



# POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF GRAND RAPIDS NEWSLETTER

May 2021

## PHS Scholarship Award Winners

**AQUINAS COLLEGE** The winner of a \$1,000 scholarship to Aquinas College is **Nicholas Klak**.

Nicholas is majoring in Business Administration and Marketing and participates in tennis, link crew, and the Aquinas program board. He has made the Dean's list for all 3 semesters at Aquinas and is a member of the National Honor Society. His community service includes Project Unite of Grand Rapids, Key Club, Baldwin Soup Kitchen, Outreach Programs for St. Jude's Children's Hospital, Habitat for Humanity, Youth Group work trips to New Jersey and Texas for Hurricane Relief.



The winner of a second \$1,000 scholarship to Aquinas is **Jack Wicker**.

Jack's major is Business and he is a member of the National Honor Society and North Central Michigan College's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Jack has participated in Bowling Youth Leagues, Junior Gold Competitive Bowling, baseball, and football. He was captain of his High School Bowling Team. His community service included Little League umpiring, Fire Department Fundraising event volunteer, Challenge Mountain volunteer, and Youth Bowling mentor.



**GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY** – The winner of a \$1,000 scholarship to Grand Valley State University is **Hailey Deptula**.



Hailey's major is Communication Sciences and Disorders, and Spanish. She hopes to work as a Speech-Language Pathologist, with a specialty in dysphagia and autism. Hailey has participated in Marching Band Color Guard, PCEP Key Club, Delight Ministries, Honors College Student Council, Honors College Programming Board, and Honors College Mentoring Program. Her

community service includes Rotary Club Fall Festival Dinner, Comcast Cares Food Packaging, and volunteering with ChemoCares.

The winner of a second \$1,000 scholarship to Grand Valley State University is **Jacob Dove**. Jacob's major is Writing. At GVSU, Jacob has participated in Band, Jazz Band, National History Day, and Quiz Bowl. Jacob's community service includes Fruitport Lions Club Christmas Setup and Embrace Books.

**DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY** – The winner of a \$1,000 scholarship to Davenport University is **Sydney May**. Sydney's major is Allied Health Science. She hopes to work as a Child Life Specialist. She has participated in Students for Life, Soccer, Basketball, and Peer Ministry Leader. She also is a member of the National Honor Society. Syd-

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### ***PHS Board Elections Approaching!***

As per the PHS Bylaws, the membership is hereby notified that elections for board member positions will take place in May. Six people are running unopposed for reelection and an open one year trustee seat needs to be filled:

President: Adam Porczynski until 2021

1st VP: John Theisen until 2021

Recording Secretary: Dennis Zionkowski until 2021

Director: Richard Panek until 2021

Director: Theresa Bockheim until 2021.

Director: Michael Jasperse until 2021

Director: Open seat for 1 year term

To apply for the open seat, please email us:  
phsgrandrapids@gmail.com

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

<https://polishheritagesociety.com>

Email [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).

**President**

Adam Porczynski

**1st VP**

John Theisen

**2nd VP**

Anthony Zasuwa

**Treasurer**

Mary Ann Bergevin

**Corresponding Secretary**

Elena Chaidez

**Recording Secretary**

Dennis Ziolkowski

**Director**

Teresa Bonham

**Director**

Matthew Gryczan

**Director**

Michael Jasperse

**Director**

Richard Panek

**Director**

Greg Rosloniec

*Scholarships cont'd from pg. 1*

ney's community service includes Kid's Food Basket, Beautiful You by Profile, and tutoring elementary students. She has attended the Polish Festival regularly.

**GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE** – The winner of a \$500 scholarship to Grand

Rapids Community College is **Emily Bizon**. Emily is

studying to work in Child and Family Development. Emily has participated in Marching Band, Jazz Band, Choir, Peer Ministry, CIA, Student Government, musicals, and plays. She was also Head Drum Major of Marching Band, Head Leader of Women's Discernment, and Vice President of Student Council. Emily has averaged over 100 hours of community service throughout high school, including Christmas Caroling to the elderly. She has played with the "Polski Chix" and is a member of PRCUA Malbork Dance Group.



The winner of a \$250 scholarship to Grand Rapids Community College is **Karissa Fricke**. Karissa plans to major in Engineering and Aviation Maintenance and is a member of the National Honor Society. Karissa has participated in Girl Scouts, Altar Server, Eucharist Minister, and Bowling Team and has accumulated 300 volunteer hours at Church, Bible School, and Kids Food Basket.

The winner of a second \$250 scholarship to Grand Rapids Community College is **Kayla Fricke**. Kayla will major in Elementary Education and hopes to

teach third or fourth grade students. Kayla has participated in Girl Scouts, Altar Server, Eucharist Minister, and Bowling Team. She was also on the Student Volunteers Board, Camp Counselor, and Student Teacher. Kayla has accumulated 600 volunteer hours. She also worked at Kid's Food Basket.

**UNIVERSAL SCHOLARSHIP** – The winner of a \$1,000 scholarship to the University of Michigan is **Nathan Sochocki**.

Nathan's major will be Computer Engineering and he hopes to work as a Computer Hardware Engineer. Nathan has participated in Baseball, Basketball, Spanish Club, Mental Health Group, SAT Practice Group, and after school tutoring. His community service includes handing out food to needy families, cleaning up trash around the community, packaging food for elementary students, and volunteering on Earth Day.



