



APS Wishes all members and friends a Happy Valentine's Day!

Dear APS Members and Friends

Austin Polish Society sends best wishes to all of our members for the New Year, 2009! Thanks to all of you who made 2008 a great year for the APS. We appreciate the volunteer hours and great attendance at all of our events!

This year started off with a bang in February with an APS Members Only “THANK YOU” meeting and party. APS Board members attended and spoke and about 40 members enjoyed Polish food catered by Anna Bielecka, one of our new Board members. Beata Gmurowski led the presentation and surprised many members with well-deserved Certificates of Appreciation. A total of 14 certificates were awarded to:

Ania Bielecka, Zbigniew Gawron, Mary and Zbigniew Gawron, Anna Hand, Joanna Gutt-Lehr, Aleksandra Kassak, Krzysztof and Marzena Knapp, Beata Liszka, Ewa Dudak-Pawlik, Basia Poloczek, Jurek and Agnieszka Ozarowski, Dr. Gil Rappaport, Sasha from the Russian Gourmet Market, and Renata Szowa for their past and present contributions to the APS.

The presentation featured a slide show of APS events and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate the 4th anniversary of the APS.

Monthly APS Film Night Changes!

This year, the APS is moving to a new location and new time for monthly movies. The films are still free but with a new Film Committee (chaired by Marcin Nowicki, with Joanna Gutt-Lehr and Mary Gawron), and an offer from United States Arts Authority (at 2906 Fruth, off 29th and Guadalupe, next to Spiderhouse Cafe) to use their larger space, APS is saying “thank you” and goodbye to Rounder’s Pizzeria and hello to the United States Arts Authority. The Arts Authority can easily accommodate up to 50 people, has a projector, screen and cabaret feel that is well-suited to our movie events. Arts Authority can also accommodate art exhibits and musical presentations and there is no charge for the use of their space.

New Date and Time

The Committee changed the monthly movie day to the **first Sunday of each month at 5pm.** Until the APS gets feedback from our viewers, we will keep this schedule. Your input is important to us—and we welcome your suggestions at austinpolsishsociety@yahoo.com.

February 22-23, 2009! Guest Polish Film Director Zanussi in Austin!

The film line-up for 2009 started in February with a film by Krzysztof Zanussi from 2005, *Persona non grata*. The film was well received and was a prelude to the special film event this month, featuring **Krzysztof Zanussi in person on February 22nd and 23rd**.

Arrangements are final and APS and two UT-Austin departments, the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREEES) and the College of Communication’s Radio

Television and Film (RTF) will be presenting a screening of *Serce na dloni* (With a Warm Heart, 2008, 96 minutes).

Where: UT-Austin Texas Union (24th and Guadalupe)

When: Sunday, Feb. 22

Time: 6 pm

Cost: FREE!

Austin Polish Society is excited to present to the Austin audience an internationally acclaimed filmmaker from Poland, Mr. Krzysztof Zanussi. Mr. Zanussi accepted the invitation of our organization to personally present the Texas premier of his latest film on **Sunday, February 22**.

Zanussi Lecture Presentation

Mr. Zanussi will also be lecturing at the College of Communications, Radio, Film, and Television Department of the University of Texas. He will present on the topic “Modern Film Language” on **Monday, February 23, 12-1pm**. The lecture is at the RTF Department in Studio 4D, room CMB. 4.122 (click [here](#)) and **is free and open to the public**.

About the film

Serce na dloni (or *With a Warm Heart*) is a dark comedy about Konstanty, a rich businessman, who finds out he has been suffering from a serious heart disease and only a quick transplant can save his life. While in the hospital Konstanty meets a young man named Stefan. Stefan has lost interest in living because of a job loss and an unhappy love life. Suicidal Stefan is an ideal donor and all he needs is a little help to leave this world.

The Director

Mr. Zanussi is a noted filmmaker, professor, writer and producer, and a major figure in European cinema. “A one-time physics scholar, Polish-born Krzysztof Zanussi began making amateur movies in the late '50s, after chancing to take a film course at the University of Warsaw. He graduated the Lodz film school with *Death of a Provincial* (1966), which won an award at the Venice Film Festival. He emerged as a director/screenwriter in the late '60s and early '70s, primarily working for Polish television, until the '80s, when his association with the Solidarity movement forced him into exile in West German and Swiss productions. One of his films, *The Catamount Killing* (1974), was shot in English, and his work since the mid-'80s has seen wider international financing and distribution. Zanussi's work is defined by its devotion to ideas at the expense of emotionalism, and intellectualism without overt passions, which did not prevent his fall from grace with the government during Solidarity's temporary defeat in the mid-'80s.” (Bruce Eder, *All Movie Guide*.)

