

PLBA MONTHLY

N E W S L E T T E R

MAY 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 ●	9	10	11	12	13 ●	14
15 ●	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Upcoming Events

- 8 - Mother's Day
- 13 - Krzyz Film Screening and Board of Directors Meeting
- 15 - PLBA Meeting and Congress Letter Writing
- 15 - Memorial Mass

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Letter from the PLBA President Donata Tiley

This month was extremely busy. With sadness we realized how difficult it is to continue our work without four Board members, who left for Poland. Malgosia Cieszkowska, our Librarian for many years lost her mother and Dorota Zukowska, our past president lost her father; Krycia Korfanty and Grzegorz Traczyk were on vacation in Poland. ***We will have a Polish memorial mass service on May 15th and we welcome all of you to attend.***

Since last newsletter we have spent countless hours on the revision of the Polish Festival Nonprofit Organization Bylaws and Polish Festival Event Agreement between St. Stanislaus Parish and PLBA dba Polish Festival Nonprofit Organization to reflect the recent organizational changes. Both documents were approved by the PLBA Board. Polish Festival Event Agreement was signed by father Piotr Dzikowski and myself at our first Polish Festival Event meeting this year, on April 12, 2011 at Grandpa's Café in presence of Bill Bessman, Kasia Gawronska, Broni Tarnawski representing St. Stanislaus Parish and Marek Stepień, Mateusz Kowalski and Jarek Fiszer representing PLBA. Thank you all for your help, especially to Dorota Zukowska for starting the process last year!

Our Centennial Ball preparations also needed to be modified slightly. New directions were given at our Board meeting and at our monthly meeting in April. New Centennial logo/sign was chosen; tickets for the Centennial Ball designed, printed and awaiting your purchase at Grandpa's Café in the Polish Hall.

We invited a well known composer/singer from Canada and a singer from Poland at our ceremony. Ryszard Wrzaskala and Ewa Kuklinska may join us at this once-in-a lifetime event (we are still working on the arrangements). After our second Polish Festival Event Committee meeting, I got a verbal donation (for sponsoring Ryszard W. and Ewa K.) from our PLBA member. I was delighted! Please come to our next meeting on May 15th – his name will be revealed. Please thank him for his generosity!

At the Centennial Celebration younger children under the age of about 14, will be present at the main ceremony at the Polish Hall, but will be eating the dinner at the Parish Hall. For the younger audience we would like to invite children's performer and a magician to perform just for them. If you would like to get involved with the planning, preparations or willing to donate, please do not hesitate to talk to the Centennial Committee member(s).

On Sunday, June 12th, we will have "Poprawiny" at the Polish Hall – Centennial Piano Concert with mass for PLBA members and lunch at the Parish Hall before the concert.

In addition, I am looking for a volunteer, who would like to coordinate all affords for our Polish Community to plant 100 trees to protect the environment and create Polish Centennial Grove. The individual would need to coordinate all affords with City's Park & Recreation Dept. or others. Hope I can hear from some of you!

Sincerely,

Donata Tiley

PLBA CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION SET
FOR JUNE 11, 2011

Come and Help Celebrate The Polish Library's 100 Year Anniversary

The PLBA society was created in the beginning of the twenty century. On July 8th 1911 the PLBA was registered under the State of Oregon. During the registration, the total funds of the society were \$500.00 in

PLBA purchased the lot on April 30th, 1912 and started to build the Polish Hall. The building was completed in 1914.

The Centennial celebration of the Polish Library Association will be on Saturday, June 11, 2011 and the committee is working hard to gather the information about the history of our Polish Hall and its members.

The Festivities that are planned for this momentous occasion include, a dinner, multiple performances from Polish performers including Ryszard Wrzaskala and Ewa Kuklinska.

cash, which is comparable to \$45,000.00 today.

At these festivities will be many dignitaries from the U.S. Polish Community including the Polish Consular from Los Angeles.

Tickets can be purchased at Grandpa's Cafe.

Until May 10th.

- Adult Non-PLBA Member \$50
- Senior/Student Non Member \$35
- Adult PLBA Members \$35
- Senior/Student PLBA Member \$15

After May 10th.

