



Polish American Society NEWSLETTER



The objectives of the Polish American Society of Memphis are to promote family unity through pride and understanding of Polish tradition and heritage and to promote their understanding in the community.



How Time Flies!....

On behalf of the Society, I would like to apologize to all the members for the inconsistency of recent newsletters - either not being published or some members not receiving them. I think the problem has been solved and we're back on track for more timely publications and complete mailings. If you know of someone who is not receiving their newsletter, please let Judy Barthol know.

Spring Dance

Those who attended our Spring Dance will tell you that it was an evening of fine music, good food and just plain fun. Madeline Jankowski and Rae and Walt Podgorski did an outstanding job of putting it on. Our thanks to them!!! The turn out could have been better. Member participation in Society activities is critical to our continued existence. Let's all try a little harder to make our efforts successful.

Swienconka

The traditional "Blessing of Easter Baskets" will again be held at St. Ann's cafeteria on Saturday, April 21 at 1:00 P.M. Bring your Easter meal for the blessing and some pastry to share afterwards. Coffee and soft drinks will be provided by the Society.



Children's Easter baskets owe their origin to this custom of bringing baskets of food to church for blessing. Their baskets of candy and eggs may be included in the blessing service.

The foods traditionally blessed for Easter, the feast of the Lord's Passover from death to life, are the foods which God prescribed for the ancient Passover meal: lamb, bread, wine and bitter herbs.

The lamb, either meat or a symbolic lamb in the form of cake or butter, is the ancient Passover food by whose blood the Israelites were saved. Jesus is our Paschal (Passover) Lamb by whose blood we are saved.



Ham celebrates the freedom of the New Law which came into effect through Jesus' resurrection, in distinction to the Old Law which forbade certain meats. Sausage is an ethnic addition to enhance the celebration; its links remind us of the chains of death which were broken when Jesus arose.

Bread reminds us of Jesus, the risen Lord, who in the Eucharist is the food of our earthly journey and the true bread of everlasting life.



Memphis in May

We're slow in getting a response from the Memphis In May planners this year so we don't have any details to share at this time. We hope, that if called to volunteer to help, you'll all remember how important this project is to the Society. We'll keep you posted.

Coming Events

Pot Luck Picnic - Mid June
Heritage Dinner - September

Fall Dance - October
Wigilia - December

Details of activities in later newsletters.

General Membership Meeting

The next general membership meeting will be May 13 at St. Louis Parish at 7PM. Past attendance at these meetings have been disappointing considering their importance. Aside from giving a reason to get together over coffee and snacks, all future activities are planned and discussed. Please try to make plans to join us and help schedule our activities.

Dues Are Due

Please send 1984 dues to Walt Podgorski, 2349 Riverdale, Germantown, TN 38138.

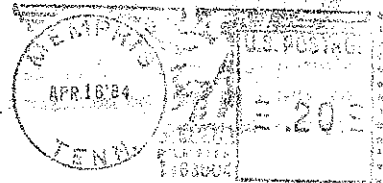
Happy April Birthday!!!

Jerry Milizek, Walt Podgorski, Lorraine Stachowski. If I missed anyone, call me - Dave Kaczmarek, 382-0754.



3079 Chaucer Lane
Bartlett, TN 38134

Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Jurand
500 Berkley Square
Memphis, TN 38119



1984 - 04 PAGE 2

Memphis in May

We're slow in getting a response from the Memphis In May planners this year so we don't have any details to share at this time. We hope, that if called to volunteer to help, you'll all remember how important this project is to the Society. We'll keep you posted.

Coming Events

Pot Luck Picnic - Mid June
Heritage Dinner - September

Fall Dance - October
Wigilia - December

Details of activities in later newsletters.

General Membership Meeting

The next general membership meeting will be May 13 at St. Louis Parish at 7PM. Past attendance at these meetings have been disappointing considering their importance. Aside from giving a reason to get together over coffee and snacks, all future activities are planned and discussed. Please try to make plans to join us and help schedule our activities.

Dues Are Due

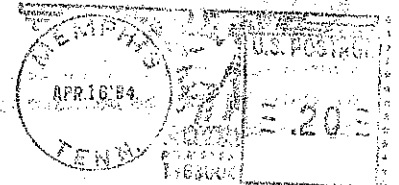
Please send 1984 dues to Walt Podgorski, 2349 Riverdale, Germantown, TN 38138.

Happy April Birthday!!!

Jerry Milizek, Walt Podgorski, Lorraine Stachowski. If I missed anyone, call me - Dave Kaczmarek, 382-0754.



3079 Chaucer Lane
Bartlett, TN 38134



1941
The following information was obtained from the records of the
Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, on
the subject of the land in question.

