

PolAm

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

July/August 2012

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Vol. 34, Num. 7/8

Twin Cities Polish Festival

Mark your calendars. The 4th Annual Twin Cities Polish Festival comes to the banks of the Mississippi River August 11 and 12. The family-oriented event is a glorious celebration of Poland, her culture, arts, music and, of course, food. Bring the whole family—the Festival has something to offer for everyone from small children to seniors.

Relax under shaded tent areas to watch performances, eat, drink and mingle. Indulge your kids in the expanded Children's Area. Bring your dancing shoes for casual dancing or the Amateur Polka Dance Championships. Plan to spend the better part of two days listening to the best polka bands of the Midwest, sampling authentic Polish food, tracing Polish family roots, and learning about the vibrant Polish culture and activities in the Twin Cities.



Anchoring the North end of the Festival will be the Cultural Stage. Performers directly from Poland, such as the award winning Akordissimo Quintet, will attract attention, even from the teen-age set. The Quintet, from Koszalin, Poland, are

from 15–17 years old. They won First Place at the European Youth Festival in Belgium and were awarded the Grand Prix at the International Accordion Competition in Russia. Their repertoire includes classical, jazz, tango and other contemporary genres.

Adding to the international mix on the Cultural Stage will be Canada's Polonia Polish Folk Dance Ensemble. Dancers, aged 13–37, perform throughout Canada and the upper Midwest. Their reputation



as consummate dancers allowed them to perform for Britain's Prince Charles during his visit to Canada in 2001.

Another big draw to the Cultural Stage will be the Dolina Polish Folk Dance Troupe. Their extensive repertoire includes dances and songs from several regions of Poland, all performed in colorful authentic costumes with lively music and fast-paced choreography. Three age groups comprise the dancers—Adult Dolina dancers, Teen Chabry dancers, and the young Słoneczniki dancers. Count

Polish Festival continues on page 3

PACIM Hosts TCPF Children's Area

PACIM is pleased to host the Children's Area of this year's Twin Cities Polish Festival, August 11 and 12. The expanded Children's Area will have face painting, crafts, balloons, and continual showings of Polish children's cartoons such as Reksio and Bolek i Lolek. Special this year will be interactive theatre workshops for children and drop-in performances by Jim "The Spoonman" Krzewski.



The Spoon Man's main appearance at the Festival will be on the Cultural Stage with his hilarious interactive comedy program; but he promises to pop in and out of the

Children's Area for some "music lessons." Using ordinary kitchen utensils, The Spoon Man makes all kinds of music. From Big Band to Elvis, Heavy Metal to Rap, he makes a living out of tapping and drumming. He has performed for former President Gerald Ford, for Mr. Rogers, and for Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow. Using members of the audience, he creates a full Mountain Band and also does audience sing-a-longs. Don't miss his famous and stunt-like display of playing with flaming spoons.

Children's Area 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 *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.

Name _____

Address _____

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Make checks payable to PACIM and send this form with your check to:
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43 Main St SE, Ste 228
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Thoughts

Forget about The Hunger Games books this summer. The buzz is all about the Euro 2012 soccer championship hosted



by Poland and Ukraine. Nothing like sports to unite and excite people. Although Poland was eliminated deep into the championship, the team rallied and made all of

us second and third generation Poles proud of our heritage.

Speaking of heritage, this issue should help you plan for the Twin Cities Polish Festival, the weekend of August 11-12. It takes literally hundreds of volunteers to coordinate the event. The event founder, Edziu Rajtar, and his committee work year-round preparing. It is the single largest Polish event in the Upper Midwest and celebrates the culture, art, music and fun-side of Poland. Last year it had more than 16,000 attendees and promises to continue growing.

PACIM recently unveiled a new website that is getting some attention. Next issue we will feature an article on how it is making membership renewal and event registration easier. We will also highlight new photo galleries, links and articles.

Do zobaczenia,
Jane Mrazek Flanders, *Editor*

Children's Area continues

Warsztaty Teatralne or "Little Stars" will also be a huge draw to this year's Children's Area. Founded in 2004 in Chicago, the group offers theatre workshops for children who want to speak Polish. Their director, Agata Paleczny, who is an alumna of the Krakow School of Theatre, promotes the Polish language through theatre. Using costumes, scripts, music and dance, the workshops give children a taste of theatre performing while helping them learn a beautiful language.

