



FALL  
2008

## Polish Fest 2008 - A Look Back

by Lidia Sobierajski, Polish Fest Director

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On June 20-22, 2008, Polish Fest held its 27th annual event. Once again, entering the grounds, festival goers saw a gorgeous Cultural Village featuring several beautiful exhibits, folk art demonstrators, artists and so much more. There was plenty of entertainment for the entire family, including a fun-filled children's area full of crafts, games and entertainment for children of all ages. Throughout the festival grounds, entertainment and music filled the air as food vendors cooked up delicious Polish favorites and marketplace vendors sold their wares.

Polish Fest believes in partnering with other non-profit organizations, and on Saturday afternoon, the 2nd Annual Easter Seals Kindcare WALK WITH ME attracted 260 walkers who raised more than \$60,000 for their fundraising campaign. Following the walk, those that fundraised over \$50 were able to enter the Polish Fest grounds for free. Later that same evening, over 1,900 pounds of food were collected for the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee from 8 p.m. to midnight. In exchange for a donation of three or more nonperishable food

items, attendees could enter the grounds for free. Polish Fest is proud to support both the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee and Easter Seals Kindcare.

Polish Fest is a wonderful celebration of Polish and Polish American culture. Our goal is to educate others

by sharing our customs, traditions, food and music. Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who work so hard to make our festival a success. Thank you to our sponsors for their financial support of our mission. Without their financial and in-kind support, we would not be able to make our goal a reality. Please take a moment to read through our list of Polish Fest sponsors and support them throughout the year.

Unfortunately, this year's festival faced the constant threat of scattered showers and thunderstorms. Luckily the rain only affected our attendance on Saturday and Sunday, decreasing our overall figures by only a small margin compared to 2007. Fortunately, this year's Polish Fest souvenirs did quite well with our newly added Polish Fest umbrella! Although the weather played a significant role in this year's decrease in attendance, preliminary figures show that beer and food sales were similar to that of last year.

Thank you to the Polish Heritage Alliance Board of Directors, the Polish Fest Managing Committee, Polish Fest Chairpersons, Polish Center Staff and the hundreds of volunteers that help make our festival a true celebration.

Mark your calendars now for next year's festival, which is scheduled for June 19-21, 2009! Visit [www.polishfest.org](http://www.polishfest.org) for more festival information.



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

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Franklin, WI 53132

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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 2008 edition of Polish Fest is history. It was a success due to the efforts of many people: volunteers, staff, committee chairs and the Festival Managing Committee. While all the bills aren't in, all signs point to another good year. The combination of food, music, and dancing in the Polish style carried the day. There was everything from an exhibit on Joseph Conrad to a Chopin competition to a magic show on the Children's Stage.

The only downside was the weather. Many believed that we were on our way to beating last year's excellent attendance numbers. However, some heavy rain on Saturday and Sunday kept attendance just under 30,000. Thank you to all who helped on this year's Festival.

Our Beer Tasting is growing in popularity. This year over 225 attended. The variety of Polish beers and good food make it a "can't miss" event. Thank yous are in order to the volunteers and staff that helped organize and run the event.

We also had a flurry of events from mid August to early September: "Cabaret & Roses" concert, Aug. 14; PCW Polka Dance Party, Aug. 15; Mushroom Madness, Aug. 17; opening reception of "Echoes of Poland" Art Exhibit, Aug. 17; Polish picnic and bonfire, Sept. 5; and our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party, Sept. 7.

We have some interesting events for the fall and winter. Plans are underway for a series of Jazz concerts featuring Polish jazz artists. The first program is set for Nov. 7 and will feature the Marcin Wasilewski Trio. We are negotiating with artists for a February date and have another concert in mind to round out the series. Thanks to Board Member Chris Stawski for taking the laboring oar on this project.

Again, we are trying to reach out to our membership. We want to offer events that will be of interest to our members. If you have any ideas for other things we could be doing, please contact me or Cindy. Your suggestions are always welcome.

FRAN WASIELEWSKI  
President  
Polish Heritage Alliance



**"Windows to Poland" Exhibit at Polish Fest**



**Opening reception of  
"Echoes of Poland" Art Exhibit**



**"Mushroom Madness"**



**"Cabaret & Roses" Concert**

# From the Executive Director's Desk

by Cindy Lemek

As we look ahead to fall, we have several new and exciting events coming up. We will be holding a series of cooking demonstrations in October highlighting traditional Polish dishes such as bigos and pierogi. We have held very popular cooking demonstrations at Polish Fest and our "Mushroom Madness" event and decided to expand the concept into a series of demonstrations built around several dishes.

We are very excited to be presenting "Jazz at the Polish Center of Wisconsin," a series of concerts that will kick off with the Marcin Wasilewski Trio, an innovative group of young musicians from Poland who are touring the United States. We hope you take advantage of this opportunity to see this award-winning trio in the intimate setting of the Polish Center. We will be presenting additional jazz concerts in 2009.

