



Be a part of the largest Polish Festival in the U.S.

by Lidia Sobierajski, Polish Fest Director

Polish Fest 2007

Cultural Village .. 2
Catholic Mass 2
Chopin Youth Piano Competition 2
Entertainment 3
Polish Cuisine & More! 4
Polish Vodka & Spirits 4
Shop the Sukiennice Marketplace 4
Polish Fest Circle of Friends 5

On June 22-24, 2007, Polish Fest will celebrate its 26th annual festival at Henry W. Maier Festival Park on Milwaukee's beautiful lakefront. This year Polish Fest introduces 50¢ Fridays. Admission from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday is only 50 cents! Encourage your friends and family to come enjoy lunch at Polish Fest. The celebration continues on Friday night, with \$5 admission from 5:01 p.m. to midnight.

Polish Fest's Opening Ceremony will take place on Friday at 6 p.m. on the Cultural Stage. Everyone is invited to attend. Fireworks will light up the sky on both Friday and Saturday at 10 p.m. As the gates open on Saturday afternoon, don't forget to stop by the Healthy Lifestyles Tent sponsored by the FDA. Watch Chef Mike Artlip of Kendall College of Culinary Arts demonstrate healthy versions of baking *kołaczki* and apple cake. While enjoying the demonstrations, get some useful tips and information on food safety, nutrition and

health issues that impact our lives. Don't forget to pick up your free recipe booklet.

Saturday evening offers an opportunity for fireworks fans to enter the gates for free from 8 p.m. to midnight with a donation of three or more non-perishable food items to the Hunger Task Force. Reduced admission is also available to those attending Sunday morning mass at 10:15 a.m. at the Cultural Stage. Gates open at 9:30 a.m. and will close promptly at 11 a.m. Those attending mass will be admitted into Polish Fest for only \$4 following the mass. In addition, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel PressCard holders can enjoy free admission on Sunday from 2-4 p.m.

Our beautiful Cultural Village will once again be the highlight of this year's Polish Fest. Thank you to Polanki, the Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee, for undertaking the task of organizing, planning, staffing and funding this year's Cultural Village.

Polish Fest is sure to have something for everyone. Throughout the weekend you will find a nice balance of Polish and Polish American entertainment for the entire family. We are pleased to introduce a new children's play area. For a small fee, children will be able to enjoy a giant inflatable slide, an inflatable obstacle rat race course, a tiger bounce, miniature golf and lots of fun games!

We are very excited to begin a new partnership with Easter Seals Kindcare. Southeastern Wisconsin Easter Seals Kindcare serves over 6,000 individuals and their families in six counties. Their first annual "Walk With Me" will take place on Saturday with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m. and the 2.5-mile walk starting at 10:30 a.m. Anyone raising a mini-

imum of \$50 in pledges will receive free admission to Polish Fest. You can register for the walk at www.walkwithme.org.

Polish Fest would not be successful without the dedication of our volunteers. We are still looking for help with this year's festival. Anyone interested in volunteering, should contact Polish Fest at (414) 529-2140. Thank you to all of our volunteers for their countless hours of help throughout the year in making Polish Fest a success. Thank you to the Managing Committee for their continued guidance and dedication, as well as to the Polish Heritage Alliance Board for their support. See you at Polish Fest 2007!



MILWAUKEE POLISH FEST



The Polish Connection
is a newsletter
for donors and friends
published quarterly
by

POLISH HERITAGE ALLIANCE, INC.
6941 S. 68th Street
Franklin, WI 53132

Phone:
414-529-2140

Fax:
414-529-1055

Website:
www.polishfest.org

Editors:
Cindy Lemek
Lidia Sobierajski
Heidi Dietrich

Layout by
Design Works

“Poles in Milwaukee” featured at Polish Fest’s Cultural Village



- The Kwasniewski Photo Exhibit is back in the main tent by popular demand. This fascinating exhibit chronicles life in Milwaukee’s Southside Polish Community during the first half of the 20th century.
- The ever-popular and extremely knowledgeable John Gurda, Milwaukee’s local historian, will be presenting “The History of Poles in Milwaukee.” The video, *The Making of Milwaukee*, will also be shown.
- On the lighter side, an exhibit of two Polish American Milwaukee Press Club legends, Liberace and The Crusher, will bring back memories of these local celebrities. Be a celebrity yourself and take a picture in the celebrity photo board.
- Local craftsmen and folk artists will demonstrate a variety of techniques including pisanki (Polish Easter eggs), wianki (maiden’s wreaths), wycinanki (Polish paper cutting), metal work, dress designing, and more. Artists will be joined by a skilled woodcarver from Poland demonstrating his craftsmanship at the festival.
- Enjoy a taste of Kazimierz Dolny, the ancient and beautiful artist’s colony on the Vistula (Wisła) River. It will serve as the backdrop for this year’s Polish Fest artists. A variety of artwork will be available as well as the opportunity to meet the artists.
- Meet both Highland and Lowland Polish sheepdogs and their owners. This year we expect to feature puppies as well as mature dogs.
- Visit the Polish Schoolhouse and the travel tent to learn more about Poland. Stroll through the Cultural Village and hear storytellers repeat the rich stories of Polish culture and legend.
- Organize your correspondence for the year and have your stamped envelopes canceled with this year’s Polish Fest cancellation, at the U.S. Postal Service truck..

Be sure to visit the Cultural Village to find something fun and interesting for people of all ages and interests!

Catholic Mass

Sunday at Polish Fest begins with a Catholic Mass at 10:15 a.m. in the covered Cultural Stage pavilion. The readings and music will be in English and Polish and the St. Adalbert Men’s Choir will lead the congregation in song. Rev. Jerome M. Hudziak will be the principle celebrant.

The gates open at 9:30 a.m. and will close again at 11 a.m. All are invited for the musical prelude at 10 a.m. Admission to Polish Fest is \$4 following the Mass. Relevant Radio is a proud sponsor of this year’s mass.



Ninth Annual Chopin Youth Piano Competition

**Sunday, June 24, 2007 • 12:30 - 4 p.m.
Polish Fest Cultural Stage**

Sunday, June 24th marks the ninth anniversary of the Chopin Youth Piano Competition. The competition is divided into two age divisions, Junior Division (ages 14 & under) and Senior Division (ages 15-18), with the youngest competitor to date having been only seven years old. The competition awards over \$1,000 in monetary prizes and trophies to the winners.

The Chopin Youth Piano Competition receives financial support from School-Pak and Polanki, the Polish Women’s Cultural Club of Milwaukee, as well as other individual contributors and “in-kind” donations from loyal supporters of the competition. Mr. Michael Krass designed and very generously donated crystal competition trophies to first, second and third place winners in both categories. Mr. Frank Keppler, owner of Brew City Beer Gear, donates original “work of art” t-shirts to all finalists.



Polish Fest 2007: World-Class Entertainment

Whether you enjoy old favorites, discovering exciting new performers, or listening to a variety of music from polkas to classical to jazz, Polish Fest 2007 has something for everyone!

MILLER CONTEMPORARY STAGE

The Miller Stage will feature 16-time Grammy winner Jimmy Sturr and his Orchestra twice on Saturday and Sunday with his high energy show. The reigning king of Polka has more than 106 recordings, many of which have been recognized and rewarded by the music industry over the years.

Also performing on Saturday and Sunday will be Grammy nominee John Góra and Górale. Originally from Poland and now residing in Canada, John Góra performs a variety of music to suit all audiences from polkas to contemporary Polish songs and everything in between.

On Friday and Saturday, the Miller Stage features Anya, a talented and dynamic 19-year-old singer originally from Głogów, Poland, and now residing in Connecticut. Polish Fest will be Anya's premiere performance in the Midwest.

On Friday evening, the Marszałek Chicago Band returns to the Miller Stage playing contemporary Polish dance music. If you have ever wanted to experience a night at a Polish club, then the Marszałek Chicago Band is for you!

Milwaukee's premier cover band, Mt. Olive, will be on the Miller Stage on Saturday evening. And for those of you looking for some "oldies but goodies" from the 50s, don't miss the popular Doo-Wop Daddies, performing Friday afternoon and Sunday evening.

CULTURAL STAGE AND FOLK STAGE

The Cultural Stage and the Folk Stage feature an eclectic assortment of entertainment on both stages over the course of the festival. Grażyna Auguścik will return to Polish Fest on Saturday evening and bring her jazz stylings to the Cultural Stage. In addition, we will once again feature Tad Melon and Friends from Poland on both stages over the three days of the Fest.

Don't miss performances by accordion virtuoso Lidia Kaminska. Kaminska, a native of Poland, thrills

and delights audiences with her energetic and captivating performances. A seven-time winner of national and international competitions and recipient of numerous awards and honors, Ms. Kaminska was a recent winner at the International Tango Music Competition with the Argentine tango ensemble, Tango Lorca.

If Polish Folk Dance is your favorite entertainment at the Fest, you won't be disappointed. Dance groups performing this year on both stages include Syrena, Kraków Polish Dancers of Milwaukee, Lechici

Dancers, Wesoły Lud, Wici, Wawel, Dolina, Lajkonik and, from Canada, the Sokol Polish Dancers. The Polish Folk Dancers Association of America (PFDA) will once again host the dance gala on Saturday night on the Cultural Stage.

NON-STOP POLKA STAGE

The Non-Stop Polka Stage will be featuring some of the finest polka bands in the country. Grammy nominees Polka Family and Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push will be performing, as well as Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones, the Polka Country Musicians, and many others will play for your polka enjoyment.

To add to the fun, we will be attempting to set the

record for the World's Largest Polka Dance on Saturday, June 23. The media will be there to record our attempt.

CHILDREN'S STAGE

Entertainment for children will feature "Princess of Magic" Julie Sobanski, David Seebach's Wonders of Magic, Discovery World Fire and Ice, and the award-winning Polish Falcons Tumbling Troup. Radio Disney returns to the Fest's Folk Stage on Sunday afternoon.