News From Poland

by Mietek Konczyk

U.S. President Barak Obama awarded the **Presidential Medal of Freedom (posthumously) to Jan Karski**. In 1942, Karski escaped from Nazi occupied Poland to report to the British and U.S. governments on the grave situation in Poland, especially the destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto and the Holocaust of the Jews. During the ceremony, Obama used the term "Polish Death Camp," a slip that caused widespread anger in Poland. He later apologized in a letter to Polish President Bronisław Komorowski for using the term.

President Bronislaw Komorowski signed into law a controversial bill **increasing the retirement age for Poles to 67**, despite massive public opposition to the reform and a string of protests by labor unionists.

Poland's food exports to China in 2012 should surpass the 50% growth rate recorded in 2011 thanks to the opening of the Chinese meat market to 14 Polish companies.

The Polish government is on track to **reduce the fiscal deficit to 2.9 %** this year.

A new law passed by the lower house of Polish Parliament defines **Polish vodka** as, "an alcoholic beverage produced from grain or potatoes in Poland."

Prosecutors have launched a probe into the **sudden death of the founder and first commander of Poland's Special Forces** after he was found in a garage with a gunshot wound to the head.

Nearly 1,000 Polish museums and cultural institutions nationwide opened their doors to the public on the night of May 19 as part of **The European Night of Museums** annual event.

The Polish economy is expected to grow by 2.7% year on year in 2012 and slow down to 2.6% in 2013, according to the spring forecast of the European Commission.

PolAm

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We appreciate your continued support. Dziękujemy!

Mowić Popolsku Learn Polish

ADULTS

This fall **PACIM** offers 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, vocabulary and conversation begin September 10, and are taught at the PACIM Institute. Cost is \$70, \$60 for PACIM members.

To register, call 612-378-9291 or visit www.PACIM.org.

Minneapolis Community Education offers several levels of Polish language instruction, including grammar and conversation. All classes are taught by 20-plus year teaching veteran, Elizabeth Suszynski. For class details and registration call 612-668-3939 or visit www.mplscommunityed.com

Columbia Heights Introductory Polish Language and Culture Class

Instructor: Ania Antus

A free introductory class ideal for learning basic Polish. The class is balanced between discussions on the customs, culture and history of Poland, and learning the language. Beginning in September, classes are held bi-weekly from 6:30–8 at the Columbia Heights High School. To register or receive information, contact Dan Schyma 612-819-3479 or danschyma@msn.com.

CHILDREN

The Adam Mickiewicz Polish Saturday School is open to children who want to study the language, history, culture and traditions of Poland. Students range in age from preschool to high school seniors and are classed accordingly. Classes begin September 8 and are held in John Paul II School in Northeast Minneapolis. For details and registration information, contact PSS Director Bogdan Kukla at 952-905-0333 or at boku@peoplepc.com.

Polish Festival continues

on foot-stomping, hand-clapping, cheering-good fun from their performances. The South end of the Festival boasts two main attractions—a series of Chopin Celebration Concerts and the Twin Cities Polish Filmfest. All events are held in the air-conditioned comfort of the Stone Arch Cinema at St. Anthony Main. The Chopin Celebration includes three concerts showcasing young Minnesota talent as well as local professionals performing the works of Chopin and other Polish composers. The

Polish Filmfest, presented in partnership with the Film Society of Minneapolis/St. Paul, presents seven days of award winning films by Polish filmmakers.

A record number of Festival vendors will be selling imported amber jewelry, folk crafts and items celebrating Polish heritage. Artisanal craftsmen will demonstrate folk-inspired art forms such as pisanki. A Bake-Off will result in winners in two categories. Vodka tasting sessions, several Polish beer stations and many food stations will keep smiles on faces throughout the weekend.

