

PolAm

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

June 2011

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Vol. 33, Num. 06

Santo Subito

Shouts for “Sainthood Immediately” roared from the 1.5 million Catholic faithful gathered at John Paul II’s funeral in 2005. Vatican officials heard those cheers for one of the most popular and influential popes ever, and responded with the fastest beatification process in history. On May 1, 2011, more than 60,000 Poles joined the crowd in St. Peter’s Square to witness the last formal step toward the sainthood of JP II.

Looking at St. Peter’s Square, it seemed that red and white were the colors for the liturgical season. Huge Polish flags were in abundance as Poles rejoiced at the honor bestowed on their homeland hero. Many traveled 30 hours by car or bus to attend the event in Rome. Hundreds of thousands more gathered in public squares and churches in Warsaw, Kraków and Wadowice to share the moment. The man who was key to ending communism in Poland and offered freedom by his words, “Be Not Afraid,” is further along the road to being known as “John Paul the Great.”

Seated in a place of honor at the ceremony was Sister Marie-Pierre Norman, the French nun whose inexplicable cure from Parkinson’s disease is attributed to John Paul’s intercession with God for a miracle. At 46, the nun could no longer drive safely or write legibly. She suffered from profound tremors in her arm, and intense rigidity and pain in her leg. Her fellow nuns in the congregation of Little

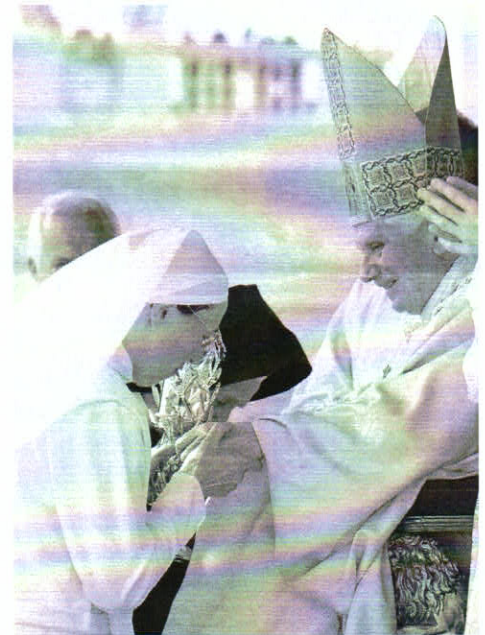
Sisters of Catholic Motherhood in southeast France began praying to JP II for her cure. After one particular night of prayer,



Sister Marie-Pierre heard an inner voice instructing her to write. She picked up a pen and to her surprise wrote clearly. She went to bed and woke up in the morning feeling transformed and filled with peace. Thus began the claim of a miracle, the Vatican process of undisputable proof of a cure, and the process of beatification for her intercessor.

What is beatification? It is a formal recognition of a person’s entrance to heaven with the capacity to intercede for people who pray for their help. A beatified person’s life must be marked by the exercise of heroic virtue and with proof of illustrated sanctity. A title of “Blessed” is bestowed on the deceased in this last for-

mal step before sainthood (canonization). In the case of Sister Marie-Pierre Norman, nearly five months of investigations exam-



ined medical records, blood tests, x-rays and doctors’ reports before a miracle was officially declared.

Throughout Poland and most of the world, JP II is a model of heroic virtue. His commitment to God, the Church and freedom fueled his work. He risked his life to become a priest, survived an assassination attempt, and led a flock of over one billion Catholics while Parkinson’s disease crushed his body. JP II is nothing short of a hero. It only seems fitting that the miracle which propelled him toward sainthood is the cure of a disease that ultimately took his life but not his spirit.

Blessed John Paul II, pray for us.

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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

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, or call 612-378-9291.

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We appreciate your continued support. Dziękuję!

Thoughts

Lately, my morning run has taken a detour through wooded lots near home. May is the high season for morel mushrooms in Minnesota



but I have yet to find any. When nights are in the 40s and days warm up to the 60s, the elusive morel can be found near decayed elm and apple trees.

Minnesota's state mushroom is highly prized and I'm determined to find a bunch of them yet.

One thing easily spotted in May was another successful Polish Café and Culture Booth at the Festival of Nations. Heartfelt thanks go out to Marie Przynski, who coordinated the Café, and all the volunteers who worked many hours to showcase our delicious Polish food, hospitality and history.

