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Total: _____

Please add \$5 to the above membership levels if you wish to join the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) through PACIM (a 50% discount).

Subscription Note: With the postal increase this spring we have made the following changes effective immediately. Since non-profit mail is NOT forwarded but returned 75 cents postage due, if you travel south for the winter please add \$6 to your basic subscription rate of \$15. This ensures you will receive your *Pol-Am* by first class mail all year long and it will be forwarded by the Post Office to your winter abode. Anyone else who wishes to receive their *Pol-Am* by first class mail all year long should add \$6 to their renewals.

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Make checks payable to PACIM and send this form with your check to:
PACIM
PO Box 18403
Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403

Thoughts

A *Pol-Am* reader brought to my attention the “Heritage Homecoming” article from the Heifer International magazine. This charity’s mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the Earth. By giving families a hand-up, not just a hand-out, they empower them to turn lives of hunger and poverty into self-reliance and hope. What I did not know was that in Poland they are helping to reestablish the old Polish breeds.

I found the article interesting and thought many of you would as well since so many of our Polish grandparents farmed here in Minnesota when they first arrived.

We here at *Pol-Am* are happy to accept your original articles on Polish themes for review and consideration. Since we have limited space, please limit them to about 400 words. Please email them as a Microsoft document to info@pacim.org.

Don’t forget to spread the word about the Chopin and Paderewski Celebration on February 28th at Holy Cross Church (see page 7 for details).

All the Best,

Steven

Steven Ukasick, *Editor*

ACPC Scholarships

The Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies Program is administered solely by the American Council for Polish Culture. Amount of award: \$5,000. Deadline March 15. Qualifications:

1. Applicant must be a citizen of the U.S.A. and of Polish ancestry.
 2. Applicant must be a classified graduate student enrolled at an accredited university in the United States and must have completed at least one year of studies at the graduate level.
 3. Prior winners of an ACPC Pulaski Scholarship are ineligible.
- Please visit the ACPC website: www.polishcultureacpc.org for detailed procedures on how to apply.

New Members, Witamy:

Marcia Hooper
Merlin Roers
Marcia Shaw

Generous Members, Dziękuję:

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Polish Children’s Fund

PACIM’s Wigilia Benefit	668
Roger & Margaret Borowicz	25
Pat Bumgarner	50
Matthew Dudley	75
Susan & Thomas Hunter	25
Danuta Malejka-Giganti	200
James Murzyn	100
Stanley Musial	20
Joe Siwek	100
Donna Walicki	100
Total collected to date:	\$2,214

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to help the orphans of Boleslawiec please make your check payable to Pacim and mail to: PACIM Children’s Fund
PO Box 18403
Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403
Your donation will be acknowledged by mail.

Rog Endowment Accepting Applications

DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2010

Chester S. Rog Endowment Fund for the Advancement of Polish Heritage is accepting applications for stipends to be awarded on May 1, 2010.

The fund’s objective is to benefit and promote the local community and its Polish heritage. It will grant stipends to individuals and/or groups who seek further professional growth, Polish language or arts and cultural study, both locally and abroad, and who are committed to using what they have achieved to benefit the cause of Polish heritage here in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Stipends/scholarships for transportation, tuition and other expenses will be granted for the year 2010 (subject to change).

2010 Twin Cities Polish Festival

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Twin Cities Polish Festival,
I am writing this letter on behalf of the volunteer committee who put in many hours to make the First Twin Cities Polish Festival such a success. We have already started planning the 2010 Festival which is slated for August 21–22nd.

We all agree that last year’s Festival was a success beyond our expectations. Unfortunately, the Festival was not as financially successful as we had hoped. We started on a shoestring budget with donations from the various organizations and the general public. We were blessed with many in kind contributions that helped defray a lot of the costs in running a festival. Without that generosity, the Festival would be deeper in the red than it

Qualifications

Applicants must:

1. be members of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota, or
2. be recommended by a member of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota if younger than 18 years of age,
3. be of Polish or Polish American descent or embrace a love of Poland and its culture.

Application

Applicants must supply the following:

1. Name, address, phone number, email address and other contact information.
2. Name, location and purpose of the event/class/ program/or use for which the stipend is sought.
3. Description of one’s involvement in the Polish American community via the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota or other local organizations.
4. One letter of recommendation.

ended up being. What we definitely lacked was sponsorship. Currently, we still have some outstanding debt that we hope to be able to pay before next year’s event.

