



Winter 2009

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# Marcin Wasilewski Trio Wows Polish Center Audience

BY CHRIS STAWSKI

The Marcin Wasilewski Trio, a group of young up-and-coming jazz musicians, performed at the Polish Center of Wisconsin on November 7, 2008.

Drawing heavily from their recent ECM release, *January*, the group played a 90-minute set of cutting edge jazz. Swinging at times and free form at other times, the group's music captivated the audience of just under 150 people.

In addition to performing tunes composed by the group's leader, the Trio also performed compositions by jazz legends Gary Peacock and Tomasz Stańko. The varied selections performed by the group introduced many of the audience members to music unlike anything that they had ever heard before. This was modern jazz at its finest.

After the performance, the group was gracious enough to meet with audience members and gladly signed copies of their new CD. Before the performance at the Polish Center, the group had played about a half dozen dates on their current tour. Notwithstanding the fact that the band had performed in front of audiences much larger than the crowd at the Polish Center, the group sold more of its CDs at our concert than at any of its prior performances.

Thanks to everyone who attended the concert and especially those who supported the band by purchasing a CD.

Preparations are now under way for the next jazz concert at the Polish Center, which is expected to take place in early 2009. Additional details will be coming shortly. Keep your eye on *The Polish Connection* newsletters and the Polish Center website, as well as e-mails and fliers for the latest information on upcoming Polish Center events.



### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Concert reviewer Chris Stawski is a member of the PHA's Board of Directors and a volunteer DJ and host of the radio show, "Dr. Sushi's Free Jazz BBQ" on WMSE - 91.7.



## 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

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#### Websites:

www.polishcenterofwisconsin.org  
www.polishfest.org



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Design Works



# President's Message

Greetings,

You may have recently noticed a trench on the lawn to the east of the Polish Center. This was part of an effort to address a water run-off problem on our roof. With help from Board members Clark Wantoch and Keith Triebenbach, the Board hired contractors to eliminate problems of water run-off from the roof and potholes in our parking lot and driveway.

The water run-off problem resulted in sidewalks and roadways becoming iced over in the winter. The water was getting under the roadway, causing surface cracking. The solution was to redirect the roof water away from the building and to the retention pond. Potholes were also repaired. The snow came too soon for cracking in the parking lot to be repaired. This will be addressed in the spring. Thank you are in order to Clark and Keith for diagnosing the problem and preparing a scope of work for the repair contracts.

You may be aware that PHA owns a house on Rawson Avenue between 68th Street and the bowling alley. The property was acquired some years earlier to provide ingress and egress from the Polish Center to Rawson Avenue. At the time, it was believed that we would not have an entrance from 68th Street. The property has been rented month-to-month for the past 10 years to an over-the-road truck driver. He moved out a couple months ago. An inspection of the premises revealed extensive deferred maintenance to be necessary before the property could be re-rented. Rather than spend the \$20,000 that would be necessary to bring the building up to standard, the Board has authorized putting the property on the market for sale. When an offer is received, it will be put before the membership for approval as required by the bylaws.

Our first jazz concert on November 7 was a success! The Marcin Wasilewski Trio from Poland played progressive jazz to an enthusiastic audience. Word of this program has spread quickly through the local jazz community. More concerts are in the works. Stay tuned for the dates. Thank you to Chris Stawski for helping with arrangements for the artists.

Our first vodka tasting was held on November 14th. Over 150 people attended. They enjoyed a delicious Polish buffet and had the chance to sample the best of the Polish vodkas and vodka drinks. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. This event is likely to become the fall counterpart to our summer Beer Tasting event. Thank yous to Cindy Lemek and Tony Jacobs for their help in planning and producing this fun evening.

The Board has recently approved formation of an Events Committee. The Committee will be chaired by Board member Joe Kopinski and includes Tom Krukowski, Tim Witkowiak, Terry Witkowski and Dennis Cimpl. The Committee will be looking at a number of possibilities, including a golf outing for next summer. We will keep you posted.

