

POLAm

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

December 2011

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Vol. 33, Num. 12

Minnesota Film Arts Director Honored in Poland

The Polish Minister of Culture awarded Al Milgrom, Artist Director of the Minnesota Film Arts Society, a medal for "Major Contribution for Promotion of Polish Culture Abroad." Milgrom (89) will travel to Łódź, Poland in December to receive the medal, attend ceremonies, and finally receive formal recognition for the many years he showed Minnesota audiences the finest of Polish cinematography.

In 1962, Milgrom founded the film society and brought several Polish films here for the first time. *The Bridge* by Janusz Majewski, *Canal* by Andrezej Wajda, *People from a Train* by Kazimierz Kutz, and *Until Tomorrow* by Janusz Morgernstern were among those early films. In 1964, Minnesotans saw *Mother Joan of the Angels* by Jerzy Kawalerowicz, *Eroica* by Andrzej Munk, and *Les Mammifères* by Roman Polanski.

From the 1970s to today, Milgrom brought more than 100 Polish movies to Minnesota. Over the past 50 years he hosted more than three dozen prominent Polish film directors here in Minnesota, adding to a local appreciation of the film makers and their films as well as Polish culture. Among that group of esteemed directors are Krzysztof Zanussi, Agnieszka Holland, Wojciech Marzewski and Jerzy Kawalerowicz.

In support of Milgrom's travel to Łódź, PACIM awarded him \$200. Along with the thousands of people



who have benefited from his work bringing Polish cinematography to Minnesota, we wish him safe travels and offer a hearty *Dziękuję!*

Liza Davitch, Twin Cities documentary filmmaker and former Fulbright Fellowship Research Fellow at the Łódź Film School, will accompany Milgrom to Poland and record the ceremonies and interviews.

Polanie Publishing: Keep Traditions Alive

Stained, torn and crumbling handwritten recipes guide many of us through holiday meal preparations. These notes from our



mothers, grandmothers, aunts and friends make appearances this time of year, and as our eyes age and grease marks on the ink blur the writing, it is increasingly difficult to read if it's

one tablespoon or teaspoon of salt. We make most of these recipes only once a year and our memories blur along with the old ink.

Spend this holiday season with a fresh copy of your favorite recipes. *Treasured Polish Recipes for Americans*, by Polanie Publishing, has been in print since 1948 and contains nearly every recipe that Babcia would have used. This hard cover collection of Polish cookery contains stories of Polish festivals and customs such as *Wigilia*, and *Dożynki*, along with accompanying recipes. Beautiful poetry by Victoria Janda, wise Polish proverbs, and thought-provoking illustrations complete this book.

Polanie Publishing Company was established in 1942 by the Polanie Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul. It specializes

Polanie Publishing continues on page 3

Membership Form For
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612-378-9291

www.pacim.org

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

Subscription Note: Due to postal rate increases and since non-profit mail is NOT forwarded but returned postage due please add \$6 to your membership if you travel south each winter. This ensures that you will receive your *Pol-Am* Newsletter by first class mail all year long wherever you may be. Anyone else who wishes to receive their *Pol-Am* by first class mail all year long should add \$6 to their renewals.

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PolAm

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We appreciate your continued support. Dziękujemy!

Thoughts

Dear Friends,
I love this time of year — bright and cheerful. A few snowflakes complete the picture.



PACIM had a great year. Our events drew more people than ever and our membership grew again. I want thank all of the volunteers who gave their time, expertise and support. Your efforts allowed PACIM to organize the many events throughout the year and reach out in new ways. We look forward to another successful year in 2012.

I am excited to introduce PACIM's newest member of our Board of Directors, Dan Schyma. Dan is no stranger to working at our events, and is heavily involved with Polish endeavors throughout the Twin Cities. He was elected at our Annual Meeting in November.

I join our entire board in thanking outgoing board members for their years of service. Bernard Korsak, George Hornik, Anastasia Dzienowagis, Tony Rubash and Phyllis Husted all served the organization well and their leadership has been appreciated.

In the spirit of the season, I wish you Merry Christmas, happiness and all you wish for yourself in the New Year.

Ania Scanlan
PACIM President

News From Poland

by Mietek Konczyk

Prime Minister Donald Tusk announced that Finance Minister Jacek Rostowski, Economy Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak, and Foreign Affairs Minister Radosław Sikorski are among ministers who will retain their jobs in the new cabinet.

