

# PolAm

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

November 2012

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Vol. 34, Num. 11

## PACIM Targets *Dom Dziecka* for 2013

PACIM's Board of Directors named *Hospicjum "Nadzieja"* in Toruń, Poland, as the target for their 2013 *Dom Dziecka* fundraising efforts.

Founded in 2002, "Hope Hospice" provides 24 hour care for children with life-threatening and terminal illnesses.

Currently 40 children live and are cared for in the hospice. Suffering from childhood cancers (attributed to Chernobyl), genetic/congenital birth defects, accidents and disease, the children receive full medical, nursing and rehabilitation services. The founders, Olena and Zbigniew Bożemska, built the hospice using donated materials and volunteer work to provide a home for these children.

In Poland, state funding does not ensure comprehensive care and medical attention for children with extreme illnesses. Toruń has areas of significant poverty and the founders of "Hope Hospice" realized

there are families unable to care for children with long-term illnesses and disabilities. Instead of abandonment, parents can

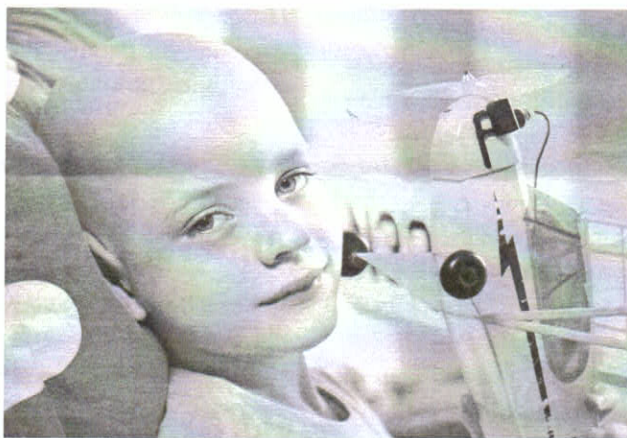
look to the hospice for help. "Hope Hospice" depends on private donations to care for the children and to support parents who choose to care for their ill children at

home.

When asked to specify areas of greatest need, the hospice listed: money for prescriptions, linens and diapers, laundry; replacement and upgrade of durable medical equipment;

and help with heating costs for the approaching winter.

PACIM begins fundraising for the *Dom Dziecka* Fund this December at their annual *Wigilia* dinner. A portion of this year's ticket price directly supports Toruń's "Hope Hospice." See page 8 for event details or visit [www.pacim.org](http://www.pacim.org) to make a financial contribution.



## Teen Boys in Need

My wife and I began our tour of Kraków's *Zespół Placówek Opiekuńczo-Wychowawczych* unsure of anything. As we entered the large housing complex, the Director unlocked the front door and quickly locked it after we passed through. This action was repeated throughout the building — room after room — making it feel like a trip to Alcatraz rather than a home or "*dom*" for the care and education of adolescent boys. They wanted to keep the boys safe and inside. Running away could only do them harm. By the end of our visit we understood why, and more importantly how, boys arrive at the *Dom*.

Phyllis and I represented PACIM as we hand-delivered a \$2,300 check to *Zespół Placówek Opiekuńczo-Wychowawczych*. The money was raised throughout the year for support of the Children's Fund or *Dom Dziecka* Fund. Most of it came from PACIM's annual *Wigilia* dinner in December. The rest of the money was donated by generous people who join PACIM in wanting to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged Polish youths. Thanks to Phyllis' benefits as a retired flight attendant, we travel to Poland at little cost and have had the privilege of hand-delivering PACIM's Children's Fund gifts to orphanages and other homes for the last few years.

Teen Boys continues on page 3



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

[www.pacim.org](http://www.pacim.org)

\_\_\_ Patron.....\$150  
\_\_\_ Donor.....100  
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\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

PACIM

43 Main St SE, Ste 228

Minneapolis, MN 55414

## PolAm

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We appreciate your continued support.  
Dziękujemy!

# Thoughts

As the days get colder we can be grateful for our abundant food and warm homes. The beginning of the holiday season



should give us pause to consider people less fortunate. This issue presents several ways you can contribute to people with needs. From attending PACIM's

*Wigilia*, which raises money for orphans in Poland, to making contributions safely online on *Give to the Max Day*, we try to provide opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others.

