

## **St. Barbara Church Members Sing Joyfully to the Lord** **by Cindy Spikowski**

July 22, 2012, the sixteenth Sunday in ordinary time, was far from ordinary for the parishioners of St. Barbara Church on Denison Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio. After a ceremonial knocking on the front doors of the church, the congregation reentered their church, which had been closed May 9, 2010, and joined their new pastor, Reverend Father Joseph T. Hilinski as he celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving. Reverend Father Chester C. Cudnik is the Pastor Emeritus. Since its founding in 1905, the parish has survived a fire, the construction of two major highways and the closing in 2010. Father Hilinski thanked those who had worked so hard to reopen the church and reminded everyone that St. Barbara's must be a force to benefit all members of the neighborhood. He also announced that the Saturday Vigil Mass would be celebrated in English at 4:30 P.M. and the Sunday 11:30 A.M. Mass would be celebrated in Polish by Father Andrew Knapik from Immaculate Heart of Mary.



St. Barbara front door draped for ceremonial opening



Statue of St. Barbara



# Welcome Home

by Cindy Spikowski

On July 15, 2012, 139 weeks since the closing of St. Casimir Church in November, 2009, the parishioners of St. Casimir's greeted each person by saying "Welcome Home!" as once again the church was reopened. Approximately one thousand were in attendance. The occasion was marked by a solemn high Mass at 11:30 a.m., celebrated in Polish and English. The magnificent church was built in 1918 and in 1985 became a City of Cleveland Historical Landmark as well as the Cleveland Solidarity Center. The new pastor will be Reverend Father Eric S. Orzech, who is also the pastor of the Shrine Church of Saint Stanislaus in Slavic Village. Reverend Monsignor Leo Telesz, who spent thirty-seven of his seventy-three years as a priest at St. Casimir Parish, is the Pastor Emeritus.

To paraphrase Father Orzech's homily, the parish has a rich heritage of members who made important contributions to the history of Cleveland and to the Catholic Church. It was also a parish of ordinary people who did not make headlines, but lived their faith and made the world a better place. Plan to visit this beautiful church for Sunday Mass at 11:30 a.m., to hear the beautiful Polish hymns and the prayers in Polish, like our ancestors did so long ago.

For details see [www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1202984.htm](http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1202984.htm).



St. Michael the Archangel guards St. Casimir Church



Altar in St. Casimir Church on reopening day

## Welcome--New Member--Witamy

Leonard & Roberta Pokorski    KRASINSKI GISPANSKI GAWRYSCZWSK (GAWRY)  
ERT/ERD/ERDT

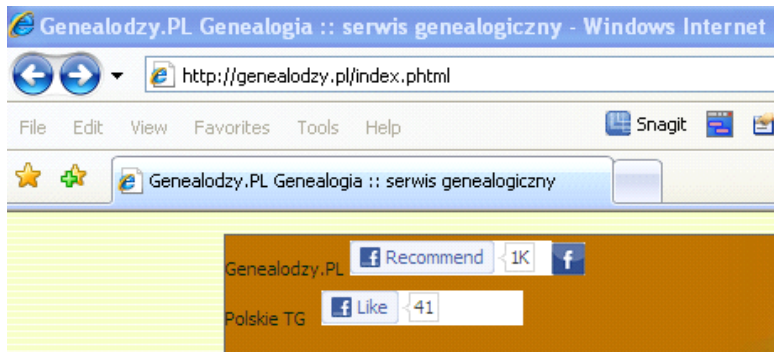
### Internet Genealogy

We thank Pat Bakaitis for sharing a magazine devoted to explaining how to use the Internet to do genealogical research. She donated the April/May 2012 issue of *Internet Genealogy* to our library since it includes the article “Ten Websites for Polish Research” by Donna J. Pointkowski. To subscribe to the magazine, call 1-888-326-2476 or visit [www.internet-genealogy.com](http://www.internet-genealogy.com).

