

POLAm

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

May 2013

News From Poland2
Investing in the Future4
News and Events6-7

Vol. 35, Num. 5

PACIM Partners with Polaris Industries, Inc.

This month PACIM initiated its first ever program directed toward the corporate sector. In support of Polaris Industries'



plans to build a manufacturing plant in Opole, Poland, PACIM began conducting training sessions for employees and family members participating in start-up operations. Based at Polaris' headquarters in Wyoming, Minnesota, the training provides a realistic and up-to-date handle on conducting business and negotiating daily life in Poland.

In a statement announcing the corporation's plans for this Central European venture, Polaris explained that the Polish economy is more than adequate to support the project. "This investment is in response to the global growth of Polaris vehicles and our strategy to develop and build our prod-

ucts in the markets where they are sold." Polaris' global reputation and annual sales of more than \$3.2 billion bring credibility and high expectations to the Opole project.

Opole was chosen in part due to the availability of skilled labor and location near the A4 motorway. The manufacturing plant will produce Polaris' all-terrain vehicles, the Polaris Ranger, and RZR side-by-side vehicles. At full capacity, the plant will employ about 500 locals for chassis welding, painting and finished goods assembly. Polaris also anticipates involving students in surrounding universities for internships and other projects related to this new venture.

"We are thrilled to be part of Polaris' new work in Poland," said Jane Mrazek Flanders, PACIM President. Two of PACIM's highly involved volunteers, who happen to be Opole natives, stepped forward to design and implement the training sessions. Halinka Hudec and Maggie Zborowski, along with a few PACIM board members, met with Polaris representatives to carve out the program. "With two lively instructors from Opole heading up these highly interactive training sessions, the participants can be guaranteed a good time as well as quality information," stressed Mrazek Flanders.

PACIM will rely on Polaris' advanced technologies at their headquarters for the

Polaris continues on page 3

Have a Coke and a Smile

By Mietek Konczyk

Some of us remember very well our first sip of Coke or Pepsi. For many Poles that first sweet and "sinful" sip happened in



the early 1970s when the Polish Communist government allowed small scale production of both colas in Poland. It was a revolutionary change since both brands

were regarded in communist countries as symbols of "American Imperialism." Pioneering a successful American business in Poland was not going to be easy.

Early sales were tough for both companies, in part because of the socio-political aura surrounding their products, but also because Polish taste buds had grown used to a knockoff known under the cute name of "Polo Cockta." Still, the lure of the devilishly western colas tempted Polish taste buds to the formerly forbidden beverages with one European angle—drink it warm and without (heaven forbid!) ice.

Have a Coke 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

Thoughts

This issue highlights the strength of the Polish economy and gives a peek at U.S. business in Poland. It also describes concrete ways PACIM is working to strengthen those economic ties — both in a corporate setting and by providing scholarships for young scholars.



Our Polish Café at the Festival of Nations drew one of the largest crowds ever and we are very thankful for all the volunteers who helped during the four day event. Through the work of volunteers, we raise much needed money for our programs, events and charitable efforts. We consider volunteers and the hundreds of PACIM members to be the bread and butter of our organization.

Since PACIM is completely volunteer and member driven, we rely on the supporters who have served the organization for years and encourage new faces to join in. Opportunities to help are wide ranging and very diverse. If you've been considering stepping up your involvement, give us a call or email us to learn more about PACIM's newest projects.

Do zobaczenia,
Jane Mrazek Flanders, *Editor*

New & Generous Members

Welcome New Members

Colleen Conrad
Mary Determan
Angela Frisk
Jim Niedzielski
Renata Stachowicz
Douglas Urbanski

Patrons

Bill and Bonnie Frels
Michael and Joett Gostomski
Steven Stroncek

Donors

John Burgy

Sponsors

Lee Javorski
John Lelwica
Richard Paidosh

Friends

Diana Amluxen
John Bell
Rich Bleyhl
James and Malgorzata Bueltel
Juris and Liz Curiskis
Angela Frisk
Terry Kita
Maryann Kozlak
Gilbert Mros
Richard Stroncek
Mary and Del Wojciak
Boleslaw Wroblewski

PolAm

PolAm (Permit #31798) is the official publication of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota and is published monthly with July/August and January/February issues. Non-profit bulk permit paid at Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is located at 43 Main St SE, Ste 228, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Please direct all inquiries to our mailing address, or email us at info@pacim.org, or call 612-378-9291.

