

PCC Polish Journey

Newsletter of the Polish Cultural Council • Vol. 9 • Summer 2011

For those of you who attended our "Majowka in June", I don't have to remind you of what a great day we had. For those of you who weren't there, I'll describe the day and extend a little insight into what I observed.

The Polish Majowka picnic, traditionally held in May, was an idea that our President Emeritus, Merle Addams, had a few years ago. Back in the day, virtually every Polish parish and organization had some type of community based picnic in May or June, heavily attended by parishioners and members. A few years ago we resurrected this with some success but for whatever reason, we simply didn't continue. After some prodding by a generous member who wanted another one (or maybe the tradition to continue) and, who donated the money for the pavilion, we decided to give it another try.

Our Executive Director, Maria Staszkiwicz, found a great location at Boyce Park with a large, modern pavilion and an adjacent sports field where we set up a volleyball net. The picnic started at about 1pm and members, families and friends arrived throughout the afternoon towing food baskets,



pets and kids. The PCC provided refreshments including beer, water and sodas as well as a grill for those that brought kielbasa.

I think what made this Majowka a rousing success was the spontaneity of the event. For example, everyone brought food with them and virtually everyone shared their picnic

Message from the President



baskets with everyone else. Instead of having a small committee of PCC members scurrying around the picnic grove making sure food was available, everyone simply took care of themselves.

So, the picture develops something like this: about 70 people attended including children ranging from infants to teens. New people came, some Polish nationals wanting to meet people who are involved in promoting Polish culture, trying to expand their network of Polish friends. Others were long time members of the PCC and we had a few new people join on the spot. The picnic started to wind down around 6pm and there was already talk about having another one in September.

Here are a few observations. First, if you weren't there, you missed a great, fun time to meet new people and see old friends, relax and just enjoy one another. Second, we need to have more events that are spontaneous and less planned, that include our children and grandchildren, where the PCC simply acts as a sponsor, an organizer. I found that left to our individual creative devices, we can pull off an event where people just naturally work together for their common enjoyment.

Third, I was heartened to see more upcoming generations, people in their 20s, 30s and 40s participating.

We need you and here, I'll ask you to get

more involved. Let us know what type of events appeal to you because one of our important jobs is to keep together the organization, through a growing membership, so that Polish culture will thrive in the Pittsburgh area.

I sincerely invite you to talk to Maria, myself or any board member and let us know what we can do to keep you near and dear.

—Rick Pierchalski



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HISTORICAL MARKER TO HONOR POLISH-AMERICAN PILOT

On a sunny morning in June, approximately seventy people gathered on Seneca Street in Oil City, Pennsylvania. They were there to witness and celebrate the unveiling of a Pennsylvania Historical Marker honoring Colonel Francis “Gabby” Gabreski (1919 - 2002).

The event occurred on Saturday, June 25, 2011 after a year-long collaboration between the Kosciuszko Foundation of Pittsburgh, lead by John Bartus, and the Polish National Alliance Lodge 905, Oil City, lead by Michael Fedorek. These two organizations worked closely with the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission, who authorizes the placement of these markers.

Of the 2,000 plus historic markers currently installed, only a dozen mention any Polish-American individuals or accomplishments. Some of these include General Casimir Pulaski, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, and engineers Piasecki and Modjeski. Colonel Gabreski’s marker is number 13 and pays tribute to a patriot, pilot, Polish-American, and WWII and Korean War Flying Ace.

Francis Gabreski was born in Oil City in 1919 to Polish immigrants Stanislaw and Josephine Gabryszewski. He and his brothers and sisters helped their parents operate a small grocery store. After graduating in 1938 from Oil City High School, Gabreski enrolled at Notre Dame University. While there he began taking private flying lessons on the side. Gabreski left Notre Dame in 1940 when Army Air Corps recruiters came calling soon after Germany invaded Poland. Nicknamed Gabby by his fellow pilots,



Colonel Francis “Gabby” Gabreski

Gabreski was assigned to the air wing in Hawaii in late 1941. When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, the young Gabreski was one of the few aviators who managed to get an American plane into the air. Soon after he was sent on assignment as a fighter pilot in the Polish Air Force based in England.

