



# POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF GRAND RAPIDS

May 2020

## PHS Awards Scholarships to Talented, Dedicated Students

By Matthew Gryczan

The Polish Heritage Society of Grand Rapids awarded seven scholarships totaling \$6,000 in April to accomplished students who are attending Michigan colleges and universities to further their educations in everything from the health sciences to business.

Mary Ann Bergevin and Marilyn Lignell, 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 2020.

Emma and Grace Piasecki, sisters who graduated from Norton Shores High School, were each awarded \$750 to continue their studies at Grand Valley State University in Allendale. Emma Piasecki is furthering her education in pre-physician's assistant studies, with the career goal of becoming a physician's assistant. She has been involved in volleyball, basketball, lacrosse, link crew and the National Honor Society. Grace Piasecki is majoring in biomedical engineering with the goal of becoming a biomedical engineer. She



Grace Piasecki

has been involved in basketball, varsity track, link crew, and the National Honor Society.

Kylea Lund, a graduate of Traverse City West Senior High School, was awarded a \$1000 to (See Page 2)

## New PHS Officers Take Their Posts on June 1

By Matthew Gryczan

The Polish Heritage Society will not need to hold elections for officers and directors in May because no one has challenged any of the individuals who appeared on the slate of candidates from April. Teresa Bonham will be a newcomer to the board as director on June 1, while all the other candidates have been current members of the board.

On June 1, the following

individuals have been re-elected to their current positions for terms ending in May 2022: Mary Ann Bergiven, Treasurer; Elena Chaidez, Corresponding Secretary; and Michael Jasperse, Director.

There are changes in the leadership of the society when the following individuals take their positions: Adam Porczynski, President, with the term ending 2021; John Theisen, First Vice President for the term

ending 2021; Anthony Zasuwa, Second Vice President with the term ending 2022; and Bonham, director with term ending in 2021.

Bonham was nominated to serve as Second Vice President, but she and Zasuwa decided to switch positions to allow her to become acquainted with the board and its operation before taking on additional responsibilities. Zasuwa has been serving on the board

for several years and is active in the operation of the Grand Rapids chapter of the P.R.C.U.A. Malbork Dance Group.

There was a general shakeup of the board this year on several positions not up for reelection when Greg Rosloniec, who started serving as president in June 2019, decided to step down.

Rosloniec said he was honored to serve (See Page 2)

## POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

### Scholarships: Students Who Excel



Lund

continue her studies at Grand Valley State University to pursue a degree in social work with the goal of becoming a therapist. She was involved in ASD mentoring, Chinese club, competitive sideline cheer, global citizenship and religion club, international club, Key Club and multicultural exchange club.

Emmaline Estes, a graduate of Kenowa Hills High School, was awarded a \$1000 scholarship to continue her studies at Aquinas College towards her goal of becoming a K-8



Estes

elementary school teacher. She was involved in bowling, tennis, softball, marching band and colorguard.

Nicholas Klak, a graduate of Stoney Creek High School in Rochester, was awarded a \$1000 scholarship to continue his studies at Aquinas College in business and marketing. He was involved in tennis, Key Club, English Honors Society and National Honors Society.

Shelby Korytkowski, a graduate of Rockford High School, was awarded a \$1000 scholarship to continue her studies at



Korytkowski

Central Michigan University in pre-medicine or pre-veterinary majors with the goal of becoming a doctor or veterinarian. She was involved in varsity track and field, KP athletics, golf, Renaissance Club, and the National Honor Society.

Andrea Glenn, a graduate of Northview High School, was awarded a \$500



Glenn

scholarship to continue her studies at Grand Rapids Community College in medical laboratory science with the goal of becoming a medical laboratory technologist or pathologist. She was involved in Students Against Destructive Decisions, Bullet Journaling club and National Honor Society.

