

PolAm

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

September 2012

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Vol. 34, Num. 9

Americans Perform at Warsaw's Jewish Festival

U.S. performers and diplomats kicked off the IX Singer's Festival of Jewish Culture in Warsaw late this summer. At an opening ceremony at *Synagoga im. Nozykow*, U.S. Ambassador to Poland Lee A. Feinstein described the Festival as "A celebration of Jewish heritage, multiculturalism and diversity, which Poland and the United States share."



Joshua Nelson, aka the "Prince of Kosher Gospel."



Nelson is both a musician and Hebrew teacher. While studying at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem he started blending Hebrew texts with gospel melodies and arranging Jewish hymns in gospel style. He has performed with jazz greats, around the world for Presidents, congregations and at major music festivals. Oprah Winfrey dubbed him "The Next Big Thing."

London, a New York based trumpeter and bandleader, is regarded as one of the greatest performers to emerge on the Jewish music scene since the genre's

Jewish Festival continues on page 3

PACIM's Launches New Website

Think of it as a new road map offering directions, information and links to some of the best Polish sites. PACIM's



revamped website (www.PACIM.org) provides members and web surfers quick access to information about PACIM's work and upcoming events. The new platform also provides capabilities to renew memberships, RSVP for events, volunteer and make purchases within a secure online environment.

Want to begin tracing family roots? Visit the website for links to Polish genealogy sources. Looking for money to study Polish art, culture or the language? Check out the website's scholarship information for high school, college and adult students. Wondering about the date for the next SoupFest, *Bal Karnawałowy* or *Wigilia*? The new website provides dates for all upcoming events and allows members to purchase

PACIM'S New Website continues on page 3

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

www.pacim.org

☐ Patron..... \$150
☐ Donor..... 100
☐ Sponsor..... 75
☐ 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 *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 _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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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Founder: Czesław Róg
 Managing Editor: Jane Mrazek Flanders
 Associate Editor: Steven Ukasick
 Design: Bruce Rubin, Rubin Cordaro Design
 Contributing Writers, Reporters and Staff:
 Mietek Konczyk, Writer
 Patricia Beben, Proofreader

We appreciate your continued support.
Dziękujemy!

Thoughts

In recognition of Judaism's Holy Days in September, this issue honors Polish Jews. Their suffering, courageous spirit and



faithfulness make them models for the world. We offer a few glimpses of Jewish culture alive in Poland and the U.S. Some of it is surprising, like Joshua Nelson on

page 1; but all of it attempts to show respect and affection to a people of depth and devotion.

Speaking of devotion, PACIM thanks everyone who attended and helped with the Twin Cities Polish Festival. PACIM sponsored three booths—Membership, Children's Area and the Polish Café. We increased our membership, fed a lot of hungry folks and entertained kids with crafts and performers. With more than 16,000 attendees, the Festival was a huge success and lots of hard work went into the weekend.

We have a slew of events in the next few months, beginning with another Contemporary Issues Forum in October. The University of Minnesota provides the speakers for these forums and their focus on current events and trends in Poland make for stimulating conversation. See page 7 for all upcoming events.

Do zobaczenia,
Jane Mrazek Flanders, *Editor*

Special Thanks!

Special thanks to Maverick's gift card donation to PACIM's membership booth at the Twin Cities Polish Festival.

New & Generous Members

Welcome New Members

Nabil Amra
 Hadji Bensfield
 Marlene Berg
 Simone Brovege
 Jean Bukovich
 Brett Bundy
 Daniel Dorman
 Stefan Dudziak
 Teresa Dziedzic Gill
 Lawrence Dziewczynski
 Jon Etl
 Sean Gosiewski
 Brian Govern
 Sheralyn Gura
 Mark Hank
 Rachel Jendrzewski
 Mary Kampmeier
 Robert Kraska
 Brady Mickolichuk
 Lorrie Miller Kohler
 James Neuenfeldt
 Laurie Nevers
 Allan Pierskalla
 Glenn Pierskalla
 Ted Piotrowski
 Ed Rarus
 Milena Rindal
 Elizabeth Rosenberg
 Amber Safranski
 Tom and Carol Searing
 Gerry Sell
 Everett Sobania
 Edward Szachowicz
 Barbara Thompson
 Darlene Van Orsow
 Peter Wilczek
 Lynda Wolter
 Pamela Zimba
 Alexandra Zorwaski

Donors

Kris Kosmider
 John and Judith Rys

Sponsors

John Bieniek
 James Czaja
 Paul Rog

Friends

Marlene Berg
 Judith Lewandowski
 James Neuenfeldt
 Tom and Jeanette Schneider
 Tom and Carol Searing
 Barbara Thompson

Jewish Festival continues

revival began two decades ago. In 2007 his band, the Klezmatics, won a Grammy award in the category of Contemporary World Music. Their album "Wonder Wheel" made them the first ever Yiddish group to win the award.