Gabreski’s service to his country included an array of experiences, such as prisoner of war in a German stalag, commanding a peacetime air unit, and flying a fighter jet in the Korean War. Medals and ribbons festooned his proudly worn uniform. In April 1952, Gabreski was declared a jet pilot ace and joined an elite group of only seven American flyers who had been aces in both World War II and Korea. Gabreski retired from the Air Force in the fall of 1967.

The marker unveiling took place outside of PNA Lodge 905 in Oil City, a place where Gabreski had visited many times. The ceremony began with the Presentation of Colors by the Oil City VFW and a fly-over by three vintage aircraft. Cynthia Maleski Groch, Esq. then led those assembled in singing the Polish and the American National Anthems. Some of the dignitaries attending included Sonja Hawkins, Mayor of Oil City, Jan Beichner, County Commissioner, Mary Jo White, Pennsylvania State Senator, Scott Hutchinson, Pennsylvania State Representative, and Glenn Thompson, United States House Representative. The Polish community was represented by Frank Spula, President of the Polish National

Alliance, and Timothy Kuzma, President of the Polish Falcons of America. Lt. Gordon Richard, U.S. Air Force, and Lt. Col. Perry Kearick, U.S. Army, spoke on behalf of the United States Military. The man responsible for installing so many of the historical markers to honor Polish-Americans, Peter Obst from the Kosciuszko Foundation in Philadelphia, also attended the ceremony. Dr. Janusz Romanski, Vice Chairman of the Polonia Technica Association in New York City, a group of Polish-American engineers, was present at the unveiling. Dr. Romanski was a major fund raiser for this event, contacting multiple Polish organizations throughout the country.

The program concluded with the unveiling of the marker and the playing of Taps. Following the ceremony, PNA Lodge 905 served a delicious lunch to the dignitaries and guests. “Gabby” Gabreski WWII Ace, an original painting by James Sulkowski was given to the PNA lodge by the Kosciuszko Foundation of Pittsburgh to commemorate this event. John Bartus also presented a charcoal portrait of Gabreski to Michael Fedorek in appreciation for the help he and the PNA lodge provided to the Pittsburgh Kosciuszko Foundation in their group effort to make this special occasion possible.

—Charlotte Murray



Polish Journey is a quarterly publication of the Polish Cultural Council, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. Please address your correspondence to: **Polish Cultural Council, P.O. Box 81054, Pittsburgh, PA 15217-0554, tel: 412.871.3347**
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80th Annual Polish Day at Kennywood Park



Stroll down memory lane again in the lazy days of August. Remember your parents and grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings and lots of friends all gathering for the annual Polish Day at Kennywood Park. It was a thrill every child anticipated all year long.

Come relive those memories and celebrate with us just around the corner on Tuesday, August 2 for the 80th Annual Polish Day! Just like in those days of past, the Polish kitchen opening at noon will feature homemade pierogi, kielbasa, stuffed cabbage, cucumbers and sour cream, cabbage and noodles, paczki, homemade pickles and other delicacies. And, of course, Father Miro's famous potato pancakes cooked to order. The popular Bake Sale is back by demand with many delicious freshly baked homemade goodies to enjoy in the park or take home.

Enjoy your food and relax in the pavilions behind "The Jack Rabbit". Dance and sing along with strolling musicians Dave Dombrowski on his accordion and "Jumpin" John Huchrowski on his

violin from noon till three. Test your luck on the 50/50 raffle. Beginning at 2:45 the afternoon festivities will include the Polish Folk Concert by the Karuzela Chorus under the direction of Dr. Neil Stahurski. Immediately following will be the 3:00 Mass celebrated by Reverend Joseph Swierczynski, Pastor Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and featuring the Karuzela Chorus.

Following the Mass, you can enjoy the Presentation of the Polonian of the Year dedication, awarded this year to Joseph Kaminski for his undying dedication to all Polonia. Joe serves as Vice President of the Polish Cultural Council, the National Director, Polish National Alliance, the President of the Polish American Congress Western Pennsylvania Division, the Director of the Kosciuszko Foundation Pittsburgh Chapter and National Director of the Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation.

