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THE POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA

POLAM

SUMMER 2022 VOLUME 44 ISSUE 2 WWW.PACIM.ORG

- Guests from Ukraine
- PACIM Picnic:
August 13th
- News from Poland
- PACIM Support for
Dom Dziecka
in Skorogoszcz
- PACIM Scholarships
and Elections



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Contributing Writers:
Edyta Dudek, Mietek Konczyk
Designer: Basia Scroggins

For more information,
please contact:
PACIM
93 W Little Canada Rd, Ste 106
Saint Paul, MN 55117
office@pacim.org

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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.

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Cover:
Top: Translation of the text on the top of the page “You are safe here”
Bottom: Caritas organization volunteers at Przemysł Railway Station, Poland

Photo left:
Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, Government and local organization representatives, including PACIM President Edyta Dudek, gave presentations at the Ukrainian Rally on March 6th, 2022.
(Photo courtesy of Susie Tschann)

From the President

Dear PACIM Members!
Witam Wszystkich Serdecznie!



Thank you for attending the Open House on February 27th! Your company made our gathering very special! We celebrated “Tłusty Czwartek” or Fat Tuesday (in Poland Fat Tuesday is observed on the previous Thursday) with delicious “pączki” and “faworki” prepared by Iwona Srienc, Ola Żórawska, Dorota Wojtak and Ania Lesińska with the help of many others. We had an opportunity to listen to our new member, Julia Weir, talk about her book “The Tripoint” and we discussed your ideas about PACIM activities. As a result, our beautiful new office will be available for the meetings of several new and old clubs: Polish Book Club, Cycling Club, Sailing Club, Babcia, Dziadek & I Club, Family Stories Club and Crocheting & Knitting Club. You can find more information on page 12.

PACIM has been very busy since February 24th collecting funds to support refugees from Ukraine. In this issue of Polam I described the situation of Ukrainian guests in Poland based on my own experience. I traveled to Warsaw on March 20th and spent several weeks there providing help to refugees at the Warsaw Central Station. I also visited Przemysł, the first railway station on the Polish side of the border with Ukraine, where volunteers from Caritas offer all kinds of support to the refugees. So far, PACIM has donated \$24,000 to Caritas in Poland but we are still collecting funds on our website pacim.org/support-ukraine/.

We would like to invite members and guests to the PACIM Family Picnic on Saturday, August 13th 12pm-6pm. All are welcome! Come, enjoy Polish food and relax in the beautiful

Vadnais-Sucker Lake Regional Park. There are multiple walking and biking trails in the area so you will have an opportunity to burn those calories from sausages and pierogies.

If you have friends or family members who attend college, please remind them that PACIM offers scholarships. The deadline to apply is July 31 and you can find more information on our website www.pacim.org.

Last but not least, if you support the work PACIM is doing, please consider becoming a member or renewing your membership. To check your membership expiration date, look at the back of your copy of Polam. PACIM is a volunteer-run organization. We rely on our membership fees to publish Polam every quarter and pay rent for our office; these cost us \$15,000 per year. If you have already renewed your membership, we thank you! If you would like to become a new member, we welcome you!

See you at the Picnic!

Edyta Dudek
PACIM President



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PACIM Events

When: Saturday August 13, 2022
12pm – 6pm

Where: 4500 Rice Street, unit 106
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127
Shelter #1, Vadnais - Sucker
Lake Regional Park

>> CALENDAR <<

> JULY 10, SUNDAY <

Polish Angels of Culture Bring
Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine

> AUGUST 13, SATURDAY <

Picnic, Shelter#1 Vadnais Sucker Park

> 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

Enjoy our second annual

PACIM Family Picnic!

Come with your family and friends!

Bring your own chair or share a table with fellow PACIM members!

You will be able to relax, eat, play and take advantage of the park's trails and water amenities in a peaceful, safe, natural setting. Feel free to bring a soccer ball or frisbee. **Free parking**

Purchase your food in advance

We will provide a full plate of:

- one (1) fresh-roasted genuine Polish kielbasa grillowa from Chicago,
- four (4) boiled potato-cheese pierogi,
- authentic kapusta (sauerkraut with carrot) or sauted onion,
- crunchy Polish pickles or mizeria,
- tasty Polish desserts
- plus complimentary bottled/canned water and coffee.

Cost

- \$19 per person all-inclusive if your order is received by August 8, 2022
- \$25 per person thereafter.
- \$8 Children's menu
- Beer/wine available for adults with a donation.*

*Recommended donation \$5 per can/bottle of beer or cup of wine.
Limit 2 drinks per adult.

Payment and pre-registration may be made on our www.pacim.org website or received by check by **August 8** to our 93 West Little Canada Rd, unit 106, Saint Paul, MN 55117 office c/o Picnic.

Food is guaranteed for those who are pre-registered and provided on a first-come, first-serve basis for those paying in person on the day of the event.

