



Spring 2010

## Janina Fialkowska to perform at the Polish Center in April

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The Polish Center is very pleased to present a concert by internationally-renowned pianist Janina Fialkowska on Monday, April 19, 2010 at 7 p.m. Ms. Fialkowska will be performing a special program titled "Birthday Boys: a program celebrating Chopin's and Schumann's 200th birthdays." The program will include works by Chopin, Schumann, and Mozart.

Ms. Fialkowska was born to a Canadian mother and a Polish father in Montreal. She started to study piano with her mother at the age of five, and eventually entered the Ecole de Musique Vincent d'Indy. At age 17 the University of Montreal awarded her the advanced degrees of "Baccalaureat" and "Maitrise."

In January, 2002 as she was about to begin a European tour of eight different countries, Ms. Fialkowska's career was brought to a dramatic halt by the discovery of a tumor in her left arm. After successful surgery to remove the cancer, Ms. Fialkowska underwent a rare muscle-transfer procedure in January 2003. After 18 months of performing the Ravel and Prokofiev "concertos for the left hand" which she transcribed for her right hand, she resumed her two-handed career beginning with a tremendously successful and highly emotional recital held in Germany in January 2004.

Celebrated for her interpretations of the classical and romantic repertoire, she is particularly distinguished as one of the great interpreters of the piano works of Chopin and Mozart. Ms. Fialkowska has also won acclaim as a champion of the music of twentieth-century Polish composers, both in concert and on disc. She has played with symphony orchestras from around the world and has released several CDs which include the music of Chopin, Liszt, and Paderewski.

Tickets for general admission seats are \$25 (\$2 discount for Polish Center Members) and \$15 for students. For more information or to order tickets, call 414-529-2140. MasterCard and Visa are accepted. For more information on Ms. Fialkowska, please visit her website: [www.fialkowska.com](http://www.fialkowska.com).



PHOTO © PETER SCHAAF



### THE POLISH CONNECTION

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### Polish Heritage Alliance, Inc.

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Design Works

*"Fialkowska plays Chopin with a warmth, poetry, and detail of phrasing that is disappointingly rare today; she places her gifts at the composer's feet."*

- Russell Platt, *THE NEW YORKER* online  
December 14, 2009

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## Hours

### OFFICE:

Monday-Friday  
9 AM-5 PM  
or by appointment

### LIBRARY:

Tuesday 12-2 PM  
Wednesday 6-8 PM  
during Center events  
or by appointment

# President's Message

Greetings,

I'd like to start with a thank you to the New Life Chorus for their generous donation to the Polish Heritage Alliance. We appreciate your support and consideration.

As previously reported, the Facilities Committee has met to identify building areas that might be of concern in the future. Preventative maintenance is essential to keeping our building in great shape for years to come. Over the next few months general housekeeping items will be completed to maintain our Center.

Calling all golfers! The PHA is holding its second annual golf outing. It will be held on August 16, 2010 at Tuckaway Country Club. Our Events Committee chaired by Joe Kopinski will be in charge of the event. More details will be forthcoming but hold the date!

The Cultural Committee has again been busy with a great concert by the Megitza Quartet. Over 130 people attended and enjoyed the fine gypsy sounds of this band that will also be performing at Polish Fest.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have given their time and energy at our fish fries during this year's Lenten season. We received wonderful publicity in the *Shepherd Express* and the *Journal Sentinel* and as a result, had over 600 people for many of the fish fries! Needless to say, our volunteers and staff really had their hands full each week but made it all seem effortless! Thank you all very much for your time and dedication!

Lidia Sobierajski, thank you for five years of service as Festival Director of Polish Fest. As many of you know, Lidia resigned in February, to take care of a family member. Lidia helped lead the festival in a dynamic manner. We will miss her passion for the festival and her ever-glowing smile. Welcome Sarah Vitale as Festival Director! Sarah was off and running in her new position before she even officially started on March 22 with a chairmen's meeting and a sponsorship meeting the week before! With that drive and enthusiasm, Sarah is off to a fantastic start. Please welcome Sarah when you see her!

Janine Adamczyk  
President, Polish Heritage Alliance

## A Special Invitation for Members and Friends of the Polish Heritage Alliance



Polanki, the Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee cordially invites you to attend its annual Awards Tea

**Sunday, April 25 at 2 p.m.**

with a special recital in honor of  
Fryderyk Chopin's 200th Birthday  
at the Polish Center of Wisconsin

The awards ceremony recognizes winners of  
Polanki's 2010 College Achievement Awards competition.