The festivities also include the crowning of Miss Polonia 2011.

Tap your feet and enjoy the Lajkoniki Dancers

under the direction of Frank Pociask sponsored by the Holy Family Polish National Catholic Church of McKeesport. Throughout the program, there will be a live broadcast of "Frania's Polka Celebration" WEDO 810 Radio from 3:00-5:00. At 6:30, it's time to put on your dancing shoes and celebrate 55 years of Polka music with the popular Andy Fenus and the Trel Tones Band at the main pavilion located near the Polish Kitchen.

Discounted tickets purchased in advance from Polish Cultural Council are:

Ride All Day (ages 3-54)	\$ 24.00
Ride All Day (ages 55-69)	\$ 14.00
Over 70 (with coupon)	\$ 8.50
After 5 p.m. (ages 3-54 with coupon)	\$ 14.50
Age 2 and under	FREE

FOR TICKETS AND COUPONS CALL: 412-771-1254
FOR GENERAL INFORMATION CALL: 412-486-1605

Dining, Dancing and Debutantes!

Mark your calendars for another memorable event brought to you by the Polish Cultural Council. Join as we celebrate the Nineteenth Annual Bal Polonaise and Presentation of Debutantes on Saturday, December 3, 2011 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Pittsburgh International Airport, Coraopolis, PA., just 15 miles from Downtown, Pittsburgh. Nineteen years and as strong as ever, this year's Bal is positive to keep culture and pride alive and well in our community.

The evening starts off with a cocktail reception

where guests can mingle through cascading waterfalls and a trout stream winding throughout the hotel atrium. Over 125 young musicians from North Allegheny High School Strolling Strings shall serenade guests as dinner is served. Bud Hudenski and his Orchestra will entertain your listening and dancing pleasure!

Watch as this year's Debutantes are presented with their escorts, swirling gracefully throughout the intricate whirl of reels and promenades of the Polonaise, one of the National Dances of Poland.

This year's Bal offers so much more than before! An open bar, free parking, prizes and surprises! Mark your calendars for this highly anticipated evening brought to you by the PCC! Tickets for this special evening are only \$125.00 per person.

Join us for this special evening, for reservations or Debutante information; contact Irene Addams 412-486-1605 or PCC: 412-871-3347.

—Marie Zielmanski-Fallon

Interview with “Officer’s Wife” film director Piotr Uzarowicz

In May, The Polish Cultural Council sponsored a showing of the new documentary, *An Officer’s Wife*, Piotr Uzarowicz’s personal account of the Katyn Forest massacre. Piotr’s grandfather was one of the 19,000 Polish officers executed by the Soviets as prisoners of war. We invited the young director to Pittsburgh to discuss the film, resulting in an engaging question and answer period that followed the screening. For those that saw the film, I’m sure you’ll find the follow-up interview of interest. For those that did not, take heart, we are trying to arrange another visit by Piotr and his film for Polish sidebar at the 2011 Three Rivers Film Festival.

REP: Did your quest for answers from Katyn begin the day that you opened your father’s safe deposit box and found and read your grandmother’s diary?

PU: Before I discovered the diary, I had always had an interest in Katyn because of my grandfather’s death, and actually decided to make some sort of movie about it before the discovery of the diary. At that time, my thought was to do something about my grandfather’s death. But when I discovered the diary, and began to read my grandmother’s account of her life waiting for his return while in Siberia, I decided to make a different movie, a movie about how it involved the entire family. A family tragedy that continues today. There are many children alive today whose father’s were murdered and living with the fact that no justice, no honor has been provided for their sacrifice. The death of their father’s was just the beginning of their ordeal.

REP: What was it like to read your grandmother’s diary the first time?

PU: It was a very emotional afternoon, sitting in a little room at the bank, reading through the documents...each line more surprising than the next...literally sitting there in shock...trying to take it all in.

REP: How did you begin to get this project off the ground?

PU: I began reading a phenomenal amount of books on Katyn...this led me to a group of people, the authors that I could talk to. And I did. People like Norman Davies and Anne Applebaum, who are experts in their fields. I sent them emails, and they responded. They all wanted to participate.

