

*Our Polish*  
**ANCESTORS**

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND  
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Jean is pictured here in the arms of her mother in her passport photo. She was 3 months old when she arrived at Ellis Island. Her mother's name --- Stanislawa (Tomon) Koniewski. The ship was the Polonia, and the date was August, 1930.

We continue the annual Wigilia celebration with our entire family ---now 24. All dishes are meatless. After meaningful prayers we start with Jean's famous mushroom soup with dried mushrooms from Poland. Below is a typical table setting:



**PGSGC Origins, by Ralph Lysyk**

In my mind the first meeting of the PGSGC really took place at the McDonalds on Pleasant Valley Rd. near Broadview in the summer of 1991. Jean and I were having breakfast there. At the table next to us a couple was engaged in a conversation about Polish names and places. I did not know either of them but when I heard "Golcowa" mentioned I could not resist interrupting because Golcowa is the area where Jean was born. A long conversation ensued about Polish genealogy and I ended up exchanging phone numbers with the "guy".

The "guy" of course was Ed Mendyka. He called and began to talk about forming a group of people interested only in Polish genealogy. We met several times at Ed's apartment with Frank Kowalski and Joyce Hillson. I helped Eddy write the constitution and we decided on the name "Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland". Ed asked if I would serve as it's president. I was recently retired and not looking for more organizations to join, but I did agree to serve as Vice-President. Frankly. I thought we might gather a dozen people that would meet a few times and then lose interest.. Little did I picture a hundred members meeting with the vibrancy our group has.

Below: Ralph and Jean Lysyk at PGSGC 20th anniversary



## October 2011 PGSGC Members, with founders underlined



### Standing:

Ken Spikowski, Miecica Kowalski, Pat Bakaitis, Roseanne Ewazen, Norman Baciak, Anthonette Baciak, Mary Ann Bogan, Leonard Bogan, Virginia Tomon, Berni O'Malley, Joe Hadbavny, Gloria Hadbavny, Marlene Szuch, Elaine Marec, Cathy Kraine, Bert Tomon, Len Pryer.

### Seated behind:

Carol Revilock, Charlotte Welch, Cindy Spikowski, Carol Stafinski, Richard Szczepinski, Dorothy Szczepinski, Leonard Jurkiewicz, Edith Orszycki, Connie Zelek, Edward Zelek, Elizabeth Joy.

### Seated front:

Shirley Lazar, Stan Kawecki, Gayle Palshook Lopez, Helen Palshook, Sonia Chapnick, John Szuch, Ron Kraine, Trina Galauner, Edna Braun, Norman Braun, Jean Lysyk, Ralph Lysyk.

