

Letter from the President

by John F. Szuch

Welcome to the year 2009. As in Washington DC, we here at the PGSGC will have some changes. Most notably in your officers. After numerous years as our club's treasurer, Richarda Jambrozy, due to health reasons, decided not to run for re-election. I have loved having Richarda on my left for many years at meetings, but now I can see her sitting out front at meetings. Please keep her in your prayers, and also all PGSGC members with health problems. Her picture is on page 8, along with a picture of the other officers.

In her place, the club has picked Ben Kman as the new treasurer. Ben is no stranger to the organization, having joined the group in its infancy. Ben at one time also served as my Vice President until university studies took him to Europe for several years. Current members are very familiar with him as he has conducted the 50/50 raffle at the meetings for the past couple years and has also made some genealogy presentations to the group. Welcome aboard once again.

Another change coming this year will be in the cost of membership dues. Since the group was first formed back in the early 1990s, the dues have been \$20.00 a year. At that time we paid \$25 rent for the meeting space at St. John Cantius, and postage for mailing the bulletin was 29 cents per issue. Since that time, the cost of mailing is up to 42 cents and the costs of printing the bulletin have gone up. Our costs for outside speakers at the meetings has also risen. Most notably though is that the cost of our current meeting space rent (which is \$20) will be jumping to \$50 a month. We have been at St. Mary's for a number of years and the facility, the Pastor, and the location have been very good to our organization. The rent increase was discussed at the February meeting and the membership voted to stay and pay the increase. To offset the various price increases, the dues for new members and renewals will probably increase to \$25.00 a year. That figure will be voted on at the March meeting.

Finally, my streak of never having missed a meeting since we started in late 1991 came to an end with the January, 2009 meeting. I started out to drive the 40 miles to the meeting, but the ice storm we were having, which resulted in a number of accidents I saw, made me wisely turn around and go home. I love my people, but I wanted to be around for years to come to serve them! May this year and future ones see our organization continue to grow and prosper. Thanks for your support.