### How to use Geneszukacz.genealodzy.pl by Ben Kman

This article is meant to demonstrate one specific search tool on the website genealodzy.pl. There are many other features and resources available that you can explore on your own or that may be part of future How To articles. If you click the British/American flag at the top of the page, the site will change to English. However, I have chosen to show how to navigate the Polish version of the site. Just think how proud your ancestors would be if they could watch you reading some Polish!

1. Enter [genealodzy.pl](http://genealodzy.pl) into your internet browser window (there is no need to include http://)



2. Select Geneszukacz from the menu on the left hand side of the site that appears



3. The following screen should appear summarizing the counts of ALL available references to births, marriages and deaths by region:



geneszukać genealodzy.pl genealogiczna wyszukiwarka nazwisk

Recommend 1.9k

07.06.2012 18:47

Sprawdź występowanie nazwiska w bazach

Nazwisko (bez polskich liter)  ☐ Wyszukiwanie dokładne

| Geneteka ...       |           |         |            |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|------------|
| Tereny             | Urodzenia | Zgony   | Małżeństwa |
| dolnośląskie       |           |         |            |
| kujawsko-pomorskie | 451.204   | 266.193 | 149.656    |
| lubelskie          | 124.773   | 130.462 | 71.510     |
| lubuskie           |           |         |            |
| łódzkie            | 457.617   | 251.983 | 139.078    |

Projekt indeksacji metryk 450.013

Projekt indeksacji metryk parafialnych

Projekt indeksacji akt stanu cywilnego 21.161

4. To perform a general search of the birth, marriage and death records for the parish records that have been indexed for your surname, enter the surname in the box next to Nazwisko (surname) then click Wyszukaj (search). The results show matches for Births (Urodzenia), Deaths (Zgony) and Marriages (Małżeństwa) for the surname entered by region. The example below is for the surname, Justat. You should see a screen similar to the following:

Sprawdź występowanie n

Nazwisko (bez polskich liter)

| Geneteka Justat...  |           |       |            |
|---------------------|-----------|-------|------------|
| Tereny              | Urodzenia | Zgony | Małżeństwa |
| dolnośląskie        |           |       |            |
| kujawsko-pomorskie  |           |       |            |
| lubelskie           |           |       |            |
| lubuskie            |           |       |            |
| łódzkie             |           |       |            |
| małopolskie         |           |       |            |
| mazowieckie         | 31        | 16    | 13         |
| Warszawa            |           |       | 5          |
| opolskie            |           |       |            |
| podkarpackie        |           |       |            |
| podlaskie           |           |       |            |
| pomorskie           |           |       |            |
| śląskie             |           |       |            |
| świętokrzyskie      |           |       |            |
| warmińsko-mazurskie |           |       |            |
| wielkopolskie       |           |       |            |
| zachodniopomorskie  |           |       |            |
| Ukraina             |           |       |            |
| Białoruś            |           |       |            |

5. Clicking on the number will display all the matching indexed records in the region for that type of record. An example for Justat marriages from Woj. Mazowieckie (obtained by clicking on “13”) is below.

The screenshot shows the website *geneteka.genealodzy.pl* with a search interface. The search criteria are: Księga: Małżeństwa (M) - wszystkie księgi, Nazwisko: justat, and Wyszukiwanie dokładne. The results table shows 5 entries, with a note at the bottom indicating 13 total results. The footer includes a 'DONATE' button and copyright information for 2010.

| Lp. | Rok  | Akt | Imię Nazwisko     | Imię Nazwisko        | Miejscowość Uwagi | Dodał |
|-----|------|-----|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 1   | 1876 | 32  | Adam Justat       | Marianna Ciarkowski  | Płońsk            | A     |
| 2   | 1919 | 98  | Adam Justat       | Marianna Dąbrowski   | Pomiechowo        | A     |
| 3   | 1884 | 53  | Adam Justat       | Małgorzata Dolecki   | Nasielsk          | A     |
| 4   | 1903 | 6   | Franciszek Justat | Marianna Wawrzyński  | Pomiechowo        | A     |
| 5   | 1863 | 27  | Jakub Justat      | Franciszka Cackowski | Płońsk            | A     |

... Wszystkich pozycji 13

You will notice that only 5 results are shown with a note at the bottom saying “Wszystkich pozycji 13”. This means that 13 matches were found. To show more matches in the view, click the drop down arrow next to Pozycji Na Stronie and pick a larger number. Then click Wyszukaj.