Poland's Law and Justice party (PiS) has ousted three prominent members — Zbigniew Ziobro, Jacek Kurski and Tadeusz Cymański — who publicly criticized PiS for centralized decision-making and lack of open discussions. To express their solidarity with ousted politicians, a group of members of the party decided to form a separate parliamentary caucus *Solidarna Polska* (Solidary Poland).

Poland's economy is expected to expand by 2.9% in 2012 versus the 4.2% expected previously, according to the most recent **forecast by the World Bank**.

Six Polish firms found themselves among the ten top **fastest growing Central European technology companies** in an annual Deloitte Technology Fast 50 ranking.

Poland soccer fans were enraged after the traditional emblem of a crowned white eagle against a red background disappeared from the recently unveiled new shirts of Poland's national soccer team ahead of the Euro 2012 championship which Poland will co-host with Ukraine.

Generous Members

New Members
Thomas Skorczeski

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Ania Antus
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Polish Children's Fund
Gregory Logacz \$50

The Polish Children's Fund supports needy orphans in Poland. Please consider a year-end gift toward this PACIM project. Checks payable to PACIM Children's Fund should be sent to PO Box 18403, Minneapolis, MN 55418, or donate securely at www.pacim.org.

Polish Honey

Polish honey is prized throughout Europe. From the dark to the light varieties, the taste and nutritive value of



Polish honey make it one of the biggest export items of the country. But Poles eat less of their own honey, settling instead for imported honey, which lacks the purity and flavor of domestic honey. Why? The cost may be a factor. In Poland, domestic honey costs between 15 zł. and 50 zł. per kilogram (\$4.60-\$7.70), while imported honey is much less. Honey from China or the Ukraine has lower production costs making it cheaper; but the inferior quality and substandard flower source for the bees would seem a deterrent even to a cost-conscious Pole.

Another reason may be that honey traditionally has been seen as a seasonal product by Poles. From 2007–2009 a nationwide campaign called Honey Sweetened Life aimed to encourage Poles to eat more honey, not just in the autumn and winter. The EU provided 50% of the funds for the campaign, which highlighted the taste and nutritional values of honey and told consumers of the great health benefits of all honey-related products.

Poland's beekeeping tradition (apiarists) is centuries old. Today there are over 40,000 apiarists in Poland, with the number of bee families estimated at around 1 million. In 2009, Poland produced 18,000 metric tons of honey, with the majority of it sourced from fir and

spruce trees. This honey, which is quite dark with hints of green or gray, contains therapeutic substances used to treat respiratory diseases and other ailments. It seems people around the world recognize this honey as superior and so now market honey as "made in Poland" or "made in the EU" because they add trace amounts of Polish honey in an otherwise lackluster blend from even the Far East.

Two factors may contribute to Poles increasing the consumption of their own honey in the future. One is the continued rise of the median income in Poland. The other may be the increase of farmers' markets throughout the country. Poles miss many of the flavors that their foods had before the EU regulated growth and production. Fresh cream allowed to sour naturally over a 24 hour period is a thing of the past in Poland. Preservatives, stabilizers and colorings are not popular with most Poles. Authentic tastes and nutritional benefits from "organic" foods grown on home soil are becoming more fashionable and sought out. Honey might just be next on that list.

Polanie Publishing continues

in maintaining Polish customs and traditions, and keeping our ears attuned to Polish music. Two other titles by Polanie Publishing that are sure to bring joy to the holidays are: *Treasured Polish Customs and Traditions* and *Treasured Polish Songs*.

Polanie Publishing makes it easy for us to teach our daughters and nieces ways to keep our Polish traditions alive. Their books, sheet music and CDs remind us all of Poland's history and beauty. To learn more about the Polanie Club or Polanie Publishing, visit their website at www.polanieclubmplstpaul.com.

Artist Exchange Program

PACIM will be selecting an artist to travel to Poland for approximately 20 days to exhibit his/her art, participate in various art programs and interact with Polish artists of all genres as part of PACIM's Artist Program. Some expenses will be paid.

