

GŁOS POLEK

POLISH WOMEN'S ALLIANCE OF AMERICA

SPRING/SUMMER 2009 NO. 3 MMIX



May Queens • Honor Roll of Groups • 2008 Annual Report

Special Membership Contest • Sail Away with PWA!

Traditions of Spring and Summer • Jagiellonian Scholarship Announced

Sign up to Receive Email Updates from PWA • Summer Recipes

THE POLISH WOMEN'S VOICE - PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH WOMEN'S ALLIANCE OF AMERICA
GŁOS POLEK - ORGAN ZWIĄZKU POLEK W AMERYCE

About Us and Our Newsletter

Urzędowy Organ
ZWIĄZKU POLEK W AMERYCE
Wychodzi sześć razy w roku

THE POLISH WOMEN'S VOICE

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Cover: A Polish stork or "bocian" flies
over a field of poppies. Learn more
about these birds that like to summer in
Poland on pages 14 and 28.

NOTE ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHS:

When submitting photographs for
publication electronically, please make
sure that they are scanned and saved at
300 dpi and sent to us as JPEG or TIFF
files. Photographs do not print well at
resolutions lower than 300 dpi.

**Starting with the next issue,
the *Głos Polek* will become
a quarterly publication. Here
are the new deadlines:**

**Fall/Winter issue
The deadline is September 1**

**Spring issue
The deadline is January 4**

You can also contact us by e-mail or visit www.pwaa.org

If you have access to the Internet you can contact Polish Women's Alliance of America at the following
e-mail addresses or call our toll-free number at **888 522-1898**.

President Virginia Sikora – president@pwaa.org • Vice President Sharon Zago – vicepresident@pwaa.org
Secretary-Treasurer Antoinette Trela Vander Noot – secretarytreasurer@pwaa.org
Głos Polek Editors – editor@pwaa.org

From the President



Dear Members,

The month of May is special for a number of reasons. It is the month of Mary and the month of Mothers. It is the month of flowers and of gardens in first bloom. It is the time for communions and graduations, for parties and for proms. It is also the month that we observe Polish Constitution Day on May 3rd and PWA Founder's Day on May 22nd. And this is the month we celebrate our May Queens and Honor Roll of Groups, those members who were most successful in bringing new membership to PWA in the past year.

Membership is the lifeline of any organization. We know this. We have heard it said many times before. But not all of us act on it. We love the PWA, we pass it on to our children and grandchildren, but we have to reach out beyond our immediate families if we want our organization to continue to grow in this new century, if we want it to be there for many generations to come.

This year on May 22nd, we will be celebrating the 111th anniversary of our founding. And we must find a way to carry on the vision of our founders. The principles on which the PWA was founded are as true today as they were in 1898. Our founders wanted a meeting place for women and their families, an organization where they could better themselves, improve their communities and their families, preserve their heritage and culture, and find meaning in causes bigger than themselves.

Their achievements as they fought for equality for all women, security for their families, and freedom for Poland can only inspire us. They had so little and they achieved so much. Together.

I would like to congratulate our May Queens and Honor Roll of Groups and thank them for their efforts in bringing new members to PWA. You inspire us all to do better and to do more. Together.

*Happy May! Happy Spring!
And Happy Summer to all our members!*

Virginia Sikora

Virginia Sikora
National President

Annual Statement of the Polish Women's Alliance of America for the year ended December 31, 2008

ASSETS:

Bonds	\$ 42,084,570
Preferred Stocks	555,680
Common Stocks	35,000
Mortgage Loans	4,179,918
Certificate Loans	285,419
Cash	4,402,168
Electronic Data Processing Equipment	2,905
Uncollected Premiums	5,773
Investment Income - due and accrued	580,653
Miscellaneous assets	153,198

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 52,325,045

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS:

Aggregate Reserve for Life Certificates and Contracts	\$50,637,413
Liability for deposit-type contracts	39,788
Certificate and Contract Claims, Life	520,139
Premiums received in advance	3,566
Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR)	71,779
General Expenses - due or accrued	66,791
Asset valuation reserve	39,695
Miscellaneous liabilities	248,712

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$ 51,627,883

TOTAL SURPLUS

\$ 655,890

TOTAL LIABILITIES & SURPLUS

\$ 52,283,773

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS:

Premium and Annuity Considerations	\$ 1,368,163
Net Investment Income	2,956,424
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	23,119
Miscellaneous income	51,147

TOTAL

\$ 4,398,853

Deduct:

Death Benefits	\$ 1,128,777
Matured Endowments	73,465
Annuity Benefits/Old Age Benefits	1,031,059
Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts	242,491
Interest and Adjustments on Contracts	7,272
Increase in aggregate reserve for life certificates	606,989
Commission on premiums, annuity consideration	
-(direct business only)	3,011
General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses	1,443,198
Insurance taxes, licenses and fees	73,496

TOTAL

\$ 4,609,758

Net gain (loss) from Operations before refunds to members	\$ (210,905)
Net realized gains or losses	--
Net gain (loss) from Operations	\$ (210,905)



From the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer

As required by the PWA Constitution and Bylaws, the annual financial statement of the Organization is being published in the *Glos Polek*.

I would like to highlight some items of significance that occurred in 2008.

Our Organization was affected by the downturn in the economy and adverse market conditions which began in the second half of 2008 and which worsened by the end of the year. Individuals and corporations alike, continue to feel the negative effects of the lingering recession.

Our Surplus incurred a loss due to the necessary write-down of certain A+ rated bonds being downgraded due to the collapse of the issuing institution in the third quarter of 2008 and subsequent impairment of their securities.

In addition to the Surplus, the P.W.A. has Reserves set aside to cover Life and Annuity contract obligations to our membership in the amount of \$50,637,413. This reflects an increase of \$607,000 in additional funds that were added in 2008. The level of Reserves demonstrates management's ongoing commitment to our members, to position ourselves to meet all of our obligations now and in the future, especially during these challenging economic times.

Net Investment Income of \$2,956,424 in 2008 reflects an increase over 2007. Given the volatile financial climate, we believe this was a major accomplishment. The Investment Committee continues to purchase only high-grade investment-level instruments, with a balanced diversification between Agency/Government and Corporate issues.

Our Operational Expenses of \$1,443,198 were approximately 1% greater than in 2007. Given the average increased cost of products and services from year to year, this change was very modest and reflects management's goal of decreasing expenses without decreasing the high quality of products and services provided to our membership.

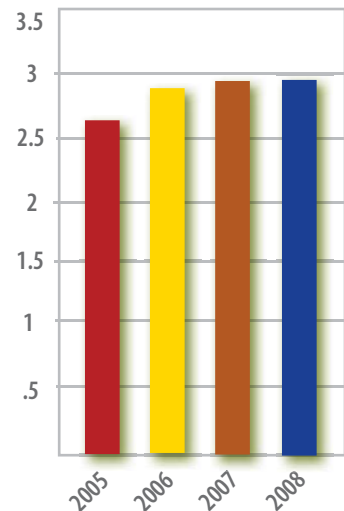
As reflected in the accompanying charts, over the past four years

- Net Investment Income has been increasing at a steady rate.
- Assets have remained strong and relatively level.
- Cash Withdrawals have been decreasing significantly since 2006.
- The loss of members due to death is beyond our control...but, striving for each Member to sign up one New Member is an attainable goal!

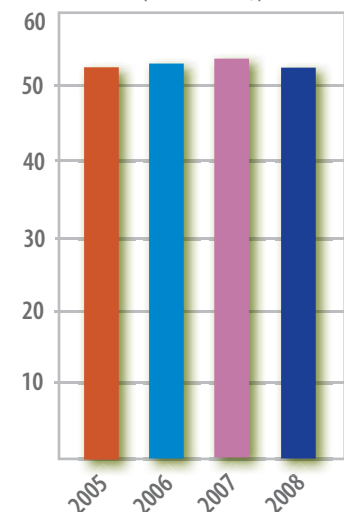
Some of the major accomplishments realized in 2008 include:

- Changing the format of the *Glos Polek* from newspaper to full-color magazine.
- Celebrating the 110th Anniversary of our founding with a Banquet in June, 2008, during which District Fraternalists of the Year were honored for their dedication and service to the PWA.
- Accepting major credit cards, including Visa/MC and Discover Card for premium payments, etc.
- Kicking off the 110th Anniversary Maximizer Promotion in August, 2008. This has been very well received, affording current paid-up members the opportunity to increase their current certificate value hassle-free and with one single

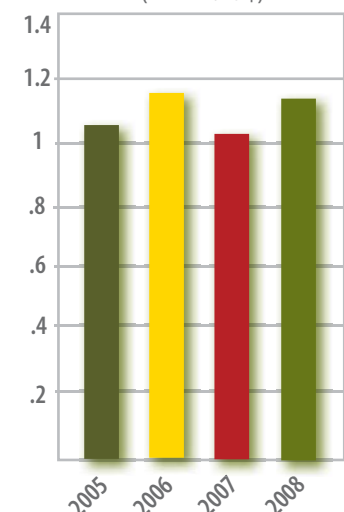
Net Investment Income
(in millions \$)



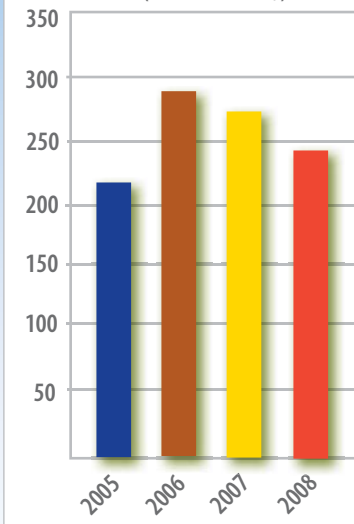
Assets of PWAA
(in millions \$)



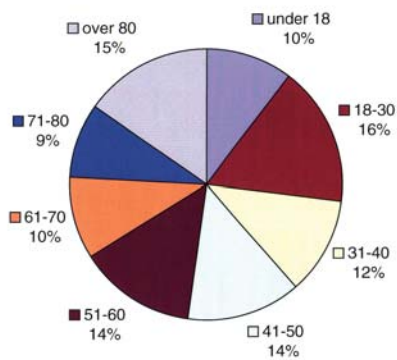
Deaths Paid
(in millions \$)



Cash Withdrawals
(in thousands \$)



Distribution of PWAA
Policyholders According to Age



payment and no medical exam required. This Promotion runs through July 2009 and there is additional information within this issue for those who had already received the offer but did not take advantage, to have a second chance to Maximize.

- Merged over 30 Inactive Groups into Active Groups in 2008, with the continuing goal being to eventually have zero Inactive Groups within our Organization.

Looking forward in 2009 and beyond, we have

- Tailored our budget to significantly lower expenses, without affecting the high level of member services you have come to expect.
- Scheduled a Strategic Planning Meeting for the General Administration at which a professional facilitator will assist in focusing on key areas in which certain goals and time frames will be set.
- Continued to offer sound Life Insurance and Annuity products that provide financial security for you and your families.
- Will offer Special Promotions to attract new members that currently include a Spring Special that provides a Target Gift Card of varying values and our Cruise for Two "Sail Away With The PWA" Membership Contest (both of these promotions are highlighted in this issue).

I continue to be most proud of being a member of your management team and will strive personally and in cooperation with my fellow Executive Officers and Board of Directors to further strengthen the PWA through sound business decisions and a genuine commitment to excellence in all that we undertake. We want to leave a powerful legacy that our youth and future leaders can continue to build upon and this will only be achieved through cooperation, hard work, and being open to new ideas.

Let's continue to build upon something Great!

