

Polish Heritage Society 2022 College Scholarship Winners Named

By Mary Ann Bergevin

AQUINAS COLLEGE - A \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to **Rachel Warnke** who



is majoring in Mathematics with a minor in Spanish. She hopes to become a Librarian when she graduates with an aim of earning a Masters of Library Science de-

gree. Her extracurricular activities are AQ Student Senate, CAVA, and AQ Programming Board. Rachel's community activities include CACA (Community Action Volunteers of Aquinas), and she has gone on several Mission Trips (West Virginia in 2018, Kentucky in 2018, and South Dakota in 2019).

A second \$1,000 scholarship was award-



ed to **Nicholas Klak** who is majoring in Business Administration and Marketing. Nicholas has been on the Aquinas Men's Tennis Team for

3 years, has been an Aquinas Program Board VP, and participates in SPUM Youth Group. He has been on the Dean's List for all 6 semesters at Aquinas and is on the All Conference Academic Team for WHAS – Tennis. He also has worked on Project Unite G.R., Key Club, Baldwin Soup Kitchen, Hands 4 Detroit, and Habitat for Humanity. He also went on Hurricane Relief work trips.

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY - A \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to



Alex Beaudette who plans to major in Business and minor in Data Science.

Alex has been in marching band for 4 years, concert and symphonic band for 4 years, Quiz Bowl for 2 years, and Model UN for 1 year. He has also received Dean's List and Honor Roll awards throughout his high school years. Alex has attended many Wigilia Dinners and is planning a trip to Poland with his grandparents next summer.

A second \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to **Abigail Hunt**. Abigail will be studying Bio-

medical Science and is planning to become an Optometrist. She has participated in competitive dance, varsity dance team, student council, women's athletic club, and national honor society. Abigail's

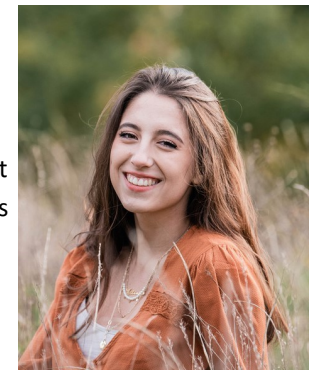


family cooks Polish food throughout the year, and she attends the Polish Festival.

GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE - A \$500 scholarship was awarded to **Olivia**

Gregorski who is planning to study Environmental Sciences and hopes to become an Environmental Biologist for the State of Michigan.

Olivia has been a member of student council member, as well as prom committee, and is a John Ball Zoo volunteer. She also



has done community cleanup. Olivia is involved in local Polish culture and attends the Polish Festival.

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**Polish Heritage Society of
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<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.

PHS Executive Board

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Festival Planning Meeting May 16

The PHS Board members are planning for the upcoming Dozynki Polish Festival to be held August 26 thru 28, 2022 at Calder Plaza. The next Festival Planning Committee meeting is Monday, May 16 immediately following the next Board Meeting at the Falcons (approximately 6:45 pm).

The Festival is our main fundraising event and a perfect opportunity to get more involved in the PHS. Working the Festival is a great way to meet and get to know your fellow PHS members. You always make some new friends working Festival. Working a shift (or 2) then staying for the great food, drinks and music is one of the best ways to celebrate Polish Heritage in Grand Rapids.

If you know of any Highschool Students needing service hours, have them help out at Festival!

PHS Scholarships *continued from pg.1*

UNIVERSAL SCHOLARSHIP - A Universal Scholarship was awarded to **Ella DeGraw**. She is planning to attend the University of Michigan where she will study Biology,



Neuroscience, and Pre-Medicine. She plans to be a Pediatrician with an interest in treating ADD, anxiety and depression. Ella is on the Varsity Cheer Team, tennis team, Key Club member, National

Honor Society, and has been a clinical observer at Ascension St John Children's Hospital Palliative Care.

Polish Hall History *By Theresa Bonham*

St Ladislaus Aid Society, aka Laddies Hall was established on May 1904, as "The Alliance of Polish Young Men Under the Patronage of St Ladislaus".

During the first few years of the society's existence, the only source of income was from the monthly member dues and meetings were held at St Adalbert's Hall and Jackson Street Hall. Later meetings were held at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church. As membership grew a bigger hall was needed; from 1916 - 1937 they rented space from Sacred Heart Society. Under the leadership of Alliance President Nicodemus Dominiak, the society incorporated into a non-profit organization. From 1937 to 1940 they rented rooms on Butterworth and Hogadone Ave until they purchased a former cigar factory, which is the building at their current location at 58 Lane Ave SW.

The members at Laddies Hall have always been active in sporting activities. In the late 30's when baseball was the most popular sport in the city, their baseball team won two city championships. In the late 70's their softball team won championships as well.

Over the years, many improvements have been made to keep up the appearance of the club: from new carpet, tables, chairs, air conditioning, new roof, and televisions to make it the inviting space it is today. Laddies hosts several events throughout the year, including a Lenten fish fry, golf outing, breakfasts, and its annual Polish meal which sells out every year.

