



Polish American Association  
of  
Harrisburg, Inc.  
[www.polamhar.org](http://www.polamhar.org)

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Marzec (March)

Phillip Wysocki, redactor

### **President's Message**

Dear Friends and Members,

Hello in early spring. It's time to put away winter coats, get out into the gardens, get ready for Easter and smell the lilac trees while breathing in the fresh air of this lovely season. With today's economy and all the negative press and media attention out there, I bet all of us are looking for a diversion and a break from the depressing reality. What a better way to "get away" for a moment without even leaving the immediate area. Please come to our next event and have some fun with friends and feel the closeness of our Polish community. We would love to have you join us.

On April 25<sup>th</sup> I will be presenting The making of the "golabki" (stuffed cabbage). Following we will have a nice feast of a golabki & mashed potatoes meal with lots of music and perhaps a taste of a Polish beer. In the

last two years we've had great pierogi making events, so we decided to move on and learn how to make another Polish dish. I hope to have as much fun as we did in previous years. We need your presence to have a successful evening. If you would like to bring your own golabki to share with us, we will welcome it very much.

I have a short story to share with you now.

Recently, less than a week ago in fact, I reconnected with an old friend whom I met 20 years ago when I first arrived in USA. Her name was Katarzyna.

She was like a mother to me then. I was twenty-three years old, she was in her fifties. Being first generation Polish herself, we connected immediately. She grew up in a Polish family in the coal region. Sadly, her brother was killed in a coal mine at age 29. Her big family remained strongly connected to its roots.

Unfortunately, like many immigrant kids, Katarzyna did not carry her Polish language skill into her adult life. She remembered just the basic words. I was truly surprised when she started reciting her prayers in perfect Polish.

The Our Father and Hail Mary poured beautifully from her heart on that day. We both cried in my kitchen as we united in prayer and renewed a bond of friendship. My friend died only 3 days after I “found” her. She was dying, and all I could do was to pray at her bedside in Polish. Maybe it was just my wishful thinking but I had a feeling that she heard me reciting the Rosary.

Last night I met a big group of her Polish relatives that traveled to the viewing in Linglestown. We talked like we had known each other all our lives.

What connected us? Our Polish roots, our heritage, our culture, our faith!

This is why we have an association that maintains these beautiful gifts. What we do and how we do it may seem insignificant at times but...

I choose to hold on to it however, and I invite all of you to do the same. See you at the next event! Have a Wonderful Easter!

Agata Czopek, president

## **Danuta Misses Her Friends**

If you have belonged to our Association for a few years, you’ll remember a remarkable lady named Danuta Sheaffer. This lively octogenarian was part of the Warsaw uprising and has witnessed more horror than any human being should ever see. Yet for all that she has endured, Danuta always has a positive attitude, and loves to tell a good joke.

As Danuta grew older, she was unable to attend very many Polish American Association functions, but she always kept in touch with her friends.

A nasty fall, a broken hip and head injury necessitated Danuta’s leaving her Green Avenue home in Harrisburg and moving to her daughter’s place in Phoenix, Arizona. When she phones, it’s not to complain about her misfortune, but rather to stay in touch with an old friend. (Her first question is always a sincere “How are **you** doing?”) However somewhere in the conversation she mentions how much she misses her independence and her friends in Harrisburg.

At the end of March, she will move to an assisted living place in Phoenix. Meanwhile, she would love to have a card or letter from you, sent to her daughter’s home. The address is: **3063 W. Melinda Lane**

**Phoenix AZ 85027**

Updates on Danuta will appear in the summer newsletter.

## **Welcome!**

The officers, board of directors and indeed our entire membership, extend a hearty welcome to these new members: Michaelene and Gary Barone of Harrisburg, Adam and Anna Pinti, of Middletown, Janice and Phil Thompson from Carlisle and Rosemary Wyzykowski of Hummelstown.

We look forward to possibly meeting our new members at the party on April 25.

## **Golabki, Piwo, Piosenki**

The simplest ingredients, cabbage, ground meat and rice at the hands of a Polish cook is transformed into a dish fit for royalty.

Come and enjoy golabki with us at the Hardwood Lounge at the International House, 31 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St., in Harrisburg, on Saturday April 25 from 5 to 9 pm.

The “Pierogi, Piwo Piosenki” events of the past two years were so well received that we decided to have another springtime get together.

No need to bring anything except an appetite. Oh yes, and your singing voice. Reservations aren’t necessary. The golabki will be prepared by Bricco’s Polish chef, but there will be a demonstration/lesson in golabki preparation by Agata Czopek.

There is no admission price, but the suggested donation is \$5.00 for members or \$10.00 for nonmembers.

Piwo sampling tickets will be available as usual for an additional small donation.

Come join us, celebrate spring with great songs, good food and great company.

## **Just a Reminder**

If you haven’t yet paid your dues, you may use the enclosed form and mail a check to Harold, or you may renew your membership at the event on April 25.

## **A Polish Legend for Spring**

In the Tatras Mountains one March, a mother cat with her kittens was trying to cross a fast moving, ice cold stream, swollen by melting snow. Suddenly the kittens were swept away by the ice-cold torrent. The panicked mother cat ran helplessly along beside the stream as her poor kittens cried in terror.

A kindly old willow at the side of the stream bent his flexible branches down to the water, and the kittens were able to cling to them and crawl safely to their mother.

It is said that this is why the willow has little gray kittens on its branches each spring.

## Upcoming Events

Be sure to mark the following Association events on your calendar:

Golabki, Piosenki, Piwo a; Saturday evening, April 25 at the Hardwood Lounge at Bricco's in Harrisburg.

Sunday, August 2, 2009; annual picnic at Creekview Park

Saturday, December 19, 2009; Wigilia at Hampden Community Hall.

## **How to contact us**

*Officers:*

**Agata Czopek, president**, 671-1158  
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*Board Members:*

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## Comments and Suggestions?

Do you have an idea for another activity or perhaps a way to improve what we're already doing? If you do, please feel free to contact an officer or board member with your thoughts.



## Polish American Association Of Harrisburg, Inc.

YES! I want to join/renew my membership and support the Association!

Please select a dues category.

_____ Individual	<b>\$15.00</b>
_____ Individual Senior (over 65)	<b>\$10.00</b>
_____ Family	<b>\$35.00</b>

### SPECIAL CATEGORIES:

For those individuals and companies who care to make a special contribution in support of the activities of the Association.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Sobieski (male) \$100.00 or more.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Jagielonka (female) \$100.00 or more.**

Members in this category receive free admission to all Association events plus recognition in all event programs.

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Please return this form and enclose a check payable to the "Polish-American Association, Inc."  
Send to: **Harold Shellenhamer, 6105 Ironwood Drive, Harrisburg PA17112**

### PLEASE COMPLETE OR UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Last name .....First name(s).....

Children's name and ages .....

.....

Current mailing address .....

Phone number(s).....

Email address.....

I would like to receive the Newsletter (Please mark your choice):

By mail? \_\_\_\_\_ By email? \_\_\_\_\_ By both mail and email? \_\_\_\_\_