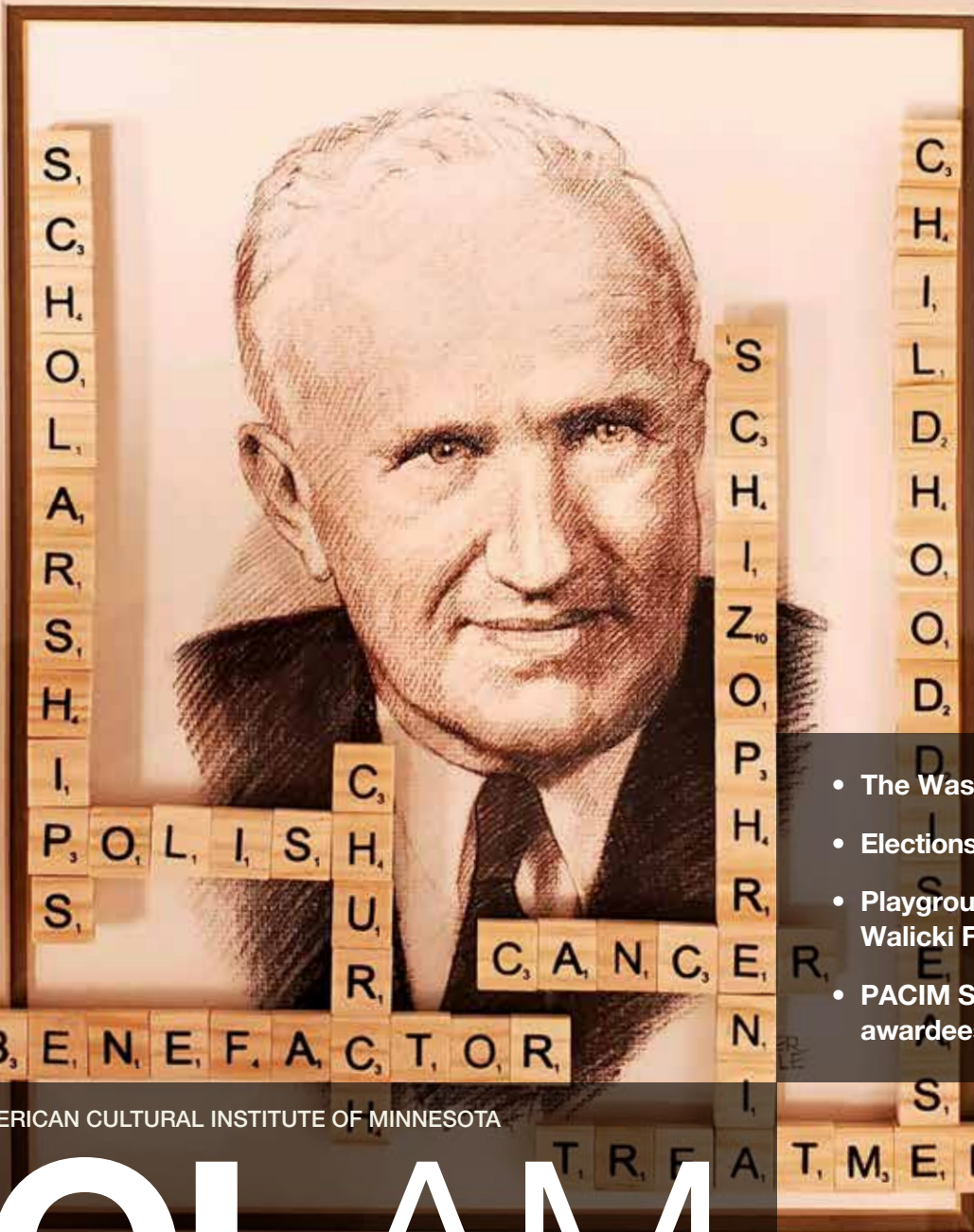


Stanley L. Wasieleski



- The Wasieleski Foundation
- Elections on November 20
- Playground sponsored by Walicki Fund
- PACIM Scholarships awardees

THE POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA

POLAM

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The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is a non-profit organization offering a broad range of programs and events that provide opportunity to grow deeper in understanding and appreciation of Polish and Polish American traditions, culture, and history.

SUPPORT PACIM:
PACIM grows through contributions from our member donors and organizations.

