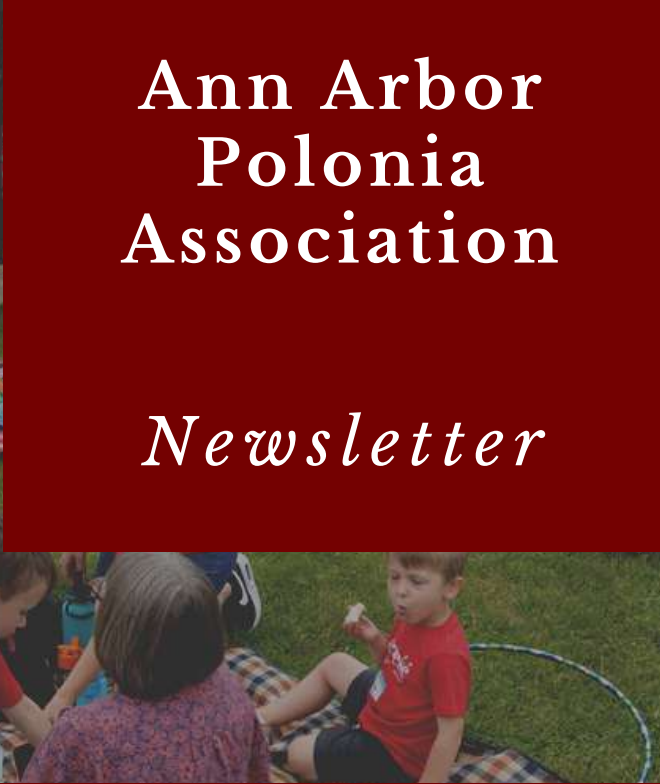


September 2022

Ann Arbor Polonia Association

Newsletter

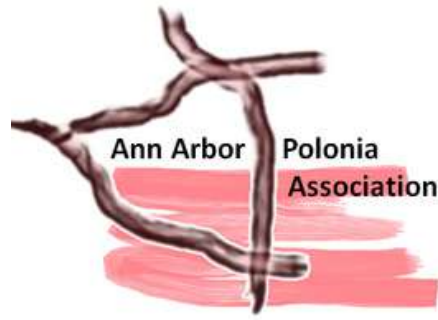
Vol 12 (156)



Happy Fall!

May this Autumn be a harvest of
happy times for you!





AAPA 2022 Annual Meeting and New Board

The annual AAPA meeting took place at the Washtenaw Community College on May 7th. Our keynote presentation was a lecture by Professor Ildiko Porter-Szucs entitled “*The tale of two wolves: How to raise bilingual children.*” The very well-received lecture is also available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/aYQB73m8qLQ>.

At the meeting, we also held an election of our new executive board for the 2022-2023 term. Our new board will be run slightly differently than in the past, with all board members sharing responsibilities more equally, except for one focused on treasurer duties and another holding the pro forma chair title.

Our new board for the 2022-23 term will be:

Alicja Bator-Naguib (board member)

Pawel Branski (treasurer)

Jakub Czyz (chair)

Izabela Ostromecka (board member)

Marcin Szczepanski (board member)

Podziękowania dla Ani Bielińskiej

We give a heartfelt thanks to the outgoing board president Ania Bielińska for her many years of enthusiastic and selfless service to the AAPA and to the entire Ann Arbor Polish community. She will continue to serve the AAPA as a senior community advisor. We are also grateful to our returning board members and the entire advisor community.



Ania Bielińska at the 2020 bonfire. Photo by Marcin Szczepanski

Annual Bonfire (Ognisko)

- Our annual Ognisko/Bonfire is in a week, on **Saturday, October 1st, at 4pm.**
- MIGIZI rustic cabin at the Brighton Recreation Area
<https://www.google.com/maps/dir//42.4978604,-83.8291919/@42.49786,-83.829192,15z?hl=en>
- We provide kielbasa and soft drinks, but the Bonfire is a potluck event – please bring food and drinks to share.
- On Saturday, before the 4pm bonfire, everyone is welcome to enjoy a walk around Bishop Lake and in the beautiful woods.
- Interested in the bike ride to Ognisko – please contact Inka Kryczek, ilonak@med.umich.edu
- If you can bring some firewood, and/or help with tending the bonfire we would greatly appreciate your help!
- Please bring your flashlights and camp forks, and be ready to help to clean before you leave after ognisko.
- Don't forget about guitars and other musical instruments. We are known to break into song around the fire!
- If you would like to stay overnight on site, please send an email to poloniaannarbor@gmail.com to reserve your spot (specify number of people staying with you).
- The cabin sleeps about 16, so you can spend a night or two (Sept 30 and/or Oct 1) and leave on Sunday. You are responsible for leaving the site and cabin in good conditions.



Community Events

Run for Hope

The AAPA co-sponsored the Ann Arbor “Run For Hope” event, a bike/run/walk fundraiser for Ukraine, on May 22nd. The happening was organized by volunteers and past board members of the AAPA, including Inka Kryczek, and volunteers from the Polish Cultural Fund – Ann Arbor, the Polish Language Center of Ann Arbor, and Old St. Patrick Parish. A total of over \$1300 was raised to support Ukrainian refugees.



11th anniversary of the Polish Language Center

A second event that involved many members of the AAPA and the larger Polish community in Southeast Michigan was the eleventh anniversary of the Polish Language Center. The gathering was held on the fifth of June in Olson Park. Many families joined the festivities. We plan to work more closely with the Polish Language Center in the future, including co-organizing annual picnics and bonfires.

Teachers needed in the Polish Language Center!

Due to the increase in student population, Polish school in A2 is looking for Polish speakers available to teach at the Polish school. It's a paid position. The classes are held on Saturday morning. Please send an email to polskaskolaannarbor@gmail.com if interested.



Polonijny Piknik 2022

We held our annual AAPA summer picnic on August 13th at Dexter Huron Metropark. Participants enjoyed grilled kielbasa, kaszanka and a potluck style lunch. It was wonderful to catch up with everyone. Thank you to all who helped organize the event.



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.

2022 Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival



The Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival (AAPFF) is back again this year for the 29th time!

Organized by the Polish Cultural Fund (PCF), the festival will take place November 4th through 6th at a new location, the State Theater.

Winning documentary and short films will be announced at the Festival Opening on **November 4, 2022**. The directors will receive a \$500 cash prize along with the Festival Trophy. A selection of captivating films and a surprise guest will top the event.

We will also be hosting a bake sale to help raise AAPA funds and we sincerely invite all AAPA members and friends to come and attend movie screenings at the festival! More details will be posted in the early Fall.

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)

The AAPA has made a donation totalling 850 PLN toward this important cause.



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 fee can be paid by check, mailed to:

P.O. Box 130 423
Ann Arbor, MI 48113

(Please note: this is a new PO Box number!)

Or (preferably), electronically by PayPal
<https://paypal.me/aapolonia> or at our AAPA website (under the Join tab).

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: Paweł Brański
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