

Polanki, Inc.

Polish Women's Cultural Club Newsletter

April [Kwiecień] 2015

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Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych!!

Polanki Meeting April 10

The general membership meeting of Polanki, Inc., will be held on Friday, April 13, at Villa St. Francis in the dining room at 7:30 p.m. Next activity is the Awards Tea - sign up to bring finger food and small sandwiches. Also, perfect attendance awards will be given out.

SPEAKER: To be introduced at the meeting.

HOSTESSES:

Teresa Jankowski
Loretta Nyland
Katherine Ott
Carol Powers
Camille Shaw

The President's Pen

Our Polish- American Easter

It's one of the most beautiful times of the year. The Easter season. One of my neighbor's who was not Polish said that she always likes to visit a Polish home on Holy Saturday because of the Easter smells. No doubt the kielbasa and baking babka etc. Hyacinth and Easter plants also add to the special blend.

On Palm Sunday, some of the Polanki members attended the Syrena Polish Dance Ensembles' Świącone. What a lovely event. Beautiful prayers for the season, music, singing, dancing and delicious food. It was just as lovely to enjoy it with others of Polish background as it was to share it with non-Poles. They were delighted by the traditions that were demonstrated and experienced at the event. A Lithuanian guest couldn't believe how a bite of Polish sausage brought back warm and loving memories of her beloved Lithuanian grandparents.

When we work so hard to present our sell-out Soup and Pierogi Festivals along with so many other events, the members of Polanki not only bring back warm memories of our beloved background, but add to the experiences of many others. We add to the feeling of family by sharing our traditions.

Now it is time to take a break and spend time with our families and friends. Happy and Blessed Easter to all.

Pierogi Fest 2015

The Amish have a saying that “Many hands make light work” and that was certainly true for the many volunteers who gave of their time and talents for Pierogi Fest 2015. We were very lucky to have good weather and from all accounts our guests look forward to this event each year. One guest commented that she wished we would hold Pierogi Fest twice a year. Nancy and I would like to thank each of



you for your help: the volunteer receptionist, the greeters, the dining room bussers, salad hostesses, the hot food servers and pierogi fryer, beverage and dessert hostesses. Thanks to the drivers David Chattin, Adrienne Zuber and Roma Numrych who went to Chicago for the pierogi, Geraldine Reszel for the many hours spent handling all the aspects of reser-



vations, the cooks Heddy Moskaluk, Dana Michaels, and Paul Melenchuk. The cultural sales and pottery sales were very successful that day. Special thanks to the Frozen Food pickup area volunteers, especially Creston Flemming who pitched right in with John Saltz to handle all of the runs to the freezer. We couldn't have done it without each of you. Thank you.



Nancy Monfre and Judy Chattin, Co-Chairs

The Art of Liturgical Ikebana

Ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arrangement—the word means “living flowers.” In ikebana all aspects of the plant, including stems and leaves, are as important as the blooms. Focus is on shape, line, form, color, and meaning. The structure of the arrangement is usually a triangle, delineated by three main points thought to symbolize heaven, man, and earth. Other aspects are minimalism and spirituality, meant to demonstrate the beauty of simple things in nature, and to bring together mind, body, and soul. So it is not surprising that there is an art of liturgical ikebana that creates arrangements which are meant to enhance the liturgies and observances of religious holidays.

You can see examples of liturgical ikebana arrangements prepared for Holy Week services at St. Peter and St. Paul Church at the Benedictine Abbey in Tyniec, near Kraków, Poland. Father Hieronim Kreis is the creator of the compositions, and he says that flowers should not compete with the liturgy, but rather complement other aspects of a sacred space. They should enhance the meaning of the liturgy and help bring us closer to the presence of the Living God.

These compositions were prepared for Easter 2014:



Holy Thursday

This arrangement of hazel branches arranged in a circle, with hazel blossoms in the form of a cross in the center, symbolizes the pastoral words of Jesus to his disciples during the Last Supper and the immutability of the sacred connection between the Eucharist and the Mystery of the Cross.

Good Friday

The dimmed sun and the red flowers symbolize the Passion and Agony of Christ on Good Friday.



Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday

The Easter or Paschal Vigil is the central moment of Holy Week. The Vigil starts after sundown on Holy Saturday and culminates with sunrise on Easter Sunday. The arrangement at right features the sun in the center and the light of the Resurrection around it; it was placed on the main altar on Easter Sunday.