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Adam Ramczyk – *Vice President*
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Iwona Srienc
Michał Wojtak
Maciej Skorupski

Cover:
Stanley Wasie cover designed by Edyta Dudek

Photo left:
Stanley Wasie sitting on the desk donated to PACIM

From the President

Dear PACIM Members!
Witam Wszystkich Serdecznie!

It was wonderful seeing all of you at the PACIM Picnic in August! We enjoyed delicious food prepared by our chefs Adam Ramczyk and Iwona Srienc, and Polish accordion music played by Teresa Kreslo. This joyous event would not be possible without hard work of PACIM Board members and volunteers: Alan and Sherry Rybak, Ela Iwańczuk, Donna Sisler, Daniel and Mateusz Kukla. Thank you! If you're considering volunteering at the Soup Festival on November 6th or Wigilia on December 11th, please email office@pacim.org.

It is our great pleasure to inform you that the playground in Skorogoszcz Dom Dziecka was completed in July! PACIM used \$14,000 from Donna Walicki Fund as well as the proceeds from the 2021 Wigilia to sponsor the playground for Polish orphan children. We also want to share with you a letter PACIM received from Starosta Powiatu Brzeskiego (Brzeg County Executive).

Since the end of the pandemic (is it official yet?) PACIM has been very busy with other activities such as: Polish language classes, Polish American Library, open on Saturdays 9am-11am, and our clubs for those who would like to further develop their Polish passions. Please check the website www.pacim.org for more information. During early fall each year PACIM reviews scholarship applications from Minnesotan students of Polish origin. This year we awarded 5 Polanie and 2 Rog scholarships to talented young people. You can read more about the awardees on page 11.

In this issue we focus on the philanthropic foundation established by Stan and Marie Wasie. PACIM recently received archives and a desk of the founder Stanley L Wasie (see the picture below), who rose from impoverished childhood as a Polish immigrant to trucking industry pioneer. His family's good fortune was shared with others through scholarships, sponsorship of development of treatments of many diseases, and support of the Catholic Church in Poland during the Cold War. We also feature a 1974 handwritten letter to Marie Wasie after Stan's death, from Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, Primate of Poland. Wyszyński writes: "Furthermore, allow me to express my deepest thanks for your most generous gift to be used for the building and reconstruction of churches and chapels throughout Poland. It came at a most opportune time, since at last we have received permission from the government to build new churches and repair others which were destroyed during the war. No such permission has been granted to us since 1957."

Last but not least, please mark your calendar for PACIM Elections on Sunday, November 20th.

See you at Soup Festival!

Edyta Dudek
PACIM President



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- 11 2022 Scholarship Awardees

Fall Soup Festival

Continuing with PACIM tradition, **Fall Polish Soup Festival** will take place on **Sunday, November 6th**, from 11:00am until 3:00pm at the Kolbe Hall of the Holy Cross Church 1630 4th St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

>> CALENDAR <<

> NOVEMBER 6, SUNDAY <

Soup Festival
Kolbe Hall, Holy Cross Church

> NOVEMBER 20, SUNDAY <

PACIM Annual Membership Meeting
PACIM Office

> DECEMBER 11, SUNDAY <

Wigilia
Kolbe Hall, Holy Cross Church

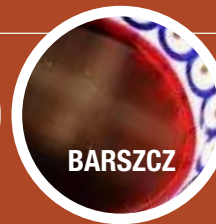
For \$15 (\$7 children) you can try 7 varieties of delicious Polish soups. If any soups are left at the end of the event, you will be able to purchase 16oz containers for \$15.

You can also preorder 16oz containers for \$12.50 until November 1st.

Please write a check to PACIM, 93 Little Canada Rd W, unit 106 Saint Paul, MN, 55117 or pay online at www.pacim.org.



GRZYBOWA



BARSZCZ



BIGOS



- The cost of the event:
- \$50 for PACIM members
 - \$60 for non-members
 - \$20 for Children 15 and under
 - \$140 family option (2 adults with children)

The dinner will be prepared by former Gasthaus chef Marian Pierzchalski

Please join us for this Special event! The venue, which is located at the corner of 17th Avenue and Fourth Street in Northeast Minneapolis, is fully accessible via the entrance in the courtyard between Holy Cross Church and the School. There is limited handicapped parking in that area as well as several well-lit lots around the building.