Frank London and the Klezmatics

The Singer's Warsaw Festival of Jewish Culture is organized by the Shalom Foundation, which works to pre-



serve the memory and rich cultural heritage of Polish Jews. The Festival is dedicated to the memory of Issac Bashevis Singer, a Polish-born Jewish American writer whose international career won him two National Book Awards and the Nobel Prize in Literature.

PACIM'S New Website continues

advance tickets and volunteer at events.

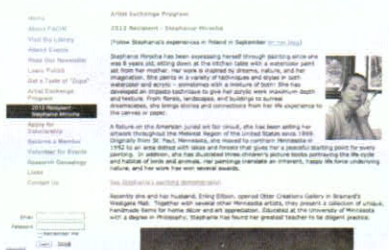
Interested in contributing to a worthy charity? The new website provides opportunities to make tax-deductible donations to PACIM, a 501(c)(3) organization, to strengthen programs, events and the Institute's Library. Contributions can also be made to PACIM's *Dom Dziecka* Children's Fund, which provides support for disadvantaged Polish children. With the click of a mouse, donors can see photos of their contributions at work in the gallery section of the website.

PACIM knows its Library is a flagship of the organization. As the website grows, PACIM plans to develop an online catalog of Library books, CDs and DVDs so members can browse through titles before visiting the Library. And, since members have the exclusive privilege of checking out books from the Library, the website now allows online membership registration and renewal.

Back in March, PACIM moved to its new location along the banks of the Mississippi River. Many members and friends know the lay of the land, but to make it easier, the new website features a transit and parking map, providing locations for nearby Nice Ride bike share stations, bus stops and parking information.

Later this month the new website will link readers to a blog by PACIM's Artist in Poland. Stephanie Mirocha promises to share her experiences with the Artist Exchange program as she lives, teaches and learns in Warsaw.

Visit the website frequently to stay informed and connected.



Distinguished Silver Medals Awarded

In July, four PACIM members received high honors for their years of work with the UNESCO English Language Camp in



Toruń, Poland. Charlene Kaletka Delaney, Jim Neuenfeldt, Patricia Beben and Joe Beben each received the prestigious *Unitas Durat Palatinatus Cuiaviano-Pomeraniensis* medal from Piotr Catecki, Marshal of the Kujawy-Pomorz province in Poland.

"These awards are a symbol of recognition of long-term cooperation and contributions to the development of contacts between Poland and the United States, and gratitude for the organization of educational activities for young people in Kujawy and Pomorz," Catecki announced.

The award recipients have a combined service of 35 years in the program. Charlene Kaletka Delaney, the American Team Director, fell in love with Toruń when she first arrived in 1993. "This was my nineteenth visit here and I can say that Toruń is my second home." Back in the States, Delaney serves on PACIM's Board of Directors; Jim Neuenfeldt is President of the Pommern Regional Group of Minnesota; Joe Beben is a contributing writer to *PolAm*; and his wife, Pat Beben, serves on *PolAm*'s editorial staff.

Andrzej Drozdowski, the Polish Camp Director, reflected on his American colleagues' honor: "I am proud of what is happening in our school these nineteen years. I watch how the young people participate in our camps. I see how much work Americans put into coming here." The UNESCO Language Camp enables young Poles to work on English language skills and learn firsthand the similarities and differences in the two cultures. The Camp also provides an opportunity for an exchange of experiences between teachers from the U.S. and Poland."

Their Blood Has Been Spilled As Water... and Alas Not Buried

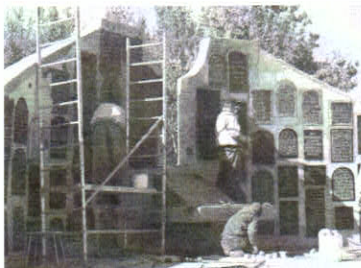
By Jane Mrazek Flanders



Kazimierz Dolny cemetery monument.

The pain and suffering of Holocaust victims seems the most tragic aspect of Nazi oppression. We grieve for the loss of innocent lives and for the great wrongs man did against his fellow man. A closer look into that horrific historical event wrenches the heart further when we understand that Jews were more than murdered. They were violated closest to their beliefs and devotions.

To be a Jew is to follow laws. Handed down by God to govern and guide His chosen people, Jewish laws are woven into their worship, daily lives and worldview. The Talmud, the body of Jewish civil and ceremonial laws, states that taking a single life is like destroying the entire world since all people descended from a single person; and hastening death under any circumstances is forbidden.



