



# Pulaski Area Historical Society, Inc. Newsletter

Pulaski, Wisconsin

~ Fall Newsletter 2018 ~

*"Dedicated to the preservation of the heritage and traditions of the Pulaski Area."*

## History of Pittsfield Town Hall (aka Kunesh School)

By Chris Jaworski

At the last Town of Pittsfield annual meeting, held on April 17 th - 2018, a vote was conducted to construct a new community center. A hand vote was performed and the motion was passed unanimously. No votes cast in opposition. Next, a motion was made to borrow up to 1.8 million dollars, over 20 years, for construction of a new community center, athletic field, and a parking lot. These improvements will be made at the Pittsfield Community Park which is located just west of Anston. A hand vote was conducted. Motion carried. One vote was cast in opposition. Construction of the new community center is slated to begin in 2019. 1

Reasons for a new Pittsfield community center were discussed in detail, at previous meetings, before the vote was cast. The current town hall building is small and has limited storage space. Also, the septic system is not up to code and needs to be replaced. Rather than invest town money into the existing town hall site it was decided a new community center located in the Town Park would be a more prudent use of funds and will better meet the future needs of a growing community. 2

Thus begins a new chapter in the history of the Town of Pittsfield. No plans have been made yet as what to do with the current Pittsfield Town Hall located in section 21 on the corner of Kunesh North Road and Town Hall Drive. With the upcoming change at hand, now



*Outside Kunesh School, early 20th century.*

is a good time to reflect back on the old town hall building and delve into its past.

Early records indicate a log school house was constructed on the site of the present day Pittsfield town hall in 1874. The building had wooden blinds and whitewashed walls. The new school was originally named, District # 4 – Pittsfield. Early Pittsfield historian, Lizzie Johnstone described this early school as a, "Temple of learning". In 1885 this log school building was replaced by a new brick building. 3 Around 1911 an addition was added on to the original brick building which doubled its size. 4 According to Mrs. Johnstone, "It became one of the first and best graded schools in the County". Over time the

continued on page 2

## Calendar of Events

**December 3**

*Board Meeting Election of Officers*

*PACE Community Room*

*6:30 p.m.*

*The museum will be open every*

*Wednesday 2:00 pm - 5:00 p.m.*

*Visit our website for more information*

**[www.pulaskiwhistory.com](http://www.pulaskiwhistory.com)**

**Like us on facebook too!**

# Pittsfield

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site was referred to simply as the Kunesh School.

Some of the teachers from the early days of this school were: Minnie Burdon, Anne Viert, William J. Brown, Caroline Buckman, William Ross, Michael Ryan, Lizzie Dewane, Minnie Hanson, J. Elmore Hanson, Katherine Meagher, Peter Van Roy, Grace Johnson, Liel Pariezak, Estella FitzPatrick, Marie McCarthy, and Isabel Burkhardt.<sup>5</sup> A list of teachers from latter part of the school's history includes: Evelyn Yager-Heuser, Mildred Auer, Esther Wegner, Dorothy Virtues, Beatrice Elkey, Janet Johnson-Banaszynski, Mae Tuttle, Helen Athey, Charlotte Olson, Dorothy Larscheid-Umentum, Edith Giese, Marian Sheedy, and Doris Malcheski.<sup>6</sup>

Former Kunesh School student, Mary Stender-Pasch reflected back fondly of her school years. She attended Kunesh School grades 1 – 8 between the years 1941 – 1949. Mary stated, “The school had two big rooms. One room was used for grades 1 – 4 and the other grades 5 – 8. Each room had

its own instructor so there were always two teachers at the school. Both rooms were heated with coal and had their own round stoves located in a corner. There were also big china drinking fountains located in each room as well. Certain children were given tasks such as hauling in coal and drinking water, cleaning blackboards, and putting up and taking down the outdoor flag”. Mary went on to say, “Sometimes my teacher, Mrs. Sheedy, would pay kids out of her own pocket to help sweep up the floors after class”.