- Adult Non PLBA Members \$75
- PLBA Adult Members \$50
- Seniors/Student Non PLBA Member \$35
- Senior/Student PLBA Member \$15.

Please contact Donata Tiley or Alicja Fiszer, if you would like to purchase tickets.

You can call for tickets:

Alicja Fiszer - (360) 936-6564

Donata Tiley - (503) 761-2500



Centennial Piano Concert and Volunteer Appreciation June 12, 2011

On The 12th of June the PLBA has arranged for a Piano Concert by J. Isaac Chua and Ryszard Wrzaskala.

The tickets for those who would like to come can be

purchased in the Grandpa's Cafe

The prices are as follows:

\$20 for Adults (18+)

\$15 for Seniors and Students

\$10 for PLBA Members

The PLBA has been so blessed to have all the wonderful volunteers that help out at the Polish Festival each year. Without them the success of the Polish Festival would not be possible.

As I thank you to all those who support the Polish

Community each year the PLBA would like to invite the hard-working volunteers of the 2010 Polish Festival to an Appreciation Lunch and Concert on Sunday, June 12, 2011 at Noon.

For those who were not volunteers tickets are available for purchase, see previous.

This lunch and concert will be held in the Polish Hall and the entertainment for the day will feature exquisite performers including, Ryszard Wrzaskala and Jim Isaac Chua.

Thank You.



**POLISH FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION CONCERT**

Poland Visas and You

A new bill would include Poland in the Visa Waiver Program,
But you must help to make sure that it becomes law.



Dear Polish-Americans,

For too long, the United States has treated our friends and families in Poland as second class citizens requiring them to pay hefty fees to apply for visas to visit this country, while Europeans from other countries travel here without visas.

There is a bill in Congress that would change that. But it will only become law if you and your friends call and write to your Senators and Representatives.

As part of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), citizens of 36 foreign countries can travel to the United States for up to 90 days without a visa. Poland has been excluded from this because Congress changed the VWP rules for countries that have more than 3% of their citizens denied visas. At present, 9.8% of Poles are denied visas because of the subjective questions that they are forced to answer at American Consulates in Poland. But fewer than 3% of Poles who come to America stay longer than the 90 days allowed on their visas.

That's why a new law is needed to allow countries with an overstay rate of less than 3% to be included in the Visa Waiver Program. The Secure Travel and Counterterrorism Partnership Act of 2011 would do just that. The bill must pass both houses before President Obama can sign it.

The House Bill, number H.R. 959, is sponsored in the House by Rep. Mike Quigley of Illinois, with nine co-sponsors.

The Senate Bill S.487 is sponsored by Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland, and co-sponsored by Senator Mark Kirk of Illinois.

Here are some ideas for your letter to Congress

This is a way that you can start when you write and your Senators and Members of Congress:

Dear Congressman,

As a Polish American, I ask that you co sponsor The Secure Travel and Counterterrorism Partnership Act of 2011, Bill number H.R.959.

(Don't forget to write another letter to your Senator which says that you want them to co-sponsor Bill S.487)

Here are some bullets that you can use in your letter, and please add some of your own:

- Poland is one of America's greatest allies and has fought for freedom in Iraq, Afghanistan and always supports the United States.
- Visa refusal rates for Poles have dropped dramatically and Poland is a productive member of NATO and the European Union, and its citizens do not need to come to the United States to find work.
- Poland is part of the "Schengen Area" of 25 European nations that allows passport-free travel across borders.
- While the U.S. requires Poles to have visas when traveling to America, Poland waived visas for Americans 20 years ago.
- Allowing Poles to travel without visas will add to our security and enhances law enforcement and crime-fighting efforts through data-sharing agreements between our respective countries.

On the 15th of May, in the Polish Hall at will be a time where paper and addressed envelopes will be available to help people write the letters. So that they can get sent as soon as possible. Bring people you know, so we can do as much as possible to help our senators and congressmen.

PLBA CENTENNIAL STORIES

Jerzy (past PLBA President) and Helen Luczycki were part of the second wave of Polish immigrants to come to Portland in 1949 after the war. Jerzy was born in Lodz in 1917 and Helen was born in Oswiecim in 1915. They arrived in the US with a two year old, one suitcase and quickly became immersed in the Polish community in Portland. Often, they were the first to be called by the city when new immigrants arrived and needed a translator or place to stay. They helped many additional immigrants get started in Portland and in the PNA community.