# Pictures from the PGSGC 20th Anniversary Dinner



# Polonia w Ameryce

by Cindy Spikowski

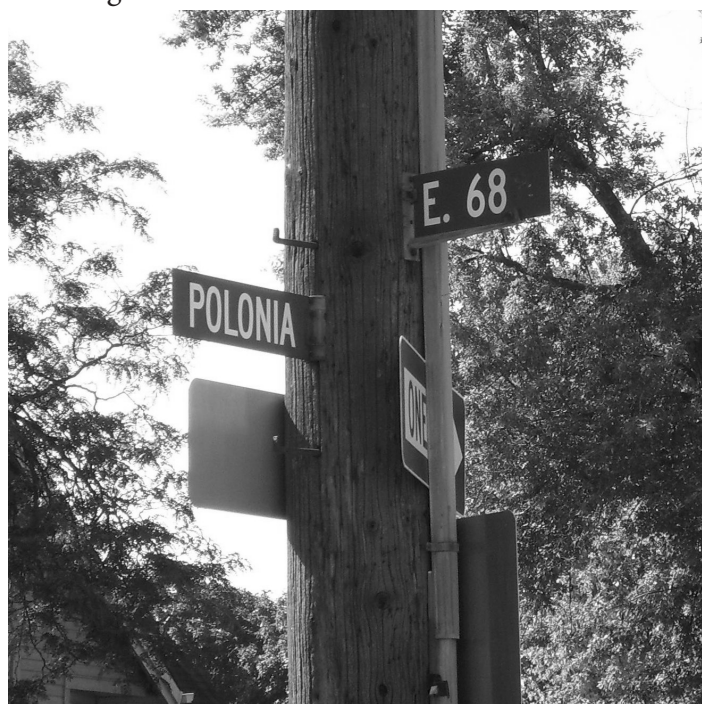
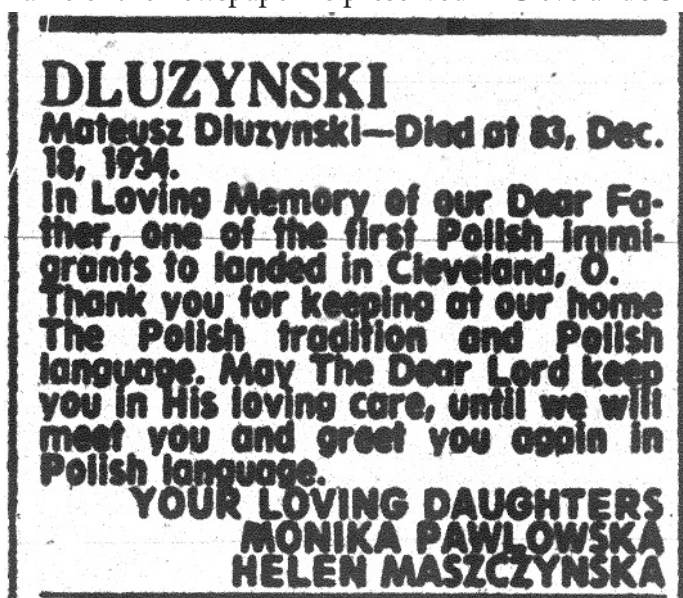
We live in an age of instant information – the Internet and television keep us informed about news from all over the world. Our Polish ancestors, however, were faced with homesickness and confusion as they struggled to adapt to a new country, new laws and a new language. The Polish language newspapers were essential to the new immigrants.

The first newspaper written in Polish in the United States was *Echo Z Polski*, which was published weekly in New York City, beginning in 1863. The first daily Polish newspaper in the U. S. was the *Kuryer Polski* (the Polish Courier) founded in Milwaukee on June 23, 1888 by twenty-five-year-old Michael Kruszk. The *Kuryer Polski* continued until 1938. The oldest Polish newspaper still in existence is the *Zagoda*, published in Chicago by the Polish National Alliance, but started in Philadelphia in 1880 by a group of Polish immigrants.

Beginning in 1892, Poles in Cleveland had their own newspaper – *Polonia w Ameryce* (Poland in America), which as edited by John Malkowski. The newspaper had been incorporated by Stanley Lewandowski, Michael Kniola and Matthew Dluzinski (see *Our Polish Ancestors*, Oct/Dec 2010, page 2-3). In 1897, *Polonia w Ameryce* was purchased by Matthew Dluzinski's younger brother, Theodore, and L.S. Devyno became the editor.

The Dluzinski family were Cleveland Polish pioneers, according to an article by Theodore Andrica, a reporter for the *Cleveland Press*. Matthew had helped build the Superior Viaduct, the bridge which connected Cleveland to the former Ohio City. Matthew and his younger brother, Theodore, by publishing a Cleveland Polish newspaper, were connecting the members of the Cleveland Polish community to their new country, while keeping them connected to events in Poland. The newspaper helped the new immigrants understand the customs, institutions and laws of the new country, while at the same time it helped them preserve their ethnic heritage and the religion of their ancestors.

In 1922, thirty years after its founding, *Polonia w Ameryce* was sold and became the *Polish Daily Monitor*. Matthew (Mateusz) Dluzinski died December 18, 1934. On December 18, 1976, his daughters paid tribute to their father with the following "In Memoriam." His daughters were echoing the feelings of the many Polish immigrants to Cleveland, who were able to keep alive Polish traditions and the Polish language with the help of the newspaper Matthew and Theodore gave to the Polish community of Cleveland. The name of the newspaper is preserved in Cleveland's Slavic Village – "Polonia Street."



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Issues of the newspaper can be found on microfilm at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus, and also at The Western Reserve Historical Society. Unfortunately, the early issues have been lost. The images below are from film that is held in the collections of The Ohio Historical Society.