Volunteer: Four for Free

Put in four (4) volunteer hours to help PACIM set up for this event and serve guests at the direction of a PACIM Board Member, and lunch is on us for the volunteer. Just let us know if you can make a morning 11am-3pm or afternoon 3pm-7pm Saturday commitment at office@pacim.org.



Guests from Ukraine

By Edyta Dudek

“No More War!”

The phrase “Nigdy więcej wojny” (“no more war”) has been heard in Poland in stories, songs, and movies since 1945. When I was growing up, I was taught these words both at school and at home. War veterans were invited to talk to children about their ordeal. Trips were organized to places of genocide committed on Poles during WWII. Around Warsaw you could see multiple memorials and plaques reminding people of the horrors of the war. And then almost every family had their own story of wartime suffering. My elementary school was named after “The Heroes of Westerplatte”, the Polish garrison stationed near Gdańsk that was attacked on September 1, 1939 by the German battleship Schleswig-Holstein, which without warning opened fire thus starting the first battle of World War II. As a young student I was required to memorize the following seven days of Polish garrison defense. Polish teachers emphasized daily that those who don’t remember history are doomed to experience it again.



Then on February 24, 2022, the unimaginable happened, the Russian army attacked their neighbors. Ukrainian women and children ran from enemy fire, while the men stayed behind to defend their country. Ukrainian refugees arrived in Poland by bus, train, or car. Polish people rushed to the border to bring entire families to their houses. Polish educators ensured we didn’t forget the pain caused by war and in turn we received Ukrainian war refugees like our own family, with open arms. They became our guests.





Anna Maria Horcher from Michigan brought some smiles to my volunteer group

Warsaw Central Railway Station

I arrived in Warsaw in March. By then Poland had already welcomed 2 million people from Ukraine. Driving from the airport I was expecting to see many groups of distressed refugees on the streets, but they were not to be seen anywhere. I was determined to participate in welcoming the new guests from Ukraine and the following day my daughter and I volunteered at the Warsaw Central Railway station. Again, the station looked calm, except for a large number of people wearing green and orange vests. These were volunteers from Grupa Centrum. Before I arrived, on February 25, a group of friends decided to set up a point where they would distribute free food for the refugees arriving in Warsaw. Within a few days the group grew to hundreds of volunteers who served refugees in several areas: gastronomy, housing, transportation, medical and even veterinary care.

The Poles in Warsaw – and, I later found out, in other areas of the country became extremely well organized. Without the help of the government, they created an aid system that responded to almost all refugees’ needs. I think it was because of the “enchanted vests.”

When my daughter and I arrived for our shift at a Warsaw Central Station, we participated in the volunteer training. The first words spoken by our supervisor were “Don’t wear the vest yet!” During the training we learned what to do in various situations, and the most important one was, “When the refugee approaches you, don’t just tell them what to do, but contact as many volunteers needed until the situation is resolved.” Then we put on our “enchanted vests.”

As soon as we turned around a group of women approached us.

- A family had just gotten tickets (free for refugees) and they needed directions to their train. According to instructions, I had to

find a volunteer whose job was to walk people to their trains. It was easy to spot one. He gladly helped carry their luggage, marched through the large Central Station all the way to the platform where their train was leaving from and put them on the train.

- A woman said to me, “I am flying with my daughter and granddaughter to Rome tomorrow. Her Godmother lives there. I need to buy luggage. The ones at the station are too expensive. There must be a “rynek” (market) somewhere in Warsaw.” I thought for a second and googled the location of Hala Mirowska, where it is possible to buy inexpensive items. Then I walked with her to the bus stop by the Palace of Culture and put her on the appropriate bus to get there.

- An older man said, “I worked for the Nestle company in Ukraine. I have my resume with me. Could you set up an interview for me at Nestle Poland?” Unfortunately, I was not able to help with this one, my vest was not as enchanted as I thought!

Help with accommodation

My assigned job was to help refugees find accommodations. My daughter on the other hand volunteered to work in a medical group. Since she didn’t speak Russian or Ukrainian, she assisted a female doctor from Mariupol.

Many people arriving in Warsaw wanted to stay there. When I first started to volunteer there were more than a thousand offers to stay for free with families in Warsaw. When Varsovians stopped by our booth with offers of free accommodations, we entered them in a database. Later we matched newly arrived refugees with available lodging. Most of the groups

included women with a few children. After a successful match, transportation was arranged. People were either picked up by the accommodation provider or we arranged taxis for them.

In the evenings, we sometimes received free blocks of rooms from the nearby hotels. And there was always an “emergency room” available in a hostel, for a woman with several young children. One evening a wonderful Ukrainian American man offered to pay for several hotel rooms out of his own pocket!