Welcome--New Member--Witamy

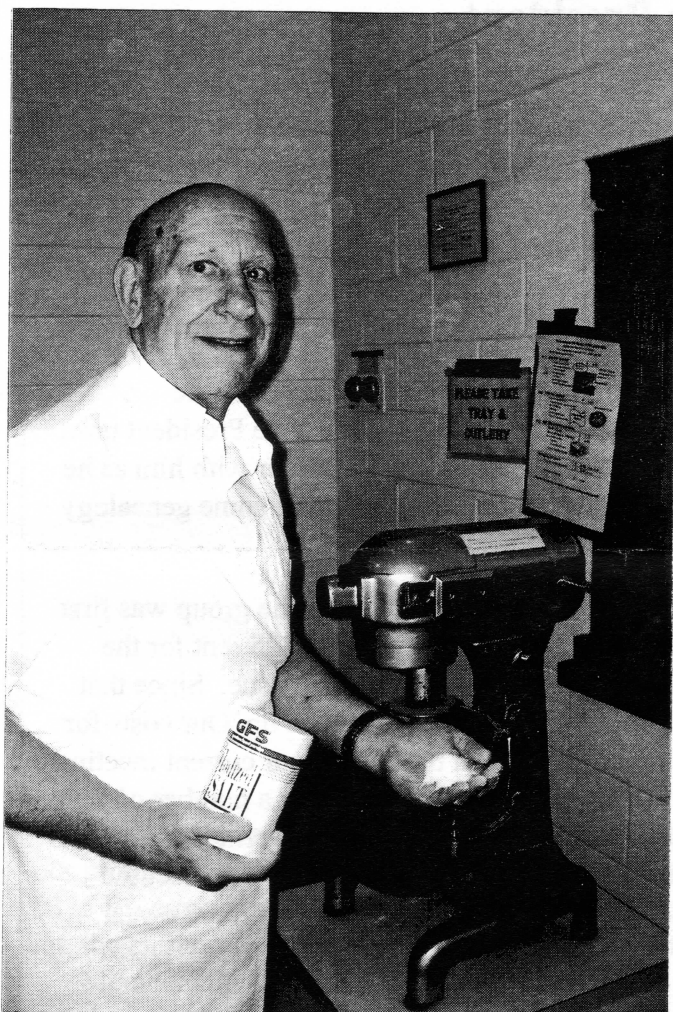
Frank & Jean Kotlarsic

HOJNOWSKI, JIRSA, KLISHAK, KLISIAK,
KLISZCZAK, KOTLARCZYK, KULE, MATEJKA,
RACUT

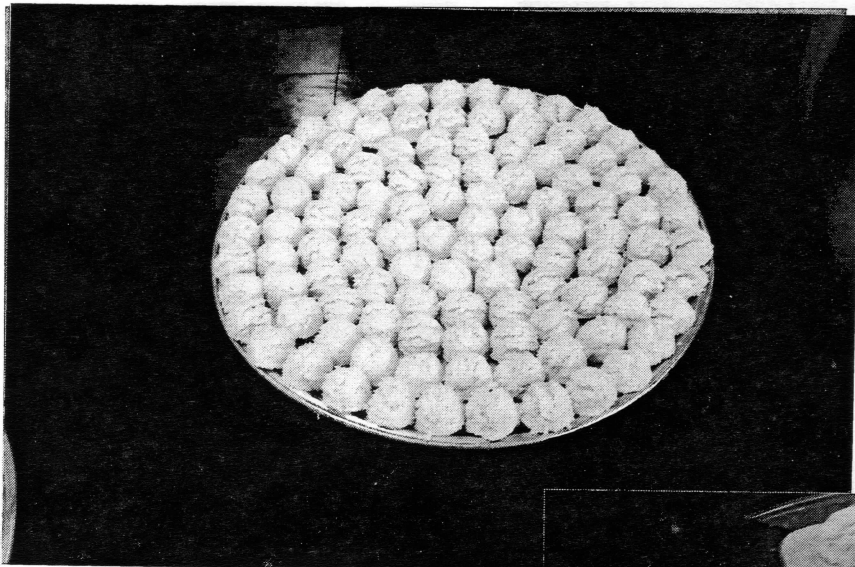
PIEROGI

By Cindy Spikowski

The recipe contains no exotic ingredients. The dough is made of flour, water, salt and eggs; the filling contains potato and cheese, farmer's cheese, or sauerkraut and onions. According to Robert Strybel, who writes articles for numerous Polish newspapers and works for Reuters News Agency in Warsaw, the origins of pierogi are actually Chinese! According to Strybel, pierogis came to Poland either from Russia, via the invading Mongolian hordes, or else from Italy via Marco Polo.



Pierogi are made on alternate weeks in Lent and Advent at St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church on Broadview Road in Cleveland, Ohio. Two days' work are required to complete the process: on Tuesdays the fillings are prepared, on Wednesdays the pierogi are made. Work begins about 9 AM and everyone has a special task, performed with efficiency and skill. There is a real camaraderie - everyone expresses sincere interest in the concerns, joys and accomplishments of each member of the group. These good friends have shared their hopes, dreams and sadnesses with each other for years while mixing, kneading or rolling the dough, scooping the fillings or crimping the edges, or while cooking the pierogi.



Interestingly, it is the men who do most of the standing - they mix, knead, roll, cut and cook the pierogi, and best of all, the men wash the dishes! The "crimpers" are all women. Everyone works with amazing skill and speed, all the while talking about a variety of subjects. Once the first two varieties are made - potato and cheese - the workers break for lunch.



Together they share bowls of soup made by one of the workers, bread and homemade desserts. The men in the kitchen continue to cook the pierogi, stopping to eat lunch only when the final dozen of the first two varieties are finished cooking. After lunch, birthdays and anniversaries are acknowledged with a group singing of "Sto Lat!" The day proceeds like clockwork - each person working with skill and precision established after years of practice. Join them sometime for a real "taste" of Polish food, culture and camaraderie.