We also have our eyes fixed on PACIM's 24th Annual SoupFest on November 18. A record number of vendors are on deck to sell artisanal crafts, imported gifts, homemade *pierogi*, cookbooks and famous Polish pottery. We are excited to have Baltic Imports selling their gorgeous handmade amber jewelry. Come for Mosaica's live music, face painting at the children's activity area, and a peek into your family roots with the Genealogical Society.

*Do zobaczenia,*  
Jane Mrazek Flanders, *Editor*

## New & Generous Members

*Welcome New Members*

John Agacki  
Elizabeth Dwyer  
Eugene Kujawa  
Thomas Niemiec

## Patrons

Cecelia Kava Dolan

## Donors

Thomas Glodek  
Ron Soleta

## Sponsors

Ed & Kay Grochowski  
Gene & Janet Retka  
Steven Ukasick

## Friends

Ania & Stephen Antus  
Lubomira & Robert Ireland  
Jozef Jasion  
Patrick LaCombe  
Gregory & Sandra Logacz  
Chester & Marta Pachnik  
Jeffrey Pasternak  
Edziu & Ania Rajtar  
Carol & David Russell

## Give to the Max Day

On November 15, PACIM and thousands of other non-profit organizations throughout Minnesota will sponsor an online day of focused fundraising — *Give to the Max Day*.

All gifts PACIM receives online that day will directly support the *Dom Dziecka* Fund, which benefits disadvantaged children in Poland. PACIM's 2013 *Dom Dziecka* recipient is the *Hospicjum "Nadzieja"* in Toruń. See page one for details. To learn how to contribute, go to [www.pacim.org](http://www.pacim.org).

## Anders' Polish Orphans

In the middle of the night, seven year old Stefan and his family are grabbed from their beds by Russian soldiers.



Herded onto a crowded refugee train with other Poles en route for Central Asia, the family gets split up. Two years later, Stefan and his mother are living on the plains of Kazakhstan, scratching at the lice on the outside of their heads and pondering the memory of their loved ones inside their heads.

Author Gaye Gicyilmaz tells Stefan's story in the 1997 book, *And the Stars*



## Teen Boys continues

By the time boys are assigned to this home, nobody wants to deal with them anymore. Life has not been good or fair to them. They are in need of intervention. Maybe it is a neighbor recognizing a difficult situation. Maybe it is a school trying to help the boys get on the right path. Sometimes they are picked up on the streets by the police. When they arrive at *Dom* they are confused and angry. They have few social skills or purpose in life.

*Zespół Placówek Opiekuńczo-Wychowawczych* offers troubled young men from 12–18 years old a residential program that starts with structure — something they are all lacking. It is administered with love and care and makes the boys feel wanted. Combined with a sound education, the program aims to prepare them for life after 18 when the law and society will be less gentle with would-be criminals.

Director Aneta Wojcik-Orchowicz runs a tight ship, but remains gracious to guests and the home's 30 residents. She directs a staff of 40 people who



Director Aneta Wojcik-Orchowicz and boys with John and Phyllis.

oversee the place 24/7. She explained the progression each boy is expected to make within the program and their progress is reflected by the level of the three story building they occupy. Each level is recognized by its condition. The first level, where new admits are

assigned, is in the worst condition with holes in the walls, missing doors and marred paint. When a boy begins to change and accept the program, he is assigned to the second level, which is in slightly better condition. After further progression, boys move to the third level. All residents must attend school, learn housekeeping and cooking skills.

When boys reach the age of 18, they are free to leave *Dom*. While we were there, one young man reached this point and prepared to leave. However, even with the best preparation, former residents find the real world daunting. As a safety net for the young men the program has helped form, they have the option of moving to a transition house off-site. *Zespół Placówek Opiekuńczo-Wychowawczych* plans to use PACIM's financial gift to purchase schoolbooks, shoes, paint and to make repairs.