On the 10th day of January, 1941, the following
land was surveyed and located by the Bureau of Land
Management, Department of the Interior.

The land is situated in the County of [County Name],
State of [State Name], and is described as follows:
[Detailed description of the land, including acreage, location,
and any other relevant details.]

The land is owned by [Owner Name], and is being
surveyed for the purpose of [Purpose of survey, such as
mining, agriculture, or other land use.]

Very truly yours,
[Signature]
[Title]

Polish American Society

NEWSLETTER

The objectives of the Polish American Society of Memphis are to promote family unity through pride and understanding of Polish tradition and heritage and to promote their understanding in the community.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL FALL DANCE was held on November 10, 1984 at St. Louis Hall. The attendance was 66 members and guests. This was well below the 80 needed to "break even" at a dance with a live band. In an effort to keep this wonderful activity alive, the Society is now exploring the possibility of having the dance as a co-function with other area ethnic clubs. There are other alternatives of course, and the Society welcomes your ideas.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL WIGILIA plans are well under way. Many Society members are contributing their time and efforts to make this the best yet. We could use a couple more people to make pierogi. If you'd like to lend a hand, please call Madaline Jankowski at 683-0440. Reservations are needed by December 7th, 1984. Make your checks payable to the Polish American Society and send them to Connie Gawlak, 6404 Briergate Drive, Bartlett, TN 38134. For more information, call Connie after 5 p.m. at 377-9135. Dave Kaczmarek will be bringing a Christmas tree for the dinner. Rae Podgorski is planning the table decorations in the old tradition and Helen Tschertter has promised to once again ruin our diets with her home baked, delicious and beautiful pastries. These, and many others are working to make this a memorable event, so keep December 15th open for a beautiful Polish Christmas Tradition. There are a number of Polish immigrant families that would love to share this wonderful evening with us and for various reasons, need our help to attend. These families, the real supporters of Polish freedom, came to Memphis when Solidarity was banned in Poland. If you feel that you would like to share a little of your good fortune by sponsoring one of these families so they can share our Christmas celebration, call Jan Karpinski at 272-3314.

THE INSTALLATION POT-LUCK DINNER will be held on January 13th, 1985, at 2:30 p.m. in St. Ann's school cafeteria. We are honoring our outgoing officers; President - Dave Kaczmarek, Vice-President - Norb Grankowski and Secretary - Judy Barthol. We will be installing the 1985 officers; President - Len Jankowski, Vice-President - Stan Schulz, Secretary - John Zdancewicz and Treasurer - Walt Podgorski, who is staying on another year. This is a fine family get together where we can get to know each other and enjoy each others company. Prepare your favorite covered dish to share with the others. The Society will provide soft drinks and coffee. Plan for this event as your first of the new year.

THE BOWLING TEAM idea didn't get many takers. If you have any suggestions on activities which we can all enjoy and help promote the Polish American Society of Memphis, let us know. The Society was established for the purpose of enhancing family unity through the practice of traditions which have been in existence for hundreds of years. Family group activities, adult group activities, the sharing of our heritage with our neighbors, it's all of us together - keeping us all GOING AND GROWING in our heritage.

A GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING will be held on December 2nd, 1984 in the St. Louis gym at 7:30 p.m. Major topics will be the Wigilia Dinner and the Installation Potluck. These are the important meetings - those at which the members of the Society bring and share the things that make an organization such as ours work - IDEAS. Without new ideas and suggestions and good criticism, we cease to grow. Plan to come and share your ideas so we can keep our Society truly GOING AND GROWING.

THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM below is for the use of present members as well as new. New members are more than welcome and annual dues from present members are needed to help support our activities. Fill it out today to get our membership list up to date. Keep in mind that while ours is an ethnic organization, it also welcomes those who aren't Poles but who may still be interested in our heritage. If you need more blanks, call Walt Podgorski.

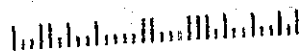
MEMPHIS, TN 381
4 PM
4 DEC
1984

Christmas USA 20c



Pa. Filippo Lippi, National Gallery

Dr. Jerry Jurand
500 Berkley Square
Memphis, TN 38119



Polish American Society

NEWSLETTER

NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED Our new officers for 1986 were installed at a brief ceremony following the potluck dinner at St. Ann, Bartlett. Len Jankowski told each of the officers the duties of their new offices, and asked if they were willing to accept those responsibilities. Each officer accepted his office, and our new officers were installed. **Stan Schulz** is president, **John Zdancewicz** is Vice President, **Jim Wilson** is Secretary, and **Walt Podgorski** is Treasurer. In addition, four trustees were installed -- **Len Jankowski, Dave Kaczmarek, Norb Grankowski, and Judy Barthol.**

Following the installation, a brief, informal meeting was held to discuss these items:
Locations of upcoming meetings. Four of our members offered to invite members of the society to their homes for the next four monthly meetings. The February, March, April and May meetings will be held at **Tscherters', Eldreds', Jankowskis', and Pauls'** homes, respectively. There are no meetings in June, July or August. **We still need locations for our September through December meetings.**

February 9 Board Meeting. February's Board will meet at **Bill and Helen Tschorter's.** They live at 2236 E. River Trace #1. All members are invited to Board meetings, as well as the membership meetings on alternate months, but there will be no special topics or speakers at the Board meetings -- just business.