Cemetery restoration in progress.



Star of David cemetery gate.

But Judaism understands that death is a natural process, and care for the dead body that once housed the Spirit of God is paramount. Mourning practices show respect for the dead and comfort the living. Most communities have a holy society (*chevra kaddisha*) to care for the dead—a service for someone who can never repay them.

Once rituals for the dead body are completed, burial close to the location and time of death is required. Jewish laws prohibit cremation out of a belief that the body is an element in a complex and ultimately spiritual being. Anything other than a proper burial for a Jew is an act of desecration or sacrilege.

Jewish cemeteries (*beit olam*) are called “house of the eternal.” They are an important way to trace genealogy, a key element in Jewish tradition. Maintaining cemeteries fulfills the commandment to provide dignity to the deceased and ensures their memory will never be obliterated.



Respectfully restoring a headstone.



A destroyed cemetery awaiting restoration.



Carefully repositioning headstones.



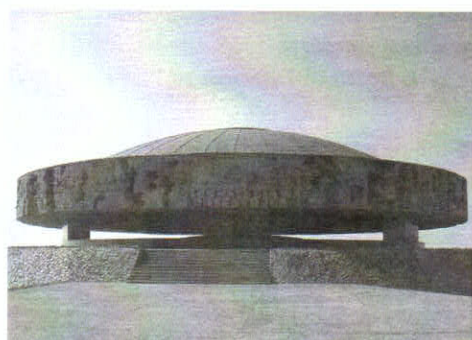
Visitors inside the Majdanek Mausoleum.



One of an estimated 1,400 devastated Jewish cemeteries in Poland.



Memorial at Treblinka Nazi concentration camp.



Wiktor Tolin's solemn memorial.

When the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939, Jewish cemeteries were destroyed. More than just an act of pillaging, the desecration of graves was intentional malice. Gravestones, walls and gates were used by the Nazis to build roads, pavements and fortifications. As an added blow, the labor for this work was forced upon Jews.

In May 2001, a Polish movement to restore Jewish cemeteries began with the Ozarow cemetery — more than 400 years old and nearly destroyed in World War II. Money raised for the project allowed for much restoration and the inspiration of a 2003 documentary film, "Return to Ozarow — Mending a Broken Link." The project also gave life to the Poland Jewish Cemeteries Restoration Project, Inc. (PJCRP).

With an estimated 1,400 devastated Jewish cemeteries in Poland, PJCRP's work is not easy. Their efforts include fencing around the large number of mass graves, recognizing similar efforts underway in Poland and raising money for perpetual care of every site. They photograph and document entire restoration projects, and educate youth about Jewish heritage in Poland.

For the millions of Jews whose bodies were incinerated during the war, other memorial efforts have long been underway. From Belzec to Auschwitz, names of victims and ashes of their bodies have been preserved to create graves. Treated with reverence, these sites allow for prayerful meditation and the fulfillment of Jewish law.

Perhaps the best example of a concentration camp memorial is found outside of Lublin, Poland, at Majdanek. It is a well preserved camp since it was captured almost intact by Soviet forces. In 1947, locals began collecting ashes of the victims and placing them in a mound near execution ditches and the crematorium. In 1969, 25 years after Majdanek's liberation, Wiktor Tolin designed a mausoleum that now holds those collected ashes. Round, stark and open, the concrete mausoleum allows hundreds of daily visitors to pay respect and pray for the victims, whose ashes are mixed with the camp's soil they were forced to labor upon.

The Nazi occupation of Poland and the Holocaust tried hard to erase Jews and their memory from world history. The restoration and preservation of Poland's sacred Jewish story honors them and keeps their memory alive. That work remains among the greatest of good deeds (*mitzvot*).



Jewish teens working in a cemetery.



Rabbi at destroyed cemetery.

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

Thank you Maverick's for donating gift cards during the Twin Cities Polish Festival.

The Library enjoyed lots of visitors during the Twin Cities Polish Festival! Part of the increased foot traffic can be attributed to the beautiful baked goods on the premises. The Library was the hub of the Festival's Bake-Off Contest. In addition to questions about recipes, we helped patrons with genealogy inquiries, accepted donations and assisted in choosing light summer reading. It was fun to have new visitors point to the Polish map to tell us where they or their families hail from. Next year, I hope to have a map that can be pinned with the various locations. We really are from all over Poland!

What We're Reading — After the Bake-Off it is cookbooks! I encourage you to come to the library and browse for *babka* secrets and special occasion Polish cookies to brush up your skills for next year's contest. You can also look for soup recipes. PACIM's SoupFest is just around the corner.