Please write a check to: PACIM, 93 Little Canada Rd W, unit 106, Saint Paul, MN, 55117 or pay online at www.pacim.org

PACIM Board would like to invite you, your family, and friends to

2022 Wigilia

THE EVENT IS OPEN TO EVERYONE

December 11th

4:30 pm

Kolędy and Christmas activities

6:00 pm

Wigilia dinner

Kolbe Hall,
1621 4th St NE,
Minneapolis, MN 55413

The Wasie Family and the Wasie Foundation History

- 1899** Stanislaw Wasielewski is born in Poland.
- 1906** Stanislaw Wasielewski arrives with his parents in the USA. Later in life he will use an Americanized version of his name—Stanley L. Wasie. His mother dies a few years after their arrival.
- 1912** Young Stanley gets separated from his father and is taken in by a Czech family on a farm in southern Scott County.
- 1919** Stanley begins to work as a clerk and dispatcher in Pratts Express trucking company in Minneapolis. He marries Marie Manikowski, the daughter of Polish immigrants living in NE Minneapolis.
- 1927** Stanley creates Merchants Transfer and Storage Company with one truck to provide inter-city service in Minneapolis/St. Paul.
- 1931** The company changes its name to Merchants Motor Freight.



- 1932** Merchants Motor Freight expands into overnight service between Minneapolis, St. Paul, and De Moines, IA.
- 1935** The company branches out into St. Louis and Kansas City, MO. Later on, it also operates branches in Illinois and Nebraska.
- 1943** Stanley purchases 600 acres of farmland in Scott County. He establishes a model farm with a sophisticated irrigation system that produces high-quality corn and alfalfa and raises over 400 head of beef cattle and 200 pigs.

- 1944** Middlewest Motor Freight Traffic Bureau is created to deal with regulatory problems related to the Interstate Commerce Commission Motor Carriers Act. Stan becomes its first president. He also serves as V.P. of the American Trucking Association and President of National Trailer Pool, Inc.
- 1945** Stanley acquires interest in Murphy Motor Freight and serves as its Chairman of the Board of Directors until his death.
- 1948** Wasie's son Donald graduates from Blake School in Hopkins, MN and continues his studies at Amherst College and then Harvard Graduate School of Business. In 1967 Blake School, a top-ranking college preparatory school received the largest contribution in the school's history (at that time) from the Wasie Family to be used for scholarships for Polish students from poorer sections of Minneapolis. "I don't care if his name is Johnson or Anderson—if he's got some Polish blood, he's eligible," Stanley says on that occasion.
- 1960** Merchants Motor Freight is sold to Admiral Transit, Inc. Over the years, the company had grown to almost 900 employees and maintained close to 1000 trucks.
- 1966** Stanley L. Wasie establishes Wasie Educational Foundation with his wife Marie and son Donald. The first contribution to it is a check for \$100.
- 1973** Stanley Wasie dies after suffering a heart attack.
- 1974** Donald Wasie dies.
- 1974** Marie Wasie becomes President and Treasurer of the Wasie Foundation.
- 1984** Marie Wasie is selected as Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year. Under her leadership, the Wasie Foundation directed its interests into the broad fields of health, education, and the welfare of people. The Wasie Foundation became one of Minnesota's most prominent private scholarship providers, supporting more than 100 students a year. From 1972 to 1987, The Wasie Foundation established endowment funds at several colleges and universities in Minnesota: St. Mary's, St. John's, St. Benedict's, St. Catherine's, University of Minnesota, College of St. Teresa, College of St. Scholastica, Dunwoody College of Technology, St. Thomas University, Hamline University School of Law, and William Mitchell College of Law.
- 1986** Stanley L. Wasie is inducted into the Minnesota Business Hall of Fame posthumously. Gov. Rudy Perpich proclaims October 24 Stanley L. Wasie Day.
- 1992** Marie Wasie dies at the age of 89. The Wasie Foundation continues to offer scholarships to Polish-American students and provides funds for other charitable activities.
- 2003** Gostomski Foundation chooses to partner with The Wasie Foundation in creating an international scholarship program for students from Poland who want to study at St. Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota.
- 2022** The Wasie Foundation closes its offices in Wayzata, MN, and continues to provide grants to various organizations.



Stanley Wasie 1899 - 1973



Marie Wasie 1903 - 1992



Donald Wasie 1930 - 1974

Founders of the Wasie Foundation

Letter to Marie Wasie from Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, Primate of Poland, after the death of her husband and son in 1974.

My Dear Friend:

I deeply regret my early departure from the breakfast table on the day of your visit. I apologize for not staying longer. The reasons which prompted me to do so were urgent and twofold.

First, every session of the Synod begins very promptly at 9:00 AM. Secondly, on that particular day, the session began with my speech. I am sure you will understand.

I have just read your letter from beginning to end and thank you for the same.

