

PRESERVING
OUR PAST
SINCE 1988

SEARCHERS

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SPRING, 2010

ISSUE 1

POLISH POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Geographically, Poland is not in Eastern Europe. It is in the very center of Europe.
- Poles have won 17 Nobel prizes to-date, including four Peace Prizes and five in Literature.
- The highest point in Poland is Rysy in the Tatra Mountains (2,499 m).

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200th Anniversary of the Birth of



Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin 1810 - 1849

Chopin portrait by Delacroix © 1838

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Please visit the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State's Web site:
www.pgsnys.org

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The White Eagle, Poland's National Symbol



The PGSNYS meets the second Thursday of each month in the Villa Maria College cafeteria, 240 Pine Ridge Road, Cheektowaga, New York, at 7:00 p.m.

Annual dues are \$15 (\$18 Canada, \$25 other countries), and membership entitles you to three issues of the *Searchers* and participation in the PGSNYS Yahoo Group. New members receive an information packet to help you get started. The expiration date of your membership is on the mailing label of the *Searchers*.

Please remit your membership dues by check or money order to:

PGSNYS
c/o Chuck Pyrak
12 Grant Road
Snyder, NY 14226

Please send any changes to your postal or e-mail address to PGSNYS at the above address or to cpyrak@roadrunner.com

If you are a member, but not receiving e-mail from the PGSNYS mailing list, please send an e-mail to cpyrak@roadrunner.com

For submissions to the *Searchers* newsletter, deadlines are as follows:

- 1st issue (Spring) - due February 15th for April mailing
- 2nd issue (Summer) - due June 15th for August mailing
- 3rd issue (Winter) - due September 15th for November mailing

Submissions to the *Searchers* can be sent by postal mail (c/o *Searchers* Editor, 12645 Route 78, East Aurora, NY 14052) or via e-mail to: editor@pgsnys.org or denise.oliansky@gmail.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**David
Newman**

Welcome to 2010! As you can see, our *Searchers* newsletter has a new look. This is a result of the efforts of our new editor, Denise Oliansky. Denise, who is also our librarian, is a member of the *Searchers* Committee and a professional writer. She continues to be a great inspiration when it comes to proofreading member contributions, writing original articles, and researching historical materials that may be of interest to our members. We are grateful for her dedication in being part of the team that produces our quality genealogical newsletter. We would love to hear your opinion about the new *Searchers* layout. Please send your comments and suggestions to denise.oliansky@gmail.com or tell us at a membership meeting. Every year our Society grows with the acquisition of resources that aid members in finding their ancestors. Please let us know about materials that would add value to our collection. We will report new resources in the *Searchers* as we acquire them. We are also in need of articles for future *Searchers* issues. These can be about your own research experiences, research tips, Polish or family-specific history, upcoming local Polish events, or anything of interest to our membership. Thank you in advance for your contributions. We look forward to a fun and productive year of genealogical exploration with all of our members. ~ David Newman, President ~

POTPOURRI

WITAMY! TO NEW PGSNYS MEMBERS

RUTH ANN RUSIN
WEST SENECA, NY

ROBERT SATOLA
VERO BEACH, FL

JOAN PECK
WEST SENECA, NY

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DONATIONS TO THE PGSNYS COLLECTION

A big thank-you to **Barbara Strzepka** for her donation of several Jubilee books from Buffalo-area churches, including Transfiguration, St. Stanislaus, and St. John Gualbert. The books are located downtown in the PGSNYS Michael Drabik Memorial Library in the Grosvenor Room at the Central branch of the Buffalo & Erie County Library.

We greatly appreciate the generous donation from **Denise Pisanczyn** of several books previously owned by her father, **Andrew Gryglewicz**. The books focus on the Polish military, particularly during the World Wars. They are written in Polish and of historical importance. These books are located in the PGSNYS collection at Villa Maria College and available during our monthly meetings.

Donations of books and other resources on Polish genealogy are very welcome. Please contact the PGSNYS librarian: denise.oliansky@gmail.com.



