

# PolAm

A Publication of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota [www.pacim.org](http://www.pacim.org)

January / February 2012

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Vol. 34, Num. 1-2

## Dolores Strand to Be Honored

On February 18, PACIM will recognize Dolores Strand's many contributions to the Polish American community in the Twin Cities. Strand's recognition ceremony will be part of PACIM's *Bal Karnawałowy* at the St. Paul Hotel. The following description of Strand's work was written by her Co-Chair for the Columbia Heights Sister Cities Program, Gil Mros.

Dolores Strand started the idea of a Sister Cities connection between Columbia Heights, Minnesota and Łomianki, Poland several years ago. She has served as Co-Chair of the organization since its inception and has been the motivating force for most of its activities.

Under Dolores' leadership, the Sister Cities program provided crucial medical supplies for the Children's Hospital in Łomianki including an ambulance, incubators for newborn babies, a therapy tub, a pediatric operating table, an EKG machine, and even a horse for use in its hippotherapy program. In addition, the program donated and delivered thousands of dollars to the Children's Hospital in Łomianki.

It was also Dolores who originated the idea of purchasing wheelchairs for needy Polish citizens. In 2005, after personally accompanying the delivery of 240 new wheelchairs to Poland, Dolores was presented with the Sokół Award given to outstanding citizens of



Strand (center) with PACIM friends Marta and Chester Pachnik.

Łomianki. She is the only non-Polish citizen, and the only woman, to ever receive this prestigious award.

In 2009 Dolores encouraged the Columbia Heights Sister Cities Committee to host nine Polish students visiting America. She is involved in several other community activities including the Young Artists Contest, but her heart seems drawn to most things Polish.

Dolores has made many trips to Poland and is well known to many of its citizens. She studies the Polish language, and her standard enthusiastic greeting is "Witamy!" Even at local parades, Dolores walks the parade route handing out Polish flags. All this from a woman without an ounce of Polish blood!

In 1995 Dolores was presented with the Columbia Heights Humanitarian of the Year Award for her outstanding work. Congratulations, Dolores!

## Is "In Darkness" Headed for an Oscar?

The dark and smelly sewers of Lvov, Poland, is the setting for Agnieszka Holland's award winning film, "In Darkness." Based on Robert Marshall's 1991 book, *In the Sewers of Lvov*, the film showed strong at both the Telluride and Toronto 2011 Film Festivals, and is



Poland's official entry for Best Foreign Language Film for this year's Academy Awards.

Blending virtue and vice among Jews and non-Jews makes *In Darkness* unique in the genre of Holocaust survival films. Leopold Soha, a thief and burglar, is the film's unlikely hero. Motivated by greed alone, he finds Jews hiding in the city sewers can pay him more than the Nazis who hired him to sniff out hidden Jews.

The director used only flashlights while filming to great effect. The claustrophobic, dark, wet and cold feeling the Jewish refugees lived with for 14 months is almost palpable to the viewer. Life and death hang in the balance as a baby is

**In Darkness continues on page 2**



**Membership Form For  
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**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

*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 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](mailto:info@pacim.org), or call 612-378-9291.

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We appreciate your continued support. Dziękujemy!

# Thoughts

Have you heard the buzz that PACIM has a new home? We just signed a five year lease on a lovely space in the



RiverPlace complex of Northeast Minneapolis. It is right across the street from the location of the Twin Cities Polish Festival and has several cafés, bars,

shops and a movie theatre nearby. Covered and safe parking is an added benefit. We can also make use of the building's spacious meeting rooms for hosting events. The move is tentatively planned for March. Details and pictures will appear in the March issue of *PolAm*.

Our Board of Directors grew a bit larger this last month. We are pleased to welcome John Bieniek and Greg Gramza. Each man brings a host of talents, ideas and proven quality service to the organization. They serve by a special appointment from PACIM's President, Ania Scanlan.

There is still time to register for our *Bal Karnawałowy*. This grand event celebrates our Polish heritage in fine style and raises funds for important programs sponsored by PACIM. Who can beat the elegance of the St. Paul Hotel and the scrumptious meal planned? Please join us for dinner, dancing and an award ceremony recognizing one of PACIM's strongest supporters, Dolores Strand.

