

## February 2010 - Austin Polish Society Newsletter

Dear APS Members and Friends,  
Happy Mardi Gras (or Thusty Czwartek) and Valentine's Day to you and your families from APS!

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 January and for the year 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](mailto:mmwgawron@gmail.com). Deadline for news items is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Want to advertise or place a notice in the APS newsletter? Send your information to [info@austinpolsishsociety.org](mailto:info@austinpolsishsociety.org). Thank you!

### Celebrating 5 Great Years! APS Membership Meeting and Reception

The APS 5th Anniversary, Annual Member Meeting and Appreciation Reception is being held on Saturday, February 13, 2010, from 6 pm - 9 pm at the Blackhawk Community Club - 3111 Speidel Drive, Pflugerville <http://www.blackhawkcenter.net/>.

The Annual APS Member Meeting and Reception will be an opportunity for members to celebrate the APS 5-Year Anniversary (yes! APS was established in 2005!), have an update on APS events, meet new Board members, participate in the awards ceremony, and get involved in exciting APS events! As your contribution, members are encouraged to bring friends who are interested in joining APS. Volunteers will be signing up new members and accepting renewals from current members. Members, please come prepared to sign up for a 2010 APS event of your choice as a volunteer. Quality Polish dishes prepared by Mrs. Anna Bielecka will be served. To ensure that we have enough food for everyone, please RSVP to the Evite you receive with an accurate number in your party.

### Polish Language Classes Open for Children

Austin Polish Society is proud to announce the first meeting and registration for Polish Language Classes on Saturday, February 6 at 10 am. All parents of children from the age of 3 and older are encouraged to attend the meeting and get more information and meet the teacher, Ms. Magda Szatanik Boudni and APS Polish Classes Committee member, Art Gmurowski. Learn about the curriculum and school events for children and how you can help your child have a better understanding of Polish language, arts, history and culture. The meeting is being held at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, 4700 Grover Avenue, Austin, TX 78756-3108.

The first day of class is scheduled for Saturday, February 13, 2010. The cost per semester will be \$85. Only checks or cash will be accepted. Please make checks payable to the Austin Polish Society. Payment will be due on the first day of classes. For more information, please see: [www.austinpolsishsociety.org](http://www.austinpolsishsociety.org).

If you have questions, Ms. Szatanik-Boudni may be e-mailed at: [magdaszatanik@gmail.com](mailto:magdaszatanik@gmail.com)

Thank you!

### **New Partnership with the Austin Public Library – New Polish Movie Schedule!**

The Austin Polish Society is proud to announce a new partnership and a new 2010 film schedule, starting on February 18, with the Austin Public Library (APL). Thanks to APS member, Tadeusz Szostak, and APL staff member, Irena Klaic, 16 Polish films will be screened at several Austin Public Library locations throughout the year. This is another way to introduce Austinites to Polish films and we are very excited about the possibilities. The schedule is on our website and on the APS calendar. Please check on the calendar for times and locations and links to location maps.

APS urges members to attend all of these free screenings. This new partnership between the Austin Public Libraries and Austin Polish Society is a unique opportunity to inform Austinites about APS, Polish films, and culture.

If there are APS members who are interested in volunteering to give a brief introduction to one of the Austin Public Library screenings, APS needs your help. If you have the time and the interest to briefly introduce a film, please call Joanna Gutt-Lehr (512) 750 5263 or Mary Gawron (512) 423-1815. February already has presenters.

**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!

### **The APS Members of the Month**

The APS is introducing an “APS Member of the Month” for the February APS Newsletter. The APS will be introducing new members and donors throughout the year to our membership. If you are an APS member and interested in sharing your story in an interview, please call either Joanna Gutt-Lehr or Mary Gawron.

The APS values the contributions of all members and volunteers and recognizes that members have expectations when they donate. APS works hard to meet donor and membership expectations. The Patzek family has a very specific interest in supporting the APS and we are sharing their story with you this month.

### **The Patzek Family**

Tadeusz Patzek was born and raised in Gliwice, Poland and his wife, Joanna, was born in Warsaw, Poland. They came to the United States in 1981 and lived in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where Tad was a post-doctoral fellow for 2 years. The Patzeks then moved to Houston, Texas, where Tad was employed by the research division of Shell Oil. After seven years in Houston, the Patzeks relocated to Berkeley, California, with their three children, where Tadeusz taught at the university and Joanna worked as a physical therapist. But California was not to be their permanent home. A new opportunity came for Tadeusz when he was offered the opportunity to become Department Chair of the Center for Petroleum & Geosystems Engineering at the University of Texas in Austin. The Patzeks moved to Austin 18 months ago and love it! While looking for friends and searching for interesting activities in Austin, Joanna found the APS website. This triggered their interest in Polish organizations. The Patzeks believe in supporting their community in many ways and donate to different organizations, but supporting their Polish heritage is an important priority to them. Joanna indicated that, “APS can provide a bridge between Poland and U.S. Through the APS, Joanna indicated that their goal is to “invite Polish students of merit to the United States and send qualified American students to Poland”. When they are not working or supporting APS, the Patzeks enjoy hiking, reading, film, theater (Joanna enthusiastically added that she “dreams about a Polish theater in Austin”), and music. Tadeusz also likes working outdoors on their 15 acres in Austin, as well as furniture making and home remodeling.

