



Newsletter

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www.annarborpolonia.org

Two Distinguished Members of Our Polish-American Community Passed Away

In March, we lost two distinguished members,
co-founders of our Ann Arbor Chapter.

Wanda Thiel passed away at the age of 92



Born on September 20, 1916 in Lvov, Pani Thiel stayed in the town where she was raised and studied economy at the University of Lvov. Upon completion of her degree, she was hired at National Bank of Poland in Lvov where she worked until World War II. During the Soviet and Nazi occupation of Lvov, she actively participated in underground resistance movement, along with other members of her family. In 1957, Wanda Thiel immigrated to the U.S. and had lived in Ann Arbor since 1960, where she worked for the University of Michigan Payroll Department. Wanda Thiel participated in the work of Ann Arbor PAC, serving as a Treasurer on the Executive Board. Until her final days, she was an active member of our Chapter and, as her last gesture, she requested that

contributions in her memory were made to Ann Arbor Chapter.

Eleanor Ostafin died on March 31, 2009.

Eleanor was born on April 19, 1919, in Springfield, Massachusetts, to a family of Polish immigrants (Hubert). She spent her formative years in Easthampton, graduating with honors from Easthampton High School in 1936. When the Great Depression diminished her dreams of attending Smith College, she instead opted for a practical degree from Northampton Commercial College. In 1942 she moved to Ann Arbor, where she married Peter A. Ostafin and began to work at the University of Michigan. Initially she helped with admission of students under the G.I. Bill after the war, and later at the Rackham Graduate School. She championed the Polish cause in Ann Arbor giving freely of both time and talent in founding and shaping two organizations, the Polish American Congress and the Copernicus Endowment Committee.

General Assembly Meeting

The Board of PAC Ann Arbor would like to inform everyone that the annual General Assembly/Election Meeting will be held on the **26th of April, 2009 at 2:00 PM** at the Michigan Union **Wolverine Room**. At this meeting, we elect a new Board to lead our activities through the following year. We encourage anyone who is interested in joining us to contact the current Board (see contacts below); no special experience necessary, just a good attitude. At this year's meeting, we will host Dr. David Jackson, Associate Professor of Political Science Department at the Bowling Green University.

He will share his perspectives of Americans living and working in Poland that led to the publication of his book "Classrooms and Barrooms: an American in Poland". We are looking forward to his presentation. We would like to remind everyone that the General Meeting is also a milestone regarding payment of dues; annual dues of \$30 for members and \$18 for students need to be satisfied to maintain voting privileges.

Happy 90th Birthday to Mrs. Irena Kliman !!!

Last Saturday, the Polish Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church concluded with the traditional 'Świeconka' reception during which we celebrated 90th birthday of our beloved Mrs. Irena Kliman. Our community joins together to wish her all the best on this special birthday .

Elections at Michigan Division

On March 7th, Delegates of Ann Arbor Chapter (Krystyna Bobowski, Andrzej Myc and Michał Olszewski) participated in the General Meeting of Michigan Division in Hamtramck. The assembly elected a new Executive Board for Michigan Division. Mr. Mariusz Szajnert was re-elected to be the President of PAC Michigan Division for second 2-year term. We would like to congratulate Mr. Szajnert and wish him and all newly elected officers success in their work.

Concert of Wolna Grupa Bukowina in Ann Arbor

On March 17 Amadeus Cafe became the venue for the one-time-only concert of the Wolna Grupa Bukowina, which stopped in Ann Arbor between the band's concerts in Toronto and Chicago. Despite the late notice and somewhat improvised setup, the audience that filled the restaurant gave the band a warm welcome.



Wolna Grupa Bukowina in AMADEUS Cafe

Wolna Grupa Bukowina started in 1971 with an impromptu concert of a group of high school seniors at a music festival in Szklarska Poreba, where they won one of the grand prizes. Many of us were very young back then, and those with guitars and a little bit of musical talent would perform their poetic ballads at summer camps and scout troop gatherings.

Contact Us

Whenever you have a question, comment or complaint, please contact us: www.annarborpolonia.org

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