

PolAm

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

September 2011

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Vol. 33, Num. 07/8

A Volunteer Teacher's Reward

by Joe Beben

Friends often ask why we keep returning to the English Language Camp in Toruń. What do we get out of it? Yes, Toruń is a splendid example of a well preserved medieval city with numerous opportunities to enjoy its rich culture. There is music and pageantry, especially this past July as Poland ascended to the presidency of the EU. And there is the delicious Polish food. And *piwo*. But, to discover the true value of the experience for the American teacher I thought back to the students and some of our camp activities.

The first day of classes two students stood out in my home room, Ania and Stefan. They could not possibly be more different. Ania had a scowl, darkened Gothic eyes and a ring in her lower lip. Her muttered "My mother made me come" did not bode well for the coming three weeks. Stefan, by contrast, had an impish face, was an advanced English speaker, readily participated in class, and later demonstrated a charming demeanor at our Talent Show as he strummed his guitar and bantered with the audience — in English!

These two exemplified the challenge and joy in teaching morning classes. At the evening activities they would be more relaxed, as when we held Halloween in July. Stefan, Greek-like, wrapped himself in a makeshift toga and Ania turned out in full Gothic regalia, which she must have brought to camp as wardrobe necessities. We strolled to the Copernicus statue in the



rynek to the delight of the visiting tourists. The folks in town also seemed to be amused by all the merriment.

By Graduation Day Ania had thawed, just a bit. She had happily participated in our Halloween march into town, posed for pictures and seemed to have fun, albeit begrudgingly. She was quite vocal when we discussed activism and protest, and strongly expressed her conviction that Polish youth need to be more aggressive in protesting injustice and environmental degradation. Stefan, star athlete and affable guitarist, was the hands-down winner of the end-of-camp Congeniality Award.

At camp, we also celebrated our American Fourth of July with solemnity

Teacher's Reward continues on page 3

Do Zobaczenia

by Sarah Johnson

Honora Łukaczynska and Dominick Bęben were born less than two miles apart from each other in Krosno, Poland. Fleeing from their war-torn native land, it was not until they had traveled half a world over to the United States that they met, fell in love, and eventually married in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Three generations later I, their great-granddaughter, sat sleepless in a cramped Boeing 767, wondering what exactly I'd gotten myself into. I'd never really thought about the "Old Country" — all I knew about it was what I'd learned in school and bits and pieces of family history — and yet there I was, somewhere over the Atlantic Ocean on my way to Warsaw. The youngest of a team of eleven Americans, I was to be a teacher's assistant at an English language camp of about fifty high school students in Toruń, a city I'd never heard of before. Worries kept racing through my head. Would I be accepted by the other teens? Would I be viewed negatively because I was American? How would I get by knowing practically no Polish? What was I even supposed to be doing?

Whatever my role was supposed to be, I can safely say that I learned far more than I taught. On late-night walks down the worn cobblestoned streets of Old Town I learned Polish from a group of

Do Zobaczenia continues on page 3

**Membership Form For
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612-378-9291**

www.pacim.org

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- 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 _____

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PACIM
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Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403

Thoughts

The end of summer brought celebrations of all sizes. Topping our list was the Twin Cities Polish Festival, which boasted over



16,000 participants this year. Across the pond was a Polish version of the Woodstock Festival, and World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain, which drew several hundreds of

thousands of young people from Poland, America and across the globe.

Now we settle in for school schedules and shorter days. As we anticipate the cooler weather ahead, PACIM announces its 22nd annual Soup Festival on November 6. Mark your calendars for this celebration which includes more than a dozen homemade soups, breads, desserts and crafts.

This issue contains heartfelt thanks for the many volunteers of the TCPF and a welcome to the new and returning PACIM members. It also includes a list of several opportunities to study Polish in the Twin Cities.

Let's hope we are blessed with a long, colorful and crisp autumn.