Eligibility

Applicant must:

- Be a Polish American artist born in the U.S. who has a parent or grandparent of Polish descent, and has resided in Minnesota for a minimum of one year.
- Be an emerging artist. Emerging artists show significant potential, yet are under-recognized by their peers and art professionals. "Emerging" refers to artistic development, professional accomplishment and recognition.
- Be able to substantiate this information.
- Have a VALID U.S. passport and agree to actively participate in fundraising and promotional events for PACIM, both here and in Poland, when requested.

Submissions

- Write a 450 word essay on why you would like to participate in this program, what you hope to accomplish and how you will represent Minnesota and the United States in Poland.
- Submit a current resume on one 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper.
- Send samples of artwork, photos, CDs. Do NOT send original work. If you want materials returned, provide a self addressed envelope with proper postage. Include your telephone number(s).
- Send to Artist Exchange Program, 6615 Lake Shore Drive #312, Richfield, MN 55423.
- All submissions must be postmarked by January 20, 2012.

Preliminary judging will be done by a panel independent of PACIM. Two finalists will be invited to meet with the Officers and Board of Directors who will make the final decision.

Officers and Board of Directors of PACIM are not eligible to participate in the Artist Exchange Program.

Poland's Christmas Gift to the World

By Jane Mrazek Flanders



Shortly before he died in 1945, Captain Jan Sliwiński described the Polish Christmas carol as “the unacknowledged symbol of the exile’s yearning for home.” He knew that feeling from his years away from Poland during two world wars. He also realized that the world did not know the beauty of *kolędy*, so he undertook the translation of Polish Christmas carols into English, introducing the world to the melodies and themes that are almost sacred to Poles. But it all began hundreds of years earlier.

Polish Christmas carols date back to the 14th century when Franciscan Brothers brought songs of Jesus’ birth to Poland. Over time, Latin lyrics gave way to Polish, and by the 17th century Poles began composing their own songs. In essence, these songs were folk music in character with melodies that are tender, humorous and typical of the Polish peasant or mountaineer. An almost unconscious poetry weaves its way through these songs, rendering them national anthems of Poland’s beauty and grace.

There are three types of *kolędy* —religious, legendary and imaginative. The religious, which are often seen as the most beautiful and profound, stem from the early monks in cloisters and are a means of evangelizing the story of God becoming man. The legendary are filled with details from the Bible’s Apocrypha, mixing religion with fiction. Stories of the adoring shepherds are intermingled with speaking animals. The third, or imaginative, are products of peasants who exchanged the traditional setting of the Nativity with their own homes, making Bethlehem a Polish village and Jesus a Pole.

The melodies of *kolędy* lean heavily on the beautiful *polonez* with its upbeat rhythm. A very early *kolęda* which traces its early origins back to the 14th century is *W Złobie Leży*. Its composer, Peter Skarga (Piotr Powęski, 1532-1612), was a Jesuit priest and musician and one of the leading figures of the Counter-Reformation in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. His carol, which remains part of the canon of *kolędy*

today, is considered the first *polonez* and a testament to the scenes and rhythm of a Polish village.

Perhaps the oldest *kolęda* still sung today is *Prezbiezeli do Betlejem* (Merrily to Bethlehem). Although the author of its lyrics is unknown, the music was written in the 16th century by Jan of Lublin. The joyous and spirited song reflects the baroque period in Poland.

Of all *kolędy*, *Bog się Rodzie* (God is Born) is seen as the “National Christmas hymn of Poland.” Franciszek Karpiński is credited with writing the words in the 18th century, but the melody dates back to the 16th century. It was played as the coronation *polonez* for King Stefan Batory and other Polish kings through history. Karpiński’s lyrics, written when Poland was first partitioned in 1772, capture the desire for freedom swelling in the Polish heart.

One of the early attempts to show the world the beauty and depth of *kolędy* came in 1830 when Chopin wrote his



The Madonna and Child on a deer places part of the Holy Family in a Polish landscape.

first Scherzo, Op. 20 in B Minor. Peacefully nestled in the middle of an otherwise stormy composition, the soothing carol *Lulajże Jezuniu* (Lullaby Dear Jesus) is an oasis for the listeners. Chopin used the carol to bring comfort to the hearts of Poles crushed by the Imperial Russian Army during the Polish rebellion of the November Rising. This was not the last time *kolędy* would be used by artists.

