



Polish American Congress, Ann Arbor Chapter

"Serving Polish-American Community of Washtenaw County"

# Newsletter

Issue 139

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## In Memoriam: Irena Kliman

A beloved person and a long-time member of PACAA, **Mrs. Irena Kliman**, passed away peacefully at her home in Ann Arbor on September 20, 2016. A remembrance by Jerzy Petryniak is included in the attached file.

## Annual Picnic

Our traditional summer picnic took place on Sunday, August 14 at the Dexter-Huron Metropark. Over 60 people attended this event, many of them new to the area. On a beautiful summer afternoon we had opportunity to meet, share stories, sample delicious picnic food, and in general had a lot of fun. The additional attraction was a raffle – the “Mystery Basket”, which was won by a young family new to Ann Arbor. Congratulation and welcome! The raffle brought over \$150 to our Chapter’s coffers.

## Lecture on Polish emigration

Our long-time member Patricia Yocum presented a lecture “A Well-Worn Path: Migration from Two Villages in Galicia, 1898-1924”. It took place on October 21 at the Ann Arbor District Library Downtown.

At the height of the transatlantic migration Dobrzechów and Kożuchów, two villages in in modern-day Podkarpackie Province, Poland, sent many of their people to America. Nearly 300 of these people, entering at New York City from 1898 to 1924, have been identified in Ellis Island records. Using ship manifests, filled out as the travelers boarded their ships, two studies examined who these migrants were, where they were going and whom they were joining. The patterns which emerged suggest a great deal about the nature of immigration during the period of study as well as the forces which propelled it.

Patricia Yocum is librarian emerita at the University of Michigan and a long-time member of PACAA. In retirement she

has pursued research into Polish immigration history especially that from Galicia, the native region of her Polish ancestors. Her papers on migration from Dobrzechów and Kozuchów have been published in *Polish American Studies*. She is currently researching the life these villagers led post-arrival in the United States, focusing on those who went to Thorndike, MA.

## Bonfire/ Ognisko

At the beginning of fall, members of the Polish community have an opportunity to meet and enjoy our traditional fall bonfire – ognisko. It took place on September 24 at the Brighton Recreational Area, on the beautiful meadow surrounding the Migizi cabin, a short walk from Bishop Lake. The event was attended by over 40 people, our long-time members and many new faces! We enjoyed the beautiful fall afternoon, walking in the woods, hunting for mushrooms, talking and sharing a variety of picnic foods – especially Polish sausages roasted on the stick! After the sundown we gathered around the bonfire singing old and new Polish songs.



## Polish American Congress Ann Arbor Chapter

The Polish American Congress, Ann Arbor Chapter (PACAA) was created in 1970 as an organization independent from PAC Michigan Division operating

in Hamtramck. Our primary goal is to support the Polish community and promote civic, educational and cultural activity, to promote the knowledge of Polish history, language and culture, and to stimulate Polish American engagement. PAC Ann Arbor Chapter does not endorse elected officials and candidates. This position is also upheld by the national PAC, the umbrella for a variety of Polish American organizations in the U.S. For more information, please consult <http://www.pac1944.org>.

Recently, the national PAC representatives met in Chicago with a former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who spoke on behalf of Hilary Clinton's campaign, and with a presidential candidate Mr. Donald Trump. Read the press releases here: <http://www.pac1944.org/news/2016/AlbrightMeetsPAC.htm>  
<http://www.pac1944.org/news/2016/TrumpMeetsPAC.htm>

## **Renewal of Non-profit Status**

Polish American Congress, Ann Arbor Chapter is a registered non-profit organization. Our organization will shortly re-apply to the State of Michigan for the renewal of the non-profit status. We would like to consult all active members regarding the organization's official name. Please let us know if you would like to retain the name Polish American Congress, Ann Arbor Chapter,

or to register our organization under the new name Ann Arbor Polonia, as used on our website. Please note that active members are those who contributed membership fees for 2016-17, and only those are entitled to vote. An official poll will be sent shortly by the PACAA President.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival**

**November 18-20**

Polish Cultural Fund, in partnership with Polish American Congress Ann Arbor Chapter and Polish Language Center of Ann Arbor present the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ann Arbor Film Festival. The program includes feature films, family movies, documentary and short narrative films as well as a children's book fair. See the full program here:

<http://www.annarborpolonia.org/filmfestival/home.htm>

We will appreciate any donation of baked goods to our annual **bake sale** at the festival. You may also donate your time to help us with the sale. All and any contributions will be greatly appreciated.

### **Polish Wigilia i Jaselka**

**December 3 at 6:30 pm**

Chapel of St. Francis of Assisi Church,  
Ann Arbor

Please bring a Christmas dish to share after the Mass.

## **Pasterka**

**January 7 at 5 pm**

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Ann Arbor

We invite you to join us for the evening of Polish Christmas Carols and a celebration of a traditional Pasterka Mass presided over by Most Reverend Earl Boyea, Bishop of Lansing. The Polish choir Filareci from Troy will perform the Polish Christmas carols during and after the Mass.

## **Membership Dues**

The membership year starts with the Executive Board elections in May. The \$35 dues can be paid at a meeting or by mailing a check to PAC AA, PO Box 130763, Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0763. Please remember to renew your membership as this is the only source of funding for our activities!

## **Contact Us**

Whenever you have a question, comment or complaint, please contact us:

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