

Polanki, Inc.

Polish Women's Cultural Club Newsletter

February [Luty] 2015

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Polanki Meeting February 13

Polanki's annual meeting will be held at the Villa St. Francis in the dining room at 7:30 p.m. Since this is the annual meeting guests are not welcome—only members. Reports will be given by all Board members and elections will be held at the end.

Also, Judy Chattin has started working on Pierogi Fest. She will fill you in on any new things, ask for volunteers or hand out volunteer letters. Reminder: Volunteers must fill out a reservation form to eat dinner and the charge is discounted to \$10.00.

HOSTESSES:

Ewa Barczyk-Pease
Tamara Johnston
Geraldine Reszel
Ursula Tempska

The History of Valentine's Day

By Isa Sweety

Contrary to popular belief, Valentine's Day was not created by card companies to sell candy and greeting cards. In fact, the holiday originates in both ancient Roman and Christian tradition. As per one legend, the holiday dates back to the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalis/Lupercalia, a fertility celebration that was observed annually on February 15. The rise of Christianity in Europe saw many pagan holidays being renamed for and dedicated to the early Christian martyrs. Lupercalia was no exception. In 496 AD, Pope Gelasius turned Lupercalia into a Christian feast day and set its observance a day earlier, on February 14. He proclaimed February 14 to be the feast day in honor of Saint Valentine, a Roman martyr who lived in the 3rd century. Legend claims that St. Valentine was a bishop who held secret marriage

ceremonies for soldiers in opposition to Claudius II who had prohibited marriage for young men. He was executed for aiding the young Christians.

Another legend claims that while waiting for his execution, St. Valentine became friends with the jailor's daughter. On the eve of his death, he wrote her a note that read, "From Your Valentine." St. Valentine is the patron saint of happy marriages and lovers.

Fun Valentine's Day Stats

- 1) 61.8% of consumers celebrate Valentine's Day.
- 2) The average annual Valentine's Day spending in the US is \$13.19 Billion.
- 3) The amount the average consumer spends on V-day is \$116.21.
- 4) 85% of cards are bought by women!
- 5) 73% of flowers are bought by men.
- 6) 14% of women buy themselves flowers on Valentine's Day.
- 7) The avg. number of babies conceived on Valentine's Day is 11,000.
- 8) 53% of women say they would end their relationship if they don't receive something on Valentine's Day.

Poland Wins Hopman Cup

Agnieszka Radwanska and Jerzy Janowicz combine to beat Serena Williams and John Isner in Perth.



Jerzy Janowicz and Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland pose with the Hopman Cup; photo: Paul Kane

A furious world number one Serena Williams destroyed her racquet in frustration and called the chair umpire a liar during Poland's historic Hopman Cup tennis title triumph.

Poland went ahead 1-0 after Agnieszka Radwanska shocked 18-time major champion Williams in front of 10,867 fans at Perth Arena.

Isner ensured the top seeds stayed alive, but Poland prevailed in deciding mixed doubles to snare their maiden Hopman Cup crown.

The mixed doubles was not without controversy. With the US 2-1 down in the second set and staring at defeat, a point had to be replayed after Janowicz prematurely celebrated after he thought both Isner and Williams had struck the ball. Williams believed the US should have been awarded the point due to Janowicz's distraction and a five-minute argument involving all four players, the chair umpire and the ITF referee ensued. The Americans ended up winning the replay, but a few games later Williams twice smashed her racquet on the court after missing a simple backhand.

Radwanska leapt into the arms of Janowicz once the pair secured the Cup.

Williams, a two-time Hopman Cup champion, entered her singles match having won all of her previous eight contests against Radwanska. Such was the dominance, Radwanska had only ever won one set against the American—in the 2012 Wimbledon final. But Radwanska came out with all guns blazing in Perth, the world number five even serving for the match in the second set.

The Polish pair produced the goods when it mattered most. "It was one misunderstanding," Radwanska said of the mixed-doubles controversy. "But, oh well, the most important thing is we won. The title means a lot for us."

In case of inclement weather and the Polanki meeting has to be cancelled, please check your email. Geraldine will email the cancellation. Members who receive a paper newsletter will be called personally about the cancellation.

Our Deepest Sympathy to

the family of sustaining member Barbara Godlewski who passed away after having another stroke;

Sustaining member Barbara Spalda whose husband Michael passed away; and

Sustaining member Deborah Tyszka whose long-time male friend suddenly passed away.