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

We appreciate your continued support.
Dziękujemy!

News From Poland

by Mietek Konczyk

With the somber sound of church bells and emergency sirens **Warsaw paid homage to the several hundred Jewish fighters who fought 70 years ago in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising** against the Nazi occupiers. The Polish parliament adopted a resolution that pays tribute to the victims and fighters of the uprising. The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising opposed the final phase of deportations by Germans of its occupants to the Treblinka extermination

camp and was crushed by Germans after a month of fighting. It was the largest single revolt by Jews during World War II.

Government officials and members of opposition parties separately observed the **third anniversary of the plane crash that killed President Lech Kaczyński** and dozens of the country's political and military elite. Poland is still far from clarifying the circumstances surrounding the crash. Some opposition politicians, under the leadership of Antoni Maciarewicz who chairs a special task force appointed by

the opposition Law and Justice (PiS) party to uncover the causes of the disaster, publicly suggest that the passengers and crew of the plane were killed as the result of a plot.



A giant statue of the late Pope John Paul II, a 13.8-meter (45.3-foot) white fiberglass figure, was unveiled in the southern Polish city of Częstochowa, home to the predominantly

Catholic country's most important pilgrimage site, the Jasna Góra monastery.

Poland's President Bronisław Komorowski sent a message of condolence to U.S. President Barack Obama in the wake of the Boston Marathon bombings April 15. The Polish government assured the public that Polish security services have not received any signals about the rise of terrorist threats in Poland.

According to a report by the Polish-German Chamber of Trade and Industry, **Poland is the most attractive country in Central and Eastern Europe for foreign investors.** Poland is also the undisputed leader of the region in terms of the number of new investment projects and the number of people employed in outsourcing services. More than 370 business services centers operated in Poland in 2012, employing over 100,000 people.

Colombian armed forces have taken delivery of five of the **latest model Black Hawk multi-purpose helicopters manufactured exclusively by PZL Mielec in southeastern Poland.**

Warsaw's Atelier Amaro restaurant received a Michelin star. It is the first such distinction given to a Polish restaurant.

Polish soccer player Robert Lewandowski, who plays for the German club Borussia Dortmund, scored four goals in the semi-final match of the European Champions League against Real Madrid. The final score was 4-1.

Have a Coke continues

Today, the value of all Coca-Cola products sold in Poland exceeds \$1 billion annually and the company employs more than 2,700 Poles in its production and distribution. American companies like Coca-Cola have invested more than \$30 billion in Poland since the free market economy was restored in the 1990s.

Further, these U.S. based companies offer employment to hundreds of thousands of hard working Poles.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Poland website lists many big name U.S. businesses that find investing in Poland worthwhile. Minnesota-based 3M, Google, HBO, Hewlett Packard, IBM, Johnson & Johnson, Medtronic, Pfizer, Proctor & Gamble and Xerox are just a few of the hundreds of companies doing a thriving business in Poland today. More U.S. companies are actively looking for opportunities to do business in Poland and some of the most attractive sectors currently are in the defense industry, energy (particularly shale gas and oil) and health care.

The President of the U.S.-Poland Business Council in Washington, DC, Eric Steward, says the reason for such expansion is simple. "Poland is attractive for Americans first of all because of its great workers. In all American companies they say the same thing — Poles are hard working, creative, smart, and have high moral values."

Not many Polish companies are ready to invest in the U.S.; however, things are starting to change. Last year KGHM *Polska Miedź*, the Polish producer of copper and silver, acquired a Canadian company, Quadra Mining, for over \$3 billion and became the owner of two copper mines in the U.S. — Robinson, NV and Carlota, AZ. It is estimated that Polish investors maintain a total of 10,000 jobs in the U.S.