Each line represents a reference to a record that was indexed by a researcher in Poland. In the “Dodał” column is an “A” icon. Clicking on this will allow you to send a message to the person who indexed the information which could prove to be a valuable relationship for future research. It should be noted that they will not be able to provide a copy of the actual record to you. You will need to contact the archive that holds that information and provide a formal request (and payment) to receive a copy. The person who indexed the record may be able to assist you with this process. One side note, Item 3 in the picture above are my great great grandparents and Item 5 are my great great great grandparents.

Sometimes, there will be a button “SKAN” next to the Dodał column.

|   |      |     |               |                      |                     |   |      |
|---|------|-----|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|---|------|
| 3 | 1893 | 282 | Antoni Justat | Domicella Chudzińska | W-wa św. Aleksander | A | SKAN |
|---|------|-----|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|---|------|

In this case, the researcher uploaded an actual scan of the record that you can open and download!

This data is a great way to find additional information on your family and collateral lines when you know the location in which they lived. It is also useful when your ancestors “drop off the radar” while you are researching them in church records. They can help relocate them after they moved. If you find a relative in the data, it can be used to contact archives for records or to identify microfilms at the LDS to help you further your research.

The information contained on this site is being continuously updated and should be checked periodically. I can say from personal experience that this site helped me connect with a branch of my family that I had no information on despite 20+ years of research.

Good Luck!

# **“KOLEDZY” and the Automobile Accident on Dunham Road Bridge**

by Trina Galauner



Ever since my father pointed out the headstone at St. Mary's Cemetery inscribed with "Koledzy", I've wanted to understand how and why this fatal auto accident occurred back in 1936. The tragedy was talked about for years among the south east Polish neighborhood in Cleveland. "Koledzy" or "Friends" was inscribed on the headstone as these young men were all great pals.

The accident happened at 11:07 p.m. on June 16, 1936. A witness said a car "ripped up Dunham Road at 90 miles an hour." The driver approached the bridge where Dunham Road forms a Y intersection with Granger Road. The vehicle never slowed and crashed into the steel girders of the bridge. Five of the six passengers were thrown out of the automobile over the bridge to the railroad tracks 50 feet below.

Original reports indicated William Petrikowski and Edward Hanger of 4005 E. 71st Street were killed. Later reports said two victims were identified as William Petrikowski and Frank Tokorsny but all this was later corrected in the newspapers. The names were printed in error in the Cleveland Plain Dealer since the morgue gave out these names from papers that were found on the bodies.

Tadeusz "Ted" Kozlowski suffered a crushed head and chest and died instantly. He lived at 4150 E. 74th St. and was 23 years old. Born in Cleveland to Joseph Kozlowski and Frances Grabowski, he was a reporter with the Polish Daily Monitor for the past 11 months before the accident occurred. His parents were both born in Poland, his father immigrating in 1901 and his mother in 1911. It appears Ted had no other siblings. His father, Joseph, was a die maker at the wire mill.

Mieczyslaw "Melvin" Bodalski was a 24 year old machine engineer who lived at 4005 E. 71st St. He was the son of Teofil Bodalski and Joanna Welenc. His parents were both immigrants. His father came in 1903 and his mother came in 1907. His brother, Theodore, was born in 1911 in Ohio. They travelled back to Poland where it is believed Melvin was born in January 1912. His father came back to the U.S. in April 1912 and he, his mother and his brother came back in September 1912. Romana, his sister, was born in Ohio in 1914. The family can't be found in the



1920 census but they reappear in the 1930 census. Melvin suffered a skull fracture and severe head injuries when he was thrown from the vehicle. He died at the scene of the accident.