The APS welcomes the Patzek family to Austin and thanks them for their generous contribution. The APS is pleased to accept a generous donation and a challenge from these new members to make the APS educational exchange program a meaningful opportunity for Poles and U.S. citizens to learn more about each other. We share their challenge with all APS members to contribute to expanding Polish-USA educational exchanges!

*Want to share your story?* Please contact Joanna Gutt-Lehr at (512) 750-5263 or Mary Gawron at (512)-423-1815 or [mmwgawron@gmail.com](mailto:mmwgawron@gmail.com)

### **Donations for Austin Polish Society**

Thank you to the following for pledges and donations! The APS appreciates the visionaries who donate to support the APS!

#### *Donations to APS*

*\$500 Mr. and Mrs. Patzek (for scholarships)*

*\$470 Mr. and Mrs. Knapp*

**Thank you!**

## CALENDAR EVENTS

### Thursday, February 4

**Time:** 7 pm

**What:** The APS Board Meeting

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

### Saturday, February 6

**Time:** 10 am

**What:** The APS Polish Language Classes Meeting and Registration

**Where:** First Unitarian Church of Austin, 4700 Grover Avenue, Austin, TX 78756-3108.

### Saturday, February 13

**Time:** 10 am

**What:** First Class for the APS Polish Language Classes

**Where:** First Unitarian Church of Austin, 4700 Grover Avenue, Austin, TX 78756-3108.

### Saturday, February 13

**Time:** 6 pm to 9 pm

**What:** APS Special Event: APS 5th Anniversary, Annual Member Meeting and Appreciation Reception - For Members Only

**Where:** Blackhawk Community Club

**Location:** Blackhawk Community Club - 3111 Speidel Drive, Pflugerville

<http://www.blackhawkcenter.net/>

**Cost: FREE for Members or Prospective Members**

The Annual APS Member Meeting and Reception will be an opportunity for members to celebrate the APS 5 Year Anniversary (yes! APS was established in 2005!), have an update on APS events, meet new Board members, participate in the awards ceremony, and get involved in exciting APS events! As your contribution, members are encouraged to bring friends who are interested in joining APS. Volunteers will be signing up new members and accepting renewals from current members. Please come prepared to sign up for a 2010 APS event of your choice as a volunteer! Fantastic Polish food will be served. Please RSVP to the Evite sent by e-mail with an accurate number in your party so that everyone can be served.

### Thursday, February 18

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**What:** APS and the Austin Public Library Polish Film Night

**Where:** Milwood Branch, 12500 Amherst Dr.

**Film:** *Kariera Nikosia Dyzmy/The Career of Nikos Dyzma* (2002, directed by Jacek Bromski, 105 min.)

**Cost:** Free

**Saturday, February 22**

**Time** 2:30 p.m.

**What:** APS and the Austin Public Library Polish Film Night

**Where:** Windsor Park Branch, 5833 Westminster Dr.

**Film:** *W pustyni i w puszczy/In the Desert and Wilderness*  
(2002, directed by Wladyslaw Slesicki, 111 min.)

**Cost:** Free

**May 15, 2010**

**The 200th Year Anniversary of Chopin's Birthday** – Mark your calendar! Save the date! **May 15!**

APS is inviting three fabulous musicians from Gdansk, Poland: Anna and Arkadiusz Szafraniec of Glass Duo and Zuzanna Kassak, singer, as well as local Austin extraordinary and talented pianists to perform at the UT Catholic Center Hall in celebration of Frederic Chopin's birthday. More information about events will be announced. If you want to volunteer for this event, please e-mail Joanna Gutt-Lehr at: [jguttlehr@earthlink.net](mailto:jguttlehr@earthlink.net).

Thanks!

### **Important Dates in Polish History: February 22, 1810**

**Frédéric François Chopin**, (Polish: **Fryderyk Franciszek**) **Chopin** (February 22, 1810 – 17 October, 1849) was a Polish composer and virtuoso pianist. He was one of the great masters of Romantic music.

