

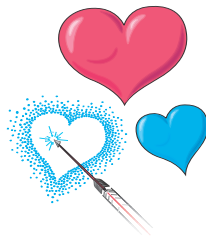
# Polanki, Inc.

Polish Women's Cultural Club Newsletter

February [Luty] 2016

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<i>Polanki Library</i>	414-858-9357



***Happy Valentine's Day!!!***

## **Polanki Meeting Feb. 12**

The 2016 annual meeting of Polanki, Inc., will be held on Friday, February 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the dining room at Villa St. Francis. No guests are allowed at this meeting. Each member of the Executive Board will be giving their annual report, and an election meeting will follow the regular meeting. **Bring your checkbook to pay your dues and also shop Rita Michalak's Treasures Sale.**

### **HOSTESSES:**

Char Dzimiel  
Barbara Januchowski  
Pat Koronkowski  
Edith Malson  
Heddy Moskaluk  
Lucy Trebatoski

### ***The President's Pen***

*Thank you*

It was a very good year. Our last event of the year, "Poland under Glass," ended with a bang after a five-year run over the last six years. So, thank you to everyone who supported Poland under Glass in any way. Thank you to each volunteer, but a special thank you to the schleppers, the planners, the demonstrators, the artists, those with special talents and all who had to park far away. Our bakery friends from Chicago said this event is unique and could never happen in Chicago. She marveled at the cooperation that it takes. Another non-Polanki volunteer stated that this was a wonderful family event. My final expression of gratitude goes to the director and staff at the Domes who have been so helpful and supportive over the years. There will be no "Poland under Glass" next year; but, as has happened in the past, other opportunities will be there in the future. Polanki will embrace these as has been the tradition for our many years. I invite you to embrace your role in future events.

## **Sophie Banasikowski (1920-2016)**

Sophie Banasikowski (nee Zofia Brzozowski) was born May 15, 1920, in Suwalki, Poland and died in Spring Hill, Florida, on January 21, 2016. Sophie was a member of Polanki from 1960 to 1973.



Zofia was the first woman speed skater in Suwalki, Poland. She was the first place winner in the Speed Skating National Competition. Her dream to be an Olympic hopeful was shattered when the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939. Taken prisoner by the Soviets in November 1940 and sent to do forced labor in a textile factory in Klajpeda. Released in July

1941, but arrested a few days later by the Germans and sent to Soldau concentration camp in Dziedow. In December 1941 sent to Plonsk to care for children in a Volksdeutsche family. Released in May 1942. Arrested again in May 1944 and sent to do more forced labor in the fields at the Klein Zakrau estate. When the Russian front was approaching, she was sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp in October 1944 and then assigned to work at Siemens factory. Near the end of World War II, she and many camp survivors were rescued and liberated by the Swedish Red Cross. Taken to Malmo, Sweden, she met and married Edmund, a Polish officer in the Polish Resistance and started a new life. Having family in Milwaukee, she emigrated there with her daughter. Her husband joined them a couple of years later. Her love and knowledge of Polish culture and folk dance became visible in the Polish community. She was a Polish dance instructor in Milwaukee teaching thousands of youth. Beginning in 1952 she choreographed nine performances for the International Institute Folk Fair, she choreographed the Polish Folk dances and arranged the dances to the accompaniment of New Life Choir. She designed and created Christmas tree ornaments for permanent display at the Milwaukee Public Museum. As a Polanki member, she did presentations about Polish traditions for the International Institute Folk Fair Polish Exhibit. She provided presentations on Polish Customs and Traditions on local television. Many of these presentations were filmed in her home in Milwaukee.



- 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 Jendrzyczak
- Jerry Moskaluk
- 2/26 Anna Rogalski

## Coming Events

April 10 Pierogi Dinner, Polish Center

April 24 Awards Tea, Polish Center

June 10-12 Polish Fest—35th anniversary

October 16 Soup Festival, Norway House

## Community Corner

**Torsk suppers at Norway House:** \$13 adults; 4-7 p.m.

2/27/16

3/19/16

4/23/16

Tuesday, **February 9, is Pączki Day** at the PCW which opens at 7 a.m.

