

PolAm

A Publication of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota www.pacim.org

October 2009

PACIM Soup Festival	2
Gniezno	4
TCPF Volunteers	8
News & Events	6-7

Vol. 31, Num. 10

OCTOBER IS POLISH HERITAGE MONTH

Twelve Significant Moments in Polish History

By John Radziłowski

It is impossible to condense Poland's 1000 year history and its complexity into a few events, but the twelve events listed here represent some of the most significant moments in Poland's past. They range from moments of great triumph to disaster and tragedy.

1. 966: Poland's conversion to Christianity. By accepting Christianity from Rome, Prince Mieszko I ties Poland into Western Civilization. It also helps Poland maintain its independence from Czech and German neighbors and assists Mieszko and his son Boleslaw I in unifying their kingdom. Christianity will prove the biggest influence on Polish culture and history down to the present day.

2. 1386: Union of Poland and Lithuania. The marriage of Queen Jadwiga of Poland to Grand Duke Jagiello of Lithuania created Europe's largest country and turned Poland's attention eastward. The union would make Poland-Lithuania the most powerful state in eastern and central Europe and open Poland to influences from the Middle East and Central Asia.

3. July 15, 1410: The Battle of Grunwald.
Poland and Lithuania united under King

Wladyslaw Jagiello to deliver a crushing defeat to the forces of the Teutonic Order, the greatest military state in Europe. The victory opened the way for Poland to later reclaim the Baltic coast and ended a mortal threat to the country's existence.

4. 1500s: The Polish Renaissance. Taking Italian and German influences blended with native creativity, Polish artists, writers and scientists create a uniquely Polish Renaissance. Led by authors such as Jan Kochanowski and Mikołaj Rey and scientists like Nicholas Copernicus, Poland becomes a leading example of the Northern Renaissance. In politics, Poland creates an elective monarchy with a high degree of religious and political rights.

5. 1587-1632: The Reign of Zygmunt III Wasa.
Elected in an effort to cement an alliance between Poland and Sweden, Zygmunt III's ambition to be king of Sweden foils plans for peace and involves Poland in a long and destructive series of wars with Sweden and Muscovy that severely weaken the political structure of the country.

Twelve Moments continues on page 3

News From Poland

by Mietek Konczyk

Poland's president and prime minister, along with foreign leaders from 20 countries including Germany and Russia, commemorated in Gdańsk the **70th Anniversary of the Beginning of World War II**. German Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke of the "immeasurable suffering" which began with Germany's invasion of Poland. The Russian prime minister said all pacts that European states agreed with Nazi Germany were "morally unacceptable", including the 1939 Soviet accord. Earlier, Polish President Lech Kaczyński criticized the former Soviet Union over responsibility for the war. The United States was represented at the memorial ceremonies by Gen. James L. Jones, the national security adviser, which many Poles saw as a snub.

The head of the Polish army, **Lt Gen Waldemar Skrzypczak**, has resigned after a dispute in which he accused the government of failing to properly equip troops in Afghanistan. He made his comments after the death of a Polish officer earlier this month in an ambush in Afghanistan. Poland has 2,000 troops in the country as part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force.

News From Poland continues on page 3

Membership Form For
Polish American
Cultural Institute of Minnesota
612-378-9291

www.pacim.org

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___ Sponsor 75
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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 it will be 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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PO Box 18403
Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403

PolAm

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

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We appreciate your continued support. Dziękuję!

Thoughts

In October we celebrate Polish Heritage Month. Our lead article this month, Twelve Significant Moments in Polish



History by Asst. Prof. John Radziłowski, is one that all of us should commit to memory well enough that we can share it with children, friends and neighbors as we go

about our daily life. Next month will come an article about the twelve most significant Poles. Every Pole and Polish American should know these events and people as a bedrock of our Polish heritage. Being Polish should mean more to us than piwo, pierogi and polka and having a last name ending in -ski.

There are several requests in this month's *Pol-Am* from Dolina Polish Folk Dancers, Twin Cities Polish Festival and the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota. Please consider helping out; these organizations are working hard to promote a positive image of Polish culture and heritage here in the Twin Cities. Until next month,

Steven

Steven Ukasick

New Members, Witamy:

Kasia Rajtar
Marian Sawyer

Generous Members, Dziękuję:

Donors:
John & Sande Przytarski

Sponsor:
Margaret Wegilinski

Friends:
John and Judy Rys

Dolina Polish Folk Dancers Looking for Storage

Dolina is currently looking for a dry storage space for their costumes. The room needs to be about 30 x 30 feet or 750 - 1000 square feet. The space will be needed by December or January. If you think you can help with this space please call Theresa Czichray at 763-502-7852 or email her at tczichray@gmail.com.

