



The Newsletter of the
Polish-American Club of Columbus, OH

CoNowego

WESOLEGO ALLELUJA

As we look forward to the joy of Easter week, we hope you will join with us in the beautiful tradition of Swieconka at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, 672 S. 3rd St. in German Village at one P.M. on Holy Saturday, April 3rd, for the blessing of our Easter food baskets.

We will be passing around baskets at the church in which, if you wish, you may put a small gift donation for Fr. Linowski and Fr. Thomas, pastor at St. Mary's Church.

Please bring some baked goods to share following the blessing. Coffee and tea will be prepared for you and we will gather to enjoy some time together in the Common Room. May your Easter be a happy and blessed one.

CLUB NEEDING HELP

We all enjoy being part of the PAC and coming to our events, but as is common in many groups, there are not enough members taking on a consistent role right now in helping to keep us on track with planning and holding our events. We are able to offer only as many fun opportunities to get together as our workers can manage and presently need more of our members to join us in these endeavors. You may notice our lack of a spring dance this year, an example of our shortage. This is sad, really, especially since the dances have been so much a part of our club's history. Please, fellow members, we are asking you to gather up your enthusiasm and step in to offer a hand at running things.

APRIL 14th PAC MEETING ELECTION REMINDER

The PAC is looking for someone who is willing to be in of the club's secretary position. Mostly, the job requires being at our meetings to record the minutes and presenting them for approval at the following meetings. It is helpful to have computer skills for communicating and documenting, but not absolutely required.

Also, we currently are looking for members willing to run for the position of PAC vice-president. This is a support role requiring someone to back up the president in his efforts to keep things running and organized. Your willingness to consider this role would be so very much appreciated.

All our officers and trustees are listed on the back page of the newsletter. How fortunate we are to have wonderful people who bring to the club their energetic spirit and who feel the importance of tradition and community and pride in our heritage. Thank you all for your willingness to give of yourself and work in these roles.

Please come to our meeting and cast your votes. This is the meeting at which we will be holding elections of PAC officers.

YOUR PRAYERS

Please keep Barbara and Ted Young and their family in your prayers following the unexpected loss of their seven week old great-grandson, Austin, last week. Their address is 739 Island Ct., area code 43214 in Columbus, for anyone wishing to send them condolences.

JUNE CAMPING DATE SET

Our overnight campout at Alum Creek State Park has been set for the night of June 12th. It is for only one night this time, but activities will continue on during the day on Saturday. I will have more information in the next newsletter. The contact is Jan Klarenbach, 614-750-9122.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR MARZANNA PARTICIPANTS

We had an absolutely beautiful day for Marzanna in March. All the little children were just adorable, shaking the noisemakers they had made in PACanow, and making sure winter would be unable to find its way back. Great job, little ones! There are plenty of pictures of the event on the Poloniaohio website. Be sure to take a look at them. As for the recent day of nasty weather, we can only warn the spring that it had better behave!

A THOUGHT ON OUR POLISH MASSES

One cannot overstate the benefits of having formed a church community within our Polonia group in which can be shared the joys and sorrows of life. Only months ago were our first christenings since St. Mary's became the home of our monthly Polish masses. And now, the first funeral was held, for forty-eight year old Slawek Janik, whose family received an outpouring of support from our community. The shock and the sadness are felt by everyone in our group who knew him, and even those who didn't know him are touched by the loving ways in which people speak of him and his loving marriage and family. I know we will all keep them in our prayers. In good times and in bad, we are able to recognize how good it is to have a singular place at which to come together for such things.

INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON KATYN MASSACRE

The Kosciuszko Foundation, in cooperation with the U.S. Helsinki Commission, announced that an international conference on the Katyń Massacre would be held at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. on May 5, 2010. Before then, on April 7, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk are scheduled to meet in the Katyń Forest, near Smolensk, where Polish officers were murdered. An article can be found about this on the Kosciuszko Foundation website: <http://www.thekf.org/kf/>

AEROBICS

A regular gathering for the ladies takes place from 7-8:30 PM in the meeting room of the Lane Rd. branch Upper Arlington Library. Contacts are Zuzanna, 614-946-3178 and Marzenna, 614-766-9724.

