



The GGRWHC salutes the “Queen of the Poles”!

Grand Rapids’ Valeria Lipczynski & the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame

On October 27th, 2011, Valeria Lipczynski (1846-1930) will be among eight women inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. A tireless advocate for Polish-Americans, Lipczynski served as tutor, translator, social worker, and nurse for numerous immigrants and helped found many organizations, including the Wiarus Society, the first Polish institution in West Michigan, and three Grand Rapids Catholic churches (St. Mary's, St. Adalbert's, and St. Isidore's). Her Society of Polish Ladies became in 1899 the first women's organization admitted to the Polish National Alliance, and in 1901 Lipczynski became the first woman elected to the Alliance's board of directors. Many contemporary groups, both local and national, can trace their roots to Valeria Lipczynski's organizational and leadership skills.

Each year the annual MWHF celebration recognizes the significant achievements of several Michigan women. The **Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council** hopes for significant representation from Grand Rapids at the 2011 celebration and in its handsome programs, which find their way into the hands of hundreds attending the event and eventually into archival collections. If you cannot attend yourself on October 27th, please consider donating to dinner scholarships. For details, [See WHAT? Link to PDF or calendar below?]

Read more about Lipczynski as "one-woman settlement house" and the celebratory evening in Terri Finch Hamilton's article for the Grand Rapids Press: [MLive webpage](#)