PolAm

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October 2011

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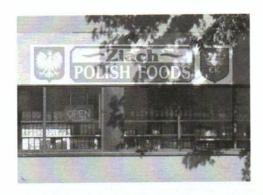
A Neighborhood Gem

By Jane Mrazek Flanders

Bread is the staple of life and Zbyszek Ziach knows it. His new store in Northeast Minneapolis stocks authentic Polish chleb that satisfies even his pickiest customers. Ziach Polish Foods opened its doors in August and with the help of Ziggy's two sons, Łukasz and Tomek, is giving a Northeast neighborhood an economic and gastronomic shot in the arm. Ziggy grew up in Kielce, Poland, and immigrated to the U.S. in 1989 with his wife and son. Only \$800 lined his pockets upon his arrival. He worked construction in Connecticut for 6 years and in '95 moved to Minnesota where he purchased and drove a semi-truck for 12 years. Three years ago his wife hatched the idea of opening a food store, but within months she was diagnosed with cancer. After her death, Ziggy put all of his savings and physical strength into opening his shop.

When I visited the store, I met native Poles who came for authentic tastes of home. Traveling from Fridley, Excelsior and Plymouth, these folks came for the Twin Cities' biggest selection of *pierogi* and *uszka*. I also saw neighborhood locals who are not Polish. Bill Green, who is proud of his French/German/Irish roots, said: "I've been here eight times since it opened. Everything is top notch." Green smiled broadly as Ziggy cut thick slices of ham, smoked meats and cheeses for him.

Ziggy stocks his store by frequent trips to Chicago warehouses. Keeping





everything under constant refrigeration during the trip, he is always willing to stock what his customers request. He pointed to the headcheese in the meat case explaining, "I sold over 100 pounds of that in two weeks. People love it." Other big sellers are *Swolska*, a double smoked Polish sausage; Wedding Sausage; and *Karczyk*, a smoked pork butt roast. Perhaps the biggest seller of all is *pierogi*. "Within ten days I sold more than 100 dozen *pierogi*. The blueberry went fast." Local city regulations won't allow Ziggy to prepare foods for sale. The *goląbki*, *paszteciki* and *rolada z kurczka* all come

Gem continues on page 3

Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Survivor Dies

The strong and clear voice of the last remaining Warsaw Ghetto Uprising survivor is now silent. The voice of Ruth



Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Monument

Jeziernicka
Lewanda sang out
the ghetto's
Partisan Song each
year on the Jewish
Day of Remembrance, Yom
Hashoah. An
English translation
goes like this:

"This song is written with blood and not with pencil

lead./ It's not sung freely by birds flying overhead./ So a people among the falling walls made their last stand./ And this song they sang with pistols in their hand."

Ruth Jeziernicka Lewanda, the last survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 1943, died quietly in her home in Albany, NY, on July 27, 2011.

Born in Warsaw in 1913, Ruth was an adult during the rise of the Nazis. Her parents, five brothers and sisters, and her young son all died during the Holocaust. By almost miraculous means, Ruth survived the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and several concentration camps, including Bergen-Belsen. After a forced separation from her husband, Donald, the two

Survivor continues on page 3

Membership Form For Polish American **Cultural Institute of Minnesota** 612-378-9291 www.pacim.org Patron.....\$150 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 City, State, Zip Phone E-mail

PolAm

PACIM PO Box 18403

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Make checks payable to PACIM and send

this form with your check to:

Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403

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We appreciate your continued support. Dziękujemy!

Thoughts

PACIM's October calendar is filled with arts-related events. The Artist Exchange Program hosts three exciting young artists



from Poland this fall. We are also cosponsoring a panel discussion with the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company after the performance of Our Class. One of the panel

presenters, Mrs. Lucy Smith, who is a Holocaust survivor and artist, will be exhibiting her paintings along with other artists at the Jewish Community Theatre in St. Louis Park on October 16.

Although this last event isn't sponsored by PACIM, it is sure to be important and moving.

Plan to attend PACIM's Soup Fest on November 6. We are offering discount tickets for current members, so if you need to renew membership this is a good incentive. You won't want to miss the soups, desserts or rustic breads. We will also have vendors selling beautiful artisan folk crafts, homemade *pierogi*, cookbooks and authentic Polish packaged foods.