Norm Davis, researcher for Cuyahoga County Archives and past vice president of the Lake County Genealogy society, spoke at the January 6 PGSGC meeting on the topic *Where Are They Hiding*. He handed out three pages listing useful web sites and types of documents available at the Cuyahoga County Archives, which he kindly allowed us to reprint here:

**INTERNET GENEALOGY HELP
MOSTLY FREE SITES
&
SEVERAL FUN SITES**

WWW.WORLDDGENWEB.ORG

Volunteer run site that is growing every day — check in once in awhile

WWW.USCITYDIRECTORIES.COM

A good site for finding those elusive city directories in the USA.

WWW.FINDAGRAVE.COM

This site will help you find a grave site for a person on your list. Data bank seems to be rather restricted.

WWW.PROGENEALOGIST.COM/CITATIONELEMENTS.HTM

Great site for tips to keep up with your citations and references that you should be using in your personal trees. Recommended reading and checking into.

WWW.OHIOHISTORY.ORG/DINDEX/SEARCH.CFM

Gives data base indices for death certificates for Ohio deaths.

WWW.SMALLTOWNPAPERS.COM

Very interesting site you might get lucky and have a newspaper for one of those lost ancestors somewhere in their hometown.

WWW.THESHIPSLIST.COM

Listings of immigrant ships gets better all the time so check it out and you might be surprised at what you find.

WWW.PERSONALHISTORYHELP.COM

If you have ever had the bug to write a book about your work with your family then this is a must site for you to check out.

WWW.FINDCOUNTYRECORDS.COM

Pick out the state that you are interested in and the county and it will lead you to where to find the documents that you need.

WWW.ZILLOW.COM

Fun site that will allow you to find the cost of anyone's home in the USA. Might be something that you always wondered about. Now you can find out.

WWW.PUZZLEMAKER.COM

Great fun site for making your own puzzles. Easy to do and could be fun at a family gathering or a child's party.

THESE ARE MY PERSONAL FAVORITES THAT I USE:

WWW.ROOTSWEBANCESTRY.COM/~OHLAKE

This is a free site for Lake County and it is a wonderful site. All cemeteries are indexed and online plus many other databases if you have any Lake County persons that you can not find. Look it over.

WWW.CASTLEGARDEN.ORG

This is the site to find immigrant arrivals before Ellis Island was formed. You can search for a special ship with the family surname to see who came over with them.

WWW.WC.ROOTSWEB.ANCESTRY.COM

Very good site for seeing if anyone else is researching your family. I called it Worldconnect in my talk. Yes it is free

WWW.RAOGK.COM

Random acts of genealogy kindness. Find a volunteer in most any location in the world to help you find those lost ancestors.

WWW.ROOTSWEB.ANCESTRY.COM/~OHCUYAH2

Cuyahoga county archives. Send them your request and they will do all the work for you and send it to you FREE. Check out their web page to see what they have to offer. You will be surprised.

WWW.ROOTSWEB.ANCESTRY.COM/~OHCUYAH2/CENSUS/1930CEN/SEARCH.HTML

Site does not cover all of Cuyahoga county yet but there is a lot of the area that is covered and gives a lot of detail to family ages, place of birth etc. Good site and easy to use.

WWW.ZODIACAL.COM/BARBAROWA/TREES/INDEX.PHP

This is an unusual site in the fact that it covers the Brooklyn Heights area and even has a cemetery section in it. Lots of ethnic areas covered. You might be surprised here.

RECORDS OF INTEREST IN THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY ARCHIVES

2905 FRANKLIN BOULEVARD, CLEVELAND, OH 44113

(216) 443-7250 PHONE NUMBER, (216) 443-3636 FAX NUMBER

e-mail address: archive@cuyahogacounty.us

HOURS: MONDAY, WEDNESDAY — FRIDAY, 8:30 AM. — 3:00 P.M.

