

## APS Newsletter Issue 4/2023

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

Our next Board of Directors meeting is on **May 1st from 7:00-8:30 pm**.  
Email us at [austinpolishsociety@gmail.com](mailto:austinpolishsociety@gmail.com), and we will add you to the invite.  
If you can volunteer a few hours, drop us a line by filling out this [FORM!](#)  
We are always open to suggestions and new ideas.

### ~ UPCOMING APS EVENTS ~

(For more information, click on each event title)

#### **"MAJÓWKA" - POLISH PICNIC**

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 13th

**TIME:** 12:00 - 6:00 pm

**WHERE:** Woodland Park at River Place, 8820 Big View Dr., Austin  
Austin Polish Society invites you to a Polish Picnic "Majówka" and Mother's Day celebration!

Bring your picnic baskets with preferred food and drinks, your family & friends, and your favorite sporting gear (frisbees, badminton, other outdoor games). More details on our website: [www.austinpolishsociety.org](http://www.austinpolishsociety.org)



### **Mark Your Calendars For The 18th AUSTIN POLISH FILM FESTIVAL November 2-5, 2023**

The Austin Polish Film Festival (APFF) is unique among all the film festivals in Austin, not only because it brings Polish feature films, documentaries, shorts, animations, and the filmmakers from Poland, but also because it promotes connections between Polish and Austin creative worlds. For example, in the past, festival companion events included exhibits of world-famous Polish film posters, meetings with artists, discussions, and promotions of film music. The role of the APFF is to bring quality Polish films to Austin audiences and expand awareness of Polish arts and culture.



## ~ UPCOMING EVENTS FROM OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ~

(For more information, click on each event title)

### CLASSICAL MUSIC FOR THE WORLD PRESENTS: SPRING FESTIVAL 2023

*Sounds for All*, the spring festival of Classical Music for the World, celebrates the universality of sound, and specifically of sound organized in the language and style of what is known as “classical music.” Several concerts are planned for the month of April. Please visit the website: [www.classicalmusicfortheworld.org](http://www.classicalmusicfortheworld.org)



### CZECH THAT FILM FESTIVAL

Czech That Film Festival presents their 2023 film festival on April 4- May 3 with weekly screenings. Many of our Polish film fans love czeski film! Please, visit their website for details: [www.czechthatfilmtexas.com](http://www.czechthatfilmtexas.com)



### WOJCIECH KORFANTY AND STRIVING FOR FREEDOM OF POLISH SILESIA

**Presented by:** Dr. Piotr Przybylski, Assistant Director for Polish Studies  
University of St. Thomas-Houston  
**WHEN:** May 2nd at 6:00 pm  
**WHERE:** Virtual Program  
For more information visit <https://polishheritagecentertx.org/>



### THE 232ND ANNIVERSARY OF POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 4th at 6:00 PM  
**WHERE:** Our Lady of Czestochowa Roman Catholic Church  
(1731 Blalock Rd, Houston, TX 77080)  
**ADMISSION:** FREE and open to all



### HOUSTON POLISH MAY FESTIVAL

The Houston Polish Festival is celebrated annually during the first weekend of May, in honor of Poland’s National Constitution Day, May 3. The Festival features authentic home-cooked Polish food, music, dance, and vendors.  
**WHEN:** May 5-7, 2023  
**WHERE:** Our Lady of Czestochowa Roman Catholic Church  
More information on the festival website: [www.houstonpolishfestival.com](http://www.houstonpolishfestival.com)



### EuroCircle PARTY

**WHEN:** Friday, May 5th at 6 pm  
**WHERE:** SIMONA’S at Colton House Hotel  
2510 South Congress, Austin. TX 78704  
More information: [www.austinpolishsociety.org](http://www.austinpolishsociety.org)



## ~ POLISH TRADITIONS, HOLIDAYS, and HISTORY IN MAY ~

In Poland, three holidays at the beginning of May, form a long holiday weekend, known as Majówka. They are: **International Workers' Day** ( Święto Pracy) on May 1st., **Polish National Flag Day** ( Dzień Flagi) on May 2nd., and **Constitution Day** (Święto Konstytucji Trzeciego Maja) on May 3rd.

**LABOR DAY's** first celebration in Poland took place on May 1, 1890. In 1950, during the communist dominance in Poland, it became a national holiday. For years it was celebrated by obligatory parades. Today it is mainly used to relax during an extended weekend.

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**POLISH NATIONAL FLAG DAY** is a national holiday in Poland introduced by an act issued on 20 February 2004 and is celebrated on May 2nd. On the same day, the **Day of Polonia and Poles Abroad** is celebrated.