*Do zobaczenia,  
Jane Mrazek Flanders, Editor*

## In Darkness continues

born in the sewers and there is fear that the cries of the newborn will expose the hidden Jews. Power struggles and strong egos challenge life in the sewers and above ground. Faith and hope finally emerge as the story sheds light on good coming from evil.

View trailers of the film at [InDarknessFilm.com](http://InDarknessFilm.com).

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### Polish Children's Fund

Betty Saja	\$10
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Robert & Sandra Gryfinski	\$200
June Malluege	\$25
Phyllis Husted & John Bieniek	\$200
Thomas Bieniek	\$100
Roger & Margaret Borowicz	\$25

*The Polish Children's Fund supports needy orphans in Poland. Please consider a 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](http://www.pacim.org).*



# News From Poland

by Mietek Konczyk

On November 21 Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk's coalition of his center-right **Civic Platform (PO)** and the **Agrarian Polish People's Party (PSL)** won a vote of confidence from Parliament's lower chamber (*Sejm*) after Tusk set out a program of tough reforms in his policy speech.

**Five Polish ISAF soldiers** were killed in a bomb ambush in the Polish-controlled Afghan province Ghazni in what was Poland's heaviest single loss of life since the deployment, raising the country's overall death toll in Afghanistan to 36.

**Polish President Bronisław Komorowski** and his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao signed a joint declaration in Beijing on establishing a strategic partnership between their countries.

**"The European Union needs strong political leadership** with a democratic mandate, not just in times of crisis, but in the future," Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk said in the European Parliament in Strasbourg on December 14 in a speech summarizing the Polish presidency in the European Council.

**The International Monetary Fund's mission to Poland** showed very positive results, with the IMF appreciating the strong fundamentals of the Polish economy and welcoming the announced reform plan.

**A new conservative parliamentary caucus, *Solidarna Polska* (SP),** set up by politicians thrown out of the opposition Law and Justice (PiS) party, is planning a high-profile campaign to win over more voters.

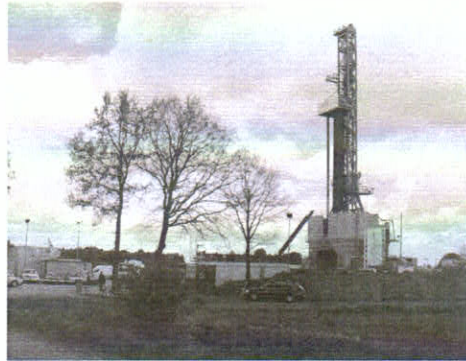
**Violetta Villas**, one of the greatest stars of the Polish stage, has died at the age of 73.

**Poland has drawn Greece, Russia and the Czech Republic** as group mates for the UEFA Euro 2012 European Soccer Championship finals in Poland and Ukraine.

# Shale Gas

by Mietek Konczyk

Open the Special 2011 Year in Review issue of *Bloomberg Businessweek* and one sees in big block letters "A NEW OPEC EMERGES." It is about newly accessible reserves of shale oil and gas in the U.S.



A shale gas rig in Lebien, in northern Poland, where Lane Energy Poland company does test drilling to assess economic viability of shale gas deposits, reported to be substantial in Poland.

This same kind of hype takes place currently in Poland. Recent discoveries underlie the U.S. Energy Information Administration's estimate of technically recoverable shale gas at 187 trillion cubic feet. Put into perspective, Poland currently consumes about 580 billion cubic feet of natural gas a year of which over 60% is imported — almost all of it from Russia. This means that these reserves of shale gas could give Poland enough natural gas for hundreds of years to come, eliminating a dependency on Russia and its sometimes exercised tendency to limit gas or oil supplies to exert political pressure on importing countries. It is no wonder that the Polish government has shown a very strong support for shale gas drilling and to date has granted over 100 licenses to various companies, including Exxon-Mobil, Chevron, and ConocoPhillips, to drill exploratory wells.