Austin Polish Society is grateful for the continuing support of the University of Texas Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies and the Department of Radio-Television and Film, co-sponsors of these wonderful events. Special thanks go to Dr. Garza, Dr. Sharon Strover, Dr. Gil Rappaport, and Professor Andrew Garrison.

This rare opportunity was organized through the APS by Beata Gmurowski, Joanna Gutt-Lehr and Mary Gawron. Thank you for your efforts to bring an international Polish artist to Austin!

Members are encouraged to tell their friends and bring family members to these free and unique events! Let's give Mr. Zanussi a big Polish-Texas welcome!

Special NOTE to Interested in volunteering? Have a great idea or talents?
Contact: Gosia by e-mail: gosia.jurczynska@oag.state.tx.us or phone: 512-837-9749 (home) or 512-575-4098 (work). Thanks!

NOTE: The burn ban is still in effect in the central Texas area. With extremely dry weather conditions and no heavy rainfall in the area this summer, the Ognisko has been postponed indefinitely. Please check the APS website for updates and information.

CALENDAR EVENTS

Special Events

Future events

- **Music Lovers—Hear Marcin Dylla on February 28!**

Austin Classical Guitar Society presents **Marcin Dylla**

What: Award-winning classical guitarist from Poland in concert

When: February 28, 2009 at 8 pm

Where: Northwest Hills United Methodist Church

Cost: \$20 to \$40, free for ACGS members, **discount for APS members**
(\$20)

Call 300-ACGS for more information.

For more information and to buy tickets click [here](#).

Bigos Cook-Off -- March 7th Prizes—Fun—Food!!!

If you want to submit your award-winning BIGOS--Please contact Gosia by e-mail:
gosia.jurczynska@oag.state.tx.us

APS Board Meeting

Beginning with 2009, APS Board meetings will be held at Priebe Security Services on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm. Priebe Security Services is located at 7940 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite 210, Austin, Texas 78757.

**A Date in Polish History: February 19, 1773
The Birth Date of Mikołaj Kopernik**



Mikolaj Kopernik

He was born on 19 February in 1473 in Toruń, Poland. He was a Polish astronomer, lawyer, economist, doctor, strategist, poet, astrologer and translator. Mikolaj's most important work is 'De revolutionibus orbium coelestium'. It describes the heliocentric vision of the world. Disturbed by the failure of Ptolemy's geocentric model of the universe to follow Aristotle's requirement for the uniform circular motion of all celestial bodies and determined to eliminate Ptolemy's equant, an imaginary point around which the bodies seemed to follow that requirement, **Kopernik** decided that he could achieve his goal only through a heliocentric model. He thereby created a concept of a universe in which the distances of the planets from the sun bore a direct relationship to the size of their orbits. At the time **Kopernik's** heliocentric idea was very controversial; nevertheless, it was the start of a change in the way the world was viewed, and **Kopernik** came to be seen as the initiator of the Scientific Revolution. **Mikolaj Kopernik** died on 24 May in 1543 in Frombork.

From: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/copernicus/>

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 732-407-5485, Barbara (908) 377 6528, email: polishcatering@yahoo.com

Get Over It! Change Your Life, with Sofia Lipska

World Renowned Healer Sofia Lipska is a native of Poland and currently lives in Montreal Canada. Do you suffer from depression, addiction, over weight, lazy, insomnia, procrastination, negativity, over analyzing or grief? Achieve calmness, become more focused and open up to universal love and begin to heal.

If you are saying to yourself. why do I let things bother me so? Why can't I release the pain of a past relationship? Why do I continue to drink? Why does my daughter get on my nerves? Why can't I lose this weight? Where has my energy gone? Call now for your session.

Sessions are available Monday & Tuesday only **February 9 & 10** at the Unity Church of the Hills (Anderson Mill). Each session is \$150. For more details email Barbara Blada at barbara.blada@gmail.com or call 956-345-726.

Ideas? Suggestions? Praise? Let us hear from you! Please contact Beata Gmurowska at bmghomes@yahoo.com or go to <http://www.austinpolsishsociety.org/>