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Trela-Vander Noot
Secretary/Treasurer

PWA Celebrates its 111th Anniversary! May 22nd is PWA Founder's Day

Polish Women's Alliance of America will be celebrating its 111th anniversary this year on May 22nd. On this day in 1898, a group of Polish immigrant women met in Chicago, Illinois, with Stefania Chmielinska as their leader, and they founded the first fraternal benefit society for Polish women. It was a revolutionary idea at the time—that women could run their own organization, manage their own finances, provide life insurance and other benefits to other women, and work together to achieve independence and equality. 111 years later, their dreams have become a reality and we honor them for their hard work and for their vision. They left us a world that is better than the one they inherited. We must do the same for future generations of PWA members. Happy Anniversary PWA!

Sign up a new member to PWA in the month of May!
Niech nasz Związek Polek żyje! Long live the PWA!!





LAST CHANCE TO "MAXIMIZE" YOUR INSURANCE!

Our very successful 110th Anniversary Maximizer offer will be ending with the July mailing.

As previously stated, this offer is extended to current members who have paid-up insurance certificates. Members with certificates originally issued in the months of July thru September will be receiving their customized Maximizer offer(s) two months prior to the anniversary month.

Any member with a paid-up policy or policies, originally issued in the months of October through June, have already been sent their Maximizer offers. If you did not receive your Maximizer offer or did not take advantage by the stated deadline date, here's one last chance to "Maximize" your insurance.

Contact our office immediately at (847) 384-1200 or toll free at (888) 522-1898 ext. 228 and an updated offer will be prepared and sent to you. Or you may e-mail your request to padowski@pwaa.org

NEW GLOS POLEK SCHEDULE AND DEADLINES

Starting with the next issue, the *Glos Polek* will become a quarterly publication. The Fall/Winter issue will be mailed in October and the deadline for all submissions for that issue is September 1, 2009. Please be sure to send any Election Meeting notices or Christmas Party announcements to us by that date if you'd like them to appear in the year-end issue of *Glos Polek*.

In 2010, we will change to a regular quarterly schedule, with four issues being published every year on the same dates: February 1, May 1, August, 1 and November 1. You will always be able to find the deadlines for the next few issues on page 2 of the *Glos Polek*.

ARE YOU RECEIVING EMAIL UPDATES FROM PWA?

Sign up to join our mailing list today!

In the coming months, we will be looking at new and different ways to communicate with our members and to expand our online presence. So please make sure that we have your email address! You can fill in the form on the bottom of **page 12** of this issue and send it in to us, or you can register online at www.pwaa.org on the home page. It only takes a second! All we need is your name and email address if you do it online.

Please encourage others in your PWA Groups or in your family or among your colleagues and friends to sign up for email updates from PWA. You do not have to be a member to sign up. Anyone who is interested in Polish news, events, traditions, and recipes is welcome to join our list.

Soon we will let you know about our new PWA blog and our new social networking page where we will post a Calendar of Events that can be updated daily along with photos and comments. We hope to build a close-knit community online and find new ways to stay in touch with you more frequently and interactively.

Newspapers all across the nation are cutting back their print operations and looking to new and exciting technologies as a way to stay in touch with their readers and friends and to communicate with them more frequently.



We hope you will join us. Sign up today and have your name entered in a special drawing, as described below!

Find out how you can win a FREE book about Pope John Paul II

If you join our email list today, you will have your name automatically entered in a Book Raffle to win a beautiful hardbound copy of "At the Altar of the World" which is a book about Pope John Paul's life and papacy that includes many color photographs. You will cherish it for years to come.

We will draw the names of the lucky winners at the end of each month (in May, June, and July). The names will be drawn from all the new email addresses we receive in that month. The names of the winners will be posted on our website on the first business day of the following month. Join our online family today! You could be one of our lucky winners!

To sign up for email updates: Go to **page 12** of this issue of *Glos Polek* or visit www.pwaa.org and register on the Home Page.

District I Swieconka

The annual Swieconka of District I was held at the House of the White Eagle in Niles, Illinois, on Saturday, April 18, 2009. District I President Lidia Filus welcomed the guests and District I chaplain, Sister Mary Edward, said grace before the traditional Polish meal was served. Entertainment was provided by soloist and Group 821 member, Ola Podowski, who sang in Polish, including some old songs about Polish Women's Alliance that were recently found in the PWA library. Ola was accompanied on the piano by Anna Zawadzka. Ola's 16th birthday was two days after the Swieconka, so she was presented with a cake while the guests sang "Sto Lat."

Donations to the District I Scholarship Endowment Fund were presented and two raffles were held: one to benefit the District I Scholarship Fund and the other for the PWA Polish Language School in District I. The raffles were conducted by Vice President Sharon Zago and former State President Delphine Lytell. Special thanks to Group 661 for preparing four baskets for the Polish School raffle.

The two May Queens from District I, Alfreda Dombrowski from Council 9 and Lidia Filus from Council 27 were applauded and future events in the Councils and in the District were discussed. The Patron's Day celebration and State Seminar are scheduled for August 19 and October 3 respectively.



Donations to the District I Scholarship Endowment Fund were presented to board members (from left) Lidia Filus, Czeslawa Kolak, and Helen V. Wojcik by Alexis Widlak from Group 743, by President Arlene Wlodarek from Group 525, and by National Director Dawn Muszynski Nelson and her daughter Faith, on behalf of Group 258, Council 13. A donation was also made by Monika Serafin for Group 440.



Members and guests at the District I Swieconka at the House of the White Eagle.

PWA NATIONAL CASH RAFFLE

This is your chance to WIN BIG
with POLISH WOMEN'S ALLIANCE!

Win \$4500 in Prize Money in
Return your lucky tickets as soon as possible.

*The deadline is June 15, 2009.
Entries must be postmarked June 15, 2009,
to be eligible.*



GRAND PRIZE \$ 2000
Second Prize \$ 1000
Third Prize \$ 500
Fourth Prize \$ 250
Fifth Prize \$ 250
Sixth thru Tenth Prizes \$ 100

Drawing will be held on June 30, 2009
in Chicago.

Proceeds to benefit Komitet Oswiaty, the PWA
Education Committee, promoting Polish culture
and heritage and supporting our youth.

*Please support our 2009 National Raffle.
Watch for your tickets in the mail.
You could be one of the lucky winners!*



Group 821 member Ola Podowski was presented with a birthday cake. From left, Danuta Podowski, Anna Zawadzka, Ola, and Lidia Filus. Ola was the soloist at the Swieconka.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, May 9

Council 9 Mother and Daughter Luncheon will be held at 1 p.m. at St. John Brebeuf Parish Lower Hall, Niles, IL. Catering by Kasia. Tickets are \$16 for adults and \$6 for children. Contact: Adeline Holda at 773-365-5861.

Sunday, May 17

District 2 Vintage Bridal Fashion Show and Luncheon at the Kronk Residence, Sewickley Heights, PA. Tickets \$30. Proceeds benefit District 2 Scholarship Fund. Contact: Dorothy Kolano: 412-431-7195.

Sunday, June 7

Film viewing of "Quo Vadis" as part of the International Film Club at the Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., sponsored by PWA Book Club. Join us from 12:30 to 5 p.m. for this film about life in Rome during the first century AD, based on the novel by Polish author Henryk Sienkiewicz who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1905. An introduction to the film will be presented by Professor Ireneusz Raciborski who is the moderator of the PWA Polish Book and Film Club. Discussion and light refreshments will follow the viewing. Contact Vice President Sharon Zago for more information at 847-384-1208.

Sunday, August 23

Save the Date! PWA Day at Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine in Doylestown, PA. Contact Vice President Sharon Zago at 1-888-522-1898 ext 208 or your District President for more details on attending the annual PWA Mass and luncheon at the Shrine.

Wednesday, September 16

Group 819 meeting at 6:30 p.m., PWA Home Office. Refreshments welcome. Call President Marlene Wilczynski-Gill for more details at 773-763-5587.

Saturday, October 3

District I State Seminar from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the House of the White Eagle in Niles, IL. Donation is \$25 which includes lunch. There will be a raffle to benefit the Scholarship Fund and raffle prizes will be appreciated. Details will follow by mail. Contact District I President Lidia Filus at 847-698-0250 or L-Filus@neiu.edu

DISTRICT I PATRON'S DAY CELEBRATION

*Wednesday, August 19, 2009
St. John Brebeuf Parish, Niles, IL*

**Join us for our Annual Observance.
Mass followed by Luncheon.
Hosted by Council 27.**

**Details will follow by mail.
Contact: Council 27 President Czeslawa Kolak
at 773-792-1352**



Council 27 Invites All Delegates,
Members and Guests to

A MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

***Wednesday, May 20th, at 4 p.m.
At the PWA Home Office***

Guest Speaker: Mrs. Joyce Gallagher,
Executive Director of the Chicago Department of
Family and Support Services, Senior Services,
Area Agencies on Aging.

In addition we will honor our May Queen, Lidia
Filus, and celebrate the 111th Anniversary of PWA.

Catering by Kasia's. Tickets: \$15 per person.

For reservations or more information, please contact
President Czeslawa Kolak at 773-792-1352
or Secretary Bo Padowski
at 847-384-1220.



Save the Date for PWA's

Annual Youth & Scholarship Fundraiser

**to be held on Sunday, September 27, 2009
at the Rosewood Restaurant & Banquets
in Rosemont, IL
Cocktails at 5 p.m.**

***Everyone is cordially invited to help support our
national youth and scholarship activities.***

**Details will follow by mail. Contact: Secretary-Treasurer
Antoinette Trela Vander Noot at 847-384-1206.**

Group 211 Mother's Day Luncheon

**The Annual Mother's Day
Meeting and Luncheon of Group 211
will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 2009,
at Zia's Restaurant, 6699 N. Northwest Hwy in Chicago.**

**Cost for Gr. 211 Members is \$10.
Non-Member Guests are welcome to attend for \$20.**

**Please R.S.V.P. to Antoinette Trela-Vander Noot
by May 6th at 847-384-1206 Office
or 847-323-1005 Cell.**

Fraternal Events Planned for 2009

For the fourth year in a row, the four major Polish American fraternal, PNA, PRCUA, Polish Falcons, and PWA, have planned joint activities for their members. Tickets to these outings are offered at a special savings negotiated by a joint committee. Dates on some of the events still remain to be announced. Please contact Sharon Zago at 1-847-384-1208 or 1-888-522-1898 ext 208 for more information—or keep checking our website for updates. Quantities are limited so please reserve early!

Dates confirmed:

• White Sox Polish Heritage Night

Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at 7:11 p.m.

Chicago White Sox vs. Detroit Tigers

U.S. Cellular Field, Chicago

Tickets: \$19 for lower box seats and \$17 for lower reserved seats

• Great America Polish American Day, Gurnee, IL **Saturday, June 6, 2009.**

Tickets are \$27 per person. Children under 2 are free.

Dates still to be announced for these events:

- **Chicago Bulls game at United Center, Chicago**
- **Dozin' with Dinos at the Field Museum, Chicago**
- **Chicago Wolves Benefit for Bishop Abramowicz Seminary, Chicago**

District I Scholarship Endowment Fund

Chicago, IL—The first steps were taken last year to set up a Scholarship Endowment Fund in District I. This has long been a dream of Honorary President Helen V. Wojcik and both her family members as well as many Groups and individuals in District I have joined in the endeavor. The first contributors are gratefully acknowledged below.

Neil and Trudy Widlak	\$10,000
Frederic Widlak	5,000
Prudence Widlak	500
Group 1, C 26	100
Group 211, C 27	100
Group 15, C 13	70
Group 661, C 9	50
Group 723, C 9	50
Eleanore Kowynia	50
Helen V. Wojcik	50 (In Memory of Monica Sokolowski)

Donations made at District I Swieconka:

Group 258, C 13	\$2,000
Group 743, C 13	1,400
Group 525, C 9	100
Group 440, C 27	50
Serdeczne Bóg zapłać, Lidia Filus, District I President	

Privacy Commitment To Our Members

The Polish Women's Alliance of America, values your business and we appreciate the trust you've placed in us. That's why we're serious about keeping your personal information private. Protecting the privacy of your personal, financial, and medical information has always been and will continue to be a matter of top priority for us.

