

POLAM

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Small Sabotage

Warsaw Uprising

Noble Rebellion

Behind the Scenes

Uprisings or resistance movements seem second nature to Poles. In addition to the many officially planned rebellions in the country's history, there exists among Poles and Polish Americans a low level questioning of authority and rules. I consider it a very healthy way to ensure that things are on the up and up, not to mention checking that freedoms are not pinched.

This issue spends time looking at the art and mindset behind Poland's many uprisings. From memorials to the big screen, the memory of these insurrections is treasured like a family heirloom. Small streetside memorials created by patriotic Polish citizens underscore their love of country and deep appreciation of the sacrifices made for the good of the citizens.

Unlike some cultures which feel that a constructed memorial should suffice, Poles regularly adorn the monuments, plaques and historical sites with flowers and candles. Perhaps the best expression of this gesture is seen on top of a sewer used by the Polish Resistance during the Warsaw Uprising. No inscription or statue marks the spot, just a colorful assembly of



candles. Simple, beautiful, and powerful.

Poland marks her National Independence Day on November 11. Take time during the month to reflect on the country's brave citizens who paved the way for the economically vibrant and free country that exists today.

Do zobaczenia,
Jane Mrazek Flanders, *Editor*

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POLAM

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Founder:
Chester Róg

Managing Editor:
Jane Mrazek Flanders

Associate Editor:
Patricia Beben

Editorial Advisor:
Anthony Bukoski, Ph.D.

Design:
Bruce Rubin and Jim Cordaro
Rubin Cordaro Design

Contributing Writers:
Joseph Hughes, Ph.D. and
Richard Lewis, Ph.D.

Staff Writers:
Marie Przynski and Dan Schyma

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Web page for *Dom Dziecka* in Tuchola, Poland.

PACIM's Outreach for Disadvantaged Children in Poland

In addition to its mission of celebrating and promoting Polish culture and heritage in America, the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM) strives to maintain connections to Poland through its programming.

With the *Dom Dziecka* Fund, primarily capitalized by funds raised through its annual *Wigilia* dinner, PACIM supports disadvantaged children in orphanages, hospitals and hospices in Poland, helping to bring some comfort to their lives and sustaining the facilities that provide them with a home and medical care.

PACIM's 2015 *Dom Dziecka* recipient will be the *Dom Dziecka* in Tuchola, Poland (one hour north of Bydgoszcz), an orphanage that houses 30 children between the ages of 11–20 years old. Funds raised will help provide new bedding and linens, clothing, board games and hygiene items for the children as well as painting supplies to help renovate the children's rooms.

This year's *Dom Dziecka* Fund received an early and very generous gift from members of the former Polanie Club. As support for PACIM's important outreach to Poland's disadvantaged children, the Polanie Club donated \$2,000 for the home in Tuchola.

Please support this year's targeted orphanage by making a gift at givemn.org/organization/Pacim, or by attending PACIM's December 14 *Wigilia* dinner (see back page for details). To explore additional opportunities for supporting PACIM, please email office@pacim.org or call 612-378-9291.

Dziękujemy bardzo for your generous support!



A standard room for Tuchola's teen orphans.



Learn Polish with PACIM

Beginning February 2, PACIM will conduct four sections of Polish language classes. Late registrations are welcome. All classes are taught at PACIM, 43 Main Street SE, Minneapolis. Call 612-378-9291 for details.

Monday evenings

Beginning Polish I (second semester)
5:30–7 pm
Intermediate Polish (second semester)
7:15–8:45 pm

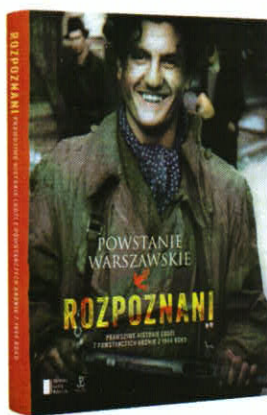
Tuesday evenings

Advanced Polish (second semester)
5:30–7 pm
Beginning Polish II (second semester)
7:15–8:45

Warsaw Uprising: Bravery and Sacrifice Captured on Film



Still frames from the new film *Warsaw Uprising*.