Although many people who came to Poland wanted to stay in the city, a decision was made in April by the presidents of large cities such: Waszawa, Wrocław, Katowice and Kraków to institutionalize the way the refugees received accommodations and asked people to go to smaller towns. One of the Polish government-run centers is the Expo Ptak in Nadarzyn near Warsaw, the largest of its kind in Europe. Not only do they specialize in housing thousands of refugees, but also keep a database of accommodations in private homes. When I called their information center, I learned that the refugees were allowed to stay there only for 2-3 days and then they advised them to search for a place outside of Warsaw or abroad. They offered free buses to multiple cities around Europe. Only air travel was not available for free.

Przemyśl Railway Station

At the end of my stay, I visited the train station in Przemyśl, the first train station on the Polish side of the Poland-Ukraine border, where the charitable organization Caritas runs a small army of volunteers. This is the place where Ukrainian families first have contact with Polish citizens. When the train from Ukraine arrives, volunteers assist the refugees with their luggage and bring them to the reception area with free food and drink. At night the room turns into a sleeping shelter. The \$15,000 PACIM collected for Ukrainian refugees was delivered to Caritas on April 11, 2022. Since then, we collected an additional \$8,000 and the fund will stay open until the end of war. Thank you, to all the donors, for supporting guests from Ukraine!!!



Young refugee woman's story



Swietlana (not her real name), her sister and their two young children arrived in Warsaw in March. Here is her story in her own words.

"I am one of those women who had to put some clothes and things that might be necessary into a big suitcase, grab a child and leave our Ukraine in order to find a safe place abroad. My sister and I with our kids took a bus from Zhytomyr to Warsaw, while our husbands and parents stayed in Ukraine. And we went to a place where we had nobody waiting for us. Nobody to meet us there. We could only hope to get the volunteers' help.

Here, in a foreign country we try to figure out the rules to follow, try to survive in a new society. On one hand everything seems to be fine, because Polish people are really so kind and help us a lot. But on the other hand, we live with a feeling of uncertainty of the future.

It was scary to leave home and to go because we didn't have any relatives or friends in Poland who could take us into their home. First, we thought we should stay home. I tried to think that Russians need Kyiv, and they wouldn't come to our small town which is 100 km from Kyiv. But I was afraid of shelling

from Belarus territory, since it is just 130km away. And we all were afraid of Russian planes because they dropped bombs on Ukrainian cities, towns and villages.

The decision to run away was made on March 6th after we learned what was going on in the small town of Borodianka, that was captured by Russians. There was news that the local people were shot, women and girls were raped, people couldn't come out of their basements to find food, water or medicine. All this horror was happening just 50 km from our town. Besides, in the village just 20 km from our town some houses were ruined by shelling and people died.

Fear of death overcame fear of travelling to another country. We left Ukraine. On the third day of our stay in Warsaw we were playing with our kids in the park. Suddenly there was a terrific noise. Oh, no! It's a plane! I've forgotten that passenger planes still exist... I think I'll be afraid of planes in the sky till the end of my life.

Refugee Aid Center at St. Margaret Church in Łomianki, Warsaw suburb

It's spring and the weather changes very often. I know that someday I will need another jacket. But that jacket is in Ukraine. Do I still have it? And those new plates? I bought them before the New Year. I like them so much. Do I still have them? We celebrated my daughter's fifth birthday at the beginning of February. She got many new toys. She asks about those toys, she misses them. What shall I tell her?

My parents are alive. I know this because we talked over the phone some minutes ago. Will they be alive tomorrow? When will we be able to be together? My daughter misses her daddy, who is a soldier now, her granny and grandpa, her friends. Of course, Poland is very nice, and the people are very kind. They gave clothes and toys to our kids. And we play in parks and on the playgrounds; we try to entertain our kids, but they want to go home. They miss their families and native homes.

Sometimes I feel happy and excited when we're walking down the streets and looking at beautiful buildings and nature. It is my first time travelling in Europe. But I miss my family and friends, my home. Someone might think it is funny, but I miss my orchids and other plants, and I miss my new oven. I still remember where I put this or that thing at home. I hope to go back very soon, to meet all my family and friends in Ukraine, at home. "

I contacted Swietlana on May 25th. She is still in Warsaw with her sister and children. She let me know that unfortunately, in her town 100 houses were destroyed when it was shelled on May 20th and again on May 22nd. Her husband was injured on May 22nd and her family strongly advised her to stay in safety of Poland for now.

Columbia Heights in Northeast Minneapolis has been a sister city of Łomianki, Poland since 1991. In March 2022 the Sister Cities group decided to financially support Ukrainian refugees temporarily living in Łomianki. I visited the Refugee Aid Center at St. Margaret Church and was very impressed by their efforts.

On the first day of the war pastor Jacek Siekierski called a quick meeting with parishioners to brainstorm how to help refugees who were due to arrive in the parish within hours. Right away the priest contacted people who wanted to house guests from Ukraine. Some parishioners knew each other but others did not. Everyone contributed their talents, many donated food and other supplies. Anna came on the first day with a donation and stayed.