Shale gas (*gaz łupkowy*) is natural gas that is trapped within shale formations. In the last decade progress in horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") has allowed access to large volumes of shale gas that were previously uneconomical to produce. Whereas conventional gas reservoirs are created when natural gas migrates toward the surface and is trapped by a layer of impermeable rock,



President Barack Obama meets Polish PM Donald Tusk upon a visit to Poland in May, 2011, at which shale gas was one of the chief topics of discussion. Poland is the first and major European producer of shale gas.

shale gas reserves form within organic-rich shale source rock. In order to free it, water, chemicals and sand are pumped into the well to unlock the trapped gas and allow it to flow from the shale into the well.



Shale formations.

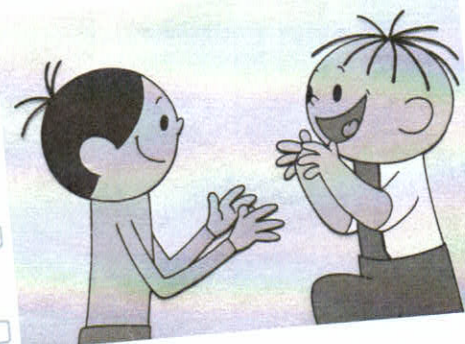
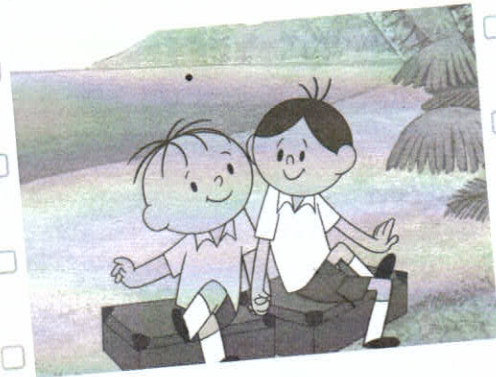
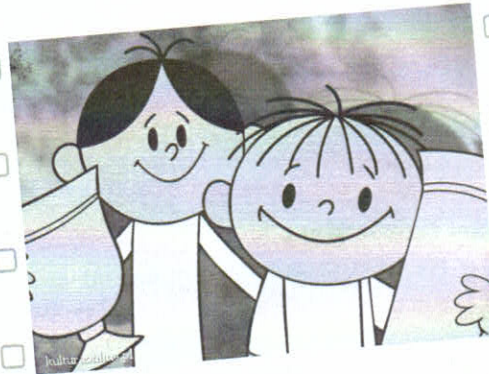
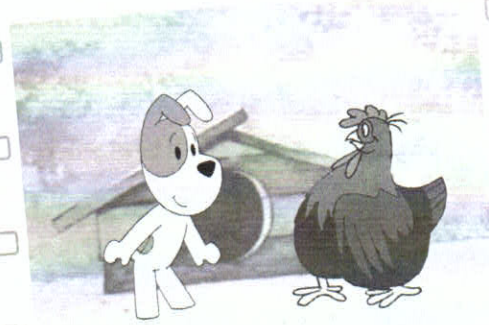
Natural gas is cleaner-burning than coal and oil, so when used in efficient power plants it emits less than half the CO<sub>2</sub> of coal combustion; however, production of shale gas is associated with other potential environmental problems. The fracturing requires large amounts of water, which may affect the availability of water for other uses and can affect aquatic habitats. Large volumes of wastewater produced in the process require technologically challenging treatment before disposal or reuse. Moreover, hydraulic fracturing fluid, which may contain hazardous chemicals, can seriously contaminate surrounding areas when released by spills, leaks, etc.

For these environmental reasons some countries, most notably France, restrict or even ban shale gas drilling. For others, like Poland, the environmental issues seem to be of secondary importance to a national priority of achieving independence from Russian gas imports.



# Bedtime Stories

By Jane Mrazek Flanders





**H**uddled around the television each evening at 7 pm, Polish children in the 1960s, 70s and 80s waited eagerly to watch their treasured *dobranocki*.

These animated bedtime stories were a peaceful and fun way to end a day. Forest creatures, mongrel dogs, spunky boys and even a magic pencil diverted Polish children from their days at school and work at home. Today many of these cartoons enjoy an almost cult following in Poland and abroad. It seems the artwork and message of those shows were more than just entertainment for kids.