Fran Wasielewski  
President, Polish Heritage Alliance

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Francis Wasielewski  
*President*

Janine Adamczyk  
*Vice President*

Dennis Cimpl  
*Treasurer*

Susan Mikoś  
*Secretary*

J. Michael Bartels  
Diane Holytz  
Joseph Kopinski  
Christopher Stawski  
Keith Triebenbach  
Rich Tyszka  
Clark Wantoch  
Keith Winters  
Vacant, *Past President*

## VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Diane Holytz  
414-614-7454

## STAFF

Cindy Lemek  
*Executive Director*

Lidia Sobierajski  
*Polish Fest Director*

Tony Jacobs  
*Banquet & Facility Manager*

Heidi Dietrich  
*Administrative Assistant*

Grazina Moloney  
*Staff Accountant*

David Hart  
*Facility Custodian & Maintenance Technician*

## Hours

### OFFICE:

Monday-Friday  
9 AM-5 PM  
or by appointment

### LIBRARY:

Tuesday  
12-2 PM  
during Center events  
or by appointment

POLISH  
HERITAGE  
ALLIANCE, INC.



# Thank You

## Life Members

MARY FORECKI  
ALBIN GYZINSKI, JR.  
DENNIS MANGLESS  
RITA MCDONALD  
RITA MICHALAK  
ANTON PLISKA  
MARLENE PLISKA  
GERALDINE RESZEL  
KENNETH SKOWRONSKI  
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## 2008 White Eagle Members

CHRISTOPHER &  
EDWARD BAKALARSKI  
WALTER CHMIELEWSKI  
DENNIS CIMPL  
GILBERT KACZMAREK  
STANLEY LES  
JERRY & DONNA  
MARTYNSKI  
MARCIN POLEWSKI  
BEATRICE, BERNADINE &  
ODELIA PUZIA  
RUTH RACZKA  
JOE & CINDY REWOLINSKI  
CASEY SZULC

## ELECTION REPORT

On September 30, 2008, the annual meeting of the Polish Heritage Alliance was held to elect members of the Board of Directors for the coming year.

### Newly elected Directors or Directors re-elected for a two-year term:

J. Michael Bartels  
Joseph Kopinski  
Keith Triebenbach  
Keith Winters

### The following officers are serving the second year of a two-year term:

President – Francis Wasielewski  
Vice President – Janine Adamczyk  
Secretary – Susan Mikoś  
Treasurer – Dennis Cimpł

### Continuing Directors serving the second year of a two-year term:

Diane Holytz  
Christopher Stawski  
Rich Tyszka  
Clark Wantoch

### Our thanks to...

Retiring Director Valerie Lukaszewicz. She has served our community for many years, and she continues to volunteer at the Center and Polish Fest. We thank her for her continued support and commitment.

## MEMORIALS

We appreciate the generous contributions received  
IN MEMORY OF

*Richard Lemek*

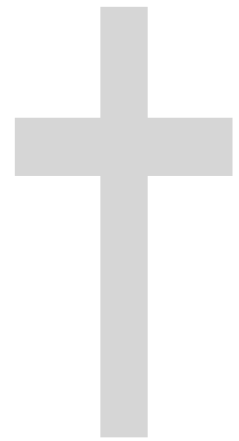
*Robert Leonard*

Bob was a long-time supporter of the Polish Center and a member of the Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble.

*May they rest in peace.*

## In Memoriam

### Former PHA President John Walloch



Former PHA President John Walloch passed away recently after a battle with cancer. He was 71 years old and is survived by a son and two daughters.

John was born and raised on the South Side of Milwaukee and graduated from Don Bosco High School. He took courses at Marquette University and graduated from the Milwaukee Institute of Mortuary Science in 1961. He served as a funeral director in the Milwaukee area for over 45 years.

He was a member of numerous civic organizations on the south side including the South Side Business Club, Milwaukee Moose Lodge #49, the Milwaukee Society, St. Joseph's Foundation, the Knights of Columbus, the IMPS and the Thomas More High School Advisory board. John also served on the Xavieran Missionaries Advisory Board and was a member of many professional organizations. John was also an avid investor in the stock market and was a member of the Taurus Investment Club.

John gave generously of his time and talent to PHA. He served on the Nominations Committee and was a member of the Board of Directors for several years. He was PHA President in the early years after the opening of the Polish Center, serving from 2002 – 2004. He brought his experience as a businessman to his PHA service. He left his mark on PHA and will be missed.



## POLANKI NEWS

### POLANKI ANNOUNCES COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Polanki, the Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee, announces its annual College Achievement Awards competition. The competition is open to college and university students who are juniors, seniors or graduate students, and who are of Polish heritage or are studying Polish subjects, such as language, literature, or history. For more information and to download application materials, go to [www.polanki.org](http://www.polanki.org). The application deadline is January 31, 2009.

### PIEROGI FESTIVAL 2009

Sponsored by Polanki, the Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee

**Sunday, March 29, 2009**

**11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

at the Polish Center of Wisconsin

For more information, visit [www.polanki.org](http://www.polanki.org) or call Geraldine Reszel at 414-541-2433.

# From the Executive Director's Desk

BY CINDY LEMEK

This November we held two very successful fundraisers for the Polish Center. First, on November 14 we held our first Polish Vodka Tasting. After holding a Polish Beer Tasting for several years and regularly being asked when we would do a vodka tasting, we finally organized an event. The tasting included samples of 14 different Polish vodkas, and representatives of Johnson Brothers Beverage and Ararat Fine Spirits participated in the event. Brands offered for tasting included several Stawski brands (including Jazz, Konesar, Żytunia and Bizonovka), Chopin, three types of Belvedere Vodka, Sobieski, and Bak's Bison Grass Vodka. A buffet of American and Polish food was included with admission, and a martini menu offering drinks made with the featured vodkas was available at the bar. The event also included a raffle and restaurant gift certificate tree. Music was provided by Complete Music Disc Jockey Service, and the evening was capped off with a fireworks display by Bartolotta Fireworks.

Next, we held a pancake breakfast on November 16. Our first pancake breakfast was held in May, and it was successful enough to become a regular feature on our calendar. Our November breakfast offered all you can eat pancakes, a serving of sausage or bacon and eggs, and we served 246 people. Thanks to everyone who helped make both of these events a success.

Both of these events brought new people into the Center to enjoy our activities, see the beauty of the building, and learn about our other events. These events were both fundraisers that helped to support our organization, and I look forward to bringing more activities and events to the Center in 2009. We'll have champagne brunches in February and March, Friday Fish Fries during Lent and special holiday brunches on Easter and Mother's Day. New events are in the works including a possible golf outing, a casino night and much more. Our new Events Committee will be looking at all types of opportunities to increase fundraising for the Center while also bringing in old and new members and supporters alike to enjoy all that the Polish Center has to offer.

## Thanks to our Vodka Tasting Donors

We'd like to thank all of the donors who supported our Polish Vodka Tasting on Nov. 14. More than 150 people sampled Polish vodkas, participated in our gift certificate tree and raffle, dined on a delicious buffet, watched fireworks and listened to music. Without the businesses and individuals who donated to the event, it would not have been such a success.

### Special Thanks To Our Donors

Janine Adamczyk  
Ararat Fine Spirits  
Arizona Grille  
J. Michael Bartels  
Bartolotta Fireworks  
Bartolotta Restaurants  
Benny's Café  
Benihana  
Bak's Bison Grass Vodka  
Branded Steer  
Butch's Steak House  
Chancery  
Complete Music  
Crocus Restaurant  
Famous Dave's  
Forum Family Restaurant  
Genesis Family Restaurant & Bakery  
Hampton Inn  
Hanley's Grille & Bar  
Diane Holytz  
Jack Norman Catering  
Valerie Lukaszewicz  
Jerry Moskaluk  
Johnson Brothers Beverages, Inc.  
Milwaukee Admirals  
Milwaukee Wave  
Barbara Niemczycki  
Panera Bread  
P.F. Chang's China Bistro  
Polonez Restaurant  
Open Flame  
Outback Steakhouse  
Sobieski - Wódka Polska  
Camille Shaw  
Shedd Aquarium  
Lidia Sobierajski  
Stawski Distributing, Co.  
Steakout Restaurant  
Stonefire Pizza Company  
Colleen Triebenbach  
Fran Wasielewski  
Roberta Zillgitt

Be a part of **AMERICA'S LARGEST POLISH FESTIVAL!**  
**POLISH FEST POSITIONS AVAILABLE**



### Sukiennice Marketplace Co-Chair

Polish Fest is seeking a very detail oriented person to assist with the marketplace area of the festival. This position assists with marking the locations for vendors and working with the vendors during the festival. Interested individuals should email Festival Director Lidia Sobierajski at [lidia@polishfest.org](mailto:lidia@polishfest.org).