ARE YOU TECH SAVVY? We are looking to maximize our collection and make it more user-friendly. In particular, our large number of videos (yes, I mean VCR) are a real asset, but few people can

watch them. My next project is to enlist the help of volunteers to convert videos to a DVD format. Replacing our videos would be expensive and perhaps even impossible with some titles. If you have an interest in this Herculean effort, please email me at kiernoziak@gmail.com.

— Barbara Kiernoziak

Echos from the North

News from Little Falls, Minnesota

Summer is fast winding down. Last month the Polish Echos celebrated the feast of our Lady Of Częstochowa with our annual mass offered for the living and deceased members of the Polish Echos. It was beautiful. Following the mass we had a pot luck supper for the Knights of Columbus and their ladies who participated in the mass. The mass was great and so was the socializing.

At our August meeting a report was given on the Twin Cities Polish Festival. The report stated that it was a wonderful event, even better than last year. If you have never attended, please keep it in mind for next year. I hope this event will continue.

Once again the Polish Echos will host a Bouja lunch on October 14th. Kathy Millett is the chief cook. This is a popular event and also a good social event. It will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Everyone is invited. If you happen to be in the area at this time, stop in to visit.

May you all have a glorious fall season and may God's blessings be with you.

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

PACIM Annual Meeting

PACIM's Annual Meeting will be at 1 pm November 4, 2012 at Suite 228, 43 Main St, Minneapolis. Agenda includes voting for Directors, an update on PACIM's growth, events and plans. Members interested in running for the Board of Directors must submit a statement of interest to the Secretary by September 30 and be present at the meeting.

Polanie Club Awards Scholarships

The Polanie Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul is pleased to announce the recipients of their 2012-2013 Scholarship for post-secondary educational pursuits. Julia Banasikowski, Elaina Hamann and Joanne Siepka have been awarded financial assistance from Polanie this school year.

Julia is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame, with hopes of becoming a marketing director for an international company. At Notre Dame, she is an officer in the Polish Club and reads Polish to elementary-aged children as a volunteer.

Elaina is attending Hamline University, majoring in Education and Psychology. Her career objective is to obtain a Doctorate in Psychology and become a school psychologist. While in high school, Elaina and her sister founded S.A.V.E. (Students Achieving Volunteering Excellence), a 501(c) 3 organization dedicated to volunteering in the local community and raising funds for groups serving the less fortunate. To date, S.A.V.E. has raised over \$30,000.

Joanne is a student at the University of Minnesota, Duluth pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Cell and Molecular Biology. Joanne spent the summer working in a biology research laboratory on campus, an excellent start to her ultimate goal of one day receiving a PhD in biology and becoming a research scientist.

The Polanie Club congratulates all of its winners and finds them ideal conduits for the club goal of "encouraging higher education and scholarship among people of Polish descent."

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.

September 29 *Taste of Northeast*

Sponsored by St. Mary's Cathedral, 1701 5th St NE, Minneapolis. 11 am–8 pm. Food, exhibits, shopping and tours of the church. For details, call 612-781-7667.

September 30 *Magnificat*

A benefit concert for Pope John Paul II Catholic School will be held at 1:30 pm in All Saints Catholic Church, 430 N 5th St NE, Minneapolis. Concert includes music of J. S. Bach performed by Sarah Jackson, Momoko Tanna, Megan O'Leary, Josef Nelson, Craig Lemming and Conductor Sergey Bogza. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors, and can be ordered at 612-789-8851.

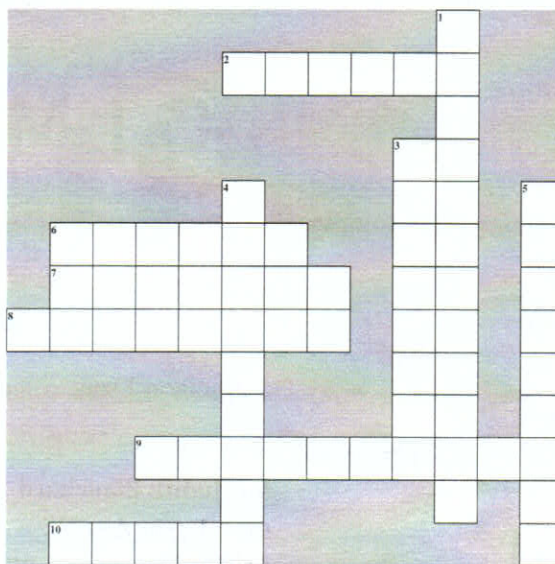
October 5–6 *5th Annual North Star Genealogy Conference*

"New Approaches and Old Sources," sponsored by the Minnesota Genealogical Society, features D. Joshua Taylor as keynote speaker. Known to many genealogists from his appearances with Sarah Jessica Parker and Ashley Judd on NBC's popular *Who Do You Think You Are?* series, Josh is a nationally known researcher, speaker and author who promotes and explores the convergence of history and genealogy. Conference also plans more than a dozen breakout sessions with the Upper Midwest's leading genealogy educators. Event held at Colonial Church, Edina. Visit www.mnsgs.org to register.