Thanks also to PACIM board member Phyllis Husted and husband, John, who delivered PACIM's gift to the Dom Dziecka orphanage in Poland. The lively account of their trip begins on page four.

Best wishes to you for a beautiful deep spring, and best of luck to me in my pursuit of spring mushrooms.

Jane Mrazek Flanders
Associate Editor

New and Generous Members

New Members

Margaret Schnell

Greg Gramza

Kyle & Magdalena DeRoo

Friends

Dorothy Breza

Dolores Klimek

PACIM Artist Exchange Donations

To make a donation mail your check made payable to PACIM with Artist Exchange on the memo line to:

PACIM

PO Box 18403

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or donate online at www.pacim.org

News From Poland

by Mietek Konczyk

Poland's government approved the 2012 budget bill with the assumed deficit of 35 billion zlotys (\$12.6 billion).

Poland's former President Lech Wałęsa paid a visit to Tunisia and urged Tunisians to give equal opportunities to the poor and make efforts to reduce unemployment.

The revenues of Poland's 500 largest companies grew by 10.5% to \$420 billion in 2010, with the country's largest firm, fuel giant PKN Orlen, recording over \$31 billion in revenues.

Poland collected the equivalent of \$82.4 billion in revenues in taxes for 2010, or 1,424 zlotys (\$530) per taxpayer.

Goldman Sachs, one of the largest investment banks in the United States, has opened a branch in Warsaw.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk visited Gdańsk harbor and said, "Gdańsk can become a regional hub and handle transit for the whole region of up to a dozen countries." He also toured the container ship Maersk Elba, one of the world's biggest ships.

Poland's Ministry of Culture said it would allow the "Lady with an Ermine," a masterpiece by Leonardo da Vinci and Poland's most precious painting, to travel to exhibits in Spain, Germany and Great Britain, despite reservations from art experts that the painting could be exposed to a great risk of getting damaged in transit.

American pop star Prince will give his first concert in Poland on July 2 as the headliner for this year's 10th Heineken Open'er Festival to be held in the coastal city of Gdynia.

Poland will take additional steps to combat soccer troublemakers after fights and acts of vandalism during the final match of Poland's soccer cup. Some stadiums are temporarily closed to the public and all soccer league matches will take place without visiting groups of fans until the end of the 2010-2011 season.

Dolina Polish Folk Dancers President's Request

The Dolina Polish Folk Dancers are planning their eighth trip to the International Polish Folk Dance Festival in Rzeszów,



Poland. Thirty of the group's active members will attend this year's Festival to learn new sets of dances, including the Spisz sub-region of the Tatra Mountains. In addition to our dancers performing and learning new suites, the Festival culturally enriches them and keeps them motivated to stay active with Dolina and our Polish community.

Over the past year we have worked at festivals, dinners, car washes and other events to raise support for this trip. Airfare and in-country expenses for our members to attend the Festival will total over \$60,000. Many young members of our group under the age of 21 have diligently saved and raised money. However, many still need help covering travel and participation costs.

I would like to thank personally everyone who has supported us thus far and hope that additional generous individuals will step forward to help fund this exciting and important trip. Dolina is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and contributions are tax deductible. Checks made out to "Dolina" can be sent to our Treasurer, John Dzichray, 1401 N. Innsbruck Drive NE, Fridley, MN 55432.

We look forward to performing our new dances as well as our already polished repertoire of 18 suites soon.

With gratitude,
James A. Bueltel
President, Dolina Polish Folk Dancers

Smok Wawelski The Dragon of Wawel Hill

Dawno, dawno temu...

In the great city of Kraków, during the time of King Krak, a fierce and terrible dragon terrorized the city. Each morn-



ing he flew out from his cave flying hither and yon across the countryside, leaving nothing but destruction and death in his wake. He killed all the people he found; he burned their homes and livestock with his fiery blast; and he was always on the lookout for young maidens, for he especially loved to eat them. The only way the people could appease the great dragon was by leaving a young girl in front of his cave each month. Then, and only then, could the townsfolk and peasants breathe easy for a time.