The Chopin recital features May Phang, Assistant Professor of Piano at DePauw University in Greencastle, IN. Ms. Phang has given numerous solo recital and chamber music concerts in Singapore, Canada, the United States and Europe, performing in venues such as Victoria Concert Hall in Singapore, Place-des-Arts in Montreal, Kennedy Center for the Arts and National Gallery in Washington DC, the Chicago Cultural Center, and at festivals such as the Singapore Festival of Arts, the Montreal International Piano Festival, and the Karol Szymanowski Festival in Zakopane, Poland.



## In the Gallery . . .



# ENIGMA:

*A Surreal Juxtaposition of Images*

AN EXHIBIT OF PAINTINGS BY  
**Margaret Switala**

April 30-June 18, 2010

OPENING RECEPTION

With live music by  
Jeff and Roman

Friday, April 30, 2010  
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Margaret Switala, from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, worked as a graphic designer and illustrator for over fifteen years. In 1994 she returned to her first love - painting. Ms. Switala's work has been exhibited in solo and group shows locally, nationally and internationally. In 2007, she had a solo exhibition in Galeria Dom Polonii in Krakow, Poland. Her paintings can be found in private and public collections in Canada, Brazil, Spain, England, Belarus, Russia, USA, and Poland.

GALLERY HOURS: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Admission to the exhibit and reception is free and open to the public.

**Pulaski Council  
of Milwaukee County  
Polish Constitution Day  
Observance**

and

**Annual Polish Heritage  
Award Luncheon**

*Honoring Ada Dziewanowska*

**Sunday, May 2, 2010**

at the Polish Center of Wisconsin

Cash bar – 12:30 p.m.

Luncheon – 1:30 p.m.

\$30 per person

Reservations must be made

**BY APRIL 20, 2010**

For more information call  
Rosemarie Ewald 414-645-4120

Celebrate at the  
**POLISH CENTER  
OF WISCONSIN**

# MOTHER'S DAY

**SEATINGS  
AT 10 A.M.,  
NOON  
AND 2 P.M.**

*Brunch*

**SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2010**

Adults:  
\$23.95

Children 6-12 years:  
\$10

Children 5 & under:  
Free

### **All You Can Eat Buffet Includes:**

Chef-carved Beef Tenderloin and Pork Loin  
Made-to-Order Omelets • Polish Sausage • Spiral Ham  
Chicken Supreme • Beef Burgundy • Smoked Fish

Potatoes • Pierogi • Creamed Cucumbers  
Deluxe Fruit Platter • Deluxe Dessert Station

**AND MORE!**

Juice, Milk, Coffee, Tea  
Glass of Champagne

**C A S H B A R O P E N**

**Reservations  
Required**

**414-529-2140**

ADVANCE PAYMENT  
ACCEPTED

POLISH CENTER  
**Pancake**  
BREAKFAST



**Sunday, May 16, 2010**  
**8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**Breakfast includes:**

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

\$7 Adults • \$3 Children 5-12

Children under 5 are free

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

**MONTHLY**  
**CARD GAMES**

AT THE POLISH CENTER

**1st & 3rd Thursday of**  
**the Month • Starts at Noon**

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
Optional \$8 Lunch on 1st Thursday

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

POLISH CENTER OF WISCONSIN  
**Smoke-Free Bingo**  
**Every Wednesday Night**

Doors open at 4 p.m. – All Soft Cards  
Concession counter opens at 4:30 p.m.

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

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

Door Prize drawings on the 3rd  
Wednesday of the month.  
Pulltabs & Raffles every week.

SPONSORED BY  
POLISH HERITAGE ALLIANCE, INC.

Proceeds benefit the Polish Center of Wisconsin.  
Call 414-529-2140 for more information.

## New Polish Fest Director Named

As some of you may know, Lidia Sobierajski, Polish Fest Director for the past five festivals, resigned in February. She has a family member with a degenerative condition and will be devoting a lot of time to his care.

Lidia stated in her letter of resignation, "I feel very fortunate to have been associated with Polish Fest and the Polish Heritage Alliance for the past five years. My experiences of working with the extremely dedicated staff and passionate volunteers of this organization have been invaluable, and I leave with many, many pleasant memories." At the February Membership Meeting, PHA President Janine Adamczyk presented Lidia with a plaque expressing our appreciation for her work as Festival Director. We bid Lidia a fond farewell and wish her all the best.

Our search for a new director attracted more than fifty candidates, and the Board of Directors voted at its March meeting to hire Sarah Vitale as the new Polish Fest Director. Sarah grew up in Burlington and attended Edgewood College in Madison. She worked for the Sun Prairie Chamber of Commerce coordinating several annual events including the four-day Sweet Corn Festival. Sarah is familiar with all aspects of planning an event like Polish Fest from securing sponsors and working with volunteers to setting up tents and booths. Sarah will be a big asset to PHA as we bring Polish Fest to Milwaukee's lakefront each summer. Please join us in giving Sarah a warm welcome.