### Polish Fest Intern

Polish Fest has an opening for an unpaid internship position for college students in the Greater Milwaukee area. Primary responsibilities would be public relations, marketing, fundraising and administrative duties. Hours can be tailored to the individual's school schedule. Applicants should email resumes to Festival Director Lidia Sobierajski at [lidia@polishfest.org](mailto:lidia@polishfest.org).

M I L W A U K E E P  
**POLISH FEST**

## IN THE GALLERY...



### Paintings on Leaves

BY JERRY MOSKALUK

January 11– February 22, 2009

OPENING RECEPTION:

Sunday, January 11, 2009

1-3 p.m.

Jerry was born in Chodorów, near Lwów. After the invasion of eastern Poland by the Soviet Red Army, he and his family were deported in 1940 to Soviet Kazakhstan. After the release of Polish prisoners in Russia and the formation of a Polish army, he and his family followed the movement of the army south and eventually were evacuated to Iran. In 1943 Jerry left his family in Teheran to join the Gen. Anders Polish Cadet Corps in the south of Palestine. In 1947 he arrived with his unit in England and soon after its dissolution he settled in the Birmingham area. In 1952 he emigrated to the USA and in 1953 he made his way to Milwaukee. Soon he enrolled at Marquette University. He graduated in 1959 with a degree in chemistry. In the same year he married Heddy and moved to Chicago to embark upon his lifetime career as a research chemist.

Painting on leaves is Jerry's relatively recent incursion into art. It is spontaneous and unpretentious and is his welcome pastime in retirement.

## 2009 POLISH ARTISTS EXHIBIT

**MARCH 1 THROUGH APRIL 12, 2009**

Opening Reception:

**Sunday, March 1 • 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Entry Fee: \$20 for up to 5 works.

Deadline for submissions: January 26, 2009

Polish Artists 2009:

*Reflections*  
A juried exhibition of  
painting and sculpture

For information, call Danuta Zarek: 414-483-1208

## POLISH IMPRESSIONS PHOTO CONTEST

**NEW TO  
POLISH  
FEST 2009!**



**Photographs  
must capture  
a facet of  
either Poland  
or Polish Fest  
in Milwaukee.**

Possible subjects include traditional Poland, scenic Poland, Polish Fest scenes, Polish Fest dancers, etc.

There is no time limitation on the date of the photo. Photographs must be submitted in one of two age categories: Youth (18 or under) or Adult.

For a complete list of contest rules, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Polish Center of Wisconsin, Polish Impressions Photo Contest, 6941 S. 68th Street, Franklin, WI 53132

The winning and finalist photos will be on display during Polish Fest, June 19-21, 2009. First, second, and third-place ribbons will be awarded in both age categories, along with a family four-pack of tickets to Polish Fest.

Please email questions to Contest Chair Dana Michaels: [danamichaels@mizziluna.com](mailto:danamichaels@mizziluna.com).



**UWMILWAUKEE**  
**Polish Classes**

**WINTER/SPRING 2009**

**POLISH II**  
Jan. 27 – March 17, 2009

Tuesdays, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Fee: \$185

For more information or to register, call (414) 227-3320 or email: [liottaj@uwm.edu](mailto:liottaj@uwm.edu).