The great King knew he could not allow the dragon to continue his reign of terror, but all the brave knights who went out to slay the dragon died while battling him. One after another they fought the dragon and one after another they met their deaths. Soon, all the young maidens in Kraków were gone, having been sacrificed to the dragon, or having fled the city to avoid such a terrible fate. Finally,

there was but one maiden left, the beautiful young daughter of the king, Wanda. The king loved his daughter dearly and was desperate not to have her sacrificed to the dragon as well, so he offered Wanda's hand in marriage to anyone who could slay the dragon.

Wanda's beauty and charm were well known and great warriors from near and far came to win her hand. All were defeated by the dragon. Then a poor cobbler's apprentice named Skuba, who secretly loved Wanda, rose up and accepted the challenge. All the townsfolk laughed at him and wondered who he thought he was – a poor boy thinking he could slay the dragon when all the best knights in the land failed. He was not to be deterred. He stuffed a lamb's carcass full of sulfur and left it outside the mouth of the dragon's cave.

The great dragon came out of his cave and, seeing the lamb, quickly ate it in one big gulp, without even tasting the sulfur. Soon the sulfur made the dragon thirstier than he had ever been and he flew off to the Wisła River to quench his mighty thirst. He drank and drank, but no amount of water could quench his thirst. With the ever increasing agony in his stomach he continued drinking and drinking. The townsfolk were amazed at all the water the dragon drank and at how big he was swelling from the water. Just when they thought he would drink the mighty river dry, the dragon exploded. The sulfur and water worked their magic as the young lad Skuba knew it would.

The king was true to his word and the poor apprentice married princess Wanda and was poor no more. Skuba and Wanda lived happily ever after in the city, and their kingdom was finally rid of the great and terrible dragon.

Mission to Dom Dziecka

By John Bieniek and Phyllis Husted

This March my wife Phyllis and I had the privilege of personally delivering \$2,760 to a Polish orphanage. The money was raised by PACIM through the Wigilia fundraiser in December, and through generous individual gifts. Each year PACIM selects an orphanage to receive a gift and this year's recipient was Dom Dziecka of Skorogoszcz, Poland.



With the help of our trusty GPS and a rented car we arrived in Skorogoszcz, but still had no idea where Dom Dziecka was. We spotted an adult who first offered us directions, but then decided to guide us there personally instead. We got a private escort via bicycle to Dom Dziecka! As soon as we arrived, we met



the orphanage's director, Marzyna Klysz, and her English speaking assistant, Miłoc Kiso.

Immediately we were invited to the dining room for a very tasty *obiad* of breaded chicken cutlet, potatoes and vegetables. We even had delicious chicken noodle soup with carrots—like Phyllis' grandma used to make. The children were just finishing their *obiad* when introductions

began. In preparation for our visit, the children learned some English phrases such as "Thank you" and "Welcome to our home." We were then given a thorough tour of Dom Dziecka (literally, Home of Children). We were shown everything! The building was the former home of a count and is in a very serene setting. The front of Dom Dziecka faces the town and the rear overlooks agricultural farm land.

During our tour we noticed that each room has beautifully painted walls with color coordinated decorations. The vibrant colors and décor make the home come "alive." The children, who are prepared to eventually become independent and leave the orphanage, participate in much of the life of Dom Dziecka. For example, when the children began complaining about the food, Marzyna and



The orphanage, or "home" as we like to call it, is run by the state and is allowed a maximum of 30 children. Presently there are 24 boys and 6 girls, ranging in the allowed ages of four to eighteen. They are placed at Dom Dziecka for various reasons such as parents' severe alcoholism, neglect, abuse and other sad situations. The 30 children are divided into three groups to make it more like a home and make things easier to manage. Each group has its own spacious kitchen with a refrigerator, stove, bathroom and laundry facilities. The children share bedrooms with two or three to a room, and in some situations an older child has a single room.

Miłoc involved them in a big way. Now the children are helping to shop for food and prepare a meal at least once a month.

When it came time to present our monetary gift to Dom Dziecka, it was agreed that the best use of the money would be for athletic clothing and shoes for the children. With the children's sizes in hand, it was time to go shopping. A discussion began about whether we should take any children shopping. A few of the boys asked to accompany us. Marzyna and Miłoc waved them on. The boys shrieked for joy and scrambled like rockets to get their clothes. It was a very good decision.



