

# Kopernik Memorial Association Newsletter

Member of Polish American Congress  
American Council for Polish Culture  
Kosciuszko Foundation  
Oneida County History Center

The Kopernik Memorial Association is a 501c3 not for profit organization. Please consider a tax deductible donation to the Scholarship fund.



Website: [cnykopernik.com](http://cnykopernik.com)

Fall Newsletter September 2022

Issue 32



## OFFICERS

Richard Noga -President  
Gary Moszak Vice-President  
Valerie Elacqua –Treasurer  
Mary Currie—Recording Secretary  
Dan Jadowski - Corresponding Secretary  
Sue Moszak—Cultural Center Director

Website: [cnykopernik.com](http://cnykopernik.com)

## Welcome Polish-American Heritage Month !

October is Polish Heritage month and we have a series of exciting and informative exhibits, talks and movies, for children and adults, to learn more about Polish history and culture. Check out the opportunities to celebrate this month by participating in any number of events in the community. From Flag raising, Polish dinners and Wreath laying in honor of Gen. Casimir Pulaski, step out locally and honor our culture and heroes.

If you missed the Szymanska tapestries formerly housed at the LeMoyne College library come and hear a talk about the history stitched into these beautiful hangings that commemorate the life of Polish King Jan Sobieski.

Honor the spiritual home of the Polish community for 125 years, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, by attending our talk and exhibit about their beautiful stained glass windows and explore selective artifacts.

The Kopernik Assn. is turning 50 next year and we would love to have you join us in preparing our milestone celebration. Your parents or grandparents may have been founding members and you can help honor their contributions to Central New York by attending our anniversary planning meeting on Sept 12 at 6:00 at the Polish Community Club. We need volunteers!

All of our KMA events are free and open to the public and we hope that you and your family and friends will attend.

Don't forget our Open House on Sunday October 16th from 1-3 pm in the Cultural Center located on the second floor of the Polish Community Club at 810 Columbia St. Utica, NY.

## BULLETIN BOARD

Sun. Sept. 11, 12-4  
Holy Trinity Polish Dinner  
Gymnasium \$15

Mon. Sept. 12, 6:00  
KMA Meeting PCC  
\*50th anniversary  
planning meeting

Sun. Sept. 25, 2:00  
Wreath Laying Pulaski  
Monument, Memorial  
Parkway

Fri. Sept. 30, 12 noon  
Flag Raising at City Hall

Sat. October 8, 1-3  
Scholarship Awards  
luncheon PCC

Mon. Oct. 10, 6:00  
KMA Meeting PCC

Sun. Oct. 16 1-3  
Cultural Center Open  
House PCC

Sun. Oct. 23 1-2:30  
Movie "The Siege of  
Vienna Sept.11, 1683"  
Holy Trinity church Marian  
Room

# Polish Folk Tales and Legends Exhibit

In recognition of Polish Heritage Month this October, the Kopernik Cultural Center will feature a new display in its main room. Our Open House on Oct. 16 will feature a guided talk about the exhibits. Three well known legends will be presented.



The selection includes **St John's Eve** celebrated on June 24 is one of the oldest of the Church feasts. It is the longest day of the daylight for the year. It is the birthday celebration of St. John the Baptist, and is sometimes called "summer Christmas." On the eve of the feast, great bonfires were once lighted as a symbol of "the burning and brilliant" light, St. John, who pointed out Christ in this world of darkness. The solstice fires had been pagan, but now they were blessed by the Church in John's honor.

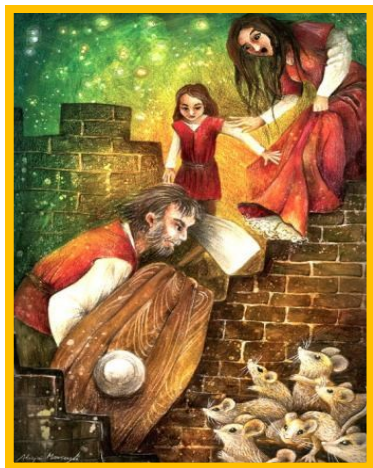
In Poland, single girls would throw wreaths of flowers into a river or stream. If the flowers went around in circles for a long time, the girl would remain single. If the flowers flowed quickly downstream, the girl would be married within a year. Boys would try and influence

the process by diving into the water and snatching up the flowers of the girl they wished to marry.

The second legend, **The Trumpeter of Krakow**, takes place in the ancient capital of Poland. This 13th century tale tells of the city's watchman in the tower of the church of St. Mary's located in the Market Square. He alerts the inhabitants of imminent danger to the city by playing the 'Hejnal' as the hoard of Tatars approaches the city. He repeats the melody four times but it ends abruptly on a broken note as an arrow pierces his throat. Thanks Gary Moszak for designing and executing the Castle display and Emily Lyga for the excellent trumpeter sculpture.