Chopin was born in the village of Żelazowa Wola, in the Duchy of Warsaw, to a French-expatriate father and Polish mother. He was regarded as a child-prodigy pianist. On 2 November 1830, at the age of twenty, he left Warsaw for Austria, intending to go on to Italy. The outbreak of the Polish November Uprising seven days later, and its subsequent suppression by Russia, led to Chopin's becoming one of many expatriates of the Polish Great Emigration.

In Paris, Chopin made a comfortable living as a composer and piano teacher, while giving few public performances. Though an ardent Polish patriot, in France he used the French versions of his given names and in 1835, possibly to avoid having to rely on Imperial Russian documents, became a French citizen. After some ill-fated romantic involvements with Polish women, from 1837 to 1847 he had a turbulent relationship with the French novelist, Aurore Dupin, better known by her pseudonym, George Sand. For the greater part of his life Chopin suffered from poor health and he died in Paris in 1849, aged thirty-nine, from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Auguste Clésinger made Chopin's death mask and casts of his hands. Before the funeral, pursuant to Chopin's dying wish (which stemmed from a fear of being buried alive), his heart was removed and preserved in alcohol, perhaps brandy. His sister later took it in an urn to Warsaw, where it was sealed within a pillar of the Holy Cross Church on Krakowskie Przedmieście, beneath an inscription from Matthew VI:21: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Chopin's heart has remained there—except for a period during World War II, when it was removed for safekeeping—within the church that was rebuilt after its virtual destruction during the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. The church stands only a short distance from Chopin's last Polish residence, the Krasieński Palace at Krakowskie Przedmieście 5. Chopin was buried, in accordance with his wishes, at Père Lachaise Cemetery. At the graveside, the *Funeral March* from his Sonata No. 2 in B flat minor, Op. 35 was played.

Chopin's grave, with its monument carved by Clésinger, attracts numerous visitors and is consistently decorated with flowers, even in winter.

Chopin's compositions were written primarily for the piano as a solo instrument. Though they are technically demanding, the emphasis in his style is on nuance and expressive depth rather than sheer virtuosity. Chopin invented musical forms such as the instrumental ballade and was responsible for major innovations in the piano sonata, mazurka, waltz, nocturne, polonaise, étude, impromptu and prélude.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fr%C3%A9d%C3%A9ric\\_Chopin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fr%C3%A9d%C3%A9ric_Chopin)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Polish Language School for Children**

The APS Board has established a committee to explore the possibilities of establishing a Polish Language School for Children in Austin. If you are interested, please e-mail Art Gmurowski at: [gmurowski@hotmail.com](mailto:gmurowski@hotmail.com). Registration and Orientation are being held on Saturday, February 6 at 10 am and classes begin on Saturday February 13.

### **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](mailto:polishcatering@yahoo.com)

**Hiring international interns** is the answer for employers who wish to host qualified professionals and add cultural diversity to their work environment. If you have a talented individual in Poland (or any other country) and would like to host them on a J-1 Internship Visa, we are able to help you and the candidate with visa documentation process. We could also recruit highly educated candidates for you!

The J-1 Internship Program is designed for university students and young professionals to train in the USA up to 18 months within their major field of study as a guided work-based learning program.

If you have an individual in mind or would like us to recruit for you, please contact me for more details:

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Alliance Abroad Group, L.P.  
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Austin, Texas 78746  
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### **Violin Lessons**

Zawodowa skrzypaczka z pedagogicznym doswiadczeniem udziela lekcji gry na skrzypcach. (North Austin) Dzieci, mlodziez, dorośli. 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](mailto: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](mailto:marta.nelsen@gmail.com).

### **Polish Magazines at Sasha's Russian Gourmet Market**

Polish magazines (at the cover price) will be available at Sasha's Russian Gourmet Market 7817 Rockwood Lane, #102, Austin, Texas 78757. The telephone number is (512) 459-1449. At present there're six titles under considerations: Polityka, Newsweek, Pani, Wprost, Pani Domu and Krzyzowka z Humorem. Additional titles can be chosen from the attached list, however, in overall there shall be several subscribers for a particular title in order to assure delivery. If you are interested in guaranteed delivery, an order folder can be created for you (note: orders will be canceled if materials are not picked up after the 2<sup>nd</sup> delivery).

Please notify Ms. Magda Szatanik-Boudni at: [sashasmarket\\_magda@att.net](mailto:sashasmarket_magda@att.net). Please specify which title(s) and the delivery schedule (weekly or monthly) for the material. Titles for Polish materials are listed in the attachment in this e-mail. Please use the list to obtain accurate titles when requesting materials. The APS is grateful to Sasha for all of his support! Thank you, Sasha's Russian Gourmet Market and Ms. Magda!

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