St. Stanislaus Church

Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin

Researched by Denise Oliansky

*UNESCO has
proclaimed
2010
“International
Chopin Year”*



Wojciech Żywny

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin, the brilliant Polish composer and pianist. In honor of his genius and contributions, UNESCO has proclaimed 2010 “International Chopin Year,” so what better time for us to learn more about this creative and complex man who left an incomparable legacy of music to the world.

According to his birth certificate, Chopin was born February 22, 1810, in the village of Żelazowa Wola in the region of Mazovia, part of the Duszyniki of Warsaw. Interestingly, Chopin and his family members would cite March 1, 1810 as his birth date. Chopin’s father, Mikolaj, a French-expatriate, was employed as a tutor in the manor house of Count Skarbek. He married Tekla Justyna Krzyżanowska, the Polish housekeeper in that same household, in 1806. They had four children - three daughters and Fryderyk, who was the second child. A few months after his birth, the family moved to Warsaw.

Chopin’s musical genius was apparent early ...by age 7 he had written two polonaises (Polish walking dance). “Little Chopin” became the darling of the aristocratic homes of Warsaw, and he began giving public charity concerts. Lessons from his first music teacher, Wojciech Żywny, lasted from 1816 to 1822, at which time it was apparent that the student’s talent had far surpassed that of his teacher.

From 1823 to 1826, Chopin studied at the Warsaw Lyceum. Summer breaks were spent at the family estates of his school friends, providing Chopin with exposure to musical forms throughout the country. This experience sparked in him the keen interest in folk music and country traditions which influenced his work all his life.

From 1826 to 1829, Chopin received the last of his formal education at the Warsaw High School of Music, where he studied the theory of music and composition. It was during this time that the first of his extended works were composed. The director of the school wrote of him, “Chopin, Fryderyk, third year student, amazing talent, musical genius.”

After school, Chopin planned an extended stay abroad to experience the music of Europe. A former teacher, Wilhelm Würfel, arranged for



Tytus
Woyciechowski

several performances in Vienna, which gained Chopin great acclaim from the public. He returned to Poland, spending his time composing and performing before leaving for Austria with his friend Tytus Woyciechowski in November, 1830, with the intention of going to Italy.

They were in Vienna when they heard about the Warsaw uprising sparked by opposition to having a Russian Tsar (Nicholas) on the Polish throne.

Thus began the Russo-Polish war. Tytus returned to Warsaw to join the insurgents, while Chopin remained in Vienna for another eight months. Strong emotions were evident in his compositions during this time, which evinced a passion and force not seen in his previous works. In August, 1831, Chopin left for Paris. When he reached Stuttgart, Germany he learned about the fall of Warsaw to the Russians. His response was intense, resulting in a fever and nervous crisis.

In Paris he found many of his countrymen living there as exiles. He met many representatives of Polish culture and joined the Polish Literary Society. He organized and played charity concerts for poor Polish émigrés. He claimed for himself the status of political refugee, and adopted the French version of his name -- Frédéric François Chopin. In Paris his fame grew rapidly. He became a popular teacher among the Polish and French aristocracy. He came to dislike public performances, preferring more intimate, small groups of listeners.

Since his refugee status prevented his return to Poland, he could only see his family outside of the country. In August, 1835, he met them in Karlesbad, then went to nearby Dresden where he renewed his acquaintance with the Wodziński family, whom he had known in his youth. He fell in love with the daughter of the family, Maria. After a year-long unofficial engagement, her parents decided his poor health made him an unsuitable husband Maria.

After this painful rejection, in 1837 he traveled to London and soon began a relationship with the French novelist Aurore Dupin, better known by her pseudonym, George Sand. She was six years older

Chopin

organized and

played many

charity concerts

for poor Polish

émigrés in Paris.



George Sand

CHOPIN - Continued from Page 5

Holy Cross Church pillar which holds Chopin's heart.



than Chopin, divorced, and the mother of two children. They spent the winter of 1838/1839 in Majorca where Chopin became very ill, showing symptoms of tuberculosis. He still worked continuously and composed several masterpieces during this time.

