

40 Years of Polish-American Society



Art by the Students of
Nicolaus Copernicus
School of Polish Culture &
Language



1978 - 2018

Our Mission

To strengthen bonds and solidarity between Polish and American People, provide support and help to the Polish-American Community, cultivate Polish traditions, culture and language, promote native Polish values in the American society.





Our Mission


The Polish-American Society of Memphis was established in 1978. Our mission is to strengthen bonds and solidarity, provide mutual support and help between Polish People, cultivate Polish traditions, culture and language, and the promotion of native Polish values in the American society.

PAS Website:


www.pasofmemphis.com

Newsletters

Recent Newsletters

 [1-News-Feb2018](#)

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 [Calendar2018](#) [217.39

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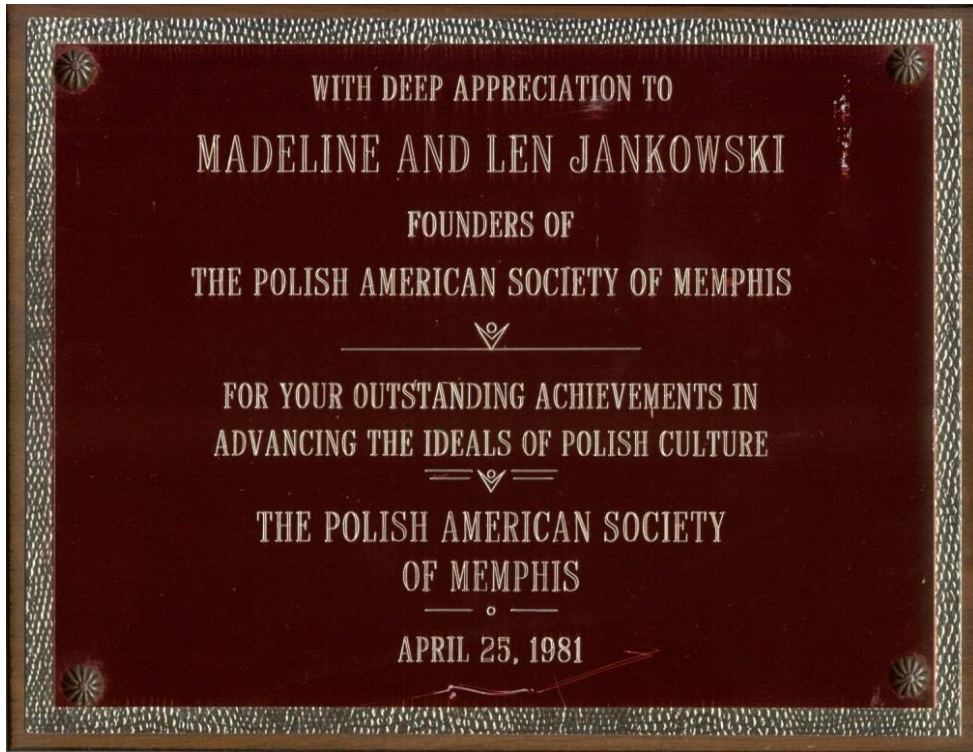
40th Anniversary of PAS

Dear Members and Friends of the Polish American Society of Memphis,

This year the Polish American Society (PAS) turns 40! The first part of our celebrations **starts on Friday, April 6, at Rhodes College**. We have attached [a poster with event information](#). The event will kick off with a beautiful work of culinary art prepared by Chef Edward Nowakowski, who is traveling from New York city to be with us.

Afterwards, we will have a presentation by Poland's former Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Ryszard Schnepf. He will speak about the role of America in Poland's independence 100 years ago. Also attending the festivities are the faculty and students of Rhodes College, a group of Polish high schoolers from the city of Sopot, as well as other distinguished guests. The reception that starts the event is sponsored by PAS and Chef Edward. The visit of Dr. Schnepf is sponsored in part by the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau, the National Civil Rights Museum, and by Members of PAS. We invite you to take part in this event and will welcome your help in organizing it. Please contact Jacek Dutkiewicz or Pawel Jankowski.