20th Annual Polish Soup Festival Presented by The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota

October 25 from 4 to 6 pm
Kolbe Hall at Holy Cross Church in Minneapolis (17th Ave & 4th St NE). Handicapped parking and an elevator are located in the alley at the back of the building.

Tickets: \$12 adults/\$6 for children under 12. There will be only a limited number of tickets sold at the door. Please buy your tickets in advance either online at www.pacim.org or those without internet access may purchase tickets by mail. Make checks payable to PACIM and mail to:

PACIM
PO Box 18403
Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403

The Soup Festival provides an opportunity to sample a wide variety of Polish soups during the event and portions are sized accordingly. We do not guarantee that all soups will be available at all times since the soups and quantities are dependent upon our volunteer soup makers who donate their soups. Because of space limitations we highly encourage you to purchase your tickets online or by mail before the Festival.

Twelve Moments continues

6. 1648–60: The Deluge. A major Cossack revolt and invasions by many of Poland's neighbors lead to a collapse of central authority. The country revived quickly and threw out the invaders, but the war and internal dissent among the nobility signaled the decline of the Polish Commonwealth.

7. 1772–95: The Partitions. Poland is divided among its more powerful neighbors: Russia, Prussia and Austria. Efforts by Thaddeus Kościuszko and other patriots to restore Poland's independence fail and Poland is erased from the map of Europe for 123 years.

8. May 3, 1791: The Polish Constitution. Polish reformers and patriots seeking to revive their country's independence reject the violent model of the French Revolution and craft a new, constitutional monarchy based on the example of the new United States. Although soon extinguished by Russian bayonets, the Constitution is only the second written constitution in world history and remains an ideal of freedom and just government to this day.

9. November 11, 1918–March 1921: Polish Independence and the Polish-Soviet War.

Following the collapse of the Central Powers and the Russian Revolution, Poles regain their independence from Russia, Austria and Germany under the leadership of Józef Piłsudski. Forces of the new born Polish state defeat the hordes of the Red Army bent on conquering Europe and spreading violent revolution westward. Polish freedom is preserved and Europe given a brief period of peace.

10. September 1, 1939–May 2, 1945: World War II, the Holocaust, and Soviet takeover.

Hitler's Germany attacks Poland in cooperation with the Soviets, beginning World War II in Europe. The war brings massive death and destruction to Poland. Nazi racial hatred leads to the Holocaust and the murder of 3 million Polish Jews—decimating Poland's ancient Jewish community—as well as the murder of 2 million Polish Christians. Nearly 1 million more Poles are killed by the Soviets, by Ukrainian nationalists, and as a result of military conflicts and war-related diseases. The Soviet Union under Josef Stalin takes over Poland, leading to 45 years of communist slavery and the

murder and repression of tens of thousands of Poles.

11. October 16, 1978: Election of Karol Wojtyła as Pope John Paul II. The surprise election of the Cardinal Archbishop of Kraków as Pope sends shockwaves through communist-controlled east-central Europe. His strong moral witness and his visits to Poland set off a chain of events, including the Solidarity movement, that ultimately lead to the demise of the communist regime and begins the unraveling of Soviet control over east-central Europe.

12. 1989: The End of Communism in Poland. A negotiated settlement between the communist authorities and left and center-left elements of the opposition results in the first open and relatively free elections in Poland since before World War II. Poland's first non-communist governments are formed and the Polish Third Republic is born.

John Radziłowski is Assistant Professor of History at University of Alaska Southeast and a fellow at the Piast Institute in Michigan. He is the author of *A Traveller's History of Poland*.

News From Poland continues

Poland's economy is expected to grow 1% in 2009, with annual average inflation at 3.8%, the European Commission wrote in an interim forecast report. "Poland being probably the only country in the EU to post positive growth. This follows from the better-than-expected result in the first half of 2009," the report reads. Earlier the Commission expected Poland's GDP to contract by 1.4% in 2009.

Approval has been granted for a **new airport** near Warsaw to serve fans coming for the Euro 2012 European soccer championship. Construction of the new airport in Modlin, some 25 miles north of Warsaw, will cost an estimated \$140 million.

