

# PolAm

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

July/August 2013

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Vol. 35, Num. 7/8

## Celebrating All Things Polish!

The Twin Cities Polish Festival returns to the banks of the Mississippi River August 10–11. This world-class celebra-



tion of Polish culture and heritage brings international musicians and dancers, abundant food and drink, polka dancing, vodka tasting, baking contests and a top-flight Polish film series. Since its rebirth five years ago, the TCPF has provided more than 50,000 attendees with joy-filled weekends and wonderful memories.

In addition to the myriad of outdoor activities at the festival, this year's TCPF will host the Chopin Celebration Concert. Held in the beautiful and air conditioned St. Anthony Main Theatre, the concert spans the better part of two days, featuring young and talented musicians who capture the

spirit of Chopin's compositions. This year's concert will highlight Michael Lu, a 13 year old piano prodigy from St.



Louis, Missouri. Winner of national and international piano competitions, Lu began playing piano at the age of five

and was the youngest competitor at the *Orchestre Regional de Cannes*, where he received outstanding ovations for his performance.

For lovers of toe-tapping polka dancing, the TCPF boasts six polka bands, a dance contest, and more than 20 hours of music on

the Polka Stage near the Arched Bridge. At the opposite end of the TCPF, near the historic Iron Bridge, rests the Cultural Stage. Artists directly

Celebrating continues on page 2

## Proud to be Polish?

Deeply proud of your heritage, but unable to say more than *Dzien dobry*, or *kielbasa*? Always wanted to impress friends and relatives by accidentally slipping up and using a hard-to-pronounce

Polish word for an everyday item? Wouldn't you love to sing *kolędy* at the holidays and actually understand the lyrics? It is high time



to learn Polish and PACIM makes it easy.

It is a well known fact that Polish is one of the world's most difficult languages, second to Chinese, and PACIM thinks everyone should have a chance to study it. This September, PACIM will offer three language classes—beginning, intermediate and advanced—to set you on the pathway to fluency.

If you would rather learn more of the cultural aspect of Poland and a smattering of tourist Polish, PACIM's new class may be what you are looking for. This newly established class will meet less frequently than PACIM's language classes and will spend considerable time examining the history and traditions of Poland. Situational class

Proud continues on page 3

TWIN CITIES  
**Polish**  
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August 10–11, 2013  
[www.tcpolishfestival.org](http://www.tcpolishfestival.org)

Membership Form For  
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www.pacim.org

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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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Make checks payable to PACIM and send this form with your check to:  
 PACIM  
 43 Main St SE, Ste 228  
 Minneapolis, MN 55414

## PolAm

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We appreciate your continued support.  
*Dziękujemy!*

# Thoughts

Wedged between America's Independence Day and Poland's annual trek to Częstochowa in August, this



issue packs a festive punch. With features on patriotism and parties, festivals and fideism, we hope it supplements summer reading and sparks thought for long

chats under the stars.

After many years of faithfully reporting "News from Poland," we say goodbye to our contributing writer Mietek



Konczyk. His excellence at capturing current events from his home country and his perspective as an expat working in America's high tech industry made his articles informa-

tive and enlightening. As he recovers from his recent broken ankle and continues on with his work as a software engineer, we wish him well.

It is a joy to have Polish Echos back with this issue. Phinee Zak's busy schedule put a kink in her regular contributions. PACIM values the work of Phinee and other Polish Americans throughout Minnesota, and looks forward to expanding and maintaining closer contact.

The Twin Cities Polish Festival remains a type of "reunion" for so many PACIM members across the state. We will host a membership booth as well as a Polish Café at this year's festival. Drop by and introduce yourself and let us know what programs and events you most enjoy.

See you at the TCPF!

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

## Celebrating continues

from Poland will dominate the stage with instrumental and vocal performances. Also on the Cultural Stage will be the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers, offering riveting interpretations of regional dances complete with live music and vibrant costumes.