Get Well Wishes to

Sustaining member Hedy Robiega who is having her first cataract surgery.



2/01 Iwona Nowak
 2/09 Alina Sedlak
 2/11 Geraldine Reszel
 2/13 Ewa Barczyk-Pease
 2/13 Sharon Kearns
 2/14 Jadwiga Korasz
 2/17 Charlotte Dzimiel
 2/20 Diane Holytz
 Eleanore Jendrzeczek
 Jerry Moskaluk
 2/26 Anna Rogalski
 2/28 Jean Sorenson

Coming Events

Feb. 7 Syrena's Bal Maskowy at the Wisconsin Club
 March 22 Pierogi Festival, PCW
 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

Community Corner

Norway House Torsk Schedule:

Feb. 28, Mar. 28, and Apr. 25

The Polish Center has a number of events coming up:

Feb. 8 Chopin and Champagne, Sunday, 2 p.m.

The dazzling young pianist Carmen Knoll celebrates Fryderyk Chopin—Poland's beloved musical son—with an all-Chopin concert at the Polish Center. Audiences will enjoy two champagne intermissions and a once-in-a-lifetime concert experience. Supported by Polanki. Adults \$20

Feb. 17 Pączki Day, 7 a.m.

Feb. 20 Fish Fries begin.

Mar. 15 Spring Bazaar

Mar. 22 The Ardiente Quartet—Sunday, 6:30 p.m.

Spring Cooking Classes

March 2	Beer-Cheese Soup Heddy Moskaluk & Bernie Jendrzejczak
March 9	Polish Sausage Tom Radoszewski
March 16	Potato & Cheese Pierogi Anne Wal

PCW members \$12 per class, non-members \$15
PCW members \$32 for 3 classes; non-members \$40 for 3 classes.

Egg Decorating

March 21	Beginning Pisanki Bernie Jendrzejczak
March 23	Nalepianki (use wycinanki) Kasia Drake-Hames
March 30	Skrobanki (scratching) Kasia Drake-Hames

Special discounts for multiple workshops. Contact the Polish Center for more information.

More Bridges of Wrocław

The cinematic, art-nouveau Zwierzyniec



Zwierzyniecki Bridge; photo: Marek Maruszak/Forum

Located near the Centennial Hall, the Japanese garden, and the biggest zoo in Poland, the Zwierzyniecki Bridge was first raised as a wooden construction as far back as 1655. The new iron construction from the late 19th century was decorated with a bronze plaque which reads:

For long centuries, I stretched myself wooden above the lazy waters. Now, made of iron and stone, I decorate a new waterway.

The bridge was also called Ceglany (Brick) and Przepustkowy (Passing). The latter name is due to an epidemic of cholera in 1704, when a special checkpoint was installed on the bridge where passes had to be presented in order to gain entry into town. Decorated with four art nouveau obelisks, the Zwierzyniec bridge is lit up with stylish lanterns—and thanks to its beauty it was part of Lukasz Barczyk's film *Hiszpanka*, which told the story of the Wielkopolskie Uprising.

His Highness Rędziński

It is considered the Pride of Wrocław, and one of its most attractive tourist sites. It is one of the biggest bridges in Poland—1742 meters, with an H-shaped pylon 122 meters tall. The designers of this modern giant have no doubts that Rędziński beats a whole series of records—the longest reinforced concrete suspension bridge, the longest bridge to be suspended on only one pylon, the bridge with the longest rein-



forced concrete span. Prof. Jan Biliszczyk, the bridge's builder, even claims that this is the bridge with the largest surface in the world.

Red bars mirrored in the Odra

These bars are a sign that we are on the Piaskowy (Sand) Bridge, the oldest preserved water crossing of Wrocław.