When you applied for life insurance or an annuity, you provided us with employment and medical information and authorized us to obtain further information concerning your health history, mode of living, and other personal characteristics. Based on this authorization, only the minimum amount of information necessary to underwrite your application has been collected.

We do not, and we will not, provide any personal information about you to any third party, except as permitted or required by law or as you may authorize. There are no affiliated financial institutions or third party non-affiliates which have access to your non-public information, except pursuant to your express written authorization. We never sell lists of the names and addresses of our members to any vendors of goods or services.

Employee access to your personal, non-public, information is authorized for business purposes only. It's based on an employee's need to know such information to provide services to you, or to conduct PWA business. Employees who have access to customer information are required to protect it and keep it confidential.

We are, and will continue to be, vigilant in the safeguarding of your personal, financial, and medical information. It is our sincere desire to maintain complete, accurate and up-to-date records. You may contact PWA at our toll free number 1-888-522-1898 ext. 201, to access, as provided by law, information included in your file or you can write Polish Women's Alliance at the address below. We will promptly correct any error in our information. To protect your privacy, you will need to identify yourself by providing us with your name, date of birth, and social security number.

Our policy of protecting the security of non-public information also extends to former members who no longer have any coverage with us.

Form GLBAD-01/09

PWA now accepts all major credit cards for all types of payments and donations.

For information or to make a payment using a credit card, please call the office of the Secretary-Treasurer at 888-522-1898 ext 206

New Members

Welcome to our New Members!

A warm welcome is extended to these new members.
We are so glad you have joined us!

Gr.	Name	Introduced by	City/State
0043	Ewa B Piotrowska	Grace Dubowski	Niles, IL
0105	Teresa Wojciechowski	Felicia S Perlick	White Haven, PA
0105	Brennan M Moore	William Slavinski	West Wyoming, PA
0112	Dylan P Marusak	Nancy L Marusak	LaPorte, IN
0112	Julien J Marusak	Nancy L Marusak	LaPorte, IN
0128	Chikota B Stevens	Home Office	Pueblo, CO
0128	Ryan T Grisham	Home Office	Pueblo, CO
0128	Kylie J Grisham	Home Office	Pueblo, CO
0128	Natalie L Rivera	Home Office	Pueblo, CO
0128	Gracee A Grisham	Home Office	Hulett, WY
0128	Kyla M Talty	Andrea J Torok	Cliffside Park, NJ
0132	Isabella Gajdos	Home Office	Dyer, IN
0189	Noah G Gerhardt	Cynthia L Frohnauer	Madison, WI
0189	Nathan R Kucera	Rosemarie Kucera	Burlington, WI
0221	Logan E Kuna	Mary A Watterson	Allison Park, PA
0221	Mary Campbell	Mary A Watterson	Pittsburgh, PA
0221	Daniel J Noel	Mary A Watterson	Pittsburgh, PA
0221	August F Mazza III	Mary A Watterson	Pittsburgh, PA
0221	Sela J Lentz	Mary A Watterson	Gibsonia, PA
0224	Gregory M Parrish	Sharon L. Parrish	Pittsburgh, PA
0267	Lorenza M Agrella	Home Office	Pittson, PA
0267	Anthony M Agrella	Home Office	Pittston, PA
0267	Eli D Crew	Bertha A Kuckla	Pottstown, PA
0269	Sebastian Schmidt	Alyce Schmidt	Old Forge, PA
0306	Sarah L Rozewicz	Home Office	Apollo, PA
0351	Aniela Connolly	Nellie C Manarchuck	Carbondale, PA
0419	Alexander Welsh	Home Office	Buffalo, NY
0450	Stephen Bath	Bernardine J Regis	Trucksville, PA
0450	Alexa Regis	Bernardine J Regis	West Wyoming, PA
0450	Lindsey Lacomis	Bernardine J Regis	Bear Creek Twp, PA
0450	Marissa Lacomis	Bernardine J Regis	Bear Creek Twp, PA
0450	Ryan Lahnemann	Bernardine J Regis	Forest City, PA
0450	John P Bath	Bernardine J Regis	Trucksville, PA
0450	Hunter J Lacomis	Bernardine J Regis	Bear Creek Twp, PA
0450	Walker G Regis	Bernardine J Regis	West Wyoming, PA
0451	Barbara A Greeson	Helen J Szabla	Detroit, MI

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Group 43 member a winner in "Extraordinary Women" Contest

Chicago, IL—PWA member Eva Clarke was one of 100 winners in a national contest sponsored by Kraft Foods looking for extraordinary women who live among us. Eva, who has been a member of Group 43 since childhood, entered the contest which asked for a 100-word essay describing what contestants had done to make a positive impact on their communities.

Eva and her husband, who live in Virginia, are very active in the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (Eva was diagnosed with the disease as an adult) and in her essay she described an American Idol casting call she had organized for kids with Type 1 diabetes. The event garnered a lot of publicity and an unprecedented \$455,000 in funds were raised for diabetes research at the gala event.

As one of the 100 winners, Eva, together with her mother, Marie Wypijewski, traveled to Los Angeles for a weekend of relaxation and fun which included a film viewing and a Hollywood party. They also got to meet and network with the other winners, women who are involved in various worthy causes, from working with the homeless to helping teens build self-esteem by running to cleaning up Great Lakes beaches.

Congratulations to Eva Wypijewski Clarke for being honored as an Extraordinary Woman!



Eva Clarke and her mother
Marie Wypijewski of Group 43

New Members

Welcome to our New Members! (cont.)

Gr.	Name	Introduced by	City/State
0464	Charlie S Vopinek Jr	Home Office	Lemont, IL
0470	Dominic N Pasek	Catherine A Blaszkowski	Buffalo, NY
0474	Joseph H Kooser	Home Office	Uniontown, PA
0474	Hunter C Kooser	Home Office	Uniontown, PA
0480	Carl J Horecky	Home Office	Golden, CO
0480	Henry F Karduck	Dale R Olsen	Champaign, IL
0480	Wilhelm O Karduck	Dale R Olsen	Champaign, IL
0535	Anthony W Gatto	Home Office	Exeter, PA
0545	Sophia P Spaulding	Irene Kuzmiak	Trenton, MI
0562	Adam B Dyman	Evelyn W Lisek	Brookfield, IL
0585	Sabrina R Dion	Kathryn Modelski	Sterling Heights, MI
0591	Logan M Wernersbach	Theresa D Sienkiewicz	Monroe Twp, NJ
0596	Ava N Landsbaugh	Home Office	Beaver Falls, PA
0598	Katherine O Sawyer	Louise M Golda	New York, NY
0632	Collin P Parks	Home Office	League City, TX
0632	Kathleen M Parks	Vincent S Parks	League City, TX
0661	Alice G Keating	Eleanore L Kowynia	Chicago, IL
0661	Patricia O'Leary	Social Member	Elk Grove Vlg, IL
0669	Jacob C Nee	Arlene Polednak	Mayfield, PA
0702	Evan B Lee	Home Office	Roanoke, VA
0754	Katherine M Wozniak	Grazyna Buczek	Independence, OH
0754	Sylwia H Sobolewski	Grazyna Buczek	Seven Hills, OH
0754	Elzbieta Mrozinska	Grazyna Buczek	Macedonia, OH
0763	Hunter Taylor	Home Office	Baltimore, MD
0782	Carissa Mianecki	Home Office	Scottsdale, AZ
0786	Megan M Stefanow	Patricia A Sukits	Warren, MI
0821	Zbigniew Turczyn	Czeslawa K Kolak	Chicago Ridge, IL
0821	Joanna E Cholewinski	Lidia Z Filus	Park Ridge, IL
0822	Ewa Kostyrko	Home Office	Glenview, IL
0822	Kristina Lukawska	Home Office	Chicago, IL



HONOR ROLL OF GROUPS FOR 2008 MEMBERSHIP

Through the joint effort of these Groups and the Home Office, we are pleased to honor the following PWA Groups that signed up at least 5 New Policies in 2008:

Group	District	Council	No. of New Certificates
132	3 IN	21	13
806	5 MI	3	11
821	1 IL	27	10
275	11 NE	25	9
822	1 IL	27	7
37	3 IN	21	6
78	6 WI	1	6
224	2 PA	2	6
702	12 MD, DC	34	6
763	12 MD, DC	34	6
211	1 IL	27	5
418	5 MI	20	5
530	14 PA	40	5
819	1 IL	9	5

We'd like to say a special thank you to all Groups, Councils, and Districts for encouraging new membership. We ask for your continued support in membership development and welcome any ideas and suggestions that you feel would be beneficial to the organization.

Fraternally,
Antoinette Trela Vander Noot

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE UPDATES AND NEWS FROM PWA BY EMAIL?

Sign up here to receive news about PWA promotions and events, Polish traditions and recipes, as well as other announcements of interest in your inbox. Join the PWA online family today!

Name _____ Gr. No. _____
 Address _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone No. _____ Email Address _____

Cut out this form and mail it to PWA, 6643 N. Northwest Hwy, 2nd Fl., Chicago, IL, 60631,
 or go to www.pwaa.org and sign up on the Home Page.

YOU CAN WIN A FREE BOOK IF YOU SIGN UP IN MAY, JUNE, or JULY! See page 7 for details.

Congratulations to Our May Queens for 2008!

We are proud to announce the following individuals, to whom we pay tribute in this issue of *Glos Polek*, for their efforts in signing new members to our organization in the 2008 calendar year. We thank them for their hard work and extend our sincere congratulations.



First Place Winner

Danuta Zalewski

Group 275, Council 25
District 11 Nebraska

Enrolled 11 new insured
members for a total face
amount of \$53,990.

4 Family members belong
to PWA.

May Queen for the
first time.



Second Place Winner

Alfreda J. Dombrowski

Group 202, Council 9
District 1 Illinois

Enrolled 8 new insured
members for a total \$46,550
face amount and 2 new
annuitants.

2 Family members belong
to PWA.

May Queen for the first time.



Third Place Winner

Mary Ann Michalak

Group 132, Council 21
District 3 Indiana

Enrolled 10 new insured
members for a total of
\$42,220 face amount.

70 Family members
belong to PWA.

May Queen for the
8th time.



Fourth Place Winner

Lidia Z. Filus

Group 821, Council 27
District 1 Illinois

Enrolled 5 new insured
members for a
total of \$25,440 face amount
and 5 new annuitants.

6 family members belong
to PWA.

May Queen for the first time.

What is a Mother?

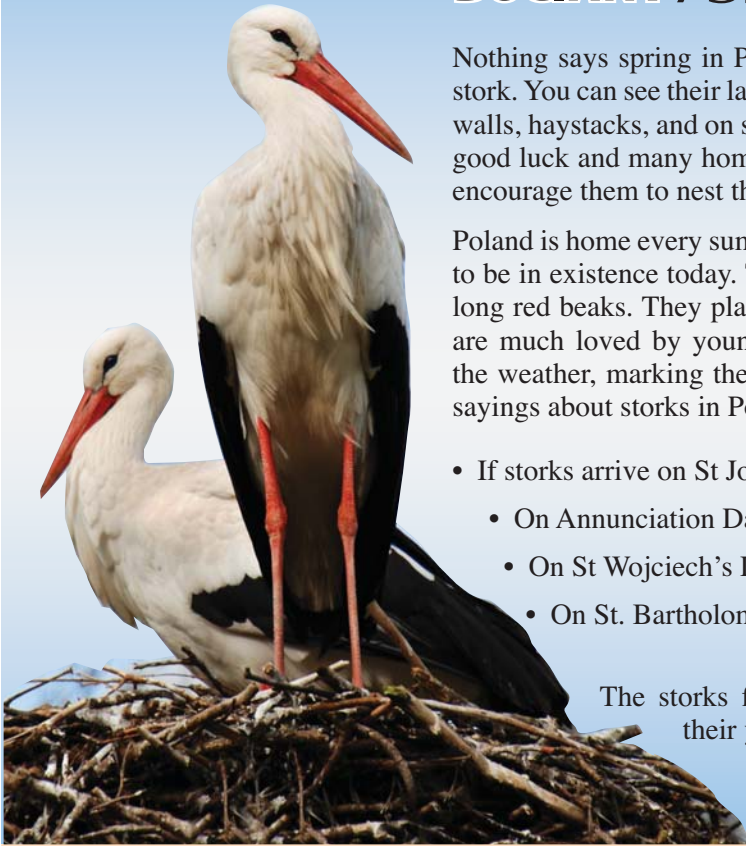
When you're a child she walks before you,
To set an example.
When you're a teenager she walks behind you,
To be there should you need her.
When you're an adult she walks beside you,
So that as two friends you can enjoy life together.
When you're a parent she hovers over you,
So that she can be the guardian angel of your children.