Discount fashion retailer TJX Europe plans to open four **TJ Maxx** stores in

Poland this fall. The outlets will be launched near Katowice, in Bielsko-Biała, Wrocław and Poznań.

Poland's volleyball team triumphed in the European Championships by beating France 3 – 1 in the final and taking home the nation's first ever European Championship gold medals.

Hopes of Poland reaching the **World Cup finals** in soccer lay in ruins, as the team was totally outclassed by Slovenia. Poland now languishes in fifth place in Group 3, with only San Marino below them. Poland still has two matches to play - against the Czech Republic and Slovakia. But the team has only a slim mathematical chance of advancing to the tournament in South Africa next summer, depending on the performance of other teams

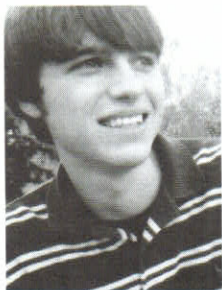
Dolina Polish Folk Dancers 60th Anniversary Concert and Dance

November 7 at 7 pm
St. Anthony High School
3303 33rd Ave NE, St. Anthony
Tickets: Adults -\$15, Students \$12, and Children under 12 -\$10.
Available at PACIM Soup Festival, from individual dancers, and at the door.

The concert will feature performances by Dolina Polish Folk Dancers, St. Mary's Balalaika Orchestra, Izvorasul Romanian Folk Ensemble, Stoneczniki Children's Polish Folk Dance Group, and Chabry Teen Polish Folk Dance Group. Dolina will have a booth with Polish folk-art and Polish pride merchandise. For more info: www.dolina.org

Polanie Club Scholarship Recipients

The Polanie Club scholarships are awarded in part based on a written composition. During this Polish Heritage Month it is edifying to read how these college students view this heritage. The following are excerpts from this year's recipients' essays:



Sebastian Korsak of Minneapolis

Hamline University

Essay: General Władysław Anders

...General Anders is remembered as a hero because of his deliberate help towards all Poles in the Soviet territories and his abilities of negotiation with Soviet and Polish leaders. His keen leadership and organizational skills allowed for the protection and aid of many of the imprisoned Poles and ultimately led to the saving of many Poles who would have no chance of survival if left in the prison camps. The actions of General Władysław Anders during World War 2 promoted hope amongst all the Poles in the Soviet territories. General Władysław Anders had a great impact on the lives of all Poles in the Soviet territories...



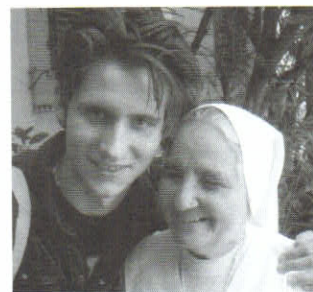
Stephanie Mackenthun of Fridley

College of St. Benedict / St. John's University

Essay: Saint Faustina Kowalska

No one would have guessed that (Mary) Faustina Kowalska, born in 1905 to a large, but poor family in Głogowiec, Poland, would offer to the world a very powerful, influential and important message. With just three years of schooling, she left to work as a domestic servant to help support her family. Soon, however, she had a vision of Christ and realized that her faith was her calling. As a result, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy.

According to the Vatican, while her outer form seemed ordinary her inner life was in an "extraordinary union with God" and from this union she was able to understand God's mercy, allowing for her trust in God and mercy toward neighbors...



Erwin Kruk of Eden Prairie

**Rose Polski Anderson Music Scholarship
McNelly Smith College of Music**

Essay: How has your Polish heritage affected your life?

My Polish father was a grateful man in Poland's music industry; he boosted the Polish Rock and Rock music scene in the 60's throughout the late 80's...

Composing was what he was known for; along with singing and playing various instruments, which portrayed his artistic spirit. I give thanks and appreciation to him who shook the world unexpectedly; his presence will always be at the tip of my fingers, whether I am playing my guitar, painting or cutting potatoes for our Polish traditional salads mama and me make every Christmas every year... I am a composer. I feel I am most in touch with my father when I compose a great tune and feel good about where it is going...



Agata Miszczyk of Rochester

Macalester College

Essay: How has your Polish heritage affected your life?

I moved to Rochester, Minnesota from Poland when I was six years old. I came to the United States with my family for my father's job knowing almost no English...

I don't remember my first days of school, but I remember coming home upset and crying. I was able to understand others, but I couldn't respond. I remember sitting on the school bus when someone asked me a question, and I didn't know how to answer. I heard someone behind me say: "Don't talk to her, she can't understand."

