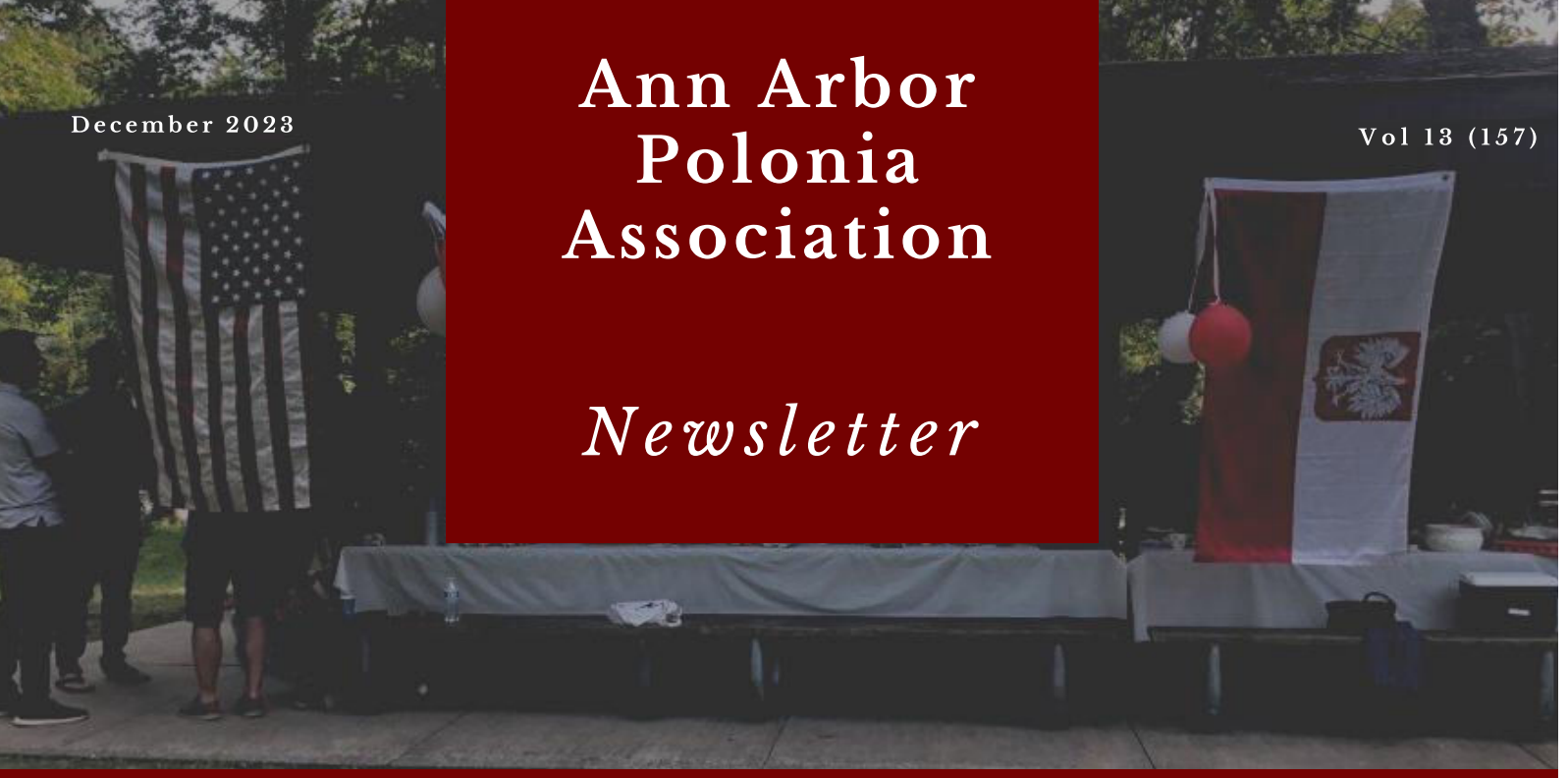


December 2023

Ann Arbor Polonia Association

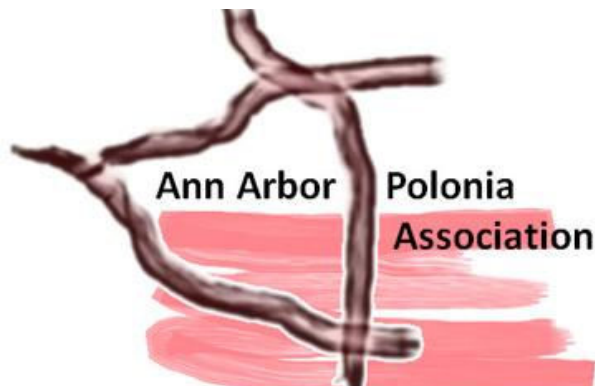
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Newsletter



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





The Ann Arbor Polonia Association wishes you and your loved ones a joyful and warm Christmas and holiday season.

In this Winter 2023 newsletter, we want to summarize the highlights of our community's events in the past year and to sincerely invite you to join us for another fun year of social and cultural connections in 2024!

AAPA Annual Meeting, Board Election, and Spring Bonfire

On May 6th the AAPA held our annual general members meeting, which, for the first time, we combined with a spring bonfire. The meeting consisted of a formal part, where we summarized last year's events and plans for the coming year, reported on our finances, and elected next year's board, as well as an informal part, which included a potluck, sausages grilled on the campfire, and a great deal of warm camaraderie. We finished the evening off with many songs sung around the campfire to the accompaniment of our member and talented guitarist Gabriel Ostromecki. The meeting was held at our board member Marcin Szczepański's home (which we are grateful for sharing with us), and we had more than 50 attendees, including members, guests, and children. An election of the board for the term through May 2024 was held, and the board now consists of the following:

- Jakub Czyż as board chair
- Alicja Bator-Naguib as board member
- Marcin Szczepański as board member
- Izabela Ostromecka as board member
- Anna Uchmanowicz as board member and treasurer

The list of our advisers is on [our site](#), and we thank them for their help and advice! We also thank Ania Kucypera for managing our Facebook page, found here (please like and follow!):

<https://www.facebook.com/AnnArborPoloniaAssociation>

We are likewise deeply grateful to departing board member and treasurer Paweł Brański for two years of service to the community, and we look forward to working with adviser and incoming treasurer Anna Uchmanowicz.

AAPA Annual Meeting



Summer Picnic

