

Annual Polish Constitution Day Celebration at Golden Gate Park

On May 2, 2010, the Polish American Community in the San Francisco Bay Area will celebrate the 219th annual commemoration of the May 3rd Polish Constitution of 1791, which was the first democratic constitution in Europe and second in the world, after the Constitution of the United States.

The Polish Constitution was deemed too dangerous by the royalty of Europe, who had already opposed the French revolution in 1789. In 1795 Russia, Prussia and Austria decided to wipe out "the Polish cancer of freedom" by partitioning Poland. As a result, Poland ceased to exist as a state for the entire 19th century, then was reborn in 1918 at the conclusion of World War I. With the beginning of World War II in 1939, Poland was crushed again by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union and her freedom taken away. After incorporation into the block of the Soviet Union after the war, the principles of the May 3rd, 1791 Constitution were banned until 1989.

Present day Poland and people of Polish descent all over the world celebrate May 3rd as a Polish national holiday of freedom. The Polish American community cordially invites people of the San Francisco Bay Area to come and take part in these historical festivities.

The San Francisco Polish May 3rd Constitution Celebration at Golden Gate Park is hosted by the Polish American Congress and will be filled with live music, folk dances, original art, jewelry displays, Polish food and tables with merchandise imported from Poland – books, DVDs, CDs, arts and crafts. The food menu includes kielbasa (Polish sausage), pierogi (stuffed dumpling), kapusta (sauerkraut), desserts and pastries (“paczki” and poppy seed cake) - and authentic Polish beer.

Entertainment will be provided in two locations: the Music Concourse near the de Young Museum, where music and dance performances will start at 1 PM - and the County Fair Building (at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way) where the traditional Polish Festival will take place from 11 AM till 5 PM.

Admission is free and everyone is welcome. Recommended parking is in the new Music Concourse Garage. Access to the north entrance of the Music Concourse Parking is from Fulton Street at 10th Avenue. Access to the south entrance is at Concourse Drive and Martin Luther King Drive inside the park. For more information, see www.pacnorcal.org.

WHAT:

Polish Festival with Polish music, arts and crafts, folk dancing, books, music, videos, authentic Polish food and beer.

WHO: Polish American Congress – Northern California Division, Polonia Foundation, Łowiczanie Folk Dance Ensemble, Golden Gate Park Orchestra, Polish School students performing, and representatives of various Polish organizations.

WHY: To commemorate the May 3rd Polish Constitution of 1791

WHEN and WHERE: Sunday, May 2, 2010, 11 AM till 5 PM

Golden Gate Park, County Fair Building (formerly Hall of Flowers),

9th Avenue and Lincoln Way, San Francisco. CONCERT is from 1 PM till 3 PM

Golden Gate Park Music Concourse, next to the de Young Museum, San Francisco

COST: Admission is FREE.