To make the 2010 Festival better and more successful, we need your help. We are looking for volunteers to help us secure corporate sponsorships for 2010. If anyone has contact with any major corporations or vendors that sponsor other events, please let us know how to make contact. Or better yet, assist us in securing the funds needed to offset all the permits and fees the Festival has to pay to utilize the park space on the Riverfront. The Festival committee is understaffed with people who have time to contact sponsors.

Secondly, if you feel that you can make a personal contribution to the Festival to help defray costs, it would be greatly appreciated. We are a tax-exempt

5. State how one’s participation in this event or program will benefit the local community and promote Polish heritage.

Deadline

Qualified applicants must send all of the material described above by April 1, 2010 (faxes not accepted) to:

Info@pacim.org (preferred) or:
PACIM
Rog Endowment Committee
PO Box 18403
Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403

Successful applicants will be notified no later than May 1, 2010. All materials submitted by applicants will become part of the records of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota and will not be returned. PACIM Board Members not eligible. Late, incomplete or unsigned applications will not be accepted or returned for correction. The decisions of the PACIM Rog Endowment Committee are final and not subject to review. Awardees of the Rog Endowment will give their permission to use any or all of their essay for promotional purposes by PACIM and its publication, *Pol-Am*.

501(c)3 organization and a receipt will be provided for your taxes if desired. No contribution is too small. Please fill out the form below and mail it in.

Lastly, we are in need of additional volunteers. Not just those that can help us on the Festival dates, but those that can chair or be on committees to plan the event. Many of last year’s volunteers were in charge of multiple areas and it would be easier if we could have enough folks to run different aspects of the Festival. Please email the Festival website if you would consider stepping up to assist for 2010. Also, if we can answer any questions that anyone has, please contact us through the website.

www.tcpolishfestival.org

Thank you and we hope to see you at the 2010 Twin Cities Polish Festival.

Edward Rajtar
Chairman, TCPF

Yes, I want to help! In addition to spreading the word about the Festival I would like to become a partner at:

___ \$2,500+	Dobroczy ca - Benefactor Level
___ 1,000	Patron - Patron Level
___ 500	Sponsor - Sponsor Level
___ 250	Ofiarodawca - Donor Level
___ 50	Przyjacieli - Friend Level
_____	Other amount
_____	Amount Enclosed

Yes, I want to volunteer! Please contact me at:

_____ Email
Donations sent in 2010 will be tax deductible for the 2010 Tax Year



Please make your donations payable to: Twin Cities Polish Festival and mail to Twin Cities Polish Festival
PO Box 19312
Minneapolis, MN 55419-0312
or use the enclosed envelope.

_____ Phone

Heritage Homecoming

Poland welcomes back Suwalska geese, Green Leg hens, Polish Red cattle and other local breeds as farmers struggle to adapt to modern times and the challenges that come with membership in the European Union.

By Erik Hoffner, *World Ark* contributor



This article originally appeared in *World Ark*, the magazine of Heifer International®

“The only problem with Heifer’s poultry program is that it didn’t start soon enough,” says Barbara Mikielska, joking as we stand admiring the healthy flocks of chickens and geese ranging around her farmyard. Farms of modest dimensions like hers are typical in this northeastern region of Poland, where rocky, postglacial soils and long, punishing winters make for thin vegetation. But these birds didn’t seem to care and kept busy scratching up bits of goodness from around our feet.

She and her husband, Andrzej, farm about 50 acres here and harbor simple

yet universal desires—a reliable roof overhead and a solid education for their children so they can someday get good jobs in this small agricultural community. But they are making do with a leaky thatched roof and the strong likelihood that the children will leave to find work in a big city. Yet the quality of life here is great—Barbara Mikielska loves the deep and generous silence of the place—and with the help of Heifer Poland the couple are working to build prosperity at home and in the community.

Hope and hard work are needed. Poland is one of the most agricultural countries in Europe—22 percent of Poles are engaged daily on the farm, according to a recent story in *The New York Times*.

And many are still struggling to adapt to changes after the country’s entry into the European Union in 2004. They are a very resilient and adaptable people, having survived numerous invasions, collectivization under the Soviets and bumpy market reforms post-Solidarity. These upheavals, though, sapped much of Polish agriculture’s traditional independence as farmers abandoned locally developed breeds of animals in favor of modern varieties.