REP: What’s interesting to me is the tremendous undertaking, by someone unconnected to Hollywood, to write, produce and finally, as you’re doing now, to promote the film. Let’s talk a little about the process and the hurdles.

PU: First, the film, from start to finish took 5.5

years. In terms of the writing, documentaries are tough because there is no script. There is no screenplay. There is kind of an outline when you are shooting material, and you think here’s where I’d like to go: by asking questions that might give you answers you are looking for. So in essence, a screenplay for a documentary is written on the screen, and follows what someone has said, not what you want them to say.

REP: That’s interesting, something I really hadn’t thought about, but documentaries, live documentaries are going to be inherently unpredictable until the editing room. What about the producing, how does a documentary get produced?

PU: Well, it’s difficult because the producer spends a lot of time figuring out how to finance the film. This difficulty comes early on. The majority of money came from family and friends and virtually no funds came from any national Polish organization. About 80% said they didn’t have the funds. I did have help from the Academy Award winning Polish composer Jan Kaczmarek, but that came much later. And actually, I’m still raising funds and still paying off the credit cards I used to help finance the project. Interestingly, I’ve had your classic little old Polish ladies from places like a screening in a Chicago café, giving me \$50 to help with the financing, but aside from that I still have a tremendous need for funds. For example, I want to send the film to a number of film festivals across the United States, but most of them have entrance fees, I have to make posters, DVD screens, post cards, all the necessary things to distribute the film but it costs money.

REP: Well that brings us to the important aspect of promoting the film; tell me a little about that.

PU: Well, having an independent film puts you at a disadvantage because I don’t have an in-house marketing team selling the film to theatres, distributors etc. I do this myself, but the important thing is to get this film accepted into a few film festivals to help create a buzz. But submitting is not enough, there is no guarantee they will present the film. Film festivals are where the distributors are and if the film is ever to be successful, I have to get their attention.

REP: Well, I know you still are in need of funds to promote the film, where can we get some information if we want to make a “Polish café” donation?

PU: Kindly contact me through my email at piotr@goatshills.com. I’ll make sure I get back to you quickly.

REP: We know that you aired the film in Poland, tell me a little bit about the reaction of this film to

Polish audiences where Katyn is still in front of minds for a large portion of the population?

PU: We screened it twice in Poland, once at the Camera Image Film Festival in Bydgoszcz and the other in April, in Warsaw, at the IPN, or the “Institute of National Remembrance”. What was most interesting about the reaction in Poland was that, and this is not what I expected, but it seemed that each person immediately applied their own current political view to the film. So, the after discussion turned into a political discussion. One side convinced that President Kaczynski’s plane was sabotaged by the Russians and the other side pushing away because they are tired of Katyn being used as a political tool. I really don’t understand the ins and outs of this, so I basically removed myself from the discussion. One final comment is that I am amazed that this event at Katyn has been completely usurped by the current political trends and is being used to steer the country one way or the other.

REP: How do you think your film was received in Pittsburgh?

PU: I had a great time in Pittsburgh, it was my first time there. Everyone was friendly, helpful and nice and that is not always the case. The screening went flawlessly and it was great to see a full house. I still remember during the question and answer period, the army veteran who stood up and said he was a History Channel fanatic and that my film was much more powerful than what he had seen there...the film moved him.

REP: Thanks Piotr, the film was quite moving and I can say that we were very impressed with your work and hope to see you again in the fall at the Three Rivers Film festival.

PU: Thank you and if you would like to find more information on the documentary, you can go to the following website: <https://public.me.com/puzar>

—Rick Pierchalski



Viewers speak with Piotr Uzarowicz after the screening.

Outstanding Polonian



Distinguished guests gather with Fr. Swierczynski to congratulate him.

On Saturday, June 4, the Kosciuszko Foundation of Pittsburgh named Father Joseph Swierczynski the Outstanding Polonian for 2011. Father Swierczynski was honored for his support of Polonia and his dedication to preserving Polish customs and traditions at a luncheon held at the Radisson Hotel in Greentree.