I take this opportunity to express my sentiments of sincerest Sympathy to you at the departure, in such a short period of time, of your beloved husband and your darling son. I want to assure you that I will prayerfully commend the souls of both to our Merciful Father.

Furthermore, allow me to express my deepest thanks for your most generous gift to be used for the building and reconstruction of churches and chapels throughout Poland. It came at a most opportune time, since at last we have received permission from the government to build new churches and repair others which were destroyed during the war. No such permission had been granted us since 1957. You can readily understand that on that account our needs are countless and various. As a matter of fact about 30 churches are today in the process of construction.

The assistance granted through The Stan Don Mar Foundation will enable us to proceed at a more rapid pace. I will try to distribute this aid as fairly and justly as possible.

I want to inform you, my dear Friend, that the clergy serving God in the churches erected by your offering, will be obligated to celebrate Mass for the repose of the souls of Stanley and Donald and also for your continued strength, consolation and resignation to God's will.

Divine Providence mysteriously guides and directs the saddened hearts of His children. It was so edifying and inspiring to me to behold how your bitter and sorrowful experiences were borne in a spirit of profound faith and peace, and then turned to acts of charity for the needy.

It was for me a source of great joy to meet you once more, this time in the Chapel of the Polish Institute in Rome, participating in the Mass which I celebrated, and satisfying your spiritual hunger at the Eucharistic Banquet.

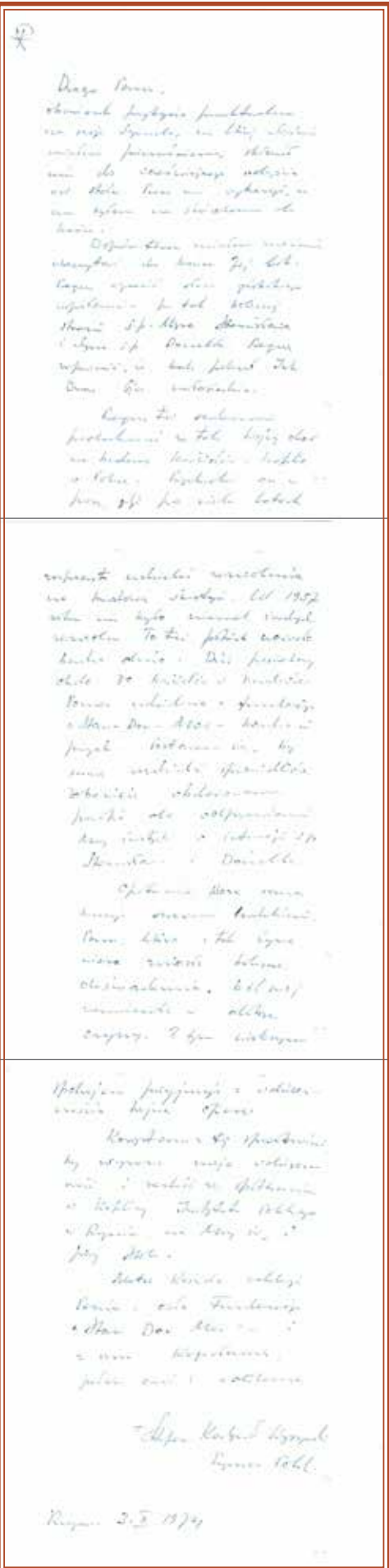
I entrust you, dear Friend, and The Stan Don Mar Foundation to the protective care of Mary, the Mother of the Church and extend my blessings to all.

With highest esteem, devotion and gratitude, I remain,

Vary sincerely,

Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński
Primate of Poland

Rome, 3 X 1974



The Wasie Foundation Scholarship Programs for Students from Poland

In the fall of 2002, the Wasie Foundation got involved in providing scholarships not only to American students of Polish origin but also to students born and living in Poland and interested in continuing their education in the USA.

The first native Polish recipient of the Wasie scholarship was Aneta Toporowska (now Lennartson). While she was a student of Wyższa Szkoła Biznesu National-Louis University (business school) in Nowy Sącz, Poland, she was chosen to participate in an international business internship program through the Rotary Club in Duluth, MN. Upon completing the internship, she was approached by the College of St. Scholastica's International Director, who informed her about the possibility of studying at St. Scholastica on a Wasie Foundation scholarship and encouraged her to apply. Subsequently, she did. On Wasie scholarships, she earned an M.A. from St. Scholastica and a J.D. from Hamline University School of Law. She also helped other talented students from Poland to follow the same path and fulfill their dream of studying in the US. This marked the beginning of the pilot project between the Wasie Foundation and National-Louis University, which benefited many Polish students.

