



SPRING  
2008

## Cultural Corner

by Susan Mikoś

### Inside ...

From the Executive Director's Desk	3
Mother's Day Champagne Brunch	5
Pancake Breakfast	6
Voices of Spring June Concert	7
Polish Fest Circle of Friends	8

### Polish Center "Family" Shares Wigilia Tradition

For Polish people around the world, Christmas Eve is the ultimate "family affair" – an occasion for families to come together in celebration of Jesus's birth. As the family sits down to the most important meal of the year, the "Wigilia" or Vigil supper, even those who are far from home or who have passed away are thought to be present in spirit.

As dusk descended on December 8 of 2007, our Polish Center "family" took part in a re-creation of a traditional Polish Wigilia celebration. Bathed in candlelight, the Polish Center was transformed into a magical place. Many people came with spouses, parents, friends, or grandchildren. For some, the evening brought back memories of Wigilias past. Others found an opportunity to learn about Polish Christmas customs to share with their families.

The meal began with the sharing of *oplatek*, a special wafer embossed with holy images. The traditionally meatless menu included mushroom soup, baked and fried fish, pierogi, dried fruit compote, and pastries. After a leisurely dinner, members of the former New Life Choir led the group in singing Polish and English carols, accompanied by Kinga Vnuk on piano.

The Polish Center staff lent their full support, and many volunteers generously gave their time to make the Wigilia celebration possible. They include Debbie Bayer, Joyce Broderick,

Julie Brzezinski, Jolanta Drake, Diane Holytz, Bernie Jendrzejczak, Eleanore Jendrzejczak, Ryszarda Klim, Ann Lalasz, Edith Malson, Hedy Moskaluk, Tom Radoszewski, John Saltz, Camille Shaw, Karen Szews, Jim and Laurie Stachowiak, and Gene and Mary Jo Swider. Former New Life Choir members included Jan Cieslak, Krystyna Gajewski, Sophie and Edmund Hecker, Henry Klim, Stella Lochanski, Hedy and Mitchell Rabiega, and Ryszarda Radzimowski.



### Decking the Halls

Once again, the Polish Center's Cultural Committee, led by Bernie Jendrzejczak, coordinated the holiday decoration of the Polish Center, with help from dedicated volunteers and other Polish organizations.

Polanki, the Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee, decorated the tree in the Great Hall with handmade traditional ornaments; the Milwaukee Society of the Polish National Alliance festooned the Veterans' Room tree with a military flair; and the Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble trimmed the tree in the Banquet Room.

More than two dozen people turned out on the Sunday after Thanksgiving to deck the halls of our Polish "home." They included Polanki members Kathy Wiczorek, Edith Malson, Lynn Adams, and Judy Chattin; Milwaukee Society members Pat and Ron Witkowiak, Dan Konkol, Jim Sass, Ralph Kaczor and Dan Wilant; and Syrena members Claire Anderson, Glenn Ramski, Kathy Corneliuson, David Peters, Sharon Fleck, Kay Josten, Alicja Newell, and Alexandria Newell. Also helping were Kathy Nitka, Lauren Nitka, Cindy Lemek, Heidi Dietrich, Eric Zillgitt, and Roberta Zillgitt.

PHA volunteers *extraordinaire* John Saltz, Hank Kulesza, and LeRoy Wolniakowski braved freezing temperatures to light the trees outside the building.

For taking down and putting away the decorations after the holidays, special thanks go to Milwaukee Society members Ron Witkowiak, Dan Konkol, Jim Sass, Ralph Kaczor, Dan Wilant, and Bill Banach, and to Polanki members Kathy Wiczorek, Judy Chattin, Edith Malson, Bette Dulka, Geraldine Reszel, and Jean Wroblewski.



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is a newsletter  
for donors and friends  
published quarterly  
by

### Polish Heritage Alliance, Inc.

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Franklin, WI 53132

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414-529-1055

Websites:  
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[www.polishfest.org](http://www.polishfest.org)

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# President's Message

Greetings,

As I write this in early March, we remain in the grips of a fierce winter: 2 feet of snow on the ground and night time temperatures hovering in the single digits and low teens. But as we edge toward the spring equinox and the days get longer, things are looking up. We will survive this and enjoy a beautiful spring.

As we look to the year ahead, the Facilities Committee has begun to meet and is developing a maintenance and repair schedule for the Polish Center. The Committee is set to meet again later this month.