Newly released book of photos and historical accounts of the Uprising.

The insurgents

fought for two months in a doomed battle against overwhelming German forces as Soviet forces failed to move forward from Warsaw's eastern outskirts to help liberate the city. After the uprising was crushed, Hitler ordered the destruction of Warsaw by specialist demolition squads. *Warsaw Uprising (Powstanie Warszawskie)*, made by award-winning director Jan Komasa and a group of experts, utilizes 112 clips of originally black-and-white photography selected from six hours of archival material chronicling the events of August and September 1944. "The Warsaw Uprising as we know it is no longer black and white," the voice in the film's trailer says, and the archival footage has undergone a colorization process.

The film tells the story of two brothers, camera operators for the Office for Information and Propaganda (*Biuro Informacji i Propagandy*) tasked with documenting the Uprising. They want to film the "real" war and ardently try to join one of the fighting units. To their dismay, the underground army has very low tolerance for reporters and soldiers. So they start documenting the life of civilians: sustaining households, cooking and working. Still searching for the best shots, they go deeper and finally manage to join a fighting unit. Entering the war zone, they begin to realize what war means.



The process of photographic selection was undertaken with the aid of historians. Each still required detailed analysis to identify where in Warsaw the shot was taken and who was in it. "We managed to identify around 30 people, including leaders of the Uprising," says Piotr Śliwowski, the director of the historical section of the Warsaw Uprising Museum. "The material is wonderful, but also very difficult: chopped up, short shots, with varying levels of technical quality".

The colorization process was overseen by the acclaimed cinematographer Piotr Sobociński, Jr. It involved research into the exact types of dyes used to color clothes in the 1940s. The director of the Warsaw Uprising Museum shared, "We showed the film to veterans of the Uprising. There was a deep silence in the room after the screening, you could feel a lot of emotion. They, who remember that world, saw the truth in the film."

The archival footage is silent clips, and the reconstructed film required lip-reading and the re-creation of missing dialogue. Recited by actors Maciej Nowicki, Michał Żurawski, Mirosław Zbrojewicz and Antoni Królikowski, the dialogues are the work of Joanna Pawluśkiewicz and Michał Sufin. Editing was done by Milenia Fiedler and Joanna Bruhl, with music by Bartosz Chajdecki.

The script is by Jan Oldakowski, director of the Warsaw Uprising Museum, along with Piotr Śliwowski and Komasa, the film's director. *Warsaw Uprising* is built from chronicles of camera operators of the Office for Information and Propaganda of the Home Army's Armed Combat Union Police Headquarters (*Komenda Główna Związku Walki Zbrojnej Armii Krajowej*).

Warsaw Uprising is scheduled to arrive at U.S. theaters in early 2015.

Article details courtesy of the Adam Mickiewicz Institute's culture.pl.

Small Sabotage

The first

large scale massacre of Polish civilians by German troops occupying Poland during WWII took place on December 26–27, 1939, in the Wawer district of Warsaw. In response to this massacre, the Polish youth formed an underground resistance organization. They were part of the *Szare Szeregi* (Gray Ranks), the code name for the paramilitary Polish Scouting Association. These scouts carried out many minor and disruptive but non-violent sabotage operations in German-occupied Poland such as the painting of graffiti and altering German posters. This form of defiance came to be known as *Mały Sabotaż* or Small Sabotage.

At first they painted the phrase *Pomścimy Wawer* (We shall avenge Wawer) on walls throughout the city. This was later shortened to the letters PW, signifying the phrase *Polska Walcząca* (Fighting Poland). The P and W were formed into an emblem which looks like an anchor (*kotwica*) and could be easily and quickly painted.

The *Kotwica* was first used by Polish boy scouts on March 20, 1942. It soon evolved to signify more than just “Fighting Poland” and became the symbol of resistance and the struggle for Polish independence. The boy scouts painted it everywhere they could as psychological warfare against the German occupiers. The *Kotwica* helped sustain the spirit of Polish society in the dark night of German occupation, thanks to the youth of the “Small Sabotage.”

