

PolAm

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

December 2012

Anders' Polish Orphans 2 . . . 3
Epiphany 4-5
News and Events 6-7

Vol. 34, Num. 12

Little Falls Native Awarded Nobel Prize

Dr. Brian Kobilka didn't reach the phone the first time it rang. When he answered the second call, the Nobel Prize Committee was on the other end announcing his award for his work as a chemist. "They passed the phone around and congratulated me," Kobilka told the Associated Press. "I guess they do that so you actually believe them. When one person calls you, it can be a joke; but when five people with convincing Swedish accents call you, then it isn't a joke."

Kobilka, 57, a native of Little Falls, Minnesota, and graduate of the University of Minnesota Duluth, received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in October. He is a physician and a professor at the Stanford University School of Medicine. His work with Duke University professor Robert Lefkowitz garnered them the prestigious award and prize of nearly \$1.2 million. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said their work made groundbreaking discoveries with G-protein receptors that let body cells sense and respond to outside signals, work that is key to developing better and safer drugs.

Another prize Kobilka and Lefkowitz share is their Polish heritage. Lefkowitz is the grandson of Polish immigrants, and Kobilka's Polish American roots are grounded in Little Falls' strong Polish community. Kobilka's family ran a bakery in Little Falls until 1985, when they sold it to Pete and Joy Karnowski.

"Brian would come in with his children and tour the bakery every time he came back to Little Falls," Joy reflected. "He has stories to tell them...and his children enjoyed that."



Dr. Brian Kobilka receiving news that he had won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry.

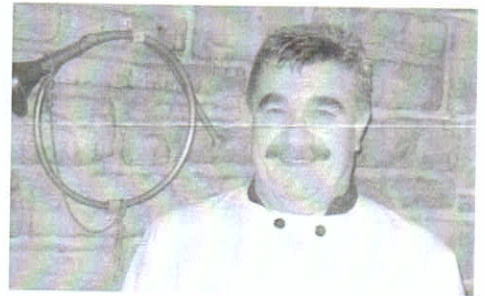


The Nobel Prize winner with his family.

Kobilka's award puts him in the same rank as another famous Little Falls native, Charles Lindberg.

Celebrate the Polish Joy of Living

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota warmly invites you to attend



Marian Pierzchalski is this year's *Bal* honoree.

their *Bal Karnawałowy* on February 9 at the historic St. Paul Hotel. This annual gala event celebrates the harmonic convergence of food, friends, music, dance and the Polish joy of living.

Begin the elegant evening with welcoming sounds from Bonnie Frels at the grand piano. Bid at the Silent Auction and help raise money for PACIM's programs and *Dom Dziecka* fund. Buy a chance to win the Wall of Wine. Share *piwo* or Polish *wódka* with dear friends and new acquaintances. Savor the nuances of a menu selected to delight the palate.

In a ballroom adrift in red and white, celebrate the *Polonez* with the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers; and, dance the night away as DJ Demex mixes familiar,

Polish Joy continues on page 2

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

www.pacim.org

____ Patron.....\$150
____ Donor.....100
____ Sponsor.....75
____ Household/Friends.....40
____ Member (includes newsletter).....25
____ 1st Class Postage (optional).....6
____ ACPC Membership (optional).....5

Total: _____

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

Subscription Note: 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 *PolAm* Newsletter by first class mail all year long wherever you may be. Anyone else who wishes to receive their *PolAm* by first class mail all year long should add \$6 to their renewals.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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

PACIM
43 Main St SE, Ste 228
Minneapolis, MN 55414

PolAm

PolAm (Permit #31798) is the official publication of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota and is published monthly with July/August and January/February issues. Non-profit bulk permit paid at Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is located at 43 Main St SE, Ste 228, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Please direct all inquiries to our mailing address, or email us at info@pacim.org, or call 612-378-9291.

Founder: Czesław Róg
Managing Editor: Jane Mrazek Flanders
Design: Bruce Rubin, Rubin Cordaro Design
Contributing Writers, Reporters and Staff:
Mietek Konczyk, Writer
Patricia Beben, Proofreader

We appreciate your continued support.
Dziękujemy!

