

## May 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 May 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.austinpolsociety.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 20th of each month.

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

♪ *Polish Music is in the Air* ♪

### **POLISH HARMONIES - CHOPIN & BEYOND**

Save the date! For a special night of fantastic music! You will not want to miss this event! This once-in-a-lifetime musical experience features musicians from Poland and from Austin. This incredible event presents internationally known artists inspired by Polish composers.

The guest artists include:

-From Gdansk, Poland: Anna and Arkadiusz Szafraniec- the couple internationally known as the **Glass Duo** will be playing a glass harp

-From Gdansk, Poland: Zuzanna Kassak – soprano

-Dr. Michelle Schumann – Austin pianist, artistic director of the Austin Chamber Music Center

-Dr. Justyna Chęsy-Parda – Polish born Austin pianist

-Dr. Elliot Antokoletz – the world authority in 20<sup>th</sup> century music, UT professor.

Make plans to attend on Saturday, May 15, 6pm, at the Jessen Auditorium at the University of Texas at Austin, in the Homer Rainey Hall, 21st St. at University Ave.

Thanks to our generous sponsors and donors, the ticket cost for this amazing event is FREE!  
There is still time to support this event online at [www.austinpolsishsociety.org/chopin200.php](http://www.austinpolsishsociety.org/chopin200.php)

# **Polish Harmonies: Chopin & Beyond**

## **DONORS**

### **Event Sponsor**

- Kodosky Foundation
- Austin Polish Society

### **Partners**

- UT CREEES and Slavic Department
- Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles

### **Co-Sponsors**

- Priebe Security Co
- Allegra Printing Co – FootPRINT Fund
- Katarzyna and Francisco Armada, in-kind donation
- Lehr Family

### **Benefactors**

- Mark & Lauralea Peczeniuk

### **Sustaining Sponsors**

- Kathy & Thomas Jedrzejewicz
- Anna and Wojtek Bielecki

### **Patrons**

- John Hillerup
- Andrew Bujalski
- John McNamara, Alliance Abroad Group

Thank you!

NOTE: For artist biographies and a preview of the evening, please see:

<http://www.austinpolsociety.org/chopin200.php>

## **Polish Language Classes – Successful First Semester!**

### **Thank you!**

The Polish Language Classes are a success!

The Polish Language class led by Magda Szatanik Boudni, will have the last class for pre-school students on Saturday, May 29th. June 5th is the last day of class for elementary students.

A big "Thank you" to Teresa Sek! She has been a tremendous class assistant and has helped students to stay focused! Thank you, Teresa!

### **Parents**

Registration for Fall 2010 will be on August 28, 2010. The Polish Language classes will begin on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support of the APS Polish Language School!

For more information, please see: [www.austinpolsociety.org](http://www.austinpolsociety.org). If you have questions, Ms. Szatanik-Boudni may be e-mailed at: [magdaszatanik@gmail.com](mailto:magdaszatanik@gmail.com).

## **The APS Member of the Month –**

### **Ms. Anna Bielecka**

The "APS Member of the Month" for May is Ms. Anna Bielecka. 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. Ms. Bielecka has provided a key ingredient in supporting the APS and we are sharing her story with you this month.

Anna Bielecka was born in a small county town called Nowy Dwor Mazowiecki, located in central Poland, with about 42,500 inhabitants as of 2008. Anna grew up in a village called Lomna (north of Warsaw). Her family had a farm and Anna was the oldest and only girl out of three children. From an early age, her job was to help her parents and her two brothers in the fields with the harvest.

Anna finished grammar school with honors in Lomna. She continued her education in Warsaw. Anna studied hard and for four years she learned about cooking and catering in the Culinary Art School (Szkola Gastronomiczna przy ul. Poznanskiej). She completed with a diploma (matura). At the time she completed her studies, the economic situation in Poland was not promising. No one really encouraged Anna to continue her higher education, but she has since proven to have great talent.

Twenty years ago, Anna came with her husband, Wojtek, to the United States. They have two wonderful children, Patricia and Lukas. The Bielecki family lived in New Jersey for 17 years, where the Bielecki children studied at a Polish school in Clark. Anna was an active volunteer, helping with many Polish activities. In 2007 the Bielecki family came to the Austin area, settling in Round Rock.

Anna declares that “she loves to cook and bake” and that preparing food “is a very big part of my life”. Anna adds that “as much as I can, I share with others”. This generous attitude characterizes her supportive role as an APS Board member and as a volunteer. Anna has donated hundreds of hours preparing authentic Polish dishes and specialties; everyone loves her cooking, but her *smalec* is always a big favorite! Anna’s excellent eye and her training are evident in the elegant and professionally decorated tables she prepares for APS special events. Her taste and style in preparing tasty dishes and setting a buffet table is well-known and Anna has played a key role in honoring our many special guests from all over the world.

The APS thanks you, Anna, for sharing your culinary talents, excellent business sense, and hard work with the APS! APS appreciates your important participation and thanks you for your support!

### **Austin Polish Society and Austin Public Library – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Polish films are being screened at several Austin Public Library locations throughout the year. This is another way to introduce Austinites to Polish films. 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 on the APS calendar for times and locations and links to location maps.

