



OSTATKI

Winter White Party



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The Ostatki Tradition

The Last days of Carnival are called "OSTATKI" in Poland. It is a time of fun and frivolity, providing Poles with the last chance to dance, enjoy meat, pastries and other rich foods and alcoholic beverages before the beginning of Lent. This year Ostatki will be celebrated on Saturday, February 21.

Polish Vodka

Vodka originated in Poland in the early Middle Ages, and it has had a long and distinguished history as Poland's national drink. The word "vodka" or "wodka" is the Polish diminutive for "water" and was originally used for medicinal purpose, such as tonics and various remedies. It was also called "gorzalka", indicating its strength, a term used even today. Flavored vodkas were produced by infusing the spirit with aromatic herbs or extracts and were also utilized in perfumes. From the sixteenth century to the end of the eighteenth, vodka distilling became a significant Polish national industry. In 1572, the privilege to distill vodka was given to the aristocracy, whereupon most Polish manor houses set up their own

still to distill the beverage according to their secret recipes. Monasteries also were the center of production. Eventually vodka production spread to the cities and was known in Cracow as early as 1550, from where vodka was exported as far as Silesia. By 1580, the city of Poznan became the country's most important center of production, with over 49 distilleries producing not only vodka but other liqueurs and mead.

Soon the Polish vodka gained a significant international prestige that continues to this day. In Poland, vodka is most often accompanied by "zakaski", appetizers of wide variety, made from numerous traditional ingredients. In recent years, an impressive number of outstanding vodkas has been produced by various Polish distilleries, many using ancient recipes and time-honored production processes. Some of these vodkas are made from potatoes, while the majority are made from grain, particularly Polish rye, which lends its distinctly, slightly sweet aroma and gentle flavor.

Thanks to the Polish traditional high standards for quality, many of these vodkas have gained great international distinction for their purity, taste and time-honored distillation processes.

2010 OSTATKI COMMITTEE

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Polish Culinary Table:
The Committee and Barbara & Leon Ochwat



The Polish Cultural Council

Cordially invites you to our annual

OSTATKI • Winter White Party

Presenting a Vodka Tasting and Polish Culinary Table,
live music of the Continental Dukes, and vodka raffle!

Saturday, February 13, 2010 • 7:30 – 11:00 p.m.

Pittsburgh Center for the Arts
The Marshall Building Galleries
6300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

\$65 PCC Members \$75 Non-members

RSVP by **Friday, February 5, 2010**

Reservations are limited to first 200 guests

For more information call 412.871.3347

Evening Attire



The Polish Cultural Council's mission is to showcase the finest in Polish culture and promote unity among the region's Polish-American community. The PCC is a 501©3 organization, publishing a quarterly newsletter, The Polish Journey, and often partnering with many community organizations such as the University of Pittsburgh, The Carnegie Museums, The Pittsburgh Filmmakers, WQED Multimedia, among others.

For more information, please contact
Rick Pierchalski, Chairman,
Col. Merle Addams, President or
Eva Tumiel-Kozak, Executive Director;

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

412.871.3347, or visit our website:
www.PolishCulturalCouncil.org

DIRECTIONS TO THE PITTSBURGH CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Galleries of the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts—The Marshall Building
6300 Fifth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 (Shadyside)
parking on the premises

From the Parkway West

Take I 279 North through the Fort Pitt Tunnels. When you exit the tunnel onto the Fort Pitt Bridge – stay in the right lane toward Parkway East – Monroeville. Take exit No. 6 (Squirrel Hill) to Murray Ave. Turn right onto Forward Ave and, at the first light, turn left onto Shady Ave. Follow all the way to the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts at the corner of Fifth Avenue – yellow mansion on the right.

From the Parkway East

Take exit No. 6 (Squirrel Hill) and follow the directions above.

From Route 28

Take Highland Park bridge to Washington Blvd. At the corner of Penn and Fifth Avenue, turn right onto Fifth Ave. Turn left at the corner of Shady and Fifth Avenues and immediately left into the Center's parking lot.

For more information on the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts and the Filmmakers, visit their website: www.pittsburgharts.org