In 1839, Chopin moved to George Sand's manor home in Nohant, located in central France, where he spent long vacations every year, returning to Paris only for the winters. From 1839 to 1846 was the happiest and most productive time of his life. Chopin and Sand never married and, unfortunately, the increasingly hostile attitude of her son caused serious conflicts which led to a final split in July, 1847. The loss debilitated his physical and mental health.

In April, 1848, he began traveling in England and Scotland, but the damp climate and hectic schedule took their toll, and in November he gave his last performance, for Polish émigrés in London. Upon his returned to Paris, his disease progressed rapidly. In the summer of 1849, his sister came from Warsaw to take care of him. He died of pulmonary tuberculosis on October 17, 1849, at the age of 39. As requested in his will, his sister took his heart back to Warsaw, where it was interred in a pillar in Holy Cross Church.



Chopin in 1849

Over 230 of Chopin's works survive. Chopin's compositions were written primarily for the piano as solo instrument. He invented musical forms such as the instrumental ballade and was responsible for major innovations in the piano sonata, mazurka, waltz, nocturne, polonaise, impromptu, étude, and prelude.

Arthur Hedley, a biographer, wrote that Chopin “found within himself and in the tragic story of Poland the chief sources of his inspiration.” ✨

Resources: This article was abstracted from an article by Barbara Smolenska-Żielinska on the Chopin web site (www.chopin.pl) and from Wikipedia.com. The pictures are also from those sources.



Chopin Monument in Symphony Circle

Presented to the City of Buffalo by the Chopin Singing Society, June 1925

East Side of Buffalo: Our Vanishing Heritage

The Historic Past, Radical Present, Uncertain Future

by Ed Prabucki



**Transfiguration
Church**

One joy I have in the sunset of my life is nostalgia. Many of us reminisce, if for no other reason than to escape the confines of the present. Many decades ago, our East Side of Buffalo symbolized a chemistry of economic growth, of freedom from fear, of good moral values, and most of all, God-fearing principles.

Transfiguration Church and School

Recently, I drove through Buffalo's East Side, and I turned back the pages of my mind to recapture some precious moments of my yesterdays. Through the clouded past of the mid-1920's, I recall setting my sights on a colossal religious structure, Transfiguration Church, that played an important part in my life. I never missed the evening novenas in May or October in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. These traditional devotions were enhanced with melodious church hymns so well played by the organist, Mr. Raszeja.

My increased involvement at Transfiguration School as an altar boy, then as a boy scout in Troop # 75, was and still is personal history, imprinted in my mind. As with all matters, time marched on and my movements throughout the East Side expanded. Grandma Petyk dispatched me on errands to fetch medication from James the Druggist at Sycamore and Fillmore Avenue. Across from the druggist was Polish Falcon Nest #6, where I attended weekly gymnastic classes. Nearby was Antoinette's Sweets, which catered to my sweet tooth, and upstairs on the second floor was Dentist Czerwinski, much feared, but much needed to fill my cavities. Further on were a Jewish synagogue and then the Polish Union Hall. The beauty of my neighborhood has passed me by far too quickly.

The Broadway-Fillmore Merchants

In continuing to fill the gaps that East Side historians had overlooked, if not ignored, for far too long, I see the hustle and bustle in the Broadway-Fillmore area, especially

"...our East Side of Buffalo symbolized a chemistry of economic growth, of freedom from fear, of good moral values, and most of all, God-fearing principles."



**Broadway Market area
back in the day**



Buffalo's Central
Terminal

*I was offered
three new meals:
oatmeal,
cornmeal, and
miss-a-meal.*

Buffalo Museum of
Science



on Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons. There was an endless movement of people in and out of Murphy's, Woolworth's, Neisner's Five and Ten Cents Store, Charles', Erion's, Jahraus Braun's, Kobacker's, Zolte's Furniture Store, and the famous 'one-stop shopping' at 998 Broadway, Sattler's. My father, until the day he passed away, was never convinced that superior merchandise could be purchased outside of either Kolipinski's Furniture store or the Spolka Clothing store on Broadway.

