

Founded in 1979 as a non-profit organization to promote Polish Heritage through educational, cultural, charitable and social activities. PO Box 45438, Madison, WI 53744-5438 http://www.phcwi-madison.org Email: info@phcwi-madison.org and Facebook

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Everyone, Halloween is right around the corner as I type which means it's time to prepare for what looks to be a busy November. There are several events on tap.

First is the PHCWI's Christmas Bazaar which will again be at the West Side Club in Madison on Saturday, 5 November. I hope you can join us for food, crafts, music, and good company. November also brings good tidings for movie lovers. The Polish Film Festival in America takes place at various venues around Chicago from 4-20 November. Some of those films will make their way here to the Madison Polish Film Festival which is normally held the weekend prior to Thanksgiving. I expect to hear more about it soon. Lastly, Essential Killing, directed by Jerzy Skolimowski will be screening on 12 November as part of this semester's UW Cinematheque program.

Looking further ahead to December, Maciej Pisarsk, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, DC. will be here in Madison on the 1st to give a speech. Also, the PHCWI's Wigilia celebration will be held on 10 December. More info and a reservation form are enclosed in this month's newsletter.

Lastly, I want to express my thanks to the folks who organized and helped out with the PHCWI's Wisconsin Book Festival event with author Douglas Jacobson. Many thanks to Linda Ganski, Basia Pulz, Irene Swiggum, and Mary Schumacher who setup our displays and brought tasty treats for everyone to enjoy. A very hearty thanks must go to Rose Meinholz who organized the event in the first place. Although not a board member, Rose works tirelessly for the club helping to organize events, put the newsletter together, and a host of other things. Thank you Rosie!

John Benninghouse

Nov 5 Polish Bazaar - see inside

Dec 1 UW– Madison 4 pm Pyle Center (Rm121) 702 Langdon St. "The Polish Presidency of the EU: What it Means for Europe and Transatlantic Affairs"

SPEAKER: Maciej Pisarski is the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, DC, a post he has held since August 2010. Previously, he worked as the acting director of the Department of Strategy and Policy Planning in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw, Poland. Mr. Pisarski has spent a considerable portion of his professional career working on Polish-American relations, including his work as deputy director at the Department of the Americas, political officer at the Embassy of Poland in Washington, DC, and U.S. desk officer at the Foreign Ministry in Warsaw. Before entering foreign service, he worked at the Polish Agency for Foreign Investment as a research officer. Mr. Pisarski is a graduate of Warsaw University's History Department with a specialization in 20th century Polish-Jewish relations, and of the National Academy for Public Administration in Warsaw. He is a published author in Poland on U.S.-Polish relations, & on Polish-Jewish topics.

SPONSOR: The European Union Center of Excellence (EUCE), the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA)

<u>32nd Annual Polish Heritage Club</u> <u>Wigilia Sat. Dec. 10</u> 5 pm Social Hour, 6 pm Sharing of Opłatek, Dinner, Evening program, Turon & Star appearance, Santa, Kolędy, and desserts. <u>REQUIRED Reservations due Dec 2.</u> <u>For questions call John</u> Benninghouse (608) 442-5222.

Polish Related Events Madison & Area:

Nov 4 Fri	9 am PHCWI Breakfast Friends Monona Garden Restaurant 6501 Bridge Rd. Barb/Mike 238-9189
Nov 5 Sat	9am – 3pm PHCWI Christmas Bazaar West Side Club 437 County Rd M (Junction Rd)
Nov 9 Wed	7 pm PHCWI Book Group trip to Milwaukee - Katyn Massacre: Panel Discussion + Exhibit
Nov 12 Sat	7 pm Skolimowski's ESSENTIAL KILLING UW-Madison Cinemateque Vilas Hall 821 University Ave
Dec 1 Thur	4 pm "The Polish EU Presidency" Maciej Pisarsk CREECA sponsored Pyle Center 702 Langdon St.
Dec 10 Sat	PHCWI Wigilia at Zor Shrine Temple RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
Feb 16 Thur	4pm " Polish Writers' Diaries from Occupied Warsaw 1939-1945" 206 Ingraham Hall