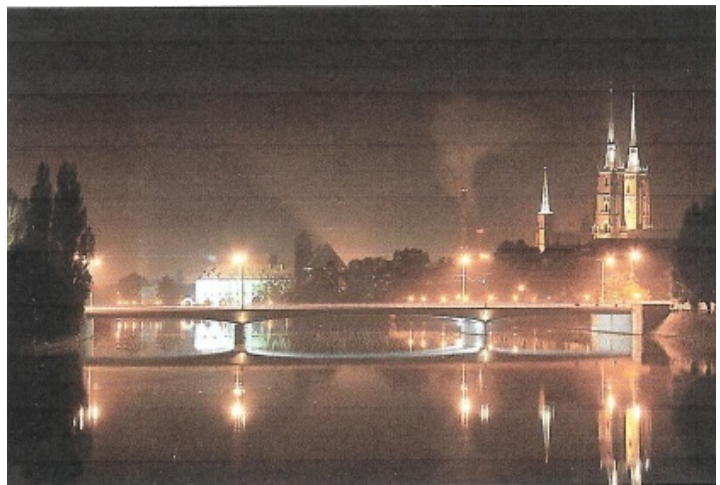
Piaskowy in the lens of Bartłomiej Klidpwoch/Forum

The first records of this water crossing date to the 12th century. A wooden bridge with bars, which includes one draw span and a defense tower made of clay lead onto the Church of Sacred Virgin Mary. The bridge was guarded by monks, who would collect a toll from merchants arriving in the area from the Czech Republic and Italy. Two international trails crossed by the “Pons ad Virginem Maria in Arena,” with many inns raised in the area for traders traveling the Amber Road.

In 1861, an iron construction designed by Ernest Uber was raised on the site of Piaskowy, with dense, iron double railings. It resembled a similar bridge raised on the Royal Canal between England and Scotland—which had been the first such construction of its kind. The bridge in Wrocław was built in the Wrocławska Wytwórnia Konstrukcji Stalowych (Wrocław Steel Construction Manufactory).

A walk for 4 pfennigs

Mounted on four stone pillars, this monumental bridge was opened in 1875, after the unification of Germany and the founding of the German Empire, as one of the symbols of its renaissance. This modern construction took the place of the previous so-called Czteropfenigowy Vierpfenigbrücke (Four Pfennig Bridge). Its patron was a playwright of the enlightenment period, Gotthold Ephraim Lessing. The former name alluded to the toll taken by Pauline monks for crossing the bridge. In 1945, during Festung Breslau, two of the bridge's four spans were destroyed and drowned at the bottom of the Odra rivers. The remains of the bridge only served pedestrians, and then, in the late 1950s, a completely new bridge was raised in the same place. This time, more than a thousand tonnes of steel were dedicated to Polish-Soviet friendship.



Pokoju (Peace) Bridge, photo: CC

An urban archipelago

The Old Town of Wrocław hides an island “archipelago” one of the favorite leisure destinations of both tourists and locals. Leading onto the green Słodowa Island is the Słodowa footbridge—one of the 200 pedestrian and bicycle crossings in the city.



Słodowa Footbridge, photo: Marek Maruszak/Forum

Młyńskie and Uniwersyteckie Bridges: Two in One

Here, the wide mirror of the waters already looks onto the imperial castle. Here, a bridge crosses over the entire breadth of the river, with roads converging onto it from three old gates. The bridge is defended in the middle, as always, by a bastion raised on pillars, as well as a drawbridge. The bridge itself is built from strong oak beams. There is no better one in this country.



Photoglob AG, Zürich, Switzerland or Detroit Pub. Co., Detroit, MI

M. Bartłomiej Stenus thus described old university bridges in 1512, in his *Descriptio totius Silesie et civitatis regie Vratislaviensis*.

Back then, the wooden construction still bore the name *Pons Viadri*, meaning the Odra Bridge in Latin. Later, new names such as *Most Środkow* (Middle Bridge), *Lange Brücke*, and *Most Długi* (Long Bridge) also surfaced. In 1867, a well-known Wrocław architect, Ferdinand Alexander Kaumann, decided to build a bridge fortified by stone supports and steel spans. The bridges lasted for some 66 years, and were destroyed during the Second World War.

The narrow Bartoszowicki Bridge



Photo: Wikimedia

In 1512, Bartłomiej Stenus described it so: “. . . This bridge is armed with two bastions built with wood and plastered with clay. A drawbridge closes off the entry in front of each of them. . .”

Measuring only 5.5 meters across, it is the most narrow bridge in Wrocław. It was raised between 1913 and 1917, when Wrocław was constructing a flood and shipping canal. Its steel structure, which was restored after the floods of the century, is 110 meters long.

Christmas Party Photos



Adrienne Zuber and Lynn Adams



Margie Hess measuring out raffle tickets



The twins: Jane Dunn and Jean Wroblewski

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