Sandwiched between the stages, vendors will be selling traditional Polish foods, beer, ice cream, imported artisanal



crafts and jewelry. From *Folk Gospoda* type cafés to *pierogi* peddlers, the TCPF will satisfy stomachs and keep people coming back for seconds.

This is a festival for the whole family. Ample seating provides comfortable places to eat, drink and watch the shows.



A large Children's Area offers crafts and activities that are fun and teach kids about Poland's culture and folklore, including the famed Dragon of Wawel Castle in Kraków.

Plan to spend the whole weekend soaking up the history, traditions and hospitality of Poland. Trace your family's roots. Eat foods that evoke memories of festive family meals and trips to Poland. Boogie away the night two-stepping the polka to rockin' good bands. Raise a mug of cold Polish beer and shout "*Na Zdrowie!*" to friendships old and new. Come for the fun and come for the culture. The Twin Cities Polish Festival has something for everyone.

## Proud continues

dialogues create the basis for language study. All of this in a relaxed setting.

Put away excuses for not fully embracing your Polish heritage by studying the language and enroll soon! Class size is limited and some tend to fill up quickly.

## Study the Polish Language with PACIM

This academic year PACIM will conduct a variety of Polish language and culture classes at the PACIM Library, 43 Main Street SE, Suite 228, Minneapolis. A minimum of six students will be required for each class and prospective students are asked to submit a registration form, or contact PACIM for more information.

Following are details for each class:

### Beginning Polish: An introduction to the Polish language, or a refresher course.

*12 week session*

First class: September 23, 2013  
Instructor: Iwona Srienc, Ph.D.  
Class time: Monday 5:30–7:00 pm  
Tuition: \$65

### Intermediate Polish: The 2nd class, following completion of Beginning Polish, or instructor consent.

*12 week session*

First class: September 23, 2013  
Instructor: Iwona Srienc, Ph.D.  
Class time: Monday 7:15–8:45 pm  
Tuition: \$65

### Advanced Polish: Proficiency with written & spoken Polish recommended

*12 week session*

First class: September 24, 2013  
Instructor: Iwona Srienc, Ph.D.  
Class time: Tuesday 5:30–7:00 pm  
Tuition: \$65

Email questions to: [info@pacim.org](mailto:info@pacim.org), or call 612 378 9291. Register online at [www.pacim.org](http://www.pacim.org), or mail the registration fee to the address listed above, before September 09, 2013.

### Introduction to Polish Language and Culture

This is an introductory Polish class ideal for people interested in learning some basic Polish which would be helpful for travel in Poland. The class is balanced between discussions on customs, culture and history of Poland, learning the language and short Polish dialogues.

This PACIM sponsored class meets twice a month (6:30–8 pm) at the Columbia Heights Senior High School and runs from September 11–May 28. Class instructor is Halinka Szymkowska-Hudec.

To register or receive more information, please contact:

Dan Schyma at 612-819-3479  
or [danschyma@msn.com](mailto:danschyma@msn.com).



## Konkurs Pieczenia Polish Baking Contest



### 3 CATEGORIES OF TRADITIONAL POLISH BAKED FOODS: Breads and Rolls Cakes and Tortes Pastries

Note: No refrigeration available for storage of food items.

Your Polish recipes or family stories about the food items may be submitted, if desired, when food items are delivered.

Entries must be delivered between 10 am–noon on Saturday, August 10, to Festival Headquarters at Riverplace.

Contest rules and registration forms are available online at [www.tcpolishfestival.org](http://www.tcpolishfestival.org).

# Pilgrimages and Patriotism

By Jane Mrazek Flanders

Far off singing could be heard coming through the classroom's open window. As my teacher quizzed us for the upcoming

Marian Shrine in Częstochowa, their actions are prayerful penance mixed with public display of fidelity to the nation. For

of individual rights. The organization highlights pilgrimages during Poland's communist era as a way the country and her people maintained a spirit of independence during political occupation.

