

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*

Hello everyone,

By the time you read this spring will have arrived. And with the arrival of the new season comes our Spring Festival which takes place this year on 17 April. I hope you will be able to attend. If you can volunteer your time, we would love to have you help out.

A couple weeks ago the PHCWI took part in the annual International Festival at the Overture Center. It was a successful event which was made all the better with the presence of Wojciech Czaplinski of the Polish klezmer band KlezmaFour. If you missed their performance at the High Noon Saloon that night, you missed quite a show. Hopefully they'll return this summer to one of Madison's many outdoor festivals.

The PHCWI webpage has recently been redesigned by club member Tomasz Borowiecki. Please check out the new look at <http://www.phcwi-madison.org> and let us know what you think. If you have anything to add whether it be photographs, articles – just about anything – please submit it to us. The club's e-mail address is [info@phcwi-madison.org](mailto:info@phcwi-madison.org). Also, we now have a Facebook page. The address is rather lengthy so I won't include it here but you can find a link on our home page or by searching Facebook. Please feel free to contribute.

There are many things afoot but I did want to mention two others. First, we submitted our application to IRS for 501(c)3 non-profit status. A decision will take a while but we are confident of achieving it. Lastly, the club is seeking a new storage space. If you have or know of potential space that is available, please let a board member know. We have to remove all of our stuff from the current space by Aug. and time is flying. I hope to see you at an event soon.  
John Benninghouse

CHECK OUR NEW WEBPAGES, NEW LOGO, PAGE LAYOUT AND INFO.

**Dziękuję bardzo to Tomasz Borowiecki!**  
<http://www.phcwi-madison.org>

*Please call 238-9189 if you need a ride*  
\*Mar 30-May 4 Survey of Polish Theater  
\*Apr 1 at 9 am 1<sup>st</sup> Fri. PHCWI Breakfast  
\*May 1 at 3:30pm Polish Piano Concert  
\* May 15 PHCWI Scholarship deadline

**Apr 17 PHCWI Spring Festival 11-3**

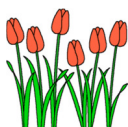
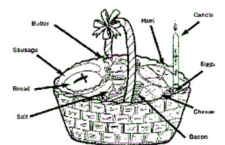
Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Monona 4913 Schofield St DIRECTIONS: FROM SOUTH BELTLINE / 12& 18 turn north onto Monona Dr. 1.5 miles. Across from the golf course, turn left St. Theresa.

A Palm Sunday tradition, the club's Spring Festival features music and the sale of traditional Polish baked goods, kielbasa, pierogi, books, imported craft goods, and Polish artistic glassware. Enjoy a delicious lunch while visiting and listening to music. If you would like to help, or don't receive a call asking for your help, please call chairs:

**John Benninghouse & Mary Schumacher**

Included in this newsletter is a poster to publicize the Spring Festival. Thank you, **Marcia Flannery** for the beautiful design & getting them printed! We would greatly appreciate if you would place your copy in a prominent location where a lot of people will see it – library, supermarket, store, church. Be sure to ask for permission. Please try to get the word out. And, please volunteer to help! We need fresh baked goods, as well as people to transport our supplies, decorate or sell.  
**Renew your Membership – it's Spring Festival time.**  
**PHCWI T-shirt available.**

*Apr. 23 Holy Saturday*  
*Blessing of Baskets*  
*10am Queen of Peace*  
*1pm St Maria Goretti*  
*St. Albert's tel.837-3798*



