



POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Presents its
31st Annual Conference

“UNRAVELING THE MYSTERIES”

Friday, September 18th and
Saturday, September 19th, 2009

Marriott Schaumburg
50 North Martingale Road
Schaumburg, IL 60173
847-240-0100

Please contact PGSAmerica@PGSA.org or visit our website for details & registration:
www.PGSA.org

Or write to:

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
984 North Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, IL 60642-4101

Schedule of Events *(subject to change)*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th, 2009 – REGISTRATION – 2:00 P.M.

3:00 - 3:55 p.m.	A-1 Case Studies: PGSA members share techniques that conquered brick walls; strategies to spur research
4:00 - 4:55 p.m.	A-2 “You Are Able To Understand Polish, Too!” -- Translating the Polish Language Dr. Jadwiga Cyparska, Polish Instructor
5 – 7 p.m.	DINNER OPTIONS: Marriott’s full service BlueFire Restaurant/Free Shuttle to Woodfield Mall’s Venues
7:00 - 7:55 p.m.	B-1 “Visiting Poland: The Glory of the Past & The Promise of the Future” Dr. Michael Mikos, Prof. Foreign Languages & Linguistics, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee
8:00 - 8:55 p.m.	B-2 “Folk Costumes of Various Regions of Poland: Influences, Styles, Fabric & Details” Cynthia Piech, PGSA Treasurer, creator of PGSA Notebook, CPA, & Experienced Genealogist

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2009

Vendor/Media Room will be open prior to lectures.

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	C-1 “Online Databases of the Polish State Archives” Kahlile Mehr, Slavic/Eastern Europe Collection	C-2 “Using Cook County Records in Family History Research” Craig Pfannkuche, Genealogist/Archivist
10:15- 11:15 a.m.	D-1 “The Partitions of Poland & What They Meant To Our Ancestors” Dr. Michael Mikos	D-2 “The Mysteries of PERSI-Periodical Source Index” Don Litzer, Reference Librarian/Genealogist
11:30- 1:15 p.m.	LUNCHEON in BALLROOM • PRESENTATION: GWIAZDA & WIGILIA AWARD ENTERTAINMENT BY THE WICI DANCERS	

1:30- 2:30 p.m.	E-1 “A Dozen Ways to Jumpstart a Family History Project” Loretto Szucs, Exec. Editor Ancestry Juliana Szucs Smith, Author/Editor	E-2 “East European Internet Sites For the Family Researcher” Kahlile Mehr, Slavic/Eastern Europe Collection Management FamilySearch	E-3 “Gem at the Crossroads of America-the Allen Cty Library” Don Litzer, Reference Librarian, Formerly Allen County Library
2:45- 3:45 p.m.	F-1 “They Became Americans – Finding Naturalizations and Ethnic Origins” Loretto Szucs, Exec. Editor & VP. Ancestry Magazine; Lecturer	F-2 “Gazetteers & Online Maps for Polish Genealogy” Kahlile Mehr, MA, MLS, Author, Collection Specialist, Published Professional Genealogist	F-3 “Dealing With Bad Guys in One’s Family Tree” Craig Pfannkuche, Pres. Memory Trail Research, Lecturer, historian
4:00- 5:00 p.m.	G-1 “Hidden Sources for Finding Family Stories” Loretto Szucs, Teacher, Author Genealogist Extraordinaire	G-2 “Finding Dziadzia’s Roots: A Case Study” Juliana Szucs Smith, Author, Editor Ancestry.com newsletter	G-3 “Doing Family History Research in Cemeteries” Craig Pfannkuche, Genealogical Archivist-C/NW RR Historical Soc.

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA CONFERENCE UNRAVELING THE MYSTERIES

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name PGSA member #

Address Email

City State Zip Code

Please check here if you would like your contact info listed (*not member #*) on a roster distributed to only those persons who participate in this information exchange.

CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER AT THE ANNUAL RATE OF \$25.00 OR THE 2-YEAR RENEWAL RATE OF \$40.00 & SAVE \$10.00 ON THE CONFERENCE. See www.PGSA.org online for membership.

COST: MEMBERS: \$100.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$110.00
AT DOOR: MEMBERS: 110.00 NON-MEMBERS: 120.00

Registration begins at 2:00 P.M. Conference will include 4 sessions & the opportunity for one-on-one translation help on Friday, September 18th with a 2 hour dinner break (on your own) midway between sessions. Saturday, September 19th, the Media/Vendor Room will open at 8:00 A.M. and Lecture blocks begin at 9:00A.M. Conference includes syllabus, hot plated luncheon, entertainment, presentation of Gwiazda & Wigilia Awards and Media/Vendor Room exhibiting charts, maps, books, embroidered apparel, items from Poland & genealogical fun stuff. Our photo expert, Eric Basir will be on the premises to do photo restoration on-site so originals can go home with you.