Father Swierczynski has served several parishes in the Pittsburgh area, including St. Stephen in Hazelwood, St. Alphonsus in Springdale, St. Adalbert in the South Side, St. Josaphat also in the South Side, and St. Thomas More in Bethel Park. Since July 17, 1995, Father has been the shepherd of the beautiful and historic Immaculatae Heart of Mary Parish in Polish Hill.

In becoming Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Father's long time dream and ambition became a reality – pastor of a church named after Mary combined with the fact that the parish is ethnic, namely Polish. Father Swierczynski's main concern is to lead his flock to a greater love of God and His Mother, especially through the Liturgical ethnic customs and traditions. He hopes to make us aware of the beauty of our heritage and culture, and instill in us a desire to proudly preserve these customs and traditions which are a part of us. How can anyone forget Father's annual Christmas and Easter displays! Throngs of people come yearly to enjoy and admire his artistic work.

The luncheon began with the singing of the Polish and American National Anthems led by Elizabeth Groch. The invocation was given by Rev. Canon Joseph Sredzinski. Following lunch a musical program was presented by Maddie Georgi, award-winning singer-songwriter from the North Hills. She performed several selections especially chosen to pay tribute to Father Swierczynski.

Several distinguished guests expressed their admiration and appreciation to Father Swierczynski. They included John Bartus, President of the Kosciuszko Foundation of Pittsburgh, Joe Kaminski, President of the Polish American Congress – Western PA Division, Dr. Jan Saykiewicz, Pittsburgh Consul of the Republic of Poland, and Rev. Canon Joseph Sredzinski.

The program concluded with a presentation to Father Swierczynski of an original painting of his beloved Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. The painting was created by local artist James Sulkowski and presented to Father by the Kosciuszko Foundation of Pittsburgh. —Charlotte Murray

Message from the Executive Director

It has been more than six months since I took over the position of Executive Director of the PCC. I would like to thank you for your support and encouragement during this transition period. The PCC is a growing organization which greatly relies on volunteer work. Your participation in our events is a key to continued growth and future success. Your work as volunteers is invaluable and I would like to thank everybody involved. One way to support our organization is to become a member and also to encourage your friends to join us. I would like to kindly remind those who did not pay their dues for 2011 to renew your membership today. There is a membership form on the next page for your convenience.

Maria Staszkievicz

PCC News

PCC Presents New Polish Films This Coming Fall Save the Date!

The Polish Sidebar at the Three Rivers Film Festival November 5th through November 19th

We are proud to announce that PCC has invited the highly acclaimed director Feliks Falk, to come to Pittsburgh and present his new film, "Joanna". Also, "The Officer's Wife" documentary by Piotr Uzarowicz will be screened again in November. Additionally the PCC will present three new films. The titles to be announced in the fall. So, please mark your calendars. We encourage you to come see the movies, meet the directors and enjoy the Polish films presented during the Three Rivers Film Festival.

We would like to welcome and congratulate our newest PCC Board Members

EVA TUMIEL-KOZAK, former executive director of the Polish Cultural Council, brings to the PCC her expertise of many years as arts' manager and producer/commentator on the National Public Radio, and of the series in Canada of several programs on Polish Music.

ANDRZEJ WOJCIESZYNSKI, our longtime member and supporter, graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering in 1993. He is a Senior Technical Director of Specialty Products and Alloys, with ATI Powder Metals, and Past Chairman of the Pittsburgh Golden Triangle Chapter, ASM International.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Just fill in this form and mail it with your dues to the address shown below. Thank You!

Keeping Polish Culture Alive!

Polish Cultural Council
P.O. Box 81054
Pittsburgh, PA 15217-0554
www.PolishCulturalCouncil.org

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

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Type of one year membership:
 (January 1 to December 31)

NEW RENEWAL

- Student (\$10)
- Individual (\$25)
- Family (\$35)
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Polish Speaking? Yes No

I would like to get involved in one of the committees:

- Ostatki, Winter White Party
- Bal Polonaise
- Film Festival
- Performing & Visual Arts Events
- Kennywood Day
- Newsletter
- Fundraising
- Community Outreach and Membership

Additionally, I would like to support PCC in the amount of
 \$ _____

Please make your check payable to the Polish Cultural Council

OASIS POLISH GROUP BIDS "DO WIDZENIA"



After twenty-five years of promoting and preserving Polish culture, the OASIS Polish Group held its last meeting on March 23, 2011. OASIS activities were cancelled due to the loss of funding. Only two programs, the tutoring and computer classes, will continue to operate.

