



Ostatki

a polish carnival
celebration!

MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTACT: Aundrea Cika
330.646.4082
acika@cisnet.com

Ostatki: Your Last Chance to Party **Polish Carnival celebration at The Youngstown Club Feb. 6th**

Youngstown—The raucous annual revelry of Carnival in Brazil and Mardi Gras in New Orleans are legendary and widely imitated. However, lesser-known celebrations have taken place for generations in other parts of the world, particularly in those countries where Christian traditions have made the 40 days before Easter a time of extreme sacrifice and solemnity.

Poland is one of those countries and Mahoning Valley Poles are inviting others to join them this year as they host *Ostatki*, on **Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 7 PM at The Youngstown Club.**

Directly translated as “the last,” the event gives guests a final chance at merriment before the solemnity of Lent. “This is a big event back in the villages where my ancestors came from outside of Warsaw,” said Angela Messenger, event chair. “People traditionally start their festivities a whole week before, and it doesn’t stop until late on Shrove Tuesday. We wanted to recreate the spirit of that time so Valley residents could enjoy it right here.”

Plans for the evening include guided tastings of Polish vodka and beers complimented by a wide assortment of authentic appetizers. Live music will start the evening as guests enjoy basket raffles, trivia games and desserts. The evening will climax with the presentation of the celebratory *paczki*, donuts with a hidden surprise for one lucky winner.

Costs for the evening are **\$30** per person in advance and **\$40** per person at the door.

For more information or to make your paid reservation call 330-719-0415 or go to www.polishyoungstown.com

About Polish Karinwal

Poles begin their celebrations earlier than in the states, starting on the Thursday before Ash Wednesday, with *Tlusty Czwartek* (Fat Thursday). On this day, they commonly eat the *paczki*, Polish donuts. The reason for making these decadent fried dough balls was to use up all the lard, sugar, eggs and fruit in the house, which are forbidden during Lent. The revelry and neighborly gatherings continued until the day before Ash Wednesday known as *Sledziowka* (Herring Day). On that day you eat as much herring as you can, drink vodka and dance because the next day it is all over.

Ostatki: Sneak Peek at the Evenings Activities



If the raucous, annual revelry of Carnival in Brazil and Mardi Gras in New Orleans are legendary and widely imitated, then Polish Youngstown's *Ostatki* can't be far behind. Last year's first-time event was talked about for months afterward.

For those of you who didn't make it, here is how this year's event might go...

Upon arriving, you will receive some beads and your personalized **Passport** for the evening. This will be your guide through Poland and the array of a dozen imported vodkas, beers and wines--most of which are not readily available for purchase in Ohio. You go from station to station learning a little about each and sampling up to five of them. Finish your passport and earn some beads.

Simultaneously, you will be trying to fill out your **Polish Trivia** card. Each person receives a different card when they arrive. Some questions are easy and some are challenging. To make it fun, there are trivia answers on the back...but not yours! So if you introduce yourself to the right person you just might find all the answers for which you are searching! Turn in your passport and earn some beads. You will also be put into a drawing for door prizes! Attendees are welcome to try to get fellow guests to part with some of their beads, perhaps by purchasing additional drinks at the bar for a new friend. If you have the **Most Beads** at the end of the evening, you win a prize.



For **music** this year, we are bringing in a Polish DJ from Pittsburgh. A former member of the famous national folk dance group, Maszowsze, **Radoslaw Fizek** is a talented violinist, singer and entertainer. He will be treating us to a violin performance in the first hour and then switch to a variety of music styles and vocals as the night progresses. To get a taste of his work, go here: <http://www.fizkowie.com/RadkoMuzykant.htm> and click on Events.



You can never go wrong with the **food** at the Youngstown Club. Chef Rob will make the regular menu available for dinner, but I doubt that you will need it. He has a plan for an **EXTENSIVE** appetizer buffet including all of your Polish favorites done his way...savory mushroom soup, delicate potato pancakes, herring, kielbasa, kapusta, pierogi and more! The only complaint we received about last month's Wigilia was he served too much food and people felt guilty for not being able to eat it all! As a bonus, all attendees are eligible to receive a **FREE 90-day membership** to the club!

Somewhere during all of this we will be conducting a **Vodka Cocktail Contest**. Bartenders from a number of Youngstown's hippest establishments--and Polish Happy Hour host locations--will be competing for prizes before a panel of celebrity judges based on creativity, flavor and originality. Each of the contestants' drinks will be available for you to try for yourself afterward!

And it wouldn't be a Mahoning Valley event if you couldn't buy chances on **gift baskets** or a **50/50** raffle. In keeping with the tone of the evening, only high-value baskets are welcome so it will be very enticing.

The high point of the night will be the **Paczki Parade**. It has long been a tradition that women would parade around a delectable pile of fresh filled donuts then reach in trying to grab the special one with a surprise inside. We change it up to include men in our parade too. The token inside means that the lucky person is royalty for the rest of the night and receives added prizes!



Please join us in what is sure to be a fabulous celebration!