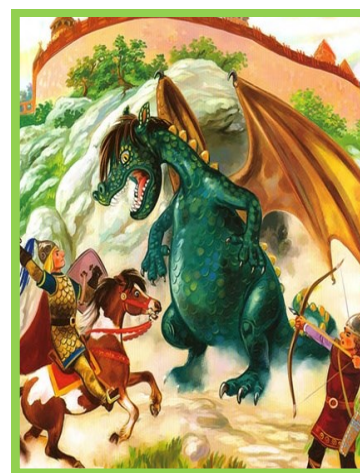
The third is the gruesome tale of **Prince Popiel**, a 9th-century Slavic ruler, and his German wife, Brunhilda, who were eaten alive by a horde of mice in their tower. This unsavory end was the consequence of the pair's unholy deeds. A diorama of a scene from the tale was designed by Janet Kosuda Dwyer and Barbara Krauza.



Lastly, a dramatization of the legend of **Smok the Dragon of Wawel Castle** will be presented on the main floor of the Polish Community Club.

This simple production welcomes children and teens interested in acting out this famous story set in Krakow, the ancient capitol of Poland which is beset by a fearsome fire-breathing dragon. The city is de-

livered from this menace by an astute young shoemaker who receives the hand of the daughter of Prince Krak in gratitude. Contact Val at (315) 725-1651 if your children are interested.



Hope to see you on October 16, 2022 at the Kopernik Cultural Center Open House from 1-3p.m.

**Kopernik Memorial Association**  
**P.O. Box 911**  
**Utica, N.Y. 13503**

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2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

**ASHLEY PYRDA**

**Celebrate with us on**  
**Sat. Oct. 8 @ 1 p.m.**  
**P.C.C. Luncheon \$24.**  
**Call John @ (315) 749-3226**  
**for a reservation.**



## *KMA Open House Events*

**October 16, 2022**

**Displays open from 1-3p.m. 2nd Floor**

- 1 - 1:15 Welcome and Refreshments Main Floor
- 1:15 Storybook and Craft "The Wawel Dragon" with Mary Currie register at (315) 941-0551 2nd floor
- 1:15– 1:45 The Szymański Tapestries - de Ropp Polish Art Collection from Le Moyne College Library.. PowerPoint with Thomas Lawrence Main floor
- 1:50 Polish Folk Tales and their Moral Lessons Val Elacqua 2nd floor
- 2:00 The Making of Holy Trinity's stained glass windows John Dwyer 2nd Floor
- 2:30 Theatrical Presentation "Smok The Wawel Dragon" Main floor



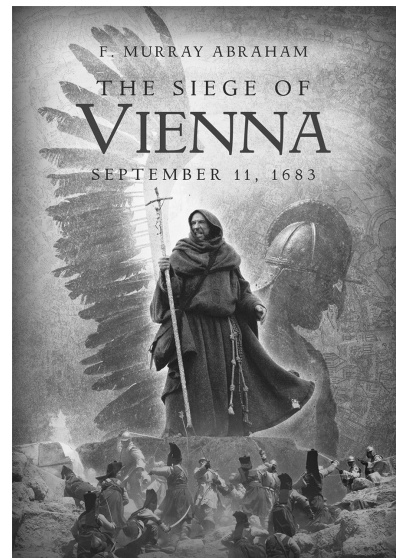
## **THE SIEGE OF VIENNA: SEPTEMBER 11, 1683**

Showing Sunday October 23 1 p.m.

Marian Room Holy Trinity Church, Free

Join us for cappuccino and a croissant and enjoy the movie! (See the following article to find out why)

This epic film tells the powerful true story of one of the most important military battles in history, recounting the Ottoman Turks' massive invasion of Vienna, the gateway to the West, on September 11, 1683, a moment when Christendom and Western civilization truly hung in the balance. Islam was at the peak of its expansion in the West. 300,000 Islamic troops, under the command of the Grand Vizier, Kara Mustafa, besieged the city they called 'The Golden Apple', with the goal to conquer Vienna, then Rome and all Christendom.



The Christian forces in Vienna, under the leadership of a weak Emperor Leopold I, were unprepared and vastly outnumbered for the onslaught. But a holy, courageous Capuchin monk, Blessed Marco D'Aviano, arrives in Vienna to rally the forces, and calls all the Christian people to fervent prayer, reminding them what is at stake: "Our wives, our children, and most importantly -- the future of our Catholic Faith!" Marco also pleads for the aid of the great Polish King and military leader, Jan Sobieski. Carrying a huge banner of their Black Madonna, Sobieski and his famed Winged Hussars respond to the call, and the epic battle ensues for the freedom of Christendom. Buttressed by glorious cinematography, beautiful sets and costumes, dramatic war scenes, and a compelling music score, the film includes powerful performances by an outstanding cast with F. Murray Abraham, Jerzy Skolimowski, Claire Bloom, Piotr Adamczyk, and Enrico Lo Verso.