*John Bieniek serves on PACIM's Board of Directors and his wife Phyllis Husted is a Director Emeritus.*

*Were Gold*. Filled with emotional passages, the book reflects the real experiences of thousands of Polish children during the Second World War, when forced transportation rendered them



orphans in the Soviet Union. It focuses on the eastern borderlands of Poland (Kresy) and the brutal purge and exportation of more than 750,000 Polish citizens at the hands of the NKVD and other Soviet agencies.

The big game changer for these forced exiles was Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941. As the Wehrmacht advanced into the Soviet

heartland, destroying the Red Army before it, Stalin reached for help and hastily forged a military alliance with the Polish Government-in-Exile, also known as the "London Government." Plucked from his prison cell in Moscow, Polish General Władysław Anders became the new Polish army's commander. Receiving "amnesty," more than a hundred thousand Polish POWs and civilians find their way to receiving camps in the south Urals and Central Asia. Some will be soldiers, but most are just hoping to stay alive. The privation suffered under Communist hands is stark.

Sick and nearly starved Polish women, children and old men straggle along with the new soldiers to these camps as their only chance for survival. The Soviet refusal to aid these refugees moves General Anders to split up the meager army rations. His decision to offer the refugees some nourishment saves thousands of orphans from starving. Before long the number of refugees seeking shelter within Anders' Army is too great and

food shipments cover less than 70% of what is needed.

At the brink of physical collapse, Anders' Polish Army, and the many thousands of civilians who depend on them



for food, get a break. A deal among the British, Poles and Soviets transfers Anders' Army to British control and evacuation to Iran. Anders' push for the transit of civilians under his care is granted and the journey over the Caspian Sea for more than 100,000 people begins.

"Anders' Polish Orphans" continues in *PolAm's* next issue.

*Joe Beben, a contributing writer for PolAm, spends his summers teaching English in Toruń, Poland.*



# Home is Where the Heart Is

By Jane Mrazek Flanders

Images of frail waifs begging for another bowlful of gruel exist today in the pages of a Dickens novel and not in Poland's orphanages. Thanks to the vision and work of Janusz Korczak in the early 20th century, Poland's care for disadvantaged children resembles homes more than institutions. And while the vital family unit may not be present in a *Dom Dziecka*, the children's emotional as well as physical needs are of primary importance.

Following the Polish-Russian War, Poland struggled with large numbers of orphans. Children whose parents died during World War I or during the two year war with Russia needed life's necessities, and the long-established *Sierociniec* system provided orphan care through the Catholic Church



*Sierociniec* orphanage.

and Polish hospitals. Although the children received food, shelter and clothing, *Sierociniec* did not foster developmental growth in the children.

In 1911, Janusz Korczak assumed leadership of an orphanage in Warsaw, *Dom Sierot*. He was a well-known children's author and pediatrician who taught the importance of a child's inner development. He stressed that each child is unique and has his or her own path in life. He worked at *Dom Sierot* to prepare children for their lives as adults.

Korczak published *How to Love a Child* (*Jak kochać dziecko*) in 1919, explaining his view that society is divided into two sets—adults and children. Korczak said that adults suppress development in children because they have forgotten how it



was to be one. He saw children as victims and adults guilty of failing to raise them properly. He was an advocate for the children, especially in the legal system, pointing the finger of blame back to the adults rather than the children who had broken the law.

By 1921, Korczak's approach to orphan care began to grow throughout the country and, between World War I and II, the *Sierociniec* model and Korczak's *Dom Dziecka* model were both in operation.



Girls sharing kitchen duties at *Dom Sierot*.

By 1945, the *Sierociniec* institutions closed and the *Dom Dziecka* became the new foster care system. Children were placed in smaller groups with one teacher or caregiver responsible, mirroring a fam-

ily unit where children could form strong emotional and social bonds in a trusting and caring environment.

In the 1950s, Poland under communist rule focused on collectivism and thwarted individualism. The *Dom*



Art class in an early *Dom Dziecka*.

*Dziecka* model remained opposed to this idea and continued to focus on each child as an individual needing to grow. As the country healed from open war, fewer children entered orphanages. However, the need to provide an environment of love, growth and trust for the children under the care of a *Dom Dziecka* opened up new opportunities for adoption abroad and placement in foster homes.