On a sunny Saturday afternoon on August 19th, we hosted our annual 2023 summer picnic. Members and a few newcomers alike gathered together to celebrate the fading summer season at the shelter near the Huron River. The air was filled with excitement as we looked forward to indulging in a delightful array of traditional Polish and other potluck dishes like kaszanka i kielbasa. We are thankful to Adam Filipiak for providing the grilling. As members of our community were catching up with their recent updates, a mystery basket raffle was held. The proceeds were dedicated to supporting the AAPA mission. As the picnic drew to a close, we couldn't help but reflect on the incredible sense of community that the Ann Arbor Polonia Association fosters. It is through events like these that we forge friendships and create memories, while helping new arrivals to the Ann Arbor area to make connections and friends.



Fall Bonfire

At this year's bonfire, held on September 30th, we were blessed with exceptionally beautiful weather. The fall sun was so bright that it moved our gathering behind the cabin for some shade and protection. Our guests contributed an array of delectable dishes, from savory salads and cakes to hot dishes, snacks, beverages, and sweets. We can always rely on Adam Filipiak for his excellent organizational skills when it comes to managing the fire and preparing delicious sausages, and this year was no exception. The children had a blast, spending the afternoon engaged in various activities like frisbee, colorful parachute games, climbing trees and other fun, all thanks to the diligent organization and supervision provided by Anna Kulakowska and Anna Kucypera. Our artistic program this year featured a medley of well-known folk tunes, bonfire classics, and other beloved songs. To top off the evening in style, everyone was treated to a captivating acapella performance by the charming sisters, Helenka and Marynia Wierzbicki.



Poetry Reading

On a chilly November night, members and friends gathered for a poetry event hosted at the residence of one of our advisors, Dorota Poznańska. We enjoyed a delightful evening by the fireplace, indulging in delicious potluck snacks, and immersing ourselves in the beauty of Polish poetry by renowned poets such as Wisława Szymborska, Julian Tuwim, Władysław Broniewski, Adam Mickiewicz, and Karol Wojtyła. AAPA extends its gratitude to Dorota Poznanska and Basia Alvarez for organizing this memorable gathering.