St Ladislaus Aid Society has a family friendly atmosphere. If you are interested in becoming a member stop on in and ask the bartender for additional information.

Membership News

by Marilyn Lignell

Board Nominations and June Picnic The PHS Board has approved the following nominations for open board positions:

Thaddeus (Ted) Szyzlowski and Mike Kozal.

Ted Szyzlowski has a long history of supporting the PHS and is a familiar face at festival and other PHS functions. He is retired and looks forward to serving as a Trustee as well as helping with the Festival Committee. If you see him, tell him Diekuje for stepping up to help make the PHS a vibrant organization.

Mike Kozal is proud of his Polish heritage right down to making his own kielbasa. Mike and his wife Deb have volunteered at festival the past few years and are looking forward to taking on a more active role in sharing and celebrating their Polish culture. He is currently Vice President of Engineering at Pridgeon & Clay in Grand Rapids. He and Deb have 2 children, 7 grandkids, 3 grand dogs, 2 grand cats and 5 grand chickens. He enjoys hosting Sunday family dinners, fishing with grandkids, family vacations, and is an award-winning wine maker. Mike is looking forward to meeting new friends and helping the PHS continue to grow in our community.

*General membership voting for these positions will take place at the **June Membership Picnic scheduled for Sunday, June 26 12:00 noon at Oriole Park in Wyoming.** The new members will be then installed at the July PHS Board Meeting*

Polish Citizen of the Year The PHS is also seeking Nominations for Polish Citizen of the Year to be awarded at Festival. If you have someone in mind, email phsgrandrapids@gmail.com

Stand With Ukraine Update

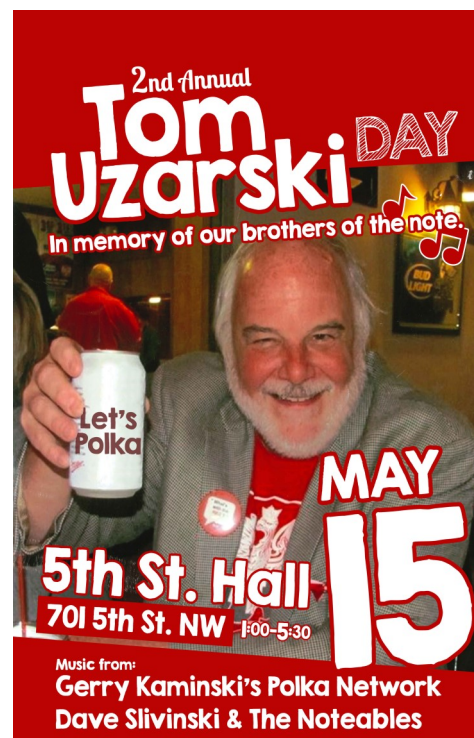
Please see the update on my "Stand with Ukraine" project. You continue to make an incredible difference in the lives of the Ukrainian refugees in Poland and even those unable to leave Ukraine. I continue to say, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" Your support, both prayerful and financial, is doing more than you can ever imagine. God bless you with Easter joy. Let there be peace in Ukraine! If you have not received a letter of gratitude from me, it is probably because your donation did not have your name associated with it. Please let me know who you are.

With gratitude for all of you,

Jarek Kozal

<https://www.kozal.net/stand-with-ukraine.html>

Gerry and Mona Kaminiski invite all PHS members to attend Tom Uzarski Day. Proceeds will be donated to PHS in memory of Tom. Come join the fun.



DONATION AT THE DOOR

PHS March Board Meeting Report

A meeting of the Polish Heritage Society was held on March 21, 2022 at the Polish Falcons Hall at 6:05pm.

Attendance: Mary Ann Bergevin, Dennis Ziolkowski, Adam Porczynski, Richard Panek, Elena Chaidez, Angela Zasuwa, Anthony Zasuwa, Martin Rogalski, Theresa Bonham. Minutes from the last meeting were approved as printed.

Treasurer Report: The financial report was given. Mary Ann corrected an error and adjusted the balance from August. Motion was made by Martin seconded by Theresa to accept the report. Motion passed.

The checks for renewals were given to Mary Ann for deposit. Member information is given to Marilyn. Martin's Department of Treasury response on the 990 report. Asked to review to see if we can get this straightened out.

Old Business: No final count yet on Griffins game. Will have numbers at next month's meeting. Will also receive a check from the Griffins based on number of tickets sold.

Bulk mailing will stay as it is. No changes will be made.

Sponsors for the festival are welcome, any amount, since we are now a non-profit society.

Theresa sent a letter of support to Jackson Street Hall on behalf of the society. Hopefully by now all the tax letters and forms have been sent out.

New Business: Richard attended the funeral services for Mike Swidwinski.

Over the next year we will look into having a Festival Queen Pageant. What we need to do, rules, research, person or persons in charge, etc. Any help would be appreciated.

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

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