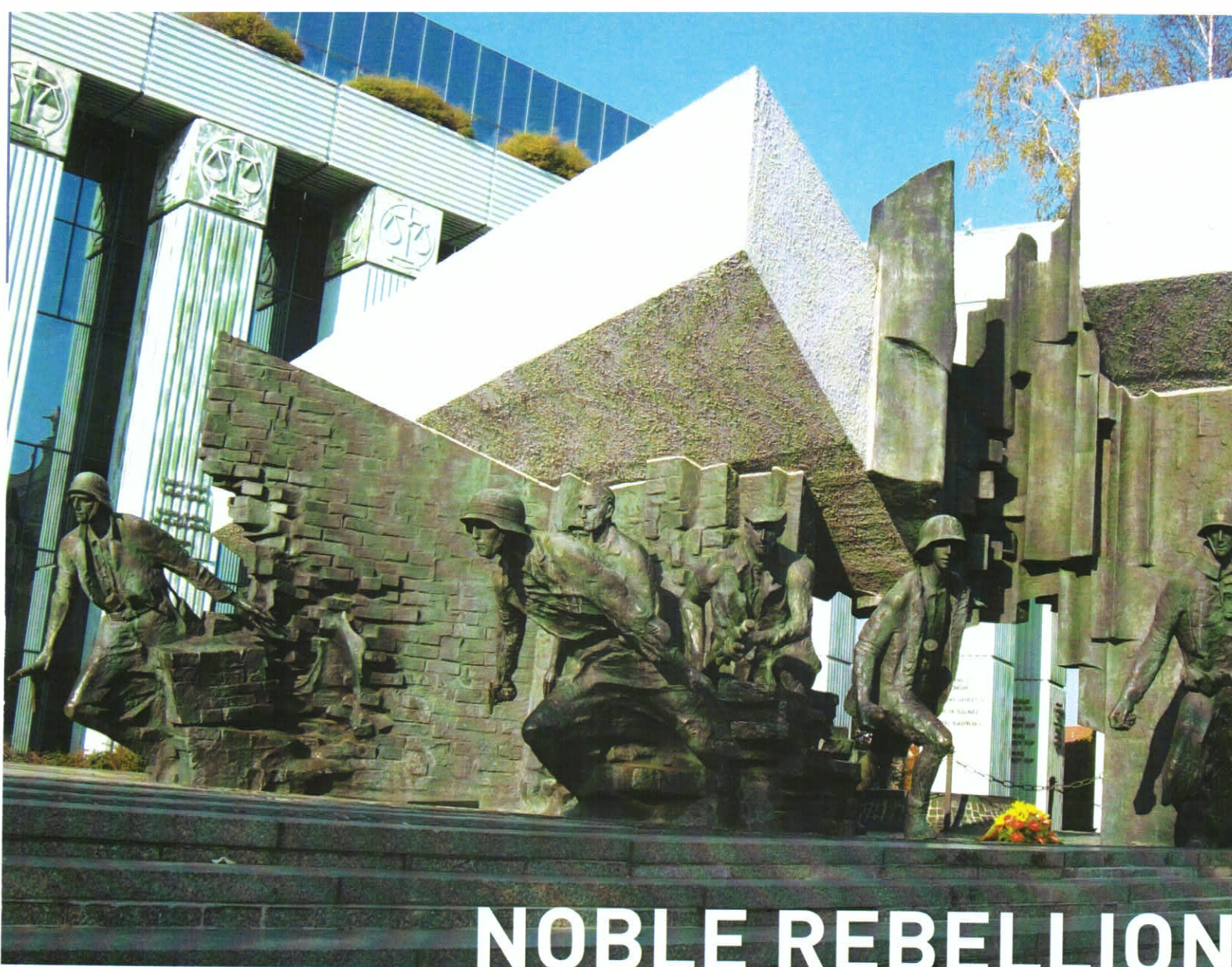
On February 18, 1943, *Armia Krajowa*'s commander, General Stefan Rowecki, issued an order specifying that all sabotage, partisan and terrorist actions be signed with the *Kotwica*. On February 25 the official *Armia Krajowa*'s weekly informational letter, the *Biuletyn Informacyjny*, called the *Kotwica* the sign of the underground Polish army. The symbol grew to have great popularity and, during the later stages of the war, most of the political and military organizations in Poland (even those not related to the *Armia Krajowa*) adopted it as their symbol. It was painted on the walls of Polish cities, stamped on German banknotes, postage stamps and the back of German propaganda newspapers, stamped on the headers of underground newspapers and books, and it became one of the symbols of the Warsaw Uprising.