Tadeusz C. Radzynski was a butcher and lived at 12511 Service Court in Garfield Hts. The son of immigrants Narcyz Radzynski and Apolonia Chmanowski, he had only one sibling, a brother named Zbigniew, who died as an infant. His father, also a butcher by trade, operated a grocery at 3975 E. 31st St. His parents divorced when he was young. Tadeusz suffered head injuries and died immediately.

Bronislaw “James” Stolarski aka Stolar was the only victim who was married. At the time of the accident he was an unemployed mechanical designer. The son of Joseph Stolarski and Amelia Sokolowski, he was born in Cleveland and lived at 6911 Lansing. His parents were immigrants from Lutomiczyn, Poland and he had 4 siblings. James did not die instantly and was rushed to St. Luke’s Hospital where he passed away at 2:50 a.m. the following day. He was identified by a letter in his pocket.

Steve Wysopol, the driver of the new sedan, was killed immediately. He was the only victim that was not buried with the 4 others but buried at Calvary Cemetery. He had been a truck driver for the Cleveland Transfer Co. since 1926. It is reported that had won safety awards from his employer but had a “mania for driving fast in pleasure cars.” A single man, he was born in Dupont, PA to John Wysopol and Agnes Nowak in 1901. He lived at 2951 E. 57th at the time of his death.

Lloyd (Aloysis) Orlikowski was the son of Bernard E. Orlikowski, a former city councilman, and Apolonia Szczyglinski of 6715 Fleet Ave. His father had been a wholesale merchant of liquors before becoming a city councilman. The only one not thrown from the vehicle, Lloyd suffered a brain concussion and severe head lacerations but managed to recover at St. Luke’s Hospital. He lived until 2002 where he died at the age of 91 in Fort Myers, FL.

My research further identified that the four men buried beside each other at St. Mary’s Cemetery were members of Kappa Pi Sigma, a national Polish students fraternity. Just four years before, Ted Kozlowski and Ted Radzynski were initiated into the social fraternity where Melvin Bodalski was 1st VP and James Stolar was treasurer. Bodalski and Stolar attended Case Western University. Lloyd Orlikowski’s brother, Ted Orlikowski (student at John Carroll University), was 2nd VP of the organization. So it is understandable that their headstone would read “Koledzy” as they were undoubtedly great friends.



the Old Dunham Road Bridge in Maple Heights (photos courtesy of [www.clevelandmemory.org](http://www.clevelandmemory.org))

# Frances Tetlak

by Cindy Spikowski

A pamphlet written by Charles W. Coulter in 1919 entitled “The Poles of Cleveland” was published by the Cleveland Americanization Committee to “bring to Americans a knowledge of the life and customs of their foreign born neighbors” and to develop “an appreciation of the splendid contributions which the foreign born are making to American life.” The pamphlet contains 42 pages of text and photographs which give an overview of Polish history, the distribution of Polish people in Cleveland, their occupations, churches and societies as well as background on successful Polish Clevelanders. Charles Coulter mentions that Frances Tetlak graduated from the Western Reserve Library School and that she was “in charge” of the Tremont Public Library.

Frances was born March 10, 1895 in Cleveland, Ohio in the family home on Professor Street. Her parents, Josef and Katherine were both born in Poland. As stated on his United States passport application in 1903, Josef Tetlak was born at Niwiska, Galicya and had emigrated to the United States in 1888. The United States Census of 1910 states that Josef and Katherine had been married 17 years and had three daughters, Frances (16), Julia (14) and Valeria (12) as well as a son Frank (5). In 1915, according to the Cleveland Public Library archives, Frances Tetlak worked as an assistant at the Tremont Library. The library archives quote that at the July 9, 1917 meeting of the Cleveland Public Library Board Frances Tetlak’s salary was to be \$840/year because she was “returning from library school”.

