

## APS Newsletter Issue 3/2023

**AUSTIN POLISH SOCIETY** is a non-profit organization managed by a small group of people passionate about preserving and sharing their Polish heritage. Our activities vary in scale and content. There are plenty of opportunities for involvement and participation that relate to various interests: Polish culture, holiday and culinary traditions, history, language, current affairs, and more. We love to share it all with the local community and invite anyone interested to get involved. Be part of the fun!

Our next Board of Directors meeting is on **April 3rd from 7:00-8:30 pm.**

Send us an email at [austinpolsociety@gmail.com](mailto:austinpolsociety@gmail.com) and we will add you to the invite.

We are always open to suggestions and new ideas. If you can volunteer a few hours, drop us a line by filling this [FORM!](#)

### ~ UPCOMING APS EVENTS ~

(For more information click on each event title)

#### **THE 17th ANNUAL BIGOS COOK-OFF & HIKE**

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 25 at 2 pm

**WHERE:** Woodland Park at River Place, 8820 Big View Dr., Austin  
If you are interested in competing, please let us know by Wednesday, March 22, 2023. We are looking forward to your participation in the contest and hope your entry is the most flavorful.

**CONTACT:** text Angelika @ 830-385-5389 or email  
[aps.angelika@gmail.com](mailto:aps.angelika@gmail.com)



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#### **EGG DECORATING “PISANKI”, EGG HUNT, and EASTER PALM MAKING WORKSHOP**

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 1 at 1:00 pm

**WHERE:** Woodland Park at River Place, 8820 Big View Dr., Austin

**CONTACT:** text Angelika @ 830-385-5389 or email  
[aps.angelika@gmail.com](mailto:aps.angelika@gmail.com)

We invite children and adults alike to enjoy arts and crafts in the beautiful surroundings of River Place Park. Please, bring a basket for the Egg Hunt.



## “ŚWIĘCONKA” – BLESSING OF THE EASTER FOOD BASKETS

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 8 at 12 pm

**WHERE:** University Catholic Center, 2010 University Ave., Austin, TX 78705

*Święconka* meaning “the blessing of the Easter baskets”, is one of the most enduring and beloved Polish traditions held on Holy Saturday during Easter.

Traditionally, the baskets are filled with decorated hardboiled eggs, lamb-shaped butter or sugar, bread, meats - ham, sausage, smoked bacon, or lamb - salt, cheese, horseradish, pepper, oil, vinegar, and wine.



### **~ UPCOMING EVENTS FROM OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ~**

(For more information click on each event title)

#### **THE POLISH HERITAGE CENTER virtual program:**

#### **POLISH HERITAGE – A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE presented by Genny Kraus**

**WHEN:** Tuesday, March 28 at 6:00 pm

**WHERE:** Virtual Program [LINK](#)

Genny Kraus is a connoisseur of Polish dance. She is featured in the PHC’s temporary exhibit on Polish women. She has been recognized for her dedication to preserving her Polish heritage and culture by the Polish American Priests Association, Polish American Council of Texas, Institute of Texan Cultures, and many other organizations.



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#### **POLISH CLUB at UT presents Professor Wojciech Sadurski**

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 1 at 10 am CT

**WHERE:** Virtual meeting. Register at this link: [www.texaspolishclub.org](http://www.texaspolishclub.org)

The Polish Club is excited to announce their fourth and final guest speaker of the Spring 2023 semester: Poland’s leading constitutional scholar, former Visiting Professor at Yale, author, and political activist, Dr. Wojciech Sadurski.

Professor Sadurski will be delivering a speech entitled “A Pandemic of Populists”.



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**KONSULAT GENERALNY RP w Houston oraz INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ** zapraszają na prezentacje wystawy: "Polacy ratujący Żydów w czasie II wojny światowej" oraz prelekcje na temat rodziny Ulmów.

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**PBS DOCUMENTARY “REMEMBER THIS” ABOUT JAN KARSKI (POLISH WWII HERO)** available to watch until Sunday, April 16 (check local listings).

