



## A Call for Refugee Support

By Richard Walawender, Honorary Consul, Polish Mission



Dear Friends,

As you undoubtedly know, over the past few days, hundreds of thousands of refugees from Ukraine have escaped the horrors of the Russian invasion by coming to Poland. In response, the Polish Government and the Polish people have welcomed these refugees with open arms, giving them food, shelter, clothing, and a safe haven. As of today, over 750,000 refugees have crossed into Poland and that number is expected to exceed 2 million in just the next few weeks.

Many, many Polish families are taking refugees into their homes. The welcome which Poland has given these Ukrainian refugees has truly impressed the world! At the same time, Poland's kindness will strain resources, supplies, and money. For that reason, I am appealing to you to consider making a donation to aid the Polish charitable organizations leading the effort, which are specifically recommended by the Polish Government for this purpose:

Polskie Centrum Pomocy  
Międzynarodowej (PCPM)- [https://  
pcpm.org.pl/ukraina](https://pcpm.org.pl/ukraina)

Polska Akcja Humanitarna (PAH) -  
<https://www.pah.org.pl/en/donate/>

Caritas Polska - [https://caritas.pl/  
formularz/](https://caritas.pl/formularz/)

Polski Czerwony Krzyż (PCK) - [https://  
pck.pl/na-pomoc-ukrainie](https://pck.pl/na-pomoc-ukrainie)

Polska Misja Medyczna / Polish Medi-  
cal Mission - [https://pmm.org.pl/en/  
ukraine-urgent-medical-aid](https://pmm.org.pl/en/ukraine-urgent-medical-aid)

You can contribute directly to these  
charitable organizations through their  
respective websites.

Alternatively, to simplify the process,  
the Polish Mission at Orchard Lake  
Schools has set up a special Ukrainian  
Relief Fund, to which you can make a  
donation. Send a check payable to the  
Polish Mission and write "Ukrainian  
Relief Fund" on the check memo line.  
All donations made to the Polish Mis-  
sion –are tax-deductible charitable  
contributions and will be sent to the  
Polish charities above. *Mail checks to:*

**Ukrainian Relief Fund**

**Orchard Lake Schools**

**3535 Commerce Rd, Orchard Lake, MI  
48324**

I have been asked by many people why has Poland been so generous and welcoming to these Ukrainian refugees? And why has the Polish Government led the way in calling for sanctions against Russia? The answer is simple. We Poles understand, probably better than anyone, what it means to be attacked for no just cause by a neighboring power, especially Russia. And we Poles understand what it is like to have to fight and resist a belligerent invader – alone – as the invader tries to take our land, tries to destroy our culture, and tries to nullify our nation. Poland is now showing the world that, in contrast to its own tragic experiences, no nation should have to fight such evil aggression alone; if we do not stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people, we might be the next victims.

Let us also keep Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, and Poland and the Polish people who are helping them, in our thoughts and prayers.

*Richard A. Walawender*

*Honorary Consul*

*Consulate of the Republic of Poland*

*150 West Jefferson, Suite 2500*

*Detroit, Michigan 48226*

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

<https://polishheritagesociety.com>

Email us at [phsgrandrapids@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:phsgrandrapids@gmail.com).

**PHS Executive Board**

**President**  
Adam Porczynski

**1st VP**  
John Theisen

**2nd VP**  
Anthony Zasuwa

**Treasurer**  
Mary Ann Bergevin

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Elena Chaidez

**Recording Secretary**  
Dennis Ziomkowski

**Director**  
Teresa Bonham

**Director**  
Angela Walejewski-Zasuwa

**Director**  
Michael Jasperse

**Director**  
Richard Panek

**Director**  
Martin Rogalski

## Malbork Dance Ensemble Performs at Van Andel



The PRCUA Malbork Dance Group performed on February 4th at Van Andel Arena before the PHS Griffins Hockey night. Board Member Anthony Zasuwa organized the event which drew over 100 members and friends of the PHS. A part of the ticket proceeds went to the PHS.