Finally, now that I'm getting my feet wet as Editor, I want to hear from you. If there is a story or subject you would like covered, let me know. Although we can't publish everything, we can sure see what we're missing along the way. Send your thoughts to info@pacim.org or to P.O. Box 18403, Minneapolis, MN 55418. Do Zobaczenia,

Jane Mrazek Flanders, Editor

PACIM Annual Meeting

PACIM will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 13, 2011. The meeting begins promptly at 1 p.m. at the Institute, 2514 Central Ave NE, Minneapolis. Agenda items include voting for new board members and an update on the organization's growth, events and plans for the coming year. The meeting is open to all current PACIM members. Light refreshments will be served.

Share Your Holiday Stories

PolAm wants to hear stories about your celebrations. Whether it is Christmas, Hanukkah, Easter, Name Days, Birthdays, Weddings, Anniversaries, Reunions or Funerals, we are eager to hear how Polish and Polish American families celebrate.

We welcome stories that are humorous, thoughtful or sad. If they involve a bit of history, then all the better! Don't keep your memories squirreled away in the scrapbooks of your mind. Share them so they and the people you love can live on. Send your thoughts to info@pacim.org or P.O. Box 18403, Minneapolis, MN 55418.

New and Generous Members

Welcome New Members Anthony Budziszewski Henry Pawlowski Paul Wojda

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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
Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403
or donate online at www.pacim.org

News From Poland

by Mietek Konczyk

Poles support nations fighting for **freedom** and democracy, Foreign Affairs Minister Radosław Sikorski commented on the situation in Libya, adding that he hopes Libyans will be a part of the international society again, with democratically elected authorities.

European Union foreign ministers met in September for a meeting in Poland's Baltic sea resort of Sopot to discuss a variety of common topics as well as the crises in Libya and Syria, and how the EU can most effectively respond to them.

Former Solidarity leader Lech Wałęsa laid flowers at a monument to shipyard workers in the northern port of Gdańsk to mark the 31 years since the trade union came into being, an event that marked the beginning of the end for communism in Poland.

Poland's economy grew 4.3% year on year between April and June, one of the best results in the EU and fractionally above the 4.2% expected by analysts, but slightly slower than in the previous two quarters. Public finance deficit will likely be below 5.6% of GDP this year. Exports grew an estimated 11.4% y/y in July, reaching 11.32 billion euros (\$15.355 billion). Labor productivity in Poland rose in the first half of 2011 by 3.8%.

The number of **people working illegally** for under-the-table pay shrank last year to 732,000, or 4.6% of all workers, according to a survey by the government's Central Statistics Office.

Poland saw its **population shrink** in the first half of 2011 as the number of births was lower than the number of deaths for the first time in six years.

Jarosław Wałęsa, the son of former Polish President and Solidarity founder Lech Wałęsa and a member of the European Union parliament, was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident.

Gem continues

from Chicago and his frequent trips ensure everything is fresh.

In the Polish tradition of herbal remedies, Ziach Polish Foods stocks teas for a variety of needs including cholesterol,





weight control and sleep issues. Juices from carrots, cactus, berries, beans, kiwi, apples and bananas offer other nutritional needs. It seems Ziggy is interested in keeping customers well fed and healthy. When it was time to leave, I bought several links of *Kabanos*, a smoked thin sausage that is best when dried. During the Vikings game on Sunday I sliced some and served it to my Polish American son and his Lebanese American friend. Yum was the word. The remaining links now hang from my pot rack until next Sunday's game or until hungry teenage boys need a snack.

Ziach Polish Foods is located at 1625 Washington Street NE, Minneapolis. Call them at 612-789-0907 or "like" them on Facebook.

Survivor continues

reunited after the war and immigrated to the U.S. in 1952, settling in upstate New York. Ruth dedicated her life to teaching younger generations about the evils of hatred and prejudice.

Ruth spent the last 30 years speaking in schools, synagogues, universities and other public venues about her experiences during World War II. In 2008, on the 65th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, National Public Radio interviewed Ruth, prompting her to say, "There wasn't a chance in hell we'd win. But we decided if we have to die, take some Nazis with you."

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began when the 400,000 Jews crammed in a 3square mile ghetto tried to fight back. They realized that the Nazi mass transport of ghetto inhabitants was to horrific extermination camps like Treblinka. Their food and water was shut off and nobody was free to come or go. Thousands had died from disease and starvation. They felt they could take no more. Using smuggled weapons and homemade explosives they fought against the powerful Nazis, undertaking the largest single revolt by Jews during the Holocaust. Ruth's job in the Ghetto Uprising was to tend to the wounded.