My trip to the Grand Opening of the Central Terminal with my father and brothers was part of East Side history. On a Sunday walk to Becker's Airport at Genesee Street and Union Road, the sights on our way were forever absorbed. The Basil Genesee Movie House with its brilliant marquee magnetized me, and Schiller Park was energized with activity. Finally we reached Becker's Airport to enjoy many air-acrobatics that afternoon. Other Sundays were spent at the scientific and ecological displays at the Buffalo Museum of Science, and on weekdays in summer the wading pool in

Humboldt Park was cherished.

The Great Depression

The Depression arrived, and how it would affect me, innocently and completely evaded me. Soon Father was laid-off from Buffalo Foundry, and then I was offered three new meals: oatmeal, cornmeal, and miss-a-meal. Economy, or the lack of it, compelled me to move into the labor market, passing out slingers for Taffel Photo Studio and the politician, Ansley Borkowski, for which I was paid 25 cents. Father found employment with the W.P.A. Government Projects.

Eventually, the Depression faded away. Vacant store-fronts up and down Walden, Genesee, and Sycamore Streets were stirring with new owners who catered to those with ever-ready cash to purchase new merchandise. The neighborhood became alive again as people devoted more time to mowing lawns, scrubbing clean their porches and porch-steps, airing mattresses and feather blankets, and even sweeping curbsides clean of dirt. This was a ritual that was kept unwaveringly by the citizens of the East Side.

Change Begins

How will history explain the unexplainable to our descendants--that the once verdant beauty of



Transfiguration Church today

our East Side neighborhood has drastically changed to inconceivable

their life savings and manual labor over tens of thousand of hours, have witnessed their end. I could not envision as a youth that such a drastic change would descend on this productive and attractive East Side neighborhood.

stagnation and decay? What I felt was impossible as a youth, became possible in only two decades. The unspoken fear of the specter of violent crimes made it difficult for the neighborhood to survive under those conditions. It is highly unlikely that peace will ever return.

Flight To Suburbia

The second and third generations of Poles gradually yielded to these changes and migrated to the suburbs, wishing to continue to live in tranquility and love of family, but most of all in the faith of their fathers. Some are still convinced that what the elders feared on the East Side is unwarranted, let alone evident. I say, let there be no mistake, the fear is prevalent. It was difficult for many of the residents to become acclimated to the new environment, if for no other reason than the new diversity in culture.

Church Closings

Many former and current residents are sad over the closing of many churches in their old neighborhoods. Places of worship, constructed by their forefathers with

Some Landmarks Still Remain

Fortunately, some East Side landmarks are still standing in the Broadway-Fillmore area. These include the century old Broadway Market, the Dom Polski Building, Spolka Clothes, and Cohen’s Bakery. There are still the majestic churches of Corpus Christi, St. Stanislaus, St. Adalbert, St. John Kanty, and St. Ann. Credit must be given to the religious of our faith as they preach proper morals to all the faithful in the neighborhoods.

Uncertain Future

Presently, life on the East Side is a profound contradiction of the past. Some politicians attempt to placate the citizens, insisting their fears were unfounded. I say only time will tell. As for me, I am well aware what came about can not be altered, although I hope this is not the end of the road for the East Side of Buffalo.

Throughout history, society has always brought forth men, giants of wisdom and action, who tower over all to solve the problems of our people and our city. *
**

“Presently, life on the East Side is a profound contradiction of the past.”



How many East Side neighborhoods look today

POINT and CLICK!

Laurel Keough presents ideas and
links for web research



*If you would like
to hear your
surname
pronounced in
Polish, check
out the
Expressivo Text
Reader website.*



Newspaper Abstracts
Finding Our Ancestors In The News!

Public Profiler's World Names Search

Traces Surnames around the World

www.publicprofiler.org/worldnames

This site examines where around the world people's surnames are found. After entering a surname in the search area, the first map appears showing the countries of the world where the surname appears. After selecting the country, the next map will appear with statistics showing the top regions and top cities where the name appears. You will also see the 10 top surnames in the region.

This database had 8 million surnames taken from telephone books or national electoral registers during the 2000 – 2005 timeframe.

Expressivo Text Reader

Text to Speech Software

<http://say.expressivo.com>

This program allows you to enter up to 200 characters of text and then hear it spoken in a human voice. You can enter Polish surnames and localities and hear them pronounced by Polish speakers. You have a choice of listening to several different pronunciations.