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC ON TUESDAYS

Atlases: Cuyahoga County, 1852, 1874, 1892, and 1903; also City of Cleveland, 1881 and 1898.

Biographical Clipping File, circa 1914-1976.

Birth records, 1849-1908, not inclusive

Board of County Commissioners journals, 1810-1985.

Board of Elections Abstract of Votes, 1893-1974.

Board of Elections, List of Electors, 1893-1982

Board of Elections, Index to Naturalized Voters, circa 1865-1975 (Dates of Naturalization)

Cleveland City Directories, 1837-1972, not inclusive.

Coroner's case files, 1833-1900 (not inclusive)

Death records, 1840-1908.

Divorce case files, 1876-1882, Court of Common Pleas; also Ohio Supreme Court records, 1811-1858, and Court of Common Pleas Special Docket files, 1876-1922.

Marriage License Applications, 1829-1875.

Marriage records, 1810-1941, microfilm and originals, Volumes 1-200; and index, 1810 to the present, available on-line, or on microfilm, 1810-1986.

Naturalization records, 1818-1971, Court of Common Pleas; also Probate Court naturalization records, 1859-1901.

Probate Court estate case files, 1813-1918; indexes, 1813-1993.

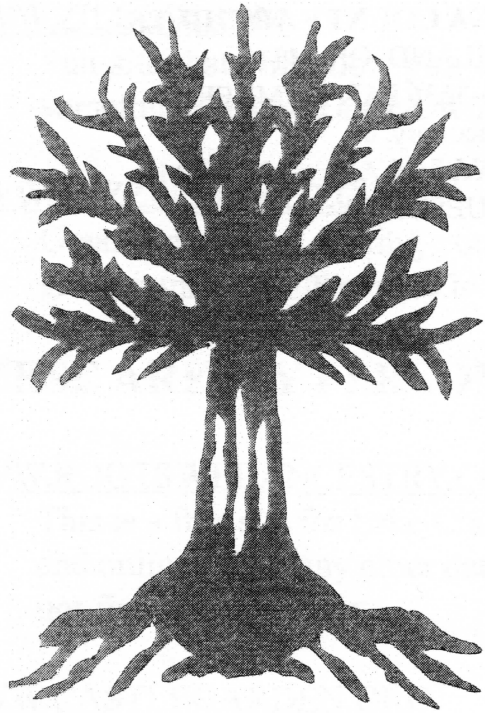
Real Estate Appraisal Cards, circa 1935 to 1970.

Registration and Charters of Religious and Other Societies, 1845-1924.

Tax Duplicates, 1819-1986 (not inclusive).

Township and ward maps, 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1890.

Veterans Cemetery Plat Book, circa 1937.



From *Wycinanki:*
The Art of Polish Papercutting
by Magdalena Nowacka-Jannotta



Richarda Jambrozy
Former Treasurer



Ron Marec
Vice President

John F. Szuch
President

Sonia Chapnick
Secretary

Ben Kman
Treasurer

TO MY ANCESTOR

Your tombstone stands among the rest; neglected and alone.
The name and date are chiseled out on polished, marbled stone.
It reaches out to all who care; it is too late to mourn.
You did not know that I exist. You died, and I was born.
Yet each of us are cells of you in flesh, in blood, in bone.
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse entirely not our own.
Dear Ancestor, the place you filled one hundred years ago
spreads out among the ones you left who loved you so.
I wonder if you lived and loved; I wonder if you knew
that someday I would find this spot and come to visit you.

Author Unknown

Submitted by Georgene Jasinski

POZNAN MARRIAGE RECORDS INDEXING PROJECT

The Poznan Marriage Records Indexing Project is looking for a few good indexers!