Janusz Korczak was an early advocate for children's rights.

Today more than 250,000 children are cared for in the *Dom Dziecka* system. The majority of them are considered "social orphans" who have been separated from their birth parents because of neglect, abuse or life-threatening illness. A small portion of the children are placed

in the homes because their parents are unable to care for them as they emigrate to find work outside of Poland.

Korczak's philosophy of caring for the whole child is pivotal in the lives of today's Polish orphans. 96% have suffered emo-



Poland honored the work and influence of Korczak who was killed in a WWII concentration camp.



tional or physical trauma and require a safe and caring environment. *Dom Dziecka* homes are frequently understaffed and many people volunteer their time and efforts to help the orphans. Further, the physical *Dom Dziecka* home is often out of date and in need of significant repair and maintenance. And while the director of each *Dom Dziecka* brings a unique attitude to the administration of the home, nearly all attest to their limited staff and resources struggling to meet the needs of each child.

Some of the money needed to run these homes and surrounding programs comes from the state, but increasingly more is needed from private sources. International charities are responding to the need and reaching out to individuals and organizations who can contribute to the well-being of Polish orphans.

Janusz Korczak can be credited with transforming the care of Poland's disadvantaged children, but his *Dom Dziecka* model continues to need visionaries to help carry the financial burden of caring for hundreds of thousands of orphans.

Please consider contributing to PACIM's *Dom Dziecka* Fund: attend the annual Wigilia dinner on December 9, or make a contribution by check (43 Main St SE, Minneapolis, 55414) or [www.pacim.org](http://www.pacim.org).



# 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

Thanks to all the folks who answered our call for donations of children's books. We received many titles and look forward to adding them to our collection. Now we are exploring the purchase of more patron requests, including many popular titles such as translations of *The Hunger Games* and DVDs of films screened at the Polish Film Festival.

Should you have a suggestion for new titles, please email me at [kiernoziak@gmail.com](mailto:kiernoziak@gmail.com) and we will explore our options for adding it to the collection to keep it relevant for users.

Some of the most requested Library information revolves around genealogy and family history research. In addition to our printed materials, I encourage research on electronic databases like Ancestry.com, which can be accessed for free at all public libraries. There you can find U.S. Federal Census records; passenger lists; birth, death, marriage, and military records; family and local history collections; newspapers; and directories. You may have luck finding some Polish records, but please note that it is available only on library workstations.

We look forward to your requests for titles, and seeing you at the library!

—Barbara (Basia) Kiernoziak

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## Echos from the North

News from Little Falls, Minnesota

Between 1854 and 1929 more than 250,000 children arrived in the Midwest on "Orphan Trains." Escaping poverty,



disease and famine of the big cities, many of these "orphans" were sent by their immigrant parents who were unable to provide for them. Can you imagine the heartache of these parents? Can you even imagine how the children must have felt?

In Minnesota, only a few of these orphans are still alive. A few years ago I had lunch with one. She came to our area when she was two, was placed in two homes, and finally settled into her adopted family of 4 sisters and 7 brothers. At 18 she joined the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minnesota, and spent the next 82 years of her life reaching out to many riders, family members and strangers connected to the Orphan Trains. Each year she organized a reunion for passengers and friends. She wanted her story to be a part of the history of this great nation. Although Sister tried to find her birth family, I don't believe she ever did. She died this past summer at the age of 100+.

May God bless you all as we move into the season of Advent and Christmas.

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

**Save The Date:**  
**PACIM's**  
**Bal Karnawałowy**  
**February 9, 2013**

## PACIM's Annual Meeting Re-Cap

On November 4, President Ania Scanlan reported on PACIM's many successful events over the past year which included: *Bal Karnawałowy*, Polish Café at the Festival of Nations, two Contemporary Issue Forums, Motorcoach Trip to Chicago, three booths at the Twin Cities Polish Festival, an Open House, a reception and initial viewing at the Twin Cities Polish Film Festival, SoupFest and *Wigilia*. She thanked the many volunteers who worked toward the success of the events. There was also recognition for the many Library volunteers who provide a friendly face and helpful attitude to patrons.