We drove to Opole and were impressed with the shopping center. We chose a store, Decathlon, which is like a combination of Wal-Mart and Mills Fleet Farm, minus the agricultural component. It was huge, well stocked and very busy. The three boys with us energetically pulled large plastic tubs that had wheels on one end and a handle at the other. The shopping began with the boys shopping for one group of children and us the other two. There was a lot of back and forth interaction with the boys, wondering who would like what kind of shoe. We could only marvel at Marzyna and Miłóść and their professional ease as they worked with the boys. They were truly the boys' parents as much as they could be and the boys hung onto every word that was spoken to them. We sensed a bond like parent and child among them.



After nearly two and a half hours we finished shopping for tennis shoes. The checkout lady said she never checked out

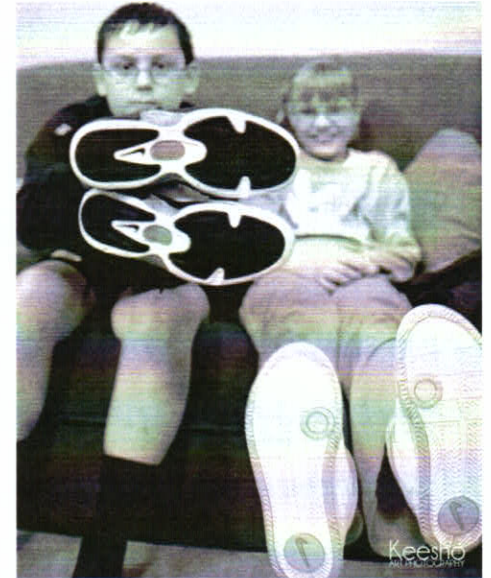
so many shoes at one time! Since we still had money left over, Marzyna and Miłóść took the boys shopping for sporting attire. Phyllis and I went for some coffee to rest our tired feet while they finished shopping. It felt good to know that every cent of the money PACIM raised was spent directly on the children.



That evening we gathered back in Dom Dziecka with all the children. As they were given their shoes and clothes, it brought tears to our eyes. They were so happy with their gifts, trying on shoes and clothes, and showing them off to each other. There was excitement and electricity in the air. Some of the children even traded shoes with each other to accommodate the sizes selected. One boy, Marcin, a six year old social butterfly, easily caught our



eye. He was a handsome and natural young charmer. Wearing his new shoes, he went up to others wiggling his shoes making sure he was not overlooked.



When all was done, the children gave us a big "Thank you!" Then, they each came up to us offering personal thanks.

After pictures we lingered a half hour or more, taking in all the goodness. It was now dark outside and time to go. The



people there had a long day and it was time to give them a break. We left with full hearts and such good feelings. We will not forget the hands-on experiences and all the

children, especially that wonderful charmer, Marcin.

We thank Kuba Szymanski and his fiancée, Gosia, who was once a resident of Dom Dziecka, for helping us pre-arrange the trip. We thank everyone who attended the Wigilia fundraiser, PACIM for its commitment to helping others, and for the generous donors who brought so much joy to the lives of the children of this Polish orphanage. Dom Dziecka is truly a safety net for the children of Poland.

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

Przysłowia Polskie

Krowa co dużo ryczy, mało mleka daje.
A noisy cow gives little milk: Great talkers are little doers.

Kalendarz

AUG 13–14 Twin Cities Polish Festival
NOV 6 Soup Festival

Thanks to all the great volunteers in the Festival of Nations Polish Café and Culture Booth

John Bieniek
Judith Blanchard
James Erickson
Allen Fernandez
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Jerzy Hornik
Phyllis Husted
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Mary Jo Wiatrak-Uhlenkott
Jeff Van Steel
Del Wojciak
Mary Jo Wojciak

PACIM Library

PACIM Library
2514 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
Hours: Sundays from 1 to 3:30 PM
or by appointment

There are currently 5,184 items cataloged in the PACIM Library.

We are continuing to add to our DVD collection, in many cases replacing the VHS which we are sending to Little Falls.

As you read in *Pol-Am* last month, Phyllis Husted brought back two audio books from Poland for the Library. We also had three other donations during the month. One of our Library volunteers, Basia, reads Polish and is helping evaluate our collections.

One of our long-standing library volunteers, Danuta Engle, left us because of health reasons. Her work was very helpful and she will be missed.

We continue to have wonderful volunteers and usually the Sundays are filled a month in advance. We still could use one more person in the rotation, especially with people going away for summer vacations.