After World War II, Poland's communist authorities banned the *Kotwica*. It was strictly prohibited in Poland. Over time the communist grip weakened, and the symbol was no longer censored. In 1976 it became one of the symbols of *Ruch Obrony Praw Człowieka i Obywatela* (ROPCiO), an anti-communist organization defending human rights in Poland. Later, it was adopted by various other anti-communist political organizations, ranging from the *Confederation of Independent Poland* (KPN) of Leszek Moczulski to the *Solidarność Walcząca* (*Fighting Solidarity*).

Emeline Dziabas Cook
Wycinanki Folk Artist
Art Teacher/Professor

The *Kotwica* was an emblem of the Polish Secret State and *Armia Krajowa* (Home Army or AK) during WWII.





NOBLE REBELLION

by Jane Mrazek Flanders

Uprisings in Poland

have sometimes been peasant revolts, other times bloody palace coups. Their anniversaries dot the calendar as frequently as major holidays. Standing up to authority is a Polish political and cultural tradition stemming from a medieval right to resist royal power. Uprisings in Poland have given the world heroic figures and helped bring an end to the Cold War.

One such rising occurred in 1537, more than a century before the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth's establishment. Called the Chicken War, this anti-royalist and anti-absolutist rebellion by Polish nobility introduced the *rokosz* (rebellion) as a semi-legal and semi-armed opposition guaranteeing freedom for the Polish nobility.



(top) Swearing in of the *Konfederacja* in 1655 by Walery Eljasz-Radzikowski
(middle) Chicken War by Henryk Radakowski
(bottom) First Polish Royal Election in 1573 by Jan Matejko

(left) Warsaw Uprising Monument

In the mid-16th century, newly elected King Zygmunt I inherited the kingdom of Poland and a group of highly privileged nobles who held themselves in the highest esteem. Zygmunt initiated reforms to consolidate internal power and lessen the power of the nobles. Gathering near Lwów, the nobility called for a rebellion; but their internal divisions and self-interest resulted in the *rokosz* ending with little gained. They did, however, devour most of the chickens around Małopolska, thus the name The Chicken War.

At a time when many European countries moved toward centralized power in the monarchy, the 1573 coronation of Poland's King Henry of Valois was a dramatic shift. Before the new king could ascend the throne, the *szlachta* insisted he enforce a set of 18 Articles which would become part of his oath during coronation. The Henrician Articles, sworn to by every Polish king thereafter, stated that if monarchs either failed to recognize or abused the rights and privileges of the *szlachta*, these same nobles retained the legal right to rebel. The right of revolution, known as *konfederacja*, authorized them to form an organization to resist the king for their own political aim. Considering King Henry was the son of Henry II of France and Catherine de' Medici of Italy and that he abandoned Poland less than two years after his coronation when he inherited the throne in France, the *szlachta* clearly were concerned not only for Poland's interests, but their own.

Poland's trailblazing Constitution, adopted in May of 1791, put an end to the use of *konfederacja* and struck down the *szlachta*'s powers while increasing peasants' rights. The May 3 Constitution was overthrown a year later, replaced by *konfederacja* as a means of organized rebellion. After hundreds of years with Poles mounting legally recognized rebellions, the last *konfederacja* occurred in 1812 in response to Napoleon's campaign against the Russian Empire, which threatened Polish sovereignty.