Pasterka January 6th 2024

Pasterka, our annual Christmas mass with kolędy (carols) and organ accompaniment will be held on Epiphany Saturday, January 6th at 4:00pm.

Location: Old St Patrick church at 5671 Whitmore Lake Road in Ann Arbor. More details coming soon. *Calling all musicians and singers- children encouraged- who wish to help bring our mass to life!* Questions?

Contact (Music, Adult choir) Michał Olszewski 734-709-4021 (Jasełka, Children's choir) Barbara Walkowc, 734-985-8825.

30th Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival



The Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival is a special celebration for the Polish community in Southeast Michigan, and the Ann Arbor Polonia Association proudly stands as one of the Festival sponsors. This year marked a significant milestone in the Festival's history as we celebrated its 30th anniversary with the Opening Gala. The event featured esteemed guests from Poland, including film critic Lukasz Maciejewski, young director Jakub Wenda, and talented actors Agnieszka Radzikowska and Alina Chechelska. The evening featured special recognition for the Festival founders, Jola Nowak and Zbigniew Pasek, along with the announcement of Festival awards and a captivating screening of "Green Border/Zielona Granica" by Agnieszka Holland. As the weekend progressed, Saturday and Sunday offered audiences a diverse lineup, including thought-provoking documentaries and shorts, dedicated children's portions of the Festival, and three full-length feature films. Our cherished and likely the oldest member of our Ann Arbor Polonia community, pani Kryisia Bobowski, received flowers and heartfelt thanks from the Festival organizers for being a pivotal and indispensable figure in our community.

30th Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival



Baker's Sale & Fundraiser at AAPFF

Once more this year, the Ann Arbor Polonia Association continued its tradition of hosting a Baker's Sale fundraiser at the Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival. The funds collected from this event contribute to supporting various activities organized by AAPA throughout the year, such as our annual picnic, spring and fall bonfires, and other events. We are always grateful for the support from our community, whether it be through baking delicious cakes or actively participating in the sale during the festival. This year, we received cake sales assistance from Karolina Okla, Natalia Skrzypczak, and Ania and Tomek Kulakowski, greatly contributing to the overall success of the fundraising. Cake baking this year was provided by Bogusia Kokot, Krysia Dolata, Basia Walcowc, Ania Kulakowska, Ania Kucypera, Amy Olszewski and Marta Avery.



Polish Language Center of Ann Arbor

Serdecznie zapraszamy na następny semestr nauki języka polskiego. We cordially invite you to join us for the next semester of learning the Polish language. Winter semester begins on January 6th.

Dorośli ADULTS (zajęcia grupowe i indywidualne):

- Registration form and all information can be found on our school website
- Please sign up by December 21go.
- <https://polskaszkola.weebly.com/adults.html>

Dzieci CHILDREN (in-person)

- Zimowy semestr zaczynamy **6go stycznia**
- Każdy uczeń uczęszczający na zajęcia w jesieni jest automatycznie zapisany na zimowy semestr.
- Prosimy o powiadomienie nas, jeśli uczeń nie będzie uczęszczał na zajęcia w zimowym semestrze PolskaSzkolaAnnArbor@gmail.com
- Nowi uczniowie są mile widziani. Prosimy o kontakt, PolskaSzkolaAnnArbor@gmail.com
- Winter semester begins on January 6th
- Any student attending classes in the fall is automatically enrolled for the winter semester.
- Please notify us if a student will not be attending classes in the winter semester PolskaSzkolaAnnArbor@gmail.com
- New students are welcome. Please contact us, PolskaSzkolaAnnArbor@gmail.com.