April 01,06,08	Lane Rd. Branch of Upper Arlington <u>Library</u> MEETING ROOM
April 13	Tuttle Crossing Mall food court 1 st floor; sportswear required
April 15	Lane Rd. Branch of Upper Arlington <u>Library</u> MEETING ROOM
April 20	Tuttle Crossing Mall food court 1 st floor; sportswear required
April 22,27,29	Lane Rd. Branch of Upper Arlington <u>Library</u> MEETING ROOM

IF YOUR PRINTED ADDRESS LABEL HAS * ON IT**

Paying your dues on time helps us pay for all our activities. If you see a *** on your printed address label, it means my records show that your membership has lapsed. We don't want to lose you! Please follow the renewal instructions found later in this newsletter.

TWO GREAT ANNIVERSARIES IN POLISH CULTURE and HISTORY

by Grzegorz Swiderski



This year, 2010, is a special year for the Polish culture and history with two important anniversaries: two hundred years since the birth of Frideric Chopin, a world-class piano composer and virtuoso, and 600 years from the Battle of Grunwald in July of 1410. I will leave the Grunwald Battle to one of our summer editions and concentrate this time on the musical genius, called in Poland Fryderyk Szopen.

First of all, why do we call him Polish if his name is French? His French father settled in Poland at age 16, to later become a French language teacher. He married Justyna Krzyzanowska and worked as a children's tutor in the manor of Zelazowa Wola, near Warsaw, where Fryderyk was born on February 22, 1810. So, Chopin was French-Polish by birth, but his music, strongly rooted in Polish folk songs and dances, his writings, and his highly emotional attitude to his native Poland, made him among

the greatest Polish artists and patriots.

Poland was divided and occupied at this time (until the end of the WWI in 1918), by Russia, Germany (Prussia) and the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. Young Fryderyk moved with his parents and sister to Warsaw, where he attended schools and studied music. At age nine, he had his first public appearance as a pianist and later even as a composer, making his name as a prodigy. After completing his studies of piano and composition, he decided to test his performance first in Berlin, then in Vienna, which was the capital city of music at this time. His parents supported his travel because his outstanding talent was unquestionable. His strong but unhappy love to a young and beautiful soprano (Konstancja Gladkowska) was also a factor.

When, in November 1831, the military uprising against the Russian occupation started in Warsaw, Chopin tried to return to take part in the fighting, but warned by his mother and friends (he had no military training and was physically frail), decided to stay in the West and settle in France. He supported himself by performing and teaching, longing for his native Poland, which he was not able, as a political emigrant, to visit. He composed his romantic music, full of melancholy and sorrow, yet in many parts bursting with dynamic energy, sometimes simple as a folk song, but more often very sophisticated and requiring a virtuoso pianist to perform it. For his waltzes, mazurkas, polonaises, concertos and other pieces, permeated with familiar folk themes, he is called the most Polish composer of the romantic era.

"I lie in bed and my eyes look over the fields," he wrote one day. "A big space before the window. The fields of France. Far away, under the Polish skies, I see the eyes of my mother. Tears unshed weigh heavily." *"Fryderyk," she said, "you will be a great musician; your Poland will be proud of you."* Unfortunately, in his early thirties he became sick of TB and died in Paris at age 39. Buried in Pere Lachaise, a Paris cemetery, his heart was taken back to Poland and placed in a vessel in one of the pillars in the St. Cross Church in Warsaw.

Poland commemorates her greatest composer in many ways; with monuments decorating parks and squares, the most famous being in Lazienki Park in Warsaw, where Chopin's music is played live each Sunday morning in the summer; with the museum and manor of Chopin's birthplace in Zelazowa Wola; and most of all, with the International Chopin Competition for young pianists, which has been taking place in Warsaw every five years, since 1927. The next one will be held this summer.

We do not know yet if the Columbus Symphony, OSU or any other college in Columbus plans to commemorate the 'Year of Chopin'. We will let you know as soon as we find out. There is an idea that our church musicians could stage a concert after the service. Also, there are a couple of movies about Chopin, and we will try to make a social presentation, if we get the recordings. Two outstanding Polish movies come to mind: "Mlodosc Chopina" (1952), with Czeslaw Wollejko, and "Chopin – Pragnienie milosci" (2002), with Piotr Adamczyk. Please contact the Club if you can help or have any other related idea ■

PASGC PICNIC IN CINCINNATI MAY 1

The Cincinnati PAC is having a potluck picnic on May 1st to celebrate Polish Constitution Day, from 7:30 PM until midnight at the lodge in Swaim Park, 7650 Cooper Rd., Montgomery, Ohio 45242, phone 513-221-2899. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to share with 10-15 people, polish sausage to grill on the 8:30 campfire and picnic chairs. A DJ will play dance music beginning at 8:30. PASGC members are free, others pay \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. You may contact Andrew Biernat at 859-344-8188 for more information. There is also a link on Poloniaohio.com.