In the mid-20th century, World War II's horrors stirred up Poles to fight again for freedom. The centuries' long tradition of organized insurrections, a national memory now, fueled the Polish courage. The 1944 Warsaw Uprising, which lasted 63 days, is admired throughout the world and memorialized in monuments, films and a new commemorative museum in Warsaw.

Like the 1944 Uprising, subsequent rebellions in Poland pitted ordinary citizens against military power. No longer were nobles organizing resistance on behalf of peasants. Instead, common people fought the communist government and military in order to fight for human rights.

Poznań in June, 1956, saw a series of worker demonstrations to demand better conditions in government-run industries. The strikes and marches often ended violently. What began as labor protests turned into full-out resistance to the country's oppressive leadership and eventually led to a slight thaw in Polish-Soviet relations.

Still trapped under Soviet rule, Poles sought and found other opportunities to rebel. One such insurrection occurred in 1966 under Polish Primate Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński. His recognition of the Polish millennium focused on the country's 1,000 year history of Christianity rather than on the communists' angle of 1,000 years of statehood. During the nine-year preparation for the event, a special blessed copy of the highly revered Black Madonna painting was carried in religious processions throughout the country. Seeing the huge crowds that accompanied the processions and masses, the communists "arrested"

Continued on page 11

The PACIM Library was established in October 1994 to act as a local depository of Polish culture. The Library accomplishes its goal by:

- Providing current Polish and English language materials for our members' enjoyment.
- Preserving an array of materials on Polish arts and traditions for Polish Americans interested in their heritage.
- Maintaining a collection of biographies, histories and social sciences available to student researchers.

The Library contains more than 5,000 materials. This includes nonfiction and fiction books, DVDs and CDs in Polish and English. There are also a large number of children's books.

Where is it?

The PACIM Library is located at
43 Main Street SE, Suite 228, Minneapolis MN 55414.

Who can use it?

The public is invited to use the facilities; however, materials may be checked out only by members of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota, (PACIM). PACIM membership is \$25.00 per year. The Library is open on Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

How is it supported?

Members of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota provide major support. PACIM is a non-profit organization established under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Library receives donations from PACIM members and the general public. Donations have included library materials and decorative art. If you wish to make a donation to the Library, please call 612-378-9291 or email office@pacim.org.

How is it staffed?

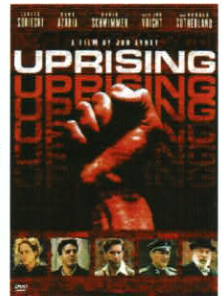
Staffing of the PACIM Library is provided by persons interested in keeping information on Poland and Polish culture available to the public. Volunteers are asked to donate three hours per month to assist Library visitors. Training in the Library procedure is provided to all new volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering in the Library should call 612-378-9291 or email office@pacim.org.

Children's Corner

Geared toward children ages 2–5, the monthly event features storytelling and small hands-on projects relating to the story, song or tale. Admission is free. This special program for young kids takes place every third Sunday of the month. Call 612-378-9291 for more information.

PACIM's Polish Film Night will take a break through the holiday season. Meanwhile, check out the many excellent films on Polish themes in the Library. Most have English subtitles or are in English.

Follow the story of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in the 2001 TV movie *Uprising*. Available at the PACIM Library, the film stars John Voight and was directed by Jon Avnet.



PACIM Library

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

The Library's open hours on Sundays coincide with free parking along Lourdes Place (the street behind RiverPlace). Take advantage of the free parking to browse books, DVDs, CDs, and to visit with other PACIM members over a cup of fresh coffee. For directions or alternative parking suggestions, visit pacim.org or call 612-378-9291.

HAPPENINGS

November 16

PACIM's Annual SoupFest

Poland is famous for soups and PACIM's SoupFest boasts having all of *babcia's* favorites. Sample favorites such as *zupa grzybowa* (mushroom soup) and *zupa ogórkowa* (dill pickle soup). This event will feature a variety of soups for everyone, including vegetarian soups. Soups will also be available to purchase in quart and pint sizes. The event will feature a full bar, live music performed by the Mosaica Polish Folk Ensemble, and a television area for the Minnesota Vikings game. Visitors can also see traditional Polish *wycinanki* and *pisanki* craft demonstrations, view historical displays of Poland and maps to trace Polish heritage, and visit vendors selling artisan gifts from Poland, including amber jewelry, famous Bolesławiec pottery, handmade crafts and unique holiday gifts.