Polish Language Center of Ann Arbor

Dzieci CHILDREN (online)

- Semestr zimowy rozpoczniemy 8go stycznia
- Każdy uczeń uczęszczający na zajęcia w jesieni jest automatycznie zapisany na zimowy semestr.
- Szkolna dyrekcja ustawia harmonogram zajęć i będzie z państwem w kontakcie.
- Nowi uczniowie są mile widziani. Prosimy o kontakt, PolskaSzkolaAnnArbor@gmail.com
- Winter semester begins on January 8th.
- Every student attending classes in the fall is automatically enrolled for the winter semester.
- We are setting up the schedule of classes and will be in touch with you.
- New students are welcome. Please contact us, PolskaSzkolaAnnArbor@gmail.com

Polish Mass

Polish mass is held every 3rd. Sunday of the month at St. Patrick Catholic Church on 5671 Whitmore Lake Rd, just north of Ann Arbor. You can find up to date information at <https://www.stpatricka2.org/parish-calendar>. For more information, please contact Barbara Walkowc at 734 985-8825.

Want to Make a Difference? Join our board!

The AAPA is looking for new board members, new ideas, and your energetic participation. Please bring your candidacy to the attention of the AAPA by emailing us at poloniaannarbor@gmail.com. Nominations during the Annual Meeting are also welcome.

Become a Member! Zapraszamy!

If you haven't already, please consider becoming an official member of our community by contributing your \$35 annual membership fee. This funding helps us sustain our mission of bringing social connections and support to the Polish American community of the Ann Arbor area. If you are unable to afford this sum, any amount is welcome (please email us with questions)! Being a member also entitles you to free attendance at all our general events and voting rights during board elections. The collection of annual membership dues will begin in January 2024. Please send a check to: (address) or contact us at poloniaannarbor@gmail.com; or one of our board members to arrange payment in person.

New Year, New Fun!

The AAPA is planning events for the coming year and expects to host our annual member meeting and board election in May 2024, our summer picnic in August, and our fall Ognisko (bonfire) in October. More events may be added as interest arises; stay tuned!

Invasion of Ukraine

The Russian invasion of Ukraine continues. We encourage all members and friends to take advantage of numerous ways to help Ukrainians.

Aside from a number of international humanitarian relief organizations, such as Doctors Without Borders and UNICEF, we would also like to make our members aware that dozens of Poland-based organizations are providing aid to Ukrainian refugees and are in need of support. Here are some links to a sample of these organizations:

- **Polskie Centrum Pomocy Międzynarodowej (PCPM)** - <https://pcpm.org.pl/en/about-us/support-us> (info in English)
- **Polska Akcja Humanitarna (PAH)** - <https://www.pah.org.pl/en/donate/> (info in English)
- **Caritas Polska** - <https://caritas.pl/formularz/>
- **Fundacja Ocalenie** - <https://crm.ocalenie.org.pl/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=3&lang=en> (info in English)
- **Polski Czerwony Krzyż (PCK)** - <https://pck.pl/na-pomoc-ukrainie/> (info also in English)
- **Polska Misja Medyczna / Polish Medical Mission** - <https://pmm.org.pl/en/ukraine-urgent-medical-aid> (info in English)



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please support us by renewing your membership!

We remind all AAPA members about their 2022/2023 membership dues of \$35 per person. In case of hardship, please contribute a symbolic \$5 per person. The collection of annual membership dues will begin in January 2024. Please send a check to: P.O. Box 130 423 Ann Arbor, MI 48113 or contact us at poloniaannarbor@gmail.com; so one of our board members can arrange payment in person.

NEWSLETTER PHOTOS AND EVENTS

Please don't forget to send us information and photos from your events so we can highlight them in our Newsletter.

Just send ideas, information and photos to poloniaannarbor@gmail.com to be part of our next communication. Thank you!

CONTACT US

Ann Arbor Polonia Association
P.O. Box 130 423 Ann Arbor, MI 48113
poloniaannarbor@gmail.com
Check us out on Facebook!

AAPA Board Members

Board Chair: Jakub Czyż
Treasurer: Anna Uchmanowicz
Board Member: Alicja Bator-Naguib
Board Member: Marcin Szczepański
Board Member: Izabela Ostromecka

AAPA Community advisors

Ania Bielińska
Wanda Walasek
Inka Kryczek
Amy Olszewski
Anna Uchmanowicz
Dorota Poznańska
Piotr Krzystek
Karolina Okla
Marta Avery