### **URGENT! Volunteers Needed!**

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

We have a presenter for the May 25 film at the Windsor Park Branch of the APL. Thank you, Malgosia Dambrowska-Meub! The film on Tuesday, May 25 is *Sroda, Czwartek Rano/ Wednesday, Thursday Morning*. From 2007, the film is directed by Grzegorz Pacek, and is 71 minutes long.

Windsor Park Branch is at 5833 Westminster Dr., Austin, TX (Windsor Park Branch) ([map](#)).

### ***Interested in Volunteering for APS?***

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!

## **A Polish Library on the Run** **Wstęp po drodze do polskiej biblioteki**

The Austin Polish Society is always happy to support and facilitate members' initiatives aiming at enriching our community. One of our members, Ewa Tanska, offered to create and maintain a project that would take our annual Book Exchange event to a new level. Ewa coordinated what she calls "A Polish library on the run". Ewa has a great idea and some questions: "Do you have any Polish books 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, Ewa believes she can make it happen for you! Ewa wants to create a collection of used books created through your book donations. She is willing to be responsible for maintaining such a library and to make the books available to borrowers twice a month: once after Sunday Polish Mass and once after a movie night.

Please email Ewa with any question. She is open to suggestions and welcomes any assistance you can offer.

Interested readers and volunteers, please contact Ewa directly at [bibliotekaaps@gmail.com](mailto:bibliotekaaps@gmail.com).

Thank you for your great idea, Ewa!

## **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!

## MAY 2010 CALENDAR EVENTS

### **Thursday, May 6**

**What:** The APS Board Meeting

**When:** 7 pm

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

### **Saturday, May 8**

**What:** The APS Polish Language Classes

**When:** 10 am

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

### **Saturday, May 15**

**What:** The APS Polish Language Classes

**When:** 10 am

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

### **Saturday, May 15**

**What:** Polish Harmonies: Chopin & Beyond

**When:** Saturday, May 15, 6:00 pm

**Where:** Homer Rainey Hall, Jessen Auditorium, UT Campus, 21 Street and University Ave.

**Cost:** FREE

**Description:** Come and celebrate Polish classical music! In honor of Chopin's birth bicentennial, APS is presenting a world-class concert performance for the Austin music lovers. This is a once-in-a-lifetime musical experience featuring musicians from Poland and from Austin. This incredible event will feature internationally known artists inspired by Polish composers. You will not want to miss this event! APS Invites you to this family friendly event!

**Saturday, May 22**

**What:** The APS Polish Language Classes

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

**Tuesday, May 25**

**What:** *Sroda, Czwartek Rano/ Wednesday, Thursday Morning*. Directed by Grzegorz Pacek, 2007, the film is 71 minutes long and has English subtitles.

**When:** Tuesday, May 26, 6:30PM

**Where:** Austin Public Library, Windsor Park Branch, 5833 Westminster Dr. Austin, TX 78723

**Description:** Set on August 1st, the anniversary date of the Polish uprising against the Nazis, the beginning of the film is a collage of unhappiness, despair, and ultimately a setup for a rebound for our protagonist, Tomek. Loitering on his bike, throwing out an ex-girlfriend's clothes, deleting her phone messages, and returning their plane tickets to New York, bring him to an angry confrontation with a taxi driver who runs over his bike, knocking him down. He ends up in the hospital, sitting next to a girl who tries making friends with him, and this is where the chase begins. For all of Tomek's angry wariness and as much as he tries to dissuade her, this pursuit by Teresa takes a while, but our two lovers come together for a modern love tale in Warsaw.

**Saturday, May 29**

**What:** The last APS Polish Language Class for Pre-K students this semester

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

**Upcoming in JUNE****Saturday, June 5**

**What:** The last APS Polish Language Class for elementary students this semester

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

**Saturday, June 5, 2010****Polish Cooking Class**

A Polish cooking class will be held on June 5, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. in APS Director Mark Peczeniuk's home. On the menu are 2 traditional favorites: Cold Polish Cucumber Soup and Meat Cutlets (chlodnik i kotlety mielone).

**Where:** 4017 Chancery Court, Round Rock, Texas 78681

**When:** June 25 at 3:00 pm

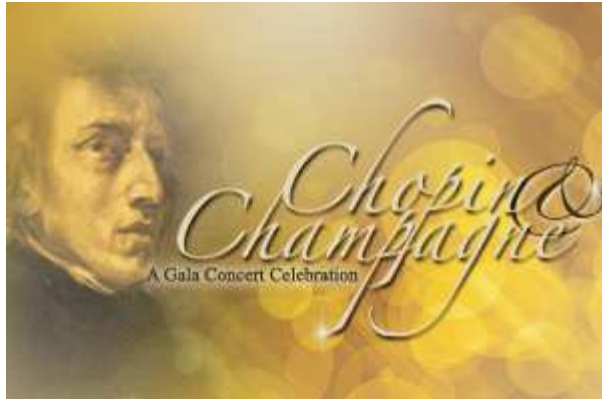
**What:** Polish Cooking Class

**Cost:** \$25

Reservations: An Evite will be sent out.

**June 6, 2010**

**Chopin and Champagne: Austin Chamber Music Festival Gala Concert**



**Where:** Agudas Achim, Dell Jewish Center, Austin, TX

**When:** Sunday, June 6, 2010, 6:30 pm

**What:** Chopin's complete works for cello and piano with Sara Sant'Ambrogio

## **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](mailto: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](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 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](mailto:malenamlopes@gmail.com) or 512-293-0019