## 2011 Polish Related Events Madison & Area:

alt. Wed/Th 7-9 pm Polski Stół / Polish Table UW-Madison Rathskeller Sebastian Jankowski sjankowski2@wisc.edu  
some Sundays Wisconsin Dells Mass in Polish at St. Cecilia Church 604 Oak St (608) 254-8381  
**1st Fri of mo. 9 am PHCWI Breakfast Friends Monona Garden Restaurant 6501 Bridge Rd. Barb/Mike tel.238-9189**  
Mar 30 – May 4 Survey of Polish Theater Class # 60810601 6-8pm MATC-Downtown 211 North Carroll St.  
**Apr 17 Sun Palm Sunday PHCWI Spring Festival Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Monona**  
Apr 23 Sat *Święconka* Blessing of Baskets 10 am Queen of Peace, 1pm St. Maria Goretti, St.Albert's tel. 837-3798  
**May 1 Sun 3:30 pm Polish Music UW Outreach PHCWI Reception Oak Park 618 Jupiter Drive**  
**May 7 Sat Stevens Point PHCWI at 19th Annual Portage County Cultural Festival**  
**May 11 Wed 7pm PHCWI BOOK GROUP "An Altar of Sod" at Kasia's tel.836-8632**  
July 16 Sat 8 pm PHCWI at Madison Opera's "Opera in the Park" Garner Park - corner of Mineral Point & Rosa Rd  
**July 17 Sun PHCWI Summer Picnic Elver Park 1250 McKenna Blvd.**  
Sep 9-11 F-Su WI Dells Polish Fest  
Sep 16-7 F-Sa Stevens Point Harvest Festival *Dozynki*  
Sept 17 Sat 3-7 pm Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones "America's #1 polka band" Essen Haus 514 E Wilson St  
**October – Polish American Heritage Month - events/libraries book displays**  
**Nov 5 Sat PHCWI Christmas Bazaar at West Side Club**  
**Dec 10 Sat PHCWI Wigilia at Zor Shrine Temple**



## Chicago:

May 7 Sat Columbus Drive Polish Constitution Day Parade to celebrate *Trzeciego Maja Day*  
Sept F-M Taste of Polonia Labor Day Weekend - music on 5 stages, Mass, arts & crafts  
Sept 30 – Oct 2 Milosz In/On America Conference at the University of Illinois-Chicago  
Polish Museum of America 984 N. Milwaukee Ave tel. (773) 384-3352 <http://www.polishmuseumofamerica.org/>

## Milwaukee:

Mar 27 Sun 11-2pm Polish Center of WI POLANKI's Pierogi Festival  
June 17-19 Summerfest Grounds Polish Fest  
Oct 9 Sun Norway House POLANKI'S Soup Festival  
Nov18-20 WI State Fair Park Holiday Folk Fair  
Polish Center of WI 6941 S 68th St Franklin, WI Tel: (414)529-2140 <http://www.polishcenterofwisconsin.org/>

## Minnesota:

April 1 Fri St. Paul *Manya—A Living History of Marie Curie* The O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University  
Winona Polish Cultural Institute Polish Cultural Institute 102 Liberty St. (507) 454-3431 <http://polishmuseumwinona.org/>  
April 30 Sat 4pm Constitution Day: Mass, then a "Polish" meal at the American Legion Building  
May 1 Sun 2pm May Crowning Polish Museum Annex  
Aug 15 Mon Blessing of Flowers (Feast of Assumption)



From the Polish-American Journal and [www.polishsite](http://www.polishsite.com) - a website about Polish Culture

**MARCH marzec** - from *marznac* meaning "to freeze" or from Roman God Mars - in Polish "Martius"

2 1868 Birth of Milwaukee's **Fr. Waclaw Kruszka** author of "*The History of Poles in America.*"  
4 1484 Death of **St. Casimir**, Prince, Patron of Poland  
6 1745 Birth in Mazowia of **Casimir Pulaski**, Revolutionary war hero  
17 1956 Death of **Irene Joliet-Curie** daughter of Pierre & Madame Curie, and a Nobel Prize in Chemistry recipient  
23 1891 Death of **Fr. Leopold Moczygemba** in Detroit, founded 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Polish Church in Panna Maria, Texas  
24 1794 **Tadeusz Kosciuszko** assumes title of Supreme Commander of the Polish Insurrection in Krakow marketplace