The Wasie Foundation joined forces with the Gostomski Foundation of Winona, MN, to fund a full scholarship for students from Poland to study at St. Mary's University in Winona, MN. The scholarship covered tuition, room and board, and other student expenses. The Wasie Foundation continued to support students in their graduate studies, creating a unique opportunity for talented young Poles to receive a high-quality education. Upon graduation, some students stayed in the US and started successful careers; others returned to Poland or moved to other countries.

Student Testimonials

Aga

My then-boyfriend asked me if I would go with him to America if he was awarded a scholarship founded by the Gostomski and Wasie Foundations to study at St. Mary's University in Winona, MN. I said "yes" being sure his chances of getting it were rather slim due to the highly competitive process of getting it. But he received it. So, fulfilling my promise to him, in the following year, I applied for the same scholarship, and I received it too. Once I graduated from St. Mary's with a double degree in marketing and sociology and a minor in statistics, The Wasie Foundation offered me a full scholarship to continue my studies to get an MBA, which I did at St. Mary's University, Minneapolis campus. It was a great opportunity for me to continue my education without dealing with the financial burdens of it.

Marketing, however, has not become my profession—I switched to Information Technology and continue to work in this field. Currently, I'm the Senior IT Director at Apogee Enterprises, Inc., an industry leader in architectural products and services. It is our glass that you can see at the Vikings stadium and many other places.

Kinga

The Wasie scholarship has been a turning point in my life opening new opportunities. It has taken my understanding of what's possible to a global level. The scholarship has empowered me to study at NLU in Chicago and built a platform for a truly international career. Following college, I started an internship in London followed by a secondment in New York, projects in Dubai and eventually a return to Warsaw where I first worked with 26 markets in Europe and the Middle East and recently assumed a role of a marketing director, CMO at a leading payments solutions provider. If it wasn't for the Wasie scholarship, I don't think I would have had such a rich professional experience at the age of 34 years. I am immensely grateful.

All of this was possible because of that very first step—the ability to come to the United States to study art. Without the Wasie Foundation none of this would be possible. So thank you for unleashing my potential!

Scholarship Fundraising

Marta

In late August of 2004 I landed in Minneapolis. It was my first visit to the United States and the first flight taken alone. I still remember that flight in detail: the people I spoke to and what they were saying to me. But more importantly it was a flight full of emotions: excitement, thrill and a feeling that my life just started and it will be full of adventures. I came to the United States as I was a recipient of the Wasie Foundation Scholarship which allowed me to study art at the College of St. Catherine. The scholarship covered all the costs for the entire program. This tremendous opportunity given to me by the Wasie Foundation never went to waste. I worked very hard throughout my time at St. Kate's grabbing any opportunity that I could: putting my artwork in exhibitions, building art installations on campus, working internships in architectural offices and being in the Honors program. All of that hard work paid off as right after completing my degree I got into Harvard to study architecture. And when I finished my Master's degree I had a chance to work in New York designing skyscrapers, I went to Kenya to work for the United Nations, I taught at UCLA in the architecture program and then I worked for Google as Head of Innovation. Today I'm an assistant professor at Ohio State University where I work on experimental methods in architecture—combining new and emerging technologies to build a brighter future for us all and educating young leaders. I couldn't be happier with my journey as it was, as I suspected on that very first flight, full of adventures.

All of this was possible because of that very first step—the ability to come to the United States to study art. Without the Wasie Foundation none of this would be possible. So thank you for unleashing my potential!

Radek

During my freshman year at the University of Economics in Wroclaw, I was awarded a full scholarship founded by the Gostomski and Wasie foundations to Saint Mary's University in Minnesota.

After graduating from Saint Mary's in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Accounting and minors in Mathematics and Economics, I then graduated from the University of Saint Thomas in 2010 with a Master of Science in Accounting.

I am a CPA, and I started my career at KPMG, one of the Big Four accounting firms. As an Audit Manager, I served companies ranging in size from small to Fortune 500 entities with a global presence. I have spent the last 6 years working in various roles at Medtronic. Currently, I am a Finance Director (Pain Interventions).

Maybe you don't have the financial resources of Stanley L. Wasie or Michael M. Gostomski, but you can still help us to continue their work, funding scholarships for students by donating money to PACIM scholarship funds. PACIM awards scholarships to students who have Polish heritage, and take an interest in the culture and traditions.