Usually at this time of year we would be inviting you to our annual gala, but our Board of Directors has decided to hold some smaller fundraising events instead of a gala event this year. We hope you will join us for a vodka tasting on Nov. 14 and a pancake breakfast on Nov. 16. Please watch your mail for notices about other fundraising events. We rely on the support of our friends and members to continue our efforts to promote Polish heritage and culture and hope you will attend some of our events to help us in our mission.

PHA President Fran Wasielewski has mentioned several times in his column that our Board of Directors has created a new Facilities Committee that has been examining our building and grounds and making recommendations for immediate and long-term needs. There are several major projects that will need to be tackled in the next 18 months, including repairs and resurfacing of the parking lot, repairs to the front sidewalk and entranceway, and replacing some of the wood around the upper windows with new window frames and a caulking system to prevent further damage to the wood around the windows. The committee has also recommended having an outside consultant prepare a report called a "reserve study" which would outline the expected usable life of various components of the building, the cost to repair or replace those items, and a recommendation on how much money should be set aside annually for such repairs.

We currently have \$20,000 set aside in a capital reserve fund to address major maintenance projects as they arise, but we know we need to have significantly more money set aside to address these needs and others that we know will arise as the Polish Center continues to age. In order to fund these projects we are asking you, our loyal supporters, to consider making a donation to fund one of these specific projects or to the general capital reserve fund for use in maintaining our beautiful facility.

## In the Gallery...



**October 12 – November 30, 2008**

Oil, acrylic and mixed media,  
indoor and outdoor paintings, and sculpture by

**DAGMARA N. COSTELLO**

**Opening Reception & Jewelry Exhibition**  
Sunday, October 12 • 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

GALLERY HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
during special events, and by appointment.

Polish Center of Wisconsin  
6941 S. 68th Street • Franklin

*Music from  
Poland &  
Other Lands*

**Oct. 16, 2008  
7 P.M.**

*featuring*

**Dr. Edward Filmanowicz  
VIOLIN**

**Thomas Gapinski  
PIANO**

**Ellen Kellogg  
VIOLIN**

*Program includes pieces by  
Chopin, Bacewicz,  
Lutosławski, Moszkowski,  
Corelli, Shostakovich,  
Sinding, and Kroll*

**TICKETS:**

**\$8 in advance, \$10 at the door  
\$2 discount for PHA members  
Children 16 and under — free**

**For more information, call  
414-529-2140**

# Beer Tasting 2008 A Big Success

by Cindy Lemek, Executive Director



Thanks to everyone who attended our Polish Beer Tasting in July. More than 200 people attended and sampled 16 different Polish beers

including several beers that were either new to the beer tasting or back after an absence of a few years. The event was an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with the wide range of beers produced throughout Poland. The beers ranged from dark porters to crisp lagers and included some of Poland's most well-known brands as well as some that are less familiar to the U.S. market.

Beer samples were accompanied by a delicious buffet of Polish and American foods that included items prepared and/or donated by Crocus Restaurant, Diane Holytz, Jack Norman Catering, Klement's, Camille Shaw, Lidia Sobierajski, and Polonez Restaurant. In addition, we also received a donation of beer from JAW Properties, and Michael Krass generously donated his time to engrave the commemorative glasses which were given out to those attending.

I would also like to thank all of the volunteers who assisted with this event, especially our volunteer coordinator, Diane Holytz, who organized the volunteers for the evening, and the Polish Center staff, Tony Jacobs and Heidi Dietrich, as well as Polish Fest Director Lidia Sobierajski, who ran the event while I was out of town.

This is an event which gets better every year, and I hope you'll join us next year as we sample another batch of Polish beers, raise a glass and say *na zdrowie!*



Learn to make a variety of traditional Polish dishes at the Polish Center. Our special "chefs" will demonstrate cooking techniques, share recipes, and provide samples for you to taste. Save \$5 when registering for all 4 classes!

**OCTOBER 6-27, 2008**  
**Mondays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

### October 6 – KIELBASA

Making *kielbasa*, or Polish sausage, is easier than you might think. Tom Radoszewski shows you how in our first cooking workshop.

### October 20 – PIEROGI

Danuta Kurczewski demonstrates the art of making Polish *pierogi* – half moon-shaped dumplings wrapped around a variety of savory and sweet fillings.

### October 13 – BIGOS

*Bigos*, or hunter's stew, is a delicious blend of cabbage, meats and mushrooms, perfect for chilly fall and winter nights. Mary Jo and Gene Swider share their special recipe.

### October 27 – DESSERTS

Award-winning bakers Lidia and Monika Sobierajski teach you to satisfy your sweet tooth with *szarlotka* (Polish apple cake) and filled bite-sized pastries known as *kołaczki*.

**FEE: \$10 per class or \$35 for all four classes**

**REGISTRATION IS LIMITED, SO SIGN UP EARLY!**

For more information, call the Polish Center at 414-529-2140

## Book Discussion Group

Love to read? Interested in Polish culture? Join us for a book discussion on **Sunday, November 2, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.** in the Polanki Library at the Polish Center of Wisconsin.

The featured book is *Time Between Trains* by Anthony Bukoski, published by Southern Methodist University Press, 2003. *Time Between Trains* is a collection of short stories about the Polish-American community in northern Wisconsin. See the *Booklist* review below.

Light refreshments will be served. If you have questions, call the Polanki Library at 414-858-9357 or Ewa Barczyk-Pease 414-963-1098.



"Bukoski hails from the East End Polish community of Superior, Wisconsin, the smaller port city at Lake Superior's southwestern tip. He still lives and sets his stories there, where doubtless he knows the people, from Father Marciniak of St. Adalbert's Church, shown in 1948, infatuated with a young immigrant whose husband is still in Poland, to Rick Mrozek, who at the start of the new millennium believes he will be the last president of the Polish Club. During the half-century between those men's stories, Bukoski depicts Lance Corporal Thaddeus Milszewski, a Vietnam draftee, three times, most poignantly during his second tour of duty, when he falls in love with a Vietnamese girl."

– Ray Olson, *Booklist*

# JAZZ AT THE POLISH CENTER OF WISCONSIN

## The Marcin Wasilewski Trio

Friday, November 7, 2008 • 8 p.m.

General Admission:  
\$13 advance/\$15 at the door  
Advance purchase is recommended  
Discounts available for students and  
Polish Center members.

Call for details: 414-529-2140  
[www.polishcenterofwisconsin.org](http://www.polishcenterofwisconsin.org)

Trio Info: [www.myspace.com/marcinwasilewskitrio](http://www.myspace.com/marcinwasilewskitrio)



*The Marcin Wasilewski Trio, an innovative young group of Polish jazz musicians, is touring the United States in support of their new CD, **JANUARY**, on ECM Records. The group has recorded and performed around the world with the legendary Polish jazz trumpeter, Tomasz Stańko. Led by pianist Marcin Wasilewski, the award-winning trio is now making a name for itself on the international jazz scene. Don't miss this opportunity to see the group's only Wisconsin performance in the intimate setting of the Polish Center of Wisconsin!*

POLISH CENTER  
OF WISCONSIN  
presents

# Polish Vodka Tasting

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2008 • 7-10 P.M.

SAMPLE A VARIETY of Polish Vodkas  
DINE ON A BUFFET of Polish & AMERICAN Foods  
CASH MARTINI MENU AVAILABLE  
FEATURING A FIREWORKS Display  
COURTESY of BARTOLOTTA Fireworks

ADMISSION:

\$18 in advance/\$20 at the door • \$10 designated drivers  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, call 414-529-2140

PATRONS MUST BE 21 OR OVER



Chopin



meet  
the

# Polish Center Volunteers



Here is another installment of our periodic feature highlighting the volunteers who help us at the Polish Center office on a regular basis by assisting with all types of projects both big and small. In this issue you'll meet Mary Golla.

## Mary Golla

Mary is a resident of Milwaukee who has been volunteering at the Polish Center on Monday mornings for about a year and is "enjoying every minute of it."

Mary has been a volunteer with many organizations in the Polish community over the years, including Polish Fest for 15 years from its start, Federation Life Insurance, the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, and the International Folk Fair. She guesses she must have fried thousands of pierogi at the Folk Fair over the years she volunteered there.



She got involved as a volunteer in the office at the Polish Center because she wanted to stay active within the Polish community, and another volunteer with Federation Life suggested she look into volunteering at the Center. Mary enjoys answering the phones, especially helping people who need assistance with Polish words or phrases since Polish was her first language. One of her favorite stories from answering the phones is about a gentleman who wanted to know what time we took the pączki out of the oven on pączki day so they would still be warm when he came in to get his box. She had to explain that we actually have them delivered and don't bake them ourselves.

When Mary isn't volunteering at the Polish Center, she also volunteers with the St. Vincent DePaul Society and with the Lutheran Community. She volunteers twice a month in a thrift store run by the Lutherans and has crocheted many afghans for the St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Join us on **Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008 • 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

### BREAKFAST INCLUDES:

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

\$6.00 adults • \$3.00 children 5-12  
Children under 5 are free

Call for details or to make a reservation.

**414-529-2140**

### Polish Center **WISH LIST**

- multi-disc CD player
- document scanner
- outdoor benches
- extra-large planter

If you have any of these items to donate, please call our office at

**414-529-2140**

# POLISH HOLIDAY CRAFTS WORKSHOPS

*Pre-Registration is required. Save \$2 if you sign up for both workshops!*

## Learn to make Wycinanki Christmas Cards

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

6:00-7:30 p.m.

INSTRUCTORS: Ryszarda Klim & Jolanta Drake (folk artists)



## Learn to make Polish Christmas Ornaments

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

6:00-7:30 p.m.

INSTRUCTORS: Ryszarda Klim & Jolanta Drake (folk artists)

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 workshops)*

Children ages 10-12: \$6; no children under age 10

Children under 12 must be accompanied by a registered adult.

**SPACE IS LIMITED - ENROLL EARLY. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 414-529-2140**



**EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT**  
**Smoke-Free**  
**BINGO**

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

## Monthly Card Games at the Polish Center



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 sheepshead, poker and more.

For more information, call 414-529-2140

**THOMAS GAPINSKI**

*teacher of piano and soloist*

**414-425-5292**

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Papas Bakery  
Polanki, the Polish Women's  
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