1978 -Founders of PAS



*“Jan the Polka Man”,
Len Jankowski hosting a radio
program on WEVL 89.9*

Polish Heritage Series Volume 2: History of the Polish-American Society of Memphis

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*

Originated in February of 1978, founders Len and Madaline Jankowski organized the first meeting held on a rainy night at St. Louis Church gym, with eight people in attendance. That spring, Easter Saturday, the first food basket blessing (Swieconka) was held with 30 people attending. That December, the traditional Christmas Eve dinner (Wigilia) was held sometime in the middle of the month and 45 people showed up.

From those humble beginnings we evolved. We added spring and fall dances, a picnic in the summer, and the heritage dinner in the fall. Our motto was and is “to promote family unity through pride in Polish heritage”.

Today, as we have expanded and grown, we have over 125 families as members and have embraced a variety of activities from community projects to philanthropic services.

We have actively participated in the International Heritage Commission, and presented two different Polish Exhibits at City Hall. We are active yearly in the Holy Rosary International Food Festival; community art/craft/heritage/food functions within the city (such as the Beale Street International Heritage Food & Arts Festival; Mid-America Mall Southern Folklore Music & Food Festival and Neighborfest). We sponsored a cultural exhibit, brought in from Chicago, for the first Memphis in May

International Weekend. For the second Memphis in May International Weekend we invited and encouraged a folk dance troupe to study and perform Polish dances.

In 1988, in coordination with the



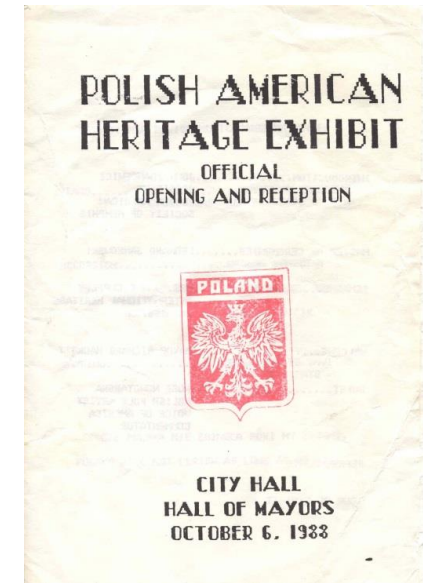
Heritage Exhibit in the Hall of Mayors at City Hall, we invited a well-known multi-talented Polish artist, Rose Nowotarska from Washington D.C., to speak at our Heritage Exhibit opening and to exhibit her rare art form of painting in reverse on glass at Park Place Mall. She also acted as commentator for another Polish Heritage Exhibit at that same mall. Because of her successes in Memphis, she has been our annual guest since.

Some other milestones were a trip to St. Louis, Mo., to see the Polish dance troupe, Mazowsze. An enormous challenge for us was the successful sponsorship of a Polish refugee family. Our job of orienting them to life in America, giving financial and moral support, helping find jobs and seeing them achieve total financial responsibility within three months was great satisfaction and a true culmination of the real meaning and purpose of our Society. The forming of a children's dance troupe was a delightful and dramatic addition to our organization. We are proud to be participants in the annual Festival of Trees, sponsored by TWIGS/LeBonheur Hospital. The big finale of the year in mid-December comes with a visit from St. Nicholas with presents for the children during Wigilia, our Christmas dinner.

1981-1988 Supporting „Solidarity” Movement



1981 – Honoring Poland in Kosciusko, MS



1982 – International Day at the “Memphis in May” Festival with an exhibit of Polish craft and Polish culinary showcase
This was a fund raising event for the “Solidarity” movement in Poland



1993,1999 Hosting Polish Nobel Prize Winners

*Czesław Miłosz
hosted by Polish
Memphians*



*Lech Wałęsa is
welcomed by Polish
Memphians at the
ceremony of receiving
the International
Freedom Award*



Recent PAS History



POLISH-AMERICAN SOCIETY

www.pasofmemphis.com
P.O. Box 770927, Memphis, TN 38177-0927



Various Group Activities

The Polish-American Society suspended its activities in 2002 due to the advanced age of its members. In 2008 the Polish-American Society was reactivated thanks to the new generation of Polish immigrants and their desire to cultivate the Polish National Heritage.