One of the earliest *dobranocki* to air was *Bolek i Lolek* in 1964. Based on the sons of its co-creator, Władysław Nehrebecki, the cartoon featured two very curious boys — Bolek the taller, and Lolek the shorter. In the 150 episodes created, the boys traveled to places most Polish children could only dream about — Spain, Greece, Scotland, the American Wild West and other romantic spots. During a time when travel was highly restricted, the boys' adventures of ridding castles of ghosts, finding lost treasures and winning bull fights was a great escape. In later episodes they were joined by Tola, a fellow adventurer who happened to be a girl.

*Bolek i Lolek* captured the interest of children on several continents. In the late 1970s the boys appeared on the new cable channel Nickelodeon which featured international cartoons on their Pinwheel series. Part of the network's longest running show in episodes and hours on the air, Pinwheel featured cartoons from England, Czechoslovakia, Japan, France, Sweden, Hungary, Belgium and other countries. They attempted to show the "best of the best" international cartoons.

In 1975 Łódź Animated Forms Studio brought a familiar friend from children's books to the small screen. *Miś Uszatek*, the teddy bear with the floppy ear, was well-loved by children as early as 1957 when Polish writer Czesław Janczarski

and illustrator Zbigniew Rychlicki created him for a magazine and then several children's books. Both Janczarski and Rychlicki were artists in their own right — one an established poet and the other an award-winning artist. Their craft of storytelling and illustrations provided *Miś* with enough substance to gain popularity abroad, and Polish TV sold it to 22 countries. In Finland it is called *Nalle Luppakorva*, and was once so popular that dolls created from the series were stolen from an exhibition.

Today *Miś* is still loved. He is shown every Thursday on Polish TV, and his DVDs and memorabilia can be bought on eBay. He remains a childhood friend to thousands of viewers over the years, and a statue of his familiar image stands on a street in Łódź.

One reason so many Polish cartoons made an easy transition to an international audience is an absence of dialogue. Although some cartoons had speaking characters, like *Miś* who was voiced by the famous Polish actor Mieczysław Czechowicz, many did not. One of the most loved cartoon characters in Poland is a small dog who only used body language, whimpers and an occasional bark to express volumes of thought and word.

The character of *Reksio* was created by the Polish director Lechosław Marszałek in 1967. He is a mutt with a sense of duty, order and humor. Although no *dobranocki* seem to have a political angle, *Reksio* mirrors the culture of much of Poland during communism. This is perhaps best seen in an episode where *Reksio* wants running water in his doghouse. Before Craigslist came to Poland, work referrals came from word of mouth. Here *Reksio* relies on a fancy poodle to make connections for him. The plumber, mason and painter dogs show up for work, but treat him badly. They make rude gestures at *Reksio*, steal his bones, and make *Reksio* do most of the work for them. Not unlike real life in Poland at the time where episodes of graft, bribery and theft were part of doing busi-

ness. While those elements of the story were not in the minds of *Reksio*'s youthful audience, parents must have appreciated them. What mattered to the children was that everything turned out well for *Reksio* at the end of each show.

At a time when Disney was making headway into Polish TV, cartoons like *Reksio* remained popular. The familiar landscapes and attention to nature held the hearts of Polish children. There also existed a moral code governed by natural law and an underlying faith. An episode where *Reksio* contemplates chopping off the head of a hen brings him face to face with an old wooden statue of St. Francis. Well known for his love and acceptance of all life, St. Francis' gentle appearance reminds *Reksio* of the commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself." *Reksio* mends his ways and, through love, the hen begins laying eggs and all is well.

The lack of violence in *dobranocki* made them perfect for easing children into a soporific mood before bed. They were deemed "safe" by parents in Poland and abroad. Even in turbulent Iran, after the revolution of 1979, *Bolek i Lolek* was one of the few shows broadcast. It seems the goal of *dobranocki* was not to agitate or make loud statements, but to divert minds and hearts in a kid-friendly and entertaining way.

For *dobranocki* enthusiasts, there is no end to dipping into nostalgia. Bronze statues of beloved characters are dotted across Poland. A museum for *dobranocki* memorabilia is underway in Rzeszów. Books and movies are available on Amazon.com. Lectures on *dobranocki* exist on iTunes. And countless episodes are watched regularly on YouTube for free.