Anna, Volunteer Coordinator:

"I am basically taking care of everything. I enter new refugees' information into our database. I work as a receptionist. Sometimes I need to arrange accommodation for people who stayed with a family that can't take care of them anymore. We have about 6-10 such cases per day. The center is always able to find a new place in a Polish home for a woman with children for a week or longer.



Guests from Ukraine in Skorogoszcz

By Marzena Kłysz, Director of Dom Dziecka



“We have 30 volunteers per each four-hour shift, so more than 100 per day. Volunteers, who wear uniform vests are trained in their assigned tasks. Many people from different organization such as scouts and firemen joined us. We meet in the morning in the Altar Boys room and discuss the day ahead.

“When refugees arrive at the center, they need to show their passports and fill out a questionnaire with their needs. Our volunteers check the person with the database information to make sure there are no violations, for example, people don’t collect the same articles multiple times during the week. Volunteers bring the items from the warehouse and hand the package to refugees. The center also supports families who host refugees but can’t afford to purchase extra food for them.

“Three times a week the Łomianki Cultural Center offers services for families. The Ukrainian women can meet with a doctor or a lawyer who speaks Ukrainian, while their children participate in activities.”

The Refugee Aid Center is in the basement of St. Margaret church. More than 2000 Ukrainian refugees who arrived in Łomianki after February 24 are eligible to receive help: food, clothes, toys for the children, strollers, and other items. Donations come from Poles, Ukrainians and they even got a truck from Italy!

It is very heartwarming to see how many Polish people help Ukrainian refugees. Skorogoszcz has about 1000 citizens with 100 kids in the elementary school. Last month, we received 17 new refugee students! For example, my friend has been hosting a woman with six children for almost 2 months!

Our guests from Ukraine were brought here by “Starosta Powiatu Brzeskiego” (Brześć County Executive). It was his personal decision to arrange transportation for women and children running from the war. Many citizens drove 450 km to the border in their own cars to bring Ukrainians to their homes. At some point there were more people offering housing at the border than refugees needing help.

All my friends and coworkers help Ukrainians, not only with the housing, but also with the huge amount of documentation that is required. For example, a month ago we helped our guests with PESEL registration and opening a bank account. The money will be coming tomorrow. Adults will get 300 zloty each and each child will get 500 zloty. I didn’t hear of any issues related to co-existence with our guests.

Many women who lived in a government-run hostels mostly returned back home. They had jobs. Their houses were intact but unoccupied since their husbands were away fighting with the enemy. We expected their hostel rooms to stay empty, but new refugees came.

Before the war, there were more than 1 million Ukrainians living in Poland. Owners of many companies that employed them invited families of their employees to stay in Poland at the company’s cost.

There is a lot of ongoing help around the country!

PACIM Support For Polish Orphans

PACIM has a long tradition of supporting disadvantaged children in Poland. Each year PACIM organizes "Wigilia" (Christmas Eve Dinner), a fundraising event from which the proceeds go to Children's Homes in different cities in Poland such as Kraków, Toruń, Tuchola, Sarnów and Skorogoszcz.

In 2016 PACIM received more than \$98,000 from the Donna Walicki estate to support Polish orphans living in "Dom Dziecka" (Children's Homes). In November 2018 the money was invested in a restricted Walicki fund. Since then, PACIM has awarded about \$5,000 per year to foster children in Poland. As of May 2022, the investment had reached \$115,064.

Foster care in Poland by the numbers

According to the Polish "Główny Urząd Statystyczny" (Central Statistical Office) in 2021 there were 71,500 children that required care outside of their family: 55,500 were placed in family foster homes and 16,000 in institutions such as "Dom Dziecka."

Reasons children in Poland live in foster care:

- Being an orphan 4% or half-orphan 7.3%,
- Other 88.7%: poverty 0.4%, parents working abroad 2.2%, violence in family 3.8%, parents who are disabled 5.7%, parents who lack capacity to raise children 28.1%, parents who are chemically dependent 41.7%

From „Postępy Deinstytucjonalizacji Pieczy Zastępczej w Polsce” (Progress in Deinstitutionalization of Foster Care in Poland) by Maciej Bitner et al

Zielony Dom (Green Home) In Skorogoszcz



Last year, when the PACIM Board brainstormed about various foster care institutions in Poland, John Bieniek recommended a "Dom Dziecka" in Skorogoszcz, which he visited with his wife Phyllis in 2011.

PACIM contacted the director Marzena Kłysz and inquired about her children's needs. We were told that recently the old playground was taken down, since it was no longer safe for children. Thus, the idea of sponsoring a playground for foster children in Skorogoszcz was born. The PACIM Board unanimously agreed to use 2021, 2022 and 2023 funds from the Donna Walicki investment, for a total of \$15,000, to finance a new playground. The construction is scheduled to be completed this summer.

I had the pleasure of meeting with Marzena in April this year. She spoke with such passion about the place and its residents that I got curious what she called that place. "Zielony Dom" (Green Home), she answered and took me on a tour. I experienced first-hand how love and care can transform an environment. Marzena and "Zielony Dom" supporters donate a lot of time and talent to make the home beautiful. The children's rooms look like they came from a designer magazine.