Stanisław Wyspiański, a painter, poet and dramatist of the late 19th century, imitated Chopin's use of *kolędy* in his play *Wyzwolenie* (Liberation), where he combined the themes of Polish folk traditions with Romantic history. In the dark and brooding play, Wyspiański contrasted tragic scenes of a partitioned Poland with those of a happy Polish household singing carols.

For many generations, Poles were the only admirers of their carols. The world did not know the lyrics. In 1928, *The Oxford Book of Carols* was produced as a compendium of carols from around the world and *kolędy* were nowhere to



Nativity Scene by Władysław Skoczylas illustrates a type of *kolędy* called "imaginative." Created by peasants, this artform is an interpretation of their faith stories.

be found. They remained at home, close to the hearts and hearth of Poles. After two world wars brought Poles out of their homeland, a Polish soldier serving in Glasgow, Scotland, thought it was high time to introduce the world to *kolędy*. Captain Jan Sliwiński, an accomplished composer, poet and war hero in Poland, began translating Polish carols. He and a fellow veteran of the First World War, Major Teslar, wrote down as many carols as they could remember. They wanted to keep *kolędy* alive for generations to come. Later, with the help of the Polish Red Cross, Sliwiński arranged and published a number of the old Polish carols.

Sliwiński was a man of connections in Poland and in Great Britain. His prowess as a soldier and poet made him irresistible. He received tremendous support for his work with *kolędy*. The great English poet, T.S. Eliot, a friend of Sliwiński, even participated in the project. "The austerity of my translation, kindly approved by T.S. Eliot, is an attempt to render the original as closely as possible."

Sliwiński also commissioned the English composer and poet, Arnold Bax, to help share *kolęsy* with the world. In 1942 Bax wrote *Five Fantasies on Polish Christmas Carols* for voices and string orchestra. Sliwiński provided the piece with the original Polish words and English translation. The sweeping work encompasses *Bog się Rodzi* (God is Born), *Wśród Nocnej Ciszy* (In the Still of the Night), *W Żołbie Leży* (In a Manger), *Lulajże Jezuniu* (Lullaby Dear Jesus), and *Prezbieżeli do Betlejem* (Merrily to Bethlehem).

Understanding Polish Christmas carols is a porthole to understanding Polish culture, customs and way of thinking. These carols are much more than songs. They are a combination of the religious and secular; national and universal; old and new. They are expressions of history and hope. *Kolędy* are Poland's Christmas gift to the world.

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. 612-378-9291

PACIM Library

2514 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
Hours: Sundays from 1 to 3:30 PM
or by appointment
Closed Dec 25 and Jan 1.
Materials due may be returned Jan 8.

From the Librarian

The Library contains 5,273 books, DVDs and CDs. About 250 of the DVDs are Polish (with English subtitles) and some documentaries in English. This year we added 147 items, most of which were new and on interesting subjects. Our "Bring a Book Back from Poland" program has been extremely successful. Thank you to all our donors! We sure have grown from the 300 old volumes we opened with in October of 1994!

I'd like to thank the wonderful library volunteers. They are reliable and willing to go the extra mile to help our patrons: Pat and Steve Kile, Phyllis Husted and John Bieniek, Halina Wozniak, Bob Papke, Barbara Kiernoziak, Bernard Korsak and Joanna Kur. We still have a need for two more volunteers. If you are interested, please call me.

Wesołych Świąt i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!

—Judith Blanchard, Librarian
763-571-9602

Echos from the North

News from Little Falls, Minnesota

The Polish Echos will host their Christmas party on December 13 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church hall. This pot



luck will surely have some luscious food. You are all invited. I know we will have opportunities to share joy-filled memories from our Christmases past.

One memory from my childhood Christmases was preparing food for the holidays. I lived on a farm and our meat and sausages were fresh and delicious. Oh my, the wonderful aromas filled the house for days! We always went to Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. I'm pleased to say that Our Lady of Lourdes still has a Midnight Mass with carols beforehand.

Sadly, we lost two of our cherished members last month. Lenny Rutz, who never missed a meeting, and Rita Schurr, who lost her battle to cancer. Both were proud of their Polish heritage and brought special gifts to our group—Lenny and his great harmonica playing, and Rita with her skills in the kitchen.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and wonderful New Year. Please call me for details about our Christmas party.