This inability to speak the language and reaction I got from others made me so frustrated and I promised myself that I would never judge someone because of their culture, customs, traditions, or ancestry. My whole life has changed because of this move, and it has helped me to become who I am today...



Alexandra Boyd of Mendota Heights

Marquette University

Essay: General Władysław Anders

The concept of patriotism is a baffling one to consider. A country, as it is defined in national anthems, poetry or art is usually an abstract. When people are told to love their country, are they supposed to feel fondness for the contours of the land as they do for their siblings or spouse? Or does this love spring from a particular attitude that all the citizens share? In fact, one can only love particular slices of a country, just the places and people that have made an impression on them. Yet this fragmented love has historically led to magnanimous actions of loyalty, sacrifice or defiance. One man stands out in Polish history as an example of the true spirit of that patriotism. During World War II, General Anders fought tirelessly for his oppressed homeland, Poland. Most notably, Anders embodied the true spirit of patriotism by providing hope and petitioning for the release of Poles exiled in Siberia, as well as taking other actions to do what he could to save Polish and Jews refugees.



Anne Gottwalt of Plymouth

Cornell University, NY

Essay: How has your Polish heritage affected your life?

Something truly amazing about my grandfather (Adolf "Dolek" Saja) and other Polish citizens whom I have come to admire is their endurance in their faith. As a confirmed Catholic, my faith is inseparable from identity, and it is something precious which ties me to my Polish heritage. Upon leaving the concentration camp in Permoporia in the Soviet Union, Dolek joined the army and got to travel through the Holy Land. He writes of feeling so blessed to set foot there and exclaims, "Our experience was similar to the biblical Exodus, but ours was a Polish Exodus! We felt it was our reward for our unjustified exile in Russian labor camps." This perseverance is a quality I admire in my grandfather and in the Polish tradition...

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

Gdzie kraj to obyczaj

Other country, other customs

Kalendar

- OCT 4 PACIM Annual Meeting
- OCT 25 Soup Fest
- DEC 13 Wigilia Benefit
- FEB 13 Bal Karnawałowy

PACIM Library

PACIM Library

2514 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Hours: Sundays from 1 to 3:30 PM
or by appointment

New Librarian

We welcome a new volunteer, Ursula Peterson. It's a pleasure to have Ursula on the team. She's a real "can do" person who also speaks Polish. What a great addition to the library staff.

Thanks to the Polanie Club

We thank the Polanie Club for their donation of 310 books and periodicals. Generally we add about 300 pieces a year making this a significant addition to the library. Next time you're in the library don't forget to check the "Free" box which includes many duplicate books. The library now has over 4,800 books, movies, DVD's, and audio tapes in our catalog.

Soup Festival

PACIM's annual Polish Soup Festival will be on October 25 from 4 to 6 pm at

Kolbe Hall at Holy Cross Church in Minneapolis (17th Ave & 4th St NE). Please see details on Page 2.

New this year is ordering tickets in advance. Because of space limitations and State Fire Marshal requirements, we need to control the number of attendees and so we are offering the majority of the tickets in advance. There will be a very limited number of tickets at the door and those tickets will only be available if we have not yet reached our maximum capacity. We thank you for your cooperation. Tickets are available online and by mail.

Please consider volunteering to make a soup. Our volunteer soup makers make this event a success and allows the volunteer to showcase their soup making skills. If you would like to volunteer to make a soup, please contact Judith at 763-571-9602 or judytam@usfamily.com or Jowita at jowita23@yahoo.com or 651-249-1940 for more information. The quantity of soup is usually three gallons and we will reimburse you up to \$25 for ingredients. First timers are always welcome; we can provide help, ideas and recipes.

Wigilia

On December 13 we will hold our traditional Wigilia dinner to benefit disadvantaged Polish children at 6 pm at Gasthof Restaurant located at 2300 University Ave NE, Minneapolis. This community Christmas Eve celebration features sharing of the opłatek, eating traditional foods and singing Christmas carols in Polish and English. Ticket Price is \$35. \$5 of that amount will go to the charity. If you cannot attend the event and wish to donate to this cause, please send your check made out to PACIM-Children's Fund to PACIM, PO Box 18403, Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403. Registration information will be released next month.

Bal Karnawałowy

Save February 13, 2010 for our next carnival ball to be held at the St. Paul Hotel.