The OASIS Polish Group originated in 1986. The term OASIS stands for Older Adult Service and Information System. Executive Director, Anita Lopatin, invited anyone 55 or older to come and promote their various cultural heritages. At that time, many sponsors contributed to the funding of this group.

Soon after, the OASIS Polish Group came under the dynamic leadership of Irene Pryniewicz with the assistance of Emily Leput. It was decided that meetings would be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The meeting room was on the tenth floor of Kaufman's Department Store in downtown Pittsburgh.

In the early years, attendance at the meetings was excellent. Sometimes as many as fifty people would be present at a gathering. The topics of these meetings were usually of a Polish nature. The programs were open to anyone interested in Polish ethnicity. Guest speakers of all types were invited to talk. Generally they represented a Polish organization or a topic about health, the law, or some particular cause. At times, special films concerning Polish culture were shown. On special occasions, such as Easter or Christmas, special luncheons were scheduled at fine restaurants. Even several bus trips to Chicago and Toronto were planned.

The OASIS Polish Group was responsible for reviving Polish customs of all types. During the Christmas season, a program of koledy (Polish Christmas carols) was presented for several years by the group at the PPG Wintergarden.

Through profits from fundraisers, the OASIS Polish Group helped to financially support multiple groups and organizations. Some of these groups included numerous Polish radio programs, Pittsburgh Polish dance groups, the Polish Room at the University of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, the Polish Museum in Chicago, Illinois, the Bal Polonaise, the John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C., Huminska Anioly, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on Polish Hill, and many other Polish churches and convents.

The group published a monthly newsletter with the help of Jane Pelczarski. OASIS sweatshirts and T-shirts were designed and introduced by Irene Pryniewicz. Members wore them proudly at various functions and when they volunteered to help other Polish organizations.

For the final meeting on March 23, Grace Merta created a special bookmark for the attendees as a reminder of happier years. The group wishes to say "dziekuje" to everyone connected with the OASIS Polish Group through the years. Your friendship and assistance were greatly appreciated.

—Jane M. Pelczarski

Polish Language Classes: Very Rewarding

Nestled on Fisk Street between the Carnegie Library and some of Lawrenceville's famous row houses, Pittsburgh's Catholic Youth Center holds one of Allegheny County's best deals. For a nominal fee, the Polish language is taught by native speakers to the willing and able. Although, the classrooms and locations change throughout the building, the quality of the instruction never wavers and the teacher's spirits never flag. When one walks into the building on the first floor, the teachers are there to greet. If lucky, the entering student can even hear Polish spoken between the two teachers, which is always a treat. Nothing inspires the faithful and inquisitive like hearing the real thing in action. The rhythms and cadences of spoken Polish are on full display until a few minutes after 10:00 AM, whereupon the teachers head to their classes and that week's instruction begins anew.

Malgosia Weber teaches the Beginning Class. She does an excellent job teaching nouns, verbs, verb conjugation, numbers, and seasons. She has a ready smile and a willingness to help anyone who has a question about their Polish, both spoken and written. Her students engage in many activities that build upon their learning from week to week, enforcing their skill-sets and helping them to reach higher levels of Polish language understanding.

Pani Gosia Wojcieszynska is the Advanced Class teacher. She engages students in conversations, dialogues, and book activities, while also encouraging students to compose their own dialogues. Pani Gosia also provides educational anecdotes from her life growing up in Poland and additionally offers fascinating insight on how Polish culture and traditions differs from those of America. Class discussions are very lively and rewarding for all of her students, as all are encouraged to participate. It is this engagement that makes class time worthwhile, and a personal weekly event.