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

Przśłowia Polskie... i Poemat

Gość w Dom, Bóg w Dom.
A guest in my home is God in my home.

This is our time honored greeting,
Our heritage from days of old
When Brotherhood was more than gold;
The host shared bread and salt with all:
The peasant, knight; the great and small,
And friends were made while eating.

—Victoria Janda

Polish Classes for Winter/Early Spring

PACIM continues classes for Beginners, Advanced Beginners, and Intermediate students of the Polish language. Classes resume February 6.

For details call 612-378-9291 and leave a message or visit www.pacim.org.

Polanie Club Scholarships Awarded

The Polanie Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul is pleased to distribute the second of two scholarship installments in 2011 to Zachary Rzeszutek, attending the University of Minnesota's School of Mechanical Engineering; Michelle Selinski, also attending the University and majoring in Nursing; and Mariah Hennen, attending Kalamazoo College and majoring in Political Science. Congratulations to these deserving students.

Interested Minnesota students of Polish descent who are pursuing post secondary studies are invited to watch for the Polanie Club's 2012 Scholarship Program Information in March.

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

PACIM Officers and Board of Directors:

President: Ania Scanlan, Vice President: Paul Rog, Treasurer: Steven Ukasick, Directors: Charlene Delaney, Jane Mrazek Flanders, Terry Kita, Ursula Peterson, Paul Rog, Bruce Rubin, Dan Schyma and Magdalena Zborowski.

Contact Board Members at:
info@pacim.org

Events

Many dates and times for events are given to us well in advance of the actual date and are subject to change. Please call to verify the particulars.

December 11 *PACIM Wigilia Dinner*

A fundraiser for needy Polish orphanages, the traditional Polish Christmas Eve meal will be held at the Gasthof Restaurant, 2300 University Ave NE, Minneapolis. This community celebration features breaking of *opłatek*, traditional foods and singing of *kolędy*. For details visit www.pacim.org.

December 31 *Midwest Polka Association New Year's Eve Blast*

Twin Cities Soundz Band will provide music from 7-11 pm. Champagne will be available. Fridley Knights of Columbus Hall, 6831 Highway 65, Fridley. For more information contact Jim Carlson 651-426-1079 or email k.carlson5510@yahoo.com.

December 31 *Sylvester Dinner and Dance*

PNA Hall will have a New Year's Eve dance from 7 pm-1 am, sponsored by Group 1042 of the PNA. Dinner will be served and a midnight snack of home-made *bigos* with champagne for all. Music by "Bago Bago." For more information email Margretta (Gosia) Madej tpkmadej@comcast.net.

February 9-26 *Edith Stein*

A haunting and passionate drama about the Jewish intellectual who converted to Catholicism and was martyred at Auschwitz. An inspiring story of a heroic stand against great evil. Open Window Theatre, 1313 Chestnut Ave, Suite 102, Minneapolis. Tickets vary in price with Thursday night "pay-as-you-are-able." For tickets, call 651-340-7394.

February 18 *PACIM's Annual Bal Karnawałowy*

Enjoy an evening of elegant food, music and dancing. A reception and Silent Auction begin at 6 pm, dinner and award ceremony to follow. Historic St. Paul Hotel, 350 Market Street, St. Paul. Tickets \$60 (table of 8 for \$440) can be ordered at www.PACIM.org or by calling 612-378-9291.

The Rose Ensemble

Presents Slavic Wonders: Feasts and Saints in Early Russia, Ukraine, Poland & Bohemia

Visit ancient places where mysterious chants, joyful hymns and magnificent choral works are mingled with legends of folk heroes and the Christmas story. Spanning eight centuries, "Slavic Wonders" includes stunning 12-part Russian Orthodox motets written for Peter the Great's Imperial Court Chapel Choir, powerful double-choir works from the Polish Renaissance, Czech-language medieval hymns, and a wonderful collec-



tion of Ukrainian Christmas carols. Hailed by audiences as "ethereal and captivating," the Rose Ensemble has presented this award-winning program to capacity crowds across the US and Europe.

