a trap, and a total of 183 people, including 144 university professors, were arrested by the Gestapo and taken to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. The university, along with all other universities in Poland, was closed for the remainder of the war. The Nazis proceeded to destroy and loot the university, often sending property to Germany. Despite the terror of the war and the Nazi regulation banning all but the most basic education, an unofficial, under-

ground university continued to teach courses to approximately 800 students. By January 8, 1945, the Nazi occupation of Krakow was over. All of the university property was either destroyed or taken to Germany, and 34 professors and staff were dead at the hands of both the Nazis and the Soviets. Lectures began a month later, with over 5,000 students registered for classes.

Although the war was over, the next big obstacle for the university was just beginning to take effect. In 1948, Stalinism began to affect the university. Many professors were dismissed, and the Medicine, Pharmacy, Agriculture, Forestry, and Theology programs were cancelled. Research was repressed, and the university lost its sense of autonomy. This self-governance was restored with the end of Stalinism in 1956, and the formerly dismissed professors were allowed to return.



Uniwersytet Jagielloński

However, the communist government reserved the right to extensive control and continued to repress the university. This was exemplified by the government instilling repressive measures in 1968 after a group of students became involved in a political protest against the communist regime. These measures, enacted against the students involved as well as some of the professors at the university, prompted several professors to leave the country.

Much like with the underground teaching during World War II, the university was able to secretly rebel against communist control by gathering underground literature in the university's Jagiellonian Library.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, the Jagiellonian University has returned to its prominent role as a significant educational institution in Poland. There are cur-

rently over 50,000 students taking courses at the university, and just over 1,000 of those are international students. A "Third Campus" complex of university buildings was added starting 2000, and the university was ranked as the best Polish university in 2006.

The Jagiellonian University has endured many changes and obstacles in its 644-year history. One thing that has remained constant, however, is its ability to overcome these obstacles and continue to serve its purpose as both an educational institution and a symbol of perseverance and strength.

By Karina Rajtar

International Study at the Jagiellonian

The University also offers International students a Semester or Year Abroad program and several programs in the summer in its Center of the Polish Language and Culture in the World. These programs offer classes in Polish language and culture: language, history, literature, music, film, theater, society and economy. They are specifically designed for undergraduate students from other universities. Participating students study in depth, and in an interdisciplinary framework, the most important issues and problems of contemporary culture that confront modern Polish studies today while also remaining dedicated to the historical context. All lecture courses are taught in English by distinguished experts from leading institutions in Poland.

News

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the extent limited by law. Please consider including us in your tax and estate planning. We appreciate your generous support.

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.

Przysłowia Polskie

Między młotem a kowadłem.

*Between the hammer and the anvil, or
Between a rock and a hard place.*

Kalendarz

OCT 26 PACIM SoupFest

DEC 14 Benefit Wigilia

JAN tba Kulig!

FEB 21 Bal Karnawałowy

PACIM Library

PACIM Library

2514 Central Avenue NE

Minneapolis, MN 55418

Hours: Sundays from 1 to 3:30 pm

The Polish American Library welcomes our new volunteer librarian, Bob Papke, who started on September 21. It's a pleasure to have Bob on the team. We still could use one more volunteer who would be willing to give us 2.5 hours every month or so on Sundays. It really is a fun job meeting and talking with everyone.

Thanks to the following people for book donations: Dana and Tim Ridley, Lorraine Selinski, Robert Papke, Steven Ukasick and Mietek Konczyk.

Many thanks to Director Irene Colston who organized our September Artist Exchange. It was quite an achievement and reflects well both on Irene and PACIM. Next year, we will be sending an artist to Poland. Information on how people may apply for the program will be published shortly.

October 24 marks the return of Polish Movie Night at our Headquarters/Library. The next movie, "The Day of a Wacko" ("Dzień Świra"), will be shown on Friday, October 24th at 7:00 PM.

"The Day of the Wacko," released in 2002, stars the famous Polish actor Marek Kondrat who won a Best Actor Award for this role at the Gdynia Film Festival. It is a dark comedy that reflects how middle-aged Polish citizens cope with living in the modern, post-communist world. We have invested in a new projector which will make viewing the film more enjoyable and the subtitles easier to read. For more information, email Jowita at jowita23@yahoo.com.

The 19th Annual Polish Soup Festival will take place on October 26 at a new location: Kolbe Hall, lower level of John Paul II School, 1630 Fourth Street NE, Minneapolis. A dozen different Polish soups with bread and desserts will be served from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. If there is any soup left over at 7:00 PM, it will be sold. Tickets are \$10 adults/\$5 children under 12 at the door. Dolina Polish Folk Dancers (gifts) and Sacred Heart Church (pierogi) will have tables. We are looking for volunteers to make soup and also to work at the event as servers, greeters, kitchen help, table cleaners, etc. If you are able to donate two or three gallons of soup, you will be reimbursed the cost up to \$25. Please call Steven at 612-822-2322 for more information.

