

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES / PROJECTS - YEAR 2018

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, MN – LOMIANKI, POLAND – SISTER CITIES, INTERNATIONAL

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- JANUARY Presented "Frantic 7" books to Columbia Heights City Council plus other donations.  
Greeting card exchange (coordinated by Patricia Sowada).  
Set date for SCI Showcase for Young Artists to be March 2, 2018.  
Gloria Bergstrom shipped box of books to Lomianki schools.  
Members attended Dolina Dancers Appreciation Dinner at Kolbe Hall/Holy Cross Church.
- FEBRUARY Members enjoyed treat of traditional Paczki.  
SCI members invited to be on Polish Centennial Gala Committee. (Karen Karkula & Dolores Strand).  
Members attended Bal Karnawalowy – sponsored by PACIM at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Minneapolis.  
Volunteers who arranged showcase at Murzyn Hall: February: Ed Sikorski; March: Pat Sowada.
- MARCH Planned for future events: Festival of Nations – May 3-6; Book/Author Reception at CH Public Library with Dr. John Radzilowski: May 8; Jamboree Parade: June 22, 2018.  
Volunteers assisted with Showcase for Young Artists. Professional artists judged students' artwork.
- APRIL Participated in retirement party for Liz Bray, Recreation Dept. Director, who gave tremendous assistance to our Young Artists' programs.
- MAY Members attended Columbia Heights Prayer Breakfast at Murzyn Hall.  
Gloria suggested donating greatly needed books to C. Hts. Valley View Elementary School.  
Agreed to participate in C.H. Community Picnic on June 15 w/SCI table top display.  
Authorized ad in Lions' Jamboree booklet. Recognized volunteers who assisted at Festival of Nations.  
Welcomed presentation by staff from Legacy of St. Anthony/Kenzie Terrace. They invited our SCI to host a program about our Sister Cities to their residents.
- JUNE Purchased new SCI canopy to be used for the first time at the C.H. Picnic on June 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Donated \$600.00 to CH/HS Art Dept. (\$400 – cutting board; \$200 – art supplies).  
Discussed sending 2- H.S. Juniors to the SCI Global Conference in Omaha, NE, in July 2019.
- JULY No meeting. A few CH/SCI members volunteered at 3-day Polish Festival sponsored by PACIM.
- AUGUST Donated four (4) novels by James Conroyd Martin to C.H. Public Library.  
Arranged for planting a linden tree in Lomianki Park w/ C.H. Public Works Dept.  
Donated books to Valley View School.
- SEPTEMBER Held our meeting and were luncheon guests at the Legacy of St. Anthony; SCI presentation to residents. SCI Member Robert Guzy offered to sponsor future fundraiser movie at Heights Theatre.  
Member Mary Jerde visits Lomianki; sole CH/SCI representative at their commemorative ceremonies; presented special acrylic plaque to City of Lomianki as gift from City of Columbia Heights (suggested by CH Mayor Donna Schmitt).  
Provided Honorary SCI Membership to Kasia Senkiewicz, Debina, Poland, for all her years of invaluable assistance.  
Gloria arranged for more donated books to be sent to Lomianki schools/library.
- OCTOBER Polish American Heritage Month was observed with special displays at the CH Public Library coordinated by: "General" Edward and Ceil Sikorski; Frania Jensen; Esther Guzik.  
Proclamation drafted by Dolores Strand and read at City Council meeting by Mayor Donna Schmitt.  
Polish Conversation Group invited Dolores Strand to speak at their class about our CH/SCI.
- NOVEMBER Approx. fourteen SCI members attended the November 10<sup>th</sup> GALA at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts for the celebration of Poland's Re-Independence Centennial. We sponsored an impressive tabletop display featuring our Polish lead crystal vase with red and white carnations, both of our acrylic NATIONAL awards received from SCI/Washington, DC; and the custom-designed poster signifying our 27 years of friendship with Lomianki, Poland, that was designed by Karen Karkula, Dolores Strand, and the graphic designer from Rapid Graphics/Columbia Heights.
- DECEMBER No meeting in December, 2018.

(Submitted by Dolores Puente Strand – 1-8-2019)