Education is one of the best ways to advance economically and socially in American society. Even if Polish Americans, through the hard work of several generations, are, in general, no longer in a disadvantaged position compared to other ethnic groups, the costs of higher education create hardships for many working and middle-class families and limit opportunities for the advancement of many talented young people. There is also a steady demand for assistance to students from Poland wanting to continue their education as international students in the USA.

Every year we receive more qualified applications for scholarships and grants from Polanie Legacy and Rog Endowment funds than we can award. We are also aware that the ones we award cover only a small fraction of the costs of higher education. For these reasons, we would like to expand the scholarship funds and, therefore, encourage you to donate.

All money donated to the scholarship fund is used exclusively for that purpose. PACIM keeps scholarship money in investment accounts separate from operating accounts and uses a transparent and public process to award the scholarships.

Feel free to contact us if you want to know more about PACIM scholarships and contributing money to the PACIM scholarship funds. We would also like to hear your ideas on how to raise money for PACIM scholarship through other fundraising initiatives.

Young refugee woman's story

- PART II

Swietlana (not her real name), her sister and their two young children arrived in Warsaw in March 2022. We featured the story about her experiences as a young refugee woman in the summer issue of Polam. After 7 months of living alone with her daughter in Poland, she is

longing to return home, to be with her family. Although her husband was injured and was hospitalized in May, he had to return to the front line to defend his country. I keep in touch with her and check in on a regular basis. She recently wrote this letter for PolAm.



“On the 24th of February a cruel, bloodthirsty dictator decided to attack Ukraine, to kill or imprison our defenders, our patriots, a lot of civilians and to destroy Ukrainians as a nation by turning all those who would survive into submissive slaves.

Yes, Putin's real purpose of the war is to make Ukrainians disappear as a nation by killing us, by kidnapping our people and moving them to remote areas of Russia, by forbidding us to speak Ukrainian language. He has not invented anything new, he is just continuing Kremlin's policies of the last 400 or 500 years, policies to destroy Ukrainian statehood. Centuries ago, our brave freedom-loving predecessors, Cossacks, and plowmen fought together when the cruel Moscow army attacked us. But we have always wanted to live in a democratic society of independent Ukraine.

Realizing that the fate of the nation is at a stake, our men and women didn't have any other choice but to fight and to defend our one and only motherland. We couldn't let our country and our nation disappear. The war united us. Since the first day, hundreds of people stood in lines to join the territorial defense, hundreds of people became volunteers. Ukrainian men came back from abroad to defend their motherland. Even rich and well-known people, businessmen, singers, actors and

dancers went to the front lines and risked their lives as soldiers, volunteers, and paramedics. The world's politicians and even our own authorities didn't expect us to be so united, so brave, so fearless and persistent

Today, in the twenty-first century, Russians are not at all free in their country. They don't know what freedom of speech is, as they are prohibited from having a point of view that is different from the rulers. They are afraid to be imprisoned.

A large portion of Russians is extremely poor, humiliated by their authorities, which makes them envious and very cruel. The purpose of Russian soldiers in this “Special Operation” is to get a higher salary and to steal things they consider valuable from Ukrainian houses. They are fighting and dying for the money they were promised.

But we, Ukrainians, are different. Our men and women are fighting for the most valuable and treasured things they have—their families, their Motherland, their freedom, and the right to be independent. We are fighting for the right to be Ukrainians in Ukraine. And that is why we will win!”

“I'm proud to be a Ukrainian!”

Playground sponsored by Walicki Fund



TRANSLATION:

THANK YOU

On behalf of the authorities of the Brzeg County, I am submitting heartfelt thanks for funding and enabling the construction of the playground in the Orphanage in Skorogoszcz worth fifteen thousand US dollars (\$ 15,000) by Polish American Cultural Institute in Minnesota.

The Brzeski County is a local government unit that runs the aforementioned institutional foster care for children and adolescents deprived of parental care. Your commitment as the Polish American community to our local needs is a very important manifestation of solidarity in difficult times marked by the climate, epidemiological, migration, war, and inflation crisis. Despite the situation, you have decided to provide help which will bring back childhood to those in need. We appreciate it even more.

Sincerely
Brzeg County Executive
Jacek Monkiewicz



PODZIĘKOWANIE

W imieniu władz Powiatu Brzeskiego składam serdeczne wyrazy wdzięczności za ufundowanie i umożliwienie wykonania placu zabaw w Domu Dziecka w Skorogoszczy o wartości piętnastu tysięcy dolarów amerykańskich (\$ 15 000)

przez

Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM) z siedzibą w Saint Paul, MN, USA.