ABOUT OUR POLISH MASSES

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church on 684 S. Third Street in the German Village area of Columbus continues to be the location of our Polish masses. They are held throughout the year on the third Sunday of each month at 3 P.M. Please always remember that your continued financial support at these masses makes them possible. If you have any questions, you may call Eva at 798-8574.

POLISH FOODS IN COLUMBUS

There is a Polish and Central European kitchen and deli business at the North Market in Columbus's Short North with specialty groceries as well as prepared foods including pierogies, kielbasa and borscht. Also, someone recommended Lou's kielbasa available at Marc's grocery.

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2010 PAC CALENDAR

APRIL/KWIECIEN

Sat, April 03rd SWIECONKA/ BASKET BLESSING 1 PM St. Mary's Church
672 S. 3rd St., Columbus German Village area

Sun, April 18th POLISH MASS 3PM St. Mary's Church German Village

MAY/ MAJ

Sat, May 15th PACanow LAST MEETING of the SCHOOL YEAR

Sun, May 16th POLISH MASS 3PM Mothers Day St. Mary's Church German Village

JUNE/CZERWIEC

Fri. June 12th/Sat. CAMPING ONE NIGHT ONLY with a day of activites on Saturday
Alum Creek State Park

Sun., June 20th POLISH MASS, Boze Cialo / Corpus Christi 3PM St. Mary's Church



SWIECONKA

The blessing of the Easter food or the 'Swieconka' is a tradition that is very dear to the heart of every Pole. Grateful to God for all his gifts of nature and grace, and as a token of this gratitude, we have the food sanctified with the hope that when spring comes, the season of the Resurrection, we will also be blessed by God's goodness and mercy.

Traditions vary from region to region and from family to family. They have changed and evolved with each passing generation. Traditionally, the food is brought to the church in a basket decorated with a colorful ribbon, sprigs of greenery are added, and a linen cover placed over the top. The food is blessed by the parish priest on Holy Saturday morning. If it is absolutely necessary, the food can also be blessed at home. After the blessing, the food is usually set aside until Easter morning.

SYMBOLIC MEANING OF THE FOODS

- Butter - often shaped into a lamb (Baranek Wielkanocny) or into a cross. This reminds us of the good will of Christ that we should have toward all things
- Babka (Easter bread) - a round or long loaf topped with a cross or a fish, symbolic of Jesus, who is the true Bread of Life
- Horseradish with grated red beets ('Chrzan') - symbolizes the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection
- Eggs (Jajka) and (Pisanki - decorated with symbols of Easter, of life and prosperity.) Eggs are considered a symbol of the resurrection, the emergence of a new life
- Sausage (Kielbasa) - spicy sausage made of pork products, indicative of God's favor and generosity
- Ham (Szynka) - symbolic of great joy and abundance. Some prefer lamb or veal. The lamb also reminds Catholics that the Risen Christ is the 'Lamb of God'.
- Smoked Bacon (Slonina) - a symbol of the abundance of God's mercy and generosity
- Salt (Sol) – a necessary element in our physical life, symbolic of prosperity and justice, to remind us the people are the flavor, the salt of the earth
- Cheese (Ser) – ball shaped, as the symbol of the moderation Christians should have at all times
- In some regions a candle is also inserted into the basket to represent Christ, the Light of the world.

PAC RENEWAL AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

TO RENEW OR TO JOIN, make your check payable to: The Polish American Club and send it to our return address.

Individual membership	\$15 yearly	Senior individual (over 60 or retired)	\$10 yearly
Family membership	\$25 yearly	Senior family	\$15 yearly

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS

Club Officers:

		Phone	E-Mail Address
President	Mike Moore	614-679-6296	****
Vice President	Barbara Young	614-326-1543	
Treasurer	Dave Bergman	614-890-3442	dbergman@wowway.com
Secretary	Luba Kowalski	614-523-2105	
Trustee	Grzegorz Swiderski	614-495-1727	Greg4412@yahoo.com
Trustee	Monika McCartney		
Trustee	Wanda Sever	614-823-8715	
Trustee			
Trustee	Ted Young	614-326-1543	
Newsletter	Janice Marshall	614-451-1890	janicemarshall@columbus.rr.com

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