The philosopher Leszek Kołakowski summed up why pilgrimages and other Catholic traditions fueled Poland's fight for freedom. "It is not possible with



final exam, the voices grew louder, sounding joyful and almost ethereal. I asked permission to stand at the window to see hundreds of pilgrims on their way from Lublin to the Jasna Góra Monastery in Częstochowa. Old and young, clergy and lay, they carried banners and backpacks for this annual walking journey. Their songs were treasured tunes with lyrics of praise and purpose.

Back at my desk I wept softly, wishing I could slip away and join the pilgrims. My teacher seemed unmoved. Here I was, studying Polish at the John Paul II Catholic University, and thought everyone would want to be part of this spiritual pilgrimage. My teacher gently explained that these pilgrimages occur every year throughout the country for two weeks each August. There will always be next year if I was interested.

For my teacher and most Poles, Catholic customs and Church calendars are part of the rhythm of life and are woven into the fabric of Polish society. Poles view pilgrimages as part spiritual journey and part expression of patriotism. Walking from every corner of the country to pray at the

U.S. citizens it is difficult to fully grasp Poland's deep connection between faith and country.



**Poland's long connection between church and state makes Polish religious pilgrimages uniquely patriotic.**

During Poland's communist era, pilgrimages to Częstochowa took on deeper meanings and purposes. Pilgrims prayed for blessings, but also independence. With government restrictions placed on private gatherings, walking pilgrimages became one of the only means for Poles to assemble *en masse* and speak of their need for religious and personal freedoms. The Institute of National Remembrance in Warsaw, a government-affiliated non-Church related entity, describes pilgrimages as expressions



**Expressing religious freedom continues to be a celebratory part of pilgrimages to Częstochowa.**

internal repressive instruments to destroy the most powerful crystallizing force of social consciousness to resist the Sovietization process and the most powerful source of moral authority, viz., the Catholic Church." The Church in Poland at that difficult time was highly respected by intellectuals, labor leaders, journalists, and historians. Many of her clergy spoke openly against the evils of communism and became martyrs for Polish freedom.

When martial law was declared in Poland, a young priest ratcheted up his push for freedom with homilies brimming





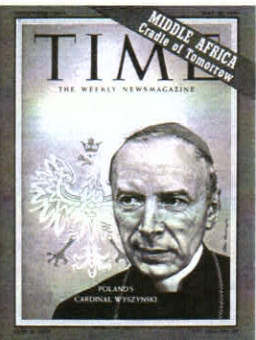
One month before his assassination in 1984, Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko led a group of 5,000 pilgrims to Częstochowa.

with religious and patriotic themes. Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko, chaplain to striking workers at the Warsaw Steelworks, was a community leader who provided instruction for the uneducated and participated in trials for his countrymen who opposed martial law. In 1983 Fr. Jerzy, the unofficial spiritual advisor to the Solidarity movement, organized a pilgrimage of



steelworkers from Warsaw to Jasna Góra. A year later he led 5,000 steelworkers from all over Poland on the pilgrimage. One month later Fr. Jerzy was brutally murdered by communist thugs.

After Poland acquired freedom in 1989, the world acknowledged that Poland's



Catholic Church was instrumental in bringing down the Iron Curtain. John Paul II, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko, and many other clergy became heroes. For 20 years their names were staples in Polish homes. Today it is a different story.

George Weigel, papal biographer and close friend to John Paul II, recently wrote of a shift among Poland's youth and their understanding of the country's history. Since 1991 Weigel and other scholars have led the Tertio Millennio Seminar for Catholic Social Thought in Kraków. From the founding of the seminar, Weigel has watched Poland change economically,



socially and politically. Sadly, he acknowledged another change when one of the Polish students in the seminar asked, "Who is this 'Father Popiełuszko' the professors have mentioned?" "Some bright and engaged Catholic young adults simply don't know the heroic narrative of the Polish Church's resistance to both Nazism and communism, the Church's role in the communist break-up, and the price Catholics paid for standing fast against the swastika's crooked cross and the Marxists' hammer-and-sickle," Weigel adds.