Powiat Brzeski jest jednostką samorządu terytorialnego, która prowadzi wyżej wymienioną placówkę opiekuńczo-wychowawczą w ramach instytucjonalnej pieczy zastępczej dla dzieci i młodzieży pozbawionych opieki rodzicielskiej.

Zarówno samo wsparcie naszych wychowanków, jak i Państwa zaangażowanie jako Polonii Amerykańskiej w nasze lokalne potrzeby, są dla nas bardzo ważnym przejawem solidarności w trudnych czasach naznaczonych kryzysem klimatycznym, epidemiologicznym, migracyjnym, wojennym i inflacyjnym. Mimo sytuacji, zdecydowaliście się Państwo na pomoc, która ułatwia przywracanie dzieciństwu najmłodszym w potrzebie. Tym bardziej taką hojność doceniamy.

Z poważaniem

Starosta Powiatu Brzeskiego

Jacek Monkiewicz

Please join us on Sunday, **NOVEMBER 20TH** at 2pm in PACIM office. We will be voting on five candidates for PACIM Board of Directors and voting on the revisions to the Bylaws. You will receive more information in mail.

PHYLLIS HUSTED – Former Director

After I retired from the Northwest Airlines, I found more time to volunteer in the Polish American community in Minnesota. I joined PACIM and became involved in their many activities. Eventually I became a Board Member and served for 10 years! I also joined Columbia Heights - Łomianki Sister Cities organization, and Holy Cross church where I became a Polish Choir member.

I helped with many PACIM's activities, such as Soup Festival, Wigilia, Bal Karnawałowy and the library. I organized PACIM bus trip to Chicago to participate in the Polish Constitution Day Parade. At that time, I met my husband John Bieniek, who also joined PACIM and later became the President. Together we traveled multiple times to Poland and delivered donations to Polish Orphanages (Dom Dziecka). It was the most rewarding experience for us. I love my Polish heritage and I love Poland! I am grateful to be a part of PACIM, because it allows me to participate in many activities that promote Polish traditions and culture.

IWONA SRIENC – Incumbent Director

Iwona Srienc, Ph.D., got her Master's of Arts in Russian Philology from the University of Warsaw. Came to the US as a Visiting Scholar at SUNY, Stony Brook. She was offered a Teaching Assistantship at SUNY, Albany where she completed her MA in Russian linguistics. In 1980, she was accepted to a graduate program in Slavic Linguistics at UCLA. She completed her Ph.D. in 1990. After arriving in MN, she taught Polish at the U of M, worked as a substitute teacher, interpreter, and translator, and for the past 15 years has been teaching Polish at PACIM. She has been a PACIM board member since 2018. She has four adult children and four grandchildren.

BOGDAN KUKLA – Incumbent Director

Boguslaw Kukla, serving currently as a Treasurer and Membership Committee chair on PACIM Board; first generation Polish American born in Upper Silesia in Poland; In 2000 emigrated to U.S. along with his wife Aleksandra. In Minnesota since June 2006, currently resides in Rochester.

After arriving in Minnesota, Boguslaw became involved in activities at the Polish Saturday School in Minneapolis, where his children have studied from 2006 until today.

Boguslaw is serving on school board since 2007, he was a school director for 5 years (2010-2015). Board member of Poland Independent Celebration Committee and Polish Committee at the Holy Cross.

In 2016, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Polish School in Minneapolis, Boguslaw was honored with a diploma of recognition for school activity by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago.

DAVID LUIKEN –

David Luiken is an English language teacher, but he also understands Polish language well. He and his Polish-born wife Kasia raised their four children with Polish traditions. They attended Polish Saturday School and have been members of Dolina for many years. Three of his children are currently dancing with the group. David and his family make frequent trips to Poland to visit friends and family and to immerse their children in Polish language and culture. His youngest son just returned from Poland after spending two years there studying music.

David and his family feel so strongly about the attack made on Ukraine's



MICHAŁ WOJTAK – Incumbent Director

Michal D. Wojtak has been serving since 2012 as Vice Coordinator and since 2016 as a Director of Adam Mickiewicz Polish Saturday School in Minneapolis. He became PACIM Director in 2020.

Michal has immigrated with his wife Dorota to United States in 2003. He has first moved to Chicago and in 2011 to Minneapolis. Originally from Raciborz in Silesia region in Poland Michal has both Silesian and highlander's roots from Podhale area near Babia Gora.