Spring Dance. **Rose Grankowski** and **Helen Tschorter** are finishing up planning for the date and location of our April dance. They will report the details at the Feb. 9 Board Meeting, and details will be published in the March and April newsletters.

Fact Sheet for Prospective Members. The Board is working on a list of reasons why people should join the **Polish American Society** -- something we can give people to read and think about. At present, no such promotional material exists. Prospective new members must decide to join or not based on what they hear from a current member. This may not be complete information, or they may not remember all of it later, when they think it over. With printed information in hand, including an application form, they can easily review the information later and follow it up with an application.

Gift of "Polish Customs" Booklet. **Dee Dybeck** has donated a very interesting compilation of Polish customs and holidays to the Society. This booklet is published by Friends of Polish Art, a Detroit organization, and edited by Anna Chrypinski. Some timely festivals and customs from this booklet are featured on the reverse side of this newsletter, and more will be coming in the future in a section called **Heritage Hints.**

Phone Committee. Our attempt to rejuvenate the phone committee got off to a good start. To help members remember the dates and times of our activities, we are trying to get ten people who will call six other members apiece five days before scheduled events. **Dee Dybeck, Lorraine Gorde, Rae Podgorski, Kathy Schulz** and **Tillie Tragarz** volunteered. **WE STILL NEED FIVE MORE VOLUNTEERS.** Call Stan Schulz at 755-4710 after 6 p.m.

SWIECONKA The Seventh Annual traditional blessing of food on Holy Saturday will be observed on Holy Saturday, March 29th. Mark your calendars now, and plan to attend. Details will be in the March Newsletter.

SPRING DANCE Also start making plans for the Spring Dance which will be held in April. Details will be made known at the Board meeting on February 9 and will be published in the March Newsletter. Think about bringing your friends and prospective new members.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 1986 ARE DUE As of January 21, only 28 of our members have paid their 1986 dues. Look at your mailing label below. If you are among the 28 paid members there will be a red "PAID" written in the upper right hand corner of your mailing label. If not, please continue your membership by tearing off the membership form on the reverse side of this newsletter and mailing it back today. Mail it to **Walt Podgorski, 2349 Riverdale Germantown TN 38138.** Checks should be made payable to **Polish American Society of Memphis.** We've got a new and exciting year coming up, and **you want to be part of it!** You don't even have to fill out the form (unless you are a new member) because your mailing label is on the reverse side. Just send the form with your check. Do it **now,** you won't forget.

Heritage Hints - - - BYLAWS, Article II - OBJECTIVES: *To promote family unity through pride in Polish heritage and an understanding of Polish tradition and heritage, to promote an understanding of Polish American heritage within the community*

From time to time, in this space, we will note interesting items of Polish custom and heritage. Special thanks to Dee Dybeck who donated to our society "Polish Customs", a compilation of Polish customs and festivals. During the coming month there are five customs or festivals of interest which are mentioned in "Polish Customs", Anna Chrypinski, editor. The following notes are taken from that booklet.

Post-Christmas: **Karnawal**. These holidays are followed by a season of merry-making called "karnawal" which lasts until the beginning of Lent. Namesday parties are unusually gay, and every possible occasion is utilized for having a masquerade ball. Organizations and institutions have their most lavish balls during "karnawal". As one walks in the streets during the evening, he often hears the sounds of music and happy voices, even through closed windows. Needless to say, this is a radiant season of the year!

Feb. 11 -- **Paczki Day**. Shrove Tuesday is celebrated with gaiety, feasting and dancing for it officially ends the carnival season. Huge quantities of doughnuts (paczki) are consumed on that day (hence the name "Paczki Day") because on the following day, Ash Wednesday, Lent begins and with it strict fasting for six weeks.

Feb. 12 -- **Ash Wednesday**. The Poles have always faithfully kept the fasting period during the six weeks preceding Easter. In some sections of Poland, especially among the farm people, a soup of soured rye flour or oatmeal with hempoil is the main fasting food and is accompanied by fish dishes.