Author Unknown

***Happy
Mother's Day to all
our Members!***



BOCIANY / STORKS



Nothing says spring in Poland more than the arrival of the beloved “bociek” or stork. You can see their large nests on rooftops, towers, chimneys, telephone poles, walls, haystacks, and on specially constructed nest towers. Storks are said to bring good luck and many homeowners will erect special stork ledges on their roofs to encourage them to nest there.

Poland is home every summer to over half of the 160,000 European storks thought to be in existence today. They are tall white wading birds, with long red legs and long red beaks. They play a colorful role in Polish fairy tales and folklore. They are much loved by young and old alike and they are considered harbingers of the weather, marking the warm months with their activities. Here are some folk sayings about storks in Poland:

- If storks arrive on St Joseph’s Day (March 19), the snows will soon melt away.
- On Annunciation Day (March 25), a stork will be in its nest to stay.
- On St Wojciech’s Day (April 23), the stork an egg will lay.
- On St. Bartholomew’s Day (August 24), the stork prepares to be its way.

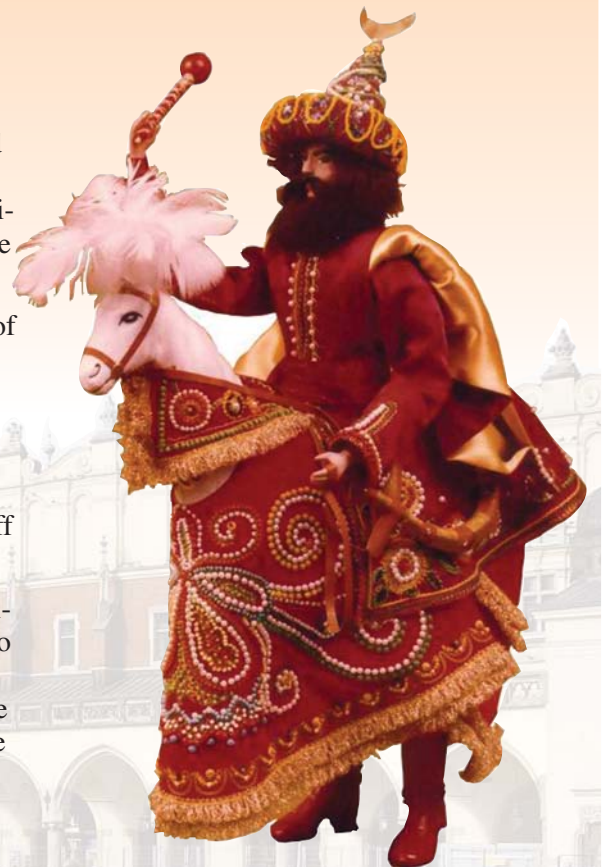
The storks fly from Poland to Africa for the winter months with their young. Over 100,000 stork babies are hatched in Poland every summer. Storks really seem to love their adopted country of Poland!

LAJKONIK

The legend of Lajkonik goes back to medieval times, when Poland was often invaded by Mongol tribes from the East. In 1241, the people of Krakow successfully repelled one such attack and this triumphant day is celebrated every year on the first Thursday after the religious holiday of Corpus Christi during the Lajkonik Festival.

Lajkonik has become one of the most beloved unofficial symbols of the city of Kraków. It is represented as a bearded man resembling a Tatar in a pointed hat, dressed in colorful attire, with a wooden horse around his waist. Some say that the legend originated in pre-Christian times when it was believed that in the spring a horse brought good luck and high crop yields. Later this was combined with the historical stories of a Mongol invasion that was warded off by the brave people of the city.

Today, the Lajkonik Festival begins with a colorful parade of medieval dragons, knights, kings, and maidens, led by the Lajkonik who prances around chasing people with his mace. It is said that if he touches you with his mace, you will have good luck throughout the coming year! The parade starts at the Wawel Castle and ends in the center of town, in Market Square.



May 3rd is Polish Constitution Day!



Did you know... that the Polish Constitution is the second-oldest Constitution in the world and the first Constitution in Europe? It was ratified on May 3, 1791, only four years after the American Constitution was adopted by the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787.

Did you know... that the Polish Constitution so enraged Poland's super-power neighbors that they partitioned the country in an attempt to keep democracy from spreading beyond Poland's borders? Russia, Prussia, and

Austria divided Poland into three sections and ruled the nation for over 100 years.

Did you know... that Poland has two national holidays? May 3rd Constitution Day and November 11th Independence Day. That was the day in 1917 when Poland's Independence was reinstated by the Regency Council, after more than 100 years of partition by its neighbors.

Painting by Jan Matejko "Konstytucja 3 maja"

Boze Cialo

The feast of Corpus Christi (Body of Christ) or Boze Cialo is observed on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday all over Poland. Houses, doorways, and windows are decorated with greenery, flowers, and holy pictures and makeshift altars and shrines are built in the streets.

Traffic comes to a virtual standstill at noon as from every church in the country a procession leaves with people walking behind the priest who is carrying the Blessed Sacrament. Many of the people are dressed in their regional costumes. The colorful procession winds through the streets, stopping at the temporary shrines to sing and pray. The shrines are also decorated with branches and members of the processions pick twigs and leaves from them for good luck and happiness. Young girls dressed in First Holy Communion dresses scatter flower petals on the street in front of the priest while young boys carry incense. It is a day of celebration and prayer in all of Poland, as well as a national holiday.

Matki Boskiej Zielnej

As summer draws to an end in Poland, the feast day of Our Lady of the Fields (Matki Boskiej Zielnej) is celebrated on August 15th. This is also the feast day of the Assumption of Our Lady. People bring to church great bouquets made from branches, herbs, vegetables, and wheat, interwoven with a few flowers from the fields and gardens, which are blessed by the priest. These bouquets are carried home and kept until the following year. When there is sickness in the household, the herbs are brewed and used for medicinal purposes, not only for the people, but for the livestock as well. Wreaths are made on this day by young girls and also brought to church to be blessed and then they are proudly worn to attract young men during the picnics and festivals that follow the ceremonies in church.

Sail Away with the PWA!

Participate in
Polish Women's Alliance of America
Membership Cruise Contest!

Win a fabulous cruise for two to the **Bahamas!**
Contest starts **June 1, 2009** – ends **May 31, 2010**

General Terms of Contest:

1. You must submit at least 15 new life insurance applications with a total face amount of at least \$70,000.
2. Only Whole Life insurance policies qualify (annuities do not count).
3. Each submitted application must be approved and a certificate must be issued and accepted.
4. You must sign the application as the witness. *The witnessing member must be 21 years of age or older and in good standing with PWA (no delinquent loans or premiums).*
Licensed agents, National Officers and PWA staff are excluded.
5. In the event of a tie, the witnessing member who obtains the higher total face value of new applications will be declared the winner.
6. In the event of a tie in both the number of applications and face amount totals, the winning member will be chosen in a drawing. The drawing will take place at the Home Office on June 15, 2010.
7. Eligible members who are part of the drawing and do not win, will receive a **\$300 bonus award**.

The witnessing member who enrolls
the most new members will win
A 4-night Bahamas cruise for two in 2010
including round trip air fare to Port of Embarkation for two.

Questions? Call 888-522-1898 ext 228

Plan applied for (Write Plan Name): Face Amount: _____ Premium Mode (Check one): Ann S-Ann Quar Mo Single <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	APPLICATION FOR LIFE INSURANCE With POLISH WOMEN'S ALLIANCE OF AMERICA 6643 N Northwest Highway, 2 nd Floor Chicago, IL 60631	Office Use Only Group No. _____ Certificate No. _____ Plan No. _____ Amount of Insurance _____
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1. Name of Proposed Insured			2. Residence Address		
3. Sex Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Date of Birth (Mo) (Day) (Yr)	5. Age	City _____ State _____ Zip _____		
6. Height _____ Weight _____	7. Place of Birth	8. Telephone Number Home _____ Work _____			
9. Marital Status (Check One) Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/>		10. If female, and ever married, give maiden name		11. Social Security No.	
12. Occupation		13. Name and Address of Employer			
14. Beneficiary Name _____ Relationship _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____					
15. Contingent Beneficiary Name _____ Relationship _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____					

DECLARATION OF INSURABILITY		Yes	No
1. Within the past 3 years, has the proposed insured used tobacco in any form?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Within the past 3 years has the proposed insured ever had or been treated for:			
a. Disease or disorder of heart, kidneys, stomach, liver, lungs, bones or joints?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Epilepsy, convulsion, dizziness, fainting, stroke or mental disorder?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. High blood pressure, chest pain, diabetes, cancer or tumor?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Alcoholism, alcohol abuse or drug abuse?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Any other physical disease or deformity or consulted or been examined by any physician for other than a symptom-free check-up, or had an electrocardiogram, x-rays, or blood studies during the past 3 years?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Has any application for life insurance on the proposed insured been declined, withdrawn, postponed, or modified in any way by any insurance company during the past 3 years?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A. Is the insurance intended to replace or change any insurance now in force? ☐ Yes ☐ No

B. What is the total amount of life insurance in force on the life of the proposed insured? _____

C. What is the total amount of life insurance in force on the life of the applicant, if other than the proposed insured? _____

D. Is the applicant a member of the Polish Women's Alliance? ☐ Yes ☐ No

E. Select dividend option: ☐ left on deposit ☐ cash ☐ purchase paid up additions

Information in this application is given to obtain this insurance and is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. This certificate shall not take effect unless the first or single premium is actually paid to the Alliance at the time of application.

Signature of Proposed Insured _____

Signature of Applicant, if other than Proposed Insured _____

Signature of Witness or Agent _____

Full Amount Attached \$ _____ Signed at (City, State) _____ Date _____

Form No. LA-2005/PWA

CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION

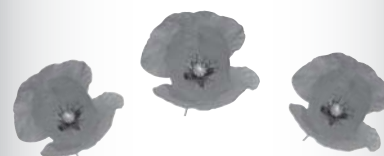
Please charge a one-time premium of \$ _____
 to my _____ VISA _____ MASTER CARD or _____ DISCOVER card.
 Name on Credit Card _____
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
 Signature _____ Billing Address _____
 Zip Code _____

HAPPY SPRING PROMOTION

Ends June 30, 2009

Rules

- ☐ Available to children ages 0 to 17.
- ☐ \$3,000 minimum life insurance
WHOLE LIFE INSURANCE or
EDUCATION LIFE BUILDER
must be purchased to qualify for
this promotion.
- ☐ Applications with the first annual
or a single premium payment
must be received in the National
Office NO LATER THAN
JUNE 30, 2009.



Each child will receive:

- ✓ A Target Gift Card in amount of
\$10 if purchasing less than \$5,000
life insurance.
\$15 if purchasing between \$5,000
and \$9,999 of life insurance or
\$20 if purchasing \$10,000 or
more of life insurance.
- ✓ Automatic membership in Polish
Women's Alliance.
- ✓ A headstart on a nest egg for
the future.

To Apply:

Fill in the application (on this page)
and mail it to us with the applicable
premium payment payable to:

**Polish Women's Alliance of
America, 6643 N Northwest Hwy.
2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60631-1360**

or fill out and return the Credit Card
Authorization on this page.

