



POLISH-AMERICAN SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

<http://www.pasofmemphis.com>

September 2026

Memphis, TN

PAS BOARD 2026 - 2027

President	Justyna Zylka-O'Brien
Vice President	Robert Drozdowski
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Secretary	Agnieszka Karnecka
Cultural Events Coordinator / Assistant Treasurer	Marta Misiun

Summer is slowly coming to an end, and with the start of the new school year we fondly look back on the events that brought together members of our organization, children, families, and friends over the past few months. One of the highlights was a one-day trip to Discovery Park of America in Union City, organized in June for Children's Day. Adults and children had the opportunity to explore numerous exhibits and attractions and take part in a variety of activities and games, both indoors and outdoors. It was a day full of joy, curiosity, and fun. We sincerely thank everyone who helped organize the trip, as well as the families for participating in and spending this time together. Although summer vacation has ended, more events are ahead. We warmly invite everyone to take an active part in the life of our community.

NICOLAUS COPERNICUS POLISH SCHOOL

Polish language classes for children and youth have begun.

On September 1, we began a new year of Polish language classes for children and youth! We currently have 4 groups for children ages 3 to 13. Classes are held on Tuesdays at Incarnation Church in Collierville. Everyone interested is welcome! We also offer Polish language lessons for adults; schedules are arranged individually according to participants' needs and availability. If you are interested in classes, please contact Milena Marshall (milenaap@gmail.com). Join us in learning and preserving the Polish language!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PROUD PARENTS!

Recently, two families in the Polish-American Society welcomed new babies. Ola and Damian, and Elizabeth and Trey, became happy parents. We wish you that every day spent with your little ones is filled with smiles, tenderness, and family love.

SAD FAREWELLS

We have also recently received sad news. With deep sorrow, we learned of the passing of Dr. Jurand, who for many years was a kind friend of PAS and supported the work of our organization. We are grateful for his presence, help, and kindness toward us. He will remain in our grateful memory. We also sadly said farewell to the late Alfreda Pietrucha, mother of Damian Pietrucha, as well as to Iwona Gaye's father. We extend our deepest condolences to their families and loved ones.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 1 – ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE JURAND FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION RESULTS

The Scholarship Committee selected and recommended for the scholarship the essay "Maria Dabrowska: A Voice Against Censorship," written by Daphne Arendt, a student at UT Knoxville. The award recipient will receive a \$1,000 check from the PAS scholarship fund. We sincerely thank the Scholarship Committee and scholarship coordinator for their cooperation. Once again, congratulations to the student, and we wish her much success in the future!

SEPTEMBER 19, SATURDAY – FALL PICNIC

The traditional Polish community fall picnic will take place on Saturday, September 19, from 4:00–8:00 PM at Cameron Brown Park in Germantown (entrance from Farmington Blvd).

Our organization, the Polish-American Society, invites all fellow Poles, supporters, and friends to the picnic. The event is open to everyone interested. As usual, the organization will provide grilled Polish sausage and beverages, and participants are encouraged to bring dishes to share.

The picnic coordinator is Marta Misiun, 901-550-0391. See you soon!

SEPTEMBER 26, SATURDAY – JACKSON INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

The festival will take place in Jackson, TN, at 800 S. Highland Ave from 10:00 AM–4:00 PM.

Please arrive on time, as the Parade of Nations begins at 11:00 AM; all parade participants must be present by 10:30 AM.

As an organization, we have been promised financial support from the Embassy of the Republic of Poland. We will offer the public samples of Polish food; we have prepared a cooking demonstration and Polish recipes. We plan to sell many Polish products. The involvement of all our members is essential to preparing this event. Please remember that the festival is a primary source of income for our organization. The proceeds help us reduce the cost of the Christmas Eve celebration and fund events organized throughout the year. We offer youth confirmation of volunteer hours, and everyone else will receive a tasty Polish meal. Sign-ups are being accepted by Justyna at 901-281-1535.

OCTOBER 2–4 – CAMPING

This year's camping trip for children and interested adults will take place in Heber Springs, Arkansas. If interested, please contact Justyna Zylka-O'Brien at 901-281-1535 with questions and for registration details. If we do not receive enough registrations by September 25, the camping trip may be canceled. We also remind everyone that parents, not the organization, are responsible for children's safety during the camping trip, and that each family is required to sign a Waiver once (available on the PAS website). Have a great time!

OCTOBER 17, SATURDAY – PUMPKIN PATCH

We invite all children, youth, and adults to Menagerie Farms on October 18 from 12:00–2:00 PM for the fall festival and Pumpkin Patch.

PAS will pay admission for each child who is a PAS member. Guardians of children who are PAS members are admitted free of charge. Non-members may use group tickets. A \$5 cash parking fee per vehicle will be collected directly by Menagerie Farms staff.

NOVEMBER 6–7, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY – LECH WAŁĘSA VISIT, INTERVIEW AND GALA WITH THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE

Lech Wałęsa will be a guest of the National Cold War Center in Arkansas on November 6–7. It is only about an hour from Memphis. On Friday, November 6, renowned author John Grisham will conduct a conversation with President Wałęsa, and on Saturday the Center's annual formal Gala will take place. Invited guests will also include Gen. Wesley Clark, Asa Hutchinson, and Pavel Palazhchenko, former interpreter for Mikhail Gorbachev. Another exceptional event will be the unveiling of the largest section of the Berlin Wall outside Berlin. We warmly encourage the Polish community to attend. Seating is limited — tickets are available on the **National Cold War Center** website: *nationalcoldwarcenter.com*.