Animals bred for large-scale modern agriculture don’t thrive on the small farms that predominate in Poland, especially in the Mikielskas’ region. Breeds like the black-and-white Holstein dairy cow require excellent forage, supplemental grains with vitamins and minerals, and

periodic visits from a veterinarian—all of which small farmers can little afford.

So the Mikielskas and scores of other farmers in this area, mere miles from both Lithuania and Russia, decided to go the other direction by welcoming historic breeds of animals back onto their farms. These breeds include the Green Leg hen and Suwalska goose that were developed here and thrived for generations without the aid of modern agricultural methods.



In so doing, these farmers build a bridge from the past to a more sustainable and prosperous future.

Old Favorites

In Warsaw, I piled my camera gear into a truck piloted by one of Heifer Poland’s able field assistants, Piotr Jasnewicz, and we drove north to meet some of these animals. My mission was to create portraits of the animals with their new owners on black-and-white film to illustrate their long and recently renewed relationship.

As we traveled north, dodging convoys of freight trucks streaming to and from the Russian border, Jasnewicz educated me about how Heifer International works to find, redevelop and distribute the animals to farmers in all corners of the country. By raising these animals, the farmers help Heifer restore their dangerously low populations, in part by passing on the gift.

Polish Red cattle, for example, have been husbanded in Poland since the Middle Ages, and once constituted 25 percent of the national herd. As recently

as a decade ago, though, there were only 150 left in the country.



Polish Reds, with their compact bodies and stout legs, are well adapted to the climate and rocky, uneven terrain here. And because they’re smaller than improved breeds, their feed requirements are much lower. They are prolific producers of milk that is higher in fat, protein and enzymes—perfect for cheese making. They are long-lived, dual-purpose (they can be raised for both beef and milk), highly fertile, good-natured, robust and resistant to disease. Also highly independent, Polish Red cows often birth their calves without assistance, unlike Holsteins, which require more vigilance on the part of their owners. Heifer also works to preserve and improve White Backed and Simmental cattle breeds, which offer similar advantages.



Other characters in Heifer Poland’s animal menagerie include the Zlotnicki Biale pig, which is disease-resistant, and the Konik Polski (Polish pony), an ancient breed descended from the Tarpan horse that exhibits wild traits such as stripes on its legs and back. These intelligent, docile and willing workhorses are

perfect for small-scale, sustainable agriculture. The Suwalska goose, derived from a primitive species found in the northern part of the country, provides wonderful eggs but is better known for its easy growth and solid musculature.

The other true workhorse in Heifer Poland’s stable is the Green Leg hen. Also called the Polish partridge, it is revered for the high quality of its meat, but more so for its eggs, which some people say are low in the bad sort of cholesterol and high in the good kind. Proponents of the



breed claim people who are allergic to chicken eggs in general, especially children, are able to eat these eggs.

These special qualities help Green Leg eggs command excellent prices. Green Legs hens live up to 10 years and will lay eggs nearly that whole time.

Continued in Next Month’s Issue

If you’d like to contact Heifer International to find out more about their programs you will find them on the web at: www.heifer.org or call them at 800-422-0474.

Erik Hoffner is a freelance photographer and writer. His work appears regularly in Orion magazine, The Sun, Grist, and in galleries near his home in western Massachusetts. Erik’s photography can be viewed at his website, www.erikhoffner.com.

News

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the extent limited by law. Please consider including us in your tax and estate planning. We appreciate your generous support.

The Board of Directors of PACIM holds their monthly meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Institute: 2514 Central Ave NE. All are invited.

Przysłowia Polskie

Nie czy drugiemu, co tobie nie miło.
Don't do to another what is unpleasant to you.