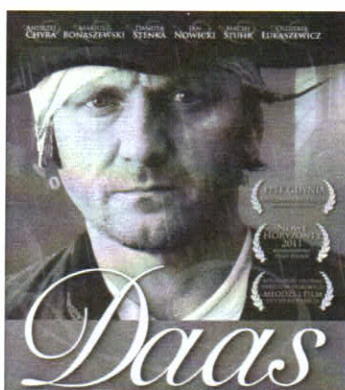
2012 TC Polish Filmfest

Co-sponsored by the Twin Cities Polish Festival and the Film Society of Minneapolis/St. Paul, the event runs from August 10-16 at the Stone Arch Cinema at St. Anthony Main. A complete list of movie titles will soon be available at www.mspfilmsociety.org. Currently available movie titles include:

Daas

by director Adrian Panek

This visually stunning period drama explores the life of Jacob Frank, the 18th-

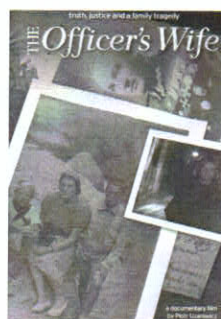


century Polish mystic who believed that he was the Messiah. Frank's unique faith combined aspects of Christianity and Judaism, and he claimed he could heal people and bestow immortality. After Jewish authorities proclaim him a heretic, Frank spends years in prison. This polished and visually austere film is a treatise on power and corruption, and the feature debut of writer/director Adrian Panek

The Officer's Wife

by director Piotr Uzarowicz

Upon the death of his father, a son makes a startling discovery. A forgotten safe



deposit box reveals his grandmother's memoirs, old photos of an army officer and a mysterious postcard that all link to a concealed crime: the Katyn Forest massacre. Weaving dra-

matic interviews with bold animation, *The Officer's Wife* probes the collision of truth, justice and memory in a shrouded family tragedy.

Letters to Santa

by director Mitja Okorn

A Polish romantic comedy set in Warsaw on Christmas Eve shows the humor and



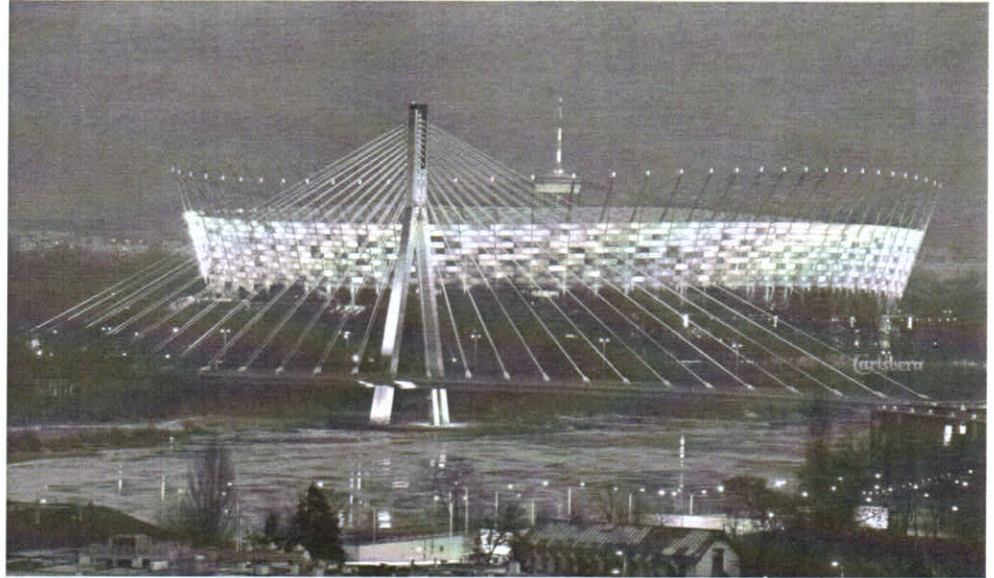
depth of finding love in one's life. On opening weekend, the film drew nearly 400,000 viewers, making it one of the three biggest box office busters in Poland. Film

critics and audiences described the film as "genuine," "funny," "touching and unpretentious."

Tickets are \$8.50 General, \$6 Students/Seniors, and \$5 Film Society Members.

Euro 2012: Creating History Together

by Jane Mrazek Flanders

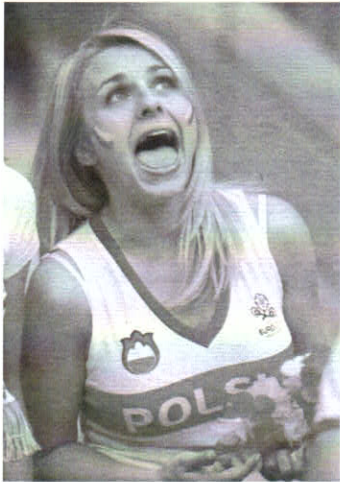


Although the union can't match the Jagellonian Dynasty's power and influence, Poland and Ukraine's joint sponsorship of Euro 2012 had all of Europe enthralled this summer. The 2012 UEFA European Football Championship, or Euro 2012, was the 14th European Championship for national football (soccer) teams. The final tournament, hosted by Poland and Ukraine, drew fans to stadiums in both countries and had others glued to TV sets throughout the world.