Since "In Their Words" by Jonathan D. Shea & William F. Hoffman does not provide translation help for these 1918 - 1922 Census registration cards, I used Google Translator on each phrase to generate the side-by-side translation on this and the next page. At right are both sides of a picture of Eleanora Rusin with her sons



**Karta dla wprowadzających się.**

Adnotacje o zmianie: nazwiska, imienia, lub stanu

**Zwraca się uwagę na czytelne wypełnienie karty.** Ks. m. № \_\_\_\_\_

Adnotacje czerwonym atramentem, o stosunku do wojskowości:  
*Żłowa rokinia Józef Rusin*

Pieczęć  
 Prezyd. Pol.  
 Państwowej  
 m. Łodzi.

Łódź VII Komisarjat.

Obok wymieniona osoba  
 wprowadziła się:  
 do domu przy ulicy *Zabij*

№ policyjny *№ 9*  
hipoteczny \_\_\_\_\_

Kiedy przybył	<i>13-2 1921 r.</i>	Nazwisko	<i>Rusin</i>
Skąd przybył: wskazać wieś, gminę, powiat lub miasto, a jeżeli w Łodzi, to wskazać ulicę i № domu	<i>M. Krawick</i>	Imię	<i>Eleanora Rusin</i>
		Imiona rodziców i nazwisko panięńskie matki	<i>Andrzej Eleanora Garkowska</i>
		Dzień, miesiąc i rok urodzenia	<i>26 Lut.</i>
		Miejsce urodzenia (wieś, miasto, powiat)	<i>Łódź.</i>
		Wyznanie	<i>Katolicki</i>
		Przynależność państwowa	<i>Polska</i>
		Stan rodzinny	<i>Zamężna</i>
		Zawód lub rzemiosło	<i>domowa</i>
		Na podstawie jakich dokumentów, przez kogo i kiedy wydanych zameldowany.	<i>Symerysony dowód osobny Magistrat Kamin N. 4294 78-20 r</i>
		Stały mieszkaniec (wskazać gminę, miasto, powiat, gdzie zapisany do ksiąg ludności)	<i>Łódź</i>
		Piętro i numer mieszkania	<i>Trzecie</i>

Podpis właściciela  
 lub rządcy domu *J. Pawlak.*

Podpis Komisarza  
 lub Zastępcy \_\_\_\_\_

Ameldowana *4/4*  
 VII Kom. Pol. Państw. Łódź

Leopold at left and Waclaw in the center, found among my grandfather's memorabilia.

The heading in the box below was attached sideways to the left side of the card, between two punched holes. It was placed here to enlarge the rest of the card.

A similar card for Józef Rusin lists his birth

Card for moving (into a new place).

Note about change:  
surname, first name, or status

date as 16-3-1876r and occupation as Citizen. Eleonora's birth date looks like 2/6 Pot, perhaps an abbreviation for Potajemny if women were allowed to keep their age secret. A line in Joseph Rusin's 1920 US Census lists wife Elenor age 43, crossed out when asked for an immigration date since she stayed in Poland, so her birth year was 1876.

Younger Sister  
Mrs. Eleonora Rusin  
and Sons

Photography  
MAKART

in Łódź  
Passage No 2

Attention is drawn to clearly fill out the card.

small Book No \_\_\_\_\_

Annotations in red ink, with respect to the military:

family Association Józef Rusin



Łódź <u>VII</u> Police station.		Surname	<i>Rusin</i>
		First name	<i>Eleonora Rusin</i>
In addition to the said person is introduced:		Names of parents and maiden name of mother	<i>Andrzej Eleonora Spikowska</i>
		Day, month and year of birth	<i>2/6 Secret</i>
to house at street <u>Zabrij</u> of the police <u>No. 9</u>		Place of birth (village, town, county)	<i>Łódź</i>
		Religion	<i>Catholic</i>
No _____ of mortgage _____		Citizenship	<i>Polish</i>
		Status in family	<i>Married</i>
When arrived	<u>13 - 2</u> <u>1921</u> yr.	Profession or craft	<i>Domestic</i>
Whence came: indicate village, district, county or town, and if in Łódź, then indicate street and No of house	<i>District Kramsk</i>	On the basis of which documents, by whom and when issued registered.	<i>Provisional identification personal Municipality Konin No 4294 7-8-20 yr</i>
		Permanent resident (show district, city, county, where population books recorded)	<i>Łódź</i>
		Floor and number of apartment	<i>IIr-fl</i>