**APRIL kwiecień** - from *kwiecie* - flowers - a blooming month

5 1804 Birth **Vincent S. Dziewanowski**, pioneer credited with estab. the city of Pulaski, WI  
8 1909 Death of international actress **Helena (Modrzejewska) Modjeska**, in CA (b. 1840)  
12 1943 Nazis announce 4,150 Polish officers bodies discovered in the **Katyn Forest**  
17 1025 Death of **King Boleslaw Chrobry** (Boleslaus the Brave)  
1989 Polish labor union **Solidarity** legally recognized after a nearly ten-year struggle



## CLUB EVENTS & MEMBER NEWS

### SUNSHINE CORNER! *Słoneczny Kącik*



You are welcome to share your news, stories, celebrations, birthdays, anniversaries by calling:

Basia Pulz (608) 767-2921 or Jane Dunn 831-8827

Theresa Tukiendorf 3/01	Kasia Krzyzostaniak 3/22
Douglass Allen 3/4	Izabela Szlufarska 3/31
Joan Spindler 3/5	Stan Skupien 4/12
Sonja Hann 3/10	Marcia Jablonski 4/19
Deb Ankowicz 3/14	Don Wesolowski 4/22
Robert Kriz 3/21	Stan Graiewski 4/24



### Our condolences to the family of Edward Pulz, 87, who passed away peacefully January 25 at his home in The Villages, Fla. Every summer he stayed with his daughter Basia, our Past President, at her Black Earth, WI home. Club members enjoyed visiting with him at some picnics and parties. They traveled together to Poland in the summer of 2002. His son Kevin gave a talk to our club about Milwaukee's St. Josephat's Basilica, and showed his Public TV video.

“He was born shortly after his parents purchased one of the first poultry farms in Ocean Co. New Jersey. After college, he owned Jersey Egg Marketing Co., and later, with his kids at the grills, Uncle Wills Pancake House in Beach Haven, Ship's Galley in Surf City and later Uncle Wills, a popular Long Beach Island family business. He and his adored wife of 47 years, Helen (nee Tarnopolski), retired to Florida. After 14 years of missing her, Edward now rejoins 'his' Helen.”

Edward was a past president of the Knights of Columbus, the Holy Name Society and a Boy Scout leader. His grandkids and great-grandkids filled him with joy. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to their favorite charities in Dad's name. Ed loved (and remembered) bad jokes and a good cup of coffee. He'll be missed by his many friends and extended family. Dad was a good egg.”

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March 5

### Overture's International Festival

again included a beautiful PHCWI sale display by the windows along Henry St. Thank you to the organizers **Mary Schumacher, Jane Dunn and Julie Brania.** Special thanks to **Jane Dunn** for providing boxes of apricot filled *Paczki*. Mar. 8 was *Paczki Day*, but they're best eaten the day of purchased! THANK YOU: Julie Brania, Jerry Dunn, Jane Dunn, Mary Schumacher, Barbara Lomperski, Marie Revolinski, Irene Swiggum John Benninghouse, Rose Meinholz.

March 10 Middleton, WI

### International Day at Elm Lawn School

Eva Verhoven shared her love of Polish culture at her sons' school. She says “everybody loved our display.” She used her own supplies plus PHCWI's display items, our tri-fold display board made in the past by an Edgewood student, and the Lomperski's Polish costume.

Anthony 5<sup>th</sup> Grade & Michael 4<sup>th</sup> Grade. Ewa sent other colorful pictures of the event.

\*You are welcome to use our supplies for displays at area events!

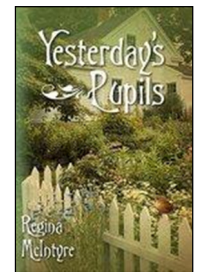
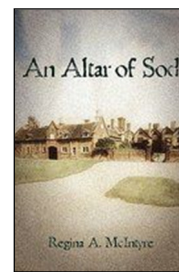
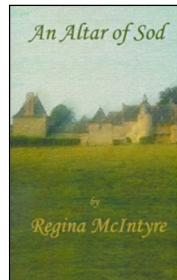


### BOOK GROUP May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

Kasia Krzyzostaniak 3209 Highland Ct, Middleton tel.836-8632 hosts a discussion of AN ALTAR OF SOD by Regina A. McIntyre.