Jane Mrazek Flanders, *Editor*

New and Generous Members

Welcome New Members From Polish Festival

Adam Han-Gorski	Mary Ann Johnson
Kieran Wells	Paul Riedner
Linda Neary	Susan Burnett
Barbara Wlodawczyk	Lech Gawron
Philip Augustinack	John Kantke
Lara Homa	Cathy Czub Hockert
Joe Rapacki	Rachael Jarosh
Rod & Vicki Smoka	Bob & Brigit Zdon
Donna Zroka	Czeslaw Raginiak
Karen Duffy	Gretchen Postula
Gregg Egnash	Carol Russell
Jerzy Guzior	James Sobieski
Gloria Skrzypek Wolf	Wes Weleczki
Mary Czaplewski	Tim Wodarski
Jane Czerwonka	Zofia Zukowska
Christine Golob	Peter Kamrowski
Kim & Tim Karnitz	

Patrons

Gene & Janet Retka	Kris Komider
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Sponsor

Janet Arth	David & Carol Teclaw
James Czaja	

Friends

Diana Amluxen	Russell Brown
John Bieniek	John Jurewicz

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
We appreciate your continued support.
Dziękujemy!

PolAm

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Patricia Beben, Proofreader

We appreciate your continued support. Dziękuję!

Dikanda Concert 09.22

The Polish band, Dikanda, is performing a free concert at the The Cedar Cultural Institute on September 22nd. Also joining them will be Maggie Babiarz, lead singer of The Megitza Quartet, which many will remember fondly from their Sunday performance at the Twin Cities Polish Festival. Their concert at The Cedar is part of its Signature Festival: Global Roots. Admission is free, however, current Cedar donors are admitted before the general public and partial seating is first-come, first-served. Doors open at 7pm show starts at 7:30pm. Go to www.thecedar.org for details; make a donation online and get seating at 6:45.



Dikanda, from Szczecin, Poland, was founded in 1997. A passion for traditional music and hard work let them create their own style and original sound. Their acoustic songs have been inspired by the folklore of Poland, and the culture of Asia, the Balkans, Macedonia and Romania.

Check out Dikanda at www.dikanda.com

News From Poland

by Mietek Konczyk

On July 1 **Poland took over the rotating presidency of the EU**, with economic growth, security, energy policy and closer cooperation with countries to the east among its priorities during its six months at the helm.

A **Polish government commission** probing the causes of last year's air crash that killed the president and 95 others said in an official report that Polish pilots of the plane had been badly trained and made key mistakes, while Russian ground controllers had given them faulty information. Poland's Defense Minister and his deputy, along with 13 high-ranking officers, including 3 generals, have been dismissed in the wake of the report.

Another report drawn up by the conservative opposition Law and Justice (PiS) party said that Russia was chiefly to blame for the crash and accused Moscow of hindering a Polish probe into the disaster. It also claimed that Prime Minister Donald Tusk and several members of his Cabinet are politically responsible for it.

Poland is the world's sixth most attractive country for investors, while Kraków is the most attractive city internationally for locating business service centers, according to a new report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Poland will scale down its road building program to 616 kilometers of express roads in 2014–2020 which will cost 45 billion zlotys (\$15.5 billion).

Poland's communist-era president **General Wojciech Jaruzelski**, who is on trial for imposing martial law in Poland in 1981, is too sick to attend proceedings for at least 12 months.

Poland wants to legalize the stay of illegal immigrants living in Poland. The basic requirement to authorize one's illegal stay is to prove they have been in Poland at least since December 20, 2007.

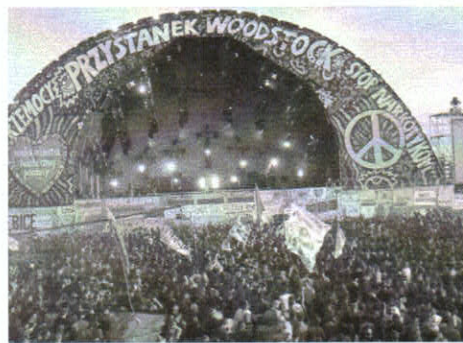
Teacher's Reward continues

at a special presentation of a formal portrait of George Washington. It was a full-size replica of Rembrandt Peale's famous "porthole" portrait, a special gift from the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association and brought to camp by one of our teachers. It was only the second such portrait presented outside the United States and I was proud to witness the occasion.