Kalendar

FEB 13 Bal Karnawałowy
FEB 28 Chopin/Paderewski Celebration
APR 29–May 2 Festival of Nations
APR 30–May 2 Chicago Trip

PACIM Library

PACIM Library
2514 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
Hours: Sundays from 1 to 3:30 PM
or by appointment

This month PACIM purchased two English DVDs. The first is *Freedom on the Fence* by Andrea Marks. She used this DVD when she gave her presentation on Polish posters earlier this fall. The second DVD is *A Poet on the Frontline: The Reportage of Ryszard Kapuściński*, a biography by Gabrielle Pfeiffer. We also purchased Polish DVDs with English subtitles: *Cień* (Shadow) by Jerzy Kawalerowicz, *Kingsajz* (Kingsize) by Juliusz Machulski, *Śmierć prezydenta* (Death of the President) by Jerzy Kawalerowicz, and *Nad Niemnem* (On the Banks of the Niemen) by Zbigniew Ku minski. Finally, we bought *Rediscovering Traces of Memory: The Jewish Heritage of Polish Galicia*, which contains gorgeous (and sometimes sad) pictures of the remnants of Jewish culture in southeastern Poland. It's a real gem.

Thanks to the family of John Tomczyk for lending us the manger scene that has been in our front window. We received many complimentary comments on it. Thanks also to Bob Gacek who led us through kol dy and other Polish songs at Catholic Eldercare and RiverVillage on January 3. We had a good group of 15 energetic people who really entertained the residents. And thanks to Aneta Toporowska who organized the kulig on January 16. Fortunately, the weather was much more clement than it was last year!

Laptop Needed We could sponsor a couple of lectures during the spring if we had a laptop computer to run our projector. It doesn't have to be new or fancy—just working. Please contact me at 763-571-9602 if you have one to donate.

Chicago Trip Phyllis Husted tells me that she and John Bieniek are presently working on the Chicago Constitution Day bus trip (April 30-May 2). More info coming.

Ms. Polonia Application Next month there will be a short application form to be filled out by young women who are interested in representing PACIM in various summer parades as Miss Polonia. The person chosen for this volunteer position must be available for parades in the third week of June and July. Our thanks to Aneta, Karina and Tori for helping us out in the past. You did a great job representing us.—Judith Blanchard, Librarian 763-571-9602

Echos from the North

News from Little Falls, Minnesota

With no news to speak of, I want to share a bit about my grandparents. Both my maternal grandparents were born in Silesia. My grandfather came to America in 1885 at the age of 25. Only he came here: the rest of his family went to Brazil. He met and married my grandmother in Morrison County where they farmed and raised their family. They retired from farming and moved to Bowlus. My grandmother could not speak English but my grandfather did quite well.

In Bowlus, they began a small business making willow baskets of all shapes and sizes. They would gather the willows in spring, peel the willows and soak them in hot water to make them pliable and easy to work with. People came from great distances to purchase their baskets. The most popular were the clothes baskets of all shapes and sizes. I still have a small clothes basket (made for my doll's clothes) which will be given to my youngest granddaughter.

Another memory is the large beautiful fine wool shawls that many of the Polish ladies owned. Of course they always smelled like moth balls; but they were beautiful and of course aired out before use.

I invite you to a meeting of the Polish Echos on the third Tuesday of any month. We'd love to have you visit us. Mass is at 5:15 followed by a free supper. Hope to see you there.

— Phinee Zak, *President*, Polish Echos 320-632-265

Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota Affiliate Member of the American Council for Polish Culture

PACIM Officers and Board of Directors:

President: Ania Scanlan, Vice-President: Aneta Toporowska, Secretary: Judith Blanchard, Treasurer: Steven Ukasick, Directors: Irene Colston, Charlene Delaney, Anastasia Dzenowagis, Jowita Haugen, George Hornik, Phyllis Husted, Terry Kita, Mietek Konczyk, Bernard Korsak, Ursula Peterson, Paul Rog and Bruce Rubin
Contact them at info@pacim.org

Events

By Judith Blanchard

January 31

Benefit Dinner

Friends are holding a dinner and silent auction to benefit the families of two wonderful ladies who are suffering with cancer and are facing huge expenses related to their treatment. The event will run from 11–3 pm on January 31st. Tickets to the dinner are \$15 and may be purchased from Ewa Banaskiowski at 612-308-9054 or Hanna Stankiewicz 612-208-4188. Donations to the silent auction may be made by calling Malgorzata Bueltel at 612-306-0305.

February 3

International Ski Jumping

International Ski Jumping Competition including participants from USA, Norway, Finland, Russia and Poland at Bush Lake Ski Jumps, Highland Park Reserve from 6 -10 pm. \$5 for anyone over 12. www.minneapolisclub.com.

