

August 2010 - Austin Polish Society Newsletter

Compiled and edited by APS Board member, Mary Gawron
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Dear APS Members and Friends,

Austin Polish Society is sharing APS activities with members through our monthly newsletter. Members can review APS events and find out what APS is planning for August and this fall, 2010. We appreciate the volunteer hours of our members and friends and the great attendance at all of our events! Thank you!

Please remember for current information and updates check the Austin Polish Society website at <http://www.austinpolsishsociety.org/>.

Do you have a news item or announcement for the Austin Polish American community? Please send your item with a contact name and phone number to mmwgawron@gmail.com. Deadline for news items is the 20th of each month.

Want to advertise or place a notice in the APS newsletter? Send your information to info@austinpolsishsociety.org. Thank you!

5th Austin Polish Film Festival (APFF) November 4-14, 2010

Mark your Calendar!

The 5th Austin Polish Film Festival is scheduled for **November 4-7** (feature length films), and **November 12-14, 2010** (Polish shorts, documentaries and children films) with special guest filmmaker **Andrea Marks**. The APFF committee is in the process of securing films and guests. Choices are made in conjunction with other Canadian and U.S. Polish film festival directors and with film distributors. The APFF committee looks forward to presenting a fantastic 5th Austin Polish Film Festival! APFF Gala reception will kick off the fundraising event on Thursday, November 4! Tickets will be available soon! Please save the dates!

Polish Poster Exhibit

This year the APFF will sponsor an exceptional display of Polish film posters thanks

to **Mr. Zbigniew Wojciechowski, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Houston.** Mr. Wojciechowski has been collecting classic Polish film posters for many years and has graciously agreed to loan his collection for the 2010 APFF.

Freedom on the Fence

Andrea Marks, co-creator of *Freedom on the Fence* will be presenting a documentary "...about Polish posters and the power of the creative spirit." Andrea Marks, Producer/Co-director, is an associate professor and coordinator of the graphic design program at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon. Ten years in the making, this is the only documentary that tells the true story of Polish poster art and the artists who created this unique "school"! We are excited about Ms. Mark's presentation.



We *Volunteers!*

We are interested in volunteers for the November festival. If you have time or are a student and need a community based volunteer project, please plan to attend our APFF Volunteer Mixer in September to learn how you can earn hours! There will be many opportunities to practice your Polish language skills, see the festival films, meet the guests, learn about filmmaking, discover what goes on "behind the scenes" of festivals, and more! Stay informed via our APS Face Book or APS blog (more about that later...)



Student Poster Competition! Go ahead! Brand US!

The Austin Polish Society (APS) is a non-profit organization that promotes the arts and culture of Poland. The most important fundraising event of the year for APS is

the annual Austin Polish Film Festival (APFF). The APFF includes 6 or more feature length films by Polish directors and several documentary films and animated films as well as short student films. This year APS is sponsoring a student poster design competition for the APFF. The winning poster design will serve as the official event poster for the 5th Austin Polish Film Festival (APFF), being held in Austin, Texas from November 4-14, 2010.

The competition is for students everywhere and from all backgrounds. The award is \$500. **The deadline for submissions is August 15, 2010.** Please see <http://www.austinpolishsociety.org/> for poster competition details and guidelines and where to send your design.

Help APS brand their 5th Austin Polish Film festival!

Note: The competition deadline has been extended to August 15, 2010!

APFF 2010 - Donations Needed

We are preparing the 5th Austin Polish Film Festival (APFF 2010) and accompanying event Polish Poster Exhibition. We have worked and continue to cooperate with the Austin Film Society, South by Southwest, University of Texas RTF department, UT Butler School of Music, AIGA.

Every year we invite special guest artists to present their work (film, visual art, music) and designate large portion of the proceeds from our events to the APS scholarship fund with a goal to support the exchange between Polish and Austin students, filmmakers, visual artists, musicians, academics.

This year's festival, APFF 2010, is planned for November 4-14 and we are looking for accommodations for our guests.

Would you consider becoming a sponsor of the APFF 2010? We are looking for complimentary or discounted hotel accommodations - one room Nov 11 evening through November 14 morning - and possibly another room November 12-16. In exchange we offer to place information about your facility in our festival program and your logo on all marketing materials.

Thank you so much for considering becoming the APFF 2010 sponsor!

Contact: Joanna Gutt-Lehr, Austin Polish Society, Vice President and APFF Committee Member. Tel 512 750 5263 and e-mail: joanna.guttlehr@gmail.com.

Austin Polish Society Filmmaking Arts Study Program (FASP)

Thanks to the **Austin Polish Film Festival** fundraising efforts, **Austin Polish Society (APS)** has been able to set aside funds for the support of eligible filmmaking students. These funds are available for expenses related to filmmaking student travel to and from Poland and/or to and from Texas. Based on work samples and a completed application, financial assistance may be provided to filmmaking artists whose work shows promise, skill and creativity. APS seeks to further its organizational goals through support of the filmmaking arts and is pleased that the financial success of film festivals sponsored by the organization provides the support of worthwhile creative endeavors by new film artists. The “filmmaking arts” include experimental and narrative films, digital media, documentaries, videos, and animation.

Who is Eligible?

Filmmaking artists in central Texas or in Poland whose work shows promise and who submit an approved APS FASP application are eligible for this financial assistance.

What are the Requirements for Eligibility?

Students are required to submit an APS application and work samples (for example, a 5 minute DVD or a script excerpt) as well as an acceptance letter. Artists will be chosen based on the quality of their application, their efforts to address APS goals and objectives, and work samples.

Application Deadlines

There is no APS application deadline; however it is anticipated that applications will coincide with school semester timelines and applicant’s program of choice acceptance deadlines. APS will review applications and APS will administer awards. Applicants will be notified individually and awards will be announced on the APS website. Funds are awarded after all application requirements are satisfied, including proof of acceptance into an internship or course of study. In some cases other options may be considered.

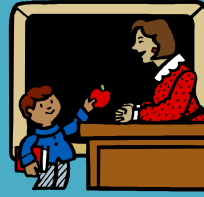
The Austin Polish Society Goals and Objectives

APS is a non-profit organization, operating in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c) (3). APS offers this financial support to qualified Texas or Polish filmmakers with the goal to create an artistically meaningful exchange for students of film who wish to perfect their craft through study and close collaboration with outstanding filmmaking professionals in either Texas or in Poland. The APS seeks to stimulate filmmaking opportunities between Polish and Texan filmmakers. To fulfill this goal, APS is committed to provide some measure of financial support to eligible filmmakers who are:

- from Poland and want to study in Texas; or
- from Texas and want to study in Poland.

The **FASP** application is available at: www.austinpolishsociety.org “Students”

Questions? Contact Joanna Gutt-Lehr at joanna.guttlehr@gmail.com , Mary Gawron at mmwgawron@gmail.com or Beata Zadrozna at bmghomes@yahoo.com.



Welcome Back to School! Register for Polish Classes!

Welcome back to school and to the 2010-2011 Polish Language classes! Teacher Ms. Magda Szatanik-Boudni is ready to welcome your children back to Saturday Polish language classes. Ms. Szatanik-Boudni has new materials and projects to engage your children in the study of the Polish language. Registration information will be sent out by e-mail. If you want information about the Polish Language Classes and are not on the e-mail list, please send a message to Ms. Szatanik-Boudni at magdaszatanik@gmail.com or to Art Gmurowski at: gmurowski@hotmail.com .

Registration

At this time, the plan is for parents to register their children on **Sunday, August 22**, at the **University Catholic Center on UT Campus**, 2010 University Ave., Austin, TX 78705. Registration will be available before and after Mass (2:30 pm to 3:30 pm). There is no online registration.

First Class – Saturday September 11

Classes begin at 10:00 am on **Saturday, September 11, 2010**. Information and advising, as well as a calendar of classes, class fees and a description of grade levels will be available at registration. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Ms. Szatanik-Boudni indicated that the first semester was a big success. Parents expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the program. The teacher confirmed that more parents are interested in enrolling their children in Polish language classes for this fall semester.

Please check our APS website for the latest updates about APS Polish Language Classes.

Remember Parents! If your child is planning to go on to higher education, universities like the University of Texas provide opportunities to earn course credit by examination for foreign languages. Please see: <http://www.utexas.edu/academic/mec/cbe/polish.html>

The APS Member of the Month – Ms. Valerie F. Grace

This month, APS is featuring a special member of our organization, Valerie F. Grace. Ms. Grace has a long history with “Texas Polonia”, and, although she lives in San Antonio, Texas, her impact was felt all over the world. She was gracious enough to share many stories about herself and other Polish American leaders who have high standards and worked hard to introduce and maintain Polish arts and culture in the United States. To share her story is a great honor for us and we hope it inspires and ignites new ideas for our organization!

Ms. Grace spoke with me by phone from San Antonio last Wednesday and although I tried to take good notes, her conversation was both fast paced and full of details, but in her own words, she has submitted the following summary.

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Going down memory lane and thinking about the roads taken that led me to be a part of shaping Texas Polonia, I felt like I was eulogizing myself. I have added more information for you to do as you wish.

My parents, Jakob Juszczyk and Marja Juszczyk (nee Gorcznska), emigrated in the early 1900's. My father was born in Jaslo and my mother in Biecz. They arrived the same year within months of each other on separate ships, eventually meeting much later in Pittsburgh PA. After marriage, they moved to Weirton, West Virginia. I am the remaining sibling of a family of nine children. I was raised in a traditional Polish home and my parents instilled in us a great pride in being Polish.

Post-war changes brought me to Texas (I was actually making my way to California) for a "stop over" to visit my brother who was stationed in San Antonio, and the effects of this detour were everlasting. During this trip, I rented an apartment, made friends, and met my husband-to-be. The lingering effects of my contacts with San Antonio Poles, who expressed their interest in all things Polish impacted my life. Although, I never wanted to be a “leader”, with the support of Polish priests in the area, I became involved in forming a congenial coalition of organizations, such as the PNA (Polish National Alliance, <http://www.pna-znp.org/content/historyofpna/historyc.htm>), the Polish American Congress (PAC <http://www.pac1944.org/org/aboutus.htm>), and individual clubs like Greater Austin Polish Association. We coalesced through State meetings and at the national level. Our objective was to showcase our culture through education and exhibitions. It was at this point that the Polish Heritage Organization, caught the eye of Wanda Tomczykowska, the “grande dame” of all that is Polish, who asked me if we would become an affiliate of their organization, The Polish Arts and Culture

Foundation (<http://www.polishculturesf.org/about/our-history/>), located in San Francisco, CA. We could not refuse her, although this was not a hard decision to make because her organization was a perfect template for us to follow. Soon after, a Texas Board was appointed. .

We bought an old mansion in San Antonio which required a lot of “grunt” work to restore and refurbish, but we were truly dedicated. We made some mistakes but we were very “creative” in raising funds. We tried everything. Our parking lot was a money-maker during the San Antonio “Fiesta”; I always “overbooked” at our Polish dinners (and drove everyone berserk); and always had to budget to be sure our mortgage was paid. We scheduled two fundraising events each year: the *Copernicus Ball* and a booth at the San Antonio *Folklife Festival*. Craft shows were profitable too. We worked hard but incorporated as much social time with each activity as we possibly could. It was a happy day when we held the “burn the mortgage party”.

Part of our success was that we made our Texas Polonia part of the greater San Antonio community. Polish culture was, after all, something that we were very eager to share. Invitations poured in from schools for classroom demonstrations. We created a need that in time we realized we were not even equipped to fill. By sharing our culture we touched thousands of lives; so many in fact, that we had no way to measure the impact! One thing I know is that after all this time, people I do not know or recognize immediately, will come up to me and excitedly recall the memorable Polish hotel galas, the famous “Polish Wedding” reenactment, or eagerly let me know someone in their family who married a Pole. You go figure!

The APS is an inspiration and you are way ahead of us from the time when we started. We laid the ground work without all the communication “technology”. The APS is a great opportunity to continue our work and not break the chain.

My best regards to all of you,
Valerie F. Grace.

Austin Polish Society and Austin Public Library – FREE Polish Films

Polish Film at the Austin Public Library in August

Polish films are being screened at several Austin Public Library locations throughout the year. This is another way to introduce Austinites to Polish film arts. The schedule is on our website and on the APS calendar as well as at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/news/nr20100125a.htm>. Please check for times and locations and links to location maps.

The film for Tuesday, August 17, is **Hotel Pacific** or **Zaklete Rewiry** (1975, directed by Janusz Majewski, 95 minutes, English subtitles). The film begins at 6:30 pm and

will be presented at Austin Public Library [University Hills Branch](#), 4721 Loyola Ln. Austin, TX 78723



Zaklete Rewiry/Hotel Pacific

The staff at a big fancy European restaurant have a hierarchy and social order every bit as subtle and complex as can be found in the most convoluted military organization. In this Polish film, based on the 1936 novel by former waiter, Henryk Worcell, Roman Borcyczko (Marek Kondrat) survives the lengthy period of hazing and initiatory trials to become accepted as a waiter.

Volunteers Needed!

APS needs volunteers to give a brief introduction to the Austin Public Library screenings in October and November. Please call Joanna Gutt-Lehr (512) 750 5263 or Mary Gawron (512) 423-1815.

Interested in Volunteering for APS?

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

Annual Austin Polish Society Art Show October 1 to 16, 2010

For the last several years, Caroline Ulbrich has served as curator for an APS exhibit of artworks created by Polish artists. Please plan on joining us for another great

show of art by Polish artists. Enjoy photography, painting, sculpture, jewelry, digital art and much more! **Canvas Press** has generously donated gallery space at their Round Rock office, with ongoing gallery hours from Monday through Friday, 8am - 6pm and weekend hours (to be announced). Celebrate art and Polish heritage with our annual Austin Polish Society Art Show.

Canvas Press (<http://www.canvaspress.com/>) has sponsored us again this year for a great gallery space in Round Rock to show the variety of our artwork.

Canvas Press has been a generous APS sponsor and we encourage our members to visit their website and learn more about the great services they offer.

When: October 1, 2010

Times: Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm (weekend hours, to be announced)

Location: **Canvas Press**, 33 Cypress Blvd, Suite 100, Round Rock, TX 78665

Gallery Reception (Opening): Friday, October 1, 6-9pm at 33 Cypress Blvd, Suite 100, Round Rock, TX 78665

Cost: FREE

If you are an artist and would like to participate, please contact the Austin Polish Society, ATTN: Caroline Ulbrich at info@austinpolsishsociety.org or Ms. Ulbrich directly at caroline@ulbrichphotos.com.

A Polish Library on the Run Wstap po drodze do polskiej biblioteki

One of the APS members, Ewa Tanska, has created and maintains "A Polish library on the run". Do you have any books in Polish sitting on your shelves at home that you have read a few times over? Do you wish you could borrow or exchange books in Polish on a regular basis? If you answer "yes" to these questions please contact Ewa directly at bibliotekaaps@gmail.com

The books can be picked up:

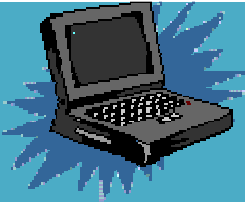
- every second Sunday of a month after the Polish mass which ends at 3:30pm at the University Catholic Center near UT Campus, 2010 University Ave., Austin, TX 78705
- every fourth Wednesday of a month at 7pm in the Domain Shopping Center by the fireplace, Oaks Terrace

Interested readers and volunteers, please see <http://www.austinpolsishsociety.org/biblioteka.php> for more information and a list of available books. Thank you for your great idea, Ewa!

The Polish Book Exchange



The Polish Book Exchange was hosted on Saturday afternoon, July 17, at the home of APS Board member, Malgosia Dabrowska (Meub). Twelve people participated in the Polish Book Exchange. Attendees had access to an updated list of Polish library book titles. Ewa Tanska brought 50 books for the event. Three participants donated 25 more books to the Polish Library, which is organized and maintained by Ewa Tanska. Thanks to Marcin Nowicki, guests were intellectually stimulated with a Polish literary trivia quiz. Thank you, Marcin, for making the meeting so much fun! Malgosia Dabrowska provided excellent chłodnik soup and prepared a delicious makowiec. Ewa Tanska prepared a cake and brought a cheesecake. Thanks to all who brought books and food!



The Austin Polish Society Website Gets a “New Look”

Thank you to the APS Website Redevelopment Committee members: Malgosia Dambrowska, Art Gmurowski, Marek Pawelczyk, Mark Peczeniuk, and Mary Gawron for all of the time they spent on preparing bids and specifications for the new Austin Polish Society website. The new website is scheduled to be operational by the end of this year. The committee is focused on the needs of the members of the organization and hopes to make the APS website more user-friendly and responsive to the Polish-American community. Thank you to the members of the Web Redevelopment committee!

Come blog with us!

The APS blog will be launched this fall! Kasia Kiszkiel, a New Yorker with a great attitude and a lot to say, has been a strong volunteer for APS events. Kasia K. is a talented transplant with experience in social media and writing. Thanks to Kasia, in addition to Face Book, the APS is also hosting a blog. We hope our community will comment, read, share and stay up to date with APS events as they unfold this fall! There are so many topics: food, film, music, books, poetry, theater, dance, events, parties, and news about your favorite Polish people in central Texas and beyond!

Donations for Austin Polish Society

Thank you for your pledges and donations! The APS appreciates the visionaries who donate to support the APS! Thank you! *Please remember your donations are tax exempt!* To make donations go to:

<http://www.austinpolsishsociety.org/donations.php>.

August 2010 CALENDAR EVENTS

Tuesday, August 17

What: Polish Movie Night at the Austin Public Library

Film: Hotel Pacific - Zaklete Rewiry (1975, directed by Janusz Majewski, 95 minutes, English subtitles)

When: Tuesday, August 17, 6:30PM

Where: Austin Public Library, [University Hills Branch](#), 4721 Loyola Ln. Austin, TX 78723

Sunday, August 22

What: APS Polish Language Class Registration

When: Sunday, August 22, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Where: University Catholic Center on UT Campus, 2010 University Ave., Austin, TX 78705

September – November 2010 Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 2010

Wednesday, September 1

What: Deadline for Nominations for Board of Director Elections

When: Wednesday, September 1

Who: Submit nominations to Art Gmurowski at gmurowski@hotmail.com.

September 1st is the deadline to submit nominations for APS Board of Director elections.

Thursday, September 2

What: The APS Board Meeting

When: 7 pm

Where: Priebe Security Services, 7940 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite 210, Austin, Texas 78757.

Saturday, September 11

What: APS Polish Language Class

When: 10:00 am

Where: TBD



What: APS Volunteers Happy Hour- Get Involved in Polish Film & Posters!

When: Wednesday, September 15

Time: 5-7 pm

Where: TBD

Contact: Mary at 512-423-1815

Saturday, September 18

What: APS Polish Language Class

When: 10:00 am

Where: TBD

Saturday, September 25

What: APS Polish Language Class

When: 10:00 am

Where: TBD

Wednesday, September 29

What: Polish Movie Night at the Austin Public Library

Film: *Jestem/I am* (2005, directed by Dorota Kedzierzawska, 93 min.)

When: Wednesday, September 29 at 6:30 pm

Where: Howson Branch, 2500 Exposition Blvd.

FREE

OCTOBER 2010

Friday, October 1

When: October 1, 2010

Times: Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm (weekend hours, to be announced)

Location: Canvas Press, 33 Cypress Blvd, Suite 100, Round Rock, TX 78665

Gallery Reception (Opening): Friday, October 1, 6-9pm.at 33 Cypress Blvd, Suite 100, Round Rock, TX 78665

Cost: FREE

Saturday, October 2

What: APS Polish Language Class

When: 10:00 am

Where: TBD

Thursday, October 7

What: The APS Board Meeting

When: 7 pm

Where: Priebe Security Services, 7940 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite 210, Austin, Texas 78757.

Saturday, October 9

What: APS Polish Language Class

When: 10:00 am

Where: TBD

Saturday, October 16

What: APS Polish Language Class

When: 10:00 am

Where: TBD

Saturday, October 23

What: APS Polish Language Class

When: 10:00 am

Where: TBD

Monday, October 18

What: Polish Movie Night at the Austin Public Library

Film: *Nadzieja/Hope* (2007, directed by Stanislaw Mucha, 99 min.)

When: Monday October 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Spicewood Springs Branch, 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd.

FREE

Saturday, October 23

What: OGNISKO! (or "Bonfire")

Scheduled for the Gutt-Lehr Ranch for Saturday, October 23, the Ognisko is an event that everyone loves to attend! Weather permitting, we are planning to hold the Ognisko from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm in Dripping Springs, courtesy of our hosts Ted and Joanna Lehr. Please check back on the APS website

<http://www.austinpolsishsociety.org> for more information! Thank you!

When: Saturday, October 23

When: 5 pm-10 pm

Where: Lehrs' Home

NOVEMBER 2010

November 4-7 and 13 & 14

WHAT: APS 5TH AUSTIN POLISH FILM FESTIVAL

WHEN: Thursday through Sunday, **NOVEMBER 4-7** & Saturday & Sunday, **November 13-14**

WHERE:

Nov. 4-7: Texas State History Museum, Spirit Theater

Nov. 12: Polish Poster Presentation

Nov. 13 - Children's Polish Animation -Howson Branch, Austin Public Library &

Nov. 13 - 14: Polish Poster Documentary-**Freedom on the Fence** presented by co-director **Andrea Marks**. Polish documentaries, animated films, shorts, and student films - UT School of Communications, RTF Department, Studio 4A .

Tickets will be available in October: <http://www.austinpolsishsociety.org/>

Check APS website (www.austinpolsishsociety.org) for details (coming soon)!

Saturday, November 6

What: APS Polish Language Class

When: 10:00 am

Where: TBD

Tuesday, November 9

What: Polish Movie Night at the Austin Public Library

Film: *Pociąg do Hollywood/ Train to Hollywood* (1986, directed by Radoslaw Piwowarski, 90 min.)

When: Tuesday, November 9

Where: Carver Branch, 1161 Angelina St.

FREE

Saturday, November 13

What: APS Polish Language Class / Films

When: 10:00 am

Where: TBD

Saturday, November 20

What: APS Polish Language Class

When: 10:00 am

Where: TBD

Saturday, November 27

NO Classes - Thanksgiving break



Announcements

Polish Catering

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 512-897-0125 or Barbara (908) 377-6528, email: polishcatering@yahoo.com

Violin Lessons

Zawodowa skrzypaczka z pedagogicznym doswiadczeniem udziela lekcji gry na skrzypcach. (North Austin) Dzieci, mlodziez, dorosli. Przystepne ceny.

Professional violinist with teaching certification is available for lessons in North Austin. Beginners, intermediate and experienced students accepted. Reasonable rates. Telephone: 512-291-7660. E-mail: olakas@hotmail.com

Needed:

We are looking for a Polish speaking babysitter to take care of our 4-month-old baby from time to time. The applicant should have some experience in caring for an infant or education in early childcare, be a non-smoker, be at least 20 years old, be able to pass a background check, have a positive attitude, lots of patience, energy, and a big heart for children. We would usually need help in the evening or during the weekend. We live on RR 620/ Anderson Mill. If you are interested please e-mail resume with employment history and education background to marta.nelsen@gmail.com.

Polish books for sale:

Rozmowki Angielskie - Pons - \$5

Elementarz - M. Falski (book for kids) - \$18

Atlas Warszawy (map) - \$3

Polish Customs, Traditions & Folklore - Sophie Hodorowicz Knab - \$18

Polish for Foreigners - Audio Course + Handbook - Edgard Jezykiobce - \$12

The Best Polish Songs Ever! - 4 CD Deluxe Edition - \$20

If you are interested, please contact Malena Lopes at malenamlopes@gmail.com or 512-293-0019.