The Main Altar

This panoramic view of the main altar shows the placement in the center of the arrangement with the sun and, to the left the arrangement with the Paschal candle, which was carried in the procession at dawn on Easter Sunday and then added to the altar.



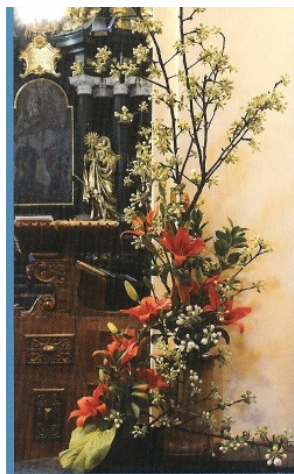
The Paschal Candle

The apple blossom arrangement in the background symbolizes the rays of light emanating from the Paschal candle.



The Holy Cross

This arrangement represents the Cross as the Tree of Life. On Easter Sunday, the red stoles were added.



The Passion

The cascading white blossoms and red lilies represent the water and blood that poured from Christ's body after it was pierced during the Crucifixion. They symbolize the life-giving streams of Grace.

Father Hieronim Kreis OSB is a Benedictine monk and expert ikebana practitioner. Born in Krosno, he studied in Kraków, became a monk at the Tyniec monastery in 1983, and was ordained a priest in 1989. Since 1990 he has been composing liturgical ikebana and also writing haiku poetry. He has published books on the topic of ikebana and given many lectures and workshops, and for years his arrangements have added beauty and meaning to the liturgies held at the Tyniec Abbey. He says that his compositions try to enhance the words of the liturgy, and to represent the relationship between God and his Covenant or Church, and the

world as it seeks redemption and truth. Flowers should lead us to reflection, he says, and closer to God. (GŁOS POLEK, Winter 2015, cover and p. 23.)

Get Well Wishes to

Active member Vera Buczkowski who has been doing therapy at Lutheran Manor.



4/10 Kathy Wieczorek
4/11 Sue Zblewski
4/18 Barbara Januchowski
4/27 Joe Shaw
4/28 Margie Hess

Congratulations to

Sustaining member Jane Dunn, MS, RD, CD, for receiving the 2015 Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (WAND) Outstanding Dietitian of the Year Award. She will receive the award at the Awards Luncheon on Friday, April 17, at the Osthoff resort in Elkhart Lake.

Sustaining member Hedy Rabiega who is being honored at the Pulaski Council's May 3 Constitution Day Luncheon at the Polish Center.

Coming Events

April 26 Awards Tea, PCW, 2 p.m.
June 12-14 Polish Fest
Oct. 11 Soup Festival, Norway House
Nov. 20-22 Holiday Folk Fair
Nov. 29 Tree decorating at PCW
Dec. 6 Holiday Bazaar/Brunch, PCW
Dec. 20 Polanki Christmas Party

Community Corner

Norway House Torsk dinner: Apr. 25

The Polish Center has a number of events coming up:

April 5 **Easter Brunch**
May 10 **Mother's Day Brunch**
May 15 **Kuba Stankiewicz**—Polish jazz pianist—7 p.m. Tickets \$20.00

Kuba Stankiewicz has recorded many albums including “Northern Song,” “Open” and “Song of Innocence.” He studied at Berklee College of Music and toured across the USA with the Artie Shaw Orchestra. He was a recipient of the Oscar Peterson Award and semi-finalist in the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition in Washington, DC. In 2009, he received a Ph.D. from the Academy of Music in Wrocław, Poland. He teaches piano in the Jazz Department of the University of Zielona, Góra.

FYI

For those who missed Anne Gurnack’s lecture about the Jones Island fishermen, the lecture will be repeated on April 27 on the UW Milwaukee campus at the Hefner Center on Lake Drive from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m.



Barbara Godlewski’s granddaughter



Happy Easter!!

Polish Architecture

by Anna Cymer
Culture.pl 12/30/2014



St. Michael The Archangel Tserkva i Turzańsk, photo: National Heritage Institute

The accounts of Polish architecture are just as tumultuous and complex as the political fate of this part of Europe. Poland’s borders moved on multiple occasions, the partitions and loss of independence, wartime destruction, and finally, European funds now stimulating the construction market—all of these factors contribute to the image of Polish architecture. It is versatile and surprising, modern, but frequently also very traditional. It is surely a phenomenon worth studying.

Egyptians have pyramids, Romans have the Colosseum, and the British have Stonehenge. So, what are the oldest monuments in Poland?

