



POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF GRAND RAPIDS

NEWSLETTER

November 2021

Polish Independence Day, November 11th

By Richard Panek

Poland's Independence Day (Narodowe Święto Niepodległości) is celebrated on the 11th of November. This day commemorates the anniversary of when Poland regained its sovereignty from the German, Austro-Hungarian and Russian Empires in 1918.

Few people know that Poland actually disappeared from world maps for 123 years! From 1772, Poland was under attack by Russia, Prussia and Austria, which resulted in Poland being partitioned into three pieces.

Due to their perseverance and dedicated fight, Poles finally regained their independence at the end of World War I. Under command of the military hero Józef Piłsudski, who was appointed Commander-in-Chief on November 11th 1918, Poland was able to form a new government.



Jozef Pilsudski

Poland's Independence Day was established in 1937 and was only able to be celebrated twice before World War II began.

From 1939 to 1944, Poland was under Nazi occupation. Therefore, all signs and displays of Polish culture was forbidden. Subsequently, Poland fell under control of the USSR, forbidding patriotic celebrations.

After the fall of communism, Poland's Independence Day was reinstated and celebrated once again beginning in 1989.

Many cities across Poland display Polish flags, hold parades and political speeches are given. The televised celebrations in Warsaw are presided over by the President of Poland, who is joined by the Prime Minister and others in top political positions.

The parade in Warsaw is formed by Poland's Armed Forces. Though this is a celebratory holiday, most of the day's events take on a rather somber tone. Special ceremonies take place on Piłsudski Square by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

One of the most unique celebrations is The Polish Independence Run one of the largest street runs in Warsaw, with 20,000 participants.



Before the start, runners stand in two columns consisting of white and red T-shirts creating the effect of a very long Polish flag.

(from keytopoland.com)



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw

**Polish Heritage Society of
Grand Rapids**
PO Box 1844
Grand Rapids MI
49501-1844

<https://polishheritagesociety.com>

Email us at phsgrandrapids@gmail.com.

The Polish Heritage Society of Grand Rapids promotes an appreciation of the Polish and Lithuanian culture in the metro Grand Rapids. The Society publishes this newsletter monthly. We invite story ideas and content contributions. For more information, please contact Richard Panek or Marilyn Lignell by writing to phsgrandrapids@gmail.com.

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A CHRISTMAS TRADITION CONTINUES...

HOLLY HOP

"Polkas and Pops"



GERRY KAMINSKI'S
Polka Network



DAVE SLIVINSKI
& The Notables

Sunday, December 12
MUSIC & DANCING - 3:30-8:30PM
DOORS OPEN AT 2:30PM

the Guest House
634 Stocking Ave NW
Stocking at Fourth St NW

Dinners, Sandwiches, Snacks & Desserts
available from **That Polish Girl Catering**
www.thatpolishgirl.com



LIMITED TICKETS \$15/person OR RESERVE A TABLE FOR 8
FOR TICKETS CALL:
Laura Szczepanek (616) 970-6641
Eddie Sypniewski (616) 791-4930

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT PROGRAMS FOR THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AT THE BASILICA OF ST. ADALBERT

Ethnic Heritage Festival returns to the GRPM on Saturday, November 13! Celebrate and learn about the various cultures from around the world that call West Michigan home. Fun for all ages, this day of celebration of local ethnic heritage will feature:

- Live dancing and musical performances
- Engaging presentations and interactive table displays
- Explore two exhibitions focusing on diversity and culture, Anishinabek: The People of this Place and Newcomers: The People of This Place
- The Museum Café will also have a selection of cultural foods, available for purchase
- Event activities are included with general admission to the Museum!
- The Ethnic Heritage Festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come to see the PHS Display!

Ethnic Heritage Festival.

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM
Be curious.

A Celebration of Culture.

Saturday, November 13





Polish Heritage Society's Annual Wigilia Dinner and Program

Saturday, December 4, 2021

The Guest House, 634 Stocking NW

Includes: Seven Course Wigilia Dinner

Oplatek, Rye Bread with Horseradish Butter, Herring, Soup,

Lemon-Parsley Baked Cod, Noodles and Cabbage

Delectable Desserts

Coffee served throughout/Wine served with fish course

Social Hour 5:00-6:00PM Music Provided by Freddie Z.

Dinner at 6:00PM

Door Prizes

Polish Koledy: Featuring Jarek Kozal and Nick Palmer

\$32.00 per person-prepaid: Checks payable to Polish Heritage Society

*******Reservation deadline November 26, 2021*******

We are asking that all attendees be vaccinated or have a negative COVID test within 48 hours of the event. Strongly encouraged to wear masks when possible.

Send to PHS-c/o Marilyn Lignell Phone: 616-443-3773

2858 W Sandrel CT NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Name _____

Phone # _____

of tickets @\$32.00 _____

Amount enclosed _____

I would like to be seated with _____

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 _____