Michal has 26 years of experience in the architectural and construction industries. Michal earned his master's degree in architecture and city planning from the Silesian Institute of Technology in Gliwice, and he began working as an architect in 1997. In 2006 Michal joined Mortenson and quickly became a leader in the development of new processes and fostering collaboration through virtual design and construction (VDC). He has led the VDC efforts on several high-profile projects for Mortenson, including the Sprint Center in Kansas City, Missouri; U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis; Chase Center in San Francisco; and the Las Vegas Stadium in Las Vegas, among many others.

Michal and Dorota have four children that attend Polish School since 2011.

sovereignty and threat this poses to Poland that they started a website to raise money for refugees living in Poland and they have accepted a Ukrainian refugee into their home.

David has a deep connection to everything Polish and hopes that by joining the PACIM board he can make a positive contribution to the local Polish community.

PACIM Scholarships

2022 POLANIE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES:



Jesse Ehrgott

I am a freshman at Minnesota State University-Mankato. I am majoring in environmental science and hope to one day help combat climate change. I am minoring in public service and want to start a nonprofit organization to help bridge the opportunity gap for low income communities.



Caroline Galas

I am pursuing the Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Minnesota. After I graduate, I plan to obtain a Master's degree. My dream is to work as a Neonatal Nurse practitioner. As a medical professional, I will treat patients with respect, empathy, and value each individual's background and life experiences. I am honored to be one of the PACIM's scholarship recipients and will proudly continue learning about my roots by participating in the Minnesota Polish-American community.



Alyssa Moore

Alyssa Moore is grateful to accept a Polanie Legacy Scholarship to help fund her studies at New York University this academic year. She is a first-year graduate student pursuing a Master's of Arts in Archives and Public History. Her academic interests converge on immigration in America and historical curation. Upon receiving her degree, Alyssa wants to continue to research and celebrate immigrants' stories as a professional curator at a historical museum.



Julia Ramczyk

Hello! My name is Julia Ramczyk and I am from Blaine, Minnesota. I currently attend Grand Canyon University in Phoenix for Biology Pre-Medicine and want to be a Dermatologist in the future. I was born in the United States but am fluent in the Polish language. Both my parents came to the United States about 20 years ago, they taught me all about the importance of my culture, language and traditions. I am extremely grateful for my family and Polish background and each day I learn more about the importance of it



Sarah Symalla

I am a chemistry major and theology minor at the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota. I am in my Junior year of college and am currently studying abroad in Rome. After getting my bachelor of science I plan to continue my education and get my PhD in chemistry.

2022 ROG SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES:



Alena Wadzinske

Hello, my name is Alena Wadzinske. I practice and demonstrate Pisanki, a Polish cultural folk art that I learned from my Babcia, a master pisanki artist, who was born in Barglow, Poland. I have been practicing Pisanki for about 16 years. Pisanki involves creating beeswax designs by writing, or pismo, on an egg using a drop-and-drag, wax resist method. Traditionally, Pisanki were created on Good Friday to be blessed in the Świąconka on Holy Saturday and eaten on Easter Sunday. I am a regular cultural folk art demonstrator at the Portage County Folk Fair in Stevens Point and Polishfest, Milwaukee. I am grateful to the PACIM Rog Endowment Grant for its support of my practice and demonstration of Pisanki, allowing me to update my art post-COVID, to travel to cultural events, and to share the art with those interested.



Julia Weir

I am so grateful to be a recipient of the 2022 PACIM Rog Endowment Grant! With the funds from this grant, I plan to travel to Germany and Poland to do research for my upcoming biographical book, *The War Dancer*, a historical novel about the life of my grandmother, Zofia Brzozowska, and her experience in Poland as a prisoner of Nazi forced labor arrangements during World War II. Through the support of PACIM, I hope to retrace my grandmother's steps from her childhood in Suwałki, Poland to the final concentration camp where she was held, in Ravensbrück, Germany. I do all this in hopes of achieving my dream to transcribe her experience into a book and to share her moving story with the world. Thank you again to PACIM and its Scholarship Committee for entrusting me with this grant and for supporting young people who hope to share the richness of Polish heritage and history with others!

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Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota
93 W Little Canada Rd, #106
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2022 Annual Meeting and Election

On Sunday, November 20th at 2 pm PACIM will hold its 2022 Annual Membership Meeting and Election for Board Directors. We will meet at PACIM location:

93 W Little Canada Rd, #106
Saint Paul, MN 55117



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