## VOLUNTEER AT POLISH FEST

### BE A PART OF AMERICA'S LARGEST POLISH FESTIVAL!

Polish Fest is seeking volunteers for 2010's festival which will be held June 18-20 on the Summerfest grounds.

MILWAUKEE  
**POLISH FEST**



We need volunteers to help in all areas of the festival including the cultural village, bars, children's area and much more. Because everything at the festival is set up during the week of June 14, we need a lot of volunteers to help with the set up on the festival grounds. If you can spare a few hours of time, it would be a tremendous help to the festival.

We also have vacancies for three chair positions at this year's festival. A festival chair is responsible for overseeing work related to a specific area of the festival. One opening is for the chair who oversees the sale of tickets at the entrance gate. The second chair position is in charge of signs. This person takes an inventory of the signs we have from previous years, places orders

for new signs and then places the signs in the appropriate locations at the festival. The third opening is for someone to coordinate advance ticket sales. This involves working with various businesses that sell advance tickets to the festival. For more details on any of these positions, call Polish Fest Director Sarah Vitale at 414-529-2140 or email [svitale@polishfest.org](mailto:svitale@polishfest.org).

If you are interested in helping us with this year's festival, call us for more details or visit [www.polishfest.org](http://www.polishfest.org) to download a volunteer form.

# From the Executive Director's Desk by Cindy Lemek

It's hard to believe, but it's already April. We've had a busy start to the year with 10th anniversary events, cultural activities, Pączki Day and Lenten Friday fish fries.

Our Winter Festival ① in January and Valentine's Brunch in February had low attendance, but those who did attend enjoyed the events. On February 16 we had another successful Pączki Day with over 13,000 pączki being sold in a combination of advance orders to be picked up, deliveries made by our volunteers and in our special Pączki Day café.

**WEEKEND CUE**

**FRIDAY** Movies: DiCaprio heads to 'Shutter Island'; 3E Music: Sondre Lerche and Killswitch Engage; 10E Television: Tonight's lineup; 11E Good Morning: Dear Abby, comics, puzzles and horoscope; 12-13P

**Fish fries to catch and keep**

**JSOnline**  
MILWAUKEE • WISCONSIN  
**JOURNAL SENTINEL**  
Pączki will fatten up Milwaukeeans - JSOnline

**JOURNAL INTERACTIVE**  
Home » News » Milwaukee County  
Milwaukee County

**Pączki will fatten up Milwaukeeans**

**SHEPHERD EXPRESS**

**Eat/Drink**

**Polish Center of Wisconsin's Authentic Fish Fry**  
BY SARAH BIONDICH

**express**  
milwaukee.com

We were very fortunate to have good coverage in the local media for Pączki Day and for our fish fries. The *Journal Sentinel* included the Polish Center in an article about pączki, and both the *Shepherd Express* and the *Journal Sentinel* gave our Friday fish fries prominent coverage. We were not expecting the more than 500 people who attended our first fish fry on February 19, but we quickly made some changes and served over 600 people for several weeks in a row. We are very appreciative of all the people who have been coming to the fish fries which are fund-raisers for the Polish Center. It's also been an opportunity for many people to visit the Polish Center for the first time and hopefully they will come back for some of our other events.

On February 27 the Megitza Quartet ② brought their unique mix of klezmer, flamenco, Polish Highlander music, jazz and rock to the Polish Center.

Their magical blend of musical styles captivated the enthusiastic audience. In late February an exhibit of paintings by Polish artist Czesław Pyrgies opened and a reception was held on March 7th for the exhibit. Also on March 7th were a champagne brunch and a Spring bazaar ④⑤. To close out March our annual Easter egg workshops ③ on how to make pisanki and skrobanki eggs were held on March 27. Our thanks to the Cultural Committee for their work on these events.

We have some wonderful events coming up over the next few months. There are more details on these events throughout the newsletter, but I would like to draw your attention to a concert by Janina Fialkowska on Monday, April 19. Ms. Fialkowska is an internationally known performer and recording artist who will be playing a special program entitled, "Birthday Boys: A Program Celebrating Chopin's and Schumann's 200th Birthdays." Ms. Fialkowska is one of the great interpreters of Chopin's work, and we are very fortunate to have her performing at the Polish Center.

Other upcoming events include a Mother's Day brunch and a pancake breakfast, both in May, and then we will have our Polish beer tasting in July. August will bring a golf outing, a polka dance party, and our Mushroom Madness event. Please check out the details on these events in the *Polish Connection* and on our website: [www.polishcenterofwisconsin.org](http://www.polishcenterofwisconsin.org).