- See sample rates on page 18.
- Premium is calculated
to the nearest birthday.
- For bigger policies and different
plans, please contact

**Bo Padowski at 888-522-1898
ext 228, or send her email
at padowski@pwaa.org.**



Insurance Corner: Ask Bo with Bo Padowski

Q: In May my granddaughter will receive her First Holy Communion. I would like to give her a special gift that will be remembered for a long time. Is a life insurance policy a good idea? What would you recommend?

Monica, CA

A: Your question is excellent and it is one of many that I receive from our members during the months of May and June. These two months are filled with special celebrations, such as First Holy Communions and Graduations. Parents and Grandparents are always looking for something unique to give for such significant events. I believe that a life insurance policy or savings account are the best choices that you can make. Both plans will grow along with the children and both are an excellent way to start them off on the road to financial security.

In addition, your child will become a member of our 111-year old organization and will be able to participate in all of the activities that are organized for our youth, including applying for college scholarships, if that program continues.

The most popular plan that Polish Women's Alliance offers is the Education Life Builder. The Education Life Builder Plan is a combination of whole life insurance with an annuity rider. The annuity rider is a separate savings account added to the life insurance certificate that earns interest compounded yearly.

Also very popular among parents and grandparents as a gift for children is our Single Premium Whole Life Plan. This is a life insurance policy that is good for a lifetime with only one premium payment required.

We also continue to offer our \$10-per-Month Payable-for-10-Years Whole Life Plan. If you apply for one of these plans on or before June 30, 2009, the insured child will also receive a Target Gift Card. You can read about the details and find an application on page 17 of this issue of *Glos Polek*.

If you need information about any of our plans or if you are looking for rates, please call me at 1 888-522-1898 ext. 1228 or e-mail me at padowski@pwaa.org.

Tired of Watching the Stock Market? Open a Retirement Account with PWA!

The higher your initial premium payment, the higher your first-year interest rate on a NEWLY OPENED ANNUITY—UP TO 4.25%

As of March 1, 2009 the first-year interest rates on newly opened annuities are as follows:

Under \$5,000	3.00%
\$5,000 to \$49,999	3.75%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	4.00%
\$100,000 and Over	4.25%

Don't wait! Let your hard-earned money start working for you today!

The new minimum initial deposit to open any PWAA Annuity contract is \$250.

Call 1-888-522-1898 ext. 228 or 226 for more information and an application. Or send email to padowski@pwaa.org

HAPPY SPRING PROMOTION

**Sample Rates for Single Payment
Whole Life \$3,000 Face Amount**

One Time Payment		
Age	Male	Female
0	\$256.89	\$224.94
1	261.03	229.92
2	267.09	235.50
3	273.96	241.53
4	281.70	248.13
5	289.80	254.91
6	298.20	262.11
7	306.96	269.55
8	316.05	277.20
9	325.56	285.18
10	335.49	293.43
11	345.72	302.07
12	356.40	311.01
13	367.44	320.28
14	378.87	329.85
15	390.54	339.69
16	402.45	349.74
17	414.00	360.18

Premium is calculated to the nearest birthday. This is permanent life insurance that offers a guaranteed face amount and a guaranteed cash value.

**Sample Rates for Education Life
Builder \$3,000 Benefit Amount**

One Time Payment		
Age	Male	Female
0	\$1,556.80	\$1,524.85
1	1,619.43	1,588.32
2	1,686.62	1,655.03
3	1,757.37	1,724.94
4	1,831.86	1,798.29
5	1,909.72	1,874.83
6	1,991.02	1,954.93
7	2,075.95	2,038.54
8	2,164.65	2,125.80
9	2,257.34	2,216.96
10	2,354.20	2,312.14

Premium is calculated to the nearest birthday. At age 19, on the anniversary of the issue date, your child will receive a check for the amount equal to the benefit purchased and a paid-up permanent life insurance policy of equal value.

**For bigger policies and different plans, please contact
Bo Padowski at 888-522-1898
ext 228, or send
email to padowski@pwaa.org.**

In Memoriam



*We note with sadness the passing of the following PWA members.
May they rest in peace.*



Gr. No.	Member	City/State	Gr. No.	Member	City/State
0001	Helena Krall	Bozeman, MT	0226	Joanne B Misiolek	Coldwater, MI
0009	Catherine Tunsy	Manchester, CT	0227	Margaret Price	Canton, MI
0009	Wladyslawa Gaspic	Wethersfield, CT	0227	Genevieve Luke	Dearborn Hts, MI
0015	Helen G Cichacz	Chicago, IL	0254	Jeanette Nasternak	Depew, NY
0031	Julia Zatkalik	Grant Park, IL	0267	Stephen Lokuta	Dupont, PA
0035	Helena Malinski	Chicago, IL	0267	Cecelia Boccardi	Dupont, PA
0035	Sophie M Budziak	Plainfield, IL	0269	Christopher G Rendano	Wilmington, NC
0037	Evelyn Przybylowski	Chicago, IL	0271	Frances H Green	Scottdale, PA
0037	Irene M Pernal	Munster, IN	0275	Cecilia M Siderewicz	Omaha, NE
0037	Dolores M Warzyniak	Saint John, IN	0275	Marya Pluta	San Carlos, CA
0043	Margaret Jirak	Elon, NC	0275	Genowefa Barton	Papillion, NE
0044	Grazyna B Kotulski	Chicago, IL	0275	Jadwiga Adamson	Omaha, NE
0049	Rozalia Kopia	Weirton, WV	0275	Stella Sturek	Omaha, NE
0049	Helen Brosky	Weirton, WV	0280	Bertha J Skowronski	East Hartford, CT
0070	Estelle Montella	Schererville, IN	0280	Cora V Schultz	Rocky Hill, CT
0077	Helen R Gonsiorowski	South Bend, IN	0287	Casimira Kaczynska	Fall River, MA
0078	Ruth Racinowski	New Berlin, WI	0288	Victoria E Kamionka	Nanticoke, PA
0087	Mary M Harcharic	Follansbee, WV	0300	Regina Perza	Greensburg, PA
0088	Agnes M Bejcek	Bedford Hts, OH	0304	Eleonora Schwan	Bridgeville, PA
0089	Stefania Wiatr	Chicago, IL	0306	Sophie Raymond	Natrona Hts, PA
0112	Maryanna Dambek	Chicago, IL	0306	Maksyn Rzczkowski	Natrona Hts, PA
0116	Sylvia C Redman	Milwaukee, WI	0313	Lydia Benedetto	Santa Monica, CA
0128	Stephany C Nitz	Highland, IN	0317	Sophie M Wojtowicz	Louisville, KY
0128	Mary E Micholski	Lake Village, IN	0317	Wanda Adamczyk	Chicopee, MA
0129	Charmaine Zwierzynski	South Bend, IN	0317	Adele A Sitarz	Chicopee, MA
0131	Stanislawa Widomski	Buffalo, NY	0318	Eleonora Kapustka	Dearborn Hts, MI
0132	Jean Kellar	Hammond, IN	0318	Louise Olejarczyk	Sterling Hts, MI
0132	Evelyn M Broton	Miami, FL	0348	Ian J Pope	Tunkhannock, PA
0137	Emily Foszcz	Harwood Hts, IL	0356	Lillian Mitera	Omaha, NE
0138	Loretta M Jonites	Chicago, IL	0356	Helen M Cieslik	Bellevue, NE
0141	Helen M Bernadis	Bayonne, NJ	0366	Helen Borg	Hebron, IN
0149	Mary Janiga	Chicago, IL	0379	Stella T Siwek	Tonawanda, NY
0149	Thaddeus A Bieniak	Chicago, IL	0381	Pelagia Gawlowicz	Clifton Park, NY
0160	Carol F Drwal	Hoffman Ests, IL	0398	Bernice Lazar	Millersburg, PA
0160	Wanda Smaron	Chicago, IL	0398	Francis Kolenda	Shenandoah, PA
0170	Camille D Mazurek	Dearborn Hts, MI	0417	Zofia Bonczak	Mount Ephraim, NJ
0172	Helena Benigno	Branchville, NJ	0418	Jennifer Anderson	Freeland, MI
0173	Frances Puvel	Salamanca, NY	0419	Virginia Rzadkiewicz	Eden, NY
0182	Mildred A Bogus	Turtle Creek, PA	0422	Rudolph M Cieplinski	East Longmeadow, MA
0182	Sandra L Melocchi	Monroeville, PA	0426	Virginia Gonko	Gilbert, AZ
0182	Helen A Olenak	Monroeville, PA	0440	Arline Walters	Dekalb, IL
0182	Wanda Pasternak	Homestead,	0440	Frances Hayden	Watseka, IL
0185	Irene Burns	Easton, CT	0450	Mary K Darlington	Duryea, PA
0185	Barbara Warren	Stratford, CT	0460	William Wheelock	Scottsdale, AZ
0188	Lillian Rusek	Fox Lake, IL	0463	Jean Balch	West Chester, PA
0189	Sophie S Mikolajczyk	Green Field, WI	0463	Anela S Kantnik	Sandwich, MA
0202	Helena Kmiec	Chicago, IL	0468	Helen Szarszewski	Niagara Falls, NY
0203	Bernadine Kowalski	Peoria, IL	0468	Stella Oblamski	Grand Isl, NY
0214	Ann J Davis	Pittsburgh, PA	0469	Dorota Gerbik	Erie, PA
0224	Pearl Gansberger	Pittsburgh, PA	0469	Jozefa Nagle	Erie, PA
0224	Gertrude M Kijanka	Pittsburgh, PA	0469	Gary Wawrzyniak	Erie, PA

In Memoriam



*We note with sadness the passing of the following PWA members. (cont.)
May they rest in peace.*



Gr. No.	Member	City/State
0469	Loretta Ambuske	Salamanca, NY
0470	Lucy J Kinecki	Buffalo, NY
0470	Lucy Tokasz	Buffalo, NY
0474	Margaret Tobay	Dunbar PA
0477	Josephine Kraus	Freeport, PA
0480	Monica M Sokolowski	Hazel Crest, IL
0481	Rose Grillo	Clinton Twp, MI
0485	Marie M Anescheck	Media, PA
0500	Stella E Knebel	Summerfield, FL
0501	Cecilia A Sulkowski	Allentown, PA
0501	Eleonor Meketa	Johnstown, PA
0510	Helena Festa	Mc Adoo, PA
0513	Maryann C Smith	East Brunswick, NJ
0530	Irene Strumski	Plymouth, PA
0530	Bernard Zbierajewski	Nanticoke, PA
0536	Theresa A Bobinski	South Milwaukee, WI
0536	Regina T Wilke	South Milwaukee, WI
0536	Charlotte Berger	South Milwaukee, WI
0536	Donald C Pinkowski	South Milwaukee, WI
0545	Helen H. Lukasiak	Wyandotte, MI
0552	Josephine A Sadlowski	Meriden, CT
0552	Irena Cichon	Meriden, CT
0552	Irene Pasinski	Meriden, CT
0552	Helen A Kierys	New London, CT
0559	Barbara Bzdula	Ware, MA
0562	Helen Jablonski	La Porte, IN
0562	Stephanie Setlak	Merrillville, IN
0568	Emily I Kasper	Pasadena, MD
0568	Zachary J Shiflett	Middle River, MD
0568	Madeline Jeromin	Baltimore, MD
0570	Henrietta A Dziuban	Detroit, MI
0579	Zbigniew Saczawa	55-050 Sobotka,
0583	Florentyna Szczesniak	Bay City, MI
0589	Bernice Barsnica	Cranford, NJ
0591	Helen Jasinski	Toms River, NJ
0591	Marya Dworakowska	Jersey City, NJ
0596	Cecylia Mazer	Duquesne, PA
0598	Anna Niedziolka	Harrison, NJ
0598	Frances M Moeller	Columbia, SC
0598	Helen A Domalewski	Wayne, NJ
0598	Genevieve A Drost	Kearny, NJ
0602	Irene Boxill-Byk	Dade City, FL
0602	Josephine A Cowan	South Amboy, NJ
0607	Carol A Luberecki	Elizabeth, NJ
0616	Lillian E Bogdanski	Troy, MI
0661	Lorraine T Serwa	Elmwood Park, IL
0661	Cecilia M Konieczny	Downers Grove, IL
0661	Helena Kuta	Park Ridge, IL
0661	Helena Piecko	Chicago, IL
0661	Virginia Kozlowski	Broomfield, CO
0665	Florence T Paul	Phoenix, AZ