The Library School at Western Reserve University had been founded by William Howard Brett in 1904. Mr. Brett, who served as director of the Cleveland Public Library from 1884 - 1918, realized that formal training was needed for his staff. When Frances completed the course in 1917, she was the first librarian of Polish descent to do so. Her salary increased to \$900/year in November, 1917 and \$960/year by May, 1918. Frances was the librarian at the Tremont School Branch, a portable building owned by Cleveland Public Library on the grounds of Tremont School (2409 West 10th Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio). The Cleveland Public Library was an exciting place to work at that time. Under William H. Brett, the library was the first metropolitan library in the country to have open shelves. Before Mr. Brett became the director, the books were stored behind locked glass doors. The new motto of the library became “open shelves, open minds”. On Washington’s birthday, in 1898, the Cleveland Public Library opened the first children’s reading room. As a child, Frances probably visited the children’s room and could have even been a member of the Cleveland Public Library’s Children’s Library League whose motto was “clean hearts, clean hands, clean books”.

Mr. Coulter in his pamphlet mentions the books read by the Polish in their own language, the most popular authors being Henryk Sienkiewicz (*Quo Vadis*) and Józef Korzeniowski (Joseph Conrad) as well as the poet Adam Mickiewicz (*Pan Tadeusz*). He states that the historical novel was the favorite type of fiction and that history and travel are the favorite subjects. The Polish language newspapers would have also been popular items for Polish adults at the Tremont library. Frances also would have welcomed the children to the Tremont Library. By 1917, children’s books were becoming more entertaining and appealing to children. The littlest children would have enjoyed *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* and the other Beatrix Potter books, while their older brothers and sisters read J. M. Barrie’s *Peter (Pan) and Wendy*, Kenneth Grahame’s *Wind in the Willows*, Eva March Tappan’s *When Knights Were Bold*, Booth Tarkington’s *Penrod* and of course, *Tom Swift*, written by Victor Appleton.

On December 7, 1918, the new Jefferson Branch located at 850 Jefferson Avenue opened, replacing the Tremont School library. The Jefferson Branch was constructed with funds provided by Andrew Carnegie and was one of fifteen Cleveland Library branches financed by Andrew Carnegie, and William Brett had been instrumental in convincing Carnegie to finance the library branches. William Brett was killed by an automobile on August 12, 1918, while crossing Superior Avenue after work. Frances Tetlak resigned from the Cleveland Public Library on October 1, 1918. Francis Tetlak, the first Cleveland librarian of Polish ancestry, returned to school to become a lawyer. In her years at the Tremont Library, however, she certainly made an important contribution to the people of the Tremont neighborhood.





Tremont School Branch, courtesy of Cleveland Public Library Photograph Collection

## **Bibliography for Frances Tetlak**

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- Coulter, Charles W. *The Poles of Cleveland*. Cleveland, Ohio: Cleveland Americanization Committee, 1919.
- Cramer, C. H. *The School of Library Science at Case Western Reserve University: Seventy-five Years 1904-1979*. Cleveland, Ohio: Case Western Reserve University, 1979.
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- Smith, Dora V. *Fifty Years of Children's Books 1910-1960: Trends, Backgrounds, Influences*. Champaign, Illinois: The National Council of Teachers of English, 1963.
- Wood, James M. *One Hundred and Twenty-five 1869-1994: A Celebration of the Cleveland Public Library*. Cleveland, Ohio: Friends of the Cleveland Public Library, 1994.

## **From the Library**

Mrs Lottie Hotz has made another generous donation to our library - *The Polish Way* by Adam Zamoyski. It is "A Thousand-year History of the Poles and their Culture", and is beautifully illustrated. Reading this book will give one a true appreciation of Poland and the Polish people.