**POLISH III**  
April 21 – June 9, 2009

Tuesdays, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Fee: \$185

ALL CLASSES WILL BE HELD AT THE POLISH CENTER OF WISCONSIN AND ARE TAUGHT BY PROFESSOR MICHAEL MIKOŚ

THE POLISH CENTER OF WISCONSIN PRESENTS

# Frank Almond

Playing the legendary Stradivarius  
**Lipinski Violin**

**Monday,  
March 9, 2009  
7 p.m.**

POLISH CENTER  
OF WISCONSIN  
6941 S. 68th Street  
Franklin, Wisconsin

For tickets and more  
information, call the  
Polish Center at

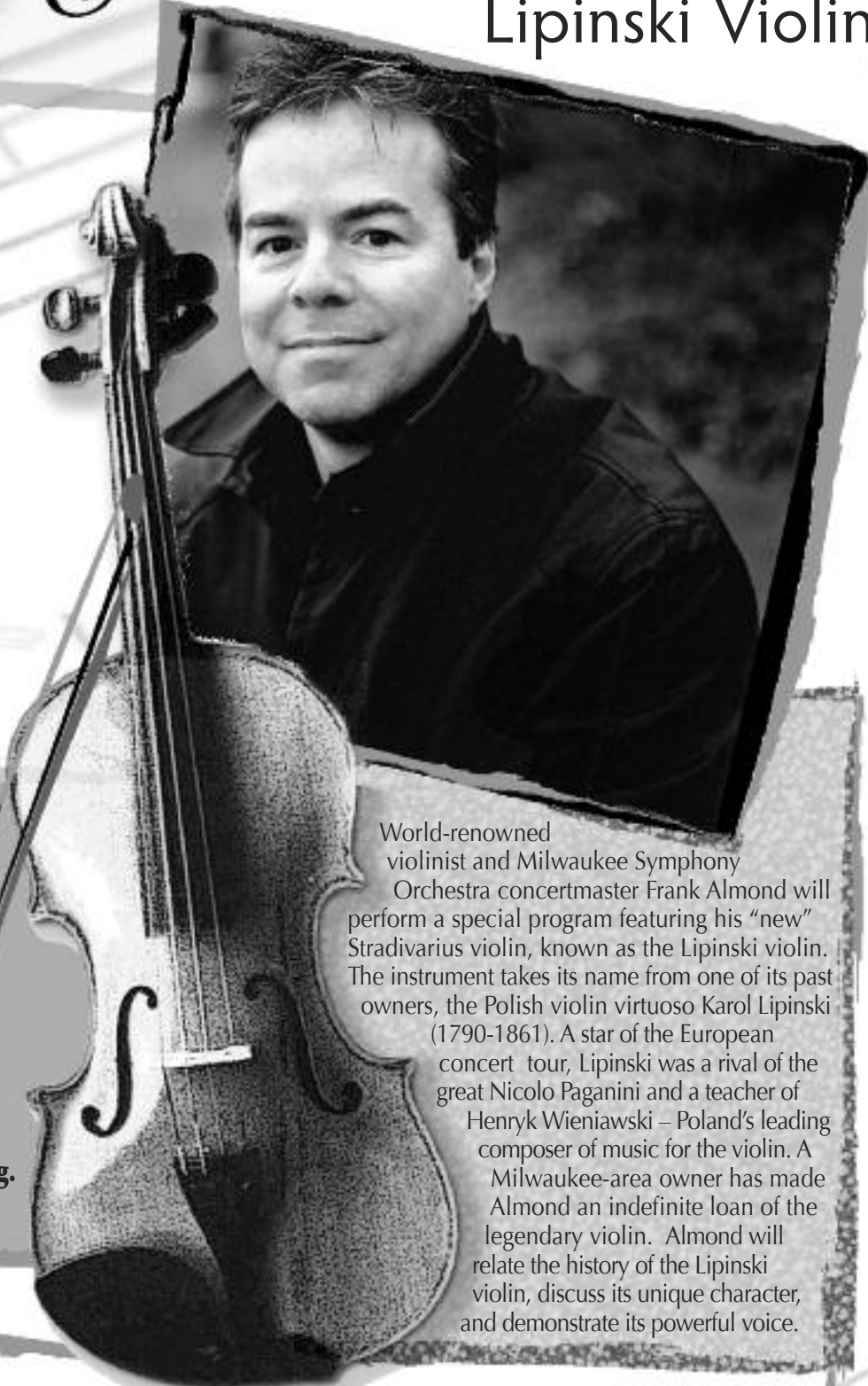
**414-529-2140**

or visit our  
website at

[www.polishcenterofwisconsin.org](http://www.polishcenterofwisconsin.org).

**Jeannie Yu**

Piano Accompanist



World-renowned violinist and Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra concertmaster Frank Almond will perform a special program featuring his “new” Stradivarius violin, known as the Lipinski violin. The instrument takes its name from one of its past owners, the Polish violin virtuoso Karol Lipinski (1790-1861). A star of the European concert tour, Lipinski was a rival of the great Nicolo Paganini and a teacher of Henryk Wieniawski – Poland’s leading composer of music for the violin. A Milwaukee-area owner has made Almond an indefinite loan of the legendary violin. Almond will relate the history of the Lipinski violin, discuss its unique character, and demonstrate its powerful voice.

