

July 2008 Austin Polish Society Newsletter

Dear APS Members and Friends!

The APS June events were a great success thanks to your ongoing support! July brings more organizational updates and member opportunities.

New Feature – When did you come to central Texas?

In December 1854, one hundred Polish families arrived in Galveston, Texas. Traveling by wagon down the coast to Indianola and then inland, the group reached a spot on the coastal prairie about 55 miles southeast of San Antonio. With the celebration of a Christmas Mass, they founded Panna Maria, the first Polish settlement in North America.



Photo Robert Plocheck

Panna Maria, the first Polish settlement in the United States.

Based on 2000 US Census data, there are at least 228,000 Texans of Polish ancestry, making them the seventh largest ethnic group in the state.

Polish immigrants have been coming to the United States over the last three centuries. A recent increase in the number of Polish immigrants to Texas occurred in the 1980s when the faltering Communist regime was cracking down on the Solidarity movement. Most of this group were professional people who made their homes in Texas' urban areas. About the same time, the shift of population from the Rust Belt to the Sun Belt brought more Polish-Americans from the northern and midwestern states to become Texans.

2000 Texas Census Information

- It is estimated that there are 19,297 Polish families in Houston (total population: 1,953,631) <http://www.hellohouston.com/Social.cfm> and that there are about 55,000 families in the Houston area whose surnames are of Polish origin.
- Austin, with a total population of 656,562, claims 9,466 citizens of Polish descent (see <http://www.helloaustin.com/Social.cfm>).

How did you or your family come to Texas? If you were born in Poland or are of Polish descent, please tell your story and we will start featuring a Polish family history each month. Please send the history of your journey to Austin, Texas in 300 words or less, and include your name, phone number and e-mail. E-mail to: bmgghomes@yahoo.com. APS will edit the story. APS also requests current and historical photographs (sent via JPEG) of you and family members. Sharing our histories brings us together!

NOTE: If you know anyone who is Polish and not on our mailing list, please share this newsletter with them. Members and non-members are welcome to submit articles and photos.

Polish Book Exchange

APS held a Polish Book Exchange on June 21st. Polish books, DVDs, CDs and were exchanged and purchased. Over 25 peoples attended bringing over two hundred Polish books, magazines and newspapers. One of our Polish readers, Ewa, commented that the APS Book Exchange was “like a visit to Poland and it saves me hundreds of dollars in air fare to Poland!” Thank you, Katarzyna for making this event a great APS summer success!

Polish Art Exhibit

Mark your calendar! On Friday, July 18 there will be a Reception at Artspoken Gallery. The APS is hosting an exhibit of art works by Polish artists. The exhibit is an excellent opportunity to showcase local 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/>. Plan to join us for refreshments and a taste of Polish talent! See details below.

Fall 2008 APS Film Festival

The APS is forming a committee for the fall **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. 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).

If you are interested, please contact Beata Gmurowski at bmghomes@yahoo.com .

Interested in volunteering?

Contact: Gosia by e-mail: 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. Board meetings are conducted in the offices of Priebe Security Services. The July Board meeting will be on Wednesday, July 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

Special Thanks to Marcin Nowicki- July Volunteer of the Month

Thanks to Marcin Nowicki who has offered his help with writing reviews for our Newsletter.

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

CALENDAR EVENTS

Polish Movie Night - Thursday, July 10

What: Polish Movie Night **presents** "Plac Zbawiciela"

When: Thursday, July 10, 7:00 pm

Where: **Rounder's Pizza** at 1203 West 6th Street

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

Cost: Free

Polish Art Exhibit – Reception, Friday, July 18

What: Polish Arts Exhibit

When: July 18, 7-9pm Opening Reception.

Come and meet the artists and learn about the inspiration behind the work. Light refreshments will be served.

Where: Artspoken Gallery- 1507 W. Koenig Lane, Austin, Texas 78756

The gallery is open for viewing at the following dates and times. Extended hours to be announced soon.

