

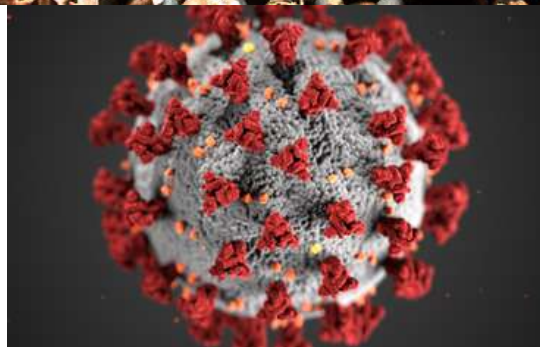
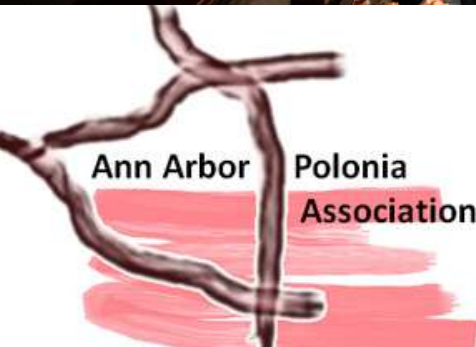
April 2020

Ann Arbor Polonia Association

Vol 7 (151)

Newsletter

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Film Festival and more p. 03-06.

HAPPY EASTER!

In these challenging times, we wish all
our friends and members a healthy and
safe Easter! Please enjoy the Spring, stay
positive and optimistic.





CORONAVIRUS

CALL FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD

Would you like to make a difference in our local Polish-American community?

Consider serving on the AAPA Executive Board! Our dedicated board of directors is looking for new board members, new ideas and for your energetic participation!

Time commitment: there are usually three board meetings per year, and we host, or are involved in approximately four events per year. The commitment is relatively small, but the rewards are great!

Please consider volunteering with us. Contact the current President Anna Bielińska, or any member of our current board if you are interested:
poloniaannarbor@gmail.com

COVID-19 MESSAGE

Dear readers, this newsletter reaches you at a challenging time for all of us, during the COVID-19 pandemic. We believe that the communal spirit and mutual support of the Ann Arbor Polonia Association members is the best way to get through these challenges. Today, our newsletter is as important as ever. Through these pages and multiple personal relationships, we hope to stay in touch with you, members of our community. We are sending you our best wishes of health and wellness!

ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING POSTPONED

The 2020 Annual Election Meeting of the Ann Arbor Polonia Association is postponed until further notice, due to the limitations imposed by the COVID-19. The meeting was originally planned to be held on Sunday, April 26th, 2020.

Current members will receive a meeting agenda prior to the meeting, once the new date is set. At the meeting, we will have the opportunity to enjoy this year's invited speaker presenting the annual lecture. The lecture will be given by Ildi Porter-Szucs, depending on dr Szucs' availability. The talk is entitled: Wygra ten wilk, którego karmisz: Czyli jak wychować dwujęzyczne dzieci. Ildi Porter-Szucs is an Associate Professor of TESOL (Teaching English as a Second Language) at the Eastern Michigan University.



CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP AT THE POLISH LANGUAGE CENTER OF ANN ARBOR

Photos by Marcin Szczepanski

After 9 years of dedicated work, the board members of the Polish Language Center of Ann Arbor (Polska Szkoła w Ann Arbor) are stepping down.

The school has been the work of love for two founding board members: Board President Barbara Alvarez and Ildi Porter-Szucs, the Treasurer. The third board member and Board Secretary Marcin Szczepanski joined the board in 2012. All three are stepping down at the end of the 2019/2020 school year.

The Polish Language Center of Ann Arbor was founded in 2011 by parents whose dream was for their children to learn Polish. Over the years, dozens of amazing and hard working teachers and parents dedicated to Polish language classes have all made the school possible.

The School's primary aim is the study of the Polish language, the history and geography of Poland, and the continuation of Polish tradition and culture. The Center admits children from the age three and up, and offers various levels of instruction according to age and linguistic proficiency. The Center also teaches adult learners. The School is independently run and supported by parents.