Chicago:

Nov 1Thur7 pm Lira Singers Duet - "Wypominki"Polish All Souls Day ServiceNiles, IllinoisNov 26 Sat1 pm Lira Singers Quartet - Art Institute111 South Michigan AveNov 4-202011 PFFAPolish Film Festival in America www.pffamerica.com/The Polish Museum of America984 N. Milwaukee773)384-3352free parkingClosed on ThursdaysWednesdays10am-1pmGenealogy questions and/or methods. Library, Gift Shop, nearby Polish restaurant

Dec 4 Sun Lira Singers, Dancers & Symphony Orchestra Hall of Symphony Center

Milwaukee:



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MILWAUKEE Katyn Massacre: Panel Discussion Nov. 9 National Traveling Exhibit in Library Nov. 7-27

The UWM Libraries will host a panel discussion, "The Katyn Forest Massacre: The Crime, the Coverup, the Historical Legacy," on **Wednesday, November 9** at 7 **p.m.** in the fourth floor Conference Center of the Golda Meir Library, 2311 E. Hartford Ave.



Participants are:

Douglas W. Jacobson, author of *The Katyn Order: A Novel*;

Michael Mikos, Professor, UWM Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literature;

Neal Pease, Professor, UWM Dept. of History; and Donald Pienkos, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Political Science.

The discussion is in conjunction with a national traveling photographic exhibition,

"Katyn: Massacre, Politics, Morality," on display **November 7-27** in the 1st floor east wing of the Library. The exhibit recounts the execution of 21,857 Polish troops and civilians in the Katyn Forest by the Soviet KGB during World War II, and the decades-long suppression of the truth about the atrocity.

Created by Poland's Council for the Protection of the Memory of Struggle and Martyrdom, the exhibit debuted last May in the Rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington D.C. and has traveled to the Hoover Institute at Stanford University and the Buffalo NY Public Library.

The panel discussion and the exhibit are free and open to the public. For information call 414-229-6202.

Nov 18-20 WISCONSIN STATE FAIR PARK 68th Annual Holiday Folk Fair

8200 West Greenfield Avenue West Allis (414) 727-8840 http://www.folkfair.org/location.html



Explore the world of Food, Music, Dance and Arts. Watch the schedule for dancing by the Syrenka, Syrena, and Krakow Polish Dancers

Friday – EDUCATION DAY FOR 4TH THRU 8 GRADERSALL NATIONS THEATERWORLD CAFEINTERNATIONAL BAZAARMUSIC PAVILIONHERITAGE LANECOFFEE HOUSELIVING HISTORYAROUND THE WORLD IN 5K RUN/WALK

Nov 5 BAZAAR

Nov 5 The Polish Club Christmas Bazaar 9-3 The club's biggest event is at the West Side Club 437 County Rd M (Junction Rd) west of the Beltline -Mineral Point & Junction Roads. Tell family & friends! Free admission & parking, handicapped accessable.



**If you have a place to post the poster sent with many of the newsletters – church, grocery store, library, etc. we appreciate your help telling others about this event, and your club!

Come enjoy the beautiful Polish arts and crafts: *Wycinanki* (Polish paper-cutting art), holiday ornaments and decorations, amber jewelry, *Opłatek* (Christmas Wafer), imported toys, Polish Boleslawiec (bowl-eh-suave-ee-ets) Pottery, and much more.

There will be demonstrations for making:

Wianki (floral head wreaths) and guest participation at the *Wycinanki* table - create personal Christmas cards. See displays of Polish nativity sets (*Szopka*), and *choinkas* (Christmas trees).

Come and enjoy a Polish atmosphere to start your holiday shopping. Listen to Polish and English carols. Polish lunches, beverages and baked holiday goods will be for sale at the event.

(Supplies run out soon, every year we order more!)

Santa Claus visits with the children from 11am – 1 pm. Bring your cameras!

New this year.....

