

PHS Awards \$5,000 in Scholarships to Top Students

The Polish Heritage Society of Grand Rapids awarded five scholarships totaling \$5,000 in April to accomplished students who are attending Michigan colleges and universities to further their education in everything from the health sciences to statistics.

Teresa Bonham, Marilyn Lignell, and Mary Ann Bergvin, who made up the society's scholarship committee, said the students were selected on the basis of their academic achievements, interests in extracurricular activities, community involvement and connections with Polish heritage. "Polish culture reveres learning and education," Lignell said. "As a way of furthering that tradition, our society has awarded scholarships to college students for more than 20 years.

"We are very proud of the accomplishments of this year's awardees, and we wish them the best of luck as they pursue their educational goals."

In addition to their scholarships, all of the students were named honorary student members of the Polish Heritage Society for 2023.

Kayla Van Linden, a graduate of West Catholic High School, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to continue her studies at Aquinas College in either the pre-med or pre-dental program.

She has participated in the high school yearbook, bowling, pho-

tography and the National



Kayla VanLinden

Honor Society. She also enjoys painting water and lighthouses. Kayla has participated in Kids' Food Basket, the high school's fish fry and Relay for Life. She has also been a student tutor. Kayla attends the Dozynki Polish Festival annually.

Abigail Wrzesinski, a graduate of L'Anse Creuse High School, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to continue her studies at Oakland University in the field of sociology, with a career goal of becoming a prosecuting attorney.



Abigail Wrzesinski

She has participated in DECA,

Science Olympiad, cheerleading, Go Green Club, Key Club and Diversity Club. Abigail has done community service with the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life and Bay-Rama. She is also a member of the PRCUA Society, the Polish National Alliance and dances in the PRCUA Opole Dance Ensemble.

Hannah Haines, a graduate of Kenowa Hills High School, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to continue her studies at Kalamazoo College in the fields of

English and creative writing.



Hannah Haines

(Continued on page 2)

PHS to Hold Election for Directors

For the first time in recent memory, the Polish Heritage Society will be holding an election at its May meeting to fill three positions for General Director.

All active members of the society are eligible to cast votes at the election to be held at 6:30 pm, May 15 at the Polish Falcons Hall, 957 Fulton St SW. To be considered active, an individual needs to be a life member or have annual dues current.

Four candidates for General Director have been approved by the society's Nominating Committee to vie for the three available seats: Martin Rogalski, Thaddeus Szyzslowski, Thaddeus Broda and Rosemary (Prusinski) Maciejewski.

In addition to filling the three

General Director positions, the election will also fill three officer positions – but these individuals are running unopposed. The three individuals are Teresa Bonham for President, John Theisen for 1st Vice President and Matthew Gryczan for Recording Secretary.

In past years, no elections were held as the total number of candidates always matched the number of available seats open.

In March and April, newcomers Broda and Maciejewski submitted their names to be placed on the ballot, putting them in contention with incumbents Rogalski and Szyzslowski for General Director seats.

Maciejewski, 64, has been active for years in setup, teardown and acting as bar manager for the

(Continued on page 2)

**Polish Heritage Society
of Grand Rapids**
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The Polish Heritage Society of Grand Rapids promotes Polish/Lithuanian culture in the metro Grand Rapids. The Society meets on the 3rd Monday of every month except for December and general meetings in June and October. The society publishes this newsletter monthly. We invite story ideas and content contributions. For more information, please contact Matthew Gryczan, Richard Panek or Marilyn Lignell by writing to phsgrandrapids@gmail.com.

President
Adam Porczynski

1st VP
John Theisen

2nd VP
Anthony Zasuwa

Treasurer
Michael Jasperse

Corresponding Secretary
Elena Chaidez

Recording Secretary
Dennis Ziolkowski

Director
Teresa Bonham

Director
Martin Rogalski

Director
Angela Walejewski-Zasuwa

Director
Michael Kozal

Director
Thaddeus Szyzlowski

(Scholarships Continued from page 1)

Her goal is to become an author. She has participated in student council, the National Honor Society, Young Women for Change, Kids' Food Basket, Youth Action Board, theater and archery. Hannah has done community service with Toys for Tots, necessity driver for AYA Youth Collective, projects for nursing homes and volunteering at local churches.

Emily Tremonti, a graduate of Northville High School, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to continue her studies at Grand Valley State University in the field of Allied Health Science. After graduation, she hopes to become a physician's assistant. Emily has been a member of the National Honor Society, cheer team, the American Red Cross Club, Pre-PA Club and the Polish Club. She has also volunteered with the Kids Food Basket.

Owen Snyder, a graduate of Jenison High School, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to continue his studies in statistics at Grand Valley State University. He was the captain of the Jenison varsity soccer team. Owen's community activities include volunteering at church fish fries, Picnic in the Park and feeding the homeless.

