



December 2023

PACOM'S BULLETIN

Message from the President

- Embracing the Holiday Season and Looking Ahead to the Future

My dear Friends, dear Members of PACOM,

As we approach the festive season, I extend warm wishes to each of you. This is a time for reflection, connection, and embracing the spirit of unity that defines our PACOM community. May you find joy, rest, and rejuvenation in the company of loved ones. I encourage you to embrace the spirit of the season, to rest, and to recharge your energies with the company of family and close friends.

Reflecting on the year's accomplishments as we celebrate the holidays is also fitting. Our collective efforts have been nothing short of remarkable. We had several successful Board of Directors meetings during which we voted on proposals I would like to share with you. Also, I would like to mention that during each Board of Directors meeting, we follow the rule that majority rules.

I am pleased to share some key achievements that have shaped our journey in 2023:

Formation of the Executive Building Committee: *Our commitment to progress is exemplified by establishing the Executive Building Committee. Comprising dedicated PACOM members not on the board, their role is pivotal in selecting the best builder and investor for the Polonia Center. Four gentlemen, Mr. Zbigniew Klonowski, Mr. Daniel Olech, Mr. John Roland, and Mr. Zbigniew Jarosz, agreed to take this unpaid position and work towards our common goal — building the Polonia Center.*

Growing List of Builders and Investors: *Although the list is not finalized, we have a robust selection of builders and investors for the Polonia Center project. The diligence in this process ensures that we make informed decisions for the benefit of our community.*

Welcome to David Buck, PACOM CPA: *We are delighted to have David Buck as our CPA. His exceptional skills and dedication to his role have contributed significantly to the financial well-being of PACOM. We are fortunate to have him on board.*

Board Approval for a Loan: *The board's decisive vote in favor of a loan (with five votes supporting it) demonstrates our commitment to the financial stability necessary for the success of our initiatives. However, we first need approval for an 8-story building to obtain that loan.*

Appointment of Richard Turski as Chairman of Membership: Richard Turski has taken charge, diligently working to compile a comprehensive list of paid members. This effort is crucial for ensuring transparent and smooth future elections. It would be best to remember that according to the PACOM constitution, only a member in good standing who has been a paid member for at least 6 months can vote and run for office in the elections.

The membership fee will be increased to \$100 starting January 2024: This step ensures a more robust financial foundation, enabling PACOM to thrive and fulfill our collective vision.

Agreement with Mrs. Sweet from Polish National Alliance: We have successfully reached an agreement with Mrs. Sweet, demonstrating mutual understanding and cooperation. This positive development brings us one step closer to obtaining approval for the 8-story building.

If you would like to read in detail about all the mentioned achievements or learn what other things were discussed during the Board of Directors meeting, don't hesitate to contact Mr. Jacke Schindler, PACOM's 1st Vice President, who was preparing all the minutes.

In closing, as we look forward to the upcoming elections, I encourage the future board to build upon the foundation we have laid. Continuing the work initiated this year will ensure a seamless transition and sustained progress for PACOM.

May this holiday season be filled with joy, warmth, and the company of those dear to you. As we embark on a new year, let us do so with renewed hope, determination, and a shared vision for a bright future.

I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

With warmest regards,
Blanka Rosenstiel
President of PACOM



P.S. We are working on a Holiday Party for all members, hopefully, some festive celebration in the Hungarian Club. Please keep an eye on information about it!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**President:**

Blanka Rosenstiel

1st Vice President:

Jacek Schindler

Vice President:

Wesley Kwasniak

Vice President:

Les Surowiec

Vice President:

Lech Zalewski

Treasurer:

Rose Kruszewski

Assistant to Treasurer:

Peter Partum

Director:

John Richard Turski

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A Seasonal Reflection and Forward Momentum: A Message from the Vice President

Dear PACOM Members,

As we approach the holiday season, I extend my heartfelt greetings to each and every one of you. This time of year offers a unique opportunity for us to come together, celebrate, and reflect on the accomplishments we've achieved as a community.

The holiday season serves as a reminder of the importance of family, friends, and the moments that bring us joy. I encourage you all to take this time to rest, rejuvenate, and cherish the connections that enrich our lives.