Treasurer, Steven Ukasick presented the treasurer's report. Secretary, Maggie Zborowski presented the ballot and a unanimous vote reelected Board members: John Bieniek, Dan Schyma, Jane Mrazek Flanders and Maggie Zborowski.



Rachel Jendrzejewski.  
PACIM's newest Board member.

The group also elected Rachel Jendrzejewski as a new Board member.

At the December 6 Board meeting, the Directors will elect a new President and Treasurer to fill the spots vacated.

According to PACIM's bylaws, officers can only hold positions for a

maximum of two terms. Both Ania Scanlan and Steven Ukasick have served their limit. Sincere and heartfelt thanks to them for their vision and commitment over the years.

### PACIM Officers and Board of Directors:

President: Ania Scanlan, Vice President: Paul Rog, Secretary: Magdalena Zborowski, Treasurer: Steven Ukasick, Directors: John Bieniek, Charlene Delaney, Greg Gramza, Jane Mrazek Flanders, 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.

## November 10

### **Immigration History Research Center 35th Annual Meeting**

Friends of the IHRC extend an open invitation to their Annual Meeting. The event includes a presentation by Erika Lee, Ph.D., who holds a chair in Immigration History from the University of Minnesota. Registration begins at 5:30 pm followed by a social hour, buffet dinner and door prizes. Croatian Hall, 445 Second Ave, South St. Paul, MN. To purchase \$25 tickets and obtain more info, contact Vicki Albu, young754@umn.edu

## November 10

### **Midwest Polka Association November Dance**

Craig Ebel's DyVersaCo band will play from 7-11 pm at the Maplewood Moose Lodge, 1946 English Street, Maplewood. For more information, email Jim Carlson at k.carlson55110@yahoo.com or call 651-426-1079.

## November 15

### **Give to the Max Day**

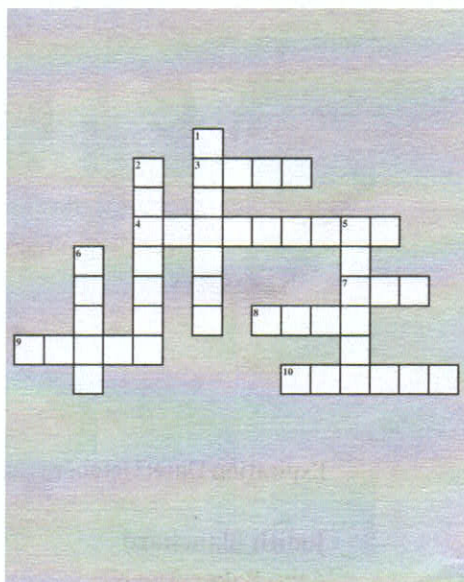
*Give to the Max Day* was created in 2009 to increase giving to nonprofit organizations across the state and move more giving online. Last year \$13.4 million was raised to benefit Minnesota nonprofit organizations such as PACIM. To donate this year, visit [www.PACIM.org](http://www.PACIM.org) and make your contribution between midnight on November 15 and midnight on November 16. Contributions to PACIM, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, are tax-deductible.

## November 18

### **PACIM's 24th Annual Polish SoupFest**

Let the live Polish music draw you into the wonderful world of a Polish culinary treasure. Taste a dozen homemade Polish soups, fresh bread and dessert at this family event. A special *naleśniki* station

# November Crossword Puzzle



October 2012 Answers:

Across: 2. Piwo; 4. Mario; 5. Boot; 6. Hevelius; 7. Wałęsa; 9. Żywiec

Down: 1. Grodziskie; 3. October; 4. Mirocha; 8. Shaw

Across

- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Drahonowska-Małkowska  
4 Author of *And the Stars were Gold*  
7 Polish for "home"  
8 PACIM's 2013 *Dom Dziecka* Fund Target, "Hospice of \_\_\_\_\_"  
9 Librarian \_\_\_\_\_ Kiernoziak

Down

- 1 Founder of *Dom Dziecka* Orphanage Model  
2 PACIM Event Benefiting Polish Orphans  
5 Polish General Władysław \_\_\_\_\_  
6 Eastern borderlands of Poland

promises made-to-order Polish dessert crepes. Face painting and crafts will occupy the kids. Vendors selling imported amber jewelry, Polish pottery, handmade artisanal crafts, cookbooks and holiday gifts will help whittle away at your Christmas lists. 3-5:30 pm, Kolbe Hall, 1621 University Ave NE, Minneapolis. Purchase tickets and obtain details at [www.PACIM.org](http://www.PACIM.org) or call 612-378-9291.