Thoughts

As we ring in the New Year, I am mindful of the great volunteers who work with me to produce *PolAm* each month. In



particular, Bruce Rubin for his talent, patience and humor as he designs each issue; and Pat Beben for her eagle eye as a proofreader. Our staff writers —

Phinee Zak, Mietek Konczyk and Basia Kiernoziak — each provide much of interest to our readers. Thank you everyone.

2013 promises to be an exciting year for PACIM. We begin the year with *Bal Karnawałowy* in February. The event is a showcase of elegance, a fun party, and an important time to support PACIM's programs and charitable efforts. We are accepting donation for the Bal's Silent Auction. Please consider contributing a weekend at your cabin, professional services, jewelry, event tickets or treasures from Poland.

Remember PACIM, a 501(c)(3) organization, when making year-end gifts. Knowing your donation directly supports Polish culture locally, or disadvantaged children in Poland, can be deeply satisfying. Visit www.pacim.org to make a gift, register for the *Bal*, or learn of future events.

Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku,
Jane Mrazek Flanders, *Editor*

Polish Joy continues

classic and new sounds of Polish and American music.

It all comes together at the historic St. Paul Hotel. Overlooking Rice Park, an oasis of beauty, the St. Paul Hotel exudes European-inspired elegance. This premier luxury hotel is recognized for its historic character as a crown jewel in the heart of downtown St. Paul. Come for the *Bal*. Stay for the night.

At this year's *Bal*, PACIM will honor Marian Pierzchalski for his dedication to and generosity within the Twin Cities Polish American community. "Mario" is a big bear of a man with a heart just as big as his warm smile. His philanthropic work and service make him a model for us all. He has been described as "The American Dream Personified" by celebrities and friends alike. From his humble beginning in the U.S. as an immigrant father and husband with just a few bucks in his pocket, to a successful restaurateur and philanthropist, is the story behind his selection as PACIM's *Bal* honoree.

Reserve a table for yourself and friends by February 1 at www.pacim.org. View a lavish photo gallery of last year's *Bal* at www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRWLTJUn8Ak.

Charlene Kaletka Delaney, a 20 year plus veteran of PACIM's Board of Directors, chairs the Bal committee and coordinates the myriad of details surrounding the gala event.

New & Generous Members

Welcome New Members

Mary Bonczek-Renteria
Richard Bonk
Elizabeth Brodziak
Betty Chorzempa
Wendy Kocon Sedlacek
Christine Mosio
Jackie Mosio
Tomasz Ryszard Rajtar
Darrell Stonina

Patrons

Stanislaw Skrowaczewski

Sponsors

Danuta Malejka-Giganti
John and Jolanta Rajtar

Friends

Gloria & Tom Bergstrom
Elizabeth Brodziak
C. E. & Erin Delaney
Wendy Kocon Sedlacek
Paul & Sieni Leidig
June Malluege
Alan & Sherry Rybak
Thomas Skorczeski
Darrell Stonina
Josephine Zak

Anders' Polish Orphans... part 2

Exhausted by hard labor, disease and starvation — barely recognizable as human beings — we disembarked at the port of Pahlevi (Anzali), on the Caspian shore of Northern Iran. There, we knelt down together in our thousands along the sandy shoreline to kiss the soil of Persia. We had escaped Siberia, and were free at last. We had reached our longed-for "Promised Land." Helena Woloch

Iran marked the first stop for refugees evacuated with Anders' army. They found temporary quarters in large transit camps in Pahlavi and Mashhad, and later in Tehran and Ahvaz. General Anders' troops were transferred to Palestine and from there to Iraq, but the civilian refugees remained in Iran. To accommodate them, a sprawling stationary camp was established in Isfahan. It housed the thousands of orphaned Polish children and was called the "City of Polish Children." Relief assistance afforded by Polish, British, American and Iranian authorities improved their living conditions and brought contagious diseases under control. The diseases, which continued to rob the refugees of their lives even after liberation, stemmed from their prison-like captivity in the Soviet Union.

Infrastructure and support for Polish refugees became necessary. More than 3,000 Polish students received an education in the 24 schools established in Iran. From 1943–45 tens of thousands of other refugees were transferred to Lebanon and Palestine. Schools, and even a Polish library, wedged their way into Beirut and other cities to accommodate the needs of the refugees. In Palestine, camps for the thousands of refugees were located in Nazareth, Rehovot, Ain-Karem and Barbara. Several scout groups, schools, training centers, a Women's Auxiliary Service and an

Officers' Legion were established. A Polish press, located in Palestine and Iran, printed the much needed educational materials used in refugee schools throughout the Middle East.