“In 19th century Partitioned Poland, the village of Miscka sits almost unchanged on the banks of the Vistula. This is the story of three families who are unforgettably joined by love, pain, struggle and hope. Rich in tradition, the story builds to a far-reaching conclusion.” The book is available on AMAZON.COM with its sequel YESTERDAY'S PUPILS.

One copy of the book was donated to the Madison Public Library, it will be available in the future.



**Joan Peterson** told about reading Isaac Bashevis Singer's THE SLAVE, and asked if Poland still has dense forests where people could theoretically hide?

**Don Wesolowski, PHCWI Historian,** answered..... Poland was historically heavily forested, with 40% of the area covered in trees. By World War II, it had dropped to 20%. Re-forestation efforts in the past several decades have increased the forest cover to about 25% - much in the south and east, but with forested areas all over the country. The Białowieża Forest, on the border between Poland and Belarus, is the largest and oldest, and still has wild European bison inhabiting it.



Thank you to Szymon Wozniczka (MadPolK.A. productions) for again providing Polish music to the Madison area, and to a much wider audience via WORT 89.9FM Community Radio Station

**Feb 13 Klezmer, Jewish Music Show** “I was only able to fit 7 artists this time. There is so much more worth presenting that’s happening on the Polish Klezmer scene that I will continue featuring more of this type of music on the future WORT shows.”

**Feb. 28 7-8 pm Access Hour – F.Chopin’s Music**  
 \*This show is available now (and for up to 2 months) on WORT archives: <http://archive.wort-fm.org/>  
 Szymon dedicated the show to “unusual interpretations of Chopin’s masterpieces and also to the music that inspired them.” He read Chopin’s letters to his friends and mentors “they are filled with humor, wit and interesting observations. In that way I hope to show him more as a full blooded person and not just musical genius of 19th century classical music.”

Thank you, Paula!

Photo by Paula A.White [www.pawwhitephotography.com](http://www.pawwhitephotography.com)



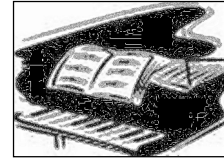
**Mar. 5 KlezmaFour from Lublin, Poland** played one of their pieces to a large dancing crowd during Yid Vicious’s set at the Overture’s International Festival. That evening Yid Vicious opened for them at the High Noon Saloon. The evening of dancing to old music, and modernized versions, ended too soon!

Szymon thanked PHCWI for our \$\$ donation, & wrote: “The band showed great skills, energy, musical talent and most of all joy of playing for any audience, which resulted in bringing the most of people present onto their feet. They deserve to be seen by wider audience next time. Hopefully they will be able to come back to Madison during their next American tour.”

After performances in Washburn, WI and Chicago, they played in Cleveland’s Anatolia Café, a Turkish restaurant. Alex Sukhoy told the story of feeling in another place and reported: “As one of the patrons commented that evening, ‘Christian musicians playing Jewish music in a Muslim restaurant.’ See Klezmafour @ Anatolia Cafe -The World Converges in ...

Please join us for a

## Polish Music Concert Sun. May 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:30 pm



**Oak Park Place 618 Jupiter Drive  
East of the Interstate, off Cottage Grove Rd.**



**Display & Reception by the  
Polish Heritage Club - Madison**

**Concert & Lecture by UW-Madison  
Educational and Performance Outreach  
EPO**

The UW-Madison Educational & Performance Outreach program (EPO) is devoted to bringing the University and community together through collaborative musical events that further the outreach mission of UW-Madison and the Wisconsin Idea. The program is administered by Prof. Martha Fischer, and coordinated by Julie Page (DMA candidate, collaborative piano), and is made possible through a generous grant from the Evjue Foundation, with support from the School of Music and other campus and community partners.