Looking ahead, we stand on the brink of a pivotal moment with upcoming elections that will shape the future of our Organization. It is a time for us to engage in the democratic process, to voice our aspirations, and to elect leaders who will guide us towards continued success.

The projects underway within the PACOM initiative underscore our collective commitment to progress and innovation. As we anticipate a change in leadership, let us remain steadfast in our dedication to these initiatives, ensuring their success and the advancement of our shared goals.

Your passion, dedication, and hard work contribute significantly to the strength of our Community. I am confident that, with your continued support, we will navigate the challenges ahead and embrace the opportunities that come our way.

May this holiday season bring you joy, peace, and the warmth of shared moments. As we welcome the new year, let us carry with us the spirit of collaboration, resilience, and optimism that defines our Community.

I wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a promising start to the year.

Warm regards,

Jacke Schindler
First Vice President



ANNUAL ELECTIONS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024



If you are a paid member with some time to spare and a plethora of great ideas for the club's future, we extend a warm invitation for you to consider joining the Board of Directors.

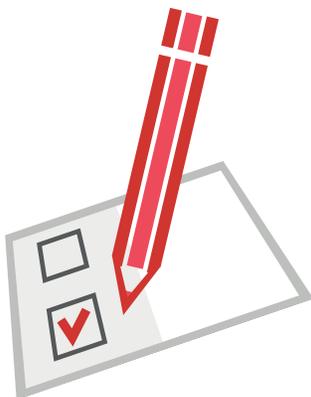
Our General Member Meeting is scheduled for **February 10th, 2024**, and the Annual Election Meeting will follow this the following month. We're excited to announce that this year, we plan to utilize the Hungarian Club as the venue for the elections of officers and a membership meeting.

To express your interest, please submit your resume along with the position you would like to be a candidate for to **Jacek Schindler (jws@schindlerarchitects.com)** by **January 15th, 2024**. Each candidacy will be carefully reviewed. The special election edition of the bulletin containing all of the candidates' profiles will be sent out at least a week before the election meeting.

Join us in proudly serving our club until the Polonia Center is built, providing us with a new and cherished home. The potential for greatness is immense, and with your valuable input, we can strive to make it the best it can be.

Your participation is crucial to our success, and we eagerly anticipate your involvement. Together, let's shape the future of our club and create a welcoming and vibrant community.

We look forward to receiving your submissions.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

 Name: _____  Phone: _____
 Date of birth: _____  E-mail: _____

What is your address?

What is your nationality?

What is your occupation?

Are you resident of Florida?

What are your reasons for joining the Club?

How did you hear about PACOM?

Please send the application form along with a \$100 check to the address below:

1440 79th Street Causeway
Suite 117, Miami, FL 33141





Holiday Season

The December holiday season holds a special place in the hearts of many people for several reasons, transcending cultural and religious boundaries. For Polish people living abroad, particularly in the United States, the December holiday season becomes a poignant connection to their roots and cultural heritage. Embracing Polish traditions during this time provides a sense of continuity, allowing individuals to share their heritage with family and friends, creating a bridge between their past and present. In a different cultural landscape, these traditions become a source of comfort, identity, and a way to maintain a solid connection to their Polish heritage.

Advent: The four weeks leading up to Christmas are marked by Advent, a time of preparation and reflection. Many Polish households have an Advent wreath with four candles, one of which is lit each Sunday leading up to Christmas.

Mikolajki (St. Nicholas Day): Celebrated on December 6th, St. Nicholas Day is a time for gift-giving. Children leave their shoes out, and St. Nicholas fills them with small presents, sweets, and sometimes a twig for those less than well-behaved.

Christmas Eve (Wigilia): Christmas Eve is the most significant day in Polish Christmas celebrations. Traditionally, a meatless meal is prepared, starting with breaking the Christmas wafer (opłatek) and sharing good wishes. The meal includes a variety of dishes like barszcz (beetroot soup), pierogi (dumplings), and kutia (a sweet grain pudding).