NOVEMBER 7, SATURDAY – POLISH INDEPENDENCE DAY

The gathering is planned from 5:00–8:00 PM at the Ulrich family property 9075 Cottonwood, Olive Branch in Mississippi. Applause to Joanna and Steve for their hospitality!

A Polish flag will be visible at the entrance to the property. The organization will provide traditional split pea soup, mulled wine, and other beverages. We also invite you to bring dishes or desserts to share. The program will include a bonfire and group singing of patriotic songs and well-known Polish hits.

NOVEMBER 12, SATURDAY – PREPARING HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

We will meet at Ferguson Center (Cordova) at 10:00 AM to prepare for the busy holiday season. We will provide basic decorating materials that will be used to decorate the tables and stage during the Christmas Eve celebration.

DECEMBER 5, SATURDAY – POLISH CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION

The Polish community Christmas Eve celebration organized by our organization will take place on Saturday, December 5, 2026. As last year, the gathering will be held in the hall at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, 8151 Poplar Ave, Germantown, TN 38138.

Admission to the Christmas Eve celebration remains free for organization members; admission for non-members will be \$45. The organization will provide the main traditional Christmas Eve dishes. As in previous years, registered participants will be asked to provide other traditional dishes and help prepare the dinner. Members' children will traditionally receive gifts from St. Nicholas.

We will provide the registration deadline, requirements, and organizational details by email.

PAS CONTACT INFORMATION:

To contact members of the Board, please send a message to pasofmem@gmail.com or leave a message at 901-646-1164. This number is now the official phone number of our organization.

WEBSITE AND DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

We would like to encourage everyone to use the digital form of communication, eliminating the need to print and mail the newsletter. This would provide significant savings; however, we will respect your individual preferences in this regard. Those who do not choose to receive the newsletter electronically will continue to receive the printed newsletter as in previous years.

The digital version will remain available at pasofmemphis.com. We will update the website regularly with current information about events related to our organization's activities.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

To remain a member of the Polish-American Society, annual dues are \$40 for an individual or \$80 for a family (children under 18 are exempt from dues). Dues for full-time adult students are \$20. Members who have paid their dues may receive free or reduced admission to events organized by PAS.

Please mail checks or money orders together with the completed and signed form to: Polish American Society, P.O. Box 770927, Memphis, TN 38117-0927. The form can be found at the end of this newsletter or on the PAS website. Those who prefer to complete the form and pay electronically should log in to our website at pasofmemphis.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POLISH-SPEAKING DENTIST WELCOMES PATIENTS

- **Mateusz Kieta is a third-year dental student at the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry in Memphis, TN, and welcomes adults and children for consultations with X-rays (\$90)**
- He offers teeth cleaning, cavity treatment, crowns, root canals, and dentures
 - Phone: (865) 978-7136 (cell), (901) 448-6468 (clinic)
 - mkieta@uthsc.edu (Matthew Kieta)

LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN POLAND

- For those seeking representation before administrative authorities and courts throughout Poland, we recommend contacting Legal Counsel / Attorney Dariusz Miksiewicz.
 - Phone: +48 663-892-274
 - Email: dariusz.miksiewicz@gmail.com or via WhatsApp and Messenger
 - www.facebook.com/darek.miksiewicz

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

- **Janusz Hofman**
 - Phone: (901) 289-6986 (licensed electrician)

POLISH FOOD

- **HALINKA'S POLISH EATERY – THE FIRST POLISH FOOD TRUCK IN MEMPHIS**

- **offers Polish food at festivals, cultural events, and city events**

You can find Halinka's Polish Eatery around town or book the food truck for corporate catering or a private event

For more information, please contact Magda Dutkiewicz-Vaughan

- Phone: (615) 618-1615 and QR code



- Those interested in purchasing delicious, TRADITIONAL POLISH FOOD are asked to contact **Iwona Gaye.**

- Phone: (901) 864-5251

PRESSURE WASHING

- **Andrzej Kamiński offers pressure washing services, including decks, sidewalks, and driveways.**

- Phone: (901) 859-1122

PAS 2026 EVENT CALENDAR

July	August	September
		September 1 - Scholarship competition results September 19 - Fall Picnic (D) September 26 - Jackson International Festival
October	November	December
October 2–4 - Camping (A) October 17 - Pumpkin Patch at Menagerie Farms (B)	November 6–7 - Lech Walesa Visit November 7 - Polish Independence Day (D) November 21 - Preparing Holiday Decorations (C)	December 5 - Polish Christmas Eve Celebration

(A) Trip for PAS members only. The organization covers the cost of the campsite reservation from our budget.

(B) PAS covers the admission fee for a child who is a PAS member. Non-members may use group tickets.

(C) The organization provides materials and beverages.

(D) Potluck event (everyone brings something to share). Split pea soup and bread will be purchased from the PAS budget.