On Thursday, **February 11, 2016**, Dr. John Micgiel, President of the Kosciuszko Foundation, will speak at an event at the **Polish Center of Wisconsin at 7 p.m.** This event will be co-sponsored by the UWM Polish Studies Commit-

tee, The Polish American Congress, The Milwaukee Society PNA Lodge 2159 and Polanki.

**Lenten Fish Fries begin Feb. 12** at the Polish Center at 4:30 p.m. Price: \$12.

**Sunday, February 21, at 1 p.m.** is the Book Club discussion of the book *Lullaby of Polish Girls*.

**Common Heritage—Music from Poland and Latin America, February 21, at 2 p.m.** featuring Orlando Pimentel (clarinet) and Elena Abend (piano).

**Syrena Święcone, Palm Sunday, March 20, at 2 p.m.** in Blessed Sacrament Church Hall, Oklahoma Avenue and 41<sup>st</sup> Street. Go to [www.syrenadancers.com](http://www.syrenadancers.com) to order tickets online.

## Thank You!!!

I would like to thank the Polanki Board for honoring me by making me a life member. The flowers I received at last month's meeting were beautiful and lasted almost the whole month.

At the meeting I told the members that Polanki is more than a club; it is family. I told everyone about the time Eleanor Jendrzejczak and Ann Lalasz took care of my hamster and let Polanki members into my house to pick up merchandise and later return it while I spent the whole Folk Fair weekend in the hospital.

Wednesday, January 20, I took an oxytocin for pain, fell asleep in the lounge chair, the phone awoke me with a start and I was hallucinating. Edith Malson called and asked me how I was. I told her something was terribly wrong. She came right over, assessed the situation and called Judy Chatten who also came right over. Judy hit the life alert button and off I went to St. Luke's. The EMTs thought I had a stroke; I did not. Judy called Crawford Animal Hospital and she and her husband took the dogs and all their perfinalia to be boarded there. In the meantime, Edith washed and dried the dishes. Thursday Judy and David went to the PCW to load their van with pottery for the Domes. Then Judy came to St. Luke's to pick me up and David went to pick up the dogs. Edith sent cards and both called to check on me. Thank you Edith, Judy, and David.

Monday at 4 a.m. I called Judy and asked to be taken to the ER. I had a #10 pain below my left shoulder which was driving me crazy. A shot of morphine, a little shut eye, and home we went. Again, thank you, Judy.

That Monday afternoon I met with my primary doctor. Four days later I met with him again on Camille's advice. She called to check on me and I told her I had a severe stiff neck—couldn't turn it or raise and lower it without pain. I could not sleep in my bed, AGAIN! Thank you, Camille.

News about my travails was passed around to Polanki members as they worked at the Domes. Once more concerned members called to cheer me up, give me advice, etc. I thank you all because on the second visit to my doctor he lectured me; I was in the doldrums and I needed to start getting positive. He wanted the old Geraldine back. It must have worked because I stopped at Culver's for some comfort food, Walgreen's for the muscle relaxer (another story), and then home to my dogs. The neck pain started to subside and I slept in my bed. Thank you all who were so worried about me.

Why did I tell you all this? Because we are a family. Don't sit by yourselves at meetings. Mix it up! Get to know each other. Form friendships. We really are nice ladies.

*Geraldine Reszel*

## 8 Most Unusual Polish Folk Instruments

By Marek Kępa



Ligawka. Storytellers and musicians contest in Bukowina, Tatrzńska, 1973.

Bitch, devil's fiddle, some traditional Polish folk instruments may have brow-raising names, but all of them have a unique and fascinating sound which lends Polish folk its inimitable-cachet.