—Judith Blanchard, *Librarian*
763-571-9602

Echos from the North

News from Little Falls, Minnesota

Each year the Polish Echos give a \$250 scholarship to a Morrison County high school senior of Polish descent. This year the award went to my granddaughter, Hannah Bednarek, who will be attending North Dakota State. While not a member of the Polish Echos, she has helped with many of our Polish Dinners and events.

The Polish Echos met last night. Our 2010 scholarship recipient was there and talked about her past year at school studying graphic arts. She brought some work to show us and shared her future plans. She is very talented and I look forward to having her visit us again.

Our Polish Dinner was on May 7 and was very successful—with plenty of Polish American food. This annual event began more than 15 years ago as a fundraiser, and now has Catholic United Financial giving matching funds for this event.

We have scheduled our annual pot luck picnic for August 16. This is always a fun time.

Last night we viewed *John Paul II: A Saint for Our Times*. The movie examines the life of the Pontiff from his childhood in war-torn Poland and continues with his struggle for religious freedom in Communist Poland. A main point of the film is that this pope redefined the meaning of sainthood. He showed that sainthood is attainable for all people. It was very well done. Fr. Johnus, one of the priests in our parish, attended the beatification of John Paul II in Rome. I hope to have him at our next meeting to tell us of this wonderful event.

May you have a wonderful season and may God bless you all.

Phinee Zak, Polish Echos
403 SW 8th St.
Little Falls, MN 56345
320-632-2652

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Affiliate Member of the
American Council for Polish Culture

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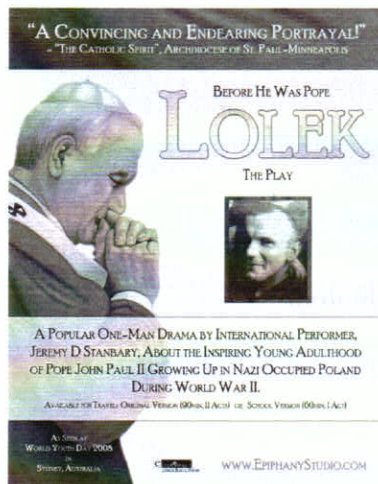
Contact Board Members at: info@pacim.org

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.

June 9–12, 16–19, July 7–10

LOLEK, the Play



The Open Window Theater, 1314 Chestnut Ave, Minneapolis 55403 (near the Basilica of St. Mary). Ample free parking. Presentation at 7:30 pm. Tickets \$15 adults or \$10 students, children, seniors. Every Thursday is “pay as you are able night.” Call 651-349-7394 for more information.

June 17–19

Polish Fest in Milwaukee

Celebrating their 30th year. Adults \$12, children free. For more information, see www.polishfest.org

June 25

Midwest Polka Association Summer Dance

It's a polka rockin' night with the Polka Family Band from Pennsylvania! This popular band returns to Minnesota to play at the MPA Summer Dance on Saturday, June 25, at the Fridley Knights of Columbus Hall, 6831 Central Ave NE, Fridley, from 7-11 pm. For more information, email Jim Carlson at K.carlson55110@yahoo.com or call 651-426-1079. For location directions, 763-571-1492.

July 17

Midwest Polka Association St. Croix River Cruise

Save Sunday, July 17, for a “fun” luncheon and dance cruise on the St. Croix River out of Stillwater. You don't need to be a dancer—come along for the boat ride and enjoy the food, the scenery and the music! More details to come.

August 13–14

Twin Cities Polish Festival

For more information, see www.TCPolishFestival.org

July 17, August 14 & September 11

Culinary Vacation: “Cooking Your Way from Kraków to Zakopane”

For more information, see www.PolandCulinaryVacations.com or call 888-703-8130.

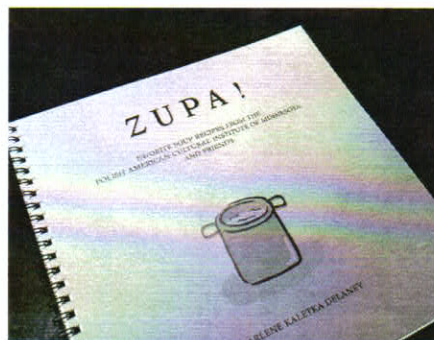
September 6 & 7

Basia at Dakota Jazz Club

Polish jazz and pop star Basia kicks off her U.S. tour in Minneapolis with two nights at the Dakota. For details see www.Dakotacooks.com.