Signature of owner or administrator of house

*Lt. Pawlak.*

Signature of Officer or Proxy

# An Imaginary Trip to Korolówka, Poland

Original author – unknown

Adapted by Ralph Lysyk

The year is 1892. The place is Korolówka. Poland. A tiny village of a dozen farmhouses just 12 kilometers from the city of Zbaraż which is located in the district of Galicia in southeast Poland. We have been invited to the home of Stefan and Anna Lysyk and their eight children --- Marcela, Tekła, Agnieszka, Marysia, Franciszek, Józef, Józefa and little Anieła. We are to join them for the Christmas Eve celebration of Wigilia.

Stefan and Anna have been preparing for our arrival. Their home is a thatched-roof cottage with exterior walls made from a mixture of clay and straw. The walls have been whitewashed inside and out. The linen tablecloth has been washed, ironed and crisply starched. The plates, glasses and silverware have been polished until they glitter. Stefan has cut an elegant fir tree from the forest.

It is dusk as we arrive in our horse-drawn wagons. The air is crisp and cold. The land is covered with a sparkling white blanket of new fallen snow. As we near the house we see the family gathered in the doorway eagerly awaiting our arrival. Stefan shouts a greeting: “Witamy kochane goście i życzymy wesółych świąt i Bożego narodzenia!” (Welcome beloved guests and we wish you a happy holiday on the birth of our Lord).

We enter their home. The room is lit by kerosene lamps and in the corner stands the fir tree, adorned with hand made ornaments. There are little roosters, pigeons, cubes, spirals, mobiles, mushrooms and baskets. There are angels, stars and garlands made of straw. Indeed, the children have outdone themselves this year. The table is set for dinner. Above the table hangs a pająk, a chandelier type ornament made of paper and straw, which has the effect of a spider web. A szopka (a creche scene) is displayed on a chest. Garlands hang from the pająk to each corner of the room symbolizing the four corners of the earth. Sheaves of the four principal grains: wheat, rye, oats and barley are placed in each corner of the room. Later the sheaves will be spread in the field and in the orchards for good luck in the following year.

As we sit at the table. We notice an empty place set for Christ or an unexpected guest. There is straw under the tablecloth symbolizing the manger where Christ was born. The tablecloth is white symbolic of Mary's veil.

Little Józefa has been watching the skies for the first star to appear. She excitedly lets us know it is time for the Wigilia supper to be served. Anna and Stefan face each other holding an opłatek, a wafer of the finest wheat, each breaking and sharing a part of the other's. They embrace warmly and express their love for each other. Then they break and share the opłatek with their family and guests expressing thoughts of love, good health happiness and untroubled life. If during the past year they have in some way harmed the other person they must now ask for their forgiveness.

A piece of opłatek has been placed under each plate. Following the meal, if the opłatek sticks to the plate, it is a sign of a bountiful harvest. Could the bottom of the plates have been moistened to make sure the opłatek stuck?

The dinner traditionally has an odd number of courses (13 is common for Christ and the 12 apostles). Traditional dishes include creamed herring, fried fish, mushroom soup, sauerkraut, pierogi, fruit compote, pastries and cookies. We sit by the table and sing our favorite kolędy (Christmas carols).

Following dinner the adults and older children all walk to the parish church for pasterka, the shepherd's mass, which begins at Midnight. According to Polish tradition. Midnight, was the hour of Christ's birth.

After mass we return home to have a farewell drink of spiritus to warm us on our return trip. We say our goodbyes and as we leave Stefan says “Iść z bogiem” (go with God). So ends our imaginary visit to Korolówka.

Go to <http://www.slowfoodbuffalo.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/brdwy.jpg> for a picture of a Wigilia celebration.



## Library Additions

Roseanne Ewazen has generously donated four books about the Holocaust to our library: *A Girl Called Judith Strick* by Judith Strick Dribben, *Triumph of Hope* by Ruth Elias, *Children in the Holocaust and World War II: their secret diaries* compiled by Laurel Holliday and *Night* by Elie Wiesel. All of the books can be found in the history section of our library (940.5318 - 940.5348).