The Committee Governance Task Force is also continuing its examination of the PHA's governance and committee structure. The Task Force is close to completing its work.

Have you noticed the beautifully polished wood floors at the Polish Center? This is the work of John Saltz, Al Cobbs, and Ron Hryniewicki. They volunteered their services. As a result, our floors are sparkling. They even returned after the initial cleaning to remove the salt and other grit that was tracked in at the primary election in February. Thank you!

Through the continued generosity of Al Gyzinski, we have received another gift of stock. The stock was redeemed and consistent with the terms of the gift, the proceeds were used to pay down the mortgage. The current balance is \$620,440. Thanks again, Al, for your generosity! Also, we have recently extended our mortgage note with Lincoln State Bank at a 6% rate.

FRAN WASIELEWSKI  
President,  
Polish Heritage Alliance

## Board of Directors

Francis Wasielewski  
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Diane Holytz  
414-614-7454

## Staff

Cindy Lemek  
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Lidia Sobierajski  
*Polish Fest Director*

Tony Jacobs  
*Banquet & Facilities Manager*

Heidi Dietrich  
*Administrative Assistant*

Grazina Moloney  
*Staff Accountant*

Ray Will  
*Facilities Assistant*

## Hours

OFFICE:  
Monday-Friday,  
9 AM-5 PM  
or by appointment

LIBRARY:  
Tuesday, noon-2 PM  
during Center events  
or by appointment



Garden  
Committee  
Meeting

Saturday, April 26, 2008  
9:00 a.m.

at the Polish Center

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Contact Valerie with questions  
at 414-421-2406

## Memorials

We appreciate the  
generous contributions  
received in memory of...

*Stella Galka*  
*Richard Gralinski*  
*Jadwiga Paciura*  
*Marion Wantoch*

May they rest in peace.

# From the Executive Director's Desk

BY CINDY LEMEK

Thank you to all of our members and supporters for their generous donations to our year-end appeal. The appeal was mailed out in late November, and we received more than \$2500. Donors were able to make an unrestricted donation for general support of the Polish Center or direct their contributions to a specific purpose such as cultural programs, Polish Fest, or reduction of our mortgage principal.

We have also had a very generous response to our 2008 membership campaign. We've added 39 new members to our roster so far this year, and approximately 400 people have renewed their membership. A reminder about membership renewals has gone out recently, and I hope that if you haven't renewed your membership for 2008, you'll take a moment to do so today. Our members are truly the backbone of our organization, and we need each of you to help us fulfill our mission of promoting Polish heritage and culture through our activities here at the Polish Center.

Our basic membership remains \$25, and for contributions at higher levels you will receive special incentives ranging from complimentary Polish Fest tickets to a free use of the Veteran's Room for a family celebration. Please call us for more information about various membership levels or visit our website, [www.polishcenterofwisconsin.org](http://www.polishcenterofwisconsin.org), to download a membership form.

Our website also has details on upcoming events, including our Mother's Day brunch, workshops on wycinanki and genealogy, art exhibits and concerts. Many of our events have discounts for members, and we hope you'll join us at some of our activities in the coming months.

## Polish Fest Administrative Assistant Needed

We have an immediate need for a Volunteer Administrative Assistant, exclusively dedicated to the Festival. Qualified candidate must possess excellent computer, internet, typing and phone skills. Experience using Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel is essential. This is a volunteer position and the individual will work directly with the Polish Fest Director. Hours average 20 per week. Please contact Lidia Sobierajski at 414-529-2140 (x102) or via email at [lidia@polishfest.org](mailto:lidia@polishfest.org).

## It's Not Too Late to Plan a Party at Polish Fest

A little-known fact about Polish Fest is that attendees can host a private party for their family, friends and co-workers. Why not host a family reunion? Several openings are still available in both of our second-floor VIP facilities overlooking the Miller Contemporary Stage and the Non-Stop Polka Stage. Rental fee of \$150/hour applies. Catering menu available upon request. Additional charges for beer and soda. Please contact Polish Fest at 414-529-2140 for more details.



## Celebration of POLISH CULTURE



*Folk Dance, Song, Customs,  
History & Poetry of Poland*

**Sunday, April 20 • 2 p.m.**

*With the Syrena Polish Dancers,  
Syrenka children's group  
and Fran Wasielewski, piano*

CEDARBURG CULTURAL CENTER  
W62 N546 Washington Avenue  
Cedarburg, Wisconsin

*For more information, call 262-375-3676*

## In the Gallery...

### *Nature*

April 13 through June 7, 2008

*Paintings from the past and  
present by former Milwaukee  
Public Museum artist*

***Bob Frankowiak***

*and sculpture by*

***Judye Frankowiak***

*"Meet the Artists" Reception  
Sunday, April 13 • 2-4 p.m.*

## Polka Parade on the Internet

"Polka Parade" airs Saturday mornings from 10 am to 1 pm on WJYI 1340 AM, Milwaukee, and you can now listen to the show on the web at [www.joy1340.com](http://www.joy1340.com).

Smoke-Free  
**BINGO**  
Every  
Wednesday Night

POLISH CENTER  
OF WISCONSIN  
6941 S. 68th St., Franklin

DOORS OPEN AT 4:00 P.M.



Early Bird Bingo  
for \$1,200  
at 6:00 p.m.

Regular  
Session Bingo  
for \$1,200  
at 7:30 p.m.

~ ALL SOFT CARDS ~

Sponsored by  
Polish Heritage Alliance, Inc.

Proceeds benefit the  
Polish Center of Wisconsin

Call 414-529-2140  
for more information

Learn to trace your family history...

**Beginning Genealogy Course  
at the Polish Center of Wisconsin**

**APRIL 2 THROUGH MAY 7, 2008  
WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.**

Topics to be covered include:

- How to fill out a pedigree chart
- How to fill out a family group sheet and other forms
- Using birth, marriage and death records; church records; naturalizations and passenger lists
- Using the censuses and Soundex
- Using published sources
- Computers as an aid to genealogical research
- Foreign research

The course will be taught by experienced genealogists. Classes last about an hour, with extra time at the end for questions. You do not have to be Polish to take this course.

Cost: \$30.00

MATERIALS INCLUDED

Space is limited – enroll early!  
Pre-registration is required.

PLEASE SEND CHECK  
OR MONEY ORDER TO:  
Polish Center of Wisconsin  
ATTN: Genealogy Course  
6941 S. 68th Street  
Franklin, WI 53132.

For more information, call 414-529-2140

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Monthly Card Games  
at the Polish Center**



- First Thursday of the Month
- Starts at noon
- Optional \$8 lunch
- Cash bar

CARD CLUBS AND BRIDGE  
GROUPS ARE WELCOME!

Individuals may join  
a table upon arrival.  
Play poker, sheephead,  
and more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
CALL 414-529-2140

**LEARN TO MAKE  
Wycinanki** Polish Paper  
Cut-Outs



**WYCINANKI I**

Thursday, April 17 • 6-8:30 p.m.

**WYCINANKI II**

Thursday, April 24 • 6-8:30 p.m.

Instructor: **Ryszarda Klim, Folk Artist**

FEE PER CLASS includes all materials:

- ADULTS ~ \$10 for PHA members; \$12 for non-members  
\$18 for PHA members; \$22 for non-members if you sign up for both classes
- CHILDREN ages 10-12 ~ \$6. No children under age 10.  
\$10 for children if you sign up for both classes.  
No children under age 10. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a registered adult.

Pre-Registration is required.

Send check or money order to:

POLISH CENTER OF WISCONSIN  
ATTN: WYCINANKI WORKSHOP  
6941 S. 68th Street • Franklin, WI 53132

**SAVE \$2**  
when you sign up  
for both classes!

SPACE IS LIMITED  
ENROLL EARLY!

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION,  
Call 414-529-2140



Join us for

# *Mother's Day Champagne Brunch*

at the Polish Center of Wisconsin

**SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2008**

Seatings at 10 a.m., Noon, and 2 p.m.

## *MENU*

*Chef-carved Beef Tenderloin & Pork Loin*

*Spiral Ham ~ Polish Sausage*

*Made-to-Order Omelets*

*Chicken Supreme ~ Beef Burgundy*

*Pierogi ~ Creamed Cucumbers*

*Smoked Fish*

*Potatoes ~ Deluxe Fruit Platter*

*Deluxe Dessert Station*

*Juice, Milk, Coffee, Tea*

*Glass of Complimentary Champagne*

*~ Cash Bar ~*

Adults: \$19.95

Children 6-12 years: \$9.50

Children 5 & under: Free

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**RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED**

**Call 414-529-2140**

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**Summer  
Study-Tour in Poland**

Study Polish language this summer at Catholic University in Lublin, Poland, with Dr. Michael Mikoś, professor of Polish language and literature at UWM. The language courses are for beginning, intermediate and advanced levels and include lectures, films and cultural performances, excursions to Warsaw, Kazimierz and other places of interest as well as optional trips to Cracow and Bialowieza National Park.

The study-tour is offered as a two-week or five-week program, and the program fee includes lodgings and all meals in Poland, group travel in Poland, lectures, language classes, performances, health insurance, and 5 UWM credits for the five-week program. Round-trip air transportation is NOT included. The program fee is \$2,688.00 for the five-week program and \$1,540.00 for two weeks.

The study-tour will take place from July 7 to August 11, 2008, and other intensive language courses are available during that time. For detailed information on all of the summer study-tour programs available, contact Prof. Michael Mikoś at 414-229-4313, by email at [mikos@uwm.edu](mailto:mikos@uwm.edu) or visit [www.lrc.uwm.edu/tour](http://www.lrc.uwm.edu/tour).

**Polish Center  
of Wisconsin**

# PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Sunday, May 18, 2008  
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

## BREAKFAST INCLUDES:

All the pancakes  
you can eat  
with optional  
fruit topping,  
a serving of  
bacon or sausage,  
coffee, milk,  
and juice.

Adults: \$6.00

Children 5-12: \$3.00

Children under 5: Free

**Join Us!**

**Call for more details or to make a reservation  
414-529-2140**

# Voices of Spring

**MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008 • 7 P.M.**

*Dr. Edward Filmanowicz, violin • Ellen Kellogg, violin • Tom Gapinski, piano*

## PROGRAM:

Four pieces by Chopin; Bacewicz "Oberek," Lutosławski "Arioso,"  
Moszkowski "Spanish Dances," Purcell "Golden Sonata," Shostakovich "Suite,"  
Sinding "Nocturne," and Kroll "Banjo and Fiddle."

*Sponsored by*



**Lincoln State Bank**

a branch of Community Bank Group

## TICKETS

PHA Members:

\$7 in advance, \$9 at the door

Non-Members:

\$8 in advance, \$10 at the door

SynergyHealth Welcomes Rheumatologist

**Rafal J. Ryzka, MD**

## Suffering from arthritis or joint pain?

Fellowship trained Rheumatologist, Dr. Ryzka brings expertise in treating rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis and problems affecting bones, joints, ligaments and muscles.

*"I understand the importance of patient education, building strong relationships with my patients and I follow the latest research to provide up-to-date care."*

Dr Ryzka received his Medical Degree from Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland and completed his internship and residency at John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Chicago. He completed his fellowship at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, TX.



Rafal J. Ryzka, MD  
Rheumatologist

To make an appointment or  
for more information  
call 262-365-8100.

SynergyHealth  
**West Bend Clinic**

1700 W. Paradise Dr. • West Bend • [www.synergyhealth.org](http://www.synergyhealth.org)



**POLISH FEST**

June 20-22, 2008

## Cultural Village Wish List

Our Cultural Village is in need of several sewing dress forms and/or mannequins to display costumes for this year's exhibit. We are also looking for hanging or potted flowering plants. If you are able to lend such items for the duration of the Festival weekend, please contact Valerie Lukaszewicz at 414-421-2406.

## Polish Fest's "Circle of Friends"

Polish Fest would like to thank the individuals who have joined our "Circle of Friends" in the past two years. Please consider adding your name to the list of supporters for this year's Polish Fest.

"Circle of Friends" supporters are asked to make a \$250 donation. Each individual making a donation of \$250 will have their name listed under the "Circle of Friends" sign at the Mid-Gate at Polish Fest. In addition, each donor will receive 20 complimentary tickets to this year's festival, as well as two invitations to the Opening Ceremony VIP Reception.

**Please make your donation, no later than May 31st.** "Circle of Friends" donors will be listed in the next edition of the *Polish Connection*.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_



Please send your donation to:

POLISH FEST  
Attn: Circle of Friends  
6941 S. 68th Street  
Franklin, WI 53132

Thank you for  
your support!

June 20-22, 2008 • Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Save the Date...

Return Service Requested

Polish Heritage Alliance, Inc.  
6941 S. 68TH STREET • FRANKLIN, WI 53132-8237