Scholarships are awarded to students who attend Grand Valley State University, Aquinas College, Davenport University, and Grand Rapids Community College. In addition, our society awards universal scholarships for those attending any college or university in Michigan. Scholarships will be awarded based on the following criteria:

- Must be a full-time student with a minimum 2.75 GPA.
- All recipients must be of Polish descent, and must provide a brief statement (signed and dated) delineating their heritage.
- Financial need will be

taken into consideration.
• All applications must be received by the Financial Aid Office by March 15 in the year they are awarded.

All applications must be received by the Financial Aid Office by March 15. The colleges will provide the Polish Heritage Society with the applications. The Polish Heritage Society will select the recipients, and notify the Financial Aid Office of the dollar amount that the recipient will be awarded. This will be done within one month of receiving the list of scholarship candidates.

### Election: Not Necessary

(From Page 1) as society president, but learned that the post required significant commitments that he wasn't able to meet without taking time away from his grandchildren and other family members.

He added that the society is in good hands with Porczynski and Theisen because both men have distinguished themselves volunteers for the annual Dozynki Polish Festival, the major fundraiser for the society. Both men have been named PHS Citizens of the Year by the society for their efforts.

## PHS Member News

PO Box 1844  
Grand Rapids MI 49501-  
1844  
[https://  
polishheritagesociety.com/](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 Matthew Gryczan, Richard Panek or Marilyn Lignell by writing to [phsgrandrapids@gmail.com](mailto:phsgrandrapids@gmail.com)

President  
Adam Porczynski

1st VP  
John Theisen

2nd VP  
Anthony Zasuwa

Treasurer  
Mary Ann Bergevin

Cor. Secretary  
Elena Chaidez

Rec. Secretary  
Dennis Ziomkowski

Director  
Teresa Bonham

Director  
Matthew Gryczan

Director  
Michael Jasperse

Director  
Richard Panek

Director  
Greg Rosloniec

By Marilyn Lignell and  
Matthew Gryczan

Many people know Father Dennis Morrow as a lifetime member of the Polish Heritage Society and a life-long supporter of our functions, be it the annual Wigilia dinner in December or the Dozynki Festival in August.

But they may not know that Father Den has also served as chaplain for the Grand Rapids Police and Grand Rapids Fire departments for just about as long as he has been a priest. In addition to his regular duties as pastor of SS. Peter & Paul Parish on the West side, he has been ministering for more than four decades to the needs of first responders during particularly stressful times.

This past month, Father Den has been the focus in local media reports on how police officers and firefighters are now lending him support as he struggles with late-stage lung cancer. He graces the front page of May issue of Faith magazine, where former Grand Rapids Press columnist and author Tom Rademacher does a beautifully artful sketch of Father Den that is worthy of the man.

Please keep Father Den in your prayers as he faces these huge challenges.

The Polish Heritage Society would like to give a big



Kwiatkowski

welcome to new member Kevin Kwiatkowski. Kevin is a second generation Polish American, both parents are of Polish descent. Kevin was born and raised on the West Side. He graduated from both Union High School and Aquinas College, where he now is the Director of Campus Security.

Kevin said he joined the Polish Heritage Society because, "I would like to connect with others that share the same ancestry and help preserve the Polish traditions in the Grand Rapids area."

Kevin is married with two daughters, one graduating from West Catholic and one finishing the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Kevin has been able to maintain his job through this pandemic but said the landscape is much different now. The school is closed to students but neighboring homes have come out to enjoy the beautiful campus as somewhat of a park.

Mother's Day had a new and special meaning for me this year. My daughter Carly and her husband Bryan welcomed a beautiful (according to grandma) baby girl into the world on March 7. Evelyn June was 9 pounds 3 ounces at birth and we were fortunate to visit and see her before the stay at home order. Evelyn is also the first great granddaughter for life member Donna Jean Mileski.

I've understood the excite-



Evelyn June

ment of becoming a grandparent, but was unprepared for the emotions of love, joy, amazement and incredibly proud feelings I had for my daughter and her husband navigating parenthood, especially through these challenging times when the normal support systems need to be at least six feet away.

If anyone has some member news they would like to share please send it to [phsgrandrapids@gmail.com](mailto:phsgrandrapids@gmail.com)

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 \_\_\_\_\_