We also appreciate Miecia Kowalski's contribution of clippings pertaining to the Polish community in Cleveland, which she gathers from various local newspapers and local program booklets. These clippings can be found in our library clippings binders and our vertical file.

### Printing Selected Text From Cleveland Public Library Historical Plain Dealer Pages

On [www.cpl.org](http://www.cpl.org), click Research, Research Databases, Plain Dealer Historical Index (1845-1991), and enter you library card number and PIN. Click View Article, then the large Print button for a printer-friendly display. The search term should be found somewhere in the box enclosed by the handles. Click any of the four corner handles and drag to resize the box, or anywhere else in the box and drag to move it.

Click "print >" at the top of the page and leave "Image and Citation" selected. The citation is only one line, and "Image Only" will not remove the window with those options from the printout. Click the down arrows to change the Portrait layout to Landscape or the Paper Size, and if the area to print is small enough check the "Fit Image to Page". Then click your browser's Print button.

Click "pdf >" to open your browser to view a cached .pdf file of the image, then click "Save a Copy" on the toolbar or "File, Save As" on the menu bar to save it.

### Cuyahoga County Public Library Provides Access to Renamed Footnote

On [www.cuyahogalibrary.org](http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org) click Research, Electronic Databases A-Z, login with your library card number and PIN, click the letter F, and click "Fold3 History & Genealogy Archives (formerly known as Footnote)". Then enter your library card number and PIN again.

## Genealogy Classes

Join Cuyahoga County Public Library's Genealogy Specialist, Joni Mihelich for a series of genealogy classes designed to help you get started, get back to basics, or learn about the free genealogy resources available at Cuyahoga County Public Library. These classes will be offered each month at the Fairview Park Branch. Registration required as class sizes are limited. Register by calling the library at 440-333-4700 or online at <http://cuyahogalibrary.org/EventFinder.aspx?TodaysEvents=true>.

Genealogy Workshop – Session 1: Beginning Genealogy Class / Registration required.

Gain the knowledge to make your research a success in a beginner's genealogy class with Cuyahoga County Public Library's Genealogy Specialist, Joni Mihelich. Followed by a Q & A.

Genealogy Workshop – Session 2: Genealogy Databases / Registration required.

Turn up the volume on your family history research with hands-on help to learn how to search effectively some of the most popular Genealogy websites including Ancestry Library Edition, Footnote and Heritage Quest! Must be comfortable using a computer.

Genealogy Workshop – Session 3: Census Research / Registration required.

Learn the basics of census research and then receive hands-on help to search and analyze your findings. Must be comfortable using a computer.

**Joni Mihelich**  
**Subject Specialist - Genealogy**  
**Cuyahoga County Public Library**

## Memorial “Incantation”

On September 10, 2011, a memorial to the heroes of Flight 93 was dedicated in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The family members and friends of those who perished on September 11, 2001 in the field near Shanksville were joined by President and Mrs. Bush, President Clinton, Vice-President Biden, Mrs. Biden and many other dignitaries. In addition to many eloquent speeches made by the former presidents and the current vice president, two poems were recited by Robert Pinsky, the former poet laureate of the United States. One of the poems was “Incantation” by Polish poet Czeslaw Milosz, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature in 1980. Robert Pinsky had selected the poem on September 21, 2001 as a “response to the death, terror, courage and disruption following the recent attack and massacre.”

To read the poem and an account of the dedication in Shanksville:

[http://www.slate.com/articles/arts/poem/2001/09/four\\_poems.single.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/arts/poem/2001/09/four_poems.single.html)

[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id44464410ns/us\\_news-9\\_11\\_ten\\_years\\_later/t/vp-former-presidents-laud-courage-flight/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id44464410ns/us_news-9_11_ten_years_later/t/vp-former-presidents-laud-courage-flight/)



The Rev. Roman Misiewicz, right, who has been pastor of St. Mary’s Polish National Catholic Church in Parma, was recently honored at a retirement party organized for him by the Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland. The PGSGC meets every month at St. Mary’s. At left was Jolanta Misiewicz, PGSGC president. John F. Szuch is holding the retirement cake.

## Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

- Jan: John Stoika, Editor & Special Events Coordinator for the Cuyahoga Valley Genealogical Society, A One-Step Portal for On-Line Genealogy
- Feb: Members, Love Stories of My Ancestors Rescheduled
- Mar: Martin Hauserman, Chief Archivist for Cleveland City Council Archives, Polish Genealogical Sources in the Cleveland City Council Archives
- April: Carolyn Vigneulle, Remembrance with Government Records (Japanese Internment Camp and National Archives)

### **Kosciuszko's Ohio Land to be Named "Kosciuszko Park"**

#### **After Parks Director reads 'The Peasant Prince' biography**

A September 13, 2011 email from The Kosciuszko Foundation <info@thekf.org> started with: The City Council of Dublin, Ohio voted last night to set aside 40 acres of Kosciuszko's former property as "Thaddeus Kosciuszko Park." Kosciuszko was awarded 500 acres on the Scioto River near Columbus for his service in the Continental Army during the American Revolution.

Fred Hahn, Dublin's Director of Parks & Open Space, wrote to Alex Storzynski, President of the Kosciuszko Foundation and author of "The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution," to say that his book inspired the naming of the new park in Kosciuszko's honor.

"I had never heard of Thaddeus Kosciuszko and went to the local library and checked out 'The Peasant Prince...' What a great read. What a fascinating man," Hahn wrote to Storzynski. "If you are ever in Dublin, Ohio, I hope you are able to visit the park and see our local recognition of Kosciuszko that you were instrumental in creating. I certainly enjoyed reading your book and look forward to exposing more of the general public to Thaddeus Kosciuszko."

The park is to be dedicated in Spring 2012.

### **Welcome--New Members--Witamy**

Carol A. Stafinski	BRIGG MISCHAK NAJDA ROG STROJNY WITOS
Stan Kawecki	Kawecki
April Dugan	GUC KONECEK
Barrington & Marcia Nauts	NAUTS

### **Letter from the President**

**by John F. Szuch**

As I reflect while writing this, it is hard to imagine that 20 years have passed since Ed Mendyka conceived forming this organization. I had never attended the St. John Cantius Polish Festival, but for some reason decided to take my wife Marlene to the one in September 1991. While there, we went into the old High School building where they had a "heritage room" set up. The "room" was loaded with old class photos and other memorabilia from the Parish and High School that Ed Mendyka had rounded up and tastefully displayed.

One of the items laid out was a sign up register for anyone interested in forming a new Polish genealogical society. Having done some genealogy research for a senior sociology course at John Carroll University back in 1959, I figured I could dig it out and use it for a foundation. Little did I dream when I attended that first meeting in October 1991 that nearly every first Tuesday of the month for the next 20 years would be spent attending PGSGC meetings, with the last 19 as the organization's President!

I'm happy to say that some of those original members are still active in the organization although health reasons sometimes prevents them from attending meetings. Others unfortunately have passed on and are now spending eternity with ancestors that they had researched.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank all of you who have become friends and family over the past 20 years. May we have many more years together and may God bless you in the coming years, sto lat!

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND  
C/O ST. MARY'S PNC CHURCH  
1901 WEXFORD AVE.  
PARMA, OHIO 44134

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: <http://www.freewebs.com/pgsgc>

FIRST CLASS MAIL

***OUR POLISH ANCESTORS***  
*is published by*  
THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF GREATER CLEVELAND



Everyone who is interested in Genealogy, and more specifically Polish Genealogy, is welcome to join our group. We meet the first Tuesday of the month from September thru June at St. Mary's PNC Church; 5375 Broadview Rd. (corner of Broadview & Wexford); Parma, Ohio. Parking is available in the parish lot, the entrance of which is on Marietta Ave. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM and usually end at 9:30-10:00 PM. Membership dues are \$25.00 a year.

President:	John F. Szuch 105 Pleasant View Dr., Seville, Ohio 44273	(330) 769-4603
Vice-President:	Ron Kraine 9810 Greenhaven Pkwy., Brecksville, Ohio 44141	(440) 838-5743
Treasurer:	Ben Kman 170 Bellus Rd., Hinckley, Ohio 44233	(216) 469-9670
Secretary:	Sonia Chapnick 7897 Gildersleeve Circle, Kirtland, Ohio 44094	(440) 256-8392

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e-mail address—[cspikowski@oh.rr.com](mailto:cspikowski@oh.rr.com)