Newspaper Abstracts

Finding Our Ancestors in the News

<http://www.newspaperabstracts.com>

This free web site contains newspaper abstracts and extracts that have been user-contributed to this database. It will also direct you to other sites that hold old newspapers, some of which are fee-based. The site was launched in 1998 with just a few dozen

news items. It now contains over 68,000 news pages from all over the world that have been added by site visitors.

You may search the site by surname, country, state, city, or by any word or phrase you choose. In checking the county listings, Erie, Niagara, and Monroe counties exceed all others in the state with over 4400 listings. To get Buffalo area information, you could just search on 'Buffalo' which will give you any article that contains the word. You might also search on the word 'Polish.' In general, keeping the search very simple will get you more results.

You may be disappointed on surname searches as I noticed in many of the birth, marriage, and death statistics that the Polish names were frequently misspelled. Consequently, if the name was spelled wrong, it will not come up when you spell it correctly. These vital statistic listings usually included the street address, so if you know the street name where your ancestor lived, you may have a better result if you search for the street name only.

Any article dated prior to 1939 is considered in the public domain and can be submitted without permission. If you wish to submit an article or link, full instructions are listed on the site. This website's goal is to help anyone search for their ancestors. While you may not be lucky enough to find your own ancestors in these articles, it is still quite interesting to read what was going on locally in Buffalo in the 1890's and early 1900's.

Genealogy Blogs with a Polish Connection

These blogs contain a wealth of information on every aspect of genealogy. The writers cover their own areas of interest, and the blogs usually contain their own family research, along with problem solving tips, research in specific geographic areas, and numerous links to other genealogical sites. Look at the index on the main page of a site to find articles that interest you. The following blogs have a Polish connection.

Creative Gene

<http://creativegene.blogspot.com>

Steve's Genealogy Blog

<http://stephendanko.com/blog/>

What's Past is Prologue

<http://pastprologue.wordpress.com>

Al's Polish-American Genealogy Research

<http://polishamericangenealogy.blogspot.com/>



Family Tree

Magazine listed

Newspaper

Archives in

“101 Best

Websites 2008”

A Traditional Polish Roman Catholic Easter

by Denise Oliansky



Plenty of
PĄCZKI!

*“Remember,
man, thou art
dust and to dust
thou shall
return.”*

Stations of the
Cross



PĄCZKI DAY

Any traditional Polish Roman Catholic Easter story has to start with Lent. But wait! Even before Lent we have Pączki Day!! Good old Fat Tuesday. Mardi Gras. The last big ta-da before six weeks of sacrifice. The once-a-year, Papal-sanctioned descent into decadence. Succulent deep fried globs of dough stuffed with jelly or custard or cream. “Yummo!” as Rachel Ray would say. Actually, in Poland, Pączki Day occurs the Thursday before Ash Wednesday, so it’s really Fat Thursday (*Źłusty Czwartek*). Pączki Day is celebrated throughout the world’s Polonias, and millions of Pączki are bought and consumed. Oh, and for those who might be curious about it, the singular of Pączki is Pączek (pohn-check)...not that anyone would actually buy just one.

ASH WEDNESDAY

With the dawn of Ash Wednesday the party is over. The balloon is popped. Now comes *Wielki Post*, meaning “the Great Fast.” Or Lent, as it is familiarly known. This is a somber time of services, retreats, penance, and fasting. A quiet time. A time of reflection and prayer. No loud parties and very few weddings occur during these six weeks. Ash Wednesday ushers in the forty days of fasting and penance in preparation for Easter. On Ash Wednesday priests mark the foreheads of the faithful with ashes to signify our mortality, saying “Remember, man, thou art dust and to dust thou shall return.” Cheery thought.