## Summer Study-Tour in Poland | JULY 3 TO AUGUST 9



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 Białowieża 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 \$2,850 for the five-week program and \$1,560 for two weeks.

The study-tour will take place from July 3 to August 9, 2010, 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 414-229-4151, by email at mikos@uwm.edu or visit [www.lrc.uwm.edu/tour](http://www.lrc.uwm.edu/tour).



### Polish Beer Tasting FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2010 • 7-10 P.M.

Do you enjoy a good beer? Come to our Polish Beer Tasting and sample more than a dozen beers imported from Poland. Whether you enjoy dark beers, pilsners, ales or lagers, we have something for everyone. In addition to the beer samples, enjoy a buffet featuring Polish and American food. Patrons must be 21 or older.

Tickets: \$20 advance • \$22 at the door  
\$10 for designated drivers

## SAVE THE DATE

### 2010 POLAM-POLISH CENTER CHARITY GOLF OUTING



**Monday, August 16, 2010**

Like to golf? Join us to help support the Polish Center! We are also accepting donations for a raffle and silent auction. To make a donation, please contact Heidi at 414-529-2140

### *Cabaret & Roses Concert*




Thursday,  
August 26,  
2010

WATCH YOUR  
MAIL FOR DETAILS

POLISH CENTER

## Polka Dance Party

**August 13, 2010  
8 p.m. to midnight**



*featuring*  
**John Góra  
& Górale**

*playing Polkas and a variety of music*

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

Polish Center of Wisconsin  
6941 S. 68th Street, Franklin, WI  
*Located between Rawson Ave. & Loomis Rd.*  
414-529-2140 • [www.polishcenterofwisconsin.org](http://www.polishcenterofwisconsin.org)

SAVE THE DATE...

# 10th Anniversary Gala

Friday, September 24, 2010



The Polish Heritage Alliance will hold a 10th Anniversary Gala on September 24, 2010. Planning is currently underway for the gala.

All proceeds will support our mission to promote the understanding and appreciation of Polish heritage and culture as embodied in its traditions, history, language, current affairs, and the arts.

We currently are seeking donations of items for our silent and voice auction. All donors will be recognized in the gala's program book. Please send contributions to:

The Polish Center of Wisconsin  
Attn: Heidi Dietrich  
6941 S. 68th Street  
Franklin, WI 53132

If you have any questions or need to arrange for us to pick up an item, please contact Heidi at 414-529-2140.

## WISH LIST

- Polish items (traditional and contemporary)
- Green Bay Packer, Brewers, or other pro sports team gear or memorabilia
- Hotel/Travel packages or out-of-town getaways
- Jewelry (especially amber)
- Theater tickets
- Gift certificates (restaurants, spas, etc.)
- Artwork (Polish artisans)
- Golf or other sports packages
- Children's items

**Gear Up for PolishFest Now!**

## 20% Off PierogiHead Hats

\$10.00 OFF and free delivery within 10 miles of the Polish Center of Wisconsin in Franklin, WI with this order form on the purchase of your PierogiHead Hat.

All Hats Are Handmade and Numbered.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

For Delivery Arrangements Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose Check For \$42.24/each

\$50.00

-\$10.00

= \$40.00

+Tax 2.24

Total \$42.24



Pay To The Order Of and Mail To:  
Golden Pierogi Productions LLC  
P.O. Box 243  
Greendale, WI 53129

"You Bet Your Sweet Dupa I'm Polish" T-Shirts available at: [www.pierogihead.com](http://www.pierogihead.com)

Offer Expires: 6/11/10

## CONSIDERING HEARING AIDS?

### Consumer's Guide Compares 24 Major Hearing Aid Brands



Get this book to learn:

- ✓ What is the best brand for you?
- ✓ How much do hearing aids cost?
- ✓ What should you expect from new hearing aids?

For a free copy call: **414-321-2020**

Offered as a community service by

**B.S. Wisniewski Custom Hearing Instruments**

4847 W. Forest Home Ave., Greenfield, WI 53219

B. Scott Wisniewski, President BC-HIS

Polish Heritage Alliance Member



## Polish Fest's "Circle of Friends"

On June 18-20, 2010, Polish Fest will hold its 29th annual celebration. For the past 29 years, we have benefited from the generosity of individuals and businesses, allowing us to bring Polish Fest to our community. We need your support now more than ever.

Please consider adding your name to the list of supporters for this year's event with 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. In addition, each "Circle of Friends" donor will receive 20 complimentary tickets to this year's festival, and two invitations to the Opening Ceremony Reception held on Friday, June 18th.

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.



**Polish Fest**  
**June 18-20, 2010**

*Save the Date:*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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