In Marzena's words:

"When spring arrives, it feels like we live in a fairy tale. It is green everywhere! We have enormous oak trees that are more than 100 years old. We planted 52 new linden trees and 8 platanus. We placed 48 nest boxes for birds on the trees around us. We all enjoy our beautiful arbor in the middle of the garden.

Our home opened in 1952. I became a director in 2006 but have been working here for more than 20 years. I love my work. I meet many wonderful people who constantly help us. Our goal is to make sure that when our children grow up,

they will become independent citizens. We invest in their whole development. We pay for tutors if necessary. We care not only about their education but also offer many extracurricular activities like clubs, arts, dance, music, sports and fishing.

All our children have bikes. We organize trips, we climb the mountains and we travel to the beach. For example, last weekend we went to Wrocław to see the Van Gogh multi-sensory, world famous exhibition. A day before the war we went with the older children to see "Stowarzyszenie umarłych poetów" ("Dead Poets Society") play in Och-Teatr in Warsaw.

"We want to show them that the world is an interesting place, and that they can become independent citizens using their talents.

Although the disadvantages that our children have might not allow them to study at prestige universities, they have many skills and passions that will make them productive members of the society. We stay in touch with our graduates, attend their weddings and often become godparents of their children. Our graduates come back to us with their own families to show them the place where they grew up.

"One student, Bartłomiej Barth, is very close to my heart. He became a Polish Champion in weightlifting in Junior category and got a 3rd place in European Junior Competitions in 2015. When I saw his name on the scoreboard with results, I couldn't stop crying. I recalled our little, scared boy, who during his first months in Skorogoszcz kept asking if he was going to get food that day.



"During the past two years the Covid pandemic ate a lot of our resources. The kids stayed here 24/7 and attended school online so we had to purchase computers for everyone. However, it seems that our children did better than other kids in town because they were isolating together in this beautiful space."

Marzena has been a director for 16 years. She credits her longevity to the support of many people. We in PACIM feel the same way. As long as there is such a wonderful and generous support for the Children's Homes, we will continue this annual program for the children. We give children love, and a shelter they confidently call home, and it gives children stability they hunger for.

Anyone at any time can donate, large and small amounts,
to PACIM and designate the donation for the Dom Dziecka Fund.
If you have a Children's Home in Poland in mind, please let us know.



Marzena personalizes rooms according to children's wishes. These pictures show how her imagination and work transformed living spaces.

PACIM Clubs



POLISH BOOK CLUB for people who like to read in Polish

We discuss the books in Polish. The books are available at the library for PACIM members, or you can find them online.

We meet on the last Thursday of the month 7-9pm

Contact person: **Magdalena De Roo**
madzia.j@gmail.com



CYCLING CLUB for cycling enthusiasts

Do you love riding a bike? Are you looking for a cycling companion or a group? Look no further! Experienced cyclist, Fr. Cyprian Czop, will lead a new cycling adventure every Saturday

Meeting point at PACIM office, on Saturdays 9:30 am throughout summer

Contact person: **Cyprian Czop**
cyprianczop@gmail.com



SAILING CLUB for sailing enthusiasts

No experience necessary!! You can get a taste of sailing on Lake Pepin with our Captain. The ultimate goal of this club would be to plan sailing vacations together with other sailing enthusiasts.

Contact person: **Mirek Wudarski**
twudarski@gmail.com



BABCIA, DZIADEK & I CLUB for children under 6 and their grandparents

Club will meet on weekday mornings when parents are at work. Children will listen to stories in Polish and engage in age-appropriate activities.

Meet at PACIM office at 9:30 am
Tuesdays or Wednesdays or Thursdays

Contact person: **Iwona Srienc**
isrienc@pacim.org



STORIES AND TRADITIONS CLUB for people to share their past

Come listen to and share stories of your background, memories of foods and recipes, family stories, traditions, history, immigration stories, joys and hardships. Our own stories and our family stories are a part of Poland's history. Let's get together and share them.

Once a month on first Mondays of the month 7-9 pm

Contact person: **Natasha Walter-Fisk**
natwalterfisk@protonmail.com



CROCHETING & KNITTING CLUB for people who love to knit, crochet, and socialize

Relaxed, repetitive motions such as the ones used in crochet and knitting can help calm down the body and the brain. Chat with other members while engaging in relaxing activity!

Contact person: **Edyta Dudek**
office@pacim.org

By Mietek Konczyk

Politics

UKRAINE

Since the beginning of the war, Poland has actively helped Ukraine by providing political, financial, military, humanitarian, and moral support and being the main transfer point of arms coming from other countries. It is estimated that the value of Polish financial and military help reached over 2.5 billion euros (\$2.7 billion).

