



The Treasured Polish  
Easter Custom of  
"Pisanki"  
the coloring of  
Easter Eggs

The pisanki derive from an ancient tradition when eggs, the symbol of life, were endowed with magical properties and were thought to ensure both a plentiful harvest and good health. This practice of coloring Easter eggs is very much alive in Poland today as well as enjoyed by Polish people all over the world. There are several techniques for making pisanki including the use of wax flowing from a pipe or funnel, producing richly ornamented designs or the etching of designs onto a previously colored egg. The geometric and floral patterns or the animal and human images produced reveal a high level of craftsmanship and artistry.

These eggs are exchanged among friends and relatives with good wishes. Many American Poles design eggs with the names of their friends written on them. They exchange these decorated eggs with each other during their Easter visitations along with their good wishes.



Students and teachers from Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic School in Bridesburg.



Students and teachers from St Adalbert School in Port Richmond.



Students and teachers from St Adalbert School in Port Richmond.



Students and teachers from St Laurentius School in Fishtown.



Students and teachers from St Laurentius School in Fishtown.



Students from Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic School in Bridesburg hard at work at the Pisanki Demonstration



Ted Leszcynski, Instructor of Pisanki Classes at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum in historic Philadelphia

On Wednesday, March 21st and Thursday, March 22nd, the treasured custom of Pisanki, the art of decorating eggs for Easter, Polish style, was presented at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum in historic Philadelphia.

Mr. Ted Leszcynski showed students and teachers from Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic School in Bridesburg, St. Adalbert School in Port Richmond, and St Laurentius School in Fishtown, how to decorate and dye their own eggs.

This event received television coverage on TV 3, 6 and 10, as well as local newspapers. You can find information about Pisanki, Swieconka and other Polish Customs on the Museum's Internet site at: [PolishAmericanCenter.org](http://PolishAmericanCenter.org).

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