—Judith Blanchard, Librarian
763-571-9602

Echos from the North

News from Little Falls, Minnesota

The colors of autumn are swiftly upon us here in Northern Minnesota. Where summer went is a mystery. We celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Częstochowa recently; about 22 local Knights of Columbus attended our Mass which brought splendor and beauty as well as our Echos members who wore white tops and dark skirts or slacks with our red satin sashes. Of course the most important thing was the Mass which was said in honor of Our Lady. Gene Retka provided the music; he always does a great job and his choice of music for this event was absolutely great. This Mass was well attended by about 250 people. Many were Polish but not members of the Polish Echos which was great.

Our monthly meeting was preceded by Mass and a free supper (Polish of course, because I cooked it). We decided we needed a little spark of sorts so we will be having "A Eve Of All Saints" party. Of course it will be a little early in October because we did not want to change our meeting night.

Shirley Wielinski donated a beautiful hand embroidered table cloth to the Polish Echos. We occasionally have a Polish display and this will be a beautiful addition.

God's blessings to all you readers and may this beautiful season bring you a lot of FUN.

The Polish Echos

— Phinee Zak, *President*, Polish Echos
320-632-265

Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota
Affiliate Member of the
American Council for Polish Culture

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Contact them at info@pacim.org

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 10

Sobieski Bus Trip / Polish Meal and Dance

Join the Midwest Polka Association members and friends on a bus trip to Sobieski, Minnesota (near Little Falls) for the annual Sobieski Lions' Polish Meal and Dance. Dinner with 20 authentic Polish dishes will be served from 5-8 pm. Jersey Polka Ritchie from Florida, "America's Concertina King," will be the special guest in the band which is playing for the dance from 7-11 pm. Bus leaves from the North Air Event Center (former Fridley KC Hall), 6831 Central Ave (Highway 65), Fridley at 3 pm and returns after the dance. For price information and reservations, call Jim Carlson at 651-426-1079 or Andy Zurbey at 763-502-0541.

October 11, Noon to 4 pm

Smaczne Jablka (Apple Festival)

Winona Polish Museum Annual Fundraiser 102 Liberty Street, Winona, MN. Food, merriment and music by Mosaica. Also international dancers and entertainment by recent Viet Nam immigrants. Info: 507-454-3431 or 763-545-7107

October 17

Midwest Polka Association Dance

Dynabross, a popular band from Michigan, will be returning to Minnesota to play at a dance at the North Air Event Center (former Fridley KC Hall), located at 6831 Central Ave (Highway 65) in Fridley. The band will play for dancing and listening from 7-11 pm. Admission is

\$10 per person. Food will be available. For more information, email Jim Carlson at k.carlson55110@yahoo.com or call 651-426-1079.

October 18

Polka Mass and Polish Dinner

Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church will be hosting its annual Polka Mass and Polish Dinner on October 18, 2009. The Mass will be at 10 am, with dinner of Polish sausage, potatoes, pierogi and more immediately after at Pulaski Hall, 2114 Fifth Street NE, Minneapolis. Ticket price is \$10 each. Joe Glowacki and the Band will be playing the music for the Mass. For tickets, call 612-781-9328 and leave a message regarding how many tickets you will need and a contact number.

October 23

Midwest Polka Association Dance

Polka Country Musicians, a popular band from Connecticut, will be returning to Minnesota to play at a dance at the North Air Event Center (former Fridley KC Hall), located at 6831 Central Ave (Highway 65) in Fridley. The band will play for dancing and listening from 8 to midnight. Admission is \$10 per person. Food will be available. For more information, email Jim Carlson at k.carlson55110@yahoo.com or call 651-426-1079.

October 25

PACIM's 20th Annual Soup Festival

See SOUP FESTIVAL on page 2

October 28

Annual Czech Roast Pork Dinner

Dinner is held at Sokol Hall 383 Michigan St in St. Paul. Reservations required. For more information call, 651-290-0542.

October 29

Warsaw Village Band

Cedar Cultural Center at 7:30 pm (Doors Open at 7 pm). Traditional Polish songs, with their cutting vocals and meshed fiddles, are the foundation of Warsaw Village Band's repertory. Tickets from the Cedar Ticketline (612-338-2674 ext 2), Cedar outlets, and online at Ticketweb. \$20 advance, \$25 day of show.

November 7

60th Anniversary Concert

See DOLINA on page 3

November 14

Midwest Polka Association Dance DyVersaCo, a well-known local band, will play for a dance at Sgt. John Rice VFW, 1374 109th Ave NE (corner of 109th & Central Ave) Blaine from 7-11 pm. Admission is \$10 per person. Enjoy a steak dinner prior to the dance. For more information, email Jim Carlson at k.carlson55110@yahoo.com or call 651-426-1079. Directions: 763-757-4540.