R.I.P.

Director of the Polish Saturday School in Minneapolis, Bozena Janczuk passed away on May 20. Born in Poland in 1954, Pani Bozena was a member of Holy Cross Parish in NE Minneapolis and one of the early coordinators of P.S.S. Through her long battle with uterine cancer, Pani Bozena maintained an active role in P.S.S. Even at the end, when she was too weak to leave home, she organized and advised the group by email. Pani Bozena will be remembered especially for her passion for teaching the Polish language and culture to children.



Zupa!

One of the easiest ways to pass along one's Polish heritage to the next generation is through cooking, and Polish soups are a major part of this culinary heritage. Over the past 21 years, so many people have requested recipes for the soups served at the Soup Fest that we put together our cook book.

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

The newly updated 3rd edition of *Zupa!* contains 54 Polish soup recipes that have been served at our Polish Soup Festival, as well as recipes for 12 accompaniments including dumplings, uszki and pierogi. All the recipes are in American measurements and are basic...once you get the general idea you too will be like the Polish grandmother who “makes” the soup her own. Many of the recipes have comments from the cooks and there is also a page of Polish Soup Making Secrets. This is a great book to keep on hand.

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.

People



Basia Trzaskalska
1954—
Singer/Songwriter

Basia hit world pop charts in the '80s and '90s. Born in Jaworzno, Poland, in 1954, she is known for her jazzy style of pop and soul music. An accomplished song writer, Basia made a huge splash in the U.S. with her hit single "Time and

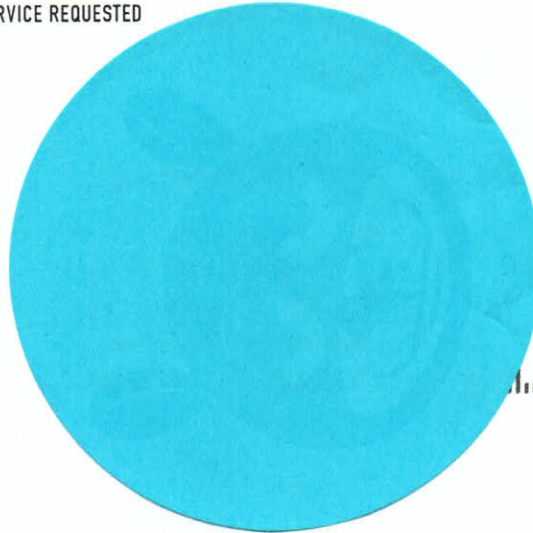
Tide," which climbed the Billboard Hot100 chart. In 1989, her second album, *London Warsaw New York* was named Top Contemporary Jazz Album of the Year. Her latest album, *It's That Girl Again*, released in 2009, is emerging as her strongest work ever. Basia kicks off her U.S. fall tour in Minneapolis on September 6 and 7 at the Dakota Jazz Club. Clips of Basia's songs and music videos can be found on her website, www.Basiasongs.com.



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Polish Word Tips

Useful phrases in Polish

Proszę to napisać.
(**prosheh** to nah**pees**ahstsh)
Can you write it down?

Proszę mówić trochę wolniej.
(**prosheh mooveetsh troheh volnee'**ay)
Can you speak more slowly?

Proszę to przeliterować.
(**prosheh** to przhleeterovatshtsh)
Can you spell it?

Czy mówi pan (pani) po angielsku?
(chi **moovee** pahn (**pahnee**) po ahng**gyeh**liskoo)
Do you (woman) speak English?



The Twin Cities Polish Festival is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of a matching \$10,000 grant from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008. This is a matching grant, meaning that TCPF must raise up to \$10,000 to receive the full grant.

Help the Twin Cities Polish Festival reach its fundraising goal to match this grant. Send your tax deductible donation to: Twin Cities Polish Festival (TCPF), PO Box 19312, Minneapolis, MN 55419-0312

Your donation will be acknowledged by letter as well as publicly, unless you indicate otherwise.

We thank the following:

Thomas Glodek	\$100	Columbia Heights Sister Cities Int'l	\$200
David & Leone Zwickey	\$50	Alan & Sherry Rybak	\$25
Bruce Hebzynski	\$50	Polish American Club	\$300
Frances Jensen	\$100		