November 20-23

Patricia Kopatchinskaja at St. Paul Chamber Orchestra

In her Twin Cities debut, the dynamic violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja joins SPCO as an Artist Partner. Her energetic performances earned her *Strings Magazine's* rave as "the most exciting violinist in the world." In the multi-day and multi-location concert series, Kopatchinskaja will perform works of Mendelssohn, Mansurian and Mozart. Works by Bartok will bring into sharp focus her direct connection to the folk music of Eastern Europe, and will be performed with her father, Viktor Kopachinsky, a cimbalom virtuoso. Tickets and details at thespc.org.



State/Regional

December 7

European Christmas Event

Sponsored by the Czech Heritage Club of New Prague, the 5th annual holiday extravaganza includes unique shopping for European imports, stage entertainment, singing and dancing, craft demonstrations, a bake sale and kids' activities. The Dolina Polish Folk Dancers and local Czech dancers and singers will perform throughout the event. Details at czechheritageclub.com.

December 14

PACIM's Wigilia Benefit Dinner

PACIM invites you to its annual *Wigilia* dinner to benefit disadvantaged children in Poland. Held at Gasthof Zur Gemutlichkeit in Northeast Minneapolis, this community celebration features a traditional Polish Christmas Eve meal including the breaking of *opłatek* and singing of *kolędy*. Proceeds from this year's event support the *Dom Dziecka* in Tuchola, Poland (one hour north of Bydgoszcz). This orphanage houses 30 children with ages ranging from 11 to 20 years old. Tickets at pacimwigilia.eventbrite.com.



Spend **Valentine's Day** surrounded by elegance at PACIM's *Bal Karnawalowy* at the Saint Paul Hotel. This gala event includes fine food, live music, dancing, a silent auction and a brief award ceremony. Tickets go on sale beginning November 16 and can also be purchased at PACIM's Library and at the SoupFest. For additional details visit pacim.org or call 612-378-9291.



On November 4, Warsaw's **National Museum** received the Grand Prix award at the Cultural Education Program Exchange in the nation's capital. In addition to the prestigious title, the museum received 10,000 *złoty*.

Poland's **natural gas** company has launched a price renegotiation procedure with Russian supplier Gasprom. The talks were prompted by significant changes on the European energy market.

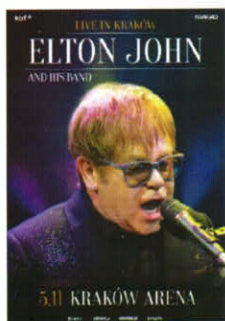
Former world champion weightlifter **Marcin Dolega** has been suspended by the Polish Weightlifting



Association and risks a life ban after tests showed he had raised levels of the banned

steroid norandrosteron. This offense is Dolega's second. In 2014 he was suspended for two years after testing positive for the performance enhancement drug.

Elton John dazzled capacity crowds at the new Kraków Arena on November 5 as part of his Follow the Yellow Brick Road Tour.



On stage the 67 year old star grappled at a few words of Polish. "Did I pronounce that right, Krakow?! No? Oh alright, you can shoot me later on then." The crowd responded with thunderous applause.

Ewa Kopacz — Iron Lady or Tusk Puppet *by Marie Przynski*

With only a year to go, outgoing Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk selected Ewa Kopacz to replace him. This selection was ratified and received a vote of confidence from the current *Sejm*. The biggest challenge for the stability of Poland may be the prime minister herself. She has been adept at avoiding media attention, but now all eyes will be on her. Jarosław Gowin, former Justice Minister and leader of Poland's Opposition Party, claims that Kopacz lacks charisma and authority from within her party. Gowin's opinion of Kopacz is on record as being too emotional and that she was promoted for loyalty and not ability. In a statement on her appointment Gowin said, "Poland deserves better."