Some refugees found asylum in India's transit camps set up in Quetta, Mount Abu, Panchgani, Bandra and Karachi. More permanent settlements also emerged in Balachadi and Valivade. Balachadi became a refuge for 1,000 Polish children. Valivade, which housed 5,000 Polish refugees, had its own self-government and established four elementary schools, a high school, a junior college and a trade school. In all, 16 Polish schools were attended by 2,300 Polish



Polish refugees arriving in New Zealand.

children in India. Moreover, several Polish periodicals were published, Polish amateur theaters were founded and Polish business enterprises flourished.

Africa provided another safe harbor for the Poles. In mid-1944, East Africa hosted over 13,000 Polish refugees. They settled in transit and permanent camps in the British colonies of Uganda, Kenya and Tanganyika. In Tanganyika, the largest settlement was Tengeru (4,000 refugees) and smaller camps were located in Kigoma, Kidugala, Ifunda, Kondo and Morogoro. South Africa, South Rhodesia and North Rhodesia also became the home of Poles.

In Africa, Polish schools, churches, hospitals, civic centers and manufacturing and service cooperatives were founded and Polish culture prospered. African radio stations ran programs in

the Polish language and there was even a Polish press. In South Africa alone there were 18 Polish schools with about 1,800 students in attendance.

A large Polish settlement was also founded in Mexico. Although provisions were made to resettle several thousand Poles in that country, only two transports arrived in the summer and fall of 1943 with 1,432 refugees. Their home was a deserted hacienda in Santa Rosa. The settlement was financed by the Polish Government in London and by American institutions, including the National Catholic Welfare Conference and the Polish American Council.

Finally, 733 Polish children with their 105 caretakers arrived in New Zealand on November 1, 1944. They were housed in the Polish Children's Camp in Pahiatua. As elsewhere, kindergartens and grammar schools provided education and, unlike elsewhere, upon graduation the teens were placed either in schools operated by religious orders or in technical colleges.

As a mirror of Polish hospitality, the refugees received a welcome from the inviting governments and the local people. Welcoming signs with Polish flags, white eagles and words of encouragement often greeted their arrival; high government officials paid visits; and commemorative monuments were erected in their honor.

For a 1940's look at Poles in Iran, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKjplc-fDxg

Joe Beben is a contributing writer and history buff.

Epiphany

By Jane Mrazek Flanders

Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must—at that moment—become the center of the universe.

—Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize winner and Holocaust survivor

Fifty years ago, Communists rebuilt war-torn Poland. Posing as “deliverers,” the new regime forced Polish Christians into an inner religious exile by limiting religious freedom and practice. For a largely Christian country whose lives and year revolved around the church calendar, Poles and their faith remained steadfast. In 1991, when communism was nothing but rubble in Poland, religious holidays and public expressions of faith re-entered the public picture.

Inch by inch Poles reinstated Christian holidays into the calendar. Marked by church attendance and celebrations, these days give Poles something larger than themselves...something transcendent to bring them out of their duties and focus on their faith. Eight of the 13 days in the Polish public holiday calendar are Christian based, and until last year one holiday critical to the Christian calendar remained missing.

Epiphany, the Christian feast that celebrates God revealing Himself to man, was the one holiday the new Polish Parliament resisted reinstating. For 20 years, Poles requested that Epiphany join the ranks of Christmas, Independence Day, Constitution Day and Easter. The *Sejm* did not budge.

The Polish people were persistent and in early 2010 Jerzy Kropiwnicki, the former Mayor of Łódź, initiated a grass-roots campaign gathering more than 700,000 names on a petition calling for the re-introduction of Epiphany into the public calendar. It faced strong opposition by the Polish Employers Federation, which appealed to Polish President Bronisław Komorowski requesting he not sign the amendment into law.

However, in October 2010 the Labor Law and Bill on Holidays was amended reinstating the feast day as a “non-working public holiday.”



On January 6, 2011, Poland celebrated Epiphany for the first time since 1960 with parades, church services and celebrations in the street and in homes. Poles were grateful for a day off work, but more so for the freedom to express their faith freely and openly. In a pastoral letter recognizing the feast, Polish bishops thanked Parliament and supporters for giving *Trzech Króli* (Three Kings Day) “its rightful place in the social and religious life of Poles.”