Gr. No.	Member	City/State
0665	Wladys Czerwieniec	Hinckley, OH
0669	Julia Kopa	Carbondale, PA
0675	Marya Fritz	Philadelphia, PA
0677	Blanche Selewoniuk	Saint Lucie West, FL
0677	Sophie Matuch	Spring Lake, NJ
0680	Linda M Teorsky	Mc Kean, PA
0680	Josephine R Kowalski	North East, PA
0693	Harriet F Gobeli	Norridge, IL
0693	Wanda Smeja	Carol Stream, IL
0721	Mildred Greczek	North Brunswick, NJ
0732	Gertrude Borek	Dearborn Hts, MI
0743	Dorothy Dalka	Chicago, IL
0749	Victoria Dobrowolski	Hammond, IN
0752	Eleanor J Miller	Northville, MI
0763	Frances M Dominiak	Balto, MD
0763	Edwina M Byrnes	Baltimore, MD
0763	Louise R Czyz	Middleriver, MD
0786	Halina Korepta	Bayon Ct Pt, FL
0787	Claudia MacIntyre	Port Charlotte, FL
0787	Theresa Petrowski	Bayonne, NJ
0809	Katie Thur	Brea, CA
0809	Estelle Nadolski	Cleveland, OH
0813	Theresa Hiti	Alhambra, CA
0819	Mary T Kozimczak	Grayslake, IL



In Memoriam

Sophie Mikolajczyk

Past President of District VI
Member of Groups 116 and 189

Sophie (Sue) Mikolajczyk, two-term State President of District VI Wisconsin, passed away on Saturday, March 7, 2009, at age 89. She was a longtime member and officer of PWA Groups 116 and 189. She loved all things Polish and was an active supporter of many Polish American organizations in the Milwaukee area. She was named Woman of the Year by Milwaukee Mayor Norquist in 1995 and May 6th was declared Sophie Mikolajczyk Day in her honor.

Sophie was preceded in death by her husband Walter, Jr., and she is survived by her daughter Grace Ann (Steve) Jankowski; her granddaughter Vikki Socha, the joy of her life; and by many friends and relatives. Sophie was a very special person—caring, soft and gentle, always dignified and diligent in her efforts to help others and to promote Polish culture. Whenever you would enter a room, you would be greeted by her sparkling eyes and a bright smile. She will be sorely missed.

May she rest in peace!

PWA Announces a Scholarship for the

KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY SUMMER 2010 PROGRAM IN KRAKOW, POLAND

Application Period from June 1, 2009 to August 31, 2009

PWA will award one fully-paid scholarship in 2009 for a PWA member to attend the four-week Summer Program at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, in the summer of 2010. The scholarship also includes a roundtrip airline ticket to Poland. All Kosciuszko Foundation Jagiellonian Summer Program rules, regulations, and requirements associated with this program apply to this award. (See www.kosciuszkofoundation.org/educationalprograms/summerprograms)

The applicant must be at least 18 years of age, a PWA member in good standing for at least five years, and have at least \$3,000 in insurance coverage with PWA. Term certificates, endowments, annuities, lapsed or suspended certificates, and certificates with outstanding loans are excluded from eligibility.

The application is available on the PWA website. Go to www.pwaa.org to download the application. Please be sure to fill it out completely. The Scholarship Committee will not consider any incomplete, unsigned, or late applications. They will be automatically rejected. In addition to the application, a 500-750 word essay on the following topic is required:

“What Polish heritage benefits do I anticipate to gain by attending the Summer Program at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland”

The essay should be typed in English and stapled to the application. Be sure to include your full name and address on the essay page. The completed application, essay, wallet-sized photo, media form, and insurance application (if needed) must be submitted to Sharon Zago, Vice President and Scholarship Committee Chair, postmarked by August 15th, 2009. Please mail to Polish Women's Alliance, 6643 N. Northwest Hwy, 2nd Fl., Chicago, IL 60631.

Scholarship Committee: Sharon Zago, Vice President and Chairman; Directors: Dawn Muszynski Nelson, Helen Simmons, Marcia Mackiewicz-Duffy, and Felicia Perlick; Ex-Officio: Virginia Sikora, National President.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please change the address on all PWA Policies and Communications for:

INDIVIDUAL — NAME: _____

ENTIRE FAMILY — LIST INDIVIDUAL NAMES: _____

OLD MAILING ADDRESS: _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

NEW MAILING ADDRESS _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email address: _____

SIGNATURE REQUIRED (Insured, Annuitant, Owner) _____

TODAY'S DATE _____

Date of Birth (for ID purposes) _____

Mail or Fax to: Polish Women's Alliance of America, 6643 N. Northwest Hwy., 2nd Fl.
Chicago, IL 60631 FAX: 847-384-1494



Youth/Bowling Tournament

Komitet Oswiaty

2009 POLONIA YOUTH BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Tournament Ends June 30th! Mail in your Scores Early!

Information about the Youth Bowling Tournament was mailed to all youth members.

Please call the Office of the Vice President at 1-888-522-1898 ext. 208 if you have any questions. We encourage all Districts to participate. We are hoping to have full participation this year! Districts that have five or more bowlers will receive \$100 for their Scholarship Fund from Komitet Oswiaty.

Read the rules below so you know how many games you need to bowl and how to send in your scores.

Your parents will need to fill out your application and vouch for the scores.

RULES FOR JUNIOR BOWLING TOURNAMENT FOR PWA YOUTH

1. All Bowlers must be PWA members as of December 31, 2008, and in good standing.
2. Separate events will be held for boys and girls in 5 age groups:
 - Peewee ages 3 to 5 years
 - Bantams ages 6 to 8 years
 - Preps ages 9 to 11 years
 - Juniors ages 12 to 14 years
 - Majors ages 15 to 18 years
3. Individual's age as of December 31, 2008, determines the age classification.
4. All bowlers must bowl in their age division.
5. All participants may participate only once in this tournament. Parent or adult must complete application for each participant.
6. Peewee and Bantam bowlers may use bumpers and scores for two games.
7. Preps, Juniors, and Majors scores are based on three games bowled.
8. Average rules: Use the current league average as of December 31, 2008, for at least seven league sessions. Bowlers with less than twenty-one games or seven league sessions will be classified as scratch bowlers. The tournament manager will add the handicap to raw scores of the scratch bowlers using YABA guidelines.
9. Individuals will bowl on one weekend of their choice from January 1 through June 30.
10. All scores and printouts from the bowling alley of the scores should be mailed in with the bowling applications.
11. Peewee division: The child must be able to pick up the bowling ball with two hands off the rack and carry it to the foul line. No parental or adult assistance is allowed to help the child to the foul line. Please follow this rule!
12. Proper attire must be worn (bowling shoes).
13. Foul lights must be in operation.
14. Score sheets and bowling score printouts must be mailed to the PWA Youth Committee c/o Sharon Zago, Vice President, and postmarked no later than June 30, 2009 to be eligible for prizes.



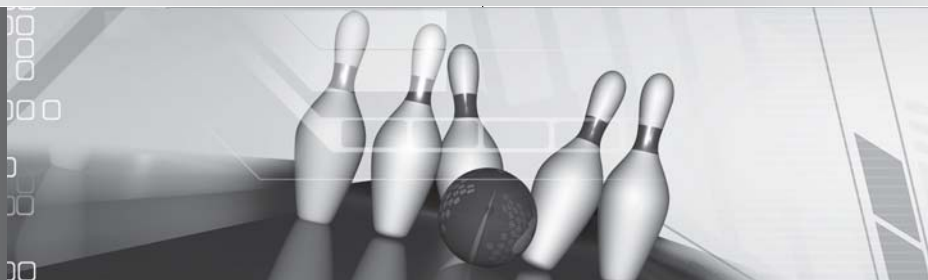
Komitet Oswiaty

Sharon Zago, Vice President and Chairman; Committee Members: Antoinette Trela Vander Noot, Secretary-Treasurer;

Directors: Dawn Muszynski Nelson, Helen Simmons, Marcia Mackiewicz Duffy, and Felicia Perlick.

Ex-Officio: Virginia Sikora, National President.

2009



2009

LET'S COOK POLISH!!

FRESH AND TASTY SOUPS

For a nice fresh taste of summer, try this leek and spinach soup your entire family is sure to love. Another Polish summertime favorite is "chłodnik" which is a soup served cold. A chilled beet and cucumber soup is a tasty — and healthy — treat on a hot day!

Asparagus and Spinach Soup

2 leeks, 1 onion, 2 Tbs butter, 3 potatoes, 2 carrots, 8-12 asparagus spears, 1 10-oz bag of spinach leaves, 1/4 cup uncooked rice. 1 cup half and half, salt to taste, 10 cups of hot water

Carefully rinse and clean the leeks, then slice them thinly, discarding the dark green parts. Finely chop one onion. Heat the butter in a large saucepan and then add the leeks and onion. Toss the vegetables in the butter and sauté over low heat, covered, for about 5 minutes (do not allow to brown). Add finely diced carrots and roughly chopped potatoes, hot water, and salt.

Bring to a gentle boil, then lower heat and let simmer for 15 minutes. Add rice, mix well to prevent sticking, and cook for another 15 minutes.

In the meantime, prepare the asparagus spears by peeling them and cutting off the tough lower stems. Cut into 1/2 inch pieces and add to the pot. Cook for another 10 minutes. Wash and cut spinach into thin strips, add to soup and cook for 10 minutes more. Slowly add the half and half, bring to boil, cover and refrigerate for a day. To serve, heat while stirring. Serves 8.

Cold Beet and Cucumber Soup

1 lb cooked, peeled, and sliced beets (or 1 can sliced beets); 1 1/2 cups buttermilk or plain kefir; 1/4 cup sour cream; 1 small seedless cucumber, peeled and quartered. 1 hard-boiled egg, quartered; salt and pepper to taste; extra cucumber slices, sour cream, and dill for garnish.

Place beets in a blender or food processor and blend until smooth. Add remaining ingredients and puree until thick and creamy. Adjust seasonings. Chill for two hours or overnight. Serve in small glass bowls or goblets, garnished with an extra cucumber slice, a dollop of sour cream, and dill. Serves 4.



GOTUJMY PO POLSKU!!

ŚWIEŻE I SMACZNE ZUPY

Ażeby przywołać orzeźwiający smak lata, spróbujmy zupę z porów i szpinaku, która z pewnością będzie smakowała całej rodzinie. Inną "letnią" polską ulubioną zupą jest "chłodnik" z buraczków i ogórka – smaczny i zdrowy, prawdziwy przysmak na gorące dni!

Zupa szparagowo-szpinakowa

2 pory (leeks), 1 cebula, 2 łyżki masła, 3 ziemniaki, 2 marchewki, 8 szparagów (lub więcej), 30 dkg szpinaku, 1/4 szklanki ryżu, 1 szklanka śmietanki (half-and-half), sól do smaku, 1.5 litra gorącej wody

Umyć dokładnie, oczyścić i drobno pokroić pory (ciemnozielone części odrzucić), dodać drobno pokrojoną cebulę i wrzucić razem na rozgrzane masło. Wymieszać tak, żeby masło pokryło jarzyny, i dusić pod przykryciem na wolnym ogniu przez ok. 5 min. (nie rumienić i nie przypalić). Następnie dodać drobno pokrojoną marchewkę i pokrojone ziemniaki, zalać gorącą wodą i posolić.