A good barometer of a nation's economic health is its indulgence in recreation. Visual arts, music, dance and sports

entertain and offer diversion. It takes money and a good infrastructure to construct and operate facilities to house these recreations. It also requires patrons with sufficient disposable income. Poland has it all. Warsaw's new National Stadium, which housed the opening match, gave Poland a chance to flex her economic muscle and emerge on the world stage as one of the strongest members of the European Union. No longer are Poles seen as "orphans" of Europe, suffering from partitions, two world wars and 45 years of communist rule. Today they sit at the head of the table, raising their glasses and toasting their recent growth and strength.

Like frequent trips to the gym for body building, Poland and Ukraine worked for years planning for the Championship. They sweated over details that would show off their economic prowess yet reflect their similar traditions and culture. In December of 2009, at Mykhailivska Square in Kiev, they unveiled the official logo for Euro 2012. Taking its visual identity from an art form familiar to rural areas of both countries, the logo resembled *Wycinanki* or *Vytynanky*, a traditional form of paper cutting. The selection of the logo underscored the organizers' desire to reflect the largely rural and agrarian elements of Poland and Ukraine.



It is estimated that Poland spent more than the equivalent of 18 billion euros and Ukraine nearly 3.3 billion preparing for the games. The UEFA required both host nations to renovate motorways, train stations and airport terminals surrounding the host cities of Warsaw, Gdańsk, Wrocław, Poznań, Lviv, Kharkiv, Donetsk and Kiev. The Championship games were the first major football event to be held in Eastern Europe in the modern era, and both countries worked hard to make the games inviting for *everyone*.

Early concerns that fans would turn national pride into ugly “soccer hooliganism” worried organizers. They enlisted the help of FARE (Football Against Racism in Europe), the inter-European network

which includes fans, players, migrant and ethnic minority organizations, and governing bodies such as UEFA. As a result, there were 30 international monitors at the games, a hotline for fans to report racist and discriminatory incidents, and up to 300 public areas self-declared as Inclusive Zones to provide welcoming spaces across Poland and Ukraine.

But Europe takes football seriously, and some of the match ups involving the Championship’s host countries struck at the historical and emotional hearts of fans. In particular, the game between Poland and the heavily-favored Russia that ended in a 1-1 draw had Polish fans on their feet. Who wouldn’t want to demonstrate strength and agility to a former occupier? Perhaps Jakub

Blaszczykowski’s amazing goal in the 57th minute will raise him to the ranks of Polish heroes like Jan III Sobieski.

When the last fan has gone home and the stadium lights have been turned off, what remains of Euro 2012 are memories. Memories of ear-deafening crowd roars; flags painted on walls, cheeks, fingernails, and bare chests; salty tears from losses and victories; new best friends from foreign lands; and stories which will be repeated until the next Championship games in four more years. Just as the two countries were once united as one, together Poland and Ukraine fulfilled their ambitions and gained distinction in the history of this prized European Championship.

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**

Greetings from the PACIM library. I've been a volunteer there for several years; and since the move to the new location at Riverplace, I've worked with Phyllis Husted and the other volunteers to organize and evaluate our collections. By profession I am a librarian and enjoy the work. Here are some updates:

We continue to organize fiction by author, but are working on a more thematic grouping for nonfiction. A new highlighted travel section and cooking section are forthcoming, to make browsing easier for patrons. Our "Bring a Book from Poland" program remains strong and we are looking for additional books of contemporary fiction and children's items. Also, since DVDs are among the highest circulating materials, consider donating movies you have watched that might be gathering dust around the house.