According to historians, the beginnings of the Polish state date back to the 10th century AD. The state began forming after the union of two neighboring tribes—the Wiślanie (Vistulans), who dwelled in the area of modern-day Kraków, and Polanie, who lived to their northwest, around present-day Poznań. These are the regions which have preserved remains of the oldest Polish buildings. They are mainly shrines. This is due to the fact that homes were made of wood and clay, which did not survive the test of time, while churches were raised in stone.



Wawel Royal Castle (right) and the Cathedral (left)

The Wawel Royal Castle in Kraków preserves fragments of a church from the second half of the 10th century. Relics of religious constructions can also be found in Poznań and Gniezno. The oldest buildings that have been preserved in their entirety were raised in the 12th century. The Church of St Prokop, a stone rotunda construction built in the Roman style was raised in around 1160 in Strzelno. It is composed of a tower shaped like a horseshoe, and is also the only Roman shrine in the world with a rectangular presbytery.



Three-nave collegiate church in Tumi, photo: Mrksmlk, CC

An exquisite treasure of the Polish Middle Ages was raised in the same epoch, in the Mazovian town of Tumi near Łęczyca. A stone three-nave collegiate with two towers, decorated with sculptures (including a 12th century portico, still preserved today), with a simple, even raw, character. Built with basic geometric forms, it resembles a fortress. All of this is due to the fact that when large-scale buildings were raised in Poland at the time, German masons were employed. This resulted in an import of the style that was popular among Poland's western neighbors.

Many of the architectural monuments from the Roman and Gothic periods preserved to this day were once part of monasteries. The first orders to settle in Poland in the 10th century were the Benedictine and the Cistercian monks. Benedictine abbeys in Tyniec, Mogilno, and Lysa Góra, and Cistercian abbeys in Jędrzejów, Koprzywnica, Wąchock, and Sulejów underwent subsequent architectural modifications and expansions. However, hints of the ancient, medieval walls can still be observed in them.

Santi Gucci, Tylman van Gameren, Karl Friedrich Schinkel, Rainer Mahlamäki—were Polish buildings ever built by Poles?

In the 21st century, it comes as no wonder that significant buildings for public use are designed after an international competition selects a winning project from the many proposals submitted by architects from across the entire globe. Thus, Dutch architects build in the Middle East, the English in China, and Americans in Spain. Thanks to these processes and the competition procedure, Poland also boasts an array of excellent buildings designed by non-Polish architects.

One of the most interesting recent architectural works in Warsaw, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, was designed by the studio of Finnish architect Rainer Mahlamäki. The light glass chest of its exterior form, which perfectly fits the modernist surroundings, embraces a wavy, expressive interior.



Museum of the History of Polish Jews, main entrance, photo: Wojciech Krynsk

The Austrian Riegler Riewe Architekten team proposed hiding the Silesian Museum underground, allowing for a good exposition of the historic structures of the Katowice coal mine.

In 2007, the Italian duo Claudio Nardi and Leonard Maria Proli won the contest for a design which placed the Kraków Museum of Contemporary Art within the former Schindler Factory. The Italian-Spanish Estudio Barozzi Veiga studio created a visionary “iceberg”—the shooting white form of the new Szczecin Philharmonic’s headquarters. Another Italian, Renato Rizzi also recently designed the Shakespearian Theatre in Gdańsk, enclosed within a black brick windowless “box” and equipped with a retractable roof. The theatre was officially opened in 2014.



A view onto the scene of the Shakespearian Theatre of Gdańsk through the building’s open roof, photo: David Linkowski

But foreign architects began working on Polish territory many centuries ago. In the Middle Ages, they traveled to Poland as they were employed in constructing important monuments for which Poles lacked expertise. Later on, kings and princes brought over architects from countries considered as the most culturally developed. This is how the Florentine Santi Gucci made it to the Royal Castle of Wawel in the mid-16th century. He authored a couple of mannerist masterpieces. Using light and easily-formed limestone, the Italian sculpted decorative and expressive tombstones, filled with extravagant detail. In 1574-5, he carved the Wawel graves of King Zygmunt August and Queen Anna Jagiellonka. In

1595, he made the tombstone for Stefan Batory, and in 1586 the memorials for Barbara and Andrzej Firlej in the church in Janowiec. At the same time Santi Gucci also designed many buildings. The castles in Książ Wielki and Baranów Sandomierski in the southwest of Poland are true gems of the mannerist style. They playfully trick the perception, filled with architectural surprises, and yet they are elegant and full of style.

(To be continued)

More Pierogi Fest Pictures



Photos at Pierogi Fest taken by historian Joanne Barndt.

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