This is the third year that Madison’s Polish Club has sponsored an event with this School of Music program. Capitol Lakes on Main St. was not available on this date, so this concert is at Oak Park Place (another retirement home), which is East of the Interstate. Several Polish events have been held here in the past.

Open to the public, the audience enjoys Polish music, and PHCWI provides a reception and display about Polish culture. This year expect to hear Szymanowki's "Myths" for violin and piano, Op. 30 and some or all of Chopin's Piano Sonata No. 3, and more. The students will give a brief talk about their piece. **Please invite friends and family. See you there!**

Congratulations to Julie Page, program coordinator. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> she receives the UW Arts Institute’s Arts Award. Our club wrote a letter of support for her award.

MOVIES



This year the **WI Film Festival** 13<sup>th</sup> year features 209 films. There is only one Polish film, a 15 min. documentary. The Nov. 2010 Polish Film Festival in America list (over 30 documentaries) is still available at.....  
<http://www.pffamerica.com/about.htm>

Thu, Mar 31 | 5:00  
 Play Circle Theater



**Charcoal Burners Smolarze**

(Poland, 2010, 15 mins, video) Midwest Premiere  
 Marek and Janina work in the Polish countryside, (in the Bieszczady Mountains) carefully stacking split wood in an enormous, elaborately constructed pile, to burn to make charcoal. The film, by Piotr Złotorowicz, a student at the Polish National Film School in Łódź, has little dialogue: possibly an artistic choice, but also Marek and Janina are folks of few words. Their beloved dog Roki, fur smudged with soot, and various yard critters also star in this gentle, observant documentary about a tradition and a small-scale business still very much a part of European life.

The ticket for this movie is Shorts Play Circle. It includes: HIGH/LOW – Luxembourg, THE OVERPASS – Korea, DREXCIYA – Ghana, OIL WRESTLING – USA, Turkey. 128 minutes.



**Bieszczady** is the Polish name for the Outer East Carpathians mountain range, which is between the Łupków Pass (640 m) & the Vyshkovskiy Pass (933 m). Starting at least in the 9<sup>th</sup> Cen, it was an area of contention between Poland, Kievan Rus and Hungary. The UNESCO East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve was created in 1991. It includes Bieszczady Na. Park (Poland), Poloniny Na. Park (Slovakia) + Uzhansky Na. Nature Park (Ukraine). – from WIKIPEDIA

2/23/11 MADISON CAPITAL TIMES 77 SQUARE  
**POLISH FILM POSTERS** “While U.S. film posters usually look as though they were cobbled together in a marketing meeting (“Can we add another cast member head shot?) ... Polish film posters are often wonderfully bizarre pieces that double as standalone works of art. Painted in bold colors, loaded with psychedelic imagery...A cubist “The Big Lebowski” poster that could have been designed by a drug-addled Pablo Picasso....” see...polishposter.com.

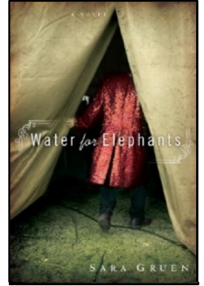
Thanks to Bob Doornek for the updates about WFE!



**WATER FOR ELEPHANTS**

April 22 is the movie release date. PHCWI’s Book Group enjoyed the book last November. Set during the Depression in the U.S. the circus and its vet have Polish names, and the elephant only understands Polish.

The book’s author Sara Gruen, who lives north of Chicago, read a story in the CHICAGO TRIBUNE, and bought 2 books of old time circus photos. Then she contacted the archivist at the Baraboo, WI’s Circus World, and received a list of circus books for her research.



A WISCONSIN HISTORIC SITE

Opening Weekend May 21 - 22  
 Model Show June 17 - 19

Circus World Museum in Baraboo, WI provided wagons and information for the movie. (15 of their 215 wagons) See John Goodall’s story and beautiful wagon pictures:

~The Spectacular WFE Circus Wagons~  
<http://filmwaterforelephants.wordpress.com/wfe-big-top/circus-wagons/>

**IN THE NEWS**

Dec. 2010 McHenry, IL Zubrzycki's Warsaw Inn, known for their Polish Buffet, closed after 28 years. Their catering business continues, and Angie's Warsaw Inn in Lynwood, IL (south of Chicago) is still open.

Feb. 2011 SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE 8 pages “Warsaw on the Rise” by Rudolph Chelminski [smithsonianmag.com/travel/Warsaw-on-the-Rise.html](http://smithsonianmag.com/travel/Warsaw-on-the-Rise.html)

Feb. 13 Paul Kletzki (b.1900 Lodz) conductor and composer, received a Grammy nomination.

Feb. 25 Poland’s Solidarność Union Tells WI Workers: “Your Victory is Our Victory as Well”

Mar. 3 UW-Madison CREECA Lecture "Jewish Ghetto or Europe's Cradle? 'Selective Cosmopolitanism' in Lodz and German-Polish Reconciliation"

Mar. 17 The Lithuanian parliament requires Polish schools to use the Lithuanian language as the language of instruction for some subjects.

Mar. 18 A 3.5 m snake “slithered down the aisle” of a long distance train from Gdynia to Zakopane.

## THEATER

2/25/11 MADISON ISTHMUS... "Practical classes are all well & good, but learning for the love of learning. Own up – you can't name one Polish play, can you? You need this class...."

### Mar. 30 - May 4 MATC THEATER CLASS

6-8 pm 211 N. Carroll St.

Catalogue #60810601 Class #70192

"Explore the millennium-long history of the Polish theater with an emphasis on 16th century Civic Theater and 19th century Romantic drama. Examine the influence of the historic turning point of 1989 and the achievements of Polish avant-garde theater." \$43.29 (608) 258-2301.

**Enrollment Requirements:** None [matcmadison.edu/](http://matcmadison.edu/)  
<http://programs.matcmadison.edu/programs/enrichment/survey-of-polish-theater>

By Ewa Verhoven, Polish Theater class instructor

The Survey of the Polish Theater course 2011 is based on the 2009 class curriculum, with some modifications.

The first segment explores millennium-long history of the Polish theater in the context of its unique role in the country history. Emphasis is placed on 16th century phenomenon of the Civic Theater, 19th century romantic drama and the Polish share in the Great Reform of Theater in the 19th and 20th century. A special part examines the influence of the historic turning point of 1989, the change in the system and the return of democratic freedom on Polish theatrical life and the achievements of Polish avant-garde and experimental theater. We will look how the ideas and experiments of artists such as **Kantor** and **Grotowski** changed the ways of thinking about the stage, actor and the destiny of the theater. Finally we will focus on the current events of Polish scene and the artistic achievements of Poland's most inventive contemporary directors and playwrights such as **Krzysztof Lupa**, **Krzysztof Warlikowski** and **Dorota Maslowska**, and recent international successes.

The second segment will be devoted to analysis and interpretation and of the most important Polish dramatic texts of 20<sup>th</sup> century: works of **Wi told Gombrowicz** & **Stanislaw Mrozek** - plays that so perfectly analyzed Poland of the time yet are still relevant today, reflecting on the dangers inherent in contemporary civilization.

#### SOME POLISH THEATER RESOURCES:

[A Concise History of Polish Theater](#) by K.Braun 2003  
[A Journey through other spaces](#) editor Michal Kobialka  
[Gardzienice. Polish Theater in Transition](#) by Allain Paul  
[The McGraw Hill Encyclopedia of World Drama](#)  
editor Stanley Hochman 1984 & 1972 pages 137-53  
[Polish Cultural Institute](#) has profiles of playwrights and theater history [www.polishculture-nyc.org/](http://www.polishculture-nyc.org/)

**Dorota Maslowska** was born in 1983 near Gdansk in the village of Wejherowo. Her debut novel, at age 19, SNOW WHITE AND RUSSIAN RED, "depicts an urban periphery of cynical Polish teenagers from the housing projects searching for meaning and identity, and she wrote it in their own vernacular. A striking example of postmodernism meeting post-Communism, this debut book won instant acclaim and notoriety..."