The war accelerated the establishment of a closer relationship between the countries. Poland strongly supports Ukraine in its effort to join the EU. During the last visit of President Duda to Kyiv, both presidents signed an agreement about a "strategic partnership" between the countries. It includes close cooperation in areas of economy, military, culture, science, transportation, energy, trade, and many others. They also agreed to protect the rights of native Poles in Ukraine and Ukrainians in Poland, mutually foster each other's culture, education, and history and work on agreements on sometimes controversial "historical truths."

SANCTIONS

Poland supports all sanctions imposed by the EU on Russia and Belarus, and decided to stop importing coal and this year, phase out importing natural gas and crude oil from Russia. The Polish government is also very active in lobbying other governments for additional political and economic sanctions.

REFUGEES

3.6 million Ukrainian refugees crossed the border of Poland since February; around 1.3 million of them remain in Poland. 1.1 million of them received a PESEL number (the Polish equivalent of a Social Security number). That allows them full access to government support resources, the job market, schools, the national health care system, bank accounts, etc. Half a million of them are children, 450,000 of the productive age. Around 160,000 started to work legally.

It is regular people, volunteers, and charities who provide most of the assistance to the refugees. Central and local governments provide some financial and logistical aid for housing and living expenses. Schools absorbed most of the school-age youth. Like Polish families, Ukrainian families are entitled to receive a monthly social security subsidy "500+" (around \$120) for each child.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

In the last few months, Poland has seen a constant stream of visits by foreign leaders, including the American President, Prime Ministers of Canada and the UK, the Chancellor of Germany, and many others.

Because of the critical role Poland plays in supporting Ukraine and hosting large numbers of Ukrainian refugees, other problems in relations of the Polish government with the EU and USA related, for instance, to media freedoms and reform of the court system have receded into the background. The Polish government also distanced itself somewhat from the Hungarian prime minister Victor Orbán who opposes some of the sanctions and arms shipments to Ukraine.

After the recent changes in Polish law regulating the judicial system that may satisfy "Country Specific Recommendations," the EU will gradually release funds from the EU Reconstruction Fund created to help with the economic recovery after the COVID pandemic. Poland should receive 58 billion euros (\$62 billion) in loans and subventions.

Economy

In May, inflation in Poland reached 13.9% year-to-year. This is a level not seen since the 1990s. About half of it is caused by external factors such as increasing prices of energy, fuels, and food imports.

In the first quarter of the year, the gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 8.5% year-to-year. It is expected that after several interventions by the central bank (NBP) increasing the base interest rate currently at 5.25%, the economy will slow down, helping to fight inflation. The higher interest rates have caused a severe increase in payments due on consumer loans. The majority of home loans in Poland are variable-rate mortgages.

The unemployment rate in the 4th quarter of 2021 was 5.2%. The average monthly salary was 6,626 PLN (\$1,550). The official exchange rate of USD is currently at 4.25 PLN, but at some point in May it reached over 4.50 PLN.

Sanctioning of Russian coal, natural gas, and crude oil forces Poland to look for other suppliers and alternative energy sources. This fall Poland should start receiving natural gas from Norway through a new Baltic Pipe pipeline. Poland is also increasing its port capacities to receive liquified gas (LNG) shipped from the USA, Qatar, and other countries. The government is also considering the purchase of small energy-producing nuclear reactors.

Problems in supply lines caused some market shortages not seen for a long time--it takes over 6 months from order to delivery to get a new car.

Sport

Iga Świątek dominates women's tennis this season. At the age of 21, she is ranked number 1 in the world by WTA and as of today, she won the last 34 matches.



The Polish national soccer team advanced to the World Cup where it will face Argentina, Mexico, and Saudi Arabia in the group phase.

MINNEAPOLIS BOOM ISLAND PARK AUGUST 20TH & 21ST

SAT
10AM-8PM



SUN
10AM-6PM

SLAVIC EXPERIENCE FOOD.MUSIC.FAMILY. SLAVICEXPERIENCE.COM

"To create a welcoming space for people of Slavic heritage to commemorate, celebrate, and share the richness and diversity of Eastern and Central European traditions and customs with the greater Twin Cities community."

People of Slavic heritage include those whose families once emigrated from countries like Poland, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Russia, Slovakia, Belarus, Slovenia, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia, as well as other Eastern and Central European geographies.

The purpose and mission of **SLAVIC EXPERIENCE** is to create a welcoming space for people of Slavic heritage to commemorate, celebrate, and share the richness and diversity of Eastern and Central European traditions and customs with the Greater Twin Cities community.

It is our goal to accomplish this in a number of educationally and culturally significant ways, and to provide a fun, **FREE**, and family-friendly experience.

But we can't do it alone. **We need you!** By partnering with us, you are investing in not just **SLAVIC EXPERIENCE**, but in building bridges, opening doors, creating connections across cultures, and fostering a vibrant, enriching, educational, and welcoming dialogue between our beautifully diverse and cherished Minnesota neighbors of all identities, faiths, and backgrounds.