*For the raffle, artist &PHCWI member **Gloria Welniak** donated an octagonal table topper, 35" x 45" - original design using a traditional rail fence pattern, machine pieced & quilted, holiday-themed fabrics in teal, navy, cream and burgundy. She also made bookmarks made from Polish stamps, available in the BOOK DISPLAY. *Musician& PHCWI member **Walter Wartolec** and his display of concertinas, commentary and demonstrations. *The West Side Club has WI FI. We will provide one or more laptops, and several members who have worked on their family history will be available for helping others in the FAMILY HISTORY/GENEALOGY room. *See Videos of Baltic amber and Boleslawiec Pottery.

Dec 10 WIGILIA



Kolędy led by the Polish Choir at 2010 Wigilia

The Wigilia is the most traditional of our club's events. It is for club members, and you are welcome to invite friends and family. Again this year it is held at the <u>Zor</u> <u>Temple</u>, with food catered by Queen Anne's Catering, makers of the delicious Polish Plates at our Bazaar. Zor Temple is near West Towne Shopping Center at 575 Zor Shrine Place. <u>From the West Beltline:</u> EXIT 254 on Mineral Pt. Rd, toward West Towne 0.4 mi. R Donofrio Dr 0.2 mi - L onto W Towne Way 1st R onto Zor Shrine Pl A drop off area is available.

5 pm Social Hour, 6 pm sharing Opłatek, Dinner, the Turon & Star appearance, Santa's time with children, Kolędy & desserts. <u>Reservations must be received by Dec. 2</u> See the enclosed RESERVATION FORM. Please call John Benninghouse (608) 442-5222 for any questions.

We welcome helpers for planning the evening, preparing nametags, decorating and helping during the event! *Please bring along a small wrapped, name-labeled gift for your children to receive from Santa. *Because of catering policies, we will not be able to do our traditional cookies donated by club members. *Please check your newsletter label – If it does not say 2011, your dues for 2011 are still due, so please include your 2011 dues with your Wigilia meal reservations. (Dues are from Jan 1 to Dec 31.) If you like, this is a good time to include your 2012 dues. Again in 2012 the PHCWI Student Scholarship will be offered for after High School studies, and donations are welcome.

The PHCWI has followed the tradition of a 12-course Wigilia. **2010 MENU:**

Pickled Herring in Sour Cream *Śledzie marynowane* Rye Bread *Chleb żytni* Deviled Eggs *Jaja na Twardo* Dill Pickles *Ogórki*Creamy Cucumber Salad *Mizeria* Pickled Beets with Horseradish *Ćwikła z Chrzanem* Clear Beet Soup *Barszcz Pierogi* Baked Cod with Dill Cream Sauce *Dorsz* Oven Baked Red Potatoes *Ziemniaki Pieczone* Green Beans with Almonds *Fasola po Polsku* Orange Poppy seed Cake *Deser Children's Menu:* Deep Fried Cod *Kotlety z* French Fries Frytki

See you at the Wigilia!

CLUB AND MEMBER NEWS

SUNSHINE CORNER! Stoneczny Kącik



Norm Revolinski

Butch Luick



"A few words of appreciation for all the work that people donate to the club. I took these photos after several long days of putting our new office/storage site into a workable order. That day included Butch's purchase of locked cabinet parts. The beautiful finished product is shown in the photo. Just one of several large tasks accomplished! Thank you." - *Marie Revolinski*



Barb Lomperski

OLD WORLD WI Our planned Oct 15 tour of the gardens with author Marcia Carmichael was canceled due to not meeting the money goal needed for a group tour. But we are planning for next year when OWW plans an August Polish Heritage Day/Weekend.

On Oct. 22 at the WI BOOK FESTIVAL, Marcia passed around bouquets of herbs and flowers, and explained how our ancestors used plants to connect with home, and to pass on traditions. Consider her book for a beautiful Christmas gift! It is available from the WI Histori-



cal Society and Amazon.com. From the WI STATE JOURNAL story: "Carmichael said the best cooks were Polish immigrants. 'They had the most interesting food, and the most variety. In Europe, they had the influences of France and Italy on their cooking."

Oct 22 BOOK FESTIVAL - THE KATYN ORDER

Over 50 people attended Doug Jacobson's reading and good discussion. Our club nominated him, and the event was co-sponsored by the Veteran's Museum. Thank you to **John Benninghouse, Linda Ganski, Rose Meinholz, Basia Pulz, Irene Swiggum, and Mary Schumacher** for making treats & helping with the event and display.

Doug met a man in a wheelchair at one of his talks. His brother had died in the Katyn Forest, and he had his brother's condemnation papers. The man in the wheelchair had MS, the special charity to which Doug's publisher is donating to during 2011.



KATYN ORDER BOOKS SALES TO HELP WISCON-SIN FAMILIES WITH MS More than 10,000 people in Wisconsin have been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, the most of any state in the country.THE KATYN ORDER is a story about ordinary people who find the courage and inner strength to overcome the catastrophe of wartime. The same courage and inner strength that people fighting MS – and their family members – have to find every day of their lives. The cost of medical care can be over-whelming and can often prevent the children in these families from going to college.

THE AUTHOR AND PUBLISHER OF THE KATYN ODER HAVE COLLABORATED TO HELP THESE KIDS. **DURING 2011, \$5 OF EVERY COPY OF THE KATYN ORDER SOLD IN WISCONSIN WILL BE DONATED TO THE MS SCHOLARSHIP FUND.** YOU CAN HELP US HELP THESE KIDS . <u>ORDER YOUR COPY DIRECT FROM THE</u> <u>PUBLISHER http://www.mcbooks.com</u>

See website Article 15 – Christmas in Katyn http://douglaswjacobson.com/ His next listed reading & book signing is 7 pm January 25 Elm Grove Library Elm Grove, WI

The Associated Press Friday, Oct. 21, 2011 | 9:57 a.m. "Moscow to declare Katyn massacre victims innocent ...of a World War II-era massacre that continues to strain relations with Poland Russia's foreign policy chief announced Friday...About 2,000 Polish officers and other prisoners were executed by Soviet secret police ...on charges they were enemies of the Soviet state."

GETTING TO KNOW YOU – Jan Rapacz

by Judith Rapacz



Jan after mushroom collecting in his home town of Lubien

Jan Rapacz was born in Lubien, Poland on June 21, 1928, a small town halfway between Krakow and Zakopane. His father was a progressive farmer, breeding horses, raising livestock including cattle, pigs, sheep and chickens. They planted grain, sugar beets and had an orchard with apple, pear and plum trees. He is the oldest of five sons - the only one surviving today. His mother was taken to a Nazi camp because she was trying to hold onto their last cow that fed their family and their neighbors. In 1944 she died of tuberculosis. Jan lost his youngest brother in infancy to the same disease.

He recalls a playful childhood before the war, enjoying many hours of climbing his favorite Szczebel Mountain. which is part of the surrounding Beskid mountain region. On September 1, 1939, on the same day World War II started, Jan entered the fourth grade at the age of eleven. This ended his education for the following five years. His father, a proud Pole, refused to sign the Volksdeutche list to align and sign up with the German army. However, since he was a progressive and productive farmer, his life was spared, but he (including Jan) had to work for the Germans, supplying them with food and cutting logs in the nearby forest. Nearly every day Jan and his father went to the forest to cut down large trees that they delivered to the train station in Mszana Dolna. Jan would climb fifty foot trees to cut off branches and to separate them from the branches of other trees. This was done to be certain that the tree would not get tangled with the other trees, but fall in the proper spot. Their daily ration of food was bread, a piece of bacon and water from the creek. As the war continued and more Polish men were killed, the German army started to capture young Polish boys for work in Germany. At night the forest became Jan's safety net so he would not be caught by the Germans. He recalls one night he took his sheepskin and went into the woods to settle down under a soft needled larch tree. Jan woke up when something touched him, and he ran into the woods fearing that a German soldier had found him, but was relieved to find it was only a doe that wanted to settle in the same spot.

When WW II ended Jan was seventeen years old. He read and wrote only a little Polish during the war, mostly at night by candles or moonlight. When he attempted to go to school in Myślenice, the Director of the school told his father that he should take Jan home and make a shepherd of him. But Jan was determined to be educated and quickly completed high school. He and ten of his classmates were drafted into the army. There he became a second lieutenant and taught draftees physics, such as a method to calculate the velocity of a rocket. While in the army he became very sick with an acute sinus infection and was hospitalized for 2.5 months, which allowed him some time to read books and often assist in the laboratory.

At twenty-two years of age, this army veteran entered the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, although school was already in session. Thirty six students competed for three entrance openings. Jan was accepted, perhaps because he was able to answer all the questions of the examining professor. He wanted to study forestry, but that department in Krakow was closed, so he decided on biology. His father found him a room at 1 Warszawa (Warsaw) Street, located next door to the ancient St. Florian's Church.

Jan studied under Professor Teodor Marchlewski, an expert on Genetics, breeding of farm animals and conservation of genetic resources. His mentor, Professor Jacobiec, suggested he also study immunology at the Selesian School of Medicine with Dr. Ludwig Hirshfeld. There in 1959, he earned his doctorate degree. His paper on the Heredity of Rabbit Gamma Globulin iso –antigens (Acta Genetica et Statistica, Basel 1962) set the stage for his research on genetic variations of antigens in blood groups and other protein systems. These studies included low density lipoprotein (LDL or bad cholesterol) which is the cholesterol transport protein.

In 1961, the University of Wisconsin invited Jan to initiate blood work in mink. After a two -year postdoctorate fellowship, he returned to Krakow and started his own laboratory in Balice (near Krakow) and became the Director of the Immunogenetics Laboratory. In 1965 he won an international competitive award on the Exploration of the Sea at La Jolla, California. The research involved developing genetic markers to differentiate between three species of tuna, to study their migration patterns. This project would be carried out on submarines. Because the study involved the U.S. Navy, he was asked to leave (defect) to the USA since the USSR would be interested in this knowledge if he returned to Poland. He declined the offer. However in 1966, he returned to Madison after receiving an invitation from the Department of Genetics at the University of Wisconsin to be a visiting professor, thereby avoiding embarrassment to the US State Department as they had already issued Jan a visa! He went back to Poland in 1968, resuming his position as Director of the Immunogenetics Laboratory, and soon he realized his research could not progress under the constant

harassment of the Communist Party (KGB). Jan decided to apply for a passport through his institute to attend a conference in Ireland. It was denied. He then applied for a private passport directly from Warsaw, and received it. Jan left for Switzerland in September of 1969. He remained there working with Professor Butler at the Swiss Red Cross in Bern until he left for the USA in 1970.

His research included many topics of genetic susceptibility and/or resistance to disease. One of the most complex systems involved the identification of over thirty variations (mutations) in the lipoprotein gene of pigs. Initially it was a puzzle to make sense of all the patterns obtained by testing many populations of pigs from Europe, Africa and Asia. One night, while attending a concert conducted by Yehudi Menuhin, he jumped up and said "I've got it"!

Jan's hypothesis is that there is a conserved part of a gene common to all species and over thousands of year's results in changes in the protein molecule. These changes can be traced in a genealogical tree by comparing lipoprotein types from many human populations and also that of apes. Identification of the ancestral haplotype for apolipoprotien B suggests the African origin of Homo sapiens and traces their subsequent migration to Europe and the Pacific (Proceedings of the National Academy of Science USA 1991).

In May 1991, Jan received an Honorary Doctorate Degree at the Auli Collegium Novum of the Jagiellonien University. This important Honor was given for Jan Rapacz's research and great understanding of the complexity of genetics and immunology.





Addressing the Faculty at Agricultural University in Krakow.



Jan and Judith Rapacz are two of the founding members of the PHCWI. They are active members and rarely miss any club activity. Judith shares her great baking know-ledge, and Jan led the Polish choir for many years. Their other interests were skiing, dancing, music, and walking in the woods (especially in Poland). Since retirement, they have become avid orchid growers. Their favorite PHCWI activity is the Wigilia.

Jan and Judith are now in the process of selling their home. They are moving to be closer to their families in Europe during the summer, and to spend the winters in the warmth of Florida. We wish this fun loving, joyful couple a happy peaceful retirement. Travel safely and please update us on your future adventures. You will be missed!

*Thank you to Jan and Judith for sharing this story, and to Marie Revolinski for all her help. A future newsletter will have Jan's story about Pope John Paul.

CLUB AND MEMBER NEWS

Call for Nominations!

The PHCWI Board of Directors has several Director positions open for the 2012-13 term. Call Mary Schumacher (608) 215-4747 for information, or to nominate yourself or someone else. Directors organize our annual events and promote the club's Purposes and Objectives. A Director must be a member in good standing, with all dues paid up to date. Elections are held at the Annual Meeting at the end of Jan. *Thank you for helping our club*!

Nov 4 Fri 9 am Breakfast Friends <u>Monona Garden</u> <u>Restaurant</u> 6501 Bridge Rd. Please call Barb/ & Mike Lomperski if any ? or if you need a ride. 238-9189. **Nov 9 PHCWI Book Group** postponed until January so members can attend the Nov 9 Milwaukee Katyn panel discussion and see the current exhibit. See pg. 2

Julie Brania reports: 'I went to the Loves Park (Rockford) Valli Produce grocery store that had a great selection of jarred/canned/candy/tea/vodka/juice, etc. No meats (well I didn't really look), but I was really happy with what I found. It was extra nice because I didn't have to drive all the way into Chicago for this stuff, it took no more than an hour and it wasn't crowded, traffic is never bad, and it's really easy to get to off the Interstate." www.valliproduce.com/index.jsp Has anyone been to the Rockford Polish Deli?

PHCWI Poland Trip 2012

Butch Luick reports the committee "is planning on a 14 day tour in early Sept. including three major stops in Warsaw, Gdansk, and Cracow. There will be side tours from these 3 locations and we are looking at keeping the cost under \$4000.00 per person. We are also looking for a minimum of 10 people to go on the tour and a better rate if we can get more."

PAST EVENTS

STEVENS POINT Sept 23-4 Local History and Historic Preservation Conference - WI Historical Society

by Linda Ganski, PHCWI member The Fri. night speaker, James P. Leary, a Professor of Folklore at UW-Madison spoke on "Poles, Polka, Pluralism and Wisconsin



Culture Wars". He told about Portage Co. and southern Marathon counties as the oldest (1857) and largest rural Polish settlement in the country. Of course, he talked about prejudice against Poles (as with other immigrant groups) because of their religion, "clannish-ness", etc. He stated that in the 60s and 70s, as Poles gained more political power, there was the emergence of "polack" jokes. Ethnographers and others thought the polka, etc. would die out as Poles became integrated into the larger American society. Finally, he introduced the polka band playing that night to show the pluralism of American culture. [Norm Dombrowski and The Happy Notes]

Saturday's outing was a tour of mainly the roadside shrines in the Stevens Point area, and ended at the cemetery at Sacred Heart Church in Polonia. (My mother's church for a lot of generations, so I got to visit my dad's grave). Lots of history on Polonia, the church's "war" against taverns, arson, fires, etc. The Saturday presentation was by Donna Zimmerman, [UW-Stevens Point] & Ron Zimmerman [Dir. of the Schmeeckle Reserve].

CHICAGO Oct 2 Chopin Theater, Wicker Park

At the conclusion of the "After Milosz" Festival of Polish Poetry, the FOUND IN TRANSLATION AWARD was presented to Clare Cavanagh (formerly of UW-Madison) and Stanislaw Baranczak for their translation of Nobel Prize-winning poet, Wislawa Szymborska's collection, *Here* (2010).

MILWAUKEE Oct 16 Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist from the event announcement.....

Dozynki - Polish Harvest Celebration "inaugurates a once yearly celebration of a different cultural heritage." A traditional harvest blessing and celebration began in the Cathedral Prayer Garden with a candlelight procession, prayers and hymns in Polish to honor Our Lady of Czestochowa. Then guests enjoyed "dancers in authentic costumes, music & a bountiful buffet of harvest themed food and drink prepared from old world family recipes. ...Polish sausage, stuffed cabbage rolls, Hunter's Stew, herring, dill pickle soup, pierogis, deviled eggs, Polish Cheese Cake, butter horns, and Polish Apple Cake. Toast the harvest with honey mead and a taste of beer!" A special exhibit of contemporary and traditional Polish art (paper cuttings, crystal, amber, pottery, wood carvings and religious heirlooms) was displayed, and a performance of the music of Chopin in the Cathedral concluded the event.