## **The Friar Who Saved Christendom from Islam and Gave Us Cappuccino**

Solène Tadié / Blog/ August 13, 2019 National Catholic Register

The Italian Capuchin who is said to have inspired the creation of the world-famous beverage was beatified by John Paul II in 2003. His name is most closely associated with the famous [Battle of Vienna](#) (1683) during which he greatly contributed to repel the Ottomans who aspired to conquer Europe. Indeed, the Capuchin friar Marco d'Aviano – born Carlo Domenico Cristofori (1631-1699) – is the charismatic figure who helped Pope Innocent XI recreate the [Holy League](#) of Christian nations to oppose the Ottoman Empire's quick expansion in Europe over the preceding months. During a Mass celebrated in the encampment on the Mount Kahlenberg on the eve of the decisive battle of Sept. 12, 1683, he galvanized the Christian soldiers through a fiery homily, urging them to defend their Christian brothers and their faith against the invaders.



The battle ended with the overwhelming victory of the Holy League and the withdrawal of the Turkish army.

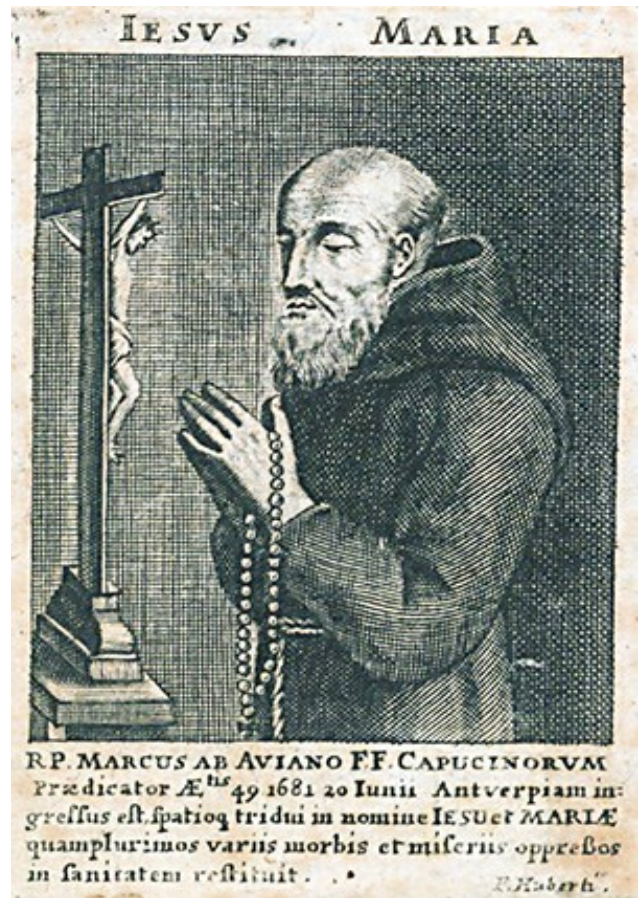
Today, the Italian Capuchin friar is remembered for his life of holiness and the many miracles he accomplished during his earthly existence, arousing hundreds of conversions and vocations in his day and later.

(continued next page)

But very few people know that Marco d'Aviano is also at the origin of the creation of the world-famous cappuccino, and more indirectly of the croissant — two inevitable elements of today's European breakfast.

The exact origin of cappuccino, closely linked to the Battle of Vienna, is still subject to debate. The most widespread theory is that after the capture of the Turkish camp at the end of the battle, the imperial soldiers found hundreds of bags of coffee, together with numerous other treasures left behind by the defeated army.

The bitterness of this product, quite unknown in the West at that time, had a repellent effect on the soldiers, so Blessed Marco advised them to mix the beverage with some milk to sweeten it. The delicious beverage, which also happened to have the same color as the friar's habit, was then called *kapuziner* in his honor and rapidly spread through Vienna and the rest of the Holy Roman Empire.



**More recently, in his book** *Memorie di terra e d'acqua: Note di storia e cultura del Veneto dalle origini alla caduta di Venezia* (2014), Italian scholar Ugo Spezia mentioned a slightly different version of the story. According to him, some Greek and Serbian merchants, who already knew this beverage well, took possession of the abandoned bags of coffee after the battle and opened the very first coffee shops in Vienna. On this occasion, they created a new hot beverage made of milk and coffee to make it more suitable to the Western palate. The mixture's name was meant to honor Blessed Marco, the most popular character of Vienna after the liberation of the region.

**The historical record is more solid** regarding the origin of croissant. It is related that shortly before the Sept. 12 battle, some bakers, while making bread overnight with the last bit of flour they had left, heard Turkish sappers digging tunnels below. They were able to raise the alarm on time and prevent the attack.

In gratitude for their contribution, imperial authorities allowed the bakers to immortalize the victory by making croissants ("kipferln" in German) in a half-moon shape – the symbol of the defeated Ottoman invaders.

**In an [interview](#) released on the occasion** of Marco d'Aviano's beatification in 2003, the then-prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Cardinal José Saraiva Martins, suggested that cappuccino was created as a tribute to the Capuchin thaumaturge, to accompany the newly created croissant.

Marco d'Aviano died of cancer Aug. 13, 1699, surrounded by his closest friends, the Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I and his wife Eleonor Magdalene of Neuburg. He was buried in the Kapuzinerkirche (the Capuchin church of Vienna), which also contains the Imperial Crypt, the principal place of entombment for the Habsburg dynasty and emperors of the Holy Roman Empire.