See more at - <http://www.polishculture-nyc.org/>



Madison's 2009 Polish Film Festival included the film adaptation (set in Warsaw) WOJNA POLSKO-RUSKA see John Benninghouse's Fearful Symmetries: **Polish Film Festival 2009** - <i>Wojna polsko

This February her first play, 'A COUPLE OF POOR, POLISH-SPEAKING ROMANIANS' *Dwoje biednych Rumunów mówiących po polsku* had its New York City premier. <http://theater.nytimes.com/show/25684/A-Couple-of-Poor-Polish-Speaking-Romanians/overview> "...a soap opera actor and a flaky young mother who partied a little too hard one night... try to make their way across Poland, shifting as they go from menacing to menaced...It's easy to imagine symbolic resonances in Poland that elude the viewer here. (Doris Mirescu's set, with its floor-to-ceiling collage of magazine clippings and pop-culture-clogged barrage of television screens, seems designed to fill in some of those blanks.) .....the play rewards the stamina required of the audience during the earlier, sweatier scenes. ..."

#### Theatre as Therapy in the Northern

**Caucasus** Manon van de Water,

*professor of theatre and drama* May 3 at 4 PM

**Location:** 206 Ingraham Hall, 1155 Observatory Dr.

**Sponsors:** CREECA Center for Russia, E.Europe & C. Asia

"In September 2004, 334 people, over half of them children, died during a terrorist act in Beslan, North Ossetia. The terrorists seized a school on the first day of classes, a national festivity known as the "Day of Knowledge" in Russia, and held almost 1200 people, mostly women & children, hostage for three days. (This lecture) explores how theatre & drama were used as a tool to overcome the trauma caused by the *terrakt*, and became a means to both affect and effect the people of Beslan, as well as the larger community of North Ossetia." The speaker's current research project is "Theatre, Youth, Culture: A Critical Journey" which builds on her ongoing research on the place and function of theatre for youth in society.



## KRAKOW

The Feb. PHCWI Book Group discussed *A LONG LONG TIME AGO AND ESSENTIALLY TRUE* by Brigid Pasulka. Her webpage (and others) contains an interactive map for “touring” the city sites. <http://www.brigidpasulka.com/a-long-long-time-ago-and-essentially-true/krakow-picture-map.php>  
We asked for stories, esp. about Krakow .....

### **A traditional Christmas Holiday in Krakow**

*By Judith & Jan Rapacz*

It was a real joy to celebrate the Christmas Holiday in Krakow this year. Traveling out of Miami Dec. 20 to Madrid was definitely a good choice as most of Western Europe was struggling with heavy snow. We stayed overnight in Madrid and Dec. 22 continued to Krakow via Munich, arriving in Krakow ahead of another snowy day. The temperature was unusually cold over the Holidays, but people went about their work and shopping, being cuddled up in warm clothing walking or going by tram.

Christmas Eve was a traditional Polish feast prepared by Jan's family. The meal begins with a prayer and reading of the Holy Family's travel to Bethlehem and sharing of the Opatek, asking for forgiveness and wishing good health and joy. In Polish tradition the table is set-up with an extra plate, in case an unexpected visitor arrives. The meal consists of 12 dishes (likely representing the 12 Apostles) - Herring (śledzie), Uszka with mushrooms (uszka z grzybami), Pierogi with cabbage and mushroom (pierogi z kapustą i grzybami), red Cabbage salad (sałatka z czerwonej kapusty), beet relish with horseradish (ćwikła (czerwone buraki tarte z chrzanem), Fish in jelly (ryba w galarecie), fish Greek style (ryba po grecku), delicious bread and butter (pyszny chleb z masłem) and of course not to miss the many sweets like cheesecake (serowiec), poppy seed cake (makowiec), layered apple cake (szarlotka) and gingerbread (piernik) and fruit compot. Of course these meals vary from region to region.