NOTE: You can attend any or all 4 of Friday's sessions, so please check those you plan to attend. Then choose ONE from each category C through G for Saturday's agenda.

FRIDAY: A-1 B-1 SATURDAY: C-1 D-1 E-1 F-1 G-1
 A-2 B-2 C-2 D-2 E-2 F-2 G-2
 E-3 F-3 G-3

If you wish to pay by credit card (Discover, Mastercard or Visa), please enter your credit card information below:

Name on credit card

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**IF NOT REGISTERING ONLINE, MAIL REGISTRATION FORM WITH CHECK OR CREDIT CARD INFO TO: JOY MORTELL, CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
106 MCWAIN LANE
CARY, N.C. 27513**

Marriott has reserved a block of rooms for Conference attendees at a special rate of \$89.00 a night. To reserve please call 800-228-9290 by Friday, September 4, 2009 & identify as a PGSA participant. Credit card guarantee of one night necessary

Loretto Szucs is currently Executive Editor & Vice President of Community Relations-Ancestry Magazine - Ancestry.com. She has been with Ancestry for 17 years. She has served on advisory boards for the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation and the Illinois State Archives as well as governing boards of several genealogical societies and is currently serving on the Cook County Illinois Circuit Court Archives Advisory Board. She is the founding secretary and current member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies. Author of many books including *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*, Loretto has lectured at 20 national conferences and hundreds of workshops since 1980 and has taught family history classes for local schools and the National Archives, Great Lakes Region. Loretto is a member of the American Library Assn. & has presented at two of their conferences. She has been interviewed for the television PBS Ancestors series, ABC News, CNN News & ABC's The View. She has been honored for numerous national, societal, genealogical and ethnic awards & citations for her contributions to family history & the genealogical community, as well as her support to the writing, editing & publishing communities. Loretto has been a past recipient of PGSA's Wigilia Award.

Kahlile Mehr, MA; MLS degree, is an acclaimed and Accredited Genealogist at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. He is Supervisor of Slavic & Eastern Europe Collection Management Family Search and has 27 years of experience at the Library as a manager of the Slavic collection. He specialized in user guidance, collection development, and was a cataloger and catalog supervisor. He is published and has compiled professional genealogies for Test Pilot, Chuck Yeager & Secretary of the Army, John O. Marsh.

Dr. Michael J. Mikos, is Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages & Linguistics at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he teaches Polish language, literature and culture. He has authored 12 books & over 70 articles and has been awarded the PEN Club Prize for translations of Polish Literature into English. His experience has spanned 29 years of escorting students & community members to the Summer School at the John Paul II Catholic University in Lublin to study Polish language and culture.

Juliana Szucs Smith is Editor of Ancestry.com newsletters for over 10 years. She has written for Ancestry Magazine, is the author of The Ancestry Family Historian's Address Book and wrote the "Computers and Technology" chapter in *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*.

Craig Pfannkuche is President of Memory Trail Research, Inc. since 1993, and is the Genealogical Archivist for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Historical Society since 1984. He is on the Board of Directors of the McHenry County, Illinois Genealogical Society & the Chicago Genealogical Society. He has presented numerous workshops in history, historical & genealogical research & archaeological techniques at both the local and national level.

Don Litzer, is a former Reference Librarian at the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center, in Fort Wayne, IN and is presently Assistant Director & Head of Adult Services at T. B. Scott Free Library in Merrill, WI. He has researched his German, Polish, Swedish, Swiss & Bohemian ancestry for many generations and has lectured and conducted multi-session courses.

Cynthia Piech is our very own PGSA Treasurer. She has previously served on the Board as Publications Chair; volunteered for many PGSA projects and has created & edited the PGSA e-zine, *PGSA Notebook*. She is also, a Genealogy Saturday volunteer and has documented her family genealogy back to the 1700's. She is a CPA and currently employed by an agency of the U. S. Treasury Department that regulates financial institutions.

Jadwiga Cyparska, PhD – Born and raised in Poland, Szczecin. She earned her Master's degree in Computer Science at Technical University in Szczecin, and PhD in Information Technology at Technical University in Wrocław. She used to work as a Professor at the University of Szczecin over 30 years. Now, she is a Polish instructor at Oakton College teaching Polish language at five-semester course in Des Plaines, IL. Her mother's family (Witenez-Bujwid) used to own a land property called Bór, Dżisna district (now Belarus) and after six-year-exile in Siberia they were displaced to Szczecin.