

## August 2008 Austin Polish Society Newsletter

Dear APS Members and Friends!

A review of July events should make all the APS members proud! The Polish Movie Night in July had great attendance with about 25 movie buffs watching Polish director Krzysztof Krause's dramatic film, "Plac Zbawiciela" and enjoying Rounder's Pizza. Thanks to all of our members and friends who attended! Thank you especially to APS Board member, Adam Ulbrich, who faithfully attends APS Movie Nights and always makes sure we have a film for our audience. Thanks, Adam! More great July highlights are listed below.

### When did you come to central Texas?

As a new part of the APS newsletter, we will print a brief description of our member's experiences and how they arrived in central Texas. Please submit your story (200 words or less) and we will be happy to print it. Please e-mail your story, with your telephone number to: [bmgghomes@yahoo.com](mailto:bmgghomes@yahoo.com)

Our first installment is submitted by APS Board member, Zbigniew Gawron.

### *How I came to Central Texas*

**Name: Zbigniew Gawron**



**Austin resident: 25 years**

**APS Member since 2005**

**APS Board Member since 2006**

In April of 1982, I arrived in Dallas, Texas from Traiskirchen, Austria. Austria had accepted me and hundreds of other Poles, as Communism was again tightening its grip on Poland's population. I had left my mother, Irena, many friends, and a good job in my hometown, beautiful Szczecin, 6 months earlier. A ship mechanic by profession, I had one suitcase and not much money, but I had courage, many skills, and lots of dreams. My original destinations had included Australia and South Africa, but an encounter with a friendly American Embassy clerk in Vienna changed my life forever and I was given a ticket to Dallas. When I arrived in DFW, I was very disappointed! There were no oil wells and not a single cowboy on horseback. As an avid viewer of the TV program "Dallas", I had many expectations of what Texas should look like! As an American

citizen, my slogan has always been: “Polish by birth; Texan by choice!” I met my wife in Dallas and we arrived in Austin on July 4, 1983. I own a part of Texas now and love Austin, but I always remember my roots and visit Szczecin, Poland every year.

## Education News

Dr. Gilbert Rappaport, a UT-Austin Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies faculty member and an APS member, will be teaching a class this fall: **Modern Polish History and Culture**. Dr. Rappaport will lecture, provide readings and lead discussions in English on the political and cultural history of Poland from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century into the present. More information is available at:

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/slavic/about/>

Course registration information is available at:

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/slavic/courses/>

The University of Texas Center for Russian Eastern European and Eurasian Studies (CREEES) is directed by Dr. Thomas Garza. CREEES has been a steady donor for the Austin Polish Film Festival. The APS appreciates their support!

## Polish Art Show

On Friday, July 18, APS sponsored an exhibit and reception for 25 guests at Artspoken Gallery, 1507 W. Koenig Lane. The APS exhibit show-cased a variety of art works in different media by Polish artists. The exhibit included art by Wes Glinski and his son Michal Glinski, beautiful unique jewelry designs by Zosia Hunt, photographs by Caroline Ulbrich, collages and paintings by Ewa Zabka, and Leszek Zebrowski’s poster art. The exhibit was an excellent opportunity to see and support Polish talent and to meet with friends in the relaxed environment of Austin’s Artspoken Gallery at 1507 W. Koenig Lane and on the web at <http://www.artspokengallery.com/>. Thank you, Caroline Ulbrich for organizing and installing the exhibit!

## Polish Cooking Class

On Saturday, July 26, 10 happy chefs learned the art of making delicious potato pancakes and the best summer cheesecake in Austin! Beata Liszka demonstrated the secrets of Polish cooking while our students observed and tasted these traditional Polish dishes. Everyone had a great time and now they have these recipes to share with family and friends. Thank you, Beata, for your great effort in promoting Polish culture!

## Fall 2008 APS Film Festival

The APS film festival committee is meeting to plan the **APS Polish Film Festival**. If you are interested in fund raising and working on this exciting event, please contact Beata Gmurowski. The APS Board is planning for the Fall Austin Polish Film Festival 2008 program. APFF will be coordinating with Houston's Forum Polonia members to screen the best and newest Polish feature films!