LENT

While an important devotion all year for Polish Roman Catholics, during Lent the Stations of the Cross take on particular significance because of their association with what Easter is all

about. In addition, traditional Polish Roman Catholic services include the *Gorzkie Żale*, or Lenten Lamentations, which is a three-part cycle of hymns based on ancient chants which, like the Stations of the Cross, retrace the Passion and Crucifixion of Christ. The *Gorzkie Żale* began in Holy Cross Church in Warsaw during the 1700s (yes, that's the very same church where Fryderyk Chopin's heart is interred, in the event you've already read the first article in this issue).

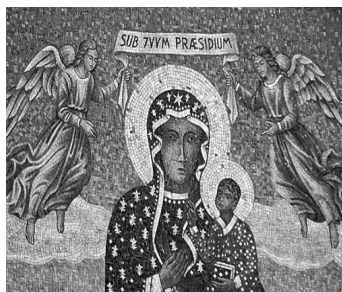
The culmination of Lent is Holy Week (*Wielki Tydzień*), the most important days of which are the first, known as Palm Sunday, and the last three days, known in Latin as the "*Triduum*," which begins on Holy Thursday.

PALM SUNDAY

In the past, Palm Sunday was known as Floral Sunday (*Niedziela Kwietna*) because flowers, pussy willows, or evergreen branches were blessed instead of palms, which were not readily available. Whether palms or pussy willows, they are blessed by the priest and carried in a joyful procession by parishioners to celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It is believed that swallowing a willow catkin from a branch consecrated by a priest will bring health, and a palm branch placed behind a holy image until the following year will bring the inhabitants of the home good luck.

HOLY THURSDAY

On Holy Thursday, bishops in cathedrals wash the feet of twelve parishioners to commemorate the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his apostles and instituted the priesthood. It is customary for the faithful to visit seven different churches on Holy Thursday. In each church the Host is consecrated and displayed for the last time until the Easter Vigil. The church bells that rang from Palm Sunday onward fall silent. In the past, fires were lit and meals left at crossroads, so that poor people could warm and feed themselves. On the morning of Holy Thursday, the vestments are changed on the miraculous icon in



Virgin of Częstochowa in
Jasna Góra

the chapel of the Pauline monastery at Jasna Góra in Częstochowa. This is one of the most important religious sites of the Poles, and has been venerated as a national shrine since 14th century.

Palm Sunday
Jesus entering Jerusalem



GOOD FRIDAY

The most sorrowful day of Holy Week, Good Friday (*Wielki Piątek*) is a day of solemn church services focused on the crucifixion and death of Christ. The altar is bare and, for the only time in the Church year, there is no consecration of the Host. Services include the Veneration of the Cross, when the crucifix is carried into the church or the violet draping unveiled, and it is then venerated or kissed by the faithful. In many parishes the crucifix is carried along the same streets where the Palm Sunday procession occurred, this time accompanied by altar boys with wooden clappers, the sound of which symbolizes the nailing of Jesus to the Cross. A tableau of Christ's Tomb is usually unveiled in the church, and the faithful visit and grieve at the tomb throughout the rest of Good Friday and on Holy Saturday.



Easter Basket for
Święconka

HOLY SATURDAY

Also on Holy Saturday is the Blessing of the Baskets (*Święconka*) at the church, during which parishioners bring to be blessed a sampling of the foods they will be serving on Easter Sunday. There are special prayers for meats, eggs, cakes, and breads, and the priest sprinkles the individual baskets with Holy Water. A traditional Polish basket includes a butter lamb, Easter bread, horseradish, decorated eggs, kielbasa, ham, bacon, salt, cheese, Holy Water, and a candle. Baskets are typically lined with embroidered linen and greenery. The eggs are decorated with traditional Polish symbols of Easter and are known as *pisanki* or “written eggs.” The designs are often elaborate and extremely beautiful. Poles take great care and pride in creating beautiful foods and baskets, and much enjoyment is found in observing the creations of other parishioners.