Join us at the *Polish Center of Wisconsin*



# SUNDAY CHAMPAGNE *Brunch*

Feb. 1, 2009  
and  
March 1, 2009

Brunch served from  
10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Adults \$17.50  
(\$2 discount for PHA Members)  
Children 6-12 years \$7.50  
Children 5 and under eat free

*RESERVATIONS  
RECOMMENDED*

*for parties of six or more*

*Call 414-529-2140*

ALL YOU CAN EAT  
BUFFET MENU  
INCLUDES:

Made-to-order omelets  
Polish Sausage  
Smoked Salmon  
Pierogi  
Breakfast Potatoes  
Assorted Salads  
Assorted Rolls & Breads  
Fresh Fruit Platter  
Bakery items, including Pączki  
Juice, Milk, Coffee, Tea  
Glass of champagne  
And Much More!

**SMOKE-FREE**



**Every Wednesday Night**

**POLISH CENTER OF WISCONSIN**  
6941 S. 68<sup>th</sup> Street • Franklin

Doors open at 4:00 p.m.  
Concession counter opens at 4:30 p.m.  
Early Bird Bingo for \$1,200 at 6:00 p.m.  
Regular Session Bingo for \$1,200  
at 7:30 p.m.

Door Prizes awarded on the  
THIRD WEDNESDAY of the month

Free hot dog to the first 50 people on  
the LAST WEDNESDAY of the month

Pulltabs and raffle EVERY WEEK  
~ **ALL SOFT CARDS** ~

Sponsored by Polish Heritage Alliance, Inc.  
Proceeds benefit the Polish Center of Wisconsin  
Call 414-529-2140 for more information

## Monthly Card Games at the Polish Center

PLEASE NOTE: JANUARY CARD  
CLUB WILL BE ON JANUARY 8TH

**First Thursday of the Month  
Starts at 12 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 sheephead,  
poker and more.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
CALL 414-529-2140.**

JOIN US FOR



**February 27 - April 10**  
**4:30-8 p.m.**

Buffet style meal includes  
fried and baked fish, coleslaw,  
potato pancakes, pierogi,  
coffee, tea or milk, and more!

Cash Bar ~ Carry-Outs Available  
Reservations Accepted

\$10.95 for adults  
\$4.50 for children 6-12 yrs. old  
Children 5 and under eat free

**The Polish Center will be holding our  
Annual Pączki Day Sale on February 24, 2009  
from 7:00 to 11:30 a.m.**



We will be taking advance orders for pączki until **February 16, 2009**. Why not treat your workplace, club or family to this delicious Polish pastry? We'll deliver boxes of pączki to homes and businesses within Milwaukee County, or you can stop in at the Polish Center of Wisconsin on Tuesday, February 24th and enjoy a pączek and coffee for \$3.00.

<b>BOXES OF 1 DOZEN EACH</b> <i>Minimum order is 1 dozen (one box)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Prune # of boxes ____ @ \$10 each = \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Raspberry # of boxes ____ @ \$10 each = \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed # of boxes ____ @ \$10 each = \$ _____ <small>(½ doz. each)</small>		Ordered by: _____ Phone: _____ ___ I will pick up my order from the Polish Center between 7-11:30 a.m. ___ Please deliver my order on February 24, 2009. (Delivery is \$5.00)
<b>BOXES OF 3 DOZEN EACH</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Prune # of boxes ____ @ \$30 each = \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Raspberry # of boxes ____ @ \$30 each = \$ _____ Delivery Charge(s) @ \$5 Each Address = \$ _____ TOTAL = \$ _____		Name _____ Company (if applicable) _____ Street/City _____ Phone _____ Closest Cross Streets _____ _____ Delivery times cannot be guaranteed, but you may request a preferred time: _____ (between 8:00-10:30 a.m.)
<b>All orders must be pre-paid</b> Please make checks payable to "Polish Heritage Alliance." ___ MasterCard ___ Visa Name on Card: _____ Card # _____ Exp. _____ Signature _____		

POLISH FEST



June 19-21, 2009

**Polish Fest**

*Save the Date:*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Polish Heritage Alliance, Inc.**  
6941 S. 68th Street • Franklin, WI 53132-8237