On Ash Wednesday, willow branches (which are used instead of palms in Poland) were cut and placed into water. If they budded into green branches by Sunday, this was regarded as a good omen. There was general joy that instead of artificial flowers the truly Polish "palm" could be taken to church on Palm Sunday and blessed.

March 4 -- **Kaziuki**. On St. Casimir's Feast Day, a huge festival, known as "Kaziuki" took place each year in the city of Wilno. It was held in memory of St. Casimir, the son of the Polish King Casimir Jagiellon and the patron saint of Wilno.

Booths were set up in the heart of the city and people arrived from far and near. Various kinds of goodies, such as bagels (obwarzanki) and honey-spice cakes (pierniki) could be purchased. The potent honey-wine (miod) was also available everywhere and helped to add to the general mood of gaiety which prevailed everywhere. Strangely dressed figures wandered among the crowds.

"Kaziuk" seemed to be a preparation for Easter. The brightly colored "Wilno palms", made of dried grasses and tiny flowers could be bought and taken home for Palm Sunday.

March 6 - Mid-Lent - **Marzanna** (Woodruff). Woodruff drowning was especially popular in Galicia and Silesia. In March girls would carry a puppet, which symbolized the passing winter, out of the village and then they would drown it in order to bring an earlier spring. On their way back to the village they sang:

"We carried the Woodruff out of the village"

"We brought green twigs back to the village"

Afterwards they would go from house to house, exchange wishes and receive gifts. The ceremony of carrying a straw puppet, called "Death", from the village and drowning it during Mid-Lent is mentioned in old Polish chronicles.

Heritage Hints - - - BYLAWS, Article II - OBJECTIVES: *To promote family unity through pride in Polish heritage and an understanding of Polish tradition and heritage, to promote an understanding of Polish American heritage within the community*

From time to time, in this space, we will note interesting items of Polish custom and heritage. Special thanks to Dee Dybeck who donated to our society "Polish Customs", a compilation of Polish customs and festivals. During the coming month there are five customs or festivals of interest which are mentioned in "Polish Customs", Anna Chrypinski, editor. The following notes are taken from that booklet.

Post-Christmas: **Karnawal**. These holidays are followed by a season of merry-making called "karnawal" which lasts until the beginning of Lent. Namesday parties are unusually gay, and every possible occasion is utilized for having a masquerade ball. Organizations and institutions have their most lavish balls during "karnawal". As one walks in the streets during the evening, he often hears the sounds of music and happy voices, even through closed windows. Needless to say, this is a radiant season of the year!

Feb. 11 -- **Paczki Day**. Shrove Tuesday is celebrated with gaiety, feasting and dancing for it officially ends the carnival season. Huge quantities of doughnuts (paczki) are consumed on that day (hence the name "Paczki Day") because on the following day, Ash Wednesday, Lent begins and with it strict fasting for six weeks.

Feb. 12 -- **Ash Wednesday**. The Poles have always faithfully kept the fasting period during the six weeks preceding Easter. In some sections of Poland, especially among the farm people, a soup of soured rye flour or oatmeal with hempoil is the main fasting food and is accompanied by fish dishes.

On Ash Wednesday, willow branches (which are used instead of palms in Poland) were cut and placed into water. If they budded into green branches by Sunday, this was regarded as a good omen. There was general joy that instead of artificial flowers the truly Polish "palm" could be taken to church on Palm Sunday and blessed.

March 4 -- **Kaziuki**. On St. Casimir's Feast Day, a huge festival, known as "Kaziuki" took place each year in the city of Wilno. It was held in memory of St. Casimir, the son of the Polish King Casimir Jagiellon and the patron saint of Wilno.

Booths were set up in the heart of the city and people arrived from far and near. Various kinds of goodies, such as bagels (obwarzanki) and honey-spice cakes (pierniki) could be purchased. The potent honey-wine (miod) was also available everywhere and helped to add to the general mood of gaiety which prevailed everywhere. Strangely dressed figures wandered among the crowds.

"Kaziuk" seemed to be a preparation for Easter. The brightly colored "Wilno palms", made of dried grasses and tiny flowers could be bought and taken home for Palm Sunday.

March 6 - Mid-Lent - **Marzanna** (Woodruff). Woodruff drowning was especially popular in Galicia and Silesia. In March girls would carry a puppet, which symbolized the passing winter, out of the village and then they would drown it in order to bring an earlier spring. On their way back to the village they sang:

"We carried the Woodruff out of the village

We brought green twigs back to the village"

Afterwards they would go from house to house, exchange wishes and receive gifts. The ceremony of carrying a straw puppet, called "Death", from the village and drowning it during Mid-Lent is mentioned in old Polish chronicles.