

The Echo Newsletter

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The Polish Heritage Society meets at the Polish Falcons at 6:00 pm on the 3rd Monday of every month except for December and general meetings in June and October.

This newsletter is published monthly. Submit story ideas or content contributions to Richard Panek or Marilyn Lignell by emailing:

phsgrandrapids@gmail.com

or by mail:

PHS

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Angie Hanks is PHS 2026 Busia Queen

The Sunday morning rains stopped and breezes came up just in time to dry off Calder Plaza for the last day of Dozynki 2026, the highlight of which was the Busia Queen competition. Under the guidance of past queen Judi Serba, the PHS received multiple nominations for the competition.

Those vying for the crown enlivened the Festival crowds on Saturday and Sunday with many of their family members actively campaigning for their favorite Busia.

Over 350 votes were cast Sunday and the winner was Angie Hanks. Angie,

whose maiden name is Pasikowski, thanked the crowd for participating in the voting and vowed to serve the PHS proudly in promoting Polish Culture and Heritage.

The annual Busia Competition was started in 2012 as a way of acknowledging the love and commitment of Polish Grandmothers. Babcia or more commonly in Grand Rapids, Busia is the affectionate form of "Grandma" in Polish.

Be on the lookout for Angie Hanks, our 14th PHS Busia Queen as she makes her rounds during Pulaski Days and other Grand Rapids Polish Cultural Events.



Angie Pasikowski-Hanks (fourth from left) flanked by past Busia Queens, contest runners up and Pulaski Days Queen and Court

POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY EVENT SCHEDULE

PHS Board Meeting, Monday, September 21st, 6:00 pm at Polish Falcons - 957 Fulton St SW, Bar will be open. PHS members are encouraged to attend.

Rozmowa Polish Language Club, Tuesday, September 22nd 7:00 pm, Kosciuszko Hall - 935 Park St SW, Grand Rapids.

October General Membership Meeting, Sunday, October 11th, time and location TBD

See PHS website and Facebook page for more details and other events.

Plan for Pulaski Days Coming Up the End of This Month!

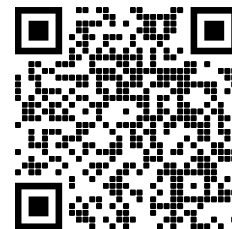


Pulaski Days Schedule Highlights

September 27, 2026: Official Flag Raising Ceremony and announcement of the Coloring Contest winners.

October 3, 2026: The annual Pulaski Days Parade takes place at 11:00 AM on the West Side (from Fulton down to Seward).

September 27 – October 4, 2026: Various events, live polka bands, and traditional food are hosted daily across Grand Rapids' participating Polish and Lithuanian halls. Scan the QR code to the right for the Pulaski Days Website and support the halls!



Dozynki Festival Wrap-up

It was an incredible weekend celebrating our heritage, culture, and community at the 48th Annual Dożynki Polish Harvest Festival!

Putting on Grand Rapids' longest-running ethnic festival takes an entire village, and we are overflowing with gratitude for everyone who made the weekend at Calder Plaza such an unforgettable success:

Our Amazing Volunteers: From running token sales and staffing the booths to keeping activities going in the children's tent, your hard work and energy carried the weekend. We could not do this without you!

Our Local Polish Halls: Thank you for spreading the word, supporting our community, and continuing to keep our shared West Michigan Polonia traditions strong year after year.

Our Media Partners & News Stations: A huge thank-you for sharing our story, highlighting our culture, and helping spread the word across West Michigan!

Our Generous Sponsors: Your financial support and partnership make it possible to keep this beloved 3-day festival free and accessible to the entire community. To all of our vendors and the general public that came out to experience the festival, thank you for celebrating with us!



Don Kurylowicz Recognized at Dozynki



Don Kurylowicz, owner of the Cannonsburg Village Market/Grist Mill, Bottle Shop and Honey Creek Inn accepting the Polish Citizen of the Year Award from PHS President Teresa Bonham. Don has supported the PHS by being a regular vendor of delicious Polish food at Dozynki for many years and is also a supporter of Puaki Days. His restaurant, the Honey Creek Inn has Polish food on the menu every year for the month of October. Thanks Don for promoting Polish Culture!



Saint Isidore





48th Annual Genealogy Seminar

presented by the
Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan

Includes three live presentations with Q&A, a syllabus, and door prizes - Open to PGSM members and the public

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Webinar or In Person

Check-In for In-Person Registrants 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Seminar 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (all times U.S. Eastern Time)

The in-person session is at a new location this year:
American Polish Century Club, 33204 Maple Lane, Sterling Heights, Michigan.
The in-person session includes lunch with Polish food and beverages.
In-person seating is limited – please register soon.

Speakers and Presentations:

Katherine R. Willson: "America at 250: Opportunity, Exclusion, and Resilience" and
"Navigating the Historical and Genealogical Treasures Within Repositories: Libraries, Archives, and More"

Dr. John Radzilowski: "Sweetest Heart of Mary Church and Father Dominic Kolasinski"
(presentations will not be recorded)

Visit pgsm.org to register and pay by credit or debit card (online registration closes October 7).