Regardless of historical knowledge among Polish youth, the draw of the trek to Częstochowa remains especially strong with them. The sheer fun of living outside among friends for a chunk of time and the memories recreated by enduring 7–20 days of walking, makeshift roadside campsites, meals on the fly and a lack of personal privacy leave an indelible mark on the young pilgrims.

For the pilgrims who arrive at the Jasna Góra monastery to venerate the image of the "Queen of Poland," the journey symbolizes the country's struggle for freedom

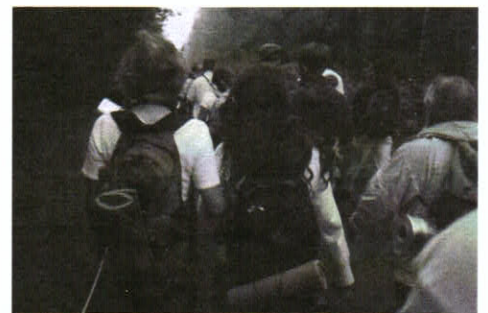
and the Polish belief that the Blessed Virgin Mary protects and defends Poland through the intercession of her son, Jesus. Each town's pilgrims arrive at different times or days, adding fresh energy to the assembled group. When pilgrims from Warsaw arrive, the pilgrimage resembles a patriotic civic event as representatives from the Polish air force, army and war veterans welcome

them. Pilgrims have walked to Częstochowa since the Middle Ages. In 2012 more than 100,000 made the journey. Considering



that Poland is still more than 90% Catholic, it can be sure that the practice will continue for hundreds of years more.

I guess my teacher was right. There will always be next year.



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

As we near the Twin Cities annual celebration of our Polish heritage, let's look at a few ways author Stas Kmiec recommends we maintain our "Polishness" year round.

- Master the old standard, "Sto Lat" and sing for all birthday celebrations.
- Frequent Polish butchers or delis for *kielbasa* and other meats.
- Read Polish and Polish American authors' books and articles
- Learn the paper cutting art of *wycinanki* and teach it to others.
- Include your family's Polish surname when making charitable contributions.
- Thank God for family, friends and your Polish heritage.

During most of the TCPF weekend, the PACIM Library will be open and staffed with volunteers to help locate materials and answer questions. Please drop in to relax in the comfortable air conditioning and enjoy a complimentary snack and refreshing drink.

## Library hours during the Twin Cities Polish Festival will be:

Saturday 10 am-8 pm  
Sunday 11 am-5 pm

We look forward to strengthening our love of all things Polish as we embrace the upcoming festival where our Polish roots are celebrated publicly.

We hope to see you there!

Basia Kiernoziak  
(Kiernoziak@gmail.com)

## Echos from the North

### News from Little Falls, Minnesota

The Polish Echos are well and I apologize for not having articles for the last few issues. I hope you missed me! Once again we gave a \$250.00 scholarship to a graduating senior from Morrison County. This year's recipient was Stephen Strucz of Royalton High School, in Bowls, Minnesota. Each year we ask the candidates to write a short essay about Polish activities observed within their family. We hear some very neat things from these teens. Congratulations Stephen.

After a year sabbatical we held our Polish dinner at the end of April. It was well attended, the food was good and the decorations of red poppies (Poland's national flower!) by Rita Hoeschen were beautiful. Nearly everyone urged us to do it again next year. Time will tell.

Right now we are selling "brats" at our local grocery store. No, it's not Polish; but we are fortunate for this opportunity to raise money for our scholarship.

