



SUMMER
2008

Welcome to Polish Fest 2008

by Lidia Sobierajski, Polish Fest Director

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for donors and friends
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by*

Polish Heritage Alliance, Inc.

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On June 20-22, 2008, Polish Fest will hold its 27th annual festival at the Henry W. Maier Festival Park on Milwaukee's beautiful lakefront. This year, Polish Fest continues "50¢ Fridays!" Admission from 12:00-5:00 p.m. on Friday is only 50 cents! Encourage your friends and family to enjoy lunch at Polish Fest. The celebration will continue on Friday night, with \$5.00 admission from 5:01 p.m. to midnight.

Additional specials include free admission from 8:00 p.m. to midnight on Saturday night with a donation of three or more food items to the Hunger Task Force. Help the Task Force feed those in need when you come in to see the fireworks or catch the headlining bands.

On Sunday, you can enter the festival for the reduced price of \$4.00 after attending the Polish Fest Mass at 10:15 a.m. Also on Sunday, enter free from 2:00 p.m. to close with your Potawatomi Bingo Casino Fire Keeper's Card. Finally, Polish Fest will be honoring military personnel for their service with free admission to anyone wearing a military uniform and presenting an active military ID.

Polish Fest's Opening Ceremony will take place on Friday at 6:00 p.m. on the Cultural Stage. Everyone is invited to attend as we officially open the festival and thank the many sponsors and volunteers who make the festival possible every year.

Our Cultural Village will once again be the heart of this year's Polish Fest with three exciting exhibits, folk art demonstrations,

MILWAUKEE
POLISH FEST
JUNE 20-22, 2008



genealogy and travel experts, and a Polish Forum with speakers on a range of Polish topics. A special thanks to the Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble for the loan of folk costumes to bring the "Windows to Poland: Costumes and Customs" exhibit to life.

This year's Polish Fest is sure to have something for everyone to enjoy. Every day you can find a mix of Polish and Polish American entertainment from folk dancing to rock, pop, classical, jazz, and polkas. Our food vendors and bars will offer something for every taste, and our marketplace will tempt you with treasures from near and far.

On Friday and Saturday at 10:30 p.m., fireworks will light up the sky over Lake Michigan.

Our partnership with Easter Seals Kindcare continues with their second annual "Walk with Me" 2.5 mile walk on Saturday morning. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the walk starts at 10:30 a.m. Anyone raising a minimum of \$50 in pledges will receive free admission to Polish Fest. Easter Seals Kindcare - Southeastern Wisconsin serves over 6,000 individuals and their families in six counties. You can register for the walk at www.walkwithme.org.

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. We'll see you at Polish Fest 2008!

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Hours

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

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

President's Message

Greetings,

The 27th edition of Polish Fest is fast upon us. Janine Adamczyk and the Festival Managing Committee are putting the finishing touches on what promises to be another exciting celebration of our Polish heritage. There will be something for everyone: a special exhibit about Joseph Conrad, the Chopin competition, wonderful Polish food, vodka tastings, dancing, and much more. The dates are June 20-22. See you there!



Susan Mikoś and Fran Wasielewski at the awards luncheon

Valerie Lukaszewicz has labored tirelessly as chair of the Garden Committee and has assembled a committee of volunteers which includes an arborist and two master gardeners. This group is responsible for keeping up the grounds around the Polish Center. In May, Valerie made a generous donation of \$11,000 to implement the original landscape plan for our formal entrance-way (the south entrance). The plan calls for native flowers to be planted in this space. The specified plantings were chosen to provide continuous color in this space from early spring into the fall. Work will begin soon. The first step is to remove what is already there. The space will look bare for a while, but by next spring we will have an array of ornamental prairie grasses together with spring, summer and fall flowers which will dignify and enhance our entrance. Thank you, Valerie, for your gift to the Center. By the way, she tells me that she can still use some more volunteers for the Garden Committee. A green thumb is not a requirement.

The Pulaski Council's Constitution Day celebration recently honored Susan Mikoś with their Polish Heritage Award. As Chair of the Cultural Committee and President of Polanki (among other things), she has been a driving force to make our Center a place for all things Polish. The award was well deserved. Congratulations and sto lat, Susan.

After a rough winter, bingo numbers are again increasing. This is due to the efforts of Heddy Moskaluk and her crew of volunteers. They are always looking for more help. If you would like to volunteer, contact Heddy or Cindy Lemek.

FRAN WASIELEWSKI
President, Polish Heritage Alliance

Welcome David Hart

We are pleased to announce that David Hart has joined the Polish Center staff as our full-time Facility Custodian and Maintenance Technician. Dave is taking over maintenance and cleaning duties from Ray Will, who worked for several years as our part-time Facility Maintenance Technician. Ray was a dedicated member of the staff, who wasn't interested in taking on this full-time position. We wish Ray well in the future.

Dave is a retired U.S. Postal Service employee who has held several positions doing cleaning and maintenance since his retirement. He will be doing general cleaning of the Center, assisting with setting up for events, light maintenance and will be cleaning the building after rental events.

In making this staff change, we will be eliminating the cost of hiring a cleaning firm and will improve the overall appearance of the building and grounds by having a full-time staff member devoted to these duties. I hope you will join us in welcoming Dave to the staff.

Editor's Note

In the last issue of the *Polish Connection* there was a reference to "the former New Life Choir." However, we have learned that the New Life Choir continues to perform at events throughout the area, and if you would like more information, you can contact one of their officers or their musical director: Christine Czajka (President), Lucille Wrzewski (Vice President), Leona Podlaski (Secretary), Krystyna Gajewski (Treasurer), or David Broskowski (Musical Director).

From the Executive Director's Desk

By Cindy Lemek

We've had a busy year so far at the Polish Center. With Ash Wednesday falling on February 6, Pączki Day and our Lenten Fish Fries came a little earlier this year, and I'm pleased to report that these events were very successful. We completely sold out of pączki this year, and our fish fries were well attended, despite having to postpone our Good Friday fish fry due to snow. We also had good attendance at our winter and spring brunches, including our Easter and Mother's Day brunches which were very well attended. I'd like to thank all of the volunteers who helped out with these events and made them a success!

Our spring cultural programs were also well attended. Four workshops were held during March and April. The pisanki workshop and genealogy classes returned for another successful year, and two new workshops were added: Easter palms and wycinanki. Ryszarda Klim and Jolanta Drake put these new classes together, and they generated a great deal of interest. I joined staff members Heidi Dietrich and Lidia Sobierajski to take the wycinanki class which was great fun and very educational. At right is a sample of one of the finished products. If



Wycinanki Workshop at the Polish Center



you've ever considered taking a workshop but have not signed up, I encourage you to do so. It's a fun way to learn more about our Polish heritage.

With summer fast approaching, we are all turning our attention to Polish Fest. We hope to see you at the festival where you can enjoy good music, delicious food, fascinating cultural exhibits, and much more. Be sure to stop by the Polish Center booth at the festival to say hello and pick up information about all of our upcoming events!

Memorials

WE APPRECIATE THE
GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS
RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF

Edward Machulak
Felicia Kowalkowski

*Felicia was a long-time
supporter of the Polish Center.*

May they rest in peace.

Just Singing in the Rain

By Valerie Lukaszewicz

Yes, it was raining. No, we were not singing, but we were weeding and spreading mulch near the parking lot area. After five hours of work we were wet and tired but satisfied with a job well done. Hardworking Garden Committee members were Sandy Grzeskowiak, Valerie Lukaszewicz, John Saltz, Norine Trewyn and Eric Zillgitt. Special thanks to our Executive Director, Cindy Lemek, and her husband, Dave Brooker, who worked the entire time with the committee.

Thanks to Dave Rutkowski and Donna Bird of Rutbird Enterprises. Dave, Donna, and their crew helped with the mulch spreading and moving of other mulch for us. They also shredded the trees that Eric cut down in the winter, and donated free mulch for the area behind the parking lot last season. Please patronize their company, and thank them for their support.

This summer the south entrance way will bloom into a meadow. To accomplish this, professionals will first kill the weeds, and then plant native plants and spread seeds in the areas. It will take up to three years for the full meadow to mature so that colorful blooms can be enjoyed all season. Please be patient! The beautiful meadow will be worth the wait.

Donations of perennial flowers and/or money to purchase them are always needed, as are volunteers to help with the planting. Perhaps you can consider sponsoring a special area on the grounds. The landscape of the Polish Center needs your help.



Dave Donna



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POLISH CENTER OF WISCONSIN

6941 S. 68th Street (between Rawson Ave. & Loomis Rd.) Franklin, WI

POLISH BEER TASTING

FRIDAY, JULY 18
7-10 P.M.

- Sample a variety of imported Polish beers MUST BE 21 OR OVER
- Food & Music
- Free Commemorative Glass*

*While Supplies Last



\$22 ADMISSION
\$10 DESIGNATED DRIVER

Call 414-529-2140
FOR MORE INFORMATION



MUSHROOM MADNESS STRIKES AGAIN

On August 17, 2008, we will again partner with the Wisconsin Mycological Society to bring Mushroom Madness to the Polish Center. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will include speakers, demonstrators, and vendors selling mushroom related items.

There will be experts on identifying edible mushrooms in the wild and cultivating mushrooms at home, as well as forays into the woods outside the Polish Center to identify mushrooms.

There will be cooking demonstrations using mushrooms, and we will be selling an assortment of foods made with mushrooms prepared by our Banquet Manager, Tony Jacobs, including his very popular portabella mushroom burgers and mushroom soup. Other concessions include Polish sausage, hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages.

The Great Hall will feature a variety of organizations and businesses selling mushroom related items and providing information on their activities, and there will be a hands-on craft project making mushroom related gift items.

MUSHROOM MADNESS

ADMISSION:

Adults: \$3

Children 12 & under: Free

Seniors, PHA Members and Mycological Society Members: \$2



Call 414-529-2140 for more information

Cabaret & Roses

An elegant evening of Continental cabaret songs and Argentine tangos

Thursday, August 14, 2008 – 7 p.m.

Polish Center of Wisconsin • 6941 S. 68th St., Franklin

TICKETS: Advance: \$8 PHA members \$10 non-members
At the door: \$10 PHA members \$12 non-members



featuring
KRYSZYNA KRYSZTECKI
PIANIST & CABARET SINGER
FROM VANCOUVER, BC
DANUTA ŁUPINA-KARNICKA
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ALLISON SYWASSINK
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IN THE GALLERY

August 17-September 28, 2008

"Echoes of Poland"

Watercolors and Pastels by
Barbara Niemczycki

OPENING RECEPTION: Sunday, August 17, 2008 • 1-3 p.m.

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SMOKE-FREE BINGO

Every
Wednesday
Night

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



Polish Center
of Wisconsin
POLKA PARTY
FRIDAY,
AUGUST 15
8pm to Midnight
featuring
John Góra & Górale

playing
Polkas
and a
variety
of other
music

TICKETS:
\$10 advance
\$12 at the door
(advance
tickets will be
held at the door)

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Call 414-529-2140 for more information

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Call me today!

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MONTHLY CARD GAMES

at the
Polish Center

First
Thursday
of the
Month

STARTS AT
NOON

FREE AND OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC

Optional
\$8 lunch

Cash bar

Card clubs and
bridge groups
are welcome!

Individuals
may join
a table
upon arrival

Play
sheepshead,
poker & more

Polish Center Picnic & Bonfire (OGNISKO)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2008 • 5:30 P.M.
Bonfire lighting at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free.

**Join us as we sing Polish & English
songs (song sheets provided)**



Food and beverages available
for purchase. Call for details.

Please bring lawn chairs or
blankets and a flashlight

**PLEASE RSVP
BY SEPTEMBER 3**

Polish Fest “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 June 18th. “Circle of Friends” donors will be listed in the next edition of the *Polish Connection*. Thank you for your support!

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
to the 2008 Polish Fest
“Circle of Friends”

Clare Ann Gaouette
John Hoszowski
Jim Kozicki
Joseph Kwiatkowski



Return Service Requested

Polish Heritage Alliance, Inc.
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