We did not attend the Midnight Mass, however on Christmas Day we went to the Rynek and attended a Latin Mass at St. Mary's Church (Kościół Mariacki). The Mass was celebrated by four priests and the Choir was singing the Latin responses.

January 6 marks the Feast of Epiphany, a celebration of the Roman Catholic Church, commemorating the arrival of the Three Wise Men in Bethlehem to pay tribute to Jesus. Epiphany goes by other names in various church traditions. In Hispanic and Latin culture, as well as some places in Europe, it is known as Three Kings' Day. This is an occasion for feasting in some cultures, including the baking of a special King's Cake as part of the festivities. In our home we always had a King's Cake, which had a center and

six individual rolls attached and- center. In one of the rolls was a plastic crown hidden. The individual getting that roll with the hidden crown would be “King of the Day”.

This year January 6 was celebrated with parades in many Polish cities, and one was held around the Sukiennice in Krakow. Hundreds of families with kids wearing the King's crown were marching behind a band playing traditional music. Epiphany was abolished in Poland in 1960, and a petition was launched recently to restore this ancient tradition. Now 50 years later, January 6 was again a holiday in Poland.

*Thank you to Judith & Jan Rapacz for their story, it helps us experience Christmas in Krakow! Your stories of travel, customs, and family memories are welcome.*

\*Mar 14 Proposals for two 311m high skyscrapers located 9 km from Krakow's historic center, could threaten the city's position on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Krakow lies in the southern Poland on the Vistula River in a valley at the foot of the Carpathian Plateau. Approximately 300 km north is Warsaw, and 100 km (60 miles) south are the Tatra Mountains, forming the southern border of the country. [www.wsp.krakow.pl/en/](http://www.wsp.krakow.pl/en/)

The city covers an area of 327 sq. km. ((126.3 sq. mi) 2010 population = 755,546. The city of Madison is 84.7 sq mi (219.4 km<sup>2</sup>) 2009 est. population 235,6260.



### **Becoming Metropolitan: Urban Selfhood and the Making of Modern Cracow**

By Nathaniel D. Wood  
Northern Illinois University Press,  
DeKalb, IL, 268 pages 2010

*From the books description....*

”The “Age of Great Cities” erupted in East Central Europe in the last quarter of the 19th century as migrants poured into imperial and regional capitals. For citizens of places like Cracow, discovering and enacting metropolitan identities reinforced their break from a provincial past while affirming their belonging to “modern European civilization.” Strolling the city streets, sipping coffee in cafés, riding the electric tram, and reading the popular press, Cracovians connected to modern big-city culture. In this lively account, Wood looks to the mass circulation illustrated press as well as to supporting evidence from memoirs and archives from the period to present Cracow as a case study that demonstrates the ways people identify with modern urban life.”

## Help Restore The Thaddeus Kosciuszko Monument in Kosciuszko Park Milwaukee

Our 2010 Annual Meeting featured a presentation about efforts to raise \$350,000, & we made a donation in 2010.

**The Polish Heritage Club of Wisconsin-Madison** is listed among the ~275 individuals and organizations who donated. We will be acknowledged by name and rank on the website, and on a permanent plaque.

“Tadeusz Kosciuszko worked his way through these ranks during his brilliant military career. We express our heartfelt thanks to these donors and to dozens of additional anonymous donors for their assistance.  
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 CAPTAIN OF ARTILLERY (\$100 - \$499)  
 CADET (\$1-\$99 <http://rkmmilwaukee.org/>)

See John Gurda's JOURNAL SENTINEL story 5/1/10 Legacy undiminished, but statue needs help - JSOnline  
 “Of all the bronze giants in our ethnic pantheon, the most endangered represents Gen. Tadeusz Kosciuszko.”

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

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- Where your family lived in Poland. \_\_\_\_\_

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**c/o Polanki**  
**Polish Women's Cultural Club**  
**P.O. 341458**  
**Milwaukee, WI 53234**  
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