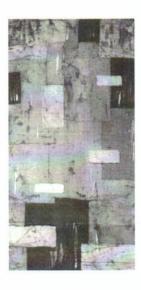
After the resistance was squashed by the Nazis, Ruth and other survivors were crowded into trains headed to concentration camps — a trip that lasted two days without food. Ruth reflected on that horrific train ride during one of her radio interviews. "All the places were filled, so they had to travel around Germany to find a place for us. When they opened the trains, half fell out dead, and half were half-dead."

In 2010, Ruth Jeziernicka Lewanda was presented the Senior Lifetime Achievement Award for her work in education and her passion for standing up against prejudice.

To view a brief and excellent video of the Ghetto Uprising, click on www.youtube.com/watch?v=EP9KSkhol4E Liliana Chwistek



Artist







magine standing in an art gallery gazing at a great piece of art. You wonder where the artist got inspiration for the piece and how long it took to complete. Imagine yet that the artist is standing next to you ready to answer your questions. This scene is what Irene Colston and Danuta Jampolska envisioned when they began PACIM's Artist Exchange program four years ago.

Irene is a long-time member of PACIM and a Minnesotan who appreciates art. Danuta is the Foreign Exchange Coordinator at the Ochota Cultural Center in Warsaw, Poland. The two women met in Poland in 2007 and became fast friends. They attended art events, poetry classes and readings, concerts, and workshops in several artists' studios. Through their conversations the Artist Exchange program was born and thus, their commitment to emerging artists who make a living from their work, rather than just art as a hobby. Irene shares, "My motivation came from people here in Minneapolis mentioning how lesser-known artists rarely come from Europe to exhibit their art because no one will host them."

In 2008 Joanna Sulek-Malinowska arrived as the program's first artist in residence. Ms. Sulek-Malinowska manages the "Warehouse of the Arts" in Warsaw and is a fairly prolific artist. She brought 50 of her pieces to Minnesota for her exhibit. On opening night she sold 35 pieces. A portion of those sales went back to help fund the Artist Exchange Program as it will this October when PACIM hosts three artists.

The Artist Exchange program begins October 6 with a Batik workshop led by Liliana Chwistek from 6–8 pm. The workshop is free, but reservations are needed. The opening night of the exhibit is October 8 from 6–9 p.m. with a welcome speech by Minneapolis Council Member Diane Hofstede, an introduction of the artists by PACIM President Ania Scanlon, refreshments, music and time to mingle with the three artists and purchase their work. Cash and checks are honored. Private viewings can be arranged from October 9–13 through Irene Colston at 612–729–5211. All events, exhibits and viewings will be in the heart of Minneapolis' art district in the Northrup King Building, 1500 Jackson St. NE, Minneapolis, Studio 332.

In 2009 PACIM sent local artist Jeff Lohaus to Poland. Lohaus is probably best known in Minneapolis through his metal sculpture for the Pierogi Project. His first European exhibit in Warsaw was met with rave reviews. He received an invitation from an art school in Gdańsk to teach his method of metal art and upon further requests has returned to teach again.

Danuta and Irene worked carefully to create parameters for selecting emerging artists to participate in the program. A panel of judges reviews the 450 word essay, resumé and sample art that each applicant presents. After two finalists are named, PACIM's Board of Directors makes the final decision.

Irene is pleased with the caliber of the artists and their eagerness to put their best foot forward. "The artists know this is another "notch" for their resumé. They are here to learn new things in their own genre and from other artists they meet." Irene keeps the artists busy while they are in town. Artists are expected to make scheduled appearances, do workshops, and participate in local events. They agree to actively participate in fundraising and promotional events for the program. They also receive tours of the cities, museums and enjoy the hospitality of local Minnesotans.

The artists in this year's program are Mariola Golda, Liliana Chwistek and Leszek Jampolska. All are exhibiting their work in the U.S. for the first time, and are excited to be here and eager to please their American audiences.

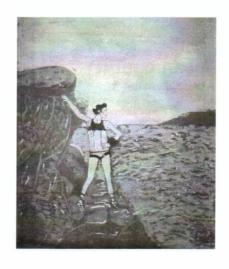
Two of this year's artists in residence specialize in Batik. The earliest forms of Batik involved drawing on cloth with a wooden pen. Examples of Batik textiles can be found from the Middle East, Far East, Central Asia and India from as many as 2000 years ago. Batik fabric was often worn by the upper classes and royalty and female courtiers were the artists. Today's intricate and colorful Batik is a multi-step process of applying wax, dying and drying, then removing the wax. The order of the color application provides the artists' desired pattern or figures. The more colors a Batik fabric contains, the more times it has been through the artists' creative process.