So, what did we gain from three weeks of morning, afternoon and evening interaction with Polish teenagers? For one, there is the satisfaction of sharing our culture and history in a meaningful way. There is the sharing of life stories, yours and the students, and the belief that somehow you have furthered an individual's hopes and dreams. And lastly, this year my seventeen-year-old niece, Sarah, accompanied us as a student assistant. After camp and touring Warsaw, Poznań and Gdańsk, she said this is "probably the best five weeks of my life." That alone made it all worthwhile.

Polish Woodstock

The 17th annual Przystanek Woodstock ("Bus Stop Woodstock") was held in Kostryzn nad Odra, Poland, August 4–6.



Europe's largest open air festival, inspired by America's 1969 Woodstock Festival, was attended by more than 300,000 Poles. Although rock music dominated the Big Stage, there was a Folk Stage and a Hare Krishna Village Stage. Tents provided festivalgoers opportunities to learn juggling, yoga, jazz music and cabaret improvisation. Przystanek Woodstock is organized by the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity and the Academy of Fine Arts. The festival's motto is "Stop to Violence. Stop to Drugs. Love, Friendship and Peace."

Do zobaczenia continues

girls determined to make me literate or die trying. I learned that Poland has the best ice cream and gingerbread in the world. I learned the hard way how to tell the difference between a tube of toothpaste and a tube of denture cream. I learned how to do laundry without a dryer. I learned that little moments — feeding pigeons in the Old Town square, sitting back-to-back finding pictures in the clouds, listening to classical music in McDonald's (the only place with internet access), ordering in a pizza at midnight, seeing a double rainbow over the Wisła River — are often the most special. Most importantly, I learned that love and friendship transcend language and cultural barriers. The incredible openness of everyone I met — whether or not they spoke English — was amazing. I have never felt so loved, so unconditionally accepted.

Leaving was one of the most difficult things I have ever done. How do you leave a place where you feel more at home than you've ever felt? How do you say goodbye to fifty new best friends? The Polish prefer not to. Among friends, there are no goodbyes, only a promise: *Do zobaczenia*. See you.

And that is a promise that I have made to a place and a people I have fallen deeply in love with. Poland is a country with a history as ancient as the stones and as turbulent as the sea. Ravaged by wars and often divided among the victors, it has yet remained a place of amazing strength and spirit and life, almost tangible in their potency. The people, despite their hardships, are extraordinarily open-hearted and kind. Above all else, I inherently feel like this is where I'm meant to be; that in Poland, the place of my family's past, I've found my future.

Do zobaczenia, Polska. Soon.

Sarah Johnson is the niece of Joe Beben, author of *Teacher's Reward*.

Something for Everyone

This year's Twin Cities Polish Festival offered delights for all ages, interests and energy levels. As expected, there was Polka dancing, delicious food, and Polish-themed goods for sale. But it was the surprising elements that stole the show—rose petal *paczki*, handcrafted amber jewelry and folk art, genealogical research, dance lessons and contests, music workshops, top-notch Polish films, costume exhibits and nearly 20 hours of concerts.

The unspoken hosts of the festival had to be the Dolina Dancers, fresh from the Rzeszów International Folk Dance Festival. At every turn they were in sight dazzling onlookers with their gorgeous costumes and precision dancing. They performed at least half a dozen shows with seemingly endless costume changes. The group's young dancers also sponsored a costume booth where people could try on regional costumes and then have a professional photo taken while wearing a costume.

The 16,000-strong crowd was the festival's biggest to date and attendees were not just locals. The winner of the Na Zdrowie 5K Run was from Maryland. And while most people claimed some connection to Poland, hundreds of non-Poles showed up just for the fun.