All children got to the Kunesh School by walking. A few ingenious kids could catch a ride on a milk truck or if it was raining perhaps hitch an automobile ride with a neighbor. Interestingly, Mary recalled 8th grade graduation took place off-site. “Our school plus the neighboring schools of Mill Center and Anston would meet in Green Bay at the Bay Theater. There, one large 8th grade graduation ceremony was held for all grade schools located in Brown County”. Mary went on to say most

of her graduating classmates went on to high school. “In my family one half of us went to Green Bay West High School while the other half attended Pulaski High School.”<sup>7</sup>

Doris Malcheski taught at Kunesh School between the years 1951 - 1953. She remembers the quaintness of teaching for such a small school. “As a teacher I was invited to School Board meetings which were held in the homes of board members, Bob Pasch and Bill Ziebarth. Also, I remember the Kunesh School Board Treasurer, Leon Santy, personally handing me my pay check”. These simple times were also reflected in the way teachers interacted with their students. Doris recalled a situation where she pulled one of her students from a morning softball game. “Tony Baranczyk was out of school a few days helping with field work on his family farm. He needed to finish up his Mother's Day art project so I called him in the school building to complete the gift before morning classes started. The rest of the students were upset



*Marge and Eva Stender on front steps of Kunesh School, Circa, 1940.*

because I took Tony out of the game, so I filled in for him at third base.”<sup>8</sup>

In the fall of 1962 the Kunesh School was closed because of small enrollment. Students were sent to the Pulaski Village grade school and then attended Lannoye Grade School once it was completed.<sup>9</sup> The building served the local community as a school for 77 years. Most school buildings ceased their functional life at this time; however, the Kunesh School got a second reprieve.

In 1963 the Township of Pittsfield acquired the property.<sup>10</sup> The Pittsfield Town Hall, at that time, was located on County Trunk U in Kunesh, and was considered too small. It was sold to Fletcher King in 1963.<sup>11</sup> This building, at 5170 County Trunk U, now houses the Green Bay and Northside Homing Pigeon Club. Pittsfield then moved its offices to the former Kunesh School site and repurposed the building as a town hall. Thus began the structure's second life as



*Inside Kunesh School, Circa 1913. Elsie Stender Maggle noted by “x” over her head.*

*Story continued on page 6*

# Board Member Spotlight

*The Board Member Spotlight is an opportunity for our members to get to know other members of the Pulaski Area Historical Society. If you are interested in being in the "spotlight" contact Katie Walters at [kwalters@premiercommunity.com](mailto:kwalters@premiercommunity.com).*



Tammy Brzeczowski  
Board Member / Public Relations

### **How long have you been a member of the PAHS?**

It's been a while, and I'm not exactly sure, but I've been on the board since 2007.

### **What made you interested in being a part of the PAHS?**

I've always loved history and learning about our ancestors.

### **Where were you when the PAHS was established (1974)?**

I'm not sure on this either as I was only 4 years old, at the time my family resided in Oneida, Wisconsin.

### **List 3 Fun Facts about yourself:**

- 1) I play the concertina, and am involved in a Family Polka Band we call the Polka Dynamics. Proud promoter of Casimir Pulaski Days. (This year March 3-March 10th)
- 2) I am currently going back to school to obtain my Bachelors Degree in Marketing. Busy at night taking classes. Busy during the day with work. Crazy life, three teenage boys.
- 3) I've owned and operated a business along with my husband and parents for 24 years. Dynamic Designs Unlimited, LLC I'm super proud of this, the fact that I can work, live and enjoy life right here in Pulaski.

## Mark your calendars for Casimir Pulaski Days ~March 3-March 10

The PAHS will once again be participating and hosting the **Largest Pie Auction in US History**. This will be held at the Assumption BVM School Gym on Sunday, March 3rd after 10:30 a.m. mass. Please help us make this the best Auction ever by donating a home-made pie. Proceeds from the event will go toward the PAHS organization.

## PAHS

### 2018 Officers & Directors

President, Larry Puzen  
920-822-2609 • cell: 920-609-2772  
email: [larryjp@netnet.net](mailto:larryjp@netnet.net)

Vice-President, Chris Jaworski  
920-469-4770  
[jaws8753radtke@gmail.com](mailto:jaws8753radtke@gmail.com)

Secretary, Norine Heuser  
920-822-5775 • cell: 920-655-3754  
email: [dnheuser@netnet.net](mailto:dnheuser@netnet.net)

Treasurer, Larry Szymanski  
920-865-7497  
email: [lszym@hotmail.com](mailto:lszym@hotmail.com)

Research/Acting Curator  
Steven Karcz  
920-822-1762  
email: [karczpulaski@aol.com](mailto:karczpulaski@aol.com)

### Board Members

Tammy Brzeczowski (2017-18-19)  
920-655-4587  
email: [tammy@dynamicdesignspulaski.com](mailto:tammy@dynamicdesignspulaski.com)