New board, consisting of parents of current students, will take over in the summer of 2020.



26 ANN ARBOR POLISH FILM FESTIVAL

Photos by Marcin Szczepanski





WIGILJA AND ŚWIĘTY MIKOŁAJ

Our community celebrated Polish Wigilia, Jaselka and a visit from Swiety Mikolaj after the December mass in the lower chapel. It was a very special time to share Oplatek and traditional Polish Wigilia dishes among friends and excited children!

JASEŁKA WINTER 2019





POLSKIE OGNISKO 2019

Photos by Marcin Szczepanski

Annual Polish Bonfire (Polskie Ognisko) was held on September 28-29, 2019 (Sat- Sun, overnight) at the Migizi Cabin in Brighton Recreation Area. The bonfire started at 4 PM and was very well attended by Polish and Polish American families. The bonfire was a potluck event with traditional Polish dishes. Ognisko lasted long into the night hours, with dozens of participants breaking into songs accompanied by guitar. Several families stayed overnight at the Migizi Cabin.





WOLVERINE CHARITY BALL

The thirteenth annual Wolverine Charity Ball, organized by the Michigan Polish Student Association, was held on February 8th, 2020 at Weber's Restaurant and Hotel. The black-tie event is always warmly supported by the AAPA. In addition to the AAPA, this year's ball was also supported by the Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival, the Copernicus Center and the Slavic Department at University of Michigan.

Many members of our community enjoyed this special gathering and the festive atmosphere of food, music and dance. The performance of traditional Polish folk dance by the group Rodacy from Hamtramck was the highlight of the event. Following the performance, attendees danced the night away to the tunes of DJ Socrates; a local Ann Arbor DJ. The proceeds from the ball are used to support a worthy cause. In 2020, the beneficiary was the Gift from the Heart, Fundacja Dar Serca. The Gift from the Heart Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to The Gift from the Heart Foundation provides room & board, translation & transportation services to children who were accepted for medical treatments in the US. Many of these children come from Poland.





KAWKA WITH FESTIVAL BAKERS

Cake bakers involved in the Bake Sale during the 26th Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival gathered at the Haab's Restaurant in Ypsilanti on February 23rd. This was our second event of this type.

The AAPA hosted the event to say thank you to the women (and men) who worked and baked cakes as part of the Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival fundraiser. This tradition has lasted over 25 years now.

2020 Irena Thiel Scholarship Announcement

This is the 2020 call for applications for the Irena Thiel Scholarship, which is awarded to graduate or undergraduate students in our community. The scholarship is founded by Pani Irena Thiel, a beloved member of the Polish community, who was an advocate for Poland and Polish culture in Ann Arbor.

Application is simple and can be delivered both by regular mail and email. Applicants need to show a connection to the local community, either as a student or a child of a local resident. The committee gives preference to students who are active in local Polish-American community events. [Click here](#) or email poloniaannarbor@gmail.com for the application. The original deadline has been delayed due to the coronavirus. The new deadline is yet to be determined.

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Annual Election Meeting – date to be determined
Annual Summer Picnic – August 15th, 2020, Dexter-Huron Metropark
Ognisko (Bonfire) – September 26th to 27th, 2020, Migizi Rustic Cabin, Brighton Recreation Area

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Joining the Ann Arbor Polonia Association has never been so easy! Take advantage of our new electronic PayPal account and invest in supporting Ann Arbor Polonia events for this year. Annual dues are \$35/member.

Electronic payments:

<https://paypal.me/aapolonia> Click on the link or type this into your search bar. You'll be linked directly to our PayPal account.

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

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poloniaannarbor@gmail.com
Check us out on Facebook!

AAPA Board Members

President: Anna Bielińska
Vice-President: Alicja Bator-Naguib
Treasurer: Inka Kryczek
Secretary: Marcin Szczepański

AAPA Community advisors

Wanda Walasek
Barbara Walkowc
Amy Olszewski
Dorota Poznańska
Anna Uchmanowicz