

PolAm

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

October 2012 *Polish American Heritage Month*

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Vol. 34, Num. 10

Man Won!

The filming crew arrived early to set up lights and sound equipment. Restaurant guests were prepped and cued. A national



Adam Richman and Mario Pierzchalski on *Man vs Food*.



Man won!

television star made his introductions and the cameras rolled. The Travel Channel's *Man vs Food* came to Northeast Minneapolis' Gasthof zur Gemultlichkeit in 2009, and its host, Adam Richman, faced the challenge of eating more than three feet of homemade sausage and two formidable side dishes in one sitting.

Serving up the sizzling platter of meat and fixings to Richman was the restaurant's owner and executive chef, Marian Pierzchalski, known to everyone as "Mario." After a volley of friendly taunts with the crowd, Richman took his first massive bite. It seemed easy, especially with a bit of good beer to wash it

down. But by bite five his smile was more of a grimace.

Watching the drama off camera, Mario beamed. A national TV show, his own restaurant crowded to capacity, good health, friends and family. A beautiful moment. It seemed just yesterday he arrived from Poland with his wife and tiny kids, only \$40 in his pocket and unable to speak English, but filled with a hunger for freedom and security.

Mario's success mirrors that of so many Polish immigrants to America. October is national Polish American Heritage Month and Mario's story, replete with hard work, long hours and vision, is one worth noting.

On weekend nights, Gasthof's is packed. People come for the homemade-tasting food, huge beer selection and a good time. Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak celebrated his 50th birthday at Gasthof's and from time to time celebrities like Josh Harnet and Josh Duhmal stop by when in town. The place bustles.

About the time the dinner crowd thins out, polka music from down in Mario's Keller Bar picks up. This is usually when Mario takes a break from the kitchen to mill about the restaurant to shake hands and make friends. He knows his customers are his best advertising, and he genuinely likes them. Sure they come for the food, the tall glass boots of beer and

Man Won continues on page 3

An Eye on Poland

In September, PACIM sponsored Minnesota artist Stephanie Mirocha in an exchange program with the Warsaw Ochota Cultural Center. Stephanie blogs about her time as an artist, teacher and student in Poland and her blog can be read on the PACIM website (www.pacim.org). Here are a few highlights and photos of her experiences.

September 19, 2012

I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity to visit Warsaw and have *Galeria Zadra* to show my work. It is like



a dream! There was a wonderful speech made by the director of Ochota, and Asia who is the manager of *Magazyn Sztuk* spoke as well about my paintings. I am here for 2 reasons: one because I am an artist and 2 because I have a Polish background. Both of these things touch the essence of who I am, so it is very emotional for me. My parents both spoke

Eye On Poland continues on page 3

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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 *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.

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PolAm

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We appreciate your continued support.
Dziękujemy!

Thoughts

Did you know that for the last 31 years Polish American Heritage Month has been celebrated every October? It began



in Pennsylvania and is now recognized on the national calendar. This issue offers a sketch of a Minnesota Polish American who has been described as

"the American Dream personified." After reading about Mario, and then our centerspread on Polish beer, you might feel a bit thirsty...and proud.

PACIM is pleased to present another Contemporary Issues Forum on October 28. This lecture and discussion showcases cutting edge thought on Polish and American education styles, bringing in top flight scholars as presenters. The event is free and refreshments are provided. See page 6 for details.

Plan to explore one of Poland's culinary treasures at PACIM's 24th Annual Polish Soupfest on November 18. The event offers tastes of at least a dozen authentic homemade Polish soups, live music, a children's activity area and opportunities to buy handmade *pierogi*, imported artisanal crafts and books, and to trace your family roots. We could use more volunteers to help with the event. Visit www.pacim.org to sign up and purchase tickets.

Finally, PACIM's Polish language classes are underway, but new students are still welcome to join. Call 612-378-9291 to learn more.

Do zobaczenia,
Jane Mrazek Flanders, *Editor*

New & Generous Members

Welcome New Members

Jim and Londa Boren

Mark Guzik

Halina Szymkowska-Hudec

Sophie Winter

Donors

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Stanislaw and Krystyna Dobosz

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Mark Guzik

Bernard Larson

John and Joan Minczeski

Larry Rogacki

Alan Shilepsky

Halina Szymkowska-Hudec

David Teclaw

Fred Ziecina

News From Poland

by Mietek Konczyk

Poland's unemployment rate at the end of the year may exceed 13%. According to recent polls, 31% of Poles are afraid of losing a job, with only 49% of employees feeling secure in their jobs.

Lech Wałęsa wrote to Russian President Vladimir Putin asking him to pardon three members of the opposition **punk rock band Pussy Riot** jailed for staging an anti-Kremlin protest in a Moscow cathedral in February.

The Polish government temporarily banned sales of alcohol imported from the Czech Republic after **20 people died and 36 were in serious condition after consuming spirits containing poisonous methanol**.

American Ford Motor Company plans to extend production of its small Ka model in Poland's southern town of Tychy an additional three years.

American-based Wyndham Group plans to develop its economy class hotel chain **Super 8 in Poland**.

Man Won continues

dancing; but they all love the warm and inviting atmosphere his establishment serves up. Hard to imagine that in the mid 1990s, before Mario took over, Gasthof's was ready to close its doors.

Food service was part of Mario's upbringing in Kozienice, Poland, where his grandfather owned a bakery. As an adult in the 1980s in Poland, Mario worked an industrial job. After years of long hours, he rose in the ranks to management, supervising more than 1,100 employees. Along came Solidarity and glimmers of change for oppressed Poles living under the iron fist of communist rule. Mario joined in and began working underground for the movement, writing newspapers and providing food and lodging for activists. In January, 1981, Mario was thrown in jail and sat there for months thinking about his young family, their future and the future of Poland.

In 1983, Mario and his family arrived in the Twin Cities where he found work as a

baker in a St. Paul hotel. His English skills and reputation as a hard worker both grew exponentially. In 1993, he was invited to become a partner with the current owner of Gasthof's, a Bavarian style restaurant and bar. A year later he owned the place.

Given the course of world history, it might seem odd that a Pole would own and operate a German restaurant. Not a drop of Polish beer among the 11 drafts available in the Keller Bar, and *pierogi* only appearing on a special buffet five times a year. Some might say he "sold out" and turned his back on his heritage. But no — Mario is just a good businessman and finds other means to connect with his heritage.

Who arranges for Polish beer at the Twin Cities Polish Fest? Mario. Who supports the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers? Mario. Who donates money and other resources to Northeast Minneapolis community groups and churches? Mario. Who hosts PACIM's annual *Wigilia* dinner? Mario. This native Pole, who now calls America his home, is also a powerful philanthropist who helps organizations

that represent the home country he loves and tries to help his new fellow citizens establish themselves.

To show their gratitude, the people that Mario supports volunteer their time each October to work in his Oktoberfest — the Twin Cities largest outdoor annual beer garden. Pulling pints of pilsner, the Dolina Dancer volunteers view this work as fun. They also know that Mario will donate a portion of the event's proceeds to help fund their costumes, trips and training.

And, even though training is what Adam Richman has under his belt as a heavy-weight eater, the meter long bratwurst and potato croquettes almost have him pinned. Emboldened by a kiss from a beautiful admiring gal, Richman declares he won't be beat. After the last bite goes down, he announces, "In the battle of man vs food, *man won!*" The crowd roars and Mario proudly shakes his hand.

Visit www.gasthofzg.com to watch the full episode, and click on Richman's video blog where he declares Mario "the American Dream personified."

Eye On Poland continues

Polish as their first language, though they did not teach us the Polish language — but ever since I was a little girl we have celebrated our "Polishness."

My life has been flavored with these small bits of my Polish background. So, to be here now is to immerse myself headlong into the full bowl of soup: *Zupa Polska!*

Today I am learning about the art of batik at *Magazyn Sztuk*, which is affiliated with the Ochota Cultural Center.



Liliana Chwistek (left) was PACIM's 2011 Polish Exchange Artist

watercolor class just ended.

Liliana is teaching Weronika and me! Wax drawn onto fiber preserves the previous colors, just like in *pysanki* which uses a similar process. Also, some very good artists are drawing still lifes and a children's



My photographer! He is from Turkey and caught many pictures of the event. Here I speak with Dziengiz, the manager of *Galeria Zadra*.

September 22

Today I visited the lovely Wilanowa Palace, on the outskirts of Warsaw, with my friend Janusz. This was a summer villa for royalty. It is a bit larger than our Minnesota cabin; however it lacks our outhouse facility, or *wychodek*. So, there are some tradeoffs. We enjoyed hot Wedel chocolate, coffee and *nalesniki* (crepes with fruit and whipped cream).

September 25

Ochota Cultural Center or *Ośrodek*

Kultury Ochoty (OKO) Oko means eye in Polish. The *Ośrodek Kultury Ochoty* "has an eye on art!"

Warsaw has many cultural centers; these are non-profit government programs providing art and culture to its lucky citizens



who choose to take pottery, painting, batik and other forms of art from their instructors offering workshops. Each neighborhood or district in Warsaw has

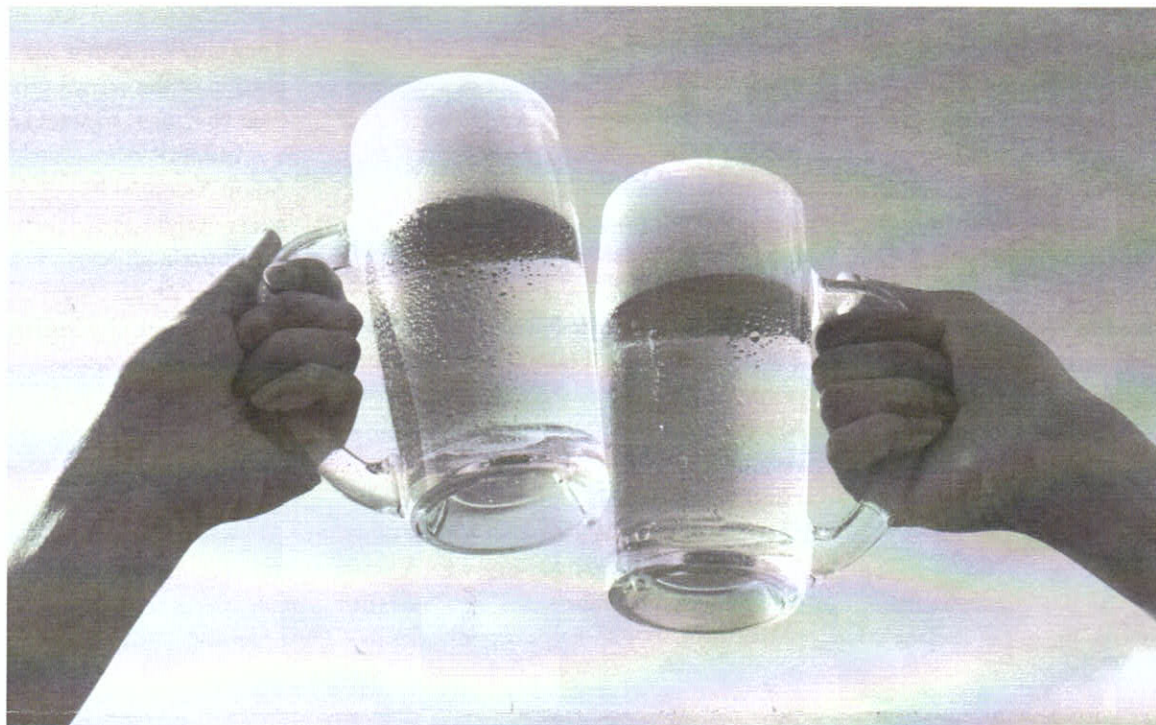
one of these kinds of centers. OKO is in the Ochota district.

September 29

Warm and welcoming, both from the people in the city and from my Polish hosts through OKO who have treated me with such kindness and camaraderie. Thank you everyone so much for making Warsaw feel like a second home to me.

Roll Out the Barrel

By Jane Mrazek Flanders



After a long day of harvesting, nothing beats a glass of cold, crisp, refreshing draft beer. Early autumn days, when temperatures can still creep up to the hot zone, are a perfect excuse to gather with friends outside and tip back a few pints of that bubbly, amber liquid. Beer is Poland's most popular drink and the centuries' long tradition of brewing in Poland is steeped with legends, intrigue and politics.

At the time of Poland's founding in 966, beer was a common beverage in England and the European continent.



The production of grain-based fermented beverages had begun as early as

7000 BC in China, and by 3500 BC Mesopotamians were making it. Beer production continued northward to ancient Rome, and later to Germanic people who used drinking straws to consume the thick gruel-like beverage.

By the Middle Ages, beer was watered down and filtered, resembling today's drink. Brewing's boiling process offset



impure water used in production, and the inclusion of hops in the 9th century added a preservative effect.

Everyone drank beer, rich and poor alike. The low alcohol drink made of malted

barley, water and hops provided a considerable portion of the daily calories in Europe's northern regions.

Long before importing crossed the minds of Europeans, one particular beer made of smoked wheat created quite a buzz. In



1303, Prince Bishop of Kujawy, a devotee of Grodziskie's smoky flavor, turned down the post as Archbishop of Salzburg



and it refilled, allowing brewers to produce their famous smoked beer. Grodziskie continued to be produced until 1994 when the last commercial brewer of the smoky beer was purchased by a rival, Lech Brewery, ending the production of this uniquely Polish beer.

A Polish brewery with a slightly “Czech-ered” past is the 160 year old Żywiec near the Czech border. Founded by



Founder of Żywiec Brewery in 1852.

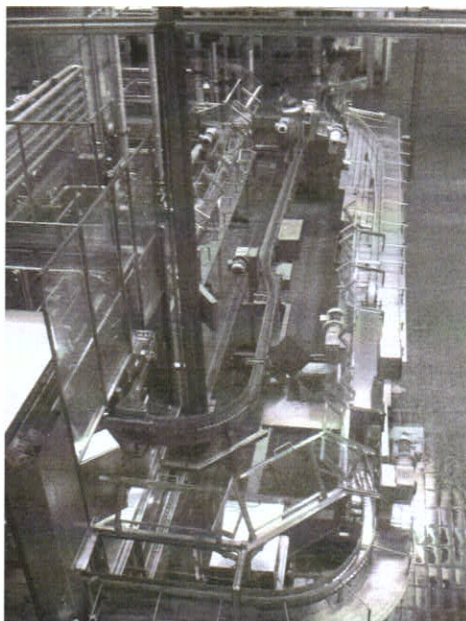


when he learned his favorite Polish beer was not available in Austria. By 1470, the Polish priest and historian Jan Długosz described the beer as a national drink. Grodziskie's fame is also traced to the legend of a 15th century Benedictine monk, Bernard of Wąbrzeźno, who blessed a dried well in Grodzisk

Archduke Friedrich Hapsburg, whose aristocratic family crown still shines on some of their labels, the brewery continually produced beer through the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and two world wars. The family retained ownership of the brewery until 1944, when it was confiscated by Poland's post WWII communist government. In



Żywiec Brewery circa early 20th century.



Żywiec Brewery's modern bottling facilities.

the 1990s, Żywiec was sold to Heineken. A few years later, elderly descendants of the Hapsburgs brought suit against the Polish government demanding \$77 million compensation for the nationalization and use of the family name and coat of arms. The case was settled out of court on undisclosed terms in 2005.

While beer production and consumption in Poland remains high, there is a shift in the national taste for more diverse

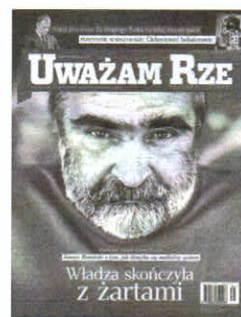


Poland boasts 27 microbreweries.

beers. At least one third of Poland's breweries are now micro-breweries, producing beers with boutique tastes, colors and aromas. Since 1989, when the first microbrewery appeared in Poland, there

has been a growing trend away from beer produced by large corporations such as Żywiec, Okocim, and Tyskie. At the same time, exporters of those megabrews are holding strong with new found niches in the U.S. market. Poland's strong market economy, mixed with a desire to succeed, allows Poles to begin small businesses. More importantly, those businesses are thriving.

A by-product of Poland's freedom after 1990 was the birth of new political parties. Knowing how much Poles love their



Polish news magazines covered the Beer Party satire.

beer, Polish satirist Janusz Rewiński created a party promoting greater consumption of beer. Polish Friends of Beer Party (*Polska Partia Przyjaciół Piwa*) began as a joke; but in 1991 it nabbed 16 parliament seats and

inspired a similar party in Russia. They imagined running the country and had the slogan, “It wouldn't be better but for sure it would be funnier.” Alas, the party split into Large Beer and Small Beer factions and soon ended; however, staunch members can still be found on Facebook promoting the idea that, “Consuming quality beer is a symbol of freedom and a better standard of living.”

In 2010, the Polish beer market generated more than \$6.4 billion in revenues for the thirsty country. That figure reflects a .5% decrease from a few years earlier, and projections for 2015 have the beer market brewing only \$5.6 billion in revenue. Worried consumers might want to reconsider the principles of Rewiński's party and start canvassing the countryside with pints of that slightly intoxicating refreshment known as *piwo*.

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

What are the most famous works of Polish fiction? While agreement on a list is as likely as snow in Hawaii, certain titles are on everyone's list. Andrzejewski's *Ashes and Diamonds*, Prus' *Lalka* and Sienkiewicz's *With Fire and Sword* climb to the top of the classics, and more recent books like Lem's *Solaris*, Orzeszkowa's *Nad Niemnem*, and works by Dabrowska, Nałkowska and Konopnicka often appear.

The fact that the PACIM Library has all these books, plus their film versions, shows that our benefactors are well read and generous. With so much of the canon of great world literature at our reach, all of us should take the time to become more versed in Polish writing and film. As an incentive, I encourage you to create your own lists of favorites and reasons why you chose them.

What We're Reading — The poetry of Szymborska and Herbert. We are also eager to crack open the biography *Dreams and Secrets* by Danuta Wałęsa, but are still looking for a copy. The author is the wife of the Solidarity leader and former Polish President. If you run across one while in Poland, please gift it to the Library.

As always, I can be reached by email at kiernoziak@gmail.com and at the Library most Sundays.

— Barbara (Basia) Kiernoziak

PACIM Annual Meeting

PACIM will hold its Annual Meeting at 1 pm 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. Light refreshments will be served.

PACIM's Contemporary Issues Forum

The second installment of PACIM's Contemporary Issues Forum is slated for 2 pm Sunday, October 28, at RiverPlace. These lectures are free and open to the public. CIF speakers focus on current events and trends in Poland and the U.S. Attendees are invited to join the presenters after the lecture for refreshments and conversation.

Abstract:
Peeking into the future: A comparative look at higher education in Poland and the United States

An education system is a snapshot of a nation's values and its future paths. Higher education in Poland and the United States offers insights (both promising and troubling) into where these nations have been, and where they are headed. Will the US be able to maintain its status as a global leader? Will Poland take advantage of its historical season of unprecedented peace and prosperity?

Speakers:

Marta Shaw is a Ph.D. candidate in Educational Policy at the University of Minnesota. She studies the impacts of globalization on higher education in the areas of governance, research integrity and intercultural education. A native of Katowice, Poland, she holds a Master's degree from the Jagiellonian University and has taught at Tischner European University in Kraków.



Brad Weiner is a doctoral candidate at The University of Minnesota and works as a data analyst for the Vice Provost



and Dean of Undergraduate Education. He researches the globalization of the higher education marketplace, campus internationalization strategies, global philanthropy and university finance. He holds a B.A. in English from the University of Kansas and a M.Ed in Higher Education Administration from Vanderbilt University.



The first Contemporary Issues Forum premiered in May: Polish Society Since the Smoleńsk Catastrophe with a presentation and open discussion by Polish scholars Stanisław Burdziej (top) and Bartosz Pilitowski (bottom).

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.

October 19

Midwest Polka Association October Dance

The Polish Country Musicians from Connecticut return; 7-11 pm, Maplewood Moose Lodge, 1946 English St, Maplewood, MN. Admission is \$12. Call 651-426-1079 or email Jim Carlson at email k.carlson55110@yahoo.com

October 21

Columbia Heights/Lomianki, Poland Sister Cities International Benefit

Supports the children's hospital in Lomianki and other humanitarian projects. Silent Auction at 4 pm and dinner. Music by St. Mary's Balalaika Orchestra and accordionist John Kujda. Murzyn Hall, 530 Mill St NE, Columbia Heights, MN. Advance tickets for adults are \$9 and \$10 at the door; children 6-12 are \$5. For tickets and more information call 763-574-1489 or 763-571-1709.

October 28

PACIM's Contemporary Issues Forum

(See page 6 for details).

November 3

Polish and Pommern Groups Meeting

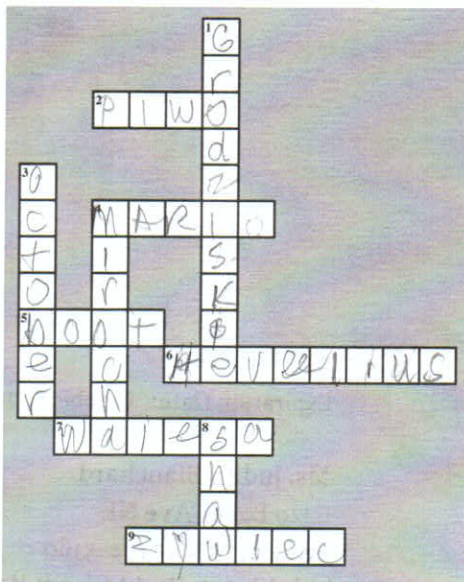
This special day-long event features a 10 am start with a talk by John Rys on the "Polish Diaspora (Polonia) in Northeast Minneapolis." A lunch buffet follows. At 1 pm there will be an afternoon session with speaker Jim Neuenfeldt called "Pomerania and Poland: A Relationship Closer than You Think." Early registration recommended. Call 651-266-2257.