In addition, Polish Fest will once again showcase some of the most lovely and talented young girls in the Milwaukee area with the Little Miss, Junior Miss, and Miss Teen Polish Fest Pageants on Saturday afternoon.



(L-R) Top Row: Lidia Kaminska and the Marszałek Chicago Band.
Bottom Row: Jimmy Sturr and Grażyna Auguścik.

Local restaurants offer Polish cuisine and more at Polish Fest!

Polish Fest offers a wide array of food and beverages to suit your every need. With over 25 vendors lined up, you'll have lots of delicious places to choose from for lunch, dinner or a quick snack. On Friday, American European Foods will feature a Friday Fish Fry for only \$8.75.



During all three days of the Festival, you can enjoy favorites such as pierogi, bigos, Krakus Polish ham sandwiches, Klement's Polish sausage, sauerkraut, potato pancakes, czarnina, and more. Be sure to stop by Polish Fest's Kawiarnia Bakery Café for some *paczki*, *chrusciki*, *sernik* and other tasty treats.

Six restaurants will be serving Polish food this year: Europe Deli, Kiszka House, Mader's European Kitchen, Old World Deli, Polonez Restaurant, and Filippo's Pizza. Newcomer Filippo's Pizza will be serving *zapiekanke*, which is an open-faced pizza sandwich served typically by street vendors in Poland.

We also welcome Roasted Nuts, Dove Bar Cart and Bella Café. Other vendors include Almond Hut, Anderson Corn, Catalano Produce, Cedar Crest, Charcoal Grill, Country Time Kettle Korn, Culvers, Cousins, Dippin' Dots Ice Cream, Hawaiian Shaved Ice, Koepsell's Popcorn, Lemon Chill, Milwaukee Donut, Saz's and Root Beer Barrels.



Enjoy Polish Vodkas & Spirits at the Fest!

Polish Fest proudly announces that Stawski Imports is the exclusive spirits sponsor for our 2007 festival.

The Stawski Imports bars, located at the Folk Stage and Cultural Stage, will offer three high quality vodkas rated 89 or better by the Beverage Tasting Institute: *Żytnia*, *Dębowa*, and *Stawski Konesaar*. Vodka-lemonade, vodka-orange, and vodka-cranberry drinks will be served at both bars. In addition, three Polish meads – *Lednicki*, *Bernardyński*, and *Jadwiga Miód Pitny* – will be available. And if that's not enough, sample some *Krupnik*, a pleasant honey-flavored liqueur.

New this year will be *Murfatlar* wines; *Pinot Gris*, *Pinot Noir*, *Cabernet Sauvignon* and *Chardonnay* will be served. We will also have Miller beer and plenty of non-alcoholic beverages for your enjoyment.

If you would like to sample some of these products, attend one of the Stawski spirits tastings for only \$10. Tastings will be held on Friday night at 8 p.m., on Saturday at 2 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., and on Sunday at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Shop the Sukiennice

The Cloth Hall, as its name suggests, was once a main focus of Kraków's trade. Merchants would meet there and discuss the state of business, while inside lively bartering went on. During its heyday, some five hundred years ago, goods came from the East - silk, leather, spices, wax - and Kraków itself exported textiles, lead and salt from the mines at *Wieliczka*. Kraków, then the Royal Capital, was amongst the most magnificent cities in Europe.

The Cloth Hall has played host to many



distinguished guests over the centuries, and is still used today to entertain monarchs and dignitaries. The mercantile traditions of the hall also live on. Today its vendors offer traditional Polish merchandise, as well as a mix of newer items more orientated to tourists than the city's residents, but its wooden stalls and beautiful architecture maintain the hum of business as it did in earlier times.

During Polish Fest, we offer you our Sukiennice to bring you traditional Polish items such as *Bolesławiec* pottery, Polish linens, hand carved woods, amber, *wycinanki*, and much more. Also, find new treasures like hand-blown glass art, clothing, and many other unique items. Last, but not least, do not forget to pick up your Official Polish Fest Apparel!



*Thank
You*
to our
**Polish Fest
Circle of
Friends**

Marcin Polewski

John Hoszowski

Christopher Stawski

Casey Szulc

**Kenneth J.
Waliszewski**

Polish Fest's "Circle of Friends"

On June 22-24, 2007, Polish Fest will celebrate its 26th Anniversary. Since 1981, we have benefited from the generosity of individuals and businesses, allowing us to bring Polish Fest to our community. Please consider adding your name to the list of supporters to help make the 26th Annual Polish Fest a success.

We are asking you to consider making a \$250 donation.. Each individual contributing \$250 will have their name listed under the "Circle of Friends" sign at the Mid-Gate. In addition, each "Circle of Friends" donor will receive 20 complimentary tickets to this year's festival. "Circle of Friends" donors will also be listed in the next issue of the *Polish Connection*.

Please mail your donation, **no later than June 21st, 2007**, to Polish Fest, Attn: Circle of Friends, 6941 S. 68th Street, Franklin, WI 53132. Thank you for your support!



Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____