Poland's national tastes seem to have grown along with the country's economic freedom. From hosting foreign investors to supporting American football, Poland's

changing national fabric is woven from many previously shunned threads. This July, when Warsaw's National Stadium hosts the final match of the Polish League of American Football, Poles will rally to cheer for one of the U.S.'s best kickers in the NFL — Polish-born Sebastian Janikowski. Amidst the roaring crowds, we can be sure that Coke will be sold.

And yes, Poles drink Coke with ice now.



Polaris continues

training. The first round of sessions were conducted via video conference with Polaris' employees and family currently living in northern Minnesota, Wisconsin and Monterrey, Mexico. Additional sessions and consulting opportunities will be set as the project in Opole matures and new stateside employees require training.

A goal of the training sessions is to ensure that Polaris' expats function well in their new Polish setting, but also to graciously represent their home country. Toward those ends the training will include business etiquette in Poland, social interaction in the workplace, cultural nuances of life in Poland, a primer for daily experiences (banking, commerce, transportation, shopping, entertainment, dining), and basic language instruction to facilitate greater communication and courtesy with Poles.

PACIM hopes that this partnership with Polaris will be the first among many corporate outreaches. "For years, scholars and researchers have relied on PACIM for our extensive Library holdings and to participate in language instruction," Mrazek Flanders shares. "This corporate connection evolved through one of our language students who is a Polaris employee. Now that the word is out, we hope to broaden our service and outreach, and help bring the history, culture and traditions of Poland to more Minnesotans."

Investing in the Future

By Jane Mrazek Flanders

As the school year winds down, young minds usually turn to baseball, catching up on sleep and hanging out with friends. Hitting the beaches or earning spending money at summer jobs might top most lists for heavy summer activities, but two of PACIM's youngest members have bigger plans. Both received scholarships from PACIM this spring and plan to use the money for studies stateside and in Poland.



Angela Frisk, recipient of the Guminga Scholarship, graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota in 2012. A life-long native of Minnesota with strong family ties to Poland, Angela harbors plans to work for the U.S. Foreign Service in Poland. Toward that end, she is studying for the Foreign Service Officer Exam and has



Angela Frisk graduating from the European Academy of Diplomacy in Warsaw.

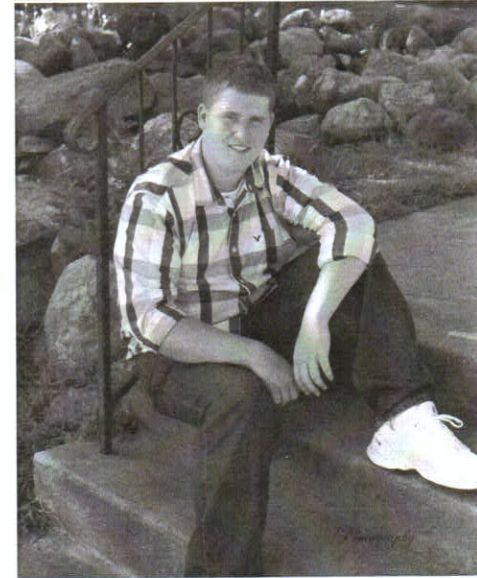
accepted an internship with the Polish parliament in Warsaw. She plans to use the PACIM scholarship to help fund her recent participation in Warsaw's European Diplomacy Workshop.



Frisk plans to spend Summer 2013 as an intern with the Polish parliament.

With an eye to the future but a heart to her family's past, Angela was a founding member of a cultural student group at the U of M for Slavic language speaking students. She writes free lance articles focusing on issues facing international students from Central and Eastern Europe, and feels that one of the best ways to ensure that future generations of Polish Americans understand and represent their heritage well is to work toward positive Poland-U.S. relations. "That personal connection drives my interest in learning more about the people, culture and history of Poland."

Michael Retka, recipient of the Rog Scholarship, is a student at St. Cloud State University. With deep Polish roots grounded in his home near Little Falls, Minnesota, Michael feels that Polish traditions, music and food are as natural for him as breathing. He is working toward a college degree in broadcasting with an emphasis on music, and wants



to continue sharing the beauty of the spoken language and Poland's folk-based music with newer generations. Michael plans to use the scholarship to fund a portion of his broadcasting education.