## **Cleveland High School Yearbooks**

**by Pat Bakaitis**

I found an item in the Collinwood Observer that has genealogy connections. It mentioned the Cleveland Public Library, the main branch, is looking for Cleveland High School Yearbooks. There is a collection of old yearbooks in the Social Science Department (which is located in the new Louis Stokes Wing on the fifth floor). If someone knows of any missing issues and would like to donate them to fill the gaps in the collection and help preserve the history of the city they could contact the current head librarian of the department, Dave Furies. Some of the issues have been digitized and are accessible online. The website address is [www.cpl.org](http://www.cpl.org). Click on the Research category and go to the Digital Gallery. As many of our members (or their parents) attended school in this area they may be lucky and find a yearbook listing a family member. It sounded like there are more yearbooks in the collection that are not on line. I did not call to see if this is true.

## **In Memory**

James J. "Bud" O'Malley Jr, husband of Berni (Sak) O'Malley and PGSGC member, on May 15, 2012. His obituary is in *The Plain Dealer* May 17-18 or at:  
<http://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/obituary.aspx?n=james-j-omalley-bud&pid=157667352>

Frank L. Kowalski Jr., original PGSGC treasurer and member until December 2001. See <http://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/obituary.aspx?n=frank-l-kowalski&pid=158462429> or *The Plain Dealer* July 9-10.

Anthony A. Jablonowski, PGSGC member until November 2006. See <http://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/obituary.aspx?n=anthony-a-jablonowski&pid=158574361> or *The Plain Dealer* July 15.



# Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

by Georgene Jasinski

Sept: David Simmer, *A tour of Polish Churches in Ohio*  
Oct: Sandra Rozhon, *Hidden History of Brooklyn Centre*  
Nov: Timothy Daley, Executive Director - Cuyahoga Soldiers & Sailors Monument and the Masonic Library, *The Soldiers and Sailors Monument - Restoration of a Victorian Gem*  
Dec: Christmas Party



## Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski Historical/Memorial Marker Dedication Ceremony

Saturday, October 13, 2012

Pulaski, Pulaski Township, Williams County, Ohio

2:00 p.m. (Rain or Shine)

South side Pulaski Township Hall, East side of U.S. 127

Dedication Ceremony Open to the General Public

(Bring your own seating)

Program components: Speakers from SAR, DAR, Trustees,  
Ohio Historical Society, National Society, SAR,  
Marek Dollar, Honorary Consul in Ohio,  
Military Honors by 4th Continental Dragoons,  
Ohio Society Color Guard,  
Heritage Drum and Fife Corps, wreath presentation and  
Flag presentation for Patriot Pulaski

Further info can be obtained by contacting David Lupien

428 N. Myers Street Bryan, Ohio 43506

Phone: 419-636-6082

email: lupiendl@frontier.com

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by John F. Szuch

Welcome back after our summer break. I hope you all enjoyed it even though it was very hot locally. Unfortunately we've lost three current or past members: Bud O'Malley who often attended meetings with his wife Berni, and past members Frank Kowalski (a founding member and first treasurer) and Tony Jablonowski (a member for a number of years). Obituary information can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Please remember them and other deceased members and relatives in your prayers.

Between now and the end of the year the organization will go through some changes. Cindy and Ken Spikowski have decided to take a break from the many jobs they have so excellently done for the society over the past five years. After the production of the Oct/Dec issue we will be needing a new newsletter editor. Any member with such experience please contact me ASAP (330) 769-4603. Cindy will also be giving up her library duties and we'll need someone to fill that position and someone to be in charge of the name tags and sign in sheet.

And last, but not least, we have changed printers at a great savings. We hope that you are still pleased with its appearance. We need members to contribute articles to future newsletters and I particularly encourage out of town members to do so. Articles can be of a genealogical nature or they can be personal stories or memories of growing up "Polish" and what part your ancestors played in that.

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.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohpgsgc/>

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 \$2.00 per month through January, then \$24.00 per year.

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

Please submit all correspondence to: PGSGC Newsletter, c/o the return address above.  
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