



Summer 2009

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Join us for Polish Fest 2009

By Lidia Sobierajski, Polish Fest Director

The 28th annual Polish Fest will be held June 19-21, 2009, at the Henry W. Maier Festival Park on Milwaukee's beautiful lakefront. This year, Polish Fest will be continuing "50¢ Fridays!" Admission from noon to 5 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 admission specials include free admission from 8 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, celebrate Father's Day with a visit to Polish Fest! Dads of any age enjoy free admission from 4-6 p.m. when accompanied by their child of any age. 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.

Our partnership with Easter Seals Kindcare continues with their 3rd Annual "Easter Seals Walk with Me" on Friday afternoon. Participants in the walk will enjoy free admission from 5-6 p.m. on Friday. You can register for the walk at www.walkwithme.org.

Join us for Polish Fest's Opening Ceremony on Friday at 6 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 our festival possible every year.

Be sure to visit the Cultural Village which will bring the past and the present together with several interesting and exciting exhibits. There will be an exhibit on the 13 World Heritage sites in Poland which are recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for their outstanding cultural or natural

value. Another exhibit will focus on the 70th anniversary of the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939 that started World War II. The presentation of historic photographs brings to life Poland's contributions to the Allied victory. Displays of St. Josaphat Basilica and the monument



to General Tadeusz Kościuszko, which are both located on Lincoln Avenue in Milwaukee's historic Polish neighborhood, bring visitors a little closer to home.

The Cultural Village will also feature folk art demonstrations, genealogy and travel experts, and a Polish Forum with speakers on a range of Polish topics.

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.

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 2009!



THE POLISH CONNECTION

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Polish Heritage Alliance, Inc.

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Franklin, WI 53132

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Maintenance Technician*

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,

Planning is well underway for our first annual golf outing. We are combining forces with the POLAM Golf Charities outing, which has been a fixture for many years. The date is August 3, 2009 at Tuckaway. Invitations will be going out shortly. Get your foursomes together now. Also, the Events Committee is in search of items for the auction and the raffle. If you can help, please contact Committee Chair Joe Kopinski or Cindy Lemek.

Now that the warmer weather is finally upon us, we are obtaining bids for work on the parking lot. We plan to seal the cracks, put a seal coat on the lot and restripe the parking spaces. Many thanks to Keith Triebenbach and Clark Wantoch for their expertise and assistance on this project.

The Bylaws Committee completed its periodic review of the PHA bylaws. This review was in turn reviewed and amended by the Board and was presented to the PHA membership on May 26. Unfortunately, we did not have a quorum present to vote on the by-law amendments, but we will schedule another membership meeting in late July to take up the matter again. A notice will be going out shortly, so please mark your calendars. We need your input and your participation. Our bylaws are the "rule book" for PHA operations. It is good practice to regularly review them and keep them up-to-date. Topics addressed include a change in the rules regarding a quorum and the manner of notification for membership meetings (updated to allow email notification), some changes in the Treasurer's job description (to clarify and conform to current practice) and clarification of the role of the Festival Director. Thank you are in order to Bylaws Committee Chair Terry Witkowski and the Committee for their assistance.

Polish Fest draws closer. Remember these dates: June 19, 20 and 21. This is the major event of our year. It is a chance to showcase Polonia to the community. Dance groups in authentic costume will present polonaises, mazurkas and regional favorites. The Chopin Youth Piano Competition will feature talented young artists. The Cultural Village will be presenting a display about the 13 World Heritage Sites located in Poland which have been recognized by the United Nations. Additional displays will highlight the Podhale and Spisz regions of Poland and commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Nazi invasion of Poland. The Children's Stage will feature special programs for the younger set. And of course there will be food and drink, music and dancing. Hope to see you there!