The PRCUA Malbork Dance Group, under the direction of Amber Gillette, performs traditional Polish Folk Dances for local cultural events. P.R.C.U.A. Malbork Dance Group is a youth dance group that teaches traditional Polish folk dances. The youth dance group practices Thursday nights between 6-6:45pm (3-8 years old) 6:45-7:30p (9-18 years old) in Grand Rapids, MI. They are accepting dancers ages 3-18 years old! See their Facebook page for info.

## Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy Asks for Support

Ukrainian Archeparchy of Philadelphia:

Donate online at: <https://ukrarcheparchy.us/donate>

You may also mail a check to:

Ukrainian Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia

810 North Franklin Street

Philadelphia, PA 19123

Please write: "Humanitarian Aid Fund for Ukraine" on the memo line



## Membership News

by Marilyn Lignell

The Polish Heritage Society welcomes **Andrew Levandowski** as a new member.



Andrew Lewandoski

“My family has been on the West Side of Grand Rapids ever since they came here from Poland. I've always wanted to connect with my Polish heritage but never really knew how. I'd really like to get involved with the Polish community,” Andrew said.

Andrew went on to say, “My great grandma was really Polish, my grandma was kind of Polish, and all traditional things pretty much died when they did. I’m starting from square one. I never grew up around anything or anybody whoever told me about what being from Poland means. I love Polish food and culture and I’m really interested in learning more about my heritage.” Andrew also is excited about volunteering, and so are we!

Be sure to check out the Grand Rapids Magazine’s March/April edition where PHS member **Linda Nemeć Foster** is featured in an article about a “small sampling” of Grand Rapids’ local poets.

Linda is the author of twelve collections of

poetry including *The Blue Divide*, *The Lake Michigan Mermaid*, *Talking Diamonds*, *Amber Necklace from Gdansk*, *Listen to the Landscape*, and *Living in the Fire Nest*. She was selected to be the first Poet Laureate of Grand Rapids, Michigan from 2003-2005. Linda is the founder of the Contemporary Writers Series at Aquinas College.

Linda is the author of twelve poetry collections, including the critically acclaimed books *The Lake Michigan Mermaid* (2019 Michigan Notable Book), *Amber Necklace from Gdańsk*, and *Talking Diamonds*. Her most recent book is *The Blue Divide*.



Linda Nemeć Foster

Here books are available on Amazon and other fine booksellers.

## PHS January Board Meeting Report

Attendance: Adam Porczynski, Mary Ann Bergevin, Elena Chaidez, Anthony Zasuwa, Michael Jasperse, Martin Rogalski, John Theisen, Theresa Bonham, Angela Zasuwa

Absent: Dennis Ziomkowski

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as printed. Minutes were sent via e-mail to the board.

Treasurer Report: The financial report was given. Final numbers have festival at a loss of approximately 7,000.00 this year. Receipts need to be sent in to accounting firm.

Old Business:

Polish Night at Griffins – Approximately 50+ tickets sold thus far. PHS receives 5.00 per ticket sold. Polka Pops to promote this weekend, John Theisen to drop off info at Pulaski Day meeting.

Wigilia – Check location, cost, host, etc.

Election Process – Nominating Committee: John, Theresa and Adam to have nominations submitted to the executive board by March 21st. Once executive board approves nominees will be printed in the April newsletter. Open positions: Second Vice President, Treasure, Corresponding, First Trustee, and Sec-

ond Trustee

Bulk mail – Jenison chamber of commerce allows for use of their permit.

New Business:

Malbork Dance Group – Requesting 50.00 dollars for advertising in their recital program. Motion passed.

West Catholic Band – Requesting 100.00 dollars for advertising in their program book. Motion passed.

Committee Structure – Motion made to go to a committee structure for major tasks to more involve the general membership. Motion made by Michael Jasperse, Seconded by Martin Rogalski. Adam will send out an email to the board, with the goal of having at least one board member head up each committee. In addition, Richard will post the committees and ask for volunteers in the upcoming newsletter.

Festival – Discussed having each hall commit to at least a three hour block at booth where they can promote their membership or sell things.

Tax Letters – still need to be sent out to sponsors for their 2021 donations.

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 \_\_\_\_\_