

## October 2008 Austin Polish Society Newsletter

Dear APS Members and Friends!

October is here and the annual Ognisko is just around the corner! Please mark your calendars and come prepared to enjoy the best APS outdoor event of the year with your family and friends! Read the details in the Newsletter below. But first, a few words about our Austin Polish Film Festival! Spread the word and share this press release with friends!

### The 2008 Annual Austin Polish Film Festival

*The AUSTIN POLISH SOCIETY HOSTS 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL POLISH FILM FESTIVAL*

*Festival will feature Polish director Jacek Bromski and Austin based Polish director Mariusz Kotowski*

AUSTIN, Texas (October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008) -- The **Austin Polish Film Festival** (APFF) is being held on the weekend of November 7, 8, and 9. The 2008 Third Annual Austin Polish Film Festival entitled, **Polish Films - Universal Stories**, is a unique opportunity for the Austin community to experience Polish film through the creative eyes and minds of Poland's talented film directors. The APFF is sponsored by the Austin Polish Society, a local non-profit arts and cultural organization ([www.austinpolschsociety.org](http://www.austinpolschsociety.org)).

The premiere showcase for Polish films in central Texas, the APFF, brings a new cultural perspective to the Austin film scene. The 2008 APFF will open at the Prothro Theater, Harry Ransom Center of University of Texas at Austin on November 7, and at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, Texas Spirit Theater for the second and third day of the festival.

"This year we are featuring two exciting Polish directors who will present their films in person: Mariusz Kotowski who lives right here in Austin, and Jacek Bromski from Warsaw, Poland" said Beata Gmurowski, President of the Austin Polish Society. The first event is the screening of Mr. Kotowski documentary, **Pola Negri - Life is a Dream in Cinema** (2006), the irresistible romantic story of a film legend, who escaped dire poverty in post WW I Poland and emerged as a glamorous Hollywood silent screen star.

**God's Little Garden** or **U Pana Boga w Ogródku** by Jacek Bromski (2007), a great comedy about small town life in Poland will be presented on the second day of the festival. Mr. Bromski is also well-known in European film circles as the President of the Polish Filmmakers Association and for his expertise in film copyright law. Mr. Bromski will be honored by the APS for his contributions to filmmaking and to the Austin Polish Film Festival.

The last film, **Katyn** (2007), directed by Andrzej Wajda and nominated for Best Foreign Film at 2008 Oscars, will be screened at the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum. A historical WWII drama, this film recounts the mass murder of more than 20,000 Polish officers and intellectuals.

As the film director himself described it - "This is the untold story that Stalin couldn't hide". A historical background will be provided by a University of Texas faculty member prior to the film screening.

Tickets and passes for the VIP reception and all three films (November 7, 8, and 9) are available at [www.austinpolsishsociety.org](http://www.austinpolsishsociety.org).

Fifty percent of the profit from the Austin Polish Film Festival will be used for film student scholarships.

### **The APS Film Festival Committee**

The APS Film Festival Committee has great news to report! The Austin Polish Film Festival (APFF) fundraising efforts will result in additional 2009 scholarship opportunities. The APS Film Committee is hard at work and can use your skills and time! If you are interested in serving on the APFF Committee, please contact Beata Gmurowski at [bmghomes@yahoo.com](mailto:bmghomes@yahoo.com).

### ***APS welcomes your support!***

We will need people to assist with public relations, advertising, fundraising, selling ad space in our film festival brochure, 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 also need transportation in getting around Austin. We will send out an e-mail with available time slots—please sign up to escort our guests!

### ***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 \$5,000. Austin Polish Society is a [501\(c\) \(3\) non-profit](#) organization. Your donations are tax deductible. There will be a festival program and you can contribute to the APFF by purchasing an advertisement.

Advertisements are still available by the quarter page (\$200), half page (\$350) or full page (\$500). The deadline for advertisements is October 20th, 2008. Please mail your camera-ready art work to Beata Gmurowski at 512-554-6712 and include your name, a check made out to **APS APFF**, an e-mail address and a telephone number.

***NOTE: The Annual Ognisko on Saturday, October 18, will be a chance to donate to the APFF in person. Ask us about APFF Information and materials! Thanks!***

**OGNISKO – may need to be rescheduled – please check our web site for current status**

This year the Ognisko will be held on Saturday, October 18 at 4:00 pm. As in previous years, the Lehr residence will be the site of the APS annual Ognisko. Come to enjoy an evening with singing, food, games and films for the children.

### **Admission**

Admission to the Ognisko for adult APS members is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children ages 13 and over. Non-members pay \$6 for adults and \$3 for 13 and over. Ages 12 and under are free.

### **With each admission ticket...**

Guests are entitled to a sausage, potato, unlimited bread and water. Additional sausages are \$3 each.

### **What do I need to bring?**

Please bring a roasting stick for each person in your party, lawn chairs or blankets for yourself and for your children, a flashlight, and a musical instrument.