Paradoxically, she is also described as her own person, very determined, an "iron lady." Jakub Szulc, current Health Minister, says Kopacz has held her ground, even against Tusk.

"...that she has her own style, and may not have Tusk's panache; anyone who thinks she doesn't have the skills or ability to make bold decisions is very wrong." She gained the title "commander" from the Russians in Smolensk who worked alongside of her, indicating that she was "a professional, balanced, tough, responsible person who got to the essence of the problem."

Prime Minister Kopacz inherits a host of difficult concerns — unification of her party, overcoming party scandals, Ukraine, Euro acceptance, climate change and rising energy prices, midterm elections in November, and her own campaign in 2015 when the voters will weigh in on her performance. Laying out an ambitious plan, she acknowledges there will have to be significant progress, but is determined to provide for the safety and economic success of Poland, and hopes to win over the voters. She has gathered support from various "markets" which view the Civic Platform party as a guarantee of pragmatic policies and fiscal prudence.

Kopacz gathered international recognition with her stance against major pharmaceuticals, demanding proof that the flu vaccines were effective, and by supporting the abortion decision of a 14 year old rape victim (the Catholic Church in Poland has called for her excommunication). She justified her actions explaining that as a government minister she followed the law, even though she is a practicing Catholic.

"Kopacz is decisive and well-organized. She has clear goals and this gives us a chance for a fresh start, a bounce-back in the polls and, eventually, victory in next year's elections" noted Stanisław Żelichowski, lawmaker from the Polish Peasants Party.

"The new government will be different, because the prime minister is different," said Kopacz responding to journalists during a recent press conference.



Poland's new Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz.

the painting. Undaunted, Polish Catholics marched with an empty frame, carrying the candles, singing the same songs. The hunger for freedom was satiated in part by their faith, by their huge numbers and by the intensity of their passion.

Nearly 35 years ago in Gdańsk, a humble electrician at the Lenin Shipyards began efforts to form a trade union. Much as in Poznań, where protests focused on worker-based needs, the birth of Solidarity in Gdańsk brought to light working conditions under Poland's oppressive governmental regime. Strikes and protests were met with surveillance, arrests and other forms of intimidation. However, that humble electrician, Lech Wałęsa, successfully established the first non-communist trade union, and the Solidarity movement he led represented civil resistance that eventually contributed to the collapse of communism across Eastern Europe.

Today, Poland is seen as a great defender of freedoms. Church leaders like John Paul II and Jerzy Popiełuszko worked for human rights within their vocation, while civic leaders like Lech Wałęsa used a different platform for the same purpose. Poland stands alongside the U.S. defending citizens as far away as the Middle East with the same fervor as the medieval *szlachta* defended their rights. From poets to politicians, Poles are the embodiment of justice.



Poznań 1956 protests.

Minneapolis' Baltic Imports Closing

After decades of providing the Twin Cities with the highest quality amber products available, Baltic Imports will close its retail store at the end of this year. Owners Sean and Ingrida will end their chapter of full time shopkeeping to enjoy retirement. They do plan to continue offering sales through their web portal, balticimports.com, at Sean's studio, and at the annual Festival of Nations in St. Paul.

As a thank you for the support their store has received over the years, they are offering a special 10% savings on any purchases, including jewelry. This discount will be

valid until the store closes. They will not be receiving any new shipments; however, they plan to offer special items during their last two months of business to keep the inventory interesting and exciting.



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Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota presents

WIGILIA

A Polish Christmas Eve Dinner Benefiting Polish Orphans

Sunday, December 14
Gasthof zur Gemütlichkeit Restaurant
2300 University Ave NE, Minneapolis

Join PACIM for this community celebration featuring the
breaking of *opłatek* and singing of *kolędy*.

Social hour begins at 5:30 pm followed by a traditional meal.

Reservations and advance ticket purchase are necessary.
RSVP by December 8 at www.pacim.org or call 612-379-9485.

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