February 4–6

Mozart, Brahms & Skrowaczewski

Stanislaw Skrowaczewski will be premiering in the U.S. his *Music for Winds*. Featured artist is violinist Gina DiBello. All performances are at Orchestra Hall. Thursday, February 4 at 11 am, \$22–\$56; Friday February 5 at 8 pm, \$26–\$84; Saturday, February 6 at 8 pm, \$26–\$84. For tickets, call 612-371-5656 or 800-292-4141 or visit www.minnesotaorchestra.org.

February 6

Snow Dance

Let it snow... but not too much... for the Midwest Polka Association Snow Dance at the Maplewood Moose, 1946 English Street, Maplewood. Gene Retka and Friends, a band from Little Falls, MN, will play for dancing and listening from 7–11 pm. \$10, MPA members \$8. For more information, email Jim Carlson at k.carlson55110@yahoo.com or call 651-426-1079. For location directions, call 651-776-7892.

February 13–14

Polish Rosary Bake Sale

Kolbe Hall, Holy Cross Church at 17th Ave and 4th St NE. Saturday after 4:30 Mass and Sunday after all morning Masses. Call 612-789-7238.

February 13

Bal Karnawałowy

See NEWS (page 6)

February 16

Sauerkraut Supper

Famous Pre-Lenten Meal, John Paul II School Auditorium, Holy Cross Church at 17th Ave and 4th St NE. For more information, call 612-789-7238.

February 19–March 26

Fish Fry / Polish Stations

Kolbe Hall, Holy Cross Church at 17th Ave and 4th St NE. Polish Mass / stations start at 7 pm. Call 612-789-7238. Soup Suppers start February 24.

February 28, 1:30 pm

Celebrating 350 Years of Chopin & Paderewski

In 2010, two of the most beloved Polish composers, Fryderyk Chopin and Ignacy Jan Paderewski, celebrate landmark birthdays. To commemorate these anniversaries PACIM, with The Saint Paul Conservatory of Music and Wells Pianos, will present a unique concert featuring today's piano prodigies of the Twin Cities. Young talented professionals will play exclusively the music of Chopin and Paderewski. The event includes explanatory readings about the composers and insight into their complex music.

We invite you to come for an afternoon of beauty in the sacred atmosphere of the Church of the Holy Cross (1621 University Ave NE, Minneapolis). After the performance, meet performers at a tea and cakes reception. Tickets are \$5 at www.pacim.org and at the door.

February 28, 3 pm

Chopin Society

Benjamin Grosvenor is featured artist performing Kapustin, Ravel and Chopin at Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, Macalester College, 130 Macalester St., St. Paul. Tickets from \$12–\$20. For more information, call 612-822-0123.

March 13

St. Patrick's Day Dance

Celebrate the "wearing of the green" at the Midwest Polka Association St. Patrick's Day Dance at the Bloomington Knights of Columbus, 1114 American Blvd W (Lyndale exit off 494). The Doctor Kielbasa band will play for dancing and listening from 7–11 pm. \$10, MPA members \$8. Email Jim Carlson at k.carlson55110@yahoo.com or call 651-426-1079. Directions: 952-888-1492.

April 29–May 2

Festival of Nations

This four-day event at St. Paul's RiverCentre is a celebration of 95 different nations' food, dance and culture. See www.festivalofnations.com for further information. PACIM needs volunteers for the Polish Café. If you can help, call 612-378-9291.

April 30–May 2

Constitution Day Trip to Chicago

Hold the date. More next month.

Polish Language Classes

Minneapolis Community Education On-line registration available at www.mplscommunityed.com. For more information, call 612-668-3939. Instructor Elizabeth Suszynska can be reached at 763-479-1642. Half price for 62 years +, on SSI or MSIP. For more info call David Warnest at 612-668-1590, or dwarnest@mpls.k12.mn.us

Beginning Polish #5778

A fun class that will teach Polish language, culture, traditions, and grammar to all ages. Waite Park School, 1800 34th Ave NE, Minneapolis. 7 Wednesdays January 27–March 10, 5:45–7:15 pm. \$52

Beginning Polish Continuing #5779

7 Thursdays from January 28–March 11, 7:30–9 pm at Northeast Jr. High School, 2955 Hayes St NE, Minneapolis. \$52

Conversational Polish #5780

7 Thursdays from January 28–March 11, 5:45–7:15 pm at Northeast Jr. High School, 2955 Hayes St NE, Minneapolis. \$52