John Mihalko (2017-18-19)  
920-822-3658

Don Mannigel (2017-18-19)  
920-822-3997

Mike Blohowiak (2018-19-20)  
920-822-5042

Katie Walters (2018-19-20)  
920-680-9270

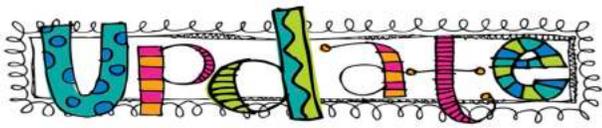
Maria Deau (2019-20-21)  
920-655-4138

Steve Peplinski (2019-20-21)  
920-544-5189

Roger Brzeczowski (2019-20-21)  
920-639-4442

### **VOLUNTEER?**

For general info:  
email: [pulaskimuseum@gmail.com](mailto:pulaskimuseum@gmail.com)



## Museum Attic Project

The museum's attic was recently spray foamed and fire proofed, thanks to proceeds from the Brick Fundraiser and a donation from the Pulaski United Foundation. The project will help in the museum's mission to preserve and store artifacts by the ability to control the temperature and humidity in the building.

Foaming the attic was the first step in this process. There are future plans to add additional venting and temperature control by Van Asten's Heating and Cooling, a local company in Pulaski, Wisconsin.

Special thanks to the **Red Raider Football Team** for volunteering several hours to move things around so that the project could be completed. **Steven Karcz**, along with our regular **high school volunteer students** also helped in this effort. Hartland Enterprising of Bonduel was awarded the contract to perform the spray foaming. Thank you to all who helped, especially Rock and Pam Mannigel for heading the project and persevering to ensure that it got off the ground.



## Polish Heritage Workshop

When: November 19, 6:00 p.m.

Where: St. Norbert College

100 Grant Street

DePere, WI 54115

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Did you know that Wisconsin has the highest percentage of residents of Polish ancestors of any state? Check out this upcoming class which is designed to deepen the community's understanding of Polish culture and experience in northeast Wisconsin held at St. Norbert College on November 19th. For more information and registration contact Kristina Reignier at 920-403-4075 or [kristina.reignier@snc.edu](mailto:kristina.reignier@snc.edu) and <https://www.snc.edu/outreach/cultureworkshops/>.

## History in the making with the Polka King.



Zachary Brzeczowski, along with his Dad, Bruce Brzeczowski, and Grandpa, Roger Brzeczowski stand proudly in front of Alvin Styczynski, the self-proclaimed Polka King. Zachary, the youngest, was honored to perform with Alvin at the Shawano County Fair this past Labor Day Weekend.

## "Pulaski Polish Sausage Days"

Friday May 26, 1972

**SAT., MAY 27**

Dancing From 8 PM to 1 AM

**SUNDAY, MAY 28th**

Dancing From 1 PM to 1 AM

**ZIELINSKI'S AUDITORIUM**

PULASKI, WIS.

**4 BIG BANDS!!!**

**ALVIN STYCZYNSKI**

and his TV  
Recording Orchestra!

**Polka-Dets Orch.**

**Julida Boys**

Recording Orchestra

**Merlin Kombs**

**& His Orchestra**



**POLISH SAUSAGE SERVED BOTH DAYS  
ALONG WITH POLKA DANCING!**

Everyone welcome to a family event!

# PAHS receives Green Bay Antiquarian Grant of \$900+!

Special thank you to the Green Bay Antiquarian Society for the two grants the Pulaski Area Historical Society received that totaled over \$900. Through the grant we were able to purchase items for the museum to help preserve artifacts. This included repairing typewriters so that when students visit the museum, they are able to type on these old fashioned typewriters, and experience what it was like. One of the typewriters, in our possession, was donated from the Franciscan Friars. This unique typewriter actually types in Polish! Unfortunately, because of its rarity, we do not allow visiting students to use this one. Special thank you to Claudia Ryckowski for heading up this project.

## Buy a Brick, Leave a Legacy!

Your donation of \$100 will give you a brick in your name (or business name) and will be permanently displayed on the outside of the museum building for years to come. What a great legacy! For more information contact Mike Blohowiak at 920-822-5042 or Pam Mannigel at 920-822-3997.

### *\$500 Grant Received*

The Pulaski Area Historical Society and Museum would like to express our gratitude to Seth White from **BayTek in Pulaski** and the **Greater Green Bay Community Foundation**. The \$500 grant received from them was used to purchase a phonograph that plays 78s, 33s, and 45s, as well as cassette tapes, CDs and radio. It also has the ability to record onto USB. The phonograph allows the organization to play and share our many records with museum guests. There were additional miscellaneous items purchased to help with preserving artifacts as well.

# Message from the President



Dear Friends of the Museum and Members of the PAHS,

If the walls at the museum could talk, they would tell you it's been a busy year. From our visitors to our volunteers working hard to preserve the history around us.

If you've driven by the museum, you'll notice we've added a few lawn ornaments to the front yard. Please check it out if you get a chance.

Our family display right now is on the Gajewski's. Special thanks to all that have helped out this summer at the museum, and off-site. We participated in Pulaski Polka Days, The Brown County Historic Tour and The Shawano County Fair. We are lucky to have such active members, however we are always looking for more.

We are looking for new members, and NEW volunteers. Maybe you have a talent, time, or maybe you just love history. Let anyone of our board members know and we'll get you in touch with the right person.

Remember, we are always interested in what our members think. We'd love to hear from you!

Sincerely,  
Larry Puzen  
PAHS President

**Become a PAHS Member today!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal or New (Please circle one)

Individual \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Business \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Casimir Level \$100+ (annually) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Lifetime \$500 (one time) \_\_\_\_\_

Total AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Pulaski Area Historical Society: Mail to PAHS, P.O. Box 944, Pulaski, WI 54162.



## PAHS Deceased Members

Jerry Kurowski  
March 2018

Alfred Polczynski  
April 2018

Helen Wojcik  
April 2018

Harry Slezewski\*  
May 2018

Mary Ann Blasczyk  
September 2018

\*Harry served on the board on and off from 1996 - 2011.

# Annual Banquet Held October 24th at the American Legion

the Pittsfield Town Hall.

Lee Streckenbach who served as Pittsfield Town Chairman from 1978 –1994 thought the former Kunesh School made for a great community space. “We made improvements to the building such as straightening the hardwood floors, fixing the walls, and adding indoor bathrooms. The two separate rooms allowed us to hold two functions at the same time. It was a very spacious building in its day”. Like other town halls, residents of Pittsfield met there for Town meetings, elections, and to hold small family

events such as graduation parties or birthday parties. Lee went on to say, “The building served its purpose well; but I can see, as the community grows, the need to move on.”<sup>12</sup>

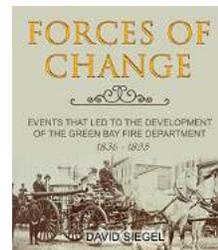
With the completion of the new Pittsfield Community Center, in 2019, the building will cease operations as a town hall after 56 years of service. Between being a school and a town hall the building has been used for 133 years total. The future of the building will be shortly decided by the Pittsfield Town Board. It will be interesting to see if the structure can somehow get a third life going forward.

On Wednesday, October 24th the PAHS held its annual banquet. Around 90 people attended the event.

The annual meeting was led by our President Larry Puzen. After the secretary and treasurer’s report an election was held, and Steve Peplinski and Roger Brzeczowski were voted back on the Board again. Maria Deau, one of our newest members was also elected to the Board.

Special thank you to David Siegel, author of “Forces of Change” and a lieutenant with the Green Bay Fire Department. Siegel gave a great historic presentation to our group. If any member is interested

in his book please contact him directly at david.siegel@new.rr.com or you can purchase the book on Amazon.



Steve Karcz, our acting curator provided a display on the fire of 1886 near Laney and the Township of Maple Grove area that he had been researching. He also provided us with a Curator’s report.

Jack and Gloria Betley were presented with the Historic Preservation Award.

Our Pie Auction and 50/50 raffle raised over \$600 for the Pulaski Area Historical Society.



**Town leaders:** From left, Pittsfield Town Chairman Lee Streckenbach, Clerk Mary Rose Ullmer and Supervisor John Ignatowski stand outside Town Hall.