Doprowadzić zupę do wrzenia, zmniejszyć temperaturę, przykryć garnek i gotować przez 15 min. Następnie dodać ryż, mieszać dokładnie, żeby się nie skleił, i gotować przez następne 15 min.

Przygotować szparagi; obrać, odciąć twarde części i pokroić na kawałki (ok. 1.5 cm). Dodać szparagi do zupy i gotować przez 10 min. Umyć i wysuszyć szpinak, pokroić w pasemka, dodać do garnka i gotować przez następne 10 min. Na zakończenie, powoli wlać śmietanę, zagotować zupę przez moment i odstawić. Przykryć i włożyć do lodówki (zupę dobrze jest przygotować dzień wcześniej). Przed podaniem zagotować zupę, mieszając dokładnie. Na 8 osób.

Chłodnik buraczano – ogórkowy

1/2 kg ugotowanych, obranych i pokrojonych buraków (albo 1 puszka buraków w plasterkach); 1 1/2 szklanki maślanki albo kefiru; 1/4 szklanki kwaśnej śmietany; 1 mały ogórek bez nasion, obrany i pokrojony, 1 jajko na twardo, w ćwiartkach; sól i pieprz do smaku. Do przybrania: plasterki ogórka, kwaśna śmietana i świeży koperek.

Zmiksować dobrze buraki i pozostałe składniki, z wyjątkiem tych do przybrania; przyprawić i chłodzić przez 2 godziny, albo całą noc. Podawać w małych szklanych miseczkach lub pucharkach, ozdobić plasterkami ogórka, łyżeczką śmietany i świeżym koprem. Na 4 osoby.



Przepisy kulinarne

- **Salatka z brukselki**
- **Salatka z ziemniaków i korzenia selera**
- **Porady praktyczne**

Salatka z brukselki

50 dkg brukselki
1 kwaszony ogórek
1 jabłko
1/2 małej cebuli
1 pomidor
1/2 szklanki kwaśnej śmietany, 2 jajka
sól, cukier do smaku
sok z cytryny

Salatka z ziemniaków i korzenia selera

75 dkg ziemniaków,
25 dkg kwaśnych jabłek
20 dkg selera
5 dkg cebuli
oliwa
sól, cukier do smaku
sok z cytryny i nać pietruszki



Ugotować i przekroić na pół brukselkę, ogórki i jabłka zetrzeć na grubej tarce, cebulę pokroić w kostkę, pomidory w cząstki. Wszystkie składniki połączyć, skropić sokiem cytrynowym i przyprawić solą i cukrem. Jaja ugotować na twardo, grubo posiekać i posypać po wierzchu sałatki. (Pomidory można zastąpić czerwoną papryką lub startą marchwią)

Surowe celery zetrzeć na tarce o dużych otworach, jabłka i cebule pokrajać na drobną kostkę, skropić sokiem z cytryny. Ugotowane ziemniaki pokrajać w nieco większą kostkę. Wymieszać wszystko z oliwą przyprawioną solą i cukrem oraz z posiekaną nacią pietruszki. Sałatkę można przyrządzać z sosem śmietanowo-musztardowym, tzn. połączyć kwaśną śmietanę z musztardą.

Brokuły, kapusta ...

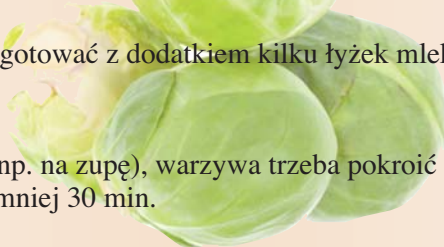
Brokuły, kapustę, brukselkę można gotować z dodatkiem kilku łyżek mleka. Mleko chroni witaminę C i poprawia smak.

Wywar z warzyw

Aby uzyskać esencjonalny wywar (np. na zupę), warzywa trzeba pokroić na kawałki i włożyć do dużej ilości zimnej wody, gotować co najmniej 30 min.

Czosnek

Najdłużej utrzymuje swoje właściwości, jeśli całe, obrane ząbki zostaną ułożone w słoiczku i zalane oliwą albo olejem.



Z okazji Dnia Matki



Henryk Rodakowski (1823–1894) jeden z najwybitniejszych polskich malarzy XIX wieku. Jego prace, głównie portrety, wystawiane na Salonach Paryskich spotykały się z wielkim aplauzem krytyków i publiczności i wygrywały główne nagrody. Wystawiony również w Paryżu "Portret Matki" (1853) został uznany przez jednego z najślawniejszych twórców epoki, Eugene Delacroix, za arcydzieło.

Tadeusz Kubiak (1924–1979) – polski poeta, satyryk, autor utworów dla dzieci, słuchowisk radiowych i tekstów piosenek.

Wiersz na Dzień Matki

W zielonych oczach Matki
Świeci wiosenna łąka.
Słońce na drzewach śpiewa
i budzi kwiaty w pąkach.

W niebieskich oczach Matki
szepcze kwitnący strumień.
Tak opowiadać bajki
to tylko Mama umie.

W błękitnych oczach Matki
pogodne niebo fruwa.
Kiedy zasypiasz - Matka
jak gwiazda nad snem czuwa.

A w czarnych oczach Matki
noc od samego świtu
okrywa cię skrzydłami
ze srebra i błękitu.

Tadeusz Kubiak



BON TON

Życie nie jest tak krótkie, by nie było w nim czasu na uprzejmość.

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

Tradycyjnie, ryba podawana jest po zupie. Wbrew obiegowym przekonaniom, ryb nie należy jeść dwoma widelcami. Używa się do tego specjalnych sztuców: widelców z nieco krótszymi ząbkami i tępego noża – łopatki. Wszystko dlatego, że nie należy ryb kroić, ale rozdrabniać. Nóż służy do rozsuwania i przytrzymywania mięsa. Jeśli dostajemy całą rybę, musimy użyć noża. Specjalny nóż do ryby ma swój charakterystyczny kształt i umiejscowiony jest pomiędzy nożem do mięsa a łyżką do zupy, w kolejności podawanych potraw, licząc od zewnętrznej strony. Trzymamy go w prawej ręce, tak jak ołówek, tzn. inaczej niż zwykły nóż. Najpierw odcinamy płetwy boczne, ostrym zakończeniem noża nacinamy skórę na grzbiecie, podważamy ją i oddzielamy od mięsa, potem przytrzymujemy widelcem kręgosłup i nożem zdejmujemy filet. Ości przesuwamy na brzeg talerza, albo odkładamy na mały deserowy talerzyk przeznaczony specjalnie do tego celu. Po wykonaniu tych wszystkich przygotowań „zabiegów”, możemy nóż odłożyć, jeśli jemy w sposób amerykański, albo trzymać go dalej w prawej ręce, a kawałki ryby jeść widelcem trzymanym w lewej ręce. Nawet jeśli ryba nie jest podawana w całości, to i tak czasem nóż i widelec do ryby są częścią nakrycia, szczególnie kiedy podawany jest łosoś albo inna ryba, która może mieć ości.

Zwykłymi sztucami jemy węgorze, śledzie, wędzone i marynowane łososie oraz wszystkie inne wędzone ryby.

Jeśli nie podano nam specjalnych sztuców do ryb, a coraz rzadziej są one spotykane, to wykonujemy te wszystkie „operacje” nożem, który jest dostępny.



“MOJA WIERNA MOWO”



Porady językowe według Jana Miodka i innych polskich językoznawców

“ Proszę Pani, proszę Panią o rękę”

Przy bezpośrednim zwracaniu się do kobiety używamy formy “proszę pani”. Dość często ten zwrot grzecznościowy używany jest niepoprawnie jako “proszę panią”. Proszę panią powiemy wówczas, gdy jakąś panią o coś prosimy, natomiast zwracając się do niej powiemy: “proszę pani”. A więc na przykład: “Proszę pani, bardzo panią proszę o spokój”, “Proszę panią do tańca”, Proszę pani, która jest godzina?”, “Proszę pani, czy mogę wyjść z klasy?”, “Proszę pani, to był piękny wieczór”, “Proszę panią o całusa”. W zwrocie grzecznościowym – “proszę pani” - używamy dopełniacza (“pani”), a w drugiej formie - biernika (“panią”).

W SIECI

<http://www.iam.pl/pl/site/>

Strona Instytutu Adama Mickiewicza - rządowej instytucji kulturalnej, której misją jest propagować kulturę polską na świecie oraz inicjować międzynarodową współpracę kulturalną z Polską.

<http://www.culture.pl/pl/culture/>

w językach: polskim, angielskim, francuskim, niemieckim i hiszpańskim

Portal poświęcony kulturze polskiej, prowadzony przez Instytut Adam Mickiewicza

<http://www.wiz.pl/>

Portal czasopisma “Wiedza i Życie”, omawiającego tematy popularnonaukowe. Pismo ukazuje się od 1910 roku, a regularnie, jako miesięcznik, od 1926 roku. Jest najstarszym czasopismem spośród wydawanych dzisiaj w Polsce.

Grupa 114 Związku Polek w Ameryce
serdecznie zaprasza na

Wieczór poezji i muzyki poświęcony Matkom

Będzie to kolejna okazja oddania hołdu Matkom,
które kochają bez zastrzeżeń i do końca.

W czasie wieczoru będą wręczane nagrody laureatom konkursu
“List do Mamy”, zorganizowanego również przez Grupę 114.

6 czerwca 2009, godzina 7 wieczorem
w Domu Harcerskim 6434 W. Belmont Ave, w Chicago

Wstęp wolny

Rezerwacja miejsc do 29 maja, 2009, pod numerem
773 202-0605 (można zostawić wiadomość)
lub 847 384-1200 wew. 218 lub 227.



Czterechsetna rocznica przeniesienia stolicy z Krakowa do Warszawy

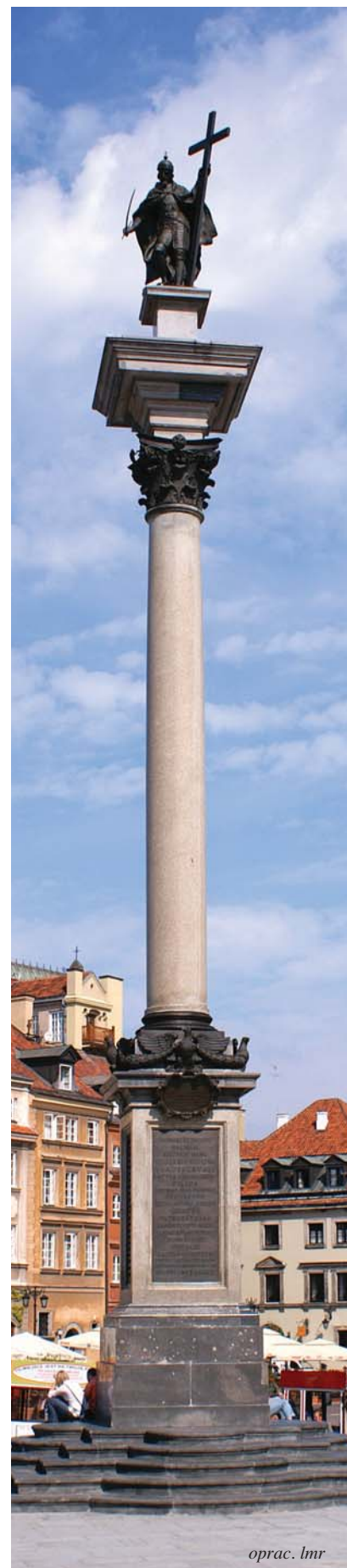
Decyzja o przeniesieniu stolicy z Krakowa do Warszawy zapadła w marcu 1596 r., po pożarze Zamku Królewskiego na Wawelu, kiedy w czasie eksperymentu alchemicznego, z udziałem Zygmunta III Wazy, zaproszony został ogień. Nie był to jednak jedyny powód; król, uwikłany w wydarzenia polityczne na wschodzie i północy Polski, częściej bywał w Warszawie, ze względu na jej centralne położenie. Proces przenoszenia dworu trwał do 25 maja 1609 roku. W tym czasie Zygmunt III Waza ostatecznie wyjechał z Krakowa i do swej śmierci już do niego nie powrócił.