The Polish Library Association was the hub of almost all activity for most of the new arrivals since many could not speak English. There were regular meetings at the hall along with special programs which celebrated Polish and American holidays. Almost every month there was a dance on a Saturday night. Music in the early years was provided by an accordeon player, then in later years by a band called "Terry and the Pirates" lead by Terry Vetter. Jerzy and Helen loved to dance and enjoyed participating in the lively party atmosphere as well as helping with the refreshments for the event. Jerzy especially was "dance ambassador" making sure every gal had at least one spin around the floor!

Jerzy, along with several other parents organized a Polish dance group which included his daughter, Anna. The group of 8 dancers, an accordeon player and violinist performed for numerous events at the hall as well as around Portland and Seattle.

Every year the hall celebrated with a huge Polish picnic, which included all the families of the hall and church. Of course all events involved drinking, eating and lots of singing. Jerzy was one of the first to start singing with a bevy of Polish songs and always got the group into a group sing-along.

Jerzy and Helen also helped organize other events at the hall. On Saturday afternoons, the young polish children had polish school, which was held in the library. An instructor from Mt. Angel came each week to teach both reading and writing. Monday evenings were teen nights where Polish teens could come and dance to recorded music and mingle with each other.

One of the most memorable things about those early years was the friendships and closeness that everyone enjoyed. Early arrivals had little money so they came to depend on each other for help doing electrical wiring, building, moving, painting and all kinds of odd jobs that were necessary to maintain their homes and businesses.

It was common for families to have dinners at each others homes on an open Saturday night where traditional polish dishes were prepared and shared. Everyone came to church on Sunday and spent some additional time chatting or planning the next fund raising dinner for the church. People volunteered their time and whatever they could spare to ensure the success of the hall and church and Helen and Jerzy Luczycki were important contributors to the success of both entities.



Air Conditioning Project Finally Finished!

Construction of the air conditioning and heating system is successfully completed. Final invoice/payment submittal to the PDC will be sometime in May.

The contractor for the back stage cabinets was selected and approved by the Board of the Directors. The contract will be signed soon. We are hoping to complete the construction before our Centennial Celebration on June 11th. Ask Mateusz Kowalski if you have any questions about our remodels.

If you want to donate any money for our future projects, please do not to hesitate to talk to any of the PLBA Board member. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated!

On May 13, 2011, The Polish Library Association is having a screening of the film Krzyż, in the Polish Hall starting at 8:00 p.m.

The film screening is free.

The film is a documentary about the fight in Poland for the return of the symbolic cross statue, in Warsaw.

We hope to see you there.



2011 Calendar of Events

January:

- 29 - Carnival Ball Supporting Polish School

February:

- 18 - Film Festival "Wszystko Co Kocham"

March:

- 5 - Fat Saturday PLBA Fundraising Party
- 13 - PLBA Meeting
- 27 - Youth Appreciation Trip SkyHighSports

April:

- 2 - Senior Appreciation Trip
- 10 - PLBA Meeting
- 30 - Deadline for Scholarship

May:

- 8 - Mother's Day - Polish School
- 13 - Krzyz Film Screening 8:00 p.m.
- 13 - Board of Directors Meeting
- 15 - Memorial Mass
- 15 - PLBA Meeting
- 15 - Letters to Senate and Congress about Visas

June:

- 11 - 100 Year PLBA Anniversary Celebration
- 12 - Piano Concert
- 13-14 - Polish Consular in Polish Hall accepting passport applications

July:

August:

- 7-14 - Kolonia
- 20 - Tennis Tournament for PLBA

September:

- 24-25 - Polish Festival

October:

- TBA - Showing of Polish Films in Polish Hall

November:

- 11 - Celebration of Polish Independence
- 24 - Thanksgiving at Grandpa's Cafe
- 30 - Ball Andrzejki at the Polish Hall

December:

- 31 - New Year's Eve Party



Become a Member of the
Polish Library Association
Today.

Membership is easy.
Simply print out an
application.

Application is on our
Website.

Fill out the appropriate fields
Mail with a check to:

PLBA
3832 N. Interstate
Avenue, Portland,
Oregon 97227.