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

Przslowia Polski

Kwiat bez zapachu, jak czlowiek bez duszy.
A flower without a smell is like a man without a soul.

Kalendarz

SEP	Canceled	Volunteer Appreciation Event
NOV	6	Soup Festival
DEC	TBA	Wigilia Benefit

Annual Meeting

PACIM will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 13, 2011, 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.

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 to Maria Hornquist for donating two books. One is a volume of fairy tales in Polish and English with dictionary of words in each language. Thanks to Kazimierz Burzynski for his donation and Pat Beben for a wonderful donation of 16

books all the way from Nevada. Finally, thanks to Mary Kozacz for pieces of Polish dinnerware which will be added to our Traveling Trunk and Eileen Bialon for her donation of books, records, and fabric which will be shared between PACIM and the Polish dance groups as she requested.

We were given, by the publisher, an English version of Andrzej Stasiuk's *On the Way to Babadag* and received the same story in Polish from an unknown donor. By way of a slow boat from Poland, this month we also received *Bizuteria Ludowa w Polsce*. Even if you can't read Polish, you will be captivated by these pictures of folk jewelry. Our first copy of *The Three Tenors Performing Polish Songs*, now missing for six months, has been replaced. It's a wonderful representation of Polish folk songs. Finally, I purchased the fourth volume of Genny Zac Kielej's Northeast histories entitled, *Green Stamps to Hot Pants*. We now have the full set for anyone who is interested in the history of the Northeast Minneapolis area.

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

Echos from the North

News from Little Falls, Minnesota

Summer certainly sped past very quickly in spite of all the "not so nice" weather some have had. I hope all has gone well for all.

I want to thank the coordinators of the 2011 Twin Cities Polish Festival. We took a bus from Little Falls on Saturday. We saw the dancers, listened to some good bands, and ate delicious Polish food. We also bought Polish memorabilia.

It takes a lot of time to put an event such as this together, not to mention the funds. It was well done and most have already said they will be back next year. Thank you to all who helped make this a delightful event.

In July we had our Brat sale at the local grocery store. Thanks to Rita Hoeschen for doing a marvelous job with arrangements. This is the only fund raiser that the Polish Echos do.

On August 27, our group honored Our Lady of Częstochowa with mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Fr. Mark

Innocenti officiated, the Grand Knights were in attendance, and Gene Retka provided the music. Gene is very good at singing Polish hymns to Mary so we felt lucky. After mass, the Polish Echos hosted a Pot Luck Supper, with a variety of good Polish dishes, and some not so Polish.

Wishing you all a wonderful month filled with fun and laughter, and may God Bless you all.

—Phinee Zak, Polish Echos
320-632-2652

Polanie Club Scholarships 2010/2011

Founded in 1927, the Polanie Club was formed to celebrate the language, traditions, customs and ideals of our Polish ancestors, their music, literature and arts; to foster in Americans of Polish descent a consciousness and pride in their heritage; to spread the knowledge of Polish culture to all interested persons; and to encourage higher education and scholarship among people of Polish descent.

Academic year 2011–2012 scholarship awards were presented to three qualified students:

- Michelle S. of Columbia Heights, MN - Anoka-Ramsey Community College, Nursing program
- Mariah H. of St. Paul, MN - Kalamazoo College, Political Science
- Zachary R. of Champlin, MN - University of Minnesota, Mechanical Engineering

Congratulations to all of our 2011 academic scholarship recipients. Good luck in the future.

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

PACIM Officers and Board of Directors:

President: Ania Scanlan, Vice President: Paul Rog, Treasurer: Steven Ukasick, Directors: Charlene Delaney, Anastasia Dzenowagis, Jane Mrazek Flanders, George Hornik, Phyllis Husted, Terry Kita, Bernard Korsak, 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.

September 17 & 18

Holy Cross Fall Festival

Music, food and refreshments, Saturday 5:30 pm–9 pm. Sunday polka mass 10 am. Polish food, games and fun 11 am–5 pm. 1621 University Ave NE, Minneapolis.

September 24

Midwest Polka Association Fall Polka Attraction

Listen and dance to "The World's Honkiest Polka Band" from Chicago, 7–11 pm at the Fridley Knights of Columbus Hall, 6831 Highway 65, Fridley. For information 651-426-1079

October 2

Misha Dacic, Chopin Society Concert

Rachmaninoff and Liszt. Sundin Music Hall, Hamline University 1531 Hewitt Ave, St. Paul. Tickets \$23, \$20 for members, \$12 for full-time students under 21 years of age. Call 612-822-0123 or visit www.chopinsocietymn.org.

October 8

Midwest Polka Association Bus Trip to Sobieski, MN

15th Annual Sobieski Lions Polish Meal and Dance. Polish dishes from 5–8 pm. Music by Jersey Polka Richie from Florida from 7–11 pm. For information and MPA bus details call 651-426-1079.

October 20–23

2011 Flyway Film Festival in Pepin, WI

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." Info: www.flywayfilmfestival.org

November 6

Alexander Melnikov

Sundin Music Hall, Hamline University, 1531 Hewitt Ave, St. Paul. Tickets \$23, \$20 for members, \$12 for full-time stu-

dents under 21 years of age. For information call 612-822-0123 or visit www.chopinsocietymn.org.

November 6

22nd Annual Soup Festival

PACIM's popular soup festival provides samplings of more than a dozen Polish soups, breads, beverages and dessert. Local vendors will be selling Polish crafts, cookbooks and foods. Holy Cross Church's Kolbe Hall, 1621 University Ave NE, Minneapolis. From 3-5:30 pm. Tickets: \$12 adults, \$10 students and PACIM members, \$6 children.

December 4

Polanie Club Wigilia

The Polanie Club will host a traditional Polish Wigilia dinner at Jax Café, 1928 University Ave NE, Minneapolis. Mark your calendars now. Email questions to: polanie@polanieclubmplsstpaul.com.

Learn Polish!

The Twin Cities has several venues to learn Polish. From beginner to intermediate levels, and from small children to adults, the rich and beautiful language of Poland can be yours.

Polish Language Classes at PACIM

Instructor: Iwona Srien, Ph.D

Beginning Polish:

Mondays starting Sept. 26, at 6 pm

Advanced Beginning Polish:

Mondays starting Sept. 26, at 7:30 pm

Intermediate Polish:

Tuesdays starting Sept. 27, at 6 pm

All Classes run for 12 sessions and are held at the PACIM Institute:

2514 Central Ave NE in Minneapolis.

Cost is \$50 (\$40 for PACIM members)

Please register by sending a check payable to PACIM, PO Box 18403, Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403. Please indicate which class you are registering for.

Registrations will only be accepted on the first night if there is space available.

If you would like the PACIM membership discount and are not a current member, simply add \$25 for membership in your check along with your name, address, email and phone.

For more information: info@pacim.org

Columbia Heights Introductory Polish Class II

Instructor: Ania Antus

This class builds on the skills learned in introductory Polish class and is for intermediate students who already know the Polish alphabet, can recognize and pronounce a few common Polish words, and have a basic familiarity with Polish grammar. Class includes discussions on customs, culture and history of Poland. Classes begin Sept. 14 at Columbia Heights High School and are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 6:30–8 pm. Free. Call Dan Schyma at 612-819-3479 or danschyma@msn.com.

Minneapolis Community Education Polish Language Classes

Instructor: Elizabeth Suszynski

Three classes for new and returning students. Beginning, Continuation, and Conversation classes begin first week of October. Contact Elizabeth Suszynski after September 19 at 763-479-1642. For location, cost and other details contact David at Minneapolis Community Education, 612-668-1515, or visit www.mplscommunityed.com.