The Poznan Marriage Records Indexing Project stemmed from the need for researchers to determine their Polish immigrant ancestor's hometown. Because many U.S. records fail to include the exact town name, researchers decided to index the Marriage Records from the Province of Poznan. Indexers have been indexing one Parish (focusing on Catholic and Lutheran records) at a time in the 11,000 square miles the province covers. To date, 40 percent of the marriage records from 1835-84 (nearly 300,000) have been indexed, making this database one of the largest online databases for Polish genealogy. Information is free of charge; however, the Project asks that researchers contribute by either making a donation or volunteering to index some of the remaining records. To learn more visit www.polishroots.com/posen_indexing.htm.

JONI MIHELICH
Subject Specialist - Genealogy
Cuyahoga County Public Library

Garfield Heights Historical Society

PGSGC member Norman Braun has been elected Historian of the Garfield Heights Historical Society. The officers are pictured in *The Neighborhood News*, December 17, 2008.

Calling All Members -- PGSGC Website News

On www.freewebs.com/pgsgc click Haller's Army Enlistment (Cuyahoga County, Ohio) to find the page (3rd column) and volume (4th column) for Form C, which provides the most information. See <http://pgsa.org/haller.php> to obtain the records.

Another new link indexes St. Mary's Cemetery on E. 71st Street (over 1,500 burials extracted from the Cleveland Obituary File and Ohio Death Certificates).

Also see information on 100 Polish Businessmen in Cleveland in 1896 (Polish Businessman's Club organized by Michael Kniola in 1893 in support of the Republican party...includes additional information added from the 1900 census).

More Funeral Memorial Cards have been added to the spreadsheet.

Concerts at the Shrine Church of Saint Stanislaus

See this beautiful, historic church, located at 3649 East 65th Street in Cleveland's Slavic Village. Free will offering.

April 5, 2009, Palm Sunday, 3 PM

Brecksville/Broadview Hts. High School Chorus and Orchestra,
Chuck Valley, Director
"Requiem" by Durufle

April 19, 2009, Sunday, 4 PM

Chopin Recital

Cleveland recital by the 2009 winner of Poland's Chopin Piano Competition. This concert is offered in partnership with New York City's 'Kosciuszko Foundation'.

May 9, 2009, Saturday, 8 P.M.

CityMusic Cleveland, James Gaffigan, Music Director

"Heaven and Earth," Music of Schubert and Ives

Ives: Symphony #3 and "Washington's Birthday"

Schubert "Stabat Mater" and Mass #2 in G Major, with 'Quire Cleveland'

What's Happening

Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings--

March - Dr. Deborah Abbott, President of the African-American Genealogical Society of Cleveland and a Professor of Counseling at Cuyahoga Community College in Parma. She is an adjunct faculty member at the Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research at Sanford University in Birmingham, AL. She also teaches genealogy classes for WVIZ-Ch 25. Her specialties are African-American Genealogy and Family History Research. Her topic:
Collateral Lines

April - *Easter Traditions & Recollections* (members)

May - *Dinner & Meeting at Polish American Cultural Center*, 6501 Lansing Ave. 6:30 p.m.

Genealogical Institute 2009

A series of classes at the Western Reserve Historical Society - Cleveland, Ohio

Exploring Family History

This class is for the person who is new to tracing their roots. Topics include getting organized, research process, charts & forms, introduction to U. S. Federal censuses, source citation, WRHS Library, and selected websites. This class will be offered on these dates: March 7, April 11, May 2, June 6, July 11, September 12, November 7, and December 5.

Internet Research Strategies

Locating original documents, web searching techniques, connecting with others, potpourri of websites, evaluating websites, newspapers, census records, etc. Some knowledge of internet searching is helpful. March 21.

Immigration Research

Naturalization, passenger lists, research strategies, brief introduction to European research, WRHS Library resources, etc. May 16.

For more information and for reservation forms, call the WRHS at 216-229-7887 or see www.wrhs.org/index.php/library/genealogyseminars.

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 \$20.00 a year.

President:	John F. Szuch 105 Pleasant View Dr., Seville, Ohio 44273	(330) 769-4603
Vice-President:	Ron Marec 3316 Elsmere Rd., Shaker Hts., Ohio 44120	(216) 752-5713
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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