



***In Memorium—Pani Irena Thiel*** In May, we said good-bye to an important member of our community, Irena Thiel, who passed away at the age of 98. Pani Thiel was a teacher, a Polish patriot, a giving woman, a daughter of Lwów. We will miss her greatly, for her generous nature and her dedication to all things Polish, including her support of the Polish American Congress, Ann Arbor Chapter.



The eldest of four sisters, her career was her passion, the Polish language. A teacher beforehand, during World War II, she secretly met with students to keep the language alive. After coming to the US in the 50's, Pani Thiel taught Polish to children here in Ann Arbor, for which we are very grateful.

Pani Thiel was a Polish patriot, serving in the Polish Army. During the war, she provided food and shelter for soldiers and officers secretly traveling to fight on the Western Front. She did this at great risk to her life, another example of her generous and giving nature, coupled with her love of her country and belief in doing what was right.

Lwów was the city she left behind but that never left her heart. She avidly kept up-to-date on her city, often supporting renovation projects or organizing drives to help families. But her generosity extended beyond the city borders to Poland and Ann Arbor, culminating in the establishment of a scholarship fund founded in 2008 for Polish students studying at American colleges and universities. We acknowledge the loss of a community leader and our good friend, Pani Irena Thiel.  
*Ed note: Thank you to Jurek Pietryniak for help with this article.*

## ***SAVE THE DATE***

### **Sunday, August 22**

Annual Picnic  
Dexter-Huron Park  
Central Shelter  
Noon—6 pm  
*There is a fee to enter the park*

### **November**

16th Annual Polish Film Festival  
Ann Arbor  
*Information coming soon*

## ***Father Staś needs your help***

Ks. Stanisław Czarnota remains in nursing care after his car accident over two months ago. Please take a moment and send him a card to lift his spirits:

Father Stanislaw Czarnota  
401 E. Madison St. #C  
Dewitt, Michigan 48820

We wish Father the speediest of recoveries and the **best** of health.

Bóg Zapłać!



## **A Letter to the Community From the Polish Cultural Fund (PCF)**

Since the operational costs of Polish Film Festival continued to increase dramatically over the years, sponsor involvement became a necessity. It also became apparent that a separate non-profit entity would be needed to take the financial and organizational responsibility for the Ann Arbor Polish Film Festivals to lift this major burden from the PAC Executive Boards.

In 2007, PCF was established through a corporal agreement with the Ann Arbor Chapter as a separate non-profit organization, registered in the State of Michigan. The establishment of PCF was entrusted to Andrzej Dolata, who also appointed Danuta Podgorska, Michal Olszewski and Andrzej Myc to co-share the responsibility of 4 custodians of the fund. Additionally, the presidents of Ann Arbor Chapter participate as advisory directors of PCF ex officio. The PCF goal as a non-profit organization is to play a key role in promoting Polish culture and art in local community and America and to stimulate cooperation with local Polish organizations in organizing these major events. For each event, an organizing committee is formed of volunteers who want to become involved. Since its beginning, the PCF has organized three annual Ann Arbor Polish Film Festivals and sponsored Wolna Grupa Bukowina concert in Amadeus Restaurant. As a non-profit organization PCF is also a custodian of the Educational Fund established by Irena Thiel and entrusted to PCF by PAC, Ann Arbor Chapter.

In November, the PCF will oversee the 17th Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival (PFF). The Board of Directors unanimously elected Andrzej Myc as the President of Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival and asked him to assemble the festival organizing committee. **All interested to help with 2010 Ann Arbor PFF may contact Andrzej Myc at this time (myca@med.umich.edu).**

The PCF asks all our community members to support and participate in its efforts of promoting the Polish culture and art in America.

The Board of Directors of PCF:

*Andrzej Dolata Danuta Podgorska Andrzej Myc Michal Olszewski Marcin Szuberla*

### **Majówka a Great Success**

Our first Majówka will now be known as the First Annual Majówka because we will hold one every year!



### **Paid your Dues?**

Just a friendly reminder that dues are to be paid for the next membership year. Send a check for \$30 to:



Thank you to everyone who braved the unseasonably cold weather to celebrate May Day. A good time was had by all!

**Polish American Congress  
Ann Arbor Chapter  
P.O. Box 130763  
Ann Arbor, MI 48113**

Thank you!

## **Thank You for Your Service**

The 2010-2011 Board for the Polish American Congress Ann Arbor Chapter wishes to thank the previous board for their service over the last year. We all know how hard you worked to bring forward another successful (and fun) year for our organization. In May, elections were held and a new slate of officers were elected (see below).



Thank you also to Anna Bielinska, who provided an entertaining and interesting lecture on vaccines. Discussion was lively and lasted well after the time for adjournment.

## **A little about our new board members...**

**Marcin:** I was born in Rzeszow in 1979, came to the US in 1996 and, since graduating from U of M in 2002, I've been living in the Ann Arbor area. Thank you for giving the opportunity to serve as your president again.

**Krzysztof:** I was born in Warsaw and have been in the US since 1985, first in Kalamazoo, then in Ann Arbor since 1993. Education: electrical engineering (Warsaw Polytechnic), computer science, mathematics (Western Michigan University).

**Andrzej:** I am from Warsaw and have been in the US for over four years, currently employed as an assistant professor of biology at U of M. I have a wife, Joanna, and two beautiful children, Antoś and Helenka.

**Please contact us** if you have any questions or concerns —

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**Ideas welcome! Submit articles or community information** for the Polish American Congress Ann Arbor Chapter's newsletter via email: [olszewscy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olszewscy@sbcglobal.net).

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