By taking part in this **globally minded**, truly revolutionary vision and mission, and first-of-its-kind **anywhere** event, you take on a **starring** role in the story of bringing together and sharing with the Twin Cities for the **FIRST** time, the iconic visual art, music and dancing, enigmatic linguistic histories, indulgent culinary flights, **inspiring** immigrant stories, and **ancient** earth-centered celebratory traditions of an **incredibly** diverse and culturally expansive people – the **Slavic** people – with the entire Greater Twin Cities community – in a way that centers **the universal values that we all share** above **all else**.

There are many, **many**, opportunities to elevate your brand throughout the festival (and throughout the year), and engage with our attendees in an organic, authentic, lasting, and meaningful way. Sponsor our Family and Kids area, our main stage entertainment, our fashion show, our cultural educational area, our highly anticipated "In Memoriam" tribute, or any number of memorable activities yet to be announced. Our approach to your sponsorship is one that will guide you in crafting a customized partnership plan that suits the needs and reach of your business or organization, and the level of visibility and engagement that you would like to achieve at our events.

We truly view our sponsors as **partners** in our mission of creating and fostering **inclusive, welcoming** spaces to share the best and the beauty of all Eastern and Central European traditions and culture have to offer with our **family** of Minnesota neighbors of **ALL** intersectional backgrounds and identities – not just two days a year, but **all year long**.

Please see the next page for our current standard sponsorship levels for this year's festival weekend. Choose one that fits or let us help you custom craft a sponsorship package that meets all of your needs, and that is as unique as your business or organization is to the community.

We look forward to you joining us in this ambitious, **first-of-its-kind anywhere** endeavor, and to the beginning of a long and mutually beneficial relationship, as we **together** establish **SLAVIC EXPERIENCE** as the premier, **iconic**, annual summer experience that **ALL** Minnesotans can share in and feel **proud** to call their own.

With your partnership and investment, **you** can help us continue to build the Twin Cities' renowned reputation as a premier, world-class, globally minded community that values and elevates art, music, culture, and the traditions and beauty of **ALL** of its unique, vibrant, and diverse communities – and honors and celebrates them **TOGETHER**.

Food. Music. Family. And the universal values that we all share. The way **SLAVIC** people do it.

Help us share this one-of-a-kind, first-of-its-kind, **SLAVIC EXPERIENCE** festival weekend with the entire Greater Twin Cities community **THIS** summer. We look forward to hearing from you.



2022 SPONSORSHIP LEVELS



2022 SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

To become a sponsor of the 2022 Slavic Experience festival please sign and return this form with payment, your information, and promotion materials listed below.

| | Modern Stage Sponsor | Folk Stage Sponsor | Diamond Sponsor | Gold Sponsor | Silver Sponsor | Bronze Sponsor |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| | \$25,000 | \$15,000 | \$10,000 | \$5,000 | \$3,000 | \$1,000 |

Please select one:

- \$25,000 Modern Stage Sponsor
- \$15,000 Folk Stage Sponsor
- \$10,000 Diamond Sponsor
- \$ 5,000 Gold Sponsor
- \$ 3,000 Silver Sponsor
- \$ 1,000 Bronze Sponsor
- \$100 - 999 Open Donation \$ _____ Donation amount

Name of Company/Organization:

Address:

City: State: Zip Code:

Company Website:

Contact Person:

Preferred Phone #1: Preferred Phone #2:

Email:

Please Provide:

1. A **check** for your donation for the sponsorship level selected.
2. **Camera ready art** for your ad in the festival pamphlet. hi-res company logo (eps, jpeg, pdf, png).
3. Exact wording of how you want your **company name** listed in festival marketing materials.

X

Signature

Date:

Mail to:
Slavic Experience
8745 Egan Dr.
Savage, MN 55378

| | Modern Stage Sponsor | Folk Stage Sponsor | Diamond Sponsor | Gold Sponsor | Silver Sponsor | Bronze Sponsor |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Complimentary 10' x 10' booth space (does not include tent rental) | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Inclusion in Social Media posts | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Name/logo recognition on SE website | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Name/logo recognition on main SE banner | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Name/logo and sponsorship level in the SE pamphlet | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Ad space in the SE pamphlet | Cover page | Back page | Full page | Half page | 1/4 page | 3.5"x2" |
| Admission to the VIP tent | X | X | X | X | | |
| Banner and signage space | X | X | X | X | | |
| Name listed as sponsors in press and radio releases | X | X | X | X | | |
| Logo on T-shirt | X | X | X | X | | |
| Invitation to attend media interviews | X | X | | | | |
| Exclusive naming rights for the stage | X | X | | | | |

For more information

visit our website or email us at info@slavicexperience.com with

"Sponsorship" in the subject.

SLAVICEXPERIENCE.COM

2022 Annual Meeting and Election

PACIM will hold its 2022 Annual Meeting and Election for Board Directors on the afternoon Sunday, Nov. 20.