Our Polish Echos Annual Picnic occurs in July. This year will be a potluck. Everyone is invited. Bring a dish to share and join us. Our president has been out fishing and will be frying fish for us. Right now we have about 35 active members who attend all our meetings and events, and there are some that come occasionally.

We always celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Czestochowa on the last Saturday in August. Because of Labor Day weekend, this year it will be on August 24th. We will begin with mass at

4 pm followed by a festive potluck supper. The local Knights of Columbus are our special guests and the mass is preceded by a procession, Polish hymns and songs to Mary. All are welcome.

This year our Bouja will be served on Sunday, October 13, in the dining hall of Our Lady Of Lourdes. I will write more about that in the future.

If you're passing by or through Little Falls this summer, stop and pay a visit to our beautiful church and stop to see me in the Parish Rectory which is right next to the church. I'd love to meet you.

God's Blessings to all,  
Phinee Zak, *Polish Echos*  
320-632-2652

## Annual Meeting

PACIM will hold its Annual Meeting at 1 pm on Sunday, October 6, 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 members interested in running for a spot on the Board of Directors must submit a statement of interest to the Secretary by September 5, and be present at the Annual Meeting. Statements of interest can be sent via email to [info@pacim.org](mailto:info@pacim.org) as well as standard mail.

### PACIM Officers and Board of Directors:

President: Jane Mrazek Flanders  
Vice President: Paul Rog  
Secretary: Magdalena Zborowski  
Treasurer: Greg Gramza  
Directors: John Bieniek, Charlene Delaney, Rachel Jendrzewski, Terry Kita, Ursula Peterson, 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.

**August 10–11**

## ***Twin Cities Polish Festival***

This multi-day celebration of all good things Polish returns to St. Anthony Main for two jam-packed days. Visit [www.tcpf.org](http://www.tcpf.org) for details.

**September 7**

## ***Poland and Emigration During the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries***

This presentation by Anne Klejment, Ph.D., focuses on the social conditions in Poland, including the economic and political conditions that led to emigration during the period that many of our ancestors came to Minnesota. Dr. Klejment teaches at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul and is a trained social historian with a specialty in 20th century U.S. history. Sponsored by the Polish Genealogical Society, 1185 N. Concord St., South St. Paul. 10 am–noon.

**September 14–15**

## ***Holy Cross Fall Festival***

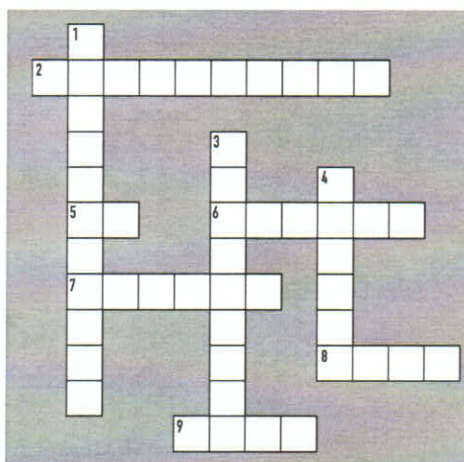
Home base for much of the Twin Cities Polish and Polish American Community, the Church of the Holy Cross will hold this annual event “under the tent” at 1621 University Ave NE, Minneapolis, on Saturday from 5:30–9 pm, followed by Sunday’s Polka Mass at 10 am and events from 11 am–5 pm. Festival includes music, Polish food, games and refreshments. Call 612-789-7238 for more details.

**October 6**

## ***Smaczne Jabłka—Winona***

A lively Polish festival featuring freshly picked apples, crafters, homemade bread baked in an outdoor oven, freshly squeezed apple cider, a silent auction, live music, games and more. Sponsored by the Polish Museum of Winona. For details visit [www.polishmuseumwinona.org](http://www.polishmuseumwinona.org).