## ~ POLISH TRADITION AROUND EASTER TIME~

### **EASTER PALM**

Traditionally, Palm Sunday ends the period of Lent and begins the Holy Week of the passion and death of Christ until the glorious Resurrections. It is a celebration to commemorate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. In Poland, the tradition of blessing Easter palms dates back to the XI century. The most important church celebration of Palm Sunday is the procession with palms. In Poland, willow branches are often used to make Easter palms. It was believed that willow branches blessed on Palm Sunday ensure good health, wealth, and happiness.

### **EGG PAINTING - "PISANKI"**

On the Saturday before Easter Sunday, Poles paint hard-boiled eggs (called pisanki). Some use store-brought kits, which make the coloring and decorating easier. Others continue to color eggs the traditional way – with boiled onion skins. Painting with liquid wax is another traditional way of decorating Easter eggs. Wax creates a barrier that prevents the dye from coloring the protected areas of the eggshell. The egg is then dipped into different dye colors until the desired design is achieved. When the wax is melted off by gently heating the egg over a candle or in warm water, a beautiful, colorful, and intricate pattern is revealed.

### **BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD BASKET - "ŚWIĘCONKA"**

This is one of the most enduring and beloved Polish Easter traditions. Baskets containing a sampling of Easter foods are brought to church to be blessed on Holy Saturday. The basket is traditionally lined with a white linen and decorated with sprigs of boxwood (bukszpan). Observing the creativity of other parishioners is one of the special joys of the event.

### **EASTER MONDAY - "ŚMIGUS-DYNGUS"**

Also known as "Wet Monday", is a tradition which, in short, involves people throwing copious amounts of water at each other. (Water being a symbol of life and renewal). On Easter Monday, boys in the countryside would be allowed to drench girls with water and smack them with branches of pussy willow. Although it sounds terrible, it was usually meant as a way to show their affection (and likely resulted in some marriages later on).



~ !POLISH EASTER FOOD! ~

Holidays allow us a pause in everyday busy hassle and provide an occasion for reflection and togetherness. Sharing traditional meals helps us connect with each other.

The Austin Polish community is lucky to have at least two local businesses where we can find foods that will make our Easter table brim with traditional dishes.

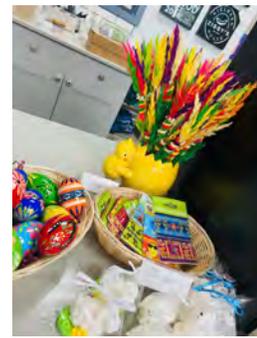
**APOLONIA CATERING** is accepting orders for their specially prepared Easter menu until March 31, 2023.

**PICK UP** from their Pflugerville kitchen on **Friday, April 7th, from 12 pm to 2 pm.** Follow this link to [VIEW MENU & ORDER ONLINE](#)



**ZIGGY'S KIELBASA HOUSE** is all stocked up for Easter with many flavors of pierogi, fresh white kielbasa, butter lambs, and many Polish products.

**Store address:** 2403 US 183 Suite 104, Leander, TX, United States, Texas



**BORDERLESS EUROPEAN MARKET** is also stocked up with many Eastern European products.

**Store address:** 2121 W. Palmer Ln # 113, Austin, TX 78727



## ~ POPULAR PAST EVENTS ~

Many thanks to all who prepared and volunteered for one of the APS' annual favorites: "Ognisko"! This popular event took place on March 4 in Camp Ben McCullough.



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**HIKE** - Thank you Agnieszka Ozarowska for organizing another great hike!



## ~ INSIDE APS ~

**APS MOBILE LIBRARY** is running for the entire year. We bring books to different APS events, but if you would like to borrow or return books, you don't have to wait. Please, email us with your request or questions at [aps.angelika@gmail.com](mailto:aps.angelika@gmail.com)

For the list of books and other information click on the link: [POLSKIE KSIĄZKI](#).

APS offers **POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS** during the school year. For more information, please click on the link: [Polish Language Classes](#).

## ~ SUPPORT POLISH CULTURE IN AUSTIN ~

By becoming an Austin Polish Society member you help spread knowledge of Polish culture, traditions, history, and art, in central Texas.

Renew your **2023 MEMBERSHIP** now.

If you know of any events that could be of interest to the Polish community

[CONTACT US](#)