In Warsaw, a parade began at Castle Square led by Kazimierz Cardinal Nycz. The Cardinal led the procession 1.5 kilometers along the Royal Route to a nativity crib in Piłsudski Square. In keeping with the tradition of Epiphany, men colorfully dressed as the Magi (three kings from the East who brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the baby Jesus) rode camels and passed out sweets along the way.

Throughout Poland similar parades processed through city streets where hundreds of children dressed in Renaissance costume marched in the retinue of the “Three Kings.” Huge crowds sang Christmas carols and enacted living nativity

scenes. And the one custom that nearly all families continued was the blessing of the chalk.

It is a long Epiphany tradition in Poland to carry small boxes to church for a special blessing. The decorated boxes represent the gifts of the Magi and are filled with amber, a gold ring and chalk. They use the blessed chalk to inscribe “K+M+B” and the year above every door in the house as a blessing and protection against illness and misfortune for those within. The letters with a cross after each one are said to stand for the names of the kings Kasper, Melchior and Baltazar, but also represent the Latin “*Christus Mansionem Benedicat*” (Christ bless this house). The markings remain above the doors all year.

Another tradition Poles follow on Epiphany is making a “Three Kings cake,” served with a coin or almond baked inside. The person who gets the “prize” is king or queen for the day and wears the paper crown that decorates the cake. It is said that the king or queen will be lucky in the coming year.

Epiphany is also a time of transition. It marks the end of the 12 days of Christmas and signals the beginning of “*zapusty*,” or carnival time, where Poles indulge in meat, drink and high festivities until the solemn liturgical season of Lent commences.

Poles find great joy in celebrating feast days and patterning their lives around the liturgical calendar. As this Christmas season winds down and another Epiphany celebration ends, we can mirror the Poles by setting our sights to a grand celebration at PACIM’s *Bal Karnawałowy*... right before Lent.



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: 43 Main St SE, Ste 228, Minneapolis, MN. All are invited. 612-378-9291.

PACIM Library

43 Main St SE, Ste 228
Minneapolis, MN 55414
Hours: Sundays from 1 to 4 PM
or by appointment

The PACIM Library finishes 2012 with a happy ending. After our big move to the new location, a careful culling of Library holdings, and new volunteers to serve its patrons, we feel ready to tackle the new year. Many generous donors contributed books, CDs and DVDs this past year, continuing our goal of providing interesting and authentic Polish materials.

For 2013 we are considering adding some Library programs to draw new groups of patrons to the Library. One of them is a "Children's Story Hour," showcasing our deep collection of children's books, music and movies. With classic Polish stories read to children and craft activities to reinforce the tale, we hope to pass along to future generations the rich customs and traditions many of us know so well.

Thank you to the many donors and volunteers who make our Library possible. Your commitment to sharing the beauty and importance of Poland with the community brings joy to many lives and homes.

Echos from the North

News from Little Falls, Minnesota

We are all so proud of our local Brian Kobilka who received a Nobel Prize in Molecular and Cellular Physiology. Although I don't really know Brian personally, I did attend school with his mother and knew his family. His father owned a bakery in Little Falls, which is now Pete and Joy's Bakery. I'm sure many of you know Pete and Joy Karnowski.



My daughter was a classmate of Brian's in high school. She knew him as a friendly, conscientious, intelligent, "boy next door" type. At that time most school kids had some sort of job after school and, like all the rest, Brian would go home to help his family in the bakery. His paternal grandmother's family was the Kiewel Family, another well-known Little Falls name, having owned the local brewery for many years and later selling it to the Grain Belt Company.

The Polish Echos will again offer a scholarship for a student attending a Morrison County School. I know this seems early, but most students are already looking into financial help to further their education. If you know someone who may be eligible, please have them look into this scholarship.

It was also decided that we will again host a Polish Dinner sometime around May 1. More information will be forthcoming, but put this event on your "bucket list." Mass will be offered at Our Lady of Lourdes followed by a full meal.

Here's hoping all of you have a blessed and happy Christmas season. Please do keep Christ in Christmas and I hope many of you continue to carry on the old traditions.