## December 2

### **Polanie Club 85th Anniversary Celebration and Wigilia**

Share Poland's most beloved holiday celebration by attending a traditional Christmas Eve dinner at Jax Café, 1928 University Ave NE, Minneapolis. Social hour begins at 5 pm, followed by dinner at 6. A Dolina artistic program and the singing of *kolędy* (Polish and American Christmas carols) round out the evening. The cost for this nonprofit event is \$35. RSVP by November 26 by calling Betty Saja 612-789-5601, Martha Pachnik 763-546-5686, or Carrie Puzak 952-545-3254.

## December 9

### **PACIM's Wigilia Dinner (see page 8 for details)**

Bring friends and family to a traditional Christmas Eve dinner. Proceeds benefit PACIM's *Dom Dziecka* Children's Fund to support disadvantaged youths in Polish orphanages. This year's benefit targets *Hospicjum "Nadzieja"* in Toruń, a home that cares for terminally ill Polish children. PACIM's Wigilia is a community celebration which features breaking of *opłatek*, traditional foods and singing of *kolędy*. Gasthof zur Gemutlichkeit Restaurant, 2300 University Ave NE, Minneapolis. Review the menu and entertainment details, and RSVP at [www.PACIM.org](http://www.PACIM.org), or call 612-378-9291.

## 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. Visit [www.PACIM.org](http://www.PACIM.org) for details and ticket information.



# People



**Olga Drahonowska-Matkowska**  
1888-1979

Born in Krzeszowice, Poland, she is best known for her work with her husband, Andrzej, in founding scouting in Poland. In addition to that important work, Olga also established an orphanage in Poland and later led the Polish Children's

Home in England.

Honoring Olga's firm commitment to children and country, the Polish government awarded her the Officer's Cross of the Order of *Polonia Restituta* and the Cross of Independence. She also received the Honour Medal of Friend of Children.

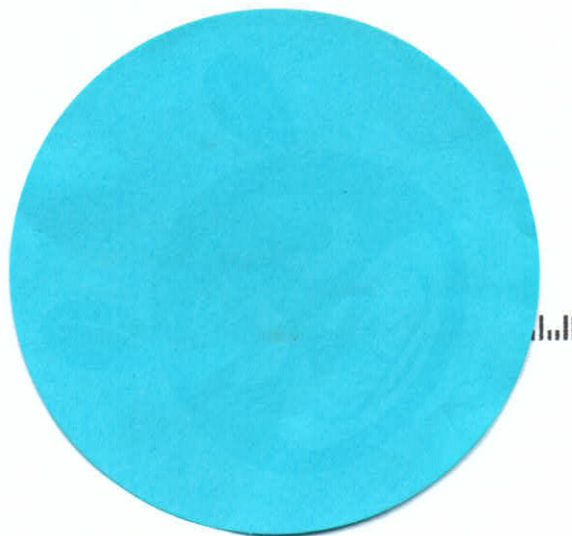


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Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota  
Presents

## WIGILIA

*A Polish Christmas Eve Dinner Benefiting Polish Orphans*  
*Sunday, December 9, at Gasthof zur Gemultlichkeit Restaurant*  
*2300 University Ave NE, Minneapolis*

Join PACIM for this community celebration featuring the breaking of *oplatek* and singing of *kolędy*.  
Social hour begins at 5:30 pm followed by a traditional meal of pickled herring, cucumbers in sour cream, beet salad, mushroom soup, *pierogi*, walleye fish, mashed potatoes, cheesecake, gingerbread and poppyseed cake.  
Reservations and advance ticket purchase are necessary.  
RSVP by December 1 at [www.pacim.org](http://www.pacim.org) or call 612-379-9485.