MILWAUKEE Oct 19 at Discovery World Dava Sobel read from her latest book A More Perfect Heaven: How Copernicus Revolutionized the Cosmos. The event included a reading from her play And the Sun Stood Still.

MOVIES

Oct. 7 - 16 Warsaw Film Festival

ROSE / RÓŻA (2011) won the Grand Prix. FROM THE FILM SYNOPSIS: "In the years following the Second



World War, the indigenous inhabitants of the Mazurian lakes District became second class citizens to the new authorities. Through the eyes of a Polish Army officer, we follow the struggles of a nation doomed to annihilation by two competing nationalisms. It would seem that these hard times would leave no room for love, but love comes, and brings hope."

It is the story of the Mazurians, German-speaking Lutherans, who lived in East Prussia until the Potsdam Conference, when that borderland became part of Poland. Poles were resettled in the area, and Mazurians had to go through "national verification" to prove their ethnicity.

Robert Wieckiewicz, the international jury's choice for its Special Jury Award as best actor " was very popular with the audience at the awards ceremony." He won for COURAGE / WYMYK about brothers who witness a helpless girl being mugged on a train. Wieckiewicz also stars in IN DARKNESS / WCIEMNOSCI dir. Agnieszka Holland which will be Poland's 2012 Oscar submission. It is based on the 1991 book by Robert Marshall, "*In the Sewers of Lvov*" about a group of Jewish escapees in 1943. (The Madison Public Library has a copy.) *See* Eva Stachniak *review in the Fall 2011 Cosmoploitian Review* http://cosmopolitanreview.com/

Oct 11 HBO Films will produce *Behind the Candelabra,* about Wladziu Valentino Liberace (born 1892 in West Allis, WI). Production will start in the summer of 2012 in Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Palm Springs. Michael Douglas and Matt Damon star.

See http://www.liberace.org/ for info about the Las Vegas Liberace Foundation and Museum (closed 2010).

Nov 4-20 23rd Polish Film Festival in America www.pffamerica.com/



"The world's most

extensive annual programming which promotes Polish cinema.... diverse array of over 70 of the finest features, documentaries and shorts, as well as dozens of Polish filmmakers from around the globe."

RÓŻA, WCIEMNOSCI, and 1920 BITWA WARSZAWSKA dir. Jerzy Hoffman [2011, 110'] are among the films this year.

<u>UW – Madison</u> cinematheque

4070 Vilas Hall * 821 University Avenue * Madison, WI * 53706 7 pm Nov 12 Premiere Showcase – Essential Killing

Poland/Norway/Ireland/Hungary, 2010, 35mm, 83 min.



"Vincent Gallo gives a mesmerizing performance as a hunted jihadist in this visceral survival adventure by Polish master Skolimowski. Captured after a deadly firefight in what resembles the Afghan outback, he manages an escape while being shipped to Europe. Alone in the harsh, snow-bound wilderness and surrounded by potential enemies, his

flight to nowhere takes on an existential significance."

Essential Killing (all English spoken) was a controversial winner of many awards at the 2011 Polish Film Festival in Gdyńia. Director Jerzy Skolimowski graduated in ethnology, literature and history from Warsaw University in 1959, and then from Lódz Film Academy in directing. "As a poet my mind is trained along the path of poetic associations - I'm not afraid to wander away from direct narrative - I feel safe with a story that tempts you to believe or disbelieve." - Jerzy Skolimowski

The Poish Heritage Club of WI, Inc., Madison Group PO Box 45438 Madison, WI 53744-5438

2011 PHCWI MEMBERSHIP -for yourself &/or as a gift membership

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Address
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PLEASE EMAIL MY 10/Year NEWSLETTER
Membership is from Jan 1 to Dec 31.
Membership for: SELF GIFT
INDIVIDUAL \$10 FAMILY \$20
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