Some of the regular events are:

- Christmas Eve Dinner
- Poland's Independence Day
- Celebration of the Polish School Year End, May 3rd Constitution Anniversary and Mother's & Father's Days
- International Germantown Festival
- Public seminars about Poland's heritage
- Spring and Fall Picnics
- Fall Camping for Children and Adults



Seminars by Polish Professors



PAS Musical Group playing for the elderly



Athletic Club



Bridge Club



Nicolaus Copernicus School of Polish Culture and Language

- *Founded in September 2006 for children, teenagers and adults who wanted to learn and perfect Polish language and gain more knowledge about Poland's traditions, culture and history*
- *Incorporated to PAS in the beginning of 2008 – is a significant pillar of the Society*
- *The thirteenth academic year ended in May, 2018*
- *The fourteenth school year is scheduled to begin in September 2018*
- *There have been classes for students of various ages starting from a pre-school group and ending with a class for adults*



Annual „Polska Wigilia” – Traditional Polish Christmas Eve Dinner



Food Preparation



Decorations by Older Group



Decorations by Younger Group



Christmas Eve Dinners



Christmas Plays by...



Polish School Students

Polish Christmas Trees at the Enchanted Forest in Pink Palace





Celebrating Poland's Independence Day

All generations of Poles of the Memphis metro area meet every year to commemorate and celebrate the November 11 Independence Day



Germantown International Festival - Promoting Polish National Heritage

Since 2009 Germantown International Festival in the Memphis metro area attracts every year more than 5000 guests



Annual Fall Camping for Younger Generation Polish Memphians



Spring and Fall Picnics



Exploring Memphis, Excursions, Social Events



Cotton Museum



Sun Studio



Mississippi Cruise



Egg Painting



Wisecre Brewery



Ostatki

2011 – 2013 Hosting Well-Known Polish Musicians



Kinga Augustyn & Alexandra Snyder Dunbar



Sławek Wiercholski & „Nocna Zmiana Bluesa”



Boogie Boys



Kajetan Drozd & Piotr Rożankowski

2010 – 2015 Hosting Polish Diplomats



Consul Michał Sikorski
at one of the Germantown International Festivals



Visit of Consul Piotr Konowrocki




Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf honoring
the 2015 Salute to Poland MIM Festival

2015 Lectures about Poland for Shelby County Teachers

Current as of 2/6/15

Control Sheet



Memphis in May International Teachers' Conference
"Bringing International Culture to Every Classroom"

Event Date
Saturday, February 7, 2015
9:00am - 1:30pm

Event Location
Teaching and Learning Academy
2425 Union Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee 38112

The conference will be open to teachers and education professionals. Those in attendance will be offered professional development hours for their attendance. Teachers will gain knowledge about this year's honored country so they can teach their students about the rich culture and history of Poland. Breakfast and coffee will be provided. Each teacher that attends will also be provided with the necessary resources and tools to utilize knowledge gained at the conference in their classroom.

Breakout Sessions
Multipurpose, set-up for 108 with tables and chairs: Mark Scarbacz
Room W116, set-up for 54: Edward Kozlowski
Room W115, set-up for 54: Magdalena Teodorowicz and Ludmila Mitchell
Auditorium, set-up for 160: Halina & Jacek Dutkiewicz



Memphis in May 2015: Salute to Poland

Salute to Poland was voted by *USA Today* the best 2015 international event in the U.S. South. Polish-Americans' contribution to this success was recognized by the MIM Leadership.



2015 POLAND MEMPHIS IN MAY INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

POLISH-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MEMPHIS PRESENTS THIS CULINARY SELECTIONS TO THE ATTENDEES OF MUSIC OF POLAND - CHOPIN AND FRIENDS.

THIS SHOWCASE IS DEDICATED TO THE ORGANIZERS OF THE MEMPHIS IN MAY SALUTE TO POLAND PROGRAM AND TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE TAKING PART IN IT.

