



From The Presidents' Desk

A Concert By The Concertina King

By Jerzy Cygler, Interim President

Many thanks to all who came out to enjoy a wonderful concert by the talented Jersey Polka Richie. I was thrilled to see over 125 gathered, in the St. Sebastian Parish Hall, for our clubs' first Polka Party event.

Richie donated his time and we, as a club, owe him a big round of applause for that. He played a mix of both long-time fan favorites and new music recently performed on the Mollie B Show. What's so incredible to me is that Richie will be inducted into the Concertina Hall of Fame, this October. A well-deserved honor for him and his proud mother Val.

I appreciate Alzada, Elaine and Gloria who greeted our guests and Donna, Lucia, Peter and Maya who assisted in the kitchen.



March 13 - Jersey Polka Richie performs, on stage, at St. Sebastian Parish Hall, Sebastian, FL



March 13 - Harry Klimas, Director and Past President was dressed to impress while Jack and Virgie Wolnik, club members from Melbourne, enjoyed their complimentary kielbasa and kraut lunch.

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Mission Statement

The Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach, FL, U.S.A., Inc. provides year-round activities for members, and accompanied guests, who promote and sponsor Polish culture and art, including; Polish language, dances, choral and other activities which enhance the growth of the club.

Tradition



Beloved and Cherished Easter Celebration

Easter is a well cherished holiday in most Polish homes. Extended family members sit down together to eat a symbolic breakfast feast of blessed food (*Święcone*). Before the meal, people share wedges of blessed hard-boiled eggs (*jaja na twardo*) and exchange wishes and a *Wesołego Alleluja (Joyful Hallelujah)*. Many meats and desserts are typically served:

ITEM - MEANING

- Bacon (*slonina*) - Abundance, New Law
- Bread (*babka*) - Jesus, Bread of Life
- Butter in lamb shape (*maslo*) - Jesus, the Shepherd
- Candle (*swieca*) - Christ, the light of the world, Light Over Darkness
- Cheese (*ser*) Cheesecake (*sernik*) - In Moderation
- Eggs (*jajka*) - New Life
- Ham (*szynka*) - Abundance, New Law
- Horseradish (*chrzan*) - Bitter Sufferings
- Poppyseed cake (*makowiec*) - Jesus, Bread of Life
- Salt (*sol*) - Preservation, Salt of the Earth
- Sausage (*kielbasa*) - God's Generosity/Gifts
- Vinegar (*ocet*) - Gall Offered in His Thirst
- Water (*woda*) - Bless the Home and its Members

Homemade fruit cordials or honey liquors are enjoyed after the meal. A sweet toast after a decadent meal.



The treasure art of decorating eggs (*pisanki*) is a wax-resist method much like batik. The root of the word means "to write," which is *pisać* in Polish. The designs are not painted on, but written with 100% pure beeswax. *Pisanki* are made and given away to family and friends along with a wish for the gift of life. Fresh eggs are hollowed in order to be displayed year-round. Or, made of wood. Solid, hard-boiled eggs (*kraszanki*) are dyed with fruits and vegetables, such as; beets, berries, red cabbage, onion skins, and greens. Blessed egg shells are never thrown out. Rather, buried in the garden to yield a prosperous harvest.

Easter Monday, known as *Śmigus-Dyngus (wet Monday)*, is a legal, national holiday in Poland. Young men throw water on young ladies to wish them good luck amidst their frivolity.



Local Easter Food Basket Blessing Sites: Holy Saturday at Noon

- St. Helen Church-2085 Tallahassee Ave., Vero Beach
- St. Sebastian -13075 US 1, Sebastian
- Holy Cross Church - 500 Iris Lane, Vero Beach

NEW DATE

Next Membership Meeting
Sunday, April 10th at 2 PM
Moose Lodge - 226 43rd Avenue, Vero Beach

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