**Above:** Board Members; Steve Karcz and Katie Walters enjoy time before supper at the annual PAHS banquet.



**Right:** Richard and Genny Hodkiewicz pose for a quick photo at the annual banquet.

Photo dated 12/01/1990. Courtesy of Green Bay Press Gazette

## Pittsfield Town Hall Story References

- 1 Town of Pittsfield April 17 , 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes.
- 2 Town of Pittsfield March 15, 2018 Public Meeting YouTube.
- 3 A Story of Pittsfield and Suamico by Lizzie Johnstone 1928.
- 4 Green Bay Press Gazette notice. Tuesday July 11, 1911.
- 5 A Story of Pittsfield and Suamico by Lizzie R. Johnstone 1928.
- 6 Personal interview with Mary Stender Pasch. October 12th , 2018.
- 7 Personal interview with Mary Stender Pasch. October 12th , 2018.
- 8 Personal interview with Doris Malcheski. October 12th, 2018.
- 9 Green Bay Press Gazette article. Tuesday, August 14th 1962.
- 10 Green Bay Press Gazette notice, May 3rd, 1963.
- 11 Personal interview with Mary Stender-Pasch October 12th, 2018.
- 12 Personal interview with Lee Streckenbach. October 12th, 2018.

**Do you have photos or information you’d like to share on our website or our Facebook page? Feel free to share it with the world!**

Feel free to send any historical information to [pulaskimuseum@gmail.com](mailto:pulaskimuseum@gmail.com). We would be happy to put your information on our website for all to view. What good does having photos and information in a box, right? Feel free to share with the world.

# Final Tribute to our Museum Curator, Marian Schroeder

In February of 2018 the Pulaski Area Historical Society lost one of our founding members, Marian Schroeder. From the first planning meeting in 1972, the longtime teacher and librarian in the Pulaski School District was instrumental in the formation of the Society and the Museum.

When the museum and society received accreditation, Marian held the title of curator, but her contributions over the subsequent 40-plus years certainly exceeded that role. She largely created the system to catalogue and record donated items and set up displays with assistance from other Board members.

Marian frequently acted as the primary contact for the organization. She kept detailed notes of who she communicated with and the information she provided to them.

Thanks to Marian's efforts, Laney School and the Chase Stone Barn were placed on the National Register of Historical Places.

Marian was a stellar historian and curator and her presence as well as immeasurable contributions to the Pulaski Area Historical Society, Museum and the Village of Pulaski will be greatly missed.



## Happy 100th Birthday to Maddy Krawczyk

On October 22, PAHS member Maddy Krawczyk turned a century old - 100 years old. Please feel free to send her a card, call or stop in to visit her. Her address is Emerald Bay, 650 Centennial Centre Blvd., Room 124, Hobart, WI 54155.



Get active, JOIN OUR FACEBOOK group.

## New Artifacts on Museum Lawn



Cement mixer donated by **Mike Blohowiak**.



Special thanks to **Mike and Bill Maroszek of Maroszek Excavating** for helping the PAHS deliver this hitching post (donated by **Damon Szymanski**) to the PAHS museum to be permanently displayed.

## Need a little research done?

Our members love to help with research. Although we do not charge for research, if we do assist you, any monetary donation to the Pulaski Area Historical Society would be appreciated. Contact Steven Karcz at 920-822-1762 or Email: [karczpulaski@aol.com](mailto:karczpulaski@aol.com) for assistance on research.

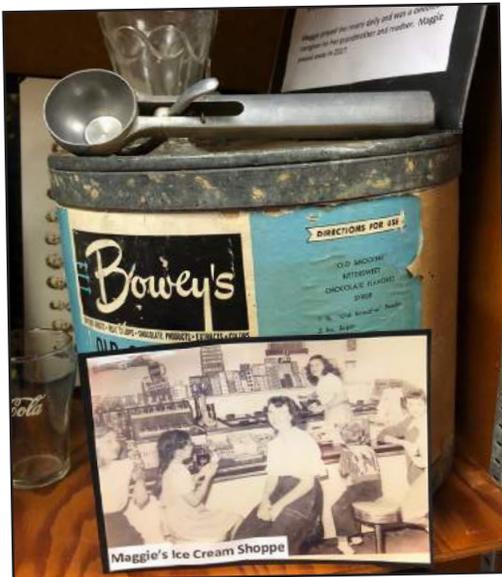
Pulaski Area Historical Society  
129 West Pulaski Street  
P.O. Box 944  
Pulaski, WI 54162  
Address Correction Requested

Place  
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Here



Casimir Pulaski Days  
March 3rd-10th, 2019.

## Gajewski Family Display at the Museum



On October 8th, **Premier Community Bank** employees cleaned our museum. Special thanks to **Katie Walters, Kim Tauscher, Deb Acher and Gabbie Winkler**. We appreciate all your coordination and hard work.

Does anyone remember Maggie's Ice Cream Shoppe? Check out the latest display at the museum, the Gajewski Family Display now available for viewing.