Pod koniec XVI w. Warszawa była poważnym ośrodkiem miejskim w skali Mazowsza. Z małej wsi (na terenie obecnego Mariensztatu), która na przełomie XII i XIII wieku należała do rycerza Warsza z rodu Rawów (Rawiczów), stała się z czasem grodem książęcym – “Warszowa”. W 1529 r., księstwo mazowieckie zostało wcielone do Korony, a król (Zygmunt Stary) odbył w Warszawie pierwszy Sejm Walny Koronny. Wtedy też rozpoczął się tzw. “złoty wiek” Warszawy, który trwał do 1655 roku. W 1569 r., na sejmie w Lublinie, postanowiono, że Warszawa będzie stałą siedzibą sejmów walnych Korony i Wielkiego księstwa Litewskiego, a od 1573 r. także miejscem elekcji królów polskich. W Warszawie miało też miejsce składanie hołdów pruskich. W roku 1598 zaczęła się rozbudowa zamku, w wyniku której nadano mu, w ogólnych zarysach, taki kształt, jaki się zachował do 1939 roku. W 1644 r. Władysław IV Waza wystawił swojemu ojcu, Zygmuntowi III, pomnik – Kolumnę Zygmunta.

Warszawa stała się nie tylko stolicą polityczną i administracyjną, lecz także głównym ośrodkiem nauki, sztuki i kultury. Komnaty zamku wypełnione były dziełami sztuki włoskiej i niderlandzkiej; na ścianach wisiały obrazy Rubensa i Rembrandta, arrasy i wschodnie kobierce. W zamkowym teatrze i operze gościli zagraniczni trupy aktorskie; jeszcze za życia Szekspira i wkrótce po jego śmierci wystawiano tu “Króla Leara”, “Romeo i Julię” i “Hamleta”. Mecenat królewski był także widoczny w dziedzinie rozwoju nauk.

Trzeba jednak zaznaczyć, że faktyczna stołeczność Warszawy nie została potwierdzona żadnym aktem prawnym, oficjalnie aż do upadku Polski w 1795r. przysługiwało jej wyłącznie miano miasta rezydencjonalnego Jego Królewskiej Mości; Warszawa była stolicą “de facto” (“w praktyce”), a Kraków “de iure” (prawnie). Kraków był miejscem koronacji królów i miejscem ich grobów, i ciągle jeszcze miały tu miejsce szczególne dla kraju wydarzenia, jak np. triumfalny wjazd Władysława IV z armią po zwycięstwie pod Chocimem (1621), czy ostatni Hołd Pruski (1649). Tradycyjnie, do dzisiaj, “Stołeczne Królewskie Miasto Kraków” to pełna nazwa Krakowa, używana w uroczystych dokumentach i będąca tytułem formalnym, usankcjonowanym prawnie przez Urząd Rady Ministrów RP.

Ale stolicą Polski już na zawsze pozostała Warszawa, a losy jej splótły się z burzliwą i tragiczną historią narodu w czasach rozbiorów i wojen. W 1945 r., z uwagi na ogromne zniszczenia miasta, rozważano przeniesienie stolicy na stałe do Łodzi, ale pomysłu nie zrealizowano; Warszawa została odbudowana, i od 1952 r. zapis o stołeczności Warszawy znajduje się w Konstytucji. W Warszawie mieści się siedziba sejmu, prezydenta i władz centralnych. Warszawa jest też największym miastem Polski.



“Chwalcie łąki umajone”

Karol Bołoz Antoniewicz (1807 - 1852)



uczuc i prostoty pieśni towarzyszą od lat modlitwom tysięcy wiernych.

Urodził się w 1807 roku we Lwowie w ormiańskiej rodzinie Józefa i Józefy z Nikorowiczów. Od najmłodsze­go wieku odznaczał się szlachetnością i dobrocią, zamiłowaniem do muzyki, poezji i do nauki. Wzorem ojca wybrał studia prawnicze na lwowskim uniwersytecie, które ukończył w 1827. Po naukach wyruszył w podróż po Europie, do Wiednia, Włoch i do Rumunii, gdzie w Yassach zamierzał zebrać materiały na temat osadnictwa ormiańskiego, bowiem jego marzeniem było napisanie prawdziwej historii narodu ormiańskiego. Pracy jednak nie dokończył. Na wieść o wybuchu Powstania Listopadowego (1931r.) wrócił do kraju i zaangażował się w walkę, służąc w korpusie generała Józefa Dwernickiego. W roku 1931 ożenił się ze swoją kuzynką Zofią Nikorowiczówną i osiadł w majątku w Skwarzawie. Szczęśliwa młoda para, w imię szlachetnych haseł epoki romantyzmu (Antoniewicz był rówieśnikiem naszych wieszczów) pragnąc dzielić szczęście z innymi, zajęła się pomaganiem swoim poddanym. W dworze urządzili szkołę i niewielki szpital, dom ich stał się przytułkiem dla chorych i nieszczęśliwych. Wiedli wypełnione pracą życie. Na świat zaczęły też przychodzić dzieci, ale wszystkie pięcioro umierały w niemowlęctwie, a w roku 1839 zmarła żona. Tak tragicznie zamknął się jeden etap w życiu Antoniewicza.

Najpiękniejszą i najpopularniejszą maryjną pieśnią jest z całą pewnością “Chwalcie łąki umajone”, śpiewana w kościołach przy akompaniamencie organów i dobiegająca od pól i łąk, od przydrożnych krzyży i kapliczek, gdzie wierni gromadzą się na majowe nabożeństwo. I chociaż pieśń ta jest tak bardzo popularna, postać jej autora jest mało znana. Ks. Karol Antoniewicz nie był sławnym poetą, ale jego wzruszające, pełne tkliwości, szczerości

Następne lata, już do końca, poświęcił religii. Kilka tygodni po śmierci żony wstąpił do zakonu jezuitów, w 1841 roku złożył śluby zakonne, a w trzy lata później przyjął święcenia kapłańskie i oddał się pracy duszpasterskiej. Swoją misję widział w niesieniu pomocy najbardziej potrzebującym i przez los pokrzywdzonym. Zastąpił jako ludowy kaznodzieja i charyzmatyczny misjonarz, szczególnie podczas rozruchów chłopskich w Galicji w 1846 r., gdzie swoimi naukami wprowadził pokój. Działalność także w Krakowie, ratując przed rozpaczą mieszkańców miasta po wielkim pożarze. Działalność na Podkarpaciu, na Śląsku i w Poznańskim. Tam też, w Obrze, zorganizował placówkę jezuicką, której został pierwszym przełożonym. Kiedy w mieście wybuchła epidemia cholery, niosąc pomoc chorym, sam się zaraził i zmarł.

Jego spuścizna literacka to opowiadania, listy i wiersze. Jest autorem popularnych pieśni religijnych: “Biedny, kto Ciebie”, “Chwalcie łąki umajone”, “Do Betlejem upełni radości”, “Nazareński śliczny kwiecie” i wielu innych. W jego poezji dominuje wątek akceptacji cierpienia oraz miłości i kultu Matki Boskiej.

Po latach, inny poeta, Kazimierz Wierzyński, oddał hołd ks. Antoniewiczowi w swoim wierszu “Kantyczka”, pisząc:

*“Chwalcie łąki umajone,
Góry doliny zielone,
Wielki kościół pod obłokiem
(...)
Czerwone ptaki, złociste trzmielce,
Radość wszelkiego stworzenia,
I wiatr na dzisiaj i na niedzielę,
Unisono istnienia.”*

“Wielki kościół pod obłokiem” to nasza Ziemia, a “unisono istnienia” to harmonia – doskonałe współbrzmienie wszelkiego stworzenia, człowieka i wszystkiego co żyje.

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31 maja – nowe święto w “królestwie bociana białego”

“Do kraju tego, gdzie winą jest duża
Popsować gniazdo na gruszy bocianie,
Bo wszystkim służyć...
Tęskno mi, Panie...”

Moja piosenka – Cyprian Kamil Norwid (1821–1883)

Tak wyraził tęsknotę za ojczyzną Cyprian Norwid, autor wiersza, z którego pochodzą te słowa. Bocian jest symbolem nostalgii i miłości do rodzinnego kraju, i ma swoje wieczne już miejsce w naszej literaturze i sztuce. Jest także wdzięcznym i zabawnym bohaterem wierszy i piosenek dla dzieci, i oczywiście występuje w folklorze. Istnieje bowiem wiele legend, bajek, przysłów, wróżb i porzekadeł związanych z tym pięknym, dużym ptakiem, który upodobał sobie nasze ziemie i stał się częścią polskiego krajobrazu. Od niepamiętnych czasów otaczany jest w kraju sympatią i szacunkiem, ma też wiele zabawnych imion, jak np. staś, wojtuś, ksiądz wojciech, iwanko grzegotka, klek, boć, busiel, klabocian, i dziesiątki innych. Najstarsza, zapisana w 1472 r., nazwa, brzmi: bocian, i tak już zostało.

Przez wieki, lud polski dobrze zaobserwował różne etapy w życiu bociana, powiązał je z wydarzeniami własnego życia i upamiętnił w przysłowia. Mówiono, że “Jak przylecą bociany, pierwszy zagon zasiany”, tzn. początek

prac wiosennych w polu. Uważano, że “Gdy na święty Józef (19 III) bociek przybędzie, to już śniegu nie będzie” i że “Na Zwiastowanie (25 III) bocian w gnieździe stanie” - a te “astronomiczne” spostrzeżenia słusznie wyznaczały początek kalendarzowej wiosny. Zauważono, że “Na święty Wojciech (23 IV) zniesie jajko bociek”, i że “Na świętego Izydora (10 V) dla bociana pora” – tzn. czas, kiedy wylegają się pisklęta.

Bocian jest ptakiem chronionym. Zamieszkuje środkową i wschodnią Europę, Półwysep Pirenejski, Półwysep Bałkański, północną Afrykę, Azję Mniejszą i Środkową. W Polsce gnieździ się największa populacja bocianów; z około 230 tys. par na świecie, oblicza się, że 50 tysięcy zakłada gniazda na naszych ziemiach.

Bocian biały jest dużym ptakiem; wysoki na ok. 80 cm, długi na 95–115 cm, o rozpiętości skrzydeł 155–220 cm, waży od 2.3–4.4 kg, na wolności żyje ok. 20–30 lat. Samica składa w kwietniu od dwóch do pięciu jaj i po 33 dniach wykluwają się pisklęta, które dopiero po dwóch miesiącach, tzn. w sierpniu, opuszczają gniazdo i razem z dorosłymi osobnikami przygotowują się do długiej drogi na południe. Bociany gnieźdzą się blisko siedzib ludzkich, często w środku wsi, a także w rejonach rzek i wilgotnych łąk. Żywią się owadami, głównie pasikonikami i chrząszczami, ale również jaszczurkami, węzami, pisklętami, a nawet małymi zającami. Zjadają także duże ilości mysz, nornic i kretów, co czyni je pożytecznymi dla rolników. Wbrew popularnym opowieściom, bocian rzadko je żaby.

Ustanowiony przez Polskie Towarzystwo Przyrody “pro Natura” Dzień Bociana Białego, obchodzony 31 maja, jest okazją do zwrócenia uwagi społeczeństwa na potrzebę ochrony tego gatunku. Temu celowi służą organizowane w tym czasie prelekcje, konkursy, przedstawienia i wystawy, a także konkretne prace, jak np. renowacja gniazd, przeprowadzenie ogólnopolskiego spisu bociana i przygotowywanie żerowisk.

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Ilustracja: Józef Chełmoński “Bociany”



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