Fran Wasielewski
President, Polish Heritage Alliance



*Thank You
to this year's
Polish Fest
"Circle of Friends"*

Christopher Stawski
Clare Anne Gaouette
John Hoszowski

MEMORIALS

**We appreciate the generous contributions
received in memory of**

**Philomene Kraszewski
Jean Szews
Stephanie Wasielewski**

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

**Looking Ahead to
Board Elections**

In September 2009, we will be holding elections for four at-large director positions and the four officer positions. If you would like to be considered as a nominee or would like to nominate someone else for an at-large or officer position, please submit the nomination in writing with a brief biography stating the nominee's name, employer, educational background, volunteer work both for PHA and for other organizations, and any additional information you feel is relevant to the Nominations Committee, Polish Center of Wisconsin, 6941 S. 68th Street, Franklin, WI 53132. The deadline for nominations is August 1.



CHOPIN YOUTH PIANO COMPETITION WINNERS

*in an Encore Performance
at the Polish Center
Sunday, July 12, 2009, at 2 p.m.
Admission is free.*

The Chopin Youth Piano Competition is divided into two age divisions, Junior Division (ages 14 & under) and Senior Division (ages 15-18). If you missed these talented performers at Polish Fest or would just like to hear the beautiful music of Chopin played by these impressive young musicians, be sure to attend.

POLISH CENTER OF WISCONSIN

6941 S. 68th Street • Franklin, WI

Polish Beer Tasting

Friday, July 17, 2009 • 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



Polish Center and POLAM Join Forces

The Polish Center is partnering with the 40th annual POLAM Golf Charity Event to hold the 2009 POLAM-Polish Center Charity Golf Outing.



The event will be held at Tuckaway Country Club on August 3, 2009. All proceeds from this event will support the Basilica of St. Josaphat, the Zespół Placówek Opiekuńczo-Wychowawczych orphanage in Poland and the Polish Center of Wisconsin.

Golfers will enjoy 18 holes of golf at Tuckaway Country Club as well as lunch and dinner. Cart fees and use of the putting green and driving range is included. Lunch is served beginning at 11:00 a.m. and is followed by a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. The cocktail hour begins at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is served at approximately 7:15 p.m. There will be trophies for best ball and handicap divisions, prizes for the longest drive, longest putt and closest to the pin, and a hole-in-one contest for \$10,000. During the cocktail hour browse the raffle and auction items. Winners will be announced after dinner.

Cost is \$900 for a foursome, \$225 for a single golfer. To join us for dinner only, the cost is \$55. Please R.S.V.P. by July 10.

If you would like to make a donation for the raffle or auction, please contact Heidi at 414-529-2140.

The Polish Center of Wisconsin presents . . .

Mikołaj Dudkiewicz

Classical Guitarist

Sunday, August 2, 2009 • 2:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$5. Call 414-529-2140 to charge by phone or buy tickets at the Polish Center, 6941 S. 68th St., Franklin



Nineteen-year-old Mikołaj Dudkiewicz was born in Lublin, Poland, and began his musical studies at the age of seven. For the past twelve years he has studied under Kazimierz Szczebel, the artistic director of the International Guitar Festival held annually in Lublin. The winner of numerous awards and guitar competitions, Mikołaj has

taken master classes with many noted European and American classical guitarists and has performed in Germany and Lithuania, as well as Poland. This is his first American tour.

★ SAVE THE DATE ★

Polish Heritage Alliance

Volunteer Appreciation Party

Sunday, August 23, 2009

From the Executive Director's Desk

By Cindy Lemek

As summer approaches, we're all keeping very busy at the Polish Center. Polish Fest is just around the corner. Rentals of the building for weddings are booked for every weekend. The Garden Committee is hard at work sprucing up the grounds, and the staff has been cleaning, touching up the paint, and making minor repairs in the building.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of volunteers to help maintain the Polish Center and oversee the Polish Heritage Alliance. Our Board of Directors meets monthly to review financials, discuss committee work and set policies for the organization. Many other volunteers assist with upkeep of the grounds and building as well as assist with our fundraising events. Of course, many of our members and donors support us by attending our events throughout the year.