November 4

Sacred Heart/St. Wenceslaus Church 150th Anniversary

A special anniversary celebration includes a Polish flag raising ceremony, Polish crafts and a Polish dinner. Mass at 1 pm with Polish prayers. The historic church is located in Pine Creek, WI. For event details call 608-539-3704.

October Crossword Puzzle



September 2012 Answers:

Across: 2. Jablko; 6. Singer; 7. Shapiro; 8. Majdanek; 9. Klezmatics; 10. Torun

Down: 1. Do Zabaczenia; 3. SoupFest; 4. Feinstein; 5. Zborowski

November 4

PACIM Annual Meeting

(see page 6 for details)

November 10

Immigration History Research Center 35th 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 at 5:30 followed by a social hour, buffet dinner and door prizes. Croatian Hall, 445 Second Ave, South St. Paul, MN. \$25 tickets Contact: Vicki Albu, young754@umn.edu

November 16

Give to the Max Day

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 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

(See page 8 for details)

Across

2 Polish for "beer"

4 Owner of Gasthof zur Gemutlichkeit

5 Unusual shaped glass of beer at Gasthof's

6 Polish astronomer and brewer

7 Author of "Dreams and Secrets"

9 160 year old Polish brewery

Down

1 Famous smoked-wheat beer

3 National Polish American Heritage Month

4 PACIM exchange artist

8 Contemporary Issues Forum Presenter

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 at 5 pm, dinner at 6. A Dolina artistic program and the singing of kolędy (Polish and American Christmas carols) round out the evening. Cost: \$35. RSVP by Nov. 26

Call: Betty Saja 612-789-5601, Martha Pachnik 763-546-5686, or Carrie Puzak 952-545-3254.

December 9

PACIM's Wigilia Dinner

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, entertainment details, and RSVP at www.PACIM.org, or call 612-378-9291.

People



Johannes Hevelius
1611-1687

Hailed as one of Gdańsk's heroes, Hevelius served as mayor and leader of the beer-brewing guild. Born to wealthy brewing merchants, Hevelius continued the family brewing tradition; but his passion for the stars fueled his fame. He

was the last significant astronomer to work without a telescope. He discovered four comets, ten new constellations and observed the transit of Mercury. He became known as the "founder of lunar topography," and his work made him a patron of four Polish kings. Jan III Sobieski even released Hevelius from paying taxes and allowed his beer to be sold outside the city limits.

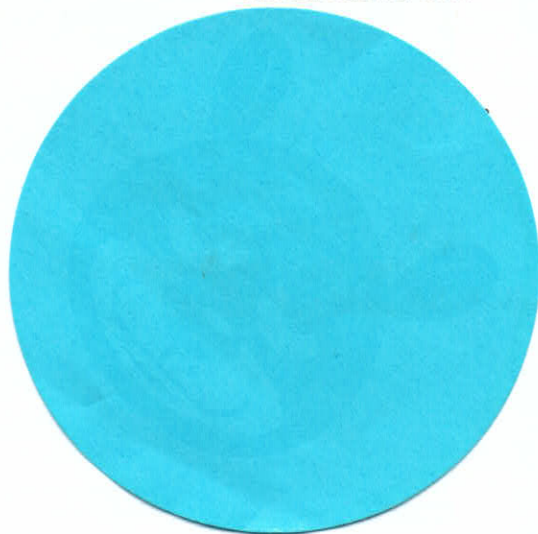
Shortly after his death, a beer was brewed in Hevelius' honor and is still brewed today.



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Soup Festival

PACIM's 24th Annual Polish SoupFest

Over a dozen homemade Polish soups to sample

Live music — Mosaica Polish Folk Ensemble

Children's Activity Area

Vendors selling artisanal crafts from Poland, prepared foods, cookbooks, holiday gifts

November 18, 3-5:30 pm, Kolbe Hall, 1621 University Ave., NE Minneapolis

To purchase tickets, obtain details and volunteer visit www.PACIM.org or call 612-378-9291



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