Adam Mickiewicz Polish Saturday School

The PSS is open to children from age three to high school seniors. Students are immersed in the Polish language and work on grammar and reading skills in addition to performing plays, writing poetry, and singing songs in Polish. A strong emphasis is placed on Poland's history and culture. An optional portion of PSS is preparing young people for the sacraments in the Catholic Church in Polish. Many of the students are children of immigrants; however, a new class is being developed for Polish as a second language.

Classes are held at Holy Cross Church's John Paul II School, 1621 University Ave. NE, Minneapolis, every Saturday morning, beginning September 10. For cost and other details contact Bogdan Kukla, boku@peoplepc.com.

People



Zivia Lubetkin
1914-1976

The only woman on the High Command of the Resistance group *Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa*, Lubetkin was one of the leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and led a group of fighting survivors through

the sewers of Warsaw in the final days of the battle. She was one of the 34 surviving fighters and later took part in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

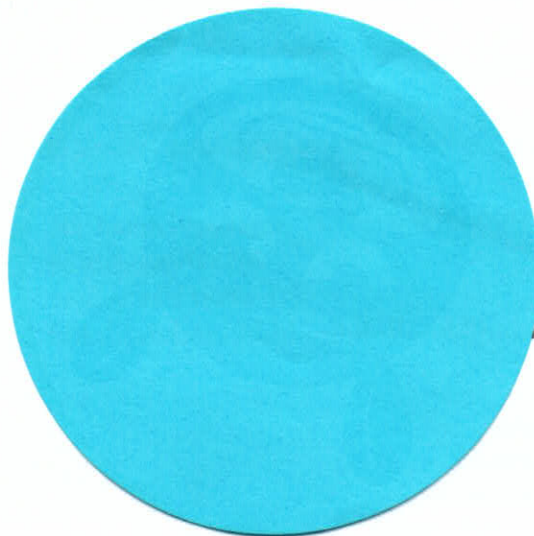
After WWII, Lubetkin was active in the Holocaust Survivors Community in Europe, and in 1961 she testified at the trial of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichman.



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Polish Word Tips

Gdzie spędziłeś w tym roku wakacje?
Where did you spend your vacation this year?

Wędrowałem po szlakach w Tatrach.
Próbowałem też się wspinać po skałach z doświadczonym taternikiem.
Hiked mountain trails in Tatras. Also tried some rock climbing with an experienced mountaineer.

Umiesz się wspinać?
You know how to climb?

Used words

spędzić – *to spend*

wędrować [pieszo po górach] – *to hike [mountains]*

lak – *trail*

wspinać się [po skałach] – *to climb [rocks]*
taternik, wspinacz, alpinista –
mountaineer, rock climber, alpinist

Tatry – *Tatra Mountains, Tatras (290 sq. mi.) very scenic mountain range in Southern Poland / Northern Slovakia*



A hearty "Thank You" to everyone — volunteers, donors, organizers, and the over 16,000 attendees who made the 2011 Twin Cities Polish Festival such a smashing success!

Winners of the PolTV raffle are Mark Johnson of Minneapolis and Erik Bergstrom of New Brighton.
Winners of the Official MN State Amateur Polka Dance Championship are David Wiatros & Alina Jambor.

We wish to thank the following for their generous donations to help us meet our matching goal.

Bill & Bonnie Frels
PNA Commercial Club
Degree of Honor PWE #15
Cecelia Roman
Dorothy Breza
Emilia Bernat
Roger Grusznski
Patricia Janecula
Kris Kosmider

Lucy Marsolek
Michael Redmond
Chester Rog
John Rog Kava Dolan
John Stane Marsolek
Stephen Stroncek
Eugene Swick
David Teclaw
Veronica Fitzgerald
John Rys

Jan & Martyna Werner
Barbara & Zygmunt Osada
Russ & Helen Ruzynski
George Skrbich
Roberta Sliwinski
Romaine Smith
Stephanie Smith
Paul Szydluk
Anthony Lupkowski
Gerald Paulson

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