### **Parking**

Please do not drive up the driveway but park along the road except in areas marked with cones. Thank you!

### **Special Features**

- Our Polish gourmet chefs, Anna Bielecka and Barbara Poloczek will be selling Polish sweets!
- APS will present an outdoor movie for the children: Bolek i Lolek! Parents, please bring little chairs or blankets so that your children can be comfortable while watching these Polish classic cartoons! No Polish required!
- APS will provide an opportunity for our community and guests to support the upcoming Austin Polish Film Festival (November 7-9) by having a raffle (tickets are \$1 each) and more! Make a contribution—Be a winner!

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**The Lehr Family supports the responsible use of campfires and alcohol and urges our guests to be responsible as well.**

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**NOTE:** A Burn Ban is still in effect in the county. With extremely dry weather conditions and no heavy rainfall in the area this summer, it is possible that the bonfire will be cancelled. APS has plans for safe modifications. Please check the APS website for updates and information.

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**Special NOTE to 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!

## **400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of American Polonia**

**October 25th and 26th 2008**

The Polish American Congress Texas Division invites you to celebrate the **400th Anniversary of American Polonia** during its annual convention.

Our program includes presentations on History of Polish Immigration, Music, Art and the Polish contributions to America.

**A Gala Banquet** will be held on Saturday to honor many distinguished guests and dignitaries.

For the current updates please visit the website: [polishamericancongresstexas.com](http://polishamericancongresstexas.com)

For the tickets information please contact Aneta Krozel in Houston: 281-579-2620 or contact the Vice-President in Austin Art Gmurowski at: [Gmurowski@hotmail.com](mailto:Gmurowski@hotmail.com)

*Place: Sugar Land Marriott Town Square, 16090 City Walk Boulevard, Sugar Land, TX 77479*

## **Cooking Class – Special thanks to Ewa Dudak-Pawlik**

The Cooking Class this month was a great success! It took place on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Our host wonderful chef - Ewa Dudak-Pawlik shared her recipes on how to cook Polish food: knedle, leniwe pierogi and kopytka.

## **Movie Nights**

Polish Movie Night this month was a great success. It took place October 9<sup>th</sup> at Rounders Pizzeria. We had a great turn out – about 20 people showed up for the movie of Jacek Bromski's film "AS SNUG AS A BUG IN A RUG (U Pana Boga za piecem)". This Polish comedy received the Audience Award at the Chicago Polish Film Festival, Best Director Award, Prize for the longest applauded film, and festival award for Best Comedy at the PFF in Gdynia.

***Mr. Bromski will be a guest director at this year's Austin Polish Film festival, November 7-9.***

**There will be NO Movie Night in November.**

## BoD 2008 Election

Starting this year, family memberships get two votes. So, if you received two ballots by mail, it was not an accident. Each spouse can cast their own vote now.

## APS Board Meeting

APS Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month in the offices of Priebe Security Services. Katarzyna Priebe has been an APS Board member since 2005. Thanks Katarzyna for allowing us to meet at your offices! The November Board meeting will be on Wednesday, November 5th at 7:00 p.m. Priebe Security Services is located at 7940 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite 210 Austin, Texas 78757

## Special Thanks to – September APS Volunteers of the Month

Thanks to Sarah Emmons, Caroline Ulbrich and Kasia Kizkiel for their efforts to design the graphics and prepare the layouts for the Austin Polish Film Festival printed materials! Great ideas and lots of enthusiasm for the APS! Thank you for your contributions!

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

## Music Lovers – Mark Your Calendar!

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

Call 300-AGCS for more information.

Website at:

[http://www.austinclassicalguitar.org/site/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=43&Itemid=2](http://www.austinclassicalguitar.org/site/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=43&Itemid=2)

### Future APS events

Polish Poetry Reading and much more! For events check our website often at

[www.austinpolishsociety.org](http://www.austinpolishsociety.org)

**A Date in Polish History:  
October is Polish American Heritage Month October**

## ***Jamestown Commemoration-October 1***

Four hundred years ago on October 1, 1608, the first Poles set foot in the New World in Jamestown, Virginia. These Polish craftsmen, skilled in the production of glass, tar, pitch and wood, arrived at the invitation of Captain John Smith, who had encountered them in Europe and knew of their skills and industry. They started the movement of Poles who left their homeland in search of opportunity and freedom and were directly responsible for the success of the Jamestown Colony.

In 1619, they laid the foundation for the labor movement in the U.S. Precluded from voting by the Governor of Virginia, they successfully led the first strike for equal rights. They said, "no vote, no work." Such was their value to the colony that they were granted the right to vote. The Polish American Congress invites you to participate in the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration to honor the first Poles' arrival and their invaluable contributions to the New World on Wednesday, October 1, 2008, at the Jamestown Settlement in Virginia.

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

Let us hear from you! Please contact Beata Gmurowski at  
[bmghomes@yahoo.com](mailto:bmghomes@yahoo.com)