Take a stroll down memory lane or introduce someone to the joys of this artful entertainment from Poland.

*Koniec*



# 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

### From the Librarian

Thank you to John Staskawich from Pennsylvania for giving us a subscription to the *Polish American Journal*. This interesting publication covers local, national and international events of Polish American interest and is worth a look.

Thanks, also, to Delores Lundberg for an additional \$100 donation towards our Polish movies collection. We have over 200 Polish movies with English subtitles and a number of interesting documentaries. We are in the process of replacing our VHS titles with DVD copies when available. It seems not too many people still have the equipment to view VHS.

We've recently obtained various volumes of interest:

*Kościół Polskie w Chicago* (Polish Churches in Chicago) a beautiful coffee table book  
Andrzej Stasiuk's *Dukla* (translated from Polish by Bill Johnson)  
Umberto Eco's *The Prague Cemetery* (translated from Italian by Richard Dixon)  
*Opposite Poles: Immigrants and Ethnicities in Polish Chicago 1976-1990*  
*Women in the Polish Cinema*  
*Apteka Panna Boga*

*Ulica rajskich dziewczyn* (Fiction)  
*Na dnie nieba* (Politics)  
*Kwiat kalafiora* (Humor)  
*Szósta klepka* (Humor)  
*Tajmnice klasztoru* (Fiction)

We still need one volunteer librarian. The position includes 2 1/2 hours on Sunday afternoon every month to six weeks (on your schedule). Main duties include checking out books and re-shelving returned books. If you want more information, give me a call at 763-571-9602. Thanks.

—Judith Blanchard, Librarian

## Echos from the North

News from Little Falls, Minnesota

Phinee Zak and the Polish Echos column will return next issue.

## Festival of Nations

Call for Volunteers

The Festival of Nations is May 3–6 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 a complementary 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. A limited number of discount parking passes are available for purchase (\$5 each).

## Przślowia Polskie...

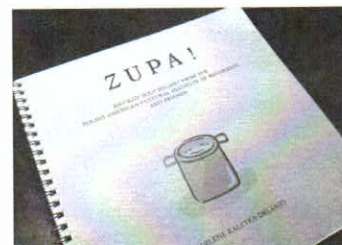
Co po trzeźwemu myśli, to po pijanemu powie.

*What one thinks when sober, one says when drunk.*

## Annual Meeting

PACIM will hold its annual Meeting on Sunday, October 7, 2012, 1 pm at the Institute. The meeting is open to all current PACIM members.

## 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,  
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**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: John Bieniek, Charlene Delaney, Greg Gramza, Jane Mrazek Flanders, Terry Kita, Ursula Peterson, Paul Rog, Bruce Rubin, Dan Schyma and Magdalena Zborowski.

Contact Board Members at:  
info@pacim.org



# Events

**January 29**

***Chopin Society presents Nelson Goerner***

Pianist Nelson Goerner plays the works of Mozart, Schumann and preludes of Chopin. 3 pm at Sundin Music Hall, Hamline University, 1536 Hewitt Ave, St. Paul. Tickets \$23, \$20 for Chopin Society members and \$12 for students. For more information call 612-822-0123 or email: chopinsocietymn@aol.com

**February 4**

***Midwest Polka Association Valentine's Dance***

Gene Retka's band from Little Falls, MN, will play from 7-11 pm. Maplewood Moose, 1946 English St, Maplewood, MN. For more information call 651-426-1079 or email Jim Carlson k.carlson55110@yahoo.com

**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. Ticket prices vary, and Thursday nights are "pay-as-you-are-able." For tickets, call 651-340-7394 or visit Openwindowtheatre.org.

**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 St, St. Paul. Tickets \$60 (table of 8 for \$440) can be ordered at www.pacim.org or by calling 612-378-9291.

**February 19**

***Czerwone Gitary***

Sponsored by Twin Cities Polish Festival 7 pm at The Ritz Theater, 345 13th. Tickets \$37.50 (only 250 seats, none reserved but handicapped available) from: Ziach Polish Foods, 1625 Washington St NE, Minneapolis, 612-789-0907. Or by calling 612-963-7755.