July 18, 12-4pm
July 19, 12-4pm
July 25, 12-4pm
July 26, 12-4pm

Cooking Class - Saturday, July 26

What: Cooking Class

When: Saturday, July 26th 5:00 - 8 pm

Where: **The Kitchen Space** at 1204 Cedar Avenue, Austin, TX 78702

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

Cost: \$20

Future APS events

Cooking Classes, special film screening of *Katyn* and much more! For future events check our website often at www.austinpolsishsociety.org

A Date in Polish History: July 2, 1923

Name: Wislawa Szymborska, 1996 winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature

Date of Birth: July 2, 1923

Birth Place: Kórnik, Poland



Wislawa Szymborska was born in Kórnik in Western Poland on 2 July 1923. Since 1931 she has been living in Krakow, where during 1945-1948 she studied Polish Literature and Sociology at the Jagiellonian University. Szymborska made her début in March 1945 with a poem "Szukam słowa" (*I am Looking for a Word*) in the daily "Dziennik Polski".

During 1953-1981 she worked as poetry editor and columnist in the Kraków literary weekly "Zycie Literackie" where the series of her essays "Lektury nadobowiazkowe" appeared (the series has been renewed lately in the addition to "Gazeta Wyborcza"- "Gazeta o Ksiazkach"). The collection "Lektury nadobowiazkowe" was published in the

form of a book four times.

Szyborska has published 16 collections of poetry: *Dlatego zyjemy* (1952), *Pytania zadawane sobie* (1954), *Wolanie do Yeti* (1957), *Sól* (1962), *Wiersze wybrane* (1964), *Poezje wybrane* (1967), *Sto pociech* (1967), *Poezje* (1970), *Wszelki wypadek* (1972), *Wybór wierszy* (1973), *Tarsjusz i inne wiersze* (1976), *Wielka liczba* (1976), *Poezje wybrane II* (1983), *Ludzie na moście* (1986). *Koniec i poczatek* (1993, 1996), *Widok z ziarnkiem piasku. 102 wiersze* (1996). Wisława Szymborska has also translated French poetry.

Her poems have been translated (and published in book form) in English, German, Swedish, Italian, Danish, Hebrew, Hungarian, Czech, Slovakian, Serbo-Croatian, Romanian, Bulgarian and other languages. They have also been published in many foreign anthologies of Polish poetry.

Wisława Szymborska is the Goethe Prize winner (1991) and Herder Prize winner (1995). She has a degree of Honorary Doctor of Letters of Poznan University (1995). In 1996 she received the Polish PEN Club prize.

Want to read more about Pani Szymborska. ? Please see:
http://www.culture.pl/en/culture/artykuly/os_szymborska_wislawa

ZŁOTA SETKA TEATRU TVP – in Polish only with an attachment

Ci, których skronie pokrywają się dziś srebrem pamiętają zapewne rodzinne wieczory spędzane przed małym ekranem telewizora przy ucztach serwowanych przez Teatr TVP. Początkowo były to emocjonujące Koby z charakterystycznym sygnałem dźwiękowym i waz-kobra puszczający do nas oczko. Później regularnie w poniedziałki zasiadaliśmy do klasyki, a w niedziele bawiły nas komedie i farsy przenoszone niekiedy przed kamery z teatru Kwadrat. Poniedziałkowe teatry miały dodatkową atrakcję: były poprzedzone świetnym słowem wstępnym prof. Stefana Treugutta, wybitnego historyka literatury i teatrologa.

Spożycza tego okresu są nagrania tych przedstawień spośród których wybrano "Złota setka Teatru Telewizji". Z przyjemnością mogę donieść, że niektóre z tych teatrow są przeniesione na DVD, które choć w formacie PAL mogą być odgrywane przy pomocy tanich chińskich lub koreańskich odtwarzaczy. Do arcydzieł, które właśnie odświeżyłem sobie w pamięci, a mogę oglądać co kilka miesięcy należy niewątpliwie "Ozenek" Gogola, gdzie koncertują m. innymi: Anna

Seniuk, Irena Kwiatkowska, Michnikowski, Wollejko, Kobuszewski, Pokora I
Brusikiewicz. Goraco polecam. Zalaczam liste teatrow "Zlotej Setki".

Marcin Nowicki

ANNOUCEMENTS

Jestem 20-letnia studentka pielęgniarstwa z Polski. Szukam pracy na okres wakacji, 17 lipca przylatuje do Austin. Oferuje pomoc przy dzieciach, prace w domu (np. sprzatanie) od poniedzialku do piatku. Prosze o kontakt: hanka.szym@wp.pl.

Ideas? Suggestions? Praise?

*Let us hear from you! Please contact Beata Gmurowska at
bmgghomes@yahoo.com*