December 6

Wigilia at Jax with Polanie Club

The Polanie Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul wishes to share Poland's most beloved holiday celebration by hosting a traditional Christmas Eve dinner, Polish Wigilia, at JAX Café, 1928 University Ave NE. \$35 per person includes tax and gratuity. The social hour 5 pm, with dinner at 6 pm followed by music and kolędy (the singing of Polish and American carols). For information and reservation please call Fran Chorzempa 651-639-1464, Marie Tromiczak 763-566-2132 or Marta Swica 651-638-9577.

December 13

Wigilia Benefit for Polish Children

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota will hold its traditional Wigilia dinner to benefit disadvantaged Polish children on December 13 at 6 pm at Gasthof Restaurant located at 2300 University Ave NE, Minneapolis. For more information see WIGILIA on page 6.

February 13, 2010

Bal Karnalowy

Hold the date.

Silent Auction Items

We are looking for donated items and services for the silent auction at the Bal Karnawałowy coming February 13th. Your donation is tax deductible and will help with Bal expenses. Please call us at 612-378-9291 and leave a message and someone will get back to you or email us at info@pacim.org for more information on how to make a donation.

People



Janina Ochojska-Okonska
Polish Humanitarian activist

Born 1955 in Zabrze and studied astronomy at the Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika in Toruń where she later worked and became involved in social activism including the rise of Solidarity. Disabled since childhood with

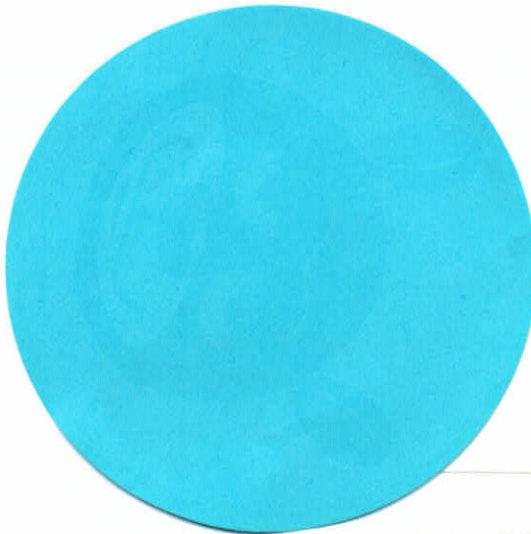
polio, she went to France in 1984 for surgery. While there she became acquainted with the idea of humanitarian aid and volunteered in the Equi-Libre foundation. In 1989 she founded a branch of Equi-Libre in Poland. In 1994, Ochojska established the Polish charity organization called Polska Akcja Humanitarna. She's received many awards and honors for her humanitarian work. She was listed as Poland's 7th most influential woman in 2004.



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Print Date: Oct-09

5543285160 0006



Gniezno, Poland



Gniezno: a city in central-western Poland, some 50 km east of Poznań
Population: 70,000
One of the Piasts' chief cities, it was the first capital of Poland in the 10th century. Its Roman Catholic archbishop, the Archbishop of Gniezno, is the primate of Poland. These historical facts make its position in Polish history similar to Canterbury or Rheims.

Polish Word Tips

Gdzie pan/pani pracuje?
Where do you work?

Mam swój biznes.
I have my own business.

W jakiej branży, jeśli można wiedzieć?
In what line of business, if I may know?

Ależ oczywiście! Doradzam firmom jak otrzymać unijne dotacje.
But of course! I advise companies on receiving grants from the [European] Union.

Czy jest duże zapotrzebowanie na takie usługi?
Are such services in big demand?

O tak, bardzo duże.
Oh yes, very big.

Polish Festival Call for Volunteers

The Twin Cities Polish Festival is looking for motivated individuals who have an interest in organizing and planning the many different areas of the Festival in 2010. You need not be Polish or Polish American to volunteer, just a desire to make next year's Festival a success.

Experience in event planning, logistics, accounting, etc. are helpful but not as important as dedication and motivation for these volunteer positions. Benefits include gaining invaluable resume building experience, networking with other professionals in the field, experience in major event planning, etc. Come and join our team and help make the 2010 Twin Cities Polish Festival even better.

Please contact Edziu Rajtar at information@TCPolishFestival.org for more information about these exciting volunteer opportunities.