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

Mowić Popolsku Learn Polish

This winter PACIM continues with expanded opportunities to learn Polish. Several sections of classes (from Beginner to Intermediate) provide growth in the knowledge and use of the language. Classes which focus on grammar and vocabulary are taught by Iwona Srien, Ph.D. A conversation class for students of all levels is taught by Halinka Hudec. All classes are held at the PACIM Institute, 43 Main St SE, Suite 228, Minneapolis. Cost is \$70, \$60 for PACIM members. Minimum enrollment of 6 students per section/class. For class schedule and registration visit www.pacim.org.

Festival of Nations — Call for Volunteers

The Festival of Nations is May 2–5, 2013, at RiverCentre, 175 W. Kellogg Boulevard, in beautiful downtown St. Paul. The Festival includes 35 cafés from around the globe offering unique ethnic food; global artists providing incredible ethnic cultural events; and the opportunity to purchase one-of-a-kind ethnic items from the international bazaar. It is one of the nation's largest and longest running multicultural events.

This is a great showcase of Polish heritage and culture. Consider volunteering at the Polish Café and receive an entrance ticket to the Festival. Duties include sales, setup/teardown and food preparation. Please contact Marie Przynski at przynski@comcast.net or 612-501-2799 for volunteer shifts. The volunteer sign-up calendar will soon be posted on the PACIM website www.pacim.org.

PACIM Officers and Board of Directors:

President: Jane Mrazek Flanders, Vice President: Paul Rog, Secretary: Magdalena Zborowski, Treasurer: Greg Gramza, Directors: John Bieniek, Charlene Delaney, Rachel Jendrzewski, Terry Kita, Ursula Peterson, Paul Rog, Bruce Rubin and Dan Schyma.

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 30

Pre-New Year's Eve Dance at Withrow Ballroom

End the year with a wonderful dance complete with champagne and party favors at the historic Withrow Ballroom, 12169 Keystone Ave N, Hugo, MN (northwest of Stillwater). Craig Ebel's DyVersaCO band will play from 1-5 pm. Admission is \$10. For details call 651-439-5123.

January 12

Midwest Polka Association January Dance

Start the New Year with the MPA dance at the Maplewood Moose Lodge, 1946 English St, Maplewood, MN. A new band, Kid Polka, will play from 7-11 pm. The three young band members, along with some "seasoned musicians," promise an evening of fun for all. For information call 651-433-2173.

January 27-February 14

Baltic Imports Amber Sale

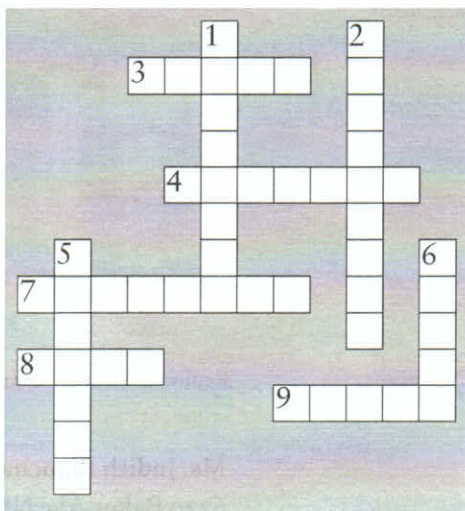
Baltic Imports, a member of The International Amber Association and the International Conference on Amber in Archeology, presents their semi-annual public amber sale. All amber will be discounted 25%. 207 East Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis. For store hours and directions call 612-331-3296.

February 3

Pianist Daniel Trifonov

The Fredric Chopin Society of Minnesota welcomes 21 year old Daniel Trifonov for a concert that promises to be powerful and deeply moving. In 2010-2011 Trifonov won the bronze medal at the Chopin Competition in Warsaw, first prize in Tel Aviv's Rubinstein Competition and the gold medal at the Tchaikowsky Competition in Moscow. He has performed with the London Symphony Orchestra, the Warsaw

December Crossword Puzzle



Across

3. 2013 *Bal* Honoree
4. Polish dance opening Carnival Ball
7. English for "*Karnawałowy*"
8. PACIM's Soup Cookbook
9. *PolAm* designer

Down

1. Chopin Society's February 3 performer
2. Saint honored in Poland on New Year's Eve
5. Polish season of Carnival
6. Anders' Orphans author

November 2012 Answers:

Across: 3. Olga, 4. Gicyilmaz, 7. Dom, 8. Hope, 9. Basia

Down: 1. Korczak, 2. Wigilia, 5. Anders, 6. Kresy



Philharmonic and other notable orchestras. His concert will include Chopin's 24 Preludes, Op. 28, Liszt's Sonata in B minor and Scriabin's Sonata No. 2, Op 19. 3-6 pm, Macalester College's Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, 130 Macalester St, St. Paul. For information and tickets visit www.chopinsociety.mn.org

February 9

PACIM's Bal Karnawałowy

An elegant celebration at the historic St. Paul Hotel, the evening offers fine food, an award ceremony and festive dancing. A Silent Auction precedes dinner and raises money for PACIM's library, programs and *Dom Dziecka* Fund for needy Polish children. Cost \$65, PACIM members \$60, table of 8 \$500. Register at www.pacim.org or leave a message at 612-378-9291.

Reservations deadline February 1.

Menu

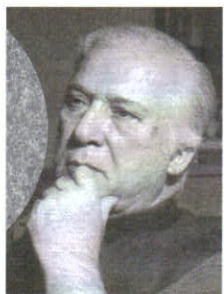
First Course: Dried Mushroom Broth with Chicken-Mushroom Quenelle
 Second Course: Beet and Apple Salad with Bibb Lettuce, Toasted Pine Nuts, Sliced Beets, Fennel and Apple Horseradish Vinaigrette
 Entrées: 1. Seared Salmon with Mushroom Barley Risotto, Mushroom Butter Sauce and Baby Dill Carrots, OR
 2. Chicken Schnitzel Served with Green & Yellow Wax Beans, Leek & Dill Potato Cake and Roast Shallot Brandy Peppercorn Sauce, OR
 3. Vegetarian Schnitzel with Barley Risotto and Roast Shallot Brandy Peppercorn Sauce
 Dessert: Poppysseed Roulade and Mazurek Almond Torte with Cherry Sauce and Fresh Berries

April 11-28

International Film Festival

The Film Society of Minneapolis and St. Paul's centerpiece event is their annual International Film Festival. Exhibiting more than 200 films from 70 countries and drawing audiences of more than 40,000, this event is not to be missed. Details forthcoming at www.mspfilmsociety.org.

People



Khosrow Sinai (1941-)

The Iranian film director's 1982 film about the Polish diaspora in Iran linked him to the hearts of Poles. In 1982, President Lech Kaczyński awarded Sinai the prestigious Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit

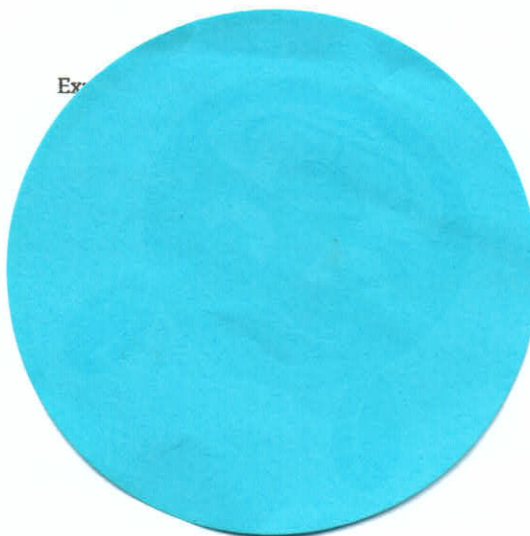
of the Republic of Poland for his documentary film *The Lost Requiem*, which recounts the WWII exodus of Polish men, women and children from Soviet labor camps to Iran, and their lives among Iranians. In 2011, he received the *Gloria Artis* medal from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland for "distinguished contributions to, or protection of Polish culture and the people's heritage."



POLISH AMERICAN
CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA

43 MAIN ST SE, STE 228
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55414

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 30308
TWIN CITIES MN



The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota Presents
A Polish Formal Ball

Bal Karnawalowy



You Are Invited To A Formal Carnival Ball with
Fine Food, Entertainment, Dancing and Silent Auction

Saturday, February 9, 2013, 6:00 PM

Historic Saint Paul Hotel (Valet Parking Available)

350 Market Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota

Sixty Five Dollars (PACIM Members Sixty Dollars) per Person / Five Hundred Dollars for Table of Eight

Register Online at WWW.PACIM.ORG or For More Information, Call PACIM at 612.378.9291