On December 14, we will hold our traditional Wigilia dinner to benefit disadvantaged Polish children at 6:00 PM. at Gasthof Restaurant located at 2300 University Avenue NE, Minneapolis. This community Christmas Eve celebration features sharing of the opłatek, eating traditional foods, and singing Christmas carols in Polish and English. If you cannot attend the event and wish to donate to this cause, please send your check made out to PACIM - Children's Fund and mail to:

PACIM

PO Box 18403

Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403

For more information, call Judith at 762-571-9602.

— Judith Blanchard, *Librarian*

Echos from the North

News from Little Falls, Minnesota

Here in central Minnesota the leaves are beginning to turn color and the smell of autumn is in the air. What a wonderful time of the year! But then all seasons are wonderful in Minnesota.

Summer has quickly flown and the Polish Echos are ready to get back in tune. Last article I mentioned our Annual Picnic which was very well attended. The food was great and everyone had a wonderful time. Various members recalled their trip to Poland and the wonderful times they had.

On Saturday August 30th the Club celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Częstochowa with Mass followed by supper for members and guests. Fr. Mark Innocenti celebrated the Mass, after which he handed out copies to all about Our Lady of Częstochowa. The local Knights of Columbus gave splendor to the occasion. Gene Retka did a great job with the Liturgical music, Charlie and Cheryl Stanek, helped in a number of areas but all members need kudos for their wonderful work. A well-done movie about Our Lady was shown after the supper.

On September 25th Joanna Sulek-Malinowski will be visiting Little Falls. She will be accompanied by Irene Colston and Danuta Jampolska. Joanna gave a presentation about her painting and brought several to show. Danuta gave a presentation on genealogy. Both were well received. It is very exciting for us to entertain guests from Warsaw here in Little Falls.

Geri Wotzka is still working on the wonderful project to erect a shrine to Divine Mercy in Little Falls. She has had numerous calls and suggestions for which she thanks you. And your prayers are vital, keep it up.

God's Blessings to all.

— Phinee Zak, *President, Polish Echos*
320-632-2652

PACIM Officers and Board of Directors:
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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

This Update is a service provided by the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota. We invite your membership and participation in our goal of promoting Polish and Polish-American culture.

October 11, 2008

Sobieski Lions Annual Polish Meal and Dance
20 Polish dishes served from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. Dance from 7:00-11:00 PM to Dave Novak and the Polish Choice. In Sobieski, Minnesota, see below:

Bus Trip to Sobieski

Dinner, dance and bus ticket for \$30. Leave from the North Air Event Center (former Fridley KC Hall) at 6831 Highway 65 NE at 3:00 PM and return after the dance. You must make reservations. Call 763.428.9649 or email: edbudzinski@embarqmail.com.

October 18, 2008

Midwest Polka Association Polka Dance

Dance will be held at the Tri-City American Legion, 400 Old Highway 8, New Brighton, MN from 7:00 - 11:00 PM featuring the Dynabass band from Michigan. Admission is \$10.00. For more information, email edbudzinski@embarqmail.com or call 763-428-9649.

October 24-26

Fall Booya

Polish American Club, 1003 Arcade Street, St. Paul, MN. Booya served October 24th from 5:00 PM; October 25th from 12:00 Noon until 8:00 PM. Eat in or bring in your own container to take out. All musicians are welcome to join in a jam session. Any remaining booya will be sold on Sunday the 26th, from Noon until it is gone. Crowd-pleasing, mouth-watering recipe is prepared by

Chef Bob Zabel. Help is needed to chop ingredients on October 20th starting at 9:00. Bring your favorite paring knife and join in on the fun. Lunch will be provided. Volunteers are needed all booya week long. For more information call the Club at 651-774-6748

October 24, 2008

Movie Night

See NEWS on page 6

October 26, 2008

PACIM's Polish Soup Festival

See NEWS on page 6

October 30, 31, November 1

2001: A Space Odessey

Minnesota Orchestra's force of nature conductor laureate, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski celebrates his 85 birthday with a concert showcasing one of the most beautiful pieces ever written for the piano, as well as a remarkable young talent, Ewa Kupiec. Ewa's elegant virtuosic style has wowed critics and audiences in Europe and we're thrilled to present her Orchestra Hall debut. The concert closes with a sonic journey into deep space, fired by Strauss' beautiful Also Sprach Zarathustra, music featured in the classic film 2001: A Space Odessey.