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The adoption of the **POLISH CONSTITUTION** by the Sejm of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth on May 3, 1791, is considered to be one of the crucial points in Poland's history and one of the country's major achievements. May 3rd Constitution was the first written national constitution in Europe (and the second oldest in the world after the one in the US). May 3rd became an official holiday in 1919 when Poland gained independence after years of partitioning. The holiday was not celebrated under the communist government. It was re-established as a national holiday after the fall of communism in 1989. Today, celebrations include parades (including an annual military parade) and speeches from national Polish leaders.

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### "The Constitution of 3 May 1791" - painting by Jan Matejko

This is one of the most famous paintings by Matejko. It depicts King Stanislaus Augustus, together with members of the Grand Sejm and citizens of Warsaw, entering St John's Cathedral to swear in the new national constitution after the Grand Sejm had adopted it in the Royal Castle (visible in the background). Today, *The Constitution of 3 May 1791* painting can be seen in the Royal Castle in Warsaw.

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### NATIONAL VICTORY DAY - MAY 8th

National Victory Day was proclaimed a national holiday on April 24, 2015. It commemorates the Allied forces' victory over Hitler's Germany. After six years of fighting and an estimated 70-85 million deaths, the war ended with Nazi Germany's unconditional capitulation on 8 May 1945 at 10.30 PM. Military action ceased exactly at 11:01 PM.



## ~ LOCAL POLISH ORGANIZATIONS & BUSINESSES ~

**DOT DOT DOT CONNECT** was created in 2020 by four Polish women with very different backgrounds and interests but with a common goal to connect people of diverse communities through art and community service.



In their mission, we read:

- We provide a meeting place for diverse communities to experience art together.
- We create opportunities for local Austin area artists to connect with artists from around the world.
- We look for and create connections between different art fields and seek to collaborate with groups devoted to promoting film, music, visual arts, and healthy living.

In the past, Dot Dot Dot Connect sponsored Polish and American artists' collaboration in creating street art, led art-exploring bike rides through the streets of Austin and organized Polish poster exhibits, concerts, and film viewings. Their next project is a mural inspired by the life and art of Polish painter Tamara Lempicka, one of the greatest artists of the 20th century and an icon of the Art Deco style. [\[More about Tamara and the project\]](#)

The Austin Polish Society has supported several of their projects. Check them out and connect!

[www.DotDotDotConnect.org](http://www.DotDotDotConnect.org)



## ~ POLISH FOOD IN AUSTIN ~

### **Apolonia Catering, Pierogi & More**

You can taste and buy their delicious pierogi at Texas Farmers' Market at Lakeline (Saturdays) and Mueller (Sundays) or [order online](#).

### **Ziggy's Kielbasa House**

You can taste and buy their own made sausage at the store. The store is also well stocked with many Polish products. Ziggy's offers various Polish dishes at two locations:

**STORE:** 2403 US 183, Suite 104 in Leander (10:00 am - 4:00 pm)

**FOOD TRUCK:** 2301 Brushy Creek Road in Cedar Park (5:00 pm - 8:30 pm)

**Borderless European Market** is up with many Eastern European products at 2121 W. Parmer Ln # 113, Austin, TX 78727

## ~ POPULAR PAST APS EVENTS ~

Thank you to everyone who competed in **the 2023 Bigos Cook-Off** (March 25th)– you helped make it a fun and successful event! Thank you to the judges who, despite a tough task, managed to select the winners! All bigos entries were yummy and flavorful.

Congratulations go to:

- 1st place – John Cebrowski
- 2nd place – Cezary Szopinski
- 3rd place – Mariola Kilian
- People’s Choice award – Marcin Rajtar

We are grateful for the help from many on-site volunteers: Teresa Sek, Agnieszka Ozarowski, Maria Adamiak, Gosia Kot, Marta Rajtar, Aleksandra Meub, Mitch Gaskin, Michael Kilian, Marek Pawelczyk, Agnieszka McDowell, Furio Ciacci, Sean Hand, and Art Gmurowski. Thank you to the event organizers: Angelika Firlej and Leszek Krupa.

Thank you to our sponsors for the beautiful prizes:

*BORDERLESS EUROPEAN MARKET, ZIGGY’S KIELBASA HOUSE, BREMOND POLISH FOOD STORE, and AUSTIN POLISH SOCIETY.*



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Thank you to everyone who participated in the APS annual *EGG DECORATING “PISANKI”, EGG HUNT, AND EASTER PALM MAKING WORKSHOP* on April 1st.

Again, we are very grateful for the help from many on-site volunteers: Sean and Anna Hand, Wiesia Wojcik, Malgosia Witek, Malgosia Meub, Furio Ciacci, Teresa Sek, Zdzislaw Korytkowski, Angelika Firlej.



~ **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](#).

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**POLISH LANGUAGE COURSES at UT**

University of Texas at Austin offers Polish language classes.

Please visit: <https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/slavic/courses>

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~ **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**