# July/August Crossword Puzzle



Across:

2. Thinker who wrote against Marxism
5. 13-Year Old Piano Prodigy
6. Polish Echos Scholarship Recipient
7. Polish Birthday Greeting
8. Twin Cities Polish Festival
9. Patroness and Queen of Poland

Down:

1. Solidarity’s Spiritual Advisor
3. Destination of Polish Pilgrims
4. Month of Polish Pilgrimages

April 2013 Answers, Across: 1. Maj, 4. Makowiec, 7. Mac, 8. Retka, 9. Frisk  
Down: 2. Julia, 3. Złoty, 5. Cockta, 6. Polaris, 8. Rog

**October 27**

## ***PACIM’s 25th Annual SoupFest***

Poland is famous for soups and PACIM’s SoupFest 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, *pierogi* and folk gifts from Poland. 3–5:30 pm, Kolbe Hall 17th Ave and 4th St NE, Minneapolis. Visit [www.pacim.org](http://www.pacim.org) for details.

**November 2**

## ***County Records in Genealogical Studies/ Travel in Poland for First Time International Travelers***

The Polish Genealogical Society presents two speakers on highly relevant topics. Mary Ostby, Executive Director for Benton County Historical Society and Museum will discuss the numerous county records available to genealogists and how to begin locating information for fruitful research. The second speaker, Dr. Grachek is Professor Emeritus from St. Cloud State University and will discuss his years of traveling in Poland. Dr. Grachek has led travels through the University’s International Studies Department as well as personal trips. This presentation is excellent for people planning a first trip to Poland and will help address questions and fears associated with first-time international travel. 1185 N. Concord St., South St. Paul, 10 am–noon.

**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 Poland. 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. Details and registration information forthcoming at [www.pacim.org](http://www.pacim.org).

# People



Leszek Kołakowski  
1927–2009

A philosopher and historian of ideas, Kołakowski is known as “one of the most prominent creators of contemporary Polish culture.” Although he was a communist in his youth,

Kołakowski broke with the party after visiting Moscow and becoming repulsed by the regime’s future. He spoke and wrote extensively on the totalitarian cruelty of Stalinism and its roots in Marxism.

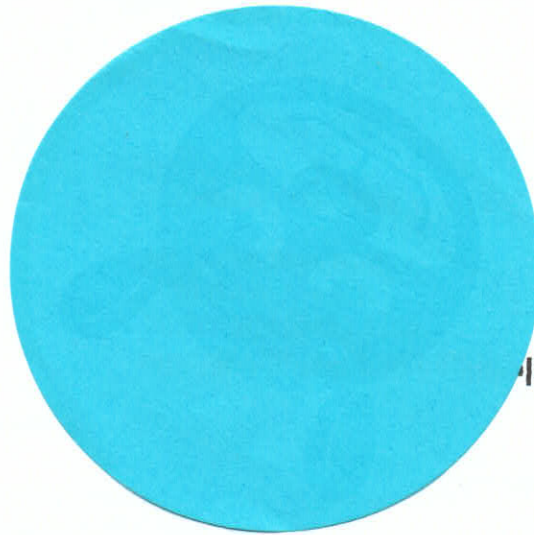
In communist Poland his banned books, read by many, inspired Solidarity and the role of freedom in the human search for God.

Photo by Agencja Gazeta



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August 10–11, 2013

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

Saturday 10 am–10 pm,  
Sunday 11 am–5 pm  
Along the Mississippi River  
Main Street, Minneapolis  
Across from Riverplace &  
St. Anthony Main

For more information  
or to volunteer, register for  
contests or for updates,  
please visit:  
[www.tcpolishfestival.org](http://www.tcpolishfestival.org)



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POLISH FOOD & BEER  
BAKING CONTEST



ARTS & CRAFTS

TWIN CITIES  
POLISH FILMFEST

From traditional folk music and dance, educational displays, Polish cinema and visual arts to traditional Polish food, and entertainment for the whole family, the Twin Cities Polish Festival speaks in the voice of traditional and contemporary Poland!



CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA



POLISH SHEEPDOGS