Scholarships are awarded to students who attend Grand Valley State University, Aquinas College, Davenport University, Grand Rapids Community College. There is also a Universal Scholarship category available for students attending other colleges and universities in Michigan. Complete application information is available at the PHS website;

polishheritagesociety.com

(Elections Continued from page 1)

annual Dozynki Festival. She has been an active volunteer in events at Diamond Street Hall and served in several local organizations that assist veterans, young women and children, including the Toys for Tots program and the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Kent County, a non-profit organization that looks out for the best interests of abused and neglected children as they make their way through the family court system.



Rosemary Maciejewski

For the past 12 years, Maciejewski has served as sergeant-at-arms for the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and ALA 5th District President representing more than 18 units in Kent and Ottawa counties. She won a national award for leadership in 2019

for her work with the ALA.

Broda, 35, is a trustee on the board of the Polish Falcons Aid Society, a musician who performs in Grand Rapids and a West Side resident. He and his spouse wife Hanna have two children, Natalie and Eugene. He said he wants to serve on the board to "help everyone celebrate the rich and beautiful history that we have here in Grand Rapids."

Ballots will be distributed at the meeting with the offices and candidates listed. Voters will be asked to cast no more than three votes for General Director, out of four names listed. If a person casts four votes for General Director, his or her ballot will be disqualified. The election committee will tabulate the votes, and winners will be declared by simple majority by the end of the meeting. The ballots will then be destroyed.

The April PHS newsletter incorrectly stated that the election would be held at the society's June general meeting. The installation of officers and directors will take place at the general meeting to be held noon June 25 at Oriole Park, 1380 42nd St. SW in Wyoming.



Western Michigan Celebrations

Saturday May 20, 2023

Golf outing at Three Fires Golf Club
6045 126th Ave., Holland, MI
9:00 am check-in, 10:00 shotgun
\$60 golf games, 18 holes, cart,
lunch, & BYOB

Dinner at PRCUA# 78 Lodge
1890 HENRY ST, MUSKEGON MI 49441
Doors Open 4:00 pm
Malbork Dance performance 5:00 pm
\$40 Dinner, Casual dress code
50/50 raffle, prizes, one free drink 7 cash bar
Sign Up and Pay No Later Than May 1st

Sunday May 21, 2023

12:30 pm Mass at
St. Isidore Catholic Church
628 Diamond Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI
Malbork Dance Group Blessing and
fellowship following service

Hotel- Baymount Inn & Suite
(231)799-0220
4677 Harvey St, Muskegon, MI 49444
\$130 "PRCUA Golf"
block expires April 20th
Registration Forms available at PRCUA 78 or
www.prcua78.info



2023 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES & BENEFITS

PRESENTING SPONSOR	\$5,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly visible branding with banners at key traffic locations. • Sponsor recognition in radio advertisements during the Polka Radio Hours on 94.9 FM, 99.5 FM, and 1530 AM • Fifty (50) Polish Festival Tokens to be used for authentic Polish cuisine or beverages. • Four (4) Parking Passes. • Sponsor name in social media, and PHS's website for one year (with direct link). 	
CULTURAL TENT or BEER TENT SPONSOR	\$2,500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly visible branding at either the Polish Heritage Society Cultural Exhibition or the BeerTent. • Fifty (50) Polish Festival Tokens to be used for authentic Polish cuisine or beverages. • Two (2) Parking Passes. • Company/Organization name on PHS's website for one year (with direct link). 	
POLISH ROYALTY VIP TENT SPONSOR	\$2,500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private tent positioned in a prime location within Calder Plaza. Banner can be displayed on the tent. • Seating for 20 – room for your corporate clients, loving family, or close friends! • Fifty (50) Polish Festival Tokens to be used for authentic Polish cuisine or beverages. • Company/Organization name on PHS's website for one year (with direct link). 	
ENTRANCE SPONSOR (Three Available)	\$1,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A highly visible signage recognition is available at one of the three entrances to the Polish Festival. • Twenty-five (25) Polish Festival Tokens to be used for authentic Polish cuisine or beverages. • Company/Organization name on PHS's website for one year (with direct link). 	
POLKA BAND SPONSOR (Three Available)	\$1,000 Fri or Sat, \$500 Sun
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available on a first come, first serve basis; sponsor the Polka Band on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. • Twenty-five (25) Polish Festival Tokens to be used for authentic Polish cuisine or beverages. • Company/Organization name on PHS's website for one year (with direct link). 	
CULTURAL ACTIVITY SPONSOR (Four Available)	\$500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor either the Children's Tent, Busia Pageant, Paczki Eating Contest, or Demonstration Tent. • Ten (10) Polish Festival Tokens to be used for authentic Polish cuisine or beverages. • Company/Organization name on PHS's website for one year (with direct link). 	
KEG SPONSOR	\$100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote your organization by sponsoring a keg! Includes a printed sponsorship board listing at the beer tent – one of the most popular stops for visitors of the Polish Festival! • Company/Organization name on PHS's website for one year (with direct link). 	
BANNER SPONSOR	\$100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote your organization by placing a banner on the Festival fencing – visible to all festival participants during the 3-day festival. • Company/Organization name on PHS's website for one year (with direct link). 	