I will say that attending Polish Language School is truly one of the highlights of my week. Both teachers are dedicated to instructing students in the language and value the contributions of their students. Moreover, my fellow students are all wonderful people and I have had occasion to break bread with them outside of school. My name is James Clark and I encourage you attend the program, every Saturday after Labor Day starting at 10 AM and lasting until 12 Noon. A grand time will be had by all.

POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

A few of our members have inquired about the possibility of starting Polish language classes for children. Please let us know if you are interested in signing up your children for the classes in September.

**Please call : 412-871-3347 or
e-mail : pccorg.ms@gmail.com**

REGISTER FOR POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES WILL RESUME ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th, 2011 AT 10 AM, AT THE CYA BUILDING IN LAWRENCEVILLE, CORNER OF FISK & GOVERNMENT LANE, BETWEEN PENN AVE. & BUTLER. CLASSES RUN FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY.

Polish Language Classes Registration Form 2011-2012

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Class Choice: Beginner Advanced

In the event of an emergency or change of schedule, list the telephone numbers where you should be contacted.

Day _____

Cell/Evening _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Classes start the first Saturday following Labor Day and run on Saturdays from 10 AM – 12 Noon until the middle of May. They are held at the CYA building in Lawrenceville, 286 Main Street (entrance from Government Lane & Fisk).

Registration and Class Fees:

Individual: \$75.00. PCC Member: \$50.00
Family: \$100.00. PCC Member: \$75.00

Please make your check payable to Polish Cultural Council and mail to:

**Polish Cultural Council
P.O. Box 81054
Pittsburgh, PA 15217-0554**

Polish Cultural Council
P.O. BOX 81054
Pittsburgh, PA 15217-0554



VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

It may be hard to believe, but Poland is still at odds over the US imposition of visas for Poles wishing to travel to the United States. In a nutshell, if a country is "visa waived", all one has to do to travel to the US is have a valid passport from your country of origin and basically not overstay your time in the US, which is typically 90 days. Currently Poles traveling to the US, regardless of reason; family emergency, funeral, tourism etc. must apply for permission to enter the country. This time consuming process, starts with costs in excess of \$100, and ends in a three minute interview at a US consulate in Poland, which is an arbitrary decision and whose outcome is completely at the discretion of the interviewing agent. About 10% are rejected.

There is a move afoot in Congress, again, to place Poland in the same category as most of the free and democratic countries, and drop the visa process. These would include countries like Italy, Great Britain, France etc. but also includes some surprises like Slovenia and Latvia. The House Bill is H.R. 9595 and sponsored by Rep. Mike Quigley of Illinois with nine co-sponsors. The Senate bill is S.487 and sponsored by Barbara Mikulski of Maryland.

Now is the time to write your congressman and senators and demand that they vote in favor of these bills. This article does not have to reiterate the solid ally position the US has with Poland, the losses Poles suffered in Iraq or Afghanistan or the virtual absence of any "terroristic" threat coming from Poland. The time is NOW.

Take a minute and simply phone, email or send a letter to your Congressional representative or senator. To find their phone number or addresses simply go to www.house.gov for your congressman or www.senate.gov.



PLEASE SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES OFFERING A DISCOUNT TO THE PCC MEMBERS:

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ALFRED'S DELI PLUS – 5%

Ania Misiaszek
back to: 3041 Brereton St.,
Pittsburgh - Polish Hill
(Opposite Immaculate Heart
of Mary Church)
412-682-3100

EUROPEAN SKIN CARE

CLINIC – 10%

Grazyna Bobak,
Owner-Esthetician
315 Morgantown Road,
Uniontown, PA 15401
724-438-7881

MEDITERRA

BAKEHOUSE – 10%

Nicholas Ambeliotis
801 Parkway View Drive,
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
412-490-9130

S&D POLISH DELI – 5%

Dorota & Slawek Pyszkowski
2204 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh,
PA 15222
412-281-2906

RELIABLE LIAISON – 10%

Website Design
(Polish & English)
Konrad Boryszewski
konrad@reliableliaison.com
Internet marketing and
advertising: SEO services,
Internet marketing and
advertising: SEO services,
Craigslist marketing, Internet
advisory, Local listings,
Search Engines, Blogs and
Forums Submissions