Mariola Golda

Exchange







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

Annual Meeting

PACIM will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 13, 2011, 1 p.m. at the Institute, 2514 Central Ave, NE. The meeting is open to all current PACIM members. Light refreshments will be served. See page 2

PACIM Library

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

From The Library

Thanks, everyone, for the wonderful books you've left at the Library. I am slowly making my way through them and have found some real treasures. Duplicates are being shared with other organizations. We have concentrations of information on many Polish subjects, particularly events around World War II. Resources offered to young people writing papers are extensive. We have over 5,200 items (books, audio books, children's books, movies, music CDs) for PACIM members to check out. The general public is welcome to use these resources, too. If they want to borrow an item, they have to become members, which can be done easily during the same visit.

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

Echos from the North

News from Little Falls, Minnesota

Here in Central Minnesota the leaves are turning golden and crimson. I grew up on a farm and this is the time for harvesting and canning. Do you remember when communities had a "canning center" where produce was canned for a small charge? Many people still enjoy canning at home, but today freezing produce is simple, easy and certainly more tasty. Perhaps I stirred up some memories for you.

The Polish Echos still meet every third Tuesday of the month at Our Lady of Lourdes. Everyone is welcome. Our group is a social organization so our only fundraiser is the Polish Dinner in early May. We enjoy having speakers and entertainment, but mostly enjoy visiting. Everyone seems to have stories about growing up in a Polish family or visiting Poland. I hope you can visit Little Falls someday to see our community and tour our beautiful church.

God's Blessing to all,

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

Przslowia Polski

Niedaleko pada jabłko od jabłoni. The apple doesn't fall too far from the apple tree.

Did You Know

Polish people are more satisfied with life than the citizens of any other European country, according to a survey by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company

The Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company opens its 17th season with the area premiere production of *Our Class* by Tadeusz Slobodzianek, in a version by Ryan Craig.



It's Poland in 1925, and 10 young Jewish and Catholic children, all classmates, share their dreams of what they want to be when they grow up. As they grow older, things in their small town change. Poland is first invaded by the Soviets and then the Nazis. A fervent nationalism develops and bitterness ensues. In a series of events, friends betray each other and violence escalates to an unimaginable end. Based on true events, *Our Class* explores human behavior with a captivating boldness.

"[a] remarkable and powerful play" *The London Telegraph*

There will be a post-show panel discussion co-sponsored by the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota on Sunday, October 30, following the 1 p.m. show. *Our Class* runs October 29–November 30 at the Hillcrest Center Theatre in St. Paul. Tickets (\$18-26) available at MJTC box office 651-647-4315.

Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota Affiliate Member of the American Council for Polish Culture

PACIM Officers and Board of Directors:

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Ursula Peterson, Paul Rog, Tony Rubasch,
Bruce Rubin and Magdalena Zborowski.

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.

October 2 Carpathian Folk Festival Concert

A celebration of dance traditions, music and cultures of the Carpathian Mountains. Performers will represent Slovak, Czech, Polish, Hungarian, Romanian, Gypsy and Ukranian cultures. St. Anthony Village HS Auditorium, 3303 33rd Ave NE, St. Anthony, MN. Advance tickets: adults \$10, students \$5 at www.minnesotahungarians.com. For information call Eva Kish 651-341-5312.

October 2 St. Casimir Fall Festival and Polka Mass

Polka mass at 10 a.m. featuring John Filipczak and the Classics. Turkey dinner (adults \$9, children 6–10 \$5) served until 3:30 p.m. Festival includes silent auction, theme baskets, raffle, cake walk, games for children. 930 Geranium Ave, St. Paul. For more information call 651-774-0365.

October 6 Batik Art Workshop

PACIM's Artist Exchange presents a workshop on the ancient craft of Batik by artist in residence Liliana Chwistek from 6–8 p.m. at the Northrup King Building, 1500 Jackson St. NE, Minneapolis, Studio 332. Event is free, but reservations are required. For more information and to make reservations, contact Irene Colston at 612-729-5211 or iacquarius@msn.com.