YES, We/I would like to be a 2023 Polish Festival Sponsor!

- Presenting Sponsor \$5,000
- Beer Tent Sponsor \$2,500
- Entrance Sponsor \$1,000
- Cultural Activity Sponsor \$500
- (Select one below)
- Children’s Tent
- Busia Pageant
- Paczki Eating Contest
- Demonstration Tent
- Cultural Tent Sponsor \$2,500
- Polish Royalty VIP Tent \$2,500
- Polka Band Sponsor \$1,000 Fri or Sat, \$500 Sun
- Keg Sponsor\$100
- Banner Sponsor\$100

Sponsor (organization or individual name), exactly as it should appear in print:

Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Direct Web Link: _____

- Send an invoice for this sponsorship: mail e-mail

Please mail your completed form with check payable to *Polish Heritage Society*.

Questions: Mary Panek
 616.550.4113 marypanek@charter.net
 PHSgrandrapids@gmail.com or
 John Theisen John.Theisen@comcast.net

PHS Membership News



By Marilyn Lignell

The Polish Heritage Society welcomes student member Rebecca Brittain, and life member Robin Basarabska-Bruff.

Three cards of caring went out this month. The first card wishing a speedy recovery was to board member Ted Szyszowski who is recovering at home from surgery.

The second card of sympathy went to life member Laurie Lesiewicz who lost her mom, Florence, on April 8, 2023.

Carrienne Seppala received the third card of sympathy on the loss of her husband Jim Seppala who died on April 8, 2023. Jim was a member of St. Isidore's Benevolent Aid Society for 40 years and served the last seven years as President and Vice President.

Jim was on the Pulaski Days Board for about 5 years. Pulaski Days Chairperson Michelle Kerschner remembers Jim as someone who turned Diamond Hall around. "Jim was someone that if he said he was going to do it, he did it. He was the founder of the pierogi and kapusta eating contests for Pulaski

Days and responsible for the flag raising ceremony each year. Jim put his heart and soul into his Polish community and he will be deeply missed."

PRCUA Malbork Dance Group held their annual dance recital on March 25th at West Catho-

organization that keeps up with maintaining Polish customs and traditions." Be sure to check out the dancers at the Dozynki Polish Festival August 25-27.



Malbork Dance Group at West Catholic High School

lic High School. Director Natalia Szczygiel said it was the largest attendance they have had, over 200 people. The 32 dancers, ages 3-16, performed traditional Polish folk dances in colorful costumes. "The group works really hard and I am so proud of them. We have a lot of little kids this year and they are cute no matter what they do," Natalia said. The recital offered an authentic Polish dinner following the performance. Natalia has been the director for about 4 months, with daughter Olivia age 5 in the group and sons Henry and Julian in the wings. She said Malbork Dance Group will participate in the 150th Anniversary celebration of PRCUA and there will be a blessing of the dancers at St. Isidore Catholic Church on May 21st at 12:30 pm. "We are proud to be celebrating an

Thanks to Molly Rinckey, a lover of old vinyl albums and multimedia account executive at WOOD TV8, the PHS is now the proud owner of more than 100 vintage vinyl albums that will be available for purchase at the PHS Dozynki Festival to raise funds for our annual Wigilia dinner.

Molly said the donated albums "have been passed down from 3 generations of fun-loving, proud Polish Americans." The collection was started by Mary and George Bielski, who immigrated to the United States in 1907. "They grew up, married and had my grandma, Rose Bielski, in 1921," Molly said.

"The albums that were donated are from Rose, her Polish speaking immigrant parents and her half Polish daughter, Dawn Nye." Don't forget yourself, Molly! They were gifted to you as well, and thanks for thinking of the PHS in making this contribution. Polka on!

If you are a collector of vintage vinyl Polka albums and other songs of the 60s, look no further than our Dozynki Festival in August!



Molly Rinckey with just some of her collection of Polka Albums

Join the Polish Heritage Society to receive our monthly newsletter and other benefits!

Annual Student Membership for full-time students through college \$5

Annual Adult Membership \$20

Annual Family or Business Membership \$35

Lifetime Membership \$150

ONLINE

You can join the Polish Heritage Society online by going to our website at <https://polishheritagesociety.com/>, filling out the Membership form and paying by using the PayPal Button.

MAIL

Fill out this form and send a personal check made out to the Polish Heritage Society to this address:

Polish Heritage Society of Grand Rapids

P.O. Box 1844

Grand Rapids MI 49501-1844

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____