What We're Reading — The library was recently gifted with the entire set of Marcel Proust's *In Search of Lost Time* (*W Poszukiwaniu straconego czasu*). It is a seven volume set of one of the greatest French novels of all time. It is one of the longest novels in world literature. New books arrive regularly, so please check

this section of each PolAm and our website www.PACIM.org to see what's new and what the librarians are reading. On June 3, the library held a training and orientation for new volunteers. In attendance were Mary Wojciak and Barbara Peterson, new library workers. PACIM Board Members Ursula Peterson and Greg Gramza also participated in the orientation. Please consider volunteering at the library or just stop by on Sunday afternoons and help promote Polish culture through readership.
— Barbara Kiernoziak

Echos from the North

News from Little Falls, Minnesota

With a heavy heart I report that Roman Bonczek left us this past month. He was one of the Polish Echos first members and continued attending meetings even after he became gravely ill. Roman was proud of his Polish heritage and, being our only member who spoke Polish, he led us in Polish prayers, shared his library of Polish music, movies, magazines and memorabilia. We will all miss his kind, gentle and soft-spoken gentlemanly ways.

The Polish Echos will host their summer picnic July 17, at Our Lady of Lourdes. The event is open to all members, spouses and friends. Just RSVP so we are sure to have enough food.

Many of us plan to attend the Twin Cities Polish Festival. We went by bus last year and had a super good time with plenty of Polish food, entertainment and things to purchase. We hope to meet you there in August.

God's blessings to all. Hope you have a good, safe and fun filled summer.

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

Annual Meeting

PACIM will hold its Annual Meeting at 1 p.m. on Sunday, November 4, 2012 at the Institute, Suite 228, 43 Main St,



Minneapolis. Agenda items include voting for new directors and an update on the organization's growth, events and plans for the coming year. PACIM members interested in running for a spot on the Board of Directors must submit a statement of interest to the Secretary by September 30, and be present at the Annual Meeting. Light refreshments will be served.

Polanie Club Seasonal Book Sale

The Polanie Club of Minneapolis-St. Paul is having a Seasonal Book Sale. Save \$2 on all books. Titles include *Treasured Polish Recipes*, *Treasured Polish Christmas Customs and Traditions*, *Treasured Polish Songs*, and *Bochek in Poland*. Books can be purchased online at (www.polanieclubmplsstpaul.com). For questions, call 612-379-9134.

**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.

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.

July 15

Midwest Polka Association Boat Cruise and Buffet

Cruise along the beautiful St. Croix River in Stillwater, Minnesota, from 11 am to 2 pm. Features a delicious chicken and rib buffet and cash bar, great polka music and stunning scenery. Andy Zurbey and Friends (Craig, Lori and Christopher Ebel) will perform. A small dance floor provides room to polka!

Advance ticket sales only — \$32. Seating is reserved at 110 attendees. Send check, payable to MPA, to Julie Partyka, 2823 Grand St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418. For more information email Jim Carlson at k.carlson55110@yahoo.com or call 651-426-1079.

July 21

Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish Festival

Held on the church grounds (22nd Ave NE and 4th St) from 11 am to 6 pm, the festival is free and open to the public.

They promise to have games, raffles, a gift basket booth and a silent auction.

Delicious food (pierogi, kielbasa, kapusta and desserts) and a Polish beer tent round out the event.

August 11–12

Twin Cities Polish Festival

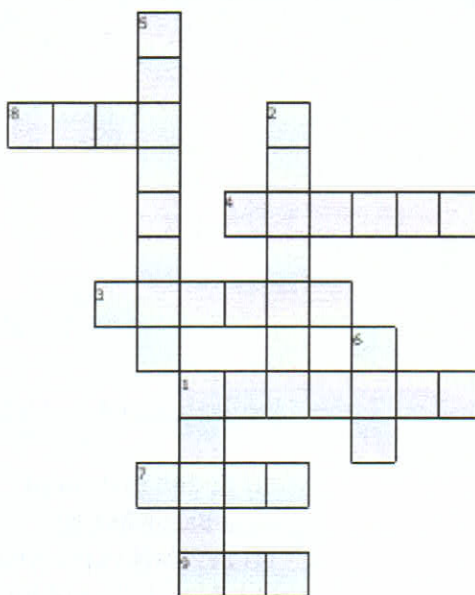
(see page 1)

August 11

The Minnesota State Amateur Polka Dance Championship

A featured event of the 2012 Twin Cities Polish Festival, the dance contest is hosted by Julianne Mossak, 2010 inductee to the Polka Hall of Fame and an International and National Polka Dance Champion. This polka dance competition is the official state amateur polka dance championship of Minnesota, as decreed by Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007. For details visit www.tcppolishfestival.org.