THE POLISH CULINARY SHOW CASE IS PRESENTED BY

CHEF EDWARD NOWAKOWSKI, RECIPIENT OF MANY PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS AND AUTHOR OF BRUSH WITH THE EDGE OF TIME AND PROFESSION




THE POLISH CULINARY SHOWCASE IS SPONSORED BY:

THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
 UNNAMED SPONSORS
 DR. SUSAN MURRMANN
 UNNAMED SPONSOR
 MR. PAWEŁ JANIKOWSKI
 MR. & MRS. EDWARD & VIOLA KOZŁOWSKI
 UNNAMED SPONSORS
 DR. & MRS. MARK & BASIA SCARBEZ
 MS. JANICE IGIELSKI
 MR. RALPH CRAFTON




2017 Bringing Memphis to Poland

To learn more about the Memphis in Poland Festival goals and program go to: <http://memphisinpoland.com/%7C-polski-%7C>

National Civil Rights Museum Exhibition at the European Solidarity Center



Concerts in Sopot: Memphis Mix, Rock for Human Rights, Blues Night Shift



Memphis Style Barbecue, Guests of Honor



April 2-4, 2018 Partnership with National Civil Rights Museum



Where Do We Go from Here?



News from the Polish TV:

<https://kontakt24.tvn24.pl/mielismy-ten-sam-sen-polacy-na-obchodach-50-rocznicy-smierci-martina-luthera-kinga,257305.html>

W Memphis odbyły się uroczystości upamiętniające 50. rocznicę śmierci Martina Luthera Kinga. TVN24 otrzymał nagrania od Stowarzyszenia Polsko-Amerykańskiego w Memphis.

W uroczystościach wzięli udział licealiści z Sopotu, zaproszeni przez Stowarzyszenie Polsko-Amerykańskie w Memphis. 3 kwietnia - na Uniwersytecie w Memphis odbyło się sympozjum. Na nim licealiści przedstawili grafikę, gdzie pokazano paralele historii ruchu na rzecz praw obywatelskich w USA i działalności dr Kinga i Polski za czasów "Solidarności".
- *Plakat wzbudził zainteresowanie wśród uczestników. Dla wielu była to lekcja historii, której do tej pory nie znali* - powiedział prezes Stowarzyszenia.



Prawie 40 lat temu miliony Polaków, którzy podążyli za pracownikami Stoczni Gdańskiej, chcieli stawić czoło komunistycznemu systemowi. My mieliśmy ten sam sen, co doktor King. Chcieliśmy żyć z równymi szansami, z godnością, z nadzieją dla nas i naszych dzieci - przemawiał Ryszard Schnepf, były ambasador Polski w USA. .



April 6, 2018 Celebrating 40 Years of PAS!



Chef Edward Nowakowski's Creations



Polish American Society of Memphis
&
Department of International Studies
Rhodes College



request the honor of your company
in celebrating the 40th anniversary of PAS
at a reception and a lecture

5:00 pm
Featuring Chef Edward's Creations

5:30 pm

The U.S. and Poland: 100 Years of Independence

Speaker:

Ryszard Schnepf, PhD,
Ambassador of Poland to the U.S. (2012-2016)
American Studies Center,
Warsaw University, Poland

Welcoming remarks:

Anny E. Risley, PhD,
Associate Professor and Chair
Department of International Studies, Rhodes College

Introduction of the Speaker:

Prof. Jacek Dutkiewicz, PhD, DSc
President of Polish American Society of Memphis

Friday, April 6th, 2018

5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Blount Auditorium,
Buckman Hall at Rhodes College
2000 North Parkway, Memphis, TN 38112

R.S.V.P. by March 31st by e-mail to jkdutkiewicz@gmail.com

Ryszard Schnepf, PhD

1991-1996 Ambassador of Poland in Uruguay and Paraguay
2001-2005 Ambassador of Poland to Costa Rica
2005-2006 Secretary of State at the Prime Minister's Office
2007-2008 Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
2008-2012 Ambassador of Poland to the Kingdom of Spain
2012-2016 Ambassador to the United States of America
Since 2017 American Studies Center, Warsaw University, Poland

Polish American Society (PAS) is a Memphis TN based, non profit organization dedicated to strengthen bonds and solidarity, provide mutual support for the Polish American communities, cultivate Polish traditions, culture and language, and the promotion of native Polish values in the American society. More: www.pasofm.com



Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf honoring
the 40th Anniversary of PAS Foundation