Getting a taste of his future dreams, Michael co-hosts a weekly radio program called "Polka World Today." Aired out of Little Falls on AM 960 each Sunday morning, the program brings the rhythm and vocals of old and newer polka styles to the airwaves. Michael's youthful exuberance and love for all things Polish attract many artists to perform on his radio show.



Michael Retka co-hosting his weekly radio program 'Polka World Today.'

One of Michael's deepest hopes is to introduce Polish and Polish American traditions to today's youth. He makes dancing the polka attractive to kids through styles such as "honky" and "push" polkas. He is also highly active in church choirs, teaching Polish liturgical songs to new generations. And he makes it "cool" to be an active member of the Midwest Polka Association, Sobieski Lions Club, and to play polka music for church functions.



Retka (center) volunteered at PACIM's Polish Café at this year's Festival of Nations.

PACIM is pleased to award scholarships to Angela and Michael. For several years, PACIM's financial support has furthered the academic pursuits of students. But the key to their success has been the very generous donors who established the scholarships through PACIM. Currently, PACIM administers two scholarships, with hopes that additional donors will see the beauty of investing in the future of young scholars and ensuring that the traditions and values they cling to will be preserved.

Establishing a scholarship is relatively easy and funding it is quite flexible. Gifts of money, stocks, bonds, or real estate are transferred now or through a bequest in a will. General guidelines for the scholarship qualifications are set by the donor and by law are guaranteed by PACIM. In addition to out-right contributions, PACIM can also work with donors to establish Gift Annuities which provide a steady income stream for the donor with the principal gift supporting scholarships and other PACIM programs.

The two donors whose names appear on PACIM's scholarships can be confident that their generous gifts have found

worthy recipients. PACIM is delighted to be a vehicle for investing in the future of young Polish and Polish American students, and looks forward to helping many others in the years to come.

To discuss setting up a scholarship, bequest, annuity or other gifting options, please call PACIM at 612-378-9291 or send an inquiry to info@pacim.org.

"In 2012, I was the fortunate recipient of the Angeline Guminga Scholarship from PACIM. I used the funds to continue participating in and enhancing Polish culture at the University of Notre Dame where I study Accountancy and European Studies. This year we hosted a special meeting with Prof. Padraic Kenney of Indiana University (a premier scholar in Polish Studies); a presentation called "Poland Today," a trip to Polish Chicago, a traditional Wigilia Dinner, Polish Board Game Night, and Polish folk dance lessons. Thank you, PACIM, for the scholarship. It has greatly helped pay for my education so I can continue to learn and teach others about Poland.

*With gratitude,
Julia Banasikowski"*



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.

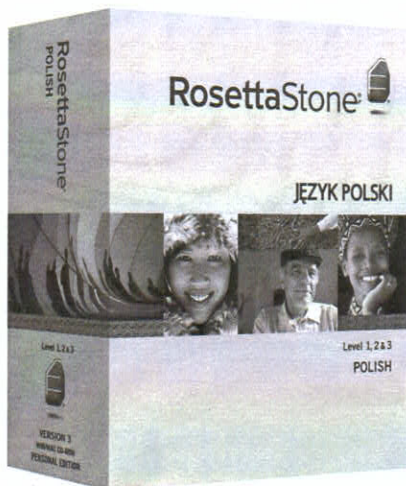
The Board of Directors of PACIM holds their monthly meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Institute: 43 Main St SE, Ste 228, Minneapolis, MN. All are invited. 612-378-9291.

PACIM Library

43 Main St SE, Ste 228
Minneapolis, MN 55414
Hours: Sundays from 1 to 4 PM
or by appointment

In light of this issue's focus on U.S. corporations conducting business in Poland, I thought I would highlight the library's extensive collection of language acquisition materials — both Polish and English.