Pisanki
“Written eggs”

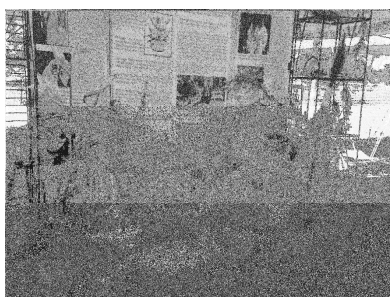
The Easter Vigil takes place late in the evening on Holy Saturday. The solemn service and liturgy focuses on fire and water and consists of four parts: the Service of Light, the Liturgy of the Word, The Liturgy of Baptism, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. It begins in darkness to symbolize a Christian Passover as Jesus passed from death to life. The Paschal candle symbolizes hope in the darkness and is carried in procession into the dark church. In

some churches the Paschal candle is used to light individual candles held by each parishioner, bathing the entire church in a golden glow of hope.

Candle-lit Easter Vigil



EASTER SUNDAY



Traditional Easter table

The *Rezurekcja* is the joyful service at daybreak on Easter Sunday to commemorate Christ rising from the dead. Before the Mass begins at dawn, the Blessed Sacrament is carried in procession around the church while the church bells peal and handbells are shaken by altar boys. Incense and voices fill the air as the faithful sing age-old Easter hymns in celebration. After the Easter Mass, everyone rushes home for Easter Breakfast (*Wielka Nocne Śniadanie*) to feast on all those goodies they have denied themselves throughout Lent. At the start of the meal in Polish homes, everyone eats wedges of the blessed Easter eggs and exchanges best wishes... similar to how *opłatek* is shared on Christmas Eve. The solemnity is over, and joyfulness prevails as revelers celebrate Christ's triumph over the grave.

DYNGUS DAY

One might think a holy season that lasts forty days and is filled with numerous solemn and joyful events and services would be enough. But one would be wrong. There is still Easter Monday. Ah yes, Easter Monday...also known as Dyngus Day or Wet Easter Monday. Easter Monday is a holiday in Poland, and for Polish-Americans, especially here in Buffalo, NY, this holiday is a BIG DEAL. Traditionally on this day, boys chase the girls and try to drench them with squirt guns or pails of water or smack them on the back of their legs with switches or pussy willows. The next day the girls have a chance to get their revenge by throwing crockery or dishes back at the boys. However, these days it is pretty much a big water fight, and both men and women do all their chasing and drenching of the opposite sex on Monday. The Dyngus Day Festival is a huge party in Buffalo that now lasts a full week, loaded with parades, Polish music and dancing, huge buffets of food and drink, and thousands of people enjoying the end of forty days of Lenten deprivation. ✨



Pussy willows

Spring/Summer 2010 - Goings On Around Town

April 8th PGSNYS Membership Meeting - Author Michael F. Rizzo speaking about his book, "They Call Me Korney: The True Story about the Korney Gang," -- a ruthless gang that roamed the streets of Buffalo in the 1920s. 7 PM, Villa Maria College cafeteria.

World's Largest Dyngus Day Celebration - Begins Easter Sunday, April 4th - Saturday, April 10th. A whole week of events in the Buffalo area. DyngusDayBuffalo.com is your home for updates on this annual bash.

Stas & Stella's Wedding - Dinner Theater. Friday, April 4th and Saturday April 10, 7:00 PM at Ripa's Restaurant, 4218 Walden Ave, Lancaster, NY. Cost - \$40.00. For information: 716-683-1776.

A Blessing to One Another: John Paul II and the Jewish Community - *A Multimedia Exhibit*. April 1st to June 30th. Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum, 453 Porter Ave, Buffalo, NY. For information: Mary Lou Wyrobek 716-888-5970 or wyrobekm@canisius.edu.

Polonia Pride Tour - Forgotten Buffalo Tours - Saturday, April 10th (April 24th is sold out), 5:00 PM. Tour includes a number of stops at friendly neighborhood taverns and a home-cooked Polish meal. Cost- \$45.00. For more information, visit www.forgottenbuffalo.com.

8th Annual Polish Heritage Festival of Buffalo - June 11th and 12th. Hamburg Fairgrounds, 5820 South Park Ave, Hamburg, NY. The Festival serves to promote Polish culture and traditions. It is a family-oriented gathering with activities and fun for all ages. PGSNYS will host an information table. Visit www.polfunfest.com for updates and more information.

SEARCHERS NEWSLETTER
POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK STATE
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PLEASE CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE

PLEASE NOTIFY US OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS