



Founded in 1979 as a non-profit organization to promote Polish Heritage through educational, cultural, charitable and social activities.  
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*LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT*

Dear PHC Members,  
I hope everyone had a fine start to 2012. I began the new year raising a toast with some fine Polish beer brewed by the Okocim brewery in Brzesko.

Let me get an erratum out of the way first. In December's newsletter I mistakenly stated that 501(c)4 status would make the club exempt from sales tax. Look for an upcoming article in the newsletter which will explain just what this new non-profit status means to the PHCWI.

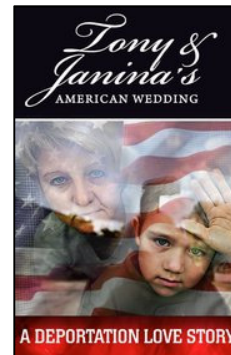
Please join us on the 21<sup>st</sup> of this month for a screening of *Tony and Janina's American Wedding* at the Capital Lakes Retirement Community at 7PM. In lieu of attempting to summarize how the club fared last year I shall wait until the Annual Meeting at the WI Community Bank's Community Room on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Please do attend as I and other board members will give 2011 a thorough retrospective.

The Annual Meeting also brings new board members and so this will be my last letter to you as PHCWI president. It has been an honor and a pleasure serving the club as its president. For my farewell I will implore members who have remained in the background to come out of the woodwork. The club is always improved when new people join but also when people who have shied away from becoming involved change their minds. So in 2012 please consider volunteering at an event, being on a committee, or even becoming a board member. New faces bring new energy, ideas, and talents which make the club a better organization for everyone.

*John Benninghouse*

***Our sympathies to the family of Leon Luick, past PHCWI President, who passed away Jan 7 at the Veteran's Home in King. A story will be in the February Newsletter.***

Jan 21 Sat. at 7 pm **MADISON PREMIERE**  
**Tony and Janina's** (2010) 81 min.  
**American Wedding** Dir. Ruth Leitman



**Capitol Lakes Retirement Center,  
333 W. Main St.**

Free screening of the documentary, a feature length film that gets to the heart of the broken, red tape ridden U.S. immigration system.

“After 18 years in America, Janina is deported back to Poland, taking their 6 year old son Brian with her. Set on the backdrop of the Chicago political scene, this film follows the Wasilewski's 3-year struggle to be reunited, as their Senator Barack Obama rises to the Presidency. With a fresh perspective on the immigration conversation, this film tells the untold human rights story of Post-9/11, that every undocumented immigrant in America faces today, with the power to open the conversation for change.”

Oct. 2010 World premiere Chicago International Film Festival

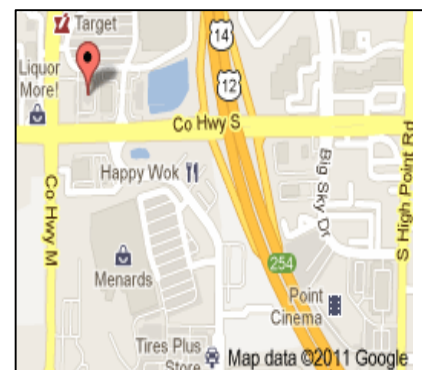
Dec. 2011 Plus Camerimage Film Festival in Bydgoszcz, Poland

Jan 29 at 11 am

**ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS**

WI Community Bank 8240 Mineral Pt. Rd

\*see candidate profile in this newsletter\*



FROM THE WEST BELTLINE:  
Exit onto Mineral Pt. toward Junction Rd and the Shopping Center with Target.  
Turn RIGHT on Junction Rd & into the bank parking lot. **We hope to see you there!**

## 2012 Polish Related Events Madison & Area:

UW-Madison Polish Polish Students "*Polski Stół*" Elliot Bartz (650) 714-9890 <https://win.wisc.edu/organization/psa>

**First Fridays 9 am PHCWI Breakfast Friends Monona Garden Restaurant 6501 Bridge Rd. (608) 238-9189**

**Jan 11 Wed 7 pm PHCWI Book Group *1944 Warsaw Rising at Kasia's* 836-8632 3209 Highland Ct. Middleton**

**Jan 21 Sat 7 pm *Tony & Janina's American Wedding* Capital Lakes Retirement 333 W. Main St.**

**Jan 29 Sun PHCWI Annual Meeting and Elections WI Community Bank 8240 Mineral Pt. Rd**

Feb 16 Thur 4pm "... *Polish Writers' Diaries from Occupied Warsaw 1939-1945*" CREECA 206 Ingraham Hall

**Feb 21 Tue Pączki Day**

Mar 3 Sat **PHCWI sale at International Festival at Overture Center**

Mar 7-28 W 7:30-8:30 pm *The other Europe: sorting out the Slavic dimensions* UW- Continuing Studies 702 Langdon

Mar 29 Thur 4-5:30 pm "*The Wawel Incident of 1937: Church, State, and Nation in Interwar Poland*" Neal Pease CREECA

**Apr 1 Sun Monona PHCWI Spring Festival Immaculate Heart of Mary School**

Apr 12 Thur 4-5:30 "*Translating Polish Literature into English: A History*" Michael Mikos CREECA

Apr 19 Thur 4-5:30 "... *The Politics of Family Policy in Hungary, Poland, and Romania*" Tomasz Ingot CREECA

May 12 Sat Stevens Point 20th Annual Portage County Cultural Festival

June 28 Thur 1-2 pm *22 Britannia Road* Book Discussion at Sequoia Library 4340 Tokay Blvd.

July UW Memorial Library (Special Collections) Solidarity exhibit

July 19-22 Pulaski, WI Polka Fest

July 13-21 Madison's Burkhalter Tours *The Jewels of Poland* (800) 556-9286

**July 22 Sun PHCWI Annual Picnic Elver Park**

Aug 18 Sat Eagle, WI Old World Wisconsin Polish Heritage Festival

**September PHCWI Trip to Poland**

Sept 14-15 Stevens Point Harvest Festival *Dozynki*

## Chicago:

Apr 21 Sat Batavia Fermi Lab 8pm *Manya: A Living History of Marie Curie* (630) 840-2787

May 5 Sat Columbus Drive Polish Constitution Day Parade to celebrate *Trzeciego Maja Day*

Sept F-M Copernicus Foundation *Taste of Polonia* Labor Day Weekend - music on 5 stages, Mass, arts & crafts

Polish Museum of America 984 N. Milwaukee Ave tel. (773) 384-3352 [www.polishmuseumofamerica.org](http://www.polishmuseumofamerica.org)

## Milwaukee:

Mar 25 11-2pm POLANKI's Pierogi Festival Polish Center of WI [www.polanki.org](http://www.polanki.org)

June 15-17 Polish Fest Summerfest Grounds

October POLANKI'S Soup Festival Norway House

Nov 16-18 Holiday Folk Fair WI State Fair Park

**Sat - Jan 14 524 S. Layton Blvd 9 AM – 4 PM \$5 - \$6.50**

**CELEBRATE MILWAUKEE'S RICH POLISH HERITAGE AT THE DOMES**



### POLISH FOLK DANCING \*

(11:00 am) - **St. Maximilian Kolbe Polish Saturday School Children's Choir**  
(1:00 pm) – **Syrena & Syrenka Polish Folk Dance Ensembles**



### FOLK ART DEMONSTRATIONS

Ceramic Pottery by Jean Smaglik Wells  
Pisanki (Polish Easter Eggs) by Barbara Godlewska  
Polish Santas (Polish-Style St. Nick) by Robb Neureuther of Perennial Pottery  
Wianki (Polish Head Wreaths) by Kathy Wieczorek  
Wycinanki (Polish Paper Cutting) by Ryszarda Klim and Bernie Jendrzejczak



**DELICIOUS POLISH FOOD!** from Crocus Restaurant



### SHOP THE POLISH IMPORTS BOUTIQUE from POLANKI

Boleslawiec Pottery, Glass & Straw Ornaments, Wooden Boxes,  
Polish Dolls, Amber Jewelry, Gifts & Much More!

**PLUS CRAFTS FOR THE CHILDREN AND POLISH COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS\***

(10:00 am) - **Cooking with Mary Ellen DeVito: *Naleśniki (Polish crêpes)***

(11:45 am) - **Cooking with Mary Ellen DeVito: *Zupy (Polish soups)*** \*Please note: Subject to change

## 2011 WIGILIA *photos by Janice Czynson*

Our 2011 Wigilia began with the sharing of *oplatek*, one of the oldest and most cherished Polish traditions. In a private home, this is normally done by the head of house and his wife, then proceeding to each family member & guests, giving good wishes or asking for forgiveness.



*Tomasz Borowiecki explained the oplatek tradition, Julie Brania and Mary Schumacher did the demonstration. Best wishes to Julie & Mary on their moves from Madison!*



This year at the Wigilia we had an exceptional number of families with two or three generations in attendance with tables of five, six, and as many as seven people. **Phil and Marcia Flannery** brought their granddaughter Flannery and her friend Natalie. **Walter Chmielewski** was the host for his daughter Stefanie, her husband Gordon, and grandsons Nick and Matt. **Frederick and Carol Janecek** came with their group of John, Steph, Jerry and Kathy. Family members Nate, Zack and wife Angie accompanied parents **Butch and Dorie Luick**. **Robert and Linda Kris** attended with Jane, Jeffrey, Laura, and baby Matthew. **Jersey Brania** invited daughter Julie, sons Michael and Robert, daughter-in-law Denise. Grandchildren Claire, Carter, and baby Cassidy made up the rest of this table. **John Zwadzick** was accompanied by son Zack, daughter Raina with her husband Art Haralampopoulos, and Lily Radivojevich.



**Turon and Star** carried by **Natalie Tack & Flannery Raabe** The children make Wigilia a meaningful reminder for the adults of their past experiences, and begin to make Polish traditions memories for the young ones. For those of you who brought young children, we are thankful. And thank you to those who brought guests of other ethnic persuasion to share in our Polish traditions.

The traditional evening, one course at a time, began with deviled eggs, dill pickles, cucumber salad, pickled herring, barszcz, rye bread, green beans, red potatoes, and baked cod. We finished our Wigilia meal with a chocolate torte and coffee. All was catered by our good friends Bill Berg and crew from Queen Anne's Catering. As we all mellowed out, singing Christmas carols *kolady* in Polish and English began with **Tom Wosikowski**, long time PHCWI musician leading the Polish Choir. Earlier, Tom got the evening started off on a warm note playing carols on the piano as guests arrived. They enjoyed a beautiful display of Polish photo albums, main-tained by **Don Wesolowski**. Our Wigilia and club displays were set up by **Linda Cagle, Pat Leary, Barb Lomperski, Rose Meinholz, Basia Pulz & Mary Schumacher**. **Janice Czynson and Crystal Hyslop** organized the name-tags and set up the reception area The Polish Pottery table setting for the absent guest was shared by **Gerald and Jane Dunn**.



**The Jerzey Brania family** brought their Szopka, a tradition that dates to the 13th century in Krakowk. The designs of szopkas are a combination of more than one architect form representing the Nativity, incorporating spires and domes they make a unique design of wonderment.

Thank you to **Basia Pulz** for again sharing her red *Wesolych Świąt* tree sign & organizing the door prizes. **Tadziu Mianowski, door-prize ornament & Basia**.



**Michael Schumacher**, our volunteer master of ceremonies, was into Santa's toy bag and found some good jokes to share during the evening. This year Santa had an especially good time, made us laugh, and brought his lovely wife Dorie and family. Nice to meet them, Santa.

*Claire & Cassidy Brania with Santa.*



For many years our club tradition has included the Zosia, the doll near the entrance. She was donated by Sue Fatupaito (club member & Marie Revolinski's daughter) after closing her business making & selling children's play costumes. For our 2010 Bazaar, Barb Lomperski gave Zosia a new, updated costume. And after the Bazaar, Sue and her family volunteered to remake the Star and the Turon – they did a beautiful job.



*A heartfelt thank you to all who contribute to making a memorable evening.* - Mike and Barbara Lomperski

## CLUB AND MEMBER NEWS

### Jan 11 Book Group 7 pm Warsaw 1944

**Kasia Krzyzostaniak** is hostess 3209 Highland Ct, Middleton (608) 836-8632 for a discussion about the 1944 Warsaw Rising from a variety of sources.

see WARSAW RISING <http://www.warsawuprising.com/>  
Our South Central Library System has these books.....

Bialoszewski, Miron - *A memoir of the Warsaw Uprising*  
Ciechanowski, Jan - *The Warsaw Rising of 1944*

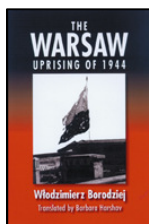
Davies, Norman - *Rising '44 : the battle for Warsaw*

Jacobson, Douglas - *The Katyn Order : a novel (2011)*

Zawodny, J. K. - *Nothing but honour (1978)*

from our club's website: **Warsaw Uprising**

[www.warsawuprising.com](http://www.warsawuprising.com) "Let me introduce myself: I am Witold Kiezun Jr., a Polish-American born & educated in Warsaw and living for over 20 years in San Diego, CA. Last year, after visiting my aging parents in Warsaw, I have realized that so many incredible WWII stories of people of their generation might not be pre-served and thus will never be told. This inspired me into creating an English language website dedicated to the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. Since the scope of this site is constantly growing, I am looking for volunteers to help me translate documents and memoirs (Polish--English), do research, digitize material, etc. ... I always welcome historical, language, and technical critique of the website material. ...I am also working on a website about efforts to save Polish Jews."



Available from UW Press:

#### **The Warsaw Uprising of 1944**

by Włodzimierz Borodziej

trans. by Barbara Harshav pub. 2006

"The most objective recounting yet of the ill-fated 1944 Warsaw Uprising of Polish resistance fighters."—Focus

### Doug Jacobson's book THE KATYN ORDER

begins on 5 Aug 1944 in Warsaw's City Center:

"The German war machine is in retreat as the Russians advance. In Warsaw, Resistance fighters rise up against their Nazi occupiers, but the Germans retaliate, ruthlessly leveling the once-beautiful city. American Adam Nowak has been dropped into Poland by British intelligence as an assassin & Resistance fighter. During the Warsaw Uprising he meets Natalia, a covert operative who has lost everything—just as he has."



Doug will be giving presentations:

Jan 7 2PM Polish American

Historical Association - Chicago

Jan 14 10 AM Gesu Book Club Milwaukee

Jan 25 7 PM Elm Grove, WI Library

Thank you to the UW-Milwaukee Libraries, the

WI State Division of the Polish American Congress, and Doug Jacobson for sponsorship of the national traveling photographic exhibition, "**Katyn: Massacre, Politics, Morality**" last November. An audio recording of the Nov 9<sup>th</sup> panel discussion "Forest Massacre: The Crime, the Coverup, the Historical Legacy" is available at UWM's Library: [http://www4.uwm.edu/libraries/News/katyn\\_panel\\_audio.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/libraries/News/katyn_panel_audio.cfm)

## Genealogy Corner by Joanna Pasowicz

Last newsletter we told you how to get started. Now comes the continue on part. There are several ways to continue. If the marriages took place in a local Church, you can usually go to the Church and get the record for a nominal fee, same for Baptismal Certificates. The names of the Godparents should be noted in the record, as that sometimes leads to other related families.

Look in your area for a LDS Family Library. You can get the Church Records from the Churches in foreign countries. If you know the area you need they will be able to help you. Another place to look would be Ellis Island, the port of Immigration. If you are near a University, you should call them and ask what records are available for genealogy work, census records are a gold mine provided you have the cities and states that they lived in.

I have used [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) over the years, but I have been unable to retrieve a lot of information. I have had better luck with [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org), an off shoot of Ancestry. [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org)'s records go back to 1558 Germany, which includes Poland. When you get into the records, you will see *Prussia, Germany* as a place of birth. That would be the area of Poland that was under German Rule in the partition – it starts around Poznan, goes north to the Baltic, & from Gdansk west to the Oder river. The area from Gdansk west to Kartusy and north to Puch and the Baltic is known as *Kashubia*. The area known as *Silesia* was under Austrian rule and the south eastern part of Poland was under Russian rule. So if you find those countries in the records, yet you know the family is Polish, use Poland and annotate the ruling country.

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If you have any questions, contact me at [japaso@tds.net](mailto:japaso@tds.net) or (608) 848-4892. I will answer them in the next newsletter. If you need immediate answers, just let me know.

**Family History Centers** are branch facilities of the Salt Lake City Family History Library. Everyone is welcome to use.....  
[Madison WI Family History Center](http://Madison WI Family History Center) – [4505 Regent St](http://4505 Regent St) (608) 233-9474 or 358-4932 Since September, family history records, microfilm or micro-fiche are all ordered on-line. <https://www.familysearch.org/films/>

**Sarah White's Memoir Writing:** (608) 347-7329

<http://www.whitesarah.com/news.html>

1/12 South Madison: Meets for 6 Thursday evenings,

5:50-7:50pm (No class 2/2.) Goodman South Madison Branch Library, 2222 South Park St. Free.

2/22 near Hilldale: Meets for 8 Monday lunchtimes,

11:00-12:50. (No class 3/7.) Brown bag lunches welcome Westside Senior Center, 602 Sawyer Terrace. \$40.

2/29 UW Memorial Union Mini-Course #1450.401 6-9pm

\$24.50(Students/U.Mem) \$34.50(Fac/Staff)

**Sherry Lloyd's Genealogy**

4/10-24 UW M Union Mini-Course #4740.501 6-8pm

"Interested in discovering your family's history? We will look at how to begin genealogy, what resources are available, how to keep track of your information and genealogy standards. You will learn how to find information on the Internet as well as the large amount of information available at your local libraries. Emphasis will be on using free computer programs & Internet \$44.50(Student/U.Mem) \$54.50(Fac/Staff) 3 Meetings



**SUNSHINE CORNER! *Słoneczny Kącik*  
Sto lat!**

1/10 Rose Meinholz	1/20 John Sparks
1/11 Phil Flannery	1/24 Michael Schumacher
1/17 Amy Bourne	1/25 Katherine Blynn

**Diane Michalski Turner** *PHCWI member grew up on the NW of Chicago, in the Belmont and Central neighborhood, as a member of St. Ladislaus parish. Thank you, Diane for permission to print your WI STATE JOURNAL 12/13 letter...*

If Wisconsin's new "castle doctrine" existed in 1958, my godfather might have died young. My parents purchased a house in the winter, and relatives were coming by to congratulate them and see it. Our house and the one next door appeared so much alike under the ice and snow covering the front yards, porches and gangways — what Chicagoans called the spaces between houses — that my godfather mistook the neighbor's house for ours.

He thought he had gone to the correct back door, walked up the steps and entered the kitchen. Not recognizing our neighbors, he walked through the house (we always thought that, in his suit & overcoat, he carried himself as either a plainclothes policeman or FBI agent), opened the front door, walked down the steps, down the sidewalk, up the gangway to our house, opened the back door, and came into our kitchen, laughing about what he had done.

Imagine it today, and my neighbor following my godfather into the living room and blasting his overcoat with a gun.

**Basia Pulz's** beautiful home in Black Earth was featured in their Historical Society's fund-raising Tour of Homes in December. Besides displaying various Polish items, she demonstrated the *opłatek* custom with her table settings. Thank you, Basia, for sharing Polish Culture with your guests.

**Norm Revolinski** has been conducting the inventory for some twenty years for the PHC WI. When he started it was with pad and pencil. Later he converted all to a computer file, no small task. Norm also assists with the physical inventory to assure quality control and accountability. This past year **Tomasz Borowiecki** took over in the interim, and **Doris Graiewski** has agreed to be our new purchases and sales inventory data person. She will provide the PHCWI President and the Treasurer with computer generated reports after each buying trip and sales. Thank you Norm for recognizing the need for accountability of the Club assets and taking the initiative to implement inventory control. Thanks to Tomasz and to Doris for continuing this valuable service to the Club. You are all appreciated. — *Barb Lomperski*

**Paul Segal** missed the WI Book Festival and the Wigilia last year due to health issues. He's now back home with his wife Maria, & says "I'm doing good." Best wishes for 2012 Paul!

**Sept 2012 PHCWI Poland Trip ...** Butch Luick and committee await details re. the club trip to Poland.

For preliminary plans contact Butch at:  
(608) 244-4388 or [bluick5023@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bluick5023@sbcglobal.net)

Thank you **Andrea Rohlich** for this info about a past member:

**Obituary for Zygmunt Gasiorowski**

from the ATHENS, GA BANNER-HERALD

On April 14, 1919 on an estate near Czestochowa, Poland a remarkable individual was born. Zygmunt Jerzy Gasiorowski would live and thrive through some of history's most perilous and triumphant moments. A member of a prominent family, his youth was typical of his background. He grew up in cultured surroundings with three sisters, Wanda, Danuta, and Krystyna, in a home filled with books, social gatherings, and conversation about world events. Educated at a private school, he learned languages, mathematics, literature, and the foundation of a life of learning.

The period between World War I and World War II was politically perilous. As a child of eight he began reading newspapers to follow world events. His life changed forever on Sept. 1, 1939 when the Nazi blitzkrieg descended on Poland. A junior officer in the Polish army he and his fellow soldiers fought a hopeless battle against the German onslaught. Determined to save his life he began a journey that took him from Poland to Hungary to France and England. With members of a remnant of the Polish army, he boarded a ship in La Rochelle to cross the English Channel. The expedition took two days which Zygmunt spent standing on a packed top deck while the Luftwaffe strafed and bombed the fleet making its way to freedom. Many perished. The Polish army regrouped in Great Britain. Safeguarding a bombed and beleaguered land, Polish forces then joined Allied troops invading Europe in 1944. At war's end the Soviet Union dominated Poland. Zygmunt was stateless.

After graduating from the London School of Economics, he obtained a scholarship to the University of California at Berkeley and began a new life in the United States. While working on a Ph.D. in history, he met his wife, Xenia, a fellow Pole. She became a professor of Russian and Polish literature at the University of Wisconsin Madison.

During his career Dr. Gasiorowski taught at Washington State, University of Hawaii, Harvard, and Berkeley before joining the history faculty at the University of Georgia in 1967. During breaks, vacations, and sabbaticals he and his wife lived in Madison, Wisconsin and travelled extensively in the US and Europe. Zygmunt Gasiorowski became an ideal American transplant prospering both professionally and economically.

After Xenia died in 1989, Zygmunt spent increasing periods of time in Athens, [GA]... Always a vigorous walker and swimmer, he enjoyed a life full of books, travel, conversation, and debate. ...He is survived by John, Karin, Krysia, Michelle, Tamara, and Lydia Haag, as well as by his niece Anna Wojtowicz, nephew Marcin Pomirski, and wife's niece Ewa Boniecha-Bromke and their families in Poland. He died at home in Athens on Nov. 20, 2011 aged 92, a contributor to an exhilarating era in world history. His kindness, joy, scholarship, and love remain a testimony to a life well lived.

**Judith Rapacz** wrote that she and Jan "had many enjoyable dinner parties at their home. He was a pretty good cook too. After dinner Xenia would sit in her rocking chair and recite some wonderful Polish or Russian poetry."

**Zygmunt Gasiorowski** published works include: *Stresemann and Poland before Locarno*, published in 1958, about the 1925 Locarno Treaty that divided the borders in Europe — western (guaranteed) and eastern (open for revision).

## **2012 CANDIDATES FOR PHCWI'S BOD for the Jan 29 Election & Annual Meeting**

**Thank you to the 2012 Nominating Committee –  
Mary Schumacher, 2011 Past President, and 2 club  
members: Doris Graiewski & John Zwadzach.**

### **VICE PRESIDENT – PRESIDENT ELECT**

**Stan Graiewski** can trace his Grajewski/Graiewski surname to the early 1600s. His grandfather relocated to Hurley, Wisconsin from Sulvalki, Poland around 1888. As Marie Revolinski wrote in her 2010 story, "Stan could be the Poster Boy for Polonia in America." After spending his working life in Madison, he retired from the City Assessor's Office in 2003, and then worked for the City of Sun Prairie's Assessor's Office 2004-2010.

Stan is interested in learning Polish. He and his wife, Doris, visited Poland December 2010 where they helped Bishop Ryzard Karpinski celebrate his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and 25 years as a Bishop. For the first time they were able to meet Stan's first cousin, Jacek Grajewski, and shared a wonderful Polish Christmas.

Stan and his wife of 38 years, Doris, retired in Dec.'10 from 19 years of selling model railroad supplies. Last June they traveled to SE Montana where Stan puts on a 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant's uniform and rides with Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and the Seventh Cavalry at the Little Bighorn re-enactment sponsored by the Real Bird Family. He was recently appointed Brigade Quartermaster Sergeant for the 17<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin/Missouri State Guard Civil War re-enactment units. They are looking forward to a Cincinnati & Memphis riverboat cruise.

This past year while on the BOD, Stan and Doris have helped with many events, and Stan chaired the PHCWI's selling at the May Portage Co. Cultural Festival.

### **SECRETARY 2 year term, elected even years**

**Patricia Ann Brinkman** wrote "I may not be 100% Polish, but I do identify/feel very Polish. My maiden name is Leszkiewicz. I was raised in the City of South Milwaukee's Polish neighborhood. My grandparents came to America (Chester PA) before the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Grandma was from the Warsaw area and Grandpa from Vilnius. Grandma was a well-educated woman, wrote & spoke seven languages. She became a young widow, was self-sufficient, raised seven children, but did live in poverty during that time."

Patricia has been a secondary education teacher, and as a State Employee for over 25 years, she was one of the first Certified Records Managers in the State of Wisconsin. She is very active in Kiwanis, and is a Past Kiwanis Governor for the WI and Upper Michigan District.

"The following are projects dear to my heart: building a dental clinic in Poland, helping with the Academic Learning Center on the Southside of Madison, and assuring that all ambulances in WI have equipment for children. We started at 1% (lowest USA) and now are at 99% (highest in the USA). My newest project is trying to get a reading program started for homeless children in Madison. I volunteer as often as I can and hope my talents are a blessing." She is a proud resident of the Madison's Northside, and was an active member of its

Planning Council for years - she helped to start & named the North Star Awards. "I love flowers, gardening, traveling, and my children: (P. Buckley, Deborah Ann, P. Anthony, and P. Daniel), my grandchildren (Benjamin and Molly) and my husband of 53 years, Peter. I have a small part-time job so don't be surprised if I sell you your Alliant Energy Center parking ticket.

Through the years Patricia has attended and been an enthusiastic volunteer at a variety of club events, and she keeps us informed of Poland's dental clinic needs.

### **DIRECTOR –AT-LARGE – even year, 2 year term**

**Tomasz Borowiecki** lives in Mount Horeb with his wife Mary his teenage children Agata and Mateusz live with their mom in Michigan. He currently works for Lands' End in Madison in the international web marketing research group. He grew up in Warsaw, Poland as the youngest of seven children in a very traditional and patriotic family. Both his parents fought in the Warsaw Uprising and were interned in Germany. He studied sociology at the Silesian University in Katowice, and was a founding member of the independent student union (NZS) there, a student arm of Solidarity. In the early 80s, he lived in Austria & Italy pursuing Art History & Nature Photography studies. He subsequently moved to Detroit where he attended the College for Creative Studies and Wayne State University. He has degrees in Fine Art (commercial and bio-medical imaging) & a Master's Degree in Education (interactive instructional design).

Tomasz has been a member of PHCWI for one year. During this time, he played a key role in creating and editing our club's new website, designing its new logo, improving inventory management, and helping with events. "I am looking forward to bringing my enthusiasm and skills to our group. I enjoy everything Polish, including mushroom picking, singing, cooking, sausage & cheese making, history, culture, and especially the camaraderie between people I meet."

### **DIRECTOR –AT-LARGE – even year, 2 year term**

**Irene Swiggum** lives in Madison, where she is employed by the Madison Metropolitan School District as a Resource Assistant and in the afterschool program at Mendota Elementary School. Her parents were both born in Poland - her mother in Grudziadz and her father in Kosciierzyna. When Irene entered school in rural Stevens Point in the late 1950's, she spoke only Polish. By the end of the year, she was speaking English. Irene's husband, LaVerne is a retired chemist, and she has three grown children. "I enjoy reading, walking, garage sales/thrift stores, and cats. I like working at PHC events- especially those that deal with books. My mother will be 92 in July. Her memory is fading, but sometimes she remembers events in Poland that happened 70 years ago."

**Continuing on the Board:** President - Butch Luick, Past Pres - John Benninghouse, Treasurer - Barbara Lomperski (2 year term, elected odd years). Directors - Adam Grabski and Marcia Flannery (elected odd year). **Leaving the Board** with our thank you for service given: Past President-Mary Schumacher, Secretary-Julie Brania, BOD even year – Janice Czyncon

## FILMS

Nov/Dec 2011 .....

### 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Polish Film Festival:



Thank you to the sponsors:  
ASM Associated Students of Madison,  
Experience Grant, CREECA, Anonymous  
Fund, and the Lapinski Fund.

Sebastian Jankowski, UW-Madison's Polish Students Association President, told about the full page adds in the Badger Herald and Daily Cardinal (posts on their facebook fanpage, and tweets on twitter to over 3000 people). "Every page click displays a Polish Film Fest banner, so check it out, cause we've gone modern in our approach to get our word out... The event offers an opportunity to meet with old friends and to meet new people, Polish seniors, people interested in their Polish/Slavic ancestry, people who speak Polish, Polish University Students, people studying Polish, and film and entertainment buffs. Come early and socialize!!!"

The Film Festival disappointment was the cancellation of *3D Bitwa Warszawska*, one of the most expensive in Polish cinema history, at Point Cinema, due to technical difficulties. **\*We attempted to notify all members about the movie's cancellation, by telephone if we did not have your email. Please keep us informed about your email changes.\***

on PHCWI's facebook page...

### The Untold Battle of Britain polskie napisy



www.youtube.com  
Fabularyzowany dokument o  
Dywizjonie 303. WAŻNE!!! Wciśnij CC  
w prawym dolnym rogu, żeby pojawiły  
się napisy od 35 min. Ogromne  
podziękowania dla użytkownika...

BLOODY FOREIGNERS was one of a four-part series of drama-documentaries on British Channel 4 public-service television highlighting the role played by foreigners at iconic moments & crucial turning points in British history.



The Untold Battle of Trafalgar

The Untold Great Fire of London

The Untold Invasion of Britain

The Untold Battle of Britain - the story of 303

Squadron: 34 Polish fighter pilots who overturned RAF prejudices to earn their chance to fight in the Battle of Britain, in which they shot down 126 Luftwaffe aircraft. After they left Poland, it took many months before the experienced Polish pilots were allowed to fly British planes. By Aug. 1940 Britian had lost half of its pilots, so the Poles were much needed. In their first 6 days, they shot down 24 German aircraft. Witold Urbanowicz, one of the featured piolots, was the Squadron Leader, and one of the most successful Polish air aces. Toronto, Oct 19, 2010 Brigadier General Tadeusz Sawicz, one of 145 Polish pilots who fought in the Battle of Britain, died at age 97. May 2004 The club's Book Group A Question of Honor: the Kosciuszko Squadron by L.Olson and S.Cloud.

**Dec. 2 Los Angeles 2012 Oscar Nominees: 2 Polish Animated Shorts: "Paths of Hate" and "Magic Piano."**

currently playing in Madison...

**Janusz Kaminski** is again Steven Spielberg's cinematographer, this time for the WWI story *War Horse*. He won Academy Awards for *Schindler's List* and *Saving Private Ryan*. When he left Poland in 1980, he had already seen Spielberg's *Sugarland Express*.



*From a 12/20/11 interview by S.T.VanAirsdale:*

"The censorship in Poland allowed ... movies made in the States to be available for Polish audiences, because at that time, America was questioning its social make-up through cinema. It evaluated the social make-up and would frequently become critical of that society. So the Polish censorship embraced that, because in their mind, they were showing the decadent, immoral America. But for us, it was just the land of freedom. We wanted to watch those movies just for the whole idea that if you could question government, then you were... free."

## IN THE NEWS



### Pulaski, WI Fire Dec 2

Each year for the Bazaar and Wigilia our club orders opłatki from the Franciscan Friars in Pulaski (pop. 3,550) 17 miles NW of Green Bay. On Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> a huge downtown fire destroyed 3 buildings, damaged two others, and displaced as many as 40 people. Fire Chief Randy Wichlacz told reporters it was one of the village's biggest fires. After the fire started in the bowling alley, firefighters worked for 10 hours to control it. Around 1am they had to switch from using the fire hydrants to getting water from a pond. Two of 180 firefighters went to the hospital. The MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL titled their story "Pulaski pulls together after massive fire burns the heart of a sm. downtown."

### Changes in Poland.....

Dec 16 *National Public Radio* – available from the archives:



### Recently Aired: 453: Nemeses

This week, stories where a longtime standoff keeps both sides coming back for more. Including a story about the time in Poland's recent history where the country's two political blocks came together and believed, however briefly, they'd be able to set aside their differences.

### ACT ONE. SOLIDARITY FOR NEVER.(26 min.)

After a 2010 plane crash killed dozens of Polish dignitaries, including the president, some thought that the country would cross the political rift and come together to mourn. Reporter Amy Drozdowska-McGuire tells what happened instead. [about the 12 foot wooden cross and Poland A vs. Poland B] Song: "You Don't Make No Sense". Woozyhelmet

Dec 21 *National Catholic Reporter* –see NCR website:

### Poland adjusting to more secular age

nronline.org/news/global/poland-adjusting-more-secular-age  
By Donald Snyder. WARSAW, POLAND – "The traditional primacy of the Roman Catholic church in Poland has been shaken. On Oct. 9, one of every 10 Poles voted for the socially egalitarian and explicitly anticlerical party known as the Palikot Movement, named after founder Janusz Palikot....."



## Mar 7-28 Continuing Studies

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

### NEW The other Europe:

### sorting out the Slavic dimensions

The conventional picture of Europe normally ignores its eastward dimensions, among widely dispersed and diverse Slavic peoples. This course traces their origins and varied evolutions. Topics include: migrations and divisions, the south Slavs (Balkans), the west Slavs (Cen. Europe), and the east Slavs (eastern Europe and Russia).  
Instructor: John W. Barker – UW-Madison professor emeritus of history and a specialist in medieval and music history. He has published articles and books in both fields, and is an active recording reviewer, music critic, and radio host.

W, Mar 7-28, 7:30-8:30 pm, Pyle Center, 702 Langdon St, 0.4 CEU, \$48, Program #5715  
<http://www.dcs.wisc.edu/classes/history.htm>

**\* If you do not have access to a computer & would like a copy of something referred to in the newsletter - please contact me, and I will send you the story or info. if available.** Rose Meinholz, Ed. (608) 233-3828

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

2012 PHCWI MEMBERSHIP –for yourself &/or as a gift membership

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• \_\_My name/address/phone # may be in the Membership Directory

• \_\_Please do not include me in the Directory. Board members may contact me for official business

If you like, please share your:

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• Where your family lived in Poland \_\_\_\_\_

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