***APS welcomes your support!***

We will need people to assist with public relations, advertising, fundraising, ticket sales, ushering at Festival films, distributing Festival brochures, flyers, and/or posters. We need a street team – to help spread the word about the Festival! Our visitors will need transportation getting around Austin.

***Our Goal***

Our primary goal is to bring Polish films to movie goers in Austin, Texas. To underwrite the cost of the festival, APS plans to raise \$10,000. Austin Polish Society is a [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) [non-profit](#) organization. Your donations are tax deductible. There will be a festival program and you can contribute to the APFF by purchasing an advertisement. Advertisements will be available by the quarter page (\$200), half page (\$350) or full page (\$500). The deadline for advertisements is September 1, 2008. Please mail your camera-ready art work to Beata Gmurowski at 512-554-6712 and include your name, a check made out to **APS APFF**, an e-mail address and a telephone number.

*The Austin Polish Society presents*

*The Austin Polish Film Festival Fundraising Dinner*

***"An Evening in Old Warsaw"***

*An intimate dinner for APS donors is scheduled for*

*Saturday, September 27, 7pm at the Austin French Legation, 802 San Marcos Street.*

*This unique event will allow guests to sample the best of authentic Polish cuisine.*

*Guest speakers will include a representative from the Polish Consulate and*

*Faculty members from the University of Texas.*

*A dinner time raffle will be conducted.*

*Dinner attire is semi-formal.*

*RSVP: Beata Gmurowski*

*[bmghomes@yahoo.com](mailto:bmghomes@yahoo.com) or telephone 512-554-6712*

*Dinner Tickets to support the 2008 Austin Polish Film festival are \$100 per person.*

*Checks can be mailed to: Po Box 29111, Austin, TX 78731*

*All donations are tax deductible.*

### **Interested in volunteering? Have a great idea or talents?**

Contact: Gosia by e-mail: [gosia.jurczynska@oag.state.tx.us](mailto:gosia.jurczynska@oag.state.tx.us) or phone: 512-837-9749 (home) or 512-575-4098 (work). Thanks!

### **APS Board**

APS Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. The August Board meeting will be conducted in the home of APS president, Beata Gmurowski. The August Board meeting will be on Wednesday, August 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Please contact Beata at [bmghomes@yahoo.com](mailto:bmghomes@yahoo.com) if you need directions.

## Special Thanks to Caroline Ulbrich and Beata Liszka - July APS Volunteers of the Month

Thanks to Caroline Ulbrich who promoted and organized the Polish Art Show at Artspoken Gallery, 1507 W. Koenig Lane, Austin, Texas 78756 and to Beata Liszka who organized and hosted the APS Polish Cooking Class, at **The Kitchen Space**, 1204 Cedar Avenue. APS appreciates your contributions!

If you want to nominate an APS volunteer please contact Gosia by e-mail: [gosia.jurczynska@oag.state.tx.us](mailto:gosia.jurczynska@oag.state.tx.us) or phone: 512-837-9749 (home) or 512-575-4098 (work). Thanks!

## CALENDAR EVENTS

### Polish Movie Night - Thursday, August 14

**What:** Polish Movie Night presents “**Komornik**”

**When:** Thursday, August 14, 7:00 pm

**Where:** **Rounder’s Pizza** at 1203 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street

(see map at their website: <http://www.rounderspizzeria.com/> )

**Cost:** Free

### Future APS events

Polish Poetry Reading and a special film screening of Wajda’s *Katyn* and much more!

For future events check our website often at [www.austinpolsishsociety.org](http://www.austinpolsishsociety.org)

## A Date in Polish History: August 1, 1944

The Warsaw Uprising of 1944 commenced on August 1. It was on that date that the Polish underground, the Armia Krajowa (Home Army), aware that the Soviet Army had reached the eastern bank of the Vistula River, sought to "liberate" Warsaw much as the French resistance "liberated" Paris as the Allied Armies fanned out across France. Because the last thing the Soviets wanted to deal with was an armed and victorious Polish non-communist military force, they halted their offensive. They remained on the opposite bank of the river but provided no assistance or aid to the Uprising. Instead they gave the Germans free reign to suppress it. It is estimated that during the ensuing 63 days, 250,000 perished in the ruins of Warsaw. Eventually, the Home Army surrendered to the Germans. After the Germans forced all the surviving civilian population to also leave the city, Hitler ordered that any buildings left standing be dynamited. In the end, 98% of buildings in Warsaw were destroyed. (<http://info-poland.buffalo.edu/exhib/warsaw/intro.html> ).

For more details and photos, please go to:

<http://www.warsawuprising.com/>

Want to read more about Polish history? For a good, short introduction, please see:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Quld5950v6w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Quld5950v6w)

## **“JEST CUDNIE”: NOWA RZEWNA PLYTA MARYLI RODOWICZ**

– in Polish only with an attachment

Piosenki Maryli Rodowicz towarzysza mi przez cale dorosle zycie. Na kazdej plycie, jaka wydalala znalazlo sie zawsze cos co z przyjemnoscia nucilem lub w co sie wsluchiwalem sie. Gdy bylem jeszcze kawalerem, Marylka wyspiewywala mi, ze "Chcac miec syna ", a gdy dobra materialne stawaly sie dla wszystkich najwazniejsze, chetnie sluchalem, ze warto by "wsiasc do pociagu byle jakiego". Maryla bawila nas zawsze swoja kolorowoscia, np. w sposob jaki interpretowala na festiwalu piosenki "Kolorowe jarmarki" spiewane sentymentalnie przedtem przez Janusza Laskowskiego. Od pewnego czasu slucham w samochodzie nowej plyty Maryli "Jest cudnie". Slucham z przyjemnoscia, bo piosenki sa melodyjne i mile zinstrumentalizowane. Szkoda tylko, ze wszystkie takie rzewne, a chcialbym aby znowu cos podnosilo mnie na duchu jak piosenka "Niech zyje bal" lub rozbawilo jak "Sing-sing". Piosenka, jaka na tej plycie spodobala mi sie najbardziej jest "Na odleglosc", ktora zalaczam.

Marcin Nowicki

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. If you're planning a party wouldn't you like to surprise your guests with some Polish meals? It's only a phone call away. A wide assortment of Polish foods for every occasion, you choose-we prepare. Contact: Anna (512) 692 7684, cell 732-407-5485, Barbara (908) 377 6528, email: [polishcatering@yahoo.com](mailto:polishcatering@yahoo.com)

2. Jestem 21 letnim studentem z Bydgoszczy. Uczestnicze w programie wymiany studentow. Przebywam w Austin od tygodnia i poszukuje pracodawcy. Interesuje mnie kazda posada, ktora moglaby pozwolic mi na realizacje marzen-zwiedzenie Stanow Zjednoczonych. W Polsce zawodowo zajmuje sie multimediami, wspoltworzylem programy sportowe dla telewizji TVN, realizowalem reportaze ze spotkan biznesowych, kulturalnych jak i prywatnych (np sluby, urodziny, randki). Interesuje sie rowniez fotografia. Moge zaoferowac Panstwu profesjonalny klip rodzinny zlozony z fotografii, filmow. Odpowiednio zmontowany moze trafic do Panstwa w postaci plyty DVD. Posiadam przy sobie kilka moich prac, dostepnych do wgladu dla osob zainteresowanych.

Jak wczesniej wspomnialem bede bardzo wdzieczny za kazda inna propozycje pracy. Michal Grzelak, [m.grzelak@byd.pl](mailto:m.grzelak@byd.pl) kom: 512 903 0591

3. Jestem 20 letnia studentka pielęgniarstwa z Bydgoszczy. Mieszkam aktualnie w Austin. Poszukuje pracy jako opiekunka do dziecka lub pomoc w domu (sprzątanie, prasowanie). Jesli chodzi o moje doswiadczenie w opiece nad dziecmi, to przez ponad rok opiekowalam sie aktualnie 19-miesiecznym siostrzencem. Ze wzgledu na moj kierunek studiow jestem osoba odpowiedzialna, opiekuncza i pracowita. Jezeli sa Panstwo zainteresowani prosze o kontakt: hanka.szym@wp.pl lub pod numerem telefonu 512-903- 0591.

### **Ideas? Suggestions? Praise?**

Let us hear from you! Please contact Beata Gmurowska at  
[bmghomes@yahoo.com](mailto:bmghomes@yahoo.com)