All interested director candidates need to submit a letter of intent by email or postal mail by Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Candidate information as well as a proposed 2023 budget will then be posted online and in the fall issue of POLAM.

Presentation on July 10th, 2022
in Polish with English interpreter

“POLISH ANGELS OF CULTURE BRING HUMANITARIAN AID TO UKRAINE”

Where: Kolbe Hall, 1630 4th St NE,
Minneapolis, MN 55413

When: Sunday, July 10th at 1pm

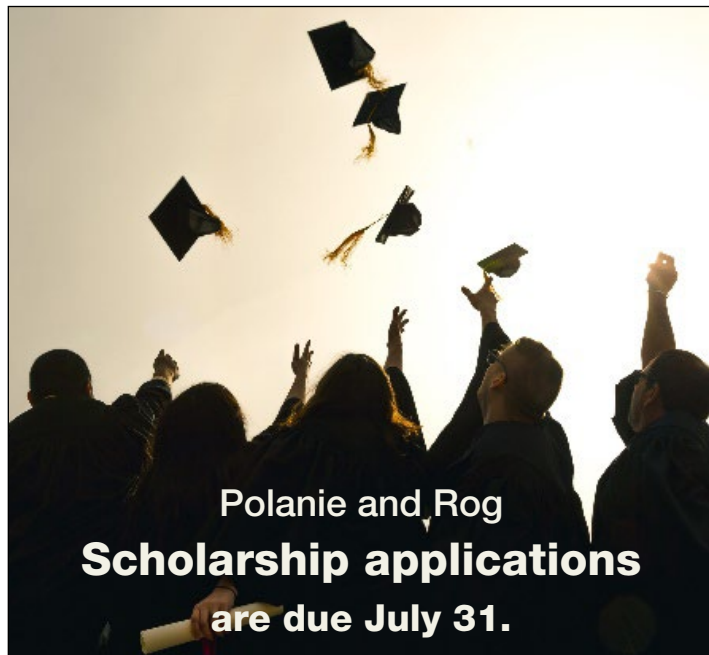
Agata Wiktorja Śmierzyńska,
President of “Anioły Kultury”
(Angels of Culture) Foundation,
www.aniolykultury.pl

Agata is a Polish Language teacher and doctoral student at “Chrześcijańska Akademia Teologiczna” (Christian Academy of Theology) in Warsaw.

In 2012, she founded the “Anioły Kultury” (Angels of Culture), with two main goals: intercultural dialogue and commitment to social services for women and children in Poland and abroad.

From 2014 she cooperated with charity organizations operating in the border area with Gaza Strip, and supported women and children suffering from PTSD there (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder).

In February 2022, she began working with humanitarian organizations in Ukraine by starting a support program “humanitarian aid,” which not only deals with obtaining support, but also oversees the needs and effectiveness of its delivery.



**Polanie and Rog
Scholarship applications
are due July 31.**

Up to \$2,000 per individual

For application go to
www.pacim.org

HOLY CROSS Catholic Church



*A spiritual home
for Polonia
at the heart of
NE Minneapolis
since 1886*

Join us for Masses,
devotions and pastoral
care in Polish and English;
lively Polish Saturday
School; cultural and
musical offerings; faith
and ethnic traditions
and more!

www.OurHolyCross.org + 612.930.0860
Polish Masses celebrated Friday evenings at 7 pm and Sundays at 11:30 am

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Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota
(PACIM) is a membership driven non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

PACIM is grateful for the many gifts, endowments, and donations that make its mission a reality in the programs, events, publications and library collection under its guidance.

Ad Rates:

Business card size ad:

- \$30 [one time]
- \$150 [one year]

One-quarter page display ad:

- \$100 for a single ¼ page display
- \$180 two ¼ page display ads, [half year]
- \$350 four issues ¼ page ads [one year]

Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota
93 W Little Canada Rd, #106
Saint Paul, MN 55117
pacim.org

Support PACIM! Please renew your membership!

MEMBER #1 Name

MEMBER #1 E-mail

MEMBER #2 Name

MEMBER #2 E-mail

PHONE

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

Check Membership Level:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1500 Business Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Student under 26y old |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Donor Diamond | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Senior over 70y old |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Donor Gold | <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> Age if student or senior |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Donor Silver | | |

Add \$5.00 for ACPC

I can volunteer and contribute my talents to PACIM

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$

US mail:

mail your check to:

PACIM

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

PayPal:

via our website
pacim.org

Membership Form:

obtain form on our website
pacim.org

**PACIM
PICNIC**

**Saturday,
August 13, 2022
12pm - 6pm**

93 West Little Canada Rd,
Suite 106,
St Paul, MN 55117

All are welcome!!!



**LIKE PACIM ON
FACEBOOK!**

Stay connected and learn
about upcoming events!

Facebook.com/PACIM.org

Or, use your smartphone camera to scan this QR
code and go directly to our Facebook page. ▶