We have many grammar and pronunciation books for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. We also have audio materials, so you can learn on your commute. For Polish speakers who feel a bit rusty, I would recommend stopping at the library to pick up a Polish book to jump start your vocabulary.



The Library also has two complete sets of the *Rosetta Stone* series for Polish available for checkout. We acquired these sets through generous donors and recently downloaded them to the Library's on-site computer, if listening to them away from home is easier.

Finally, a good way to learn a language or observe a culture is through film. Watching subtitled films demonstrates the natural rhythm, cadence and

patterns of the foreign language, which is proven to increase understanding and eventual use.

And a friendly reminder: if you are going to Poland, please don't forget to bring a book (or DVD!) for the Library for others to enjoy. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity, always.

Basia Kiernoziak
(Kiernoziak@gmail.com)

Polish Café Sets New Records

This year PACIM's annual Polish Café at the Festival of Nations surpassed all previous recorded food sales.



Coordinated by PACIM board member John Bieniek and staffed by volunteers from across Minnesota, the Polish Café ran for four days, serving up delicious food with a big helping of Polish hospitality.

"I want to thank all the volunteers who graciously helped at the Café," said Bieniek. "They were the core of the Café's success this year." The volunteers ranged in age from late teens to 80 years old. Perhaps the most hard-working volunteer was Marta Pachnik. Marta, who coordinated the Café for 14 years, cheerfully shared all her insights and experience. In addition to working in the Café kitchen for four days, she

prepared the volunteer costumes, daily picked up the baked goods by 6 am, assisted with set up, and drove volunteers to work at the Café.

The first two days of the festival brought thousands of students from across the region. Busloads of hungry

kids streamed into the festival ready to taste foods from around the world. "They loved trying the *makowiec*," reflected Bieniek. "But the *pierogi* and cheesecake were top sellers."

The number of items sold is big: 1,664 pieces of cheesecake; 440

pieces of *makowiec*; 1,140 *pierogi*; and 1,100 *kielbasy*. From time to time the Café ran out of supplies and Bieniek would run out to get more. As long as there were customers, he made sure they had something to buy.

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.

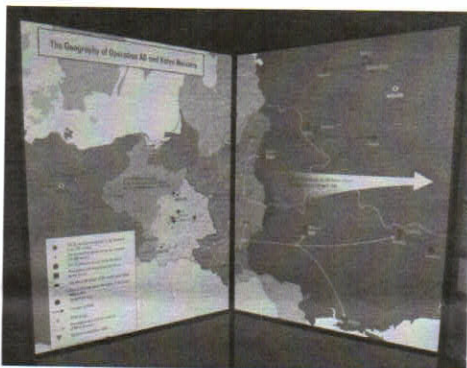
Events

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.

June 1–11

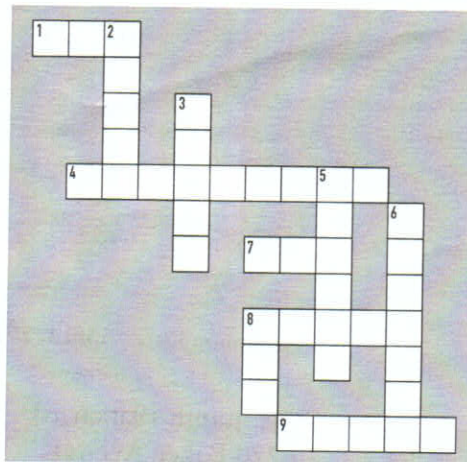
The Destruction of the Polish Elite: Operation AB - Katyń

Sponsored by the Public Education Office of the Institute of National Remembrance in Poland, the exhibit presents the main repressive actions carried out by the Soviets in Poland during the first months of the occupation.



The opening ceremony was held on June 2 at 1:30 pm with honored guest Mr. Konrad Zielinski, Vice Consul of Poland in Chicago, attending. Minnesota State Capitol, North Corridor, 75 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, St. Paul.