Czerwone Gitary (the Red Guitars) is one of the most popular rock bands in the history of Polish popular music. The band formed in 1965 and achieved its greatest success from 1965-1970. Often considered the Polish equivalent of the Beatles, many of their hits are now classics in Poland. The group toured extensively outside Poland (in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, USA, Germany and Soviet Union) but had mostly disappeared from the Polish scene by the 1980's. The band reformed in the 1990's.

**March 24**

***Midwest Polka Association St. Patrick's Day Dance***

Celebrate "wearing" of the green" at the Midwest Polka Association St. Patrick's Day Dance at the Maplewood Moose, 1946 English St. in Maplewood (corner of English Street and Frost Avenue). The popular Doctor Kielbasa band will play from 7-11 pm. Admission is \$10 per person, \$8 per person for MPA members. For more information, email Jim Carlson at: k.carlson55110@yahoo.com or call 651-426-1079. For directions and inclement weather dance cancellation, call the Moose Club at 651-776-2830.

**April 22**

***Midwest Polka Association Anniversary Dance***

It's the ninth anniversary for the Midwest Polka Association and everyone is invited to the celebration from 1-5 pm at the historic Withrow Ballroom northwest of Stillwater. Don't miss all the fun! Craig Ebel's DyVersaCo band will play for listening and dancing. There will be cake, coffee and door prizes! Admission is \$10 per person, \$8 per person for MPA members. For more information, email Jim Carlson at: k.carlson55110@yahoo.com or call 651-426-1079. For location directions, call the Withrow Ballroom at 651-439-5123.

**May 4-6**

***Festival of Nations***

(see page 6)

**May 4-6**

***PACIM travels to Chicago***

Celebrate Polish Constitution Day with a Parade and sightseeing in Chicago. Don't miss this yearly excursion to sample delicious food at Polish restaurants, visit historic sites, and shop for imported foods and other imported items. Call 612-378-9291

## Polish Seeds for your Garden

Bring the tastes of a Polish summer to your backyard garden this year. Plant seeds imported from Poland and be assured of



the quality and taste you yearn for. Among the seeds available are heirloom tomatoes, which have grown in Poland for many years, cucumber, beet, carrot, cabbage,

leek, lettuce, onion, radish, parsley, sorrel, dill, chive, strawberry, chamomile and lupine flowers. Costs range from \$1.99-\$2.50 plus shipping and handling. Seeds are readily available online at sources such as PolishArtCenter.com and www.domitp.com.

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



# People



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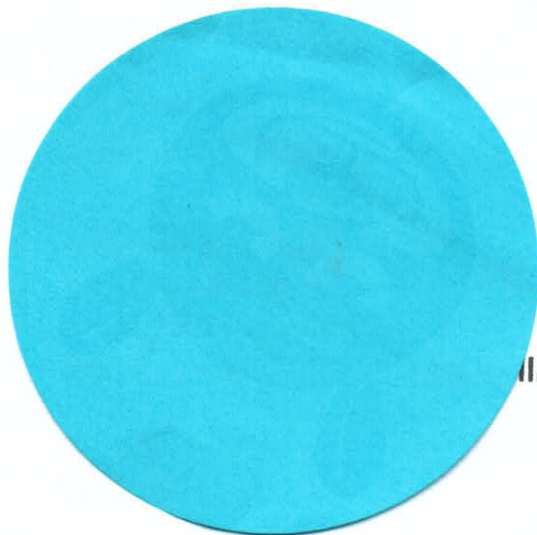
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TWIN CITIES MN



Joseph Conrad  
1857-1924

Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski, born in Berdyczów to a patriotic and noble family, was orphaned at the age of 11. At 16 he sailed to Marseille to begin a career as a seaman, and later settled in England.

Although he did not speak English until he was 24, Conrad became one of the greatest novelists in English. He wrote during the glory days of the British Empire and drew upon his experiences in the navy for his stories. In 1889 he sailed to central Africa and captained a steamboat in the Congo, which inspired his famous work *Heart of Darkness*.



## Bal Karnawalowy

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