December 16, 7:30 pm, Mary of the Angels Chapel, La Crosse, WI

December 17, 8 pm, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Apple Valley, MN

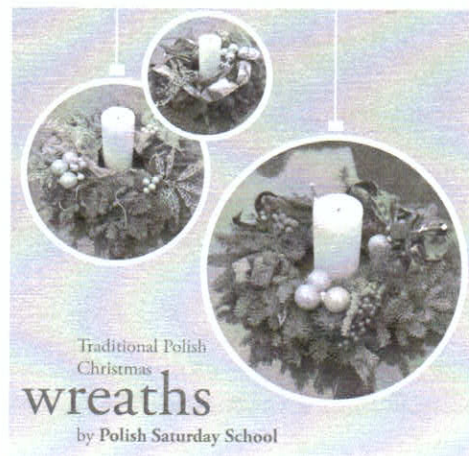
December 18, 7:30 pm, Sacred Heart Music Center, Duluth, MN

December 22, 7:30 pm, Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church, St. Paul, MN

December 23, 8 pm, Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis, MN

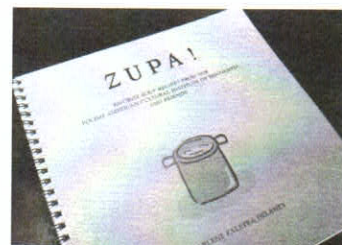
For tickets and concert details visit www.roseensemble.org or call 651-225-4340

Traditional Polish Christmas Wreaths by Polish Saturday School



Made from fresh evergreen and decorated with ornaments (candles not included). \$25 / \$22 if ordered by December 10
Contact: Aneta Siadak 651-717-5689
email: kaja7007@aol.com
All proceeds go to support students' education at Polish Saturday School

Zupa!



Favorite Soup Recipes from the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota & Friends

The 3rd edition of *Zupa!* contains 54 Polish soup recipes that have been served at our Polish Soup Festival... and more.

To order your copy, please send \$15 (\$10 for additional copies) made payable to PACIM to:
Zupa!, c/o 5317 Bryant Ave S,
Minneapolis, MN 55419-1201

Renew January 2012 memberships today and help us save on reminder mailings. Check renewal date on the mailing label.

People



Stanisław Wyspiański
1869-1907

Born in Kraków, Wyspiański was part of the modernist Young Poland movement affecting visual arts, literature and music. He produced a vast corpus of work including plays, paintings and sketches. His plays

stirred patriotism in the hearts of Poles and his paintings offered a combination of realism with folk tradition.

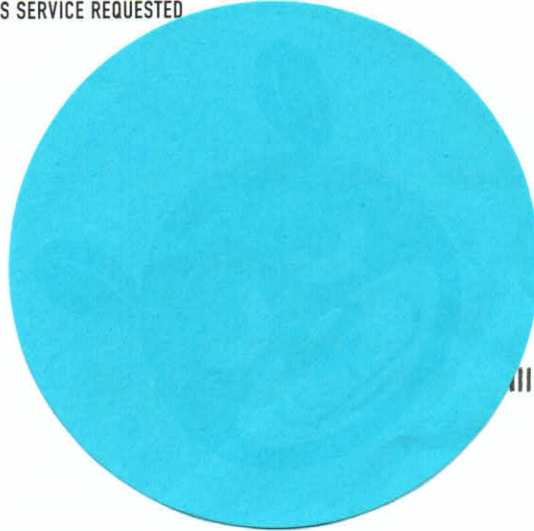
He studied philosophy at the Jagiellonian University and at the School of Fine Arts in Kraków. In 1905 he helped redesign the acropolis on Wawel Hill and his home city has numerous streets named in his honor. Two of his most seen works today are the stained glass window in the Franciscan Church and a polychrome in Mariacki Church.



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A Perfect Holiday Gift: *PolAm*

This year, give the people you love a gift membership to PACIM. Each month they will remember your kindness as they receive their copy of *PolAm* in the mail. It is a wonderful way to share the traditions you treasure and keep folks informed about important cultural, historical and entertaining events in the area.

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Member Name

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Please check if you would like a gift letter sent

Mail this form and \$25 for each gift subscription to:
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Bal Karnawalowy

FINE FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT, DANCING WITH
NICHOLAS MROZINSKI AND "THE FEELIN"

HISTORIC SAINT PAUL HOTEL
350 MARKET STREET, SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2012, 6 PM

BABY SPINACH SALAD WITH WARM BACON,
CARAMELIZED SHALLOT VINAIGRETTE, AND SEARED POTATO PIEROGI
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