To register and pay by check, fill out the form below and mail it with your payment to:

PGSM, P.O. Box 111, St. Johns, MI 48879

Registrations paid by check must be postmarked by October 4.

For more information about PGSM or the seminar, visit pgsm.org

Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan 2026 Seminar

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email (required): _____

Phone Number: _____

Webinar - \$20.00

☐

OR

In Person - \$50.00

☐

The Copernicus Center for Polish Studies at the University of Michigan Events

33rd Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival, Fri, Nov 13–Sun, Nov 15. See annarborpolishfilmfestival.com for films and times. Organizer: Polish Cultural Fund– Ann Arbor, Michigan Theater

Annual Copernicus Lecture. Thu, Dec 3, 5–6:30 pm The Beauty and Significance of Interwar Polish Popular Music. Jan Emil Młynarski award-winning musician. Rackham Amphitheatre.
Visit ii.umich.edu/polish/events for event details and to see video of past lectures.

The PMA in Chicago Presents Author Talk on Pierogi with Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann

The Polish Museum of America (PMA) will be hosting historian and author Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann for a special presentation of her new book, *Pierogi: An American Story of Polish Food!*

Few foods illustrate the Polish-American experience as vividly as the humble pierogi. This book traces their journey from immigrant kitchens to their place in American food culture, exploring how traditions are preserved, adapted, and transformed across generations.

(If you can't attend this event in Chicago, the book is available for purchase on Amazon).

Tuesday evening, September 22, 2026 at the Polish Museum of America, 684 N. Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60642

Free Admission, Register here:

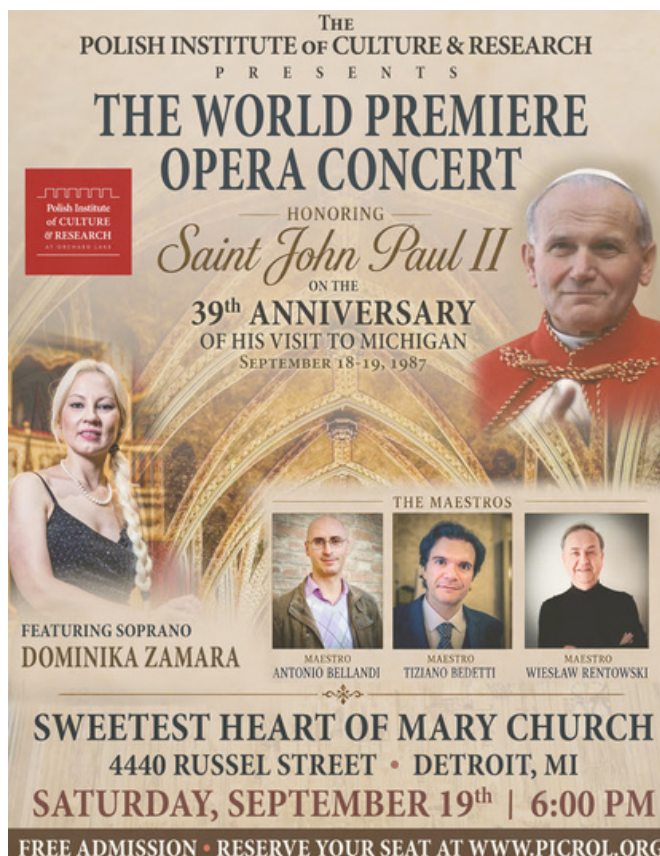


Orchard Lake Commemorating Saint John Paul II's 1987 Michigan Visit

The Polish Institute for Culture and Research in Orchard Lake is commemorating the 39th anniversary of Saint John Paul II's historic visit to Michigan. To mark the event, they are presenting a world premiere opera concert featuring internationally acclaimed Polish soprano Dominika Zamara,

The concert will feature works by Maestro Antonio Bellandi, Maestro Tiziano Bedetti, and Maestro Wiesław Rentowski, bringing together the artistry of distinguished European composers for this special musical tribute to Saint John Paul II.

The event is September 19th at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church in Detroit. Admission is free, but advance registration is strongly encouraged. Guests who RSVP online will be entered into a drawing for an exclusive VIP Encounter with soprano Dominika Zamara. Reserve your seat by going to www.picrol.org



THE
POLISH INSTITUTE OF CULTURE & RESEARCH
PRESENTS
**THE WORLD PREMIERE
OPERA CONCERT**
— HONORING —
Saint John Paul II
ON THE
39th ANNIVERSARY
OF HIS VISIT TO MICHIGAN
SEPTEMBER 18-19, 1987

Polish Institute of Culture & Research
in Orchard Lake

FEATURING SOPRANO
DOMINIKA ZAMARA

THE MAESTROS

MAESTRO ANTONIO BELLANDI
MAESTRO TIZIANO BEDETTI
MAESTRO WIESŁAW RENTOWSKI

SWEETEST HEART OF MARY CHURCH
4440 RUSSEL STREET • DETROIT, MI
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th | 6:00 PM
FREE ADMISSION • RESERVE YOUR SEAT AT WWW.PICROL.ORG



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

Scan the QR code with your phone camera to become a member:



OR BY 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 _____