October 7 *Smaczne Jabła*

The Polish Cultural Institute and Museum of Winona's annual Apple Festival. Noon to 4 pm, 102 Liberty St, Winona. Museum is open to the public,

September Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. Polish for "apple"
6. Honoree of Warsaw's Jewish Culture Festival
7. Talmud One-Page-A-Day Creator
8. Concentration Camp in Lublin, Poland
9. First Yiddish group to win a Grammy Award
10. UNESCO English Language Camp Site

Down

1. Polish for "see you later" (2 words)
3. PACIM November 18 event
4. U.S. Ambassador to Poland
5. PACIM's Board of Directors' Secretary

July/August 2012 Answers:

Across: 1. *piezogi*; 3. *Babcia*; 4. Proust; 7. TCPF; 8. Lato; 9. MPA
Down: 1. PACIM; 2. Ukraine; 5. Spoonman; 6. Rog

including an exhibit of Josef Chelmowski's primitive art. Enjoy apples, cider, pies, breads, *paczki*, music, brats and contests.

October 28 *PACIM's Contemporary Issues Forum*

PACIM sponsors another Contemporary Issues Forum, examining philosophical approaches to higher education in Poland and the U.S. 2 pm, RiverPlace, 43 Main St SE, Minneapolis. Refreshments provided. Cost is free. RSVP and see details at www.PACIM.org.

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 will be held at 1 pm with Polish prayers. The historic church is located in Pine Creek, WI. For event details, call 608-539-3704.

November 4 *PACIM Annual Meeting*

(See page 6)

November 18 *PACIM's 24th Annual Polish SoupFest*

Poland is famous for soups boasts having all of *Babcia's* favorites. Sample over a dozen soups. Taste fresh breads, cakes and soft drinks. Enjoy live music, a children's area and vendors selling books, *piezogi* and folk gifts from Poland. Festival's time has changed to 3-5:30 pm, Kolbe Hall, 1621 University Ave, NE, Minneapolis. Visit www.pacim.org for details.

December 9 *PACIM's Wigilia Dinner*

Bring friends and family to this traditional Christmas Eve dinner. Proceeds benefit PACIM's *Dom Dziecka* Children's Fund to support disadvantaged youths in Polish orphanages. This community celebration features breaking of *oplatek*, traditional foods and singing of *kolędy*. Gasthof Restaurant, 2300 University Ave NE, Minneapolis.

People



Rabbi Meir Shapiro
1887-1933

A prominent Hasidic rabbi and *rosh yeshiva*, Shapiro lived in Poland. In 1923, as Rabbi of Sanok, Poland, he proposed a new way of studying the Talmud — one page a day, completing the study in a seven and

a half year cycle. *Daf Yomi*, as it is known, connected Jews worldwide in simultaneous study of the rabbinic text. This August, more than 90,000 *Daf Yomi* students celebrated the end of the 12th cycle in New Jersey's MetLife Stadium. Today, *Daf Yomi* students can use phone apps, live chats and other technologies to study the Talmud.

PACIM

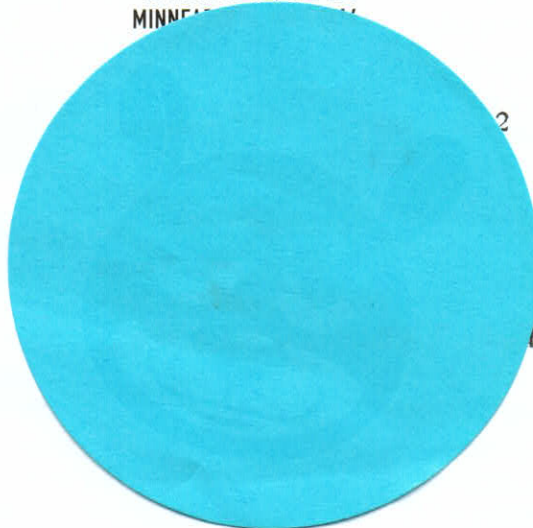
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Soup Festival

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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