April Crossword Puzzle



Across:

1. Polish for "May"
4. Polish Poppyseed Pastry
7. "_____ Raczkiewicz" of American Chamber of Commerce in Poland
8. Recipient of 2013 Rog Scholarship
9. Recipient of 2013 Guminga Scholarship

Down:

2. 2012 Guminga Scholarship Recipient
3. Polish Currency
5. Communist Era Polish Coke "Polo _____"
6. American Business Opening in Opole
8. Steve Murray Preservation Awardee

April 2013 Answers, Across: 2. Kraut, 6. Orest, 7. Brzechwa, 8. Konary, 9. Kwas
Down: 1. Beet, 3. Rys, 4. Grzybek, 5. Wroclaw, 7. Burak

June 6

The Healing Properties of Amber

Third in a series of talks and discussions sponsored by Baltic Imports. Sean will provide excellent details surrounding icons, and specific products related to the presentation will be offered at reduced prices for the evening. 207 East Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis. 7–8 pm. Admission is free and open to the public, but reservations are requested by phone (612-331-3296) or on the Baltic Imports Facebook page.

June 7–9

35th Annual International Polka Festival

Held at the Black Bear Casino and Resort in Carlton, MN, this annual festival hosts many bands, daily music and opportunities for dancing. Tickets available at the Casino or through www.ticketmaster.com

June 29

Midwest Polka Association Summer Dance

The Polka Family Band from Pennsylvania returns to Minnesota for a festive night of music and dance. 7–11 pm at the Maplewood Moose Lodge, 1946 English St, Maplewood, MN. For details email Danny Fabeck at Jan.fabeck@gmail.com or call 763-244-0152.

July 27

Polish Fest at Sacred Heart

Enjoy a day of good Polish food, games and fun. 11 am–6 pm. Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Church, 420 22nd Ave NE, Minneapolis. For details call 612-781-9328.

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 for details.



People



Mac Racziewicz

Beginning in 1990, Racziewicz served as the first Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in Poland. During those first critical years of Poland's independence and entry into

the free market, he urged parliamentary committees to modernize banking and create tax incentives to draw foreign investors to Poland.

In 1994 he traveled with Lech Wałęsa to the U.S. to promote American businesses in Poland and strengthen Poland's bid to enter the World Trade Organization and N.A.T.O. The Polish President awarded him with the Gold Cross in 1998 for his contributions to Poland's developing economy.

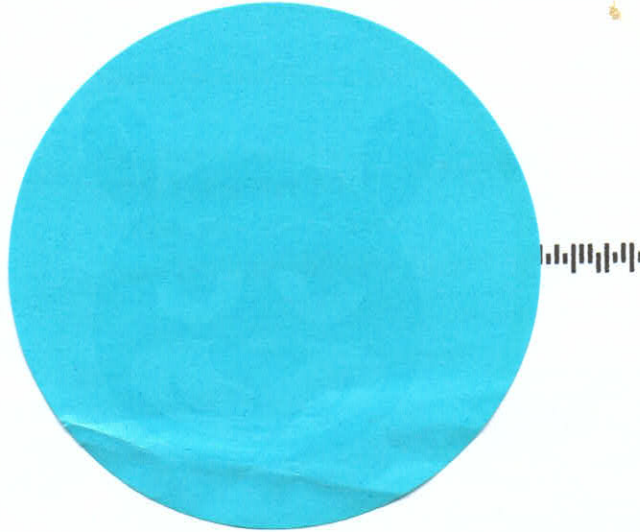
PACIM

POLISH AMERICAN
CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA

43 MAIN ST SE, STE 228
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55414

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 30308
TWIN CITIES MN

5 324



PACIM Co-Founder Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Chester Rog, one of PACIM's founding fathers, was granted the Steve Murray Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Award earlier this month. Considered the top honor for an individual who has displayed leadership, courage and dedication to heritage preservation in Minneapolis, Rog was surrounded by

long-time friends and his son, Paul, during the award luncheon.

Congratulations, Chester, for this award and many, many thanks for your dedication, vision and support of our Polish and Polish American community.

Sto Lat!



Chester Rog surrounded by friends, son Paul (left), and Dolores Strand (center left) of Lomianki, Poland-Columbia Heights Sister Cities who wrote the nomination which rendered Chester the Murray Award.