Maintaining a facility the size of the Polish Center with full-time and part-time staff to run all of the organization's operations is an expensive task. We have been fortunate that we haven't seen the current state of the economy make a significant impact on our fundraising, and we realize that not everyone is able to give at the same level as in the past. However, we do continue to have urgent needs to address as the building continues to age, and our plans for mission-related activities continue to grow. We hope that you will all continue to support us in one way or another.

Here are a few small and large ways to

help the Polish Heritage Alliance meet its fundraising goals for the year:

- **Renew your membership** - Our members are the lifeblood of our organization, and we hope you will renew your membership to continue receiving our newsletter and fliers, get discounts to various events, and have voting privileges at PHA membership meetings. If you aren't already a member, consider joining today, and if you are a member, urge your friends and family members to join by telling them about our activities and events.
- **Use your Roundy's Savers Club Card** - Just by doing your grocery shopping, you can help PHA. Just stop by the service counter at your local Pick 'N Save and ask to add our charity code (#619950) to your card. A percentage of your purchases will be donated to the Polish Heritage Alliance each time you shop at no cost to you.
- **Donate stock** - The Polish Heritage Alliance is able to accept donations of stocks. If you would like to make a stock donation, please call me to make the arrangements.
- **Planned giving** - As you evaluate your options in planning your estate, consider including a bequest to the PHA. Please contact me if you would like more information on planned giving.
- **Family Foundation** - Make a Family Foundation donation to have a family photo permanently displayed at the Polish Center. More than 250 donors have chosen to honor their family's Polish heritage with a photo on our

Family Foundation wall. For a donation of \$1,000, we will have your photograph copied and framed for our collection. The original photo will be returned to you. This is a wonderful gift idea that will honor the recipients for generations to come.

- **Attend our events** - We hold a wide array of events at the Polish Center, from fish fries and brunches to concerts and art exhibits to weekly bingo sessions. Join us at our events and enjoy all that we have to offer at the Polish Center.
- **Become a Life Member** - For a donation of \$2,500 you can become a Life Member of PHA. The payment can be made in one donation or arrangements can be made to spread the cost out over a few months or longer.
- **Donate raffle or auction items** - At many of our fundraising events we hold raffles or silent auctions. We need donations of all kinds to raise additional funds at our events including gift services for restaurants and services, jewelry, artwork, gift baskets, tickets to sporting events and cultural performances, and household items such as glassware, appliances, and more.

I hope you will take a moment to consider how you can help us fulfill our mission of preserving and promoting Polish heritage and culture. We truly appreciate all that each and every one of you do to support our work, and we hope we can rely on you to continue your generous support in the years ahead.

SMOKE-FREE

BINGO

Every
Wednesday Night

POLISH CENTER OF WISCONSIN
6941 S. 68th Street • 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 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

Catch Mushroom Madness!

On August 16, 2009, the Cultural Committee will bring Mushroom Madness to the Polish Center for the third year in a row. We will be partnering with the Wisconsin Mycological Society again to present this very popular event. 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.



We will be featuring some new recipes using mushrooms in the cooking demonstrations and will be selling an assortment of delicious foods in the Mushroom Café including portabella mushroom burgers and mushroom soup as well as 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. Admission to Mushroom Madness is \$3 for adults; children 12 and under are free. Seniors, PHA members and Mycological society members are \$2.

For more information, call 414-529-2140.

POLISH CENTER OF WISCONSIN



Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009 • 5 p.m.
Bonfire lighting at 7 p.m.

ADMISSION IS FREE

New for 2009 – A Bigos Cook-Off

Prepare your favorite bigos recipe and attendees will pick their favorite. More cook-off details will be available soon.

Join us as we sing Polish and English songs. Song sheets will be provided.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Call for details.

Please bring lawn chairs or blankets and a flashlight.

Please RSVP by September 14

June 19-20-21



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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