Thursday, October 30 11:00 AM

Orchestra Hall \$21-\$55

Friday, October 31, 8:00 PM Orchestra Hall \$25-\$83

Saturday, November 1, 8:00 PM

Orchestra Hall \$25-83

Program includes:

Skrowaczewski, Music at Night

Chopin, Piano Concerto No. 1

Strauss, Also Sprach Zarathustra

December 14, 2008

Wigilia Benefit for Polish Children

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota will hold a traditional Wigilia dinner to benefit disadvantaged Polish children on December 14, 2008 at 6:00 PM. at Gasthof Restaurant located at 2300 University Avenue NE, Minneapolis. This community Christmas Eve celebration features sharing of the oplatek, eating traditional foods, and singing Christmas carols in Polish and English. If you cannot attend the event and wish to donate to this cause, please

send your check made out to PACIM-Children's Fund and mail to PACIM
PO Box 18403
Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403
For more information, call Judith at 762-571-9602

Polish Language Classes

Minneapolis Community Education

On-line registration available at www.mplscommunityed.com. For more information, call one of the program sites or their main office at 612-668-3939. The instructor is Elizabeth Suszynska who can be reached at 763-479-1642.

Beginning Polish (Elizabeth Suszynska)

Join us for this very fun class that will teach Polish language, culture, traditions, and grammar to all ages. Waite Park School, 1800 34th Avenue NE, Minneapolis for 7 Wednesdays—October 8, 2008 and ending November 19 from 5:45 PM-7:15 PM. \$52. For more info contact: Tony Walker or David Warnest at 612-668-1590, or anthony.walker@mpls.k12.mn.us or dwarnest@mpls.k12.mn.us

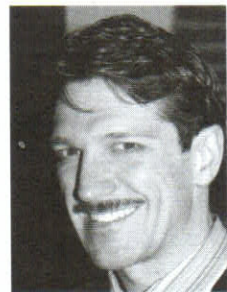
Intermediate Polish (Elizabeth Suszynska)

Seven Thursdays from October 9, 2008 and ending November 20 from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM at Northeast Junior High School, 2955 Hayes Street NE, Minneapolis. \$52. For more info contact David Warnest at 612-668-1515 or dwarnest@mpls.k12.mn.us

Conversational Polish (Elizabeth Suszynska)

Seven Thursdays from October 9, 2008 and ending November 20 from 5:45 PM to 7:15 PM at Northeast Junior High School, 2955 Hayes Street NE, Minneapolis. \$52. For more info contact David Warnest at 612-668-1515 or dwarnest@mpls.k12.mn.us

People



Paulo Szot
Actor and Singer

Born in 1969 in Sao Paulo, Brazil of Polish émigré parents. He began his musical training at age 5 with piano, violin and ballet. A knee injury made him turn to singing. He attended the Jagiellonian University in Kraków and sang

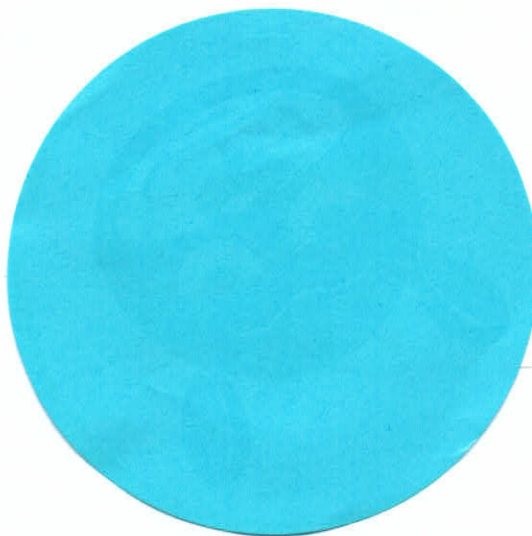
professionally with the National Song & Dance Ensemble Śląsk. He returned to Brazil to begin his opera career in 1997. In 2008 he received a Tony award for Best Actor in a Musical for his starring role as Emile de Becque in South Pacific, currently showing on Broadway, in addition to 3 other awards for the same role.



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Kraków & Kashubian Region



Kraków is one of the largest and oldest cities in Poland, with a population of 756,336 in 2007. Situated on the Vistula river, the city dates back to the 7th century. It was the capital of Poland from 1038 to 1596.

The Kashubian region has forests and lakes scattered amidst post-glacial hills and is famous for its folk art, especially for handicrafts.

Polish Word Tips

Uniwersytet, university
Biblioteka, library
Uczony, scholar
Muzeum, museum
Rektor, rector
Profesor, Professor
Dyscyplina, discipline
Badania, research
Tytuł magistra, Master's degree
Tytuł doktora, Phd degree
Archiwum, archive

Back Issues of *Pol-Am* Needed

We are looking for back issues of *Pol-Am* Newsletter, especially 1991 and earlier. Please contact Steven at 612-822-2322.

Sending Christmas Packages To Poland?

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