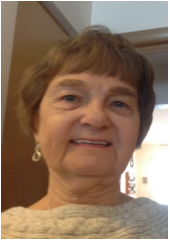
## Name the PHS Newsletter!

The PHS is encouraging our members to help name the Newsletter. In the past, there were Polish Language Newspapers in major American Cities. Most of these were weekly or, in large cities like Chicago, *Dzienik's* or Dailies. Most subscribers were immigrants who used the papers to stay connected to the greater Polish Diaspora or *Polonia*.

This newsletter is aimed at the descendants of those brave immigrants. Our mission is to promote appreciation of the unique Polish/Lithuanian culture present in West Michigan. Although not a newspaper, it does present PHS news, serving as a resource for other regional Polish-American publications via newsletter subscriptions. We are always open to receiving stories concerning your Polish Heritage, PHS history, or Hall Activities. Feel free to also become a contributor! Your editor would be happy to receive articles of 200 to 600 words in Microsoft Word. We are open to naming ideas so email us [phsgrandrapids@gmail.com](mailto:phsgrandrapids@gmail.com).

## PHS Member News by Marilynn Lignell

### Meet the Board



**Mary Ann Bergevin** serves on the board as the Polish Heritage Society Treasurer.

Mary Ann grew up in Muskegon and attended St. Michael church and school. Her family lived next door to her grandparents where she learned to speak Polish and celebrated Polish customs such as Wigilia. "My grandma cooked and baked for two days and it was especially exciting to have all my cousins come over." Mary Ann moved to Grand Rapids in 1972 and joined the Polish Heritage Society shortly after. Ruth Anne Lomas persuaded her to join the board as a trustee and she soon found herself in the treasurer's position.

One highlight of my life was being able to visit Poland in 1984 with two of my cousins when it was still communist. "We visited relatives in Golina, Poland, and met my mother's first and second cousins. It was thrilling to meet these relatives who lived in the country of my ancestors. I also got to see how communism deprived people's freedom by rationing what they could buy. I have since visited Poland two more times. The Polish Heritage Society has kept me in touch with my Polish heritage and customs."

**Adam Porczynski** serves on the board as the Polish Heritage Society President.



"I originally joined the PHS to get involved with the Polish Community. My entire family came from Poland and I was the first one born here in the USA. English is my second language, but I wanted to give back to the Polish community. At the

time, I didn't know how, so I joined the PHS to see if I could help somehow. I learned from the organization for a few years on how it operated, what it needed, and then filled in where I could." Adam has a lot of progressive ideas and has helped to benefit the society with his business background. Adam is one of the chairs of the Dozynki Polish Festival and has helped to make the festival even more successful. Adam and his wife Lisa have two

young children, Evelyn and Noah.

### New Member

We welcome new member **Priscilla Hudson** from Sequim, Washington. Priscilla grew up in the thumb of Michigan and her grandparents spent time in Grand Rapids. She belongs to the Michigan Genealogical Society and hopes to learn some new things from the PHS.

## Meeting Minutes — March 15

A meeting of the Polish Heritage Society was held on March 15, 2021 via phone and in person. President Adam Porczynski called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Roll Call: Quorum Present? YES

Attendance: Mary Ann Bergevin, Adam Porczynski, Dennis Ziomkowski, Anthony Zasuwa, Michael Jasperse, Matt Gryczan, Theresa Bonham, John Theisen, Elena Chaidez

Absent: Greg Rosloniec, Richard Panek

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as printed. Motion was made by John and seconded by Theresa to accept. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: The financial report was given. Motion was made by Elena seconded by Matt to accept the report. Motion passed.

Correspondence: The checks from renewals were given to Mary Ann for deposit. Member information is going to Marilyn.

Old Business: No current update on Logo/branded samples.

Motion by John, seconded by Matt to have Elena set up a Venmo account. Motion carried. Venmo is like PayPal but no fees charged. The society will use it on the food fundraiser and maybe future endeavors. Membership dues still can be paid by PayPal as before.

The PHS still needs a volunteer for Facebook and Website management. The person does not have to be on the board, but has to be a member.

Fundraiser May 8th featuring a polish plate for \$12. All pre orders only. 3 kielbasa, 2 pierogies, kapusta, rye bread. Pick up times are from 3pm to 6pm. Deadline for orders is May 1st. No substitutions. We have enough volunteers and an order form needs to be made. Kosciusko Hall is the pickup point.

New Business: A motion by Anthony, seconded by Matt to add John Theisen as a signatory on the checking account. He will join Adam and Mary Ann. Motion passed.

If we have a festival this year, it will be on August 27, 28, and 29 at Rosa Parks Circle. June 15th is our dead line to decide. We will look at bands and vendors to see who might be available and interested.

Ruth Ann Lomas passed away. Flowers are being sent.

Motion to close meeting made by John and seconded by Elena. Motion carried and meeting ended at 6:35pm.

Next meeting is April 19, 2021 6pm Polish Falcons If covid restrictions allow.

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 \_\_\_\_\_