Midnight Mass (Pasterka): Attending Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, known as Pasterka, is a common tradition. The Mass is beautifully decorated with nativity scenes, and the singing of carols is a cherished part of the service.

Christmas Day and Second Day of Christmas: Christmas Day is typically a quieter day spent with family. The Second Day of Christmas, known as St. Stephen's Day, is also a public holiday; some families continue their celebrations.

New Year's Eve (Sylwester): New Year's Eve is celebrated enthusiastically in Poland. Many attend parties and fireworks displays or gather in city squares for public celebrations.

Epiphany (Trzech Króli): On January 6th, Epiphany, or Three Kings' Day, is celebrated. It marks the end of the Christmas season, and in some regions, there are parades with participants dressed as the Three Wise Men.



These traditions highlight the importance of family, togetherness, and the rich cultural heritage that makes Polish December celebrations unique and special.

We would love to hear about your traditions and how they are celebrated in your homes! Please share stories with us!



Holidays in Polish Style

Prepare to celebrate Christmas in authentic Polish style by exploring a curated list of not only online stores and specialty shops offering a delightful array of festive essentials. From traditional Polish delicacies that will transport you to the heart of Warsaw to unique and thoughtful gifts that capture the spirit of Polish holiday traditions, these sources provide a convenient way to infuse your celebrations with Poland's rich flavors and cultural treasures. Discover a blend of mouthwatering treats, handcrafted ornaments, and more, bringing the warmth and joy of a Polish Christmas to your doorstep.



Warsaw Grocery Store

3818 SW 8th Street, Coral Gables, Florida
Adpolusa@gmail.com



Pierogi One

900 Biscayne Blvd # R-105 Miami, Florida
info@pierogione.com and +1 305-333-9201



Pierogi Polish Market

1008 White St, Key West, Florida
+1 305-292-0464

Old World Polish Deli

1390 South Federal Highway, Pompano Beach, Florida
mbpolishdeli@gmail.com and +1 954-366-1858

Pierogi Inn Polish Deli

6611 Superior Ave, Sarasota, Florida
pierogiinn@gmail.com and +1-941-929-0101

on-line stores



MyPewex Health&Beauty

customer-service@mypewex.com and +1-347-448-5445

Zdrowie & Uroda

customerservice@cosmeticsfrompoland.com

Polka Health&Beauty

INFO@POLKA-HEBE.COM and +1-215-739-2868

Holiday Greetings



As we gather to give thanks this Thanksgiving, let the spirit of gratitude fill our hearts and homes. May the warmth of family and friends bring you comfort, and may the bountiful blessings of the season surround you.

Watching the holiday season wrap us in its festive embrace, We wanted to send you a note filled with warmth and good cheer. May your days be merry and bright and your heart be light with the season's joy.

We wish you moments of laughter, love, and the delightful company of those who matter most. May the holiday lights twinkle with the season's magic, creating a tapestry of memories that will warm your heart throughout the year.

And as we eagerly await the countdown to a new beginning, may the coming year be adorned with new opportunities, fresh adventures, and the fulfillment of your fondest dreams. Here's to embracing the possibilities, overcoming challenges, and celebrating the joyous journey ahead. May the holidays bring you an abundance of happiness, and may the New Year unfold with endless possibilities and bright horizons.

Cheers to a joyous holiday season and a spectacular New Year!





Chopin Foundation of the United States
 Telephone: (305) 868-0624
 Email: info@chopin.org
www.chopin.org

We are delighted to announce that preparations for the **12th Chopin Piano Competition** in 2025 are already underway! We are just a few steps away from another extraordinary edition, and the anticipation is truly thrilling. Stay tuned for more updates as we get closer to this exciting event!

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 1440 79th St. Causeway Suite 117
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The American Institute of Polish Culture Inc.

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 1440 79th Street Causeway, Suite 117
 Miami, FL 33141
 Tel: 305.864.2349 | Fax: 305.865.5150 | Email: info@ampolynstitute.org

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Get in touch with Dr Vanessa Bijak
vanessa.bijak@poloniumfoundation.org
 to talk about Polish Scientific Diaspora
 in the USA



SAVE THE DATE
 1-3 February 2024 Miami

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