October 8

Artist Exchange Opening Exhibit PACIM's Artist Exchange welcomes three emerging artists from Poland: Liliana Chwistek, Mariola Gołda and Leszek Jampolski. 6–9 p.m. at the Northrup King Building, 1500 Jackson St. NE, Minneapolis, Studio 332. Artists will be displaying, discussing and selling their work. Light refreshments will be served. Event is free.

October 8 Midwest Polka Association Bus Trip to Sobieski. MN

Come for the 15th annual Sobieski Lions Polish Meal and Dance, near Little Falls. Dinner from 5-8 p.m. and dance from 7-11 p.m. with Jersey Polka Ritchie from Florida. Cost is \$32 for bus, dinner and dance. For reservations or information call 651-433-2173.

October 9 Smaczne Jabłko Day

Polish Cultural Institute and Museum in Winona, MN, hosts its annual apple festival. There will be dancing, crafts and foods. Raffles include time share property, plane tickets to Poland and Pope John Paul memorabilia. For information contact meme@hbci.com.

October 20—23 Flyway Film Festival, Pepin, WI

Among several Polish films featured at the festival, Tony and Janina's American Wedding has been described as a "post





9/11 human rights story that every undocumented immigrant in America faces today." Follow as a Polish family struggles with the red tape of the current U.S. immigration system. For information: www.flywayfilmfestival.org.

October 30

Our Class, Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company

MJTC presents *Our Class* by Tadeusz Slobodzianek. There will be a post-show panel discussion co-sponsored by the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota on Sunday, October 30, following the 1 p.m. show. See page 6

November 6 Alexander Melnikov at Chopin Society

Russian artist plays masterworks of Shubert, Brahams and Shostakovich. Sundin Music Hall, Hamline University, 1531 Hewitt Ave, St. Paul. Tickets \$23 and \$20 for members, \$12 students. For information call 612-822-0123 or visit www.chopinsocietymn.org.

November 6 PACIM Annual Soup Festival

See page 8

November 13 PACIM Annual Meeting

See page 2

December 4 Wigilia at Jax Café with Polanie Club

Share Poland's most beloved holiday celebration at Jax Café, 1928 University Ave NE., Minneapolis. Social hour begins at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., followed by music and kolędy (in Polish and English). Cost is \$35. For information and reservations call Ewa Banasikowski 952-447-1985, Martha Pachnik 763-546-5686 or Marta Swica 651-638-9577 by November 28.

December 11 PACIM Wigilia Dinner

A fundraiser for needy Polish orphanages, the traditional Polish Christmas Eve meal will be held at the Gasthof Restaurant, 2300 University Ave NE, Minneapolis. This community celebration features breaking of opłatek, traditional foods and singing of kolędy. For details visit www.pacim.org.

People



Zygmunt Sajna 1897—1940

When Nazis invaded Poland in 1939 and began a bloody persecution of Catholics and Jews, Zygmunt Sajna was pastor of a church in Góra Kalwaria.

Regardless of danger from the Gestapo, Fr. Sajna continued

ministering to his flock, declaring he was ready to face death for Christ. That winter he was arrested by the Nazis and imprisoned at Palmiry, near Warsaw. He was tortured in prison, but continued his priestly ministries. In September, 1940, he and 200 other victims were executed. He was beatified by John Paul II in Warsaw on June 13, 1999, along with 107 other Catholic martyrs.



POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA PO BOX 18403 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55418-0403

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Polish Word Tips

Na kogo będziesz głosował w wyborach? Who are you going to vote for in the coming elections?

Jeszcze nie wiem. Wszyscy dużo obiecują, ale ile z tego naprawdę dotrzymają? Still don't know. All of them promise a lot, but how much are they really going to deliver?

To normalne dla polityków. Ważne, że mamy wolne wybory.

It is normal for politicians to do it. What's important is to have free elections.

Tak, dobrze pamiętam te "wybory" w komunie, kiedy wyboru nie mieliśmy żadnego.

Yeah, I remember well "elections" in communist times when we had no choice at all.

Used Words

wybory - elections wybór - choice obiecać, obiecywać - to promise Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota Presents the 23rd Annual



Soup Festival

Sunday, November 6, 2011, 3–5:30 p.m. Kolbe Hall, 1621 University Ave. NE, Minneapolis

Tickets available at the door:
Adults \$12, Students with ID or PACIM members \$10, Children \$6

Taste over a dozen home made Polish soups, breads and cakes.
Polish artisanal folk crafts, prepared foods and books for sale.

Special exhibit by Polish Genealogical Society.

For information or to volunteer, call 612 378 9291.