July/August Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 - Polish stuffed dumplings
- 3 - Grandma in Polish
- 4 - Polish author, Marcel _____
- 7 - Twin Cities Polish Festival
- 8 - Polish soccer star and Senator
- 9 - Midwest Polka Association

Down

- 1 - Host of TCPF Children's Area
- 2 - Co-hosted Euro 2012 with Poland
- 5 - Jim "The _____" Krzewski
- 6 - PolAm Founder

July/August Answers on www.pacim.org; June Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across: 4. *Proszę*; 8. Trybański; 9. Konczyk; 10. Julia

Down: 1. MNGS; 2. August; 3. *Działka*; 5. Żubrówka; 6. PSS; 7. Vistula (English)

August 25

Genealogical Book Sale

Back by popular demand, the book sale offers hundreds of genealogy related books, some out of print. Bargains are guaranteed! MGS Auditorium, 1185 Concord Street N, Suite 218, South St. Paul. For more details, visit www.mngs.org

August 25

MNGS Potluck Picnic, Silent Auction and Raffle

Relax with friends old and new in Thompson Park's newly remodeled picnic shelter, 360 Butler Ave, West St. Paul. Bring a dish to share, grilled meats will be provided. Picnic begins at 4 pm and has a suggested minimum donation of \$10 per person, which includes beer and wine. Silent auction and raffle end at 6:30 pm For more information, contact Robin PanLener at rpanlener@gmail.com.

October 5–6

5th Annual North Star Genealogy Conference

"New Approaches and Old Sources," sponsored by the Minnesota Genealogical Society, features D. Joshua Taylor as keynote speaker. Known to many genealogists from his appearances

with Sarah Jessica Parker and Ashley Judd on NBC's popular *Who Do You Think You Are?* series, Josh is a nationally known researcher, speaker and author who promotes and explores the convergence of history and genealogy. Conference also plans more than a dozen breakout sessions with the Upper Midwest's leading genealogy educators. Event held at Colonial Church, Edina, MN. Visit www.mngs.org to register beginning mid-July.

November 18

PACIM's 24th Annual Polish Soupfest

Poland is famous for soups and PACIM's Soupfest boasts having all of Babcia's favorites. More than a dozen soups to sample as well as fresh breads, cakes and soft drinks. Enjoy live music, a children's area and vendors selling books, pierogi and folk gifts from Poland. 4–6 pm at Kolbe Hall, 17th Ave and 4th St NE, Minneapolis. For more details, visit www.pacim.org.

People



Grzegorz Lato
(1950-)

Born in Malbork, the famous football striker and leading scorer at the 1974 World Cup epitomized Poland's decade long golden era of football. He is the only Polish player to win the Golden Boot at a World

Cup. He spent most of his career with Stal Mielec, leading them to various championships. After a long and glittering career in football, Lato turned to politics and served as a senator in Poland from 2001-2005. In 2008 he was elected President of the Polish Football Association, overseeing the country's governing body of football.

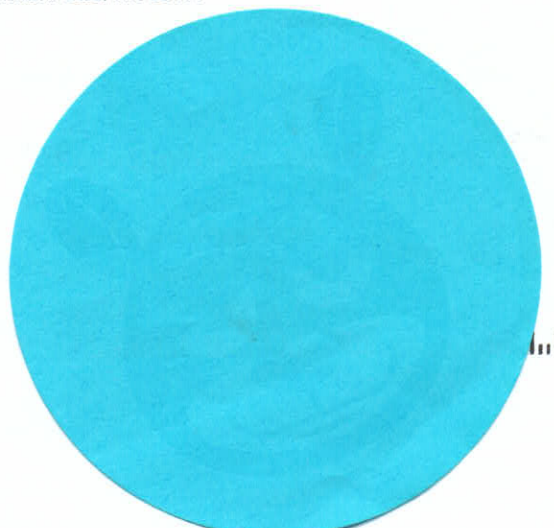
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TWIN CITIES
Polish Festival
August 11 & 12, 2012
www.tcpolishfestival.org



All Hands on Deck!

The Twin Cities Polish Festival is preparing to set sail August 11-12. The annual event draws more than 16,000 visitors and Captain Edziu Rajtar and his crew need help.

No experience is necessary, but the many volunteer jobs require an appreciation of all things Polish, warm smiles, cheerful attitudes and a love of fun!

Visit www.TCPolishFestival.org to sign up today.