### Ligawka



One of the oldest Polish instruments, this wooden horn is what Abu Ubaydallah al-Bakri, the 11<sup>th</sup> century Arabic historian who wrote about ancient Slavs and Poland, had in mind when he noted the following: “They have a wind instrument that’s more than two cubits long.” *Ligawka* used to be employed by herdsmen to call cattle. Additionally it was, and in certain areas still is, traditionally used outdoors to announce the coming of Advent.

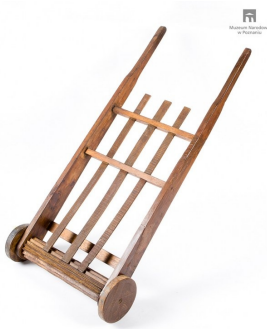
### Hurdy-Gurdy

In Old Poland the haunting sound of this string instrument frequently accompanied the voice of vagabond singers performing for handouts. These artists, who would often play themselves, were proud of their occupation even though they were from the lowest of social classes. Many saw them as wise individuals who knew legends, prayers and magical procedures. The contemporary Polish folk group Warsaw Village Band has made some great music using this instrument, the strings of which one plays by rotating a built-in wheel with a crank.





### Cart Rattle



If you'd like to start playing an instrument but haven't much of an ear for music, you might want to consider picking the cart rattle. All you need to do to play it is roll it. And, believe it or not, this instrument is actually a small cart, so rolling it is rather easy. When the cart's wheels are turning a cog fixed to them catches on special planks causing them to rattle; simple as that. There's not much more to this instrument so you can quickly reach virtuoso. The cart rattle was typically used by carolers or as a substitute for church bells during Holy Week.

### Devil's Fiddle

Contrary to what the name might suggest this is a percussion instrument, a kind of fiddle you hit with a notched rod to create a rhythm. You can also knock on the floor with it for the same purpose. It comes from the Kaszuby region where it was traditionally used as a ritual instrument for scaring off devils, evil forces, etc. Nowadays it is commonly seen in Kashubian folk groups. The mask in the upper part of the fiddle is typically represents a devil or a fantastic being.



### Suka



When played by unskilled hands, the *suka-bitch*, in Polish—gives unpleasant, animal howls. The string instrument requires a fine technique; unlike typical strings, you don't alter the tones of its strings by pressing them with your fingers,. Instead you change their pitch by touching them with your fingernails. So many must have tried this unsuccessfully tat the

instrument got a bad name, literally. When played correctly however, it sounds great. You can see for yourself in contemporary Polish folk recordings.

### Burczybas

It takes two to play a *burczybas*. One holds it while the other makes the sound. There's a strip of horse hair attached to the drum's bottom which one pulls to make this instrument speak. The device in question comes from the Kaszuby region where it was typically used by carolers and on New Year's Eve as a means of providing accompaniment for singers. Some contemporary Kashubian folk bands feature a *burczybas*.



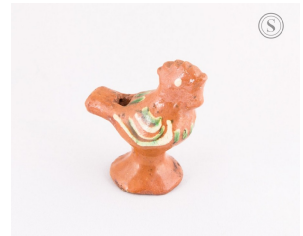
## Pedal Accordion



This instrument was devised in Warsaw by Piotr Stamirowski's accordion company. The air that generates the sound in this music device is pumped by two bellows-pedals that are foot-operated. They are connected to the so-called body (the part that has keys and buttons) by a pipe. Because of its construction the pedal accordion is played in a seated position. It was once a highly popular instrument in the Mazowsze region and can still be encountered today in folk groups, e.g. Kapela Kurpiowska z Kadzidła.

## Vessel Flute

This whistle, sometimes called a vessel flute, is similar in shape to an ocarina. It is a small earthenware vessel flute which you fill with water before playing. Amazingly, it makes the exact sound of a singing bird. Whistles are often bird-shaped, and double as toys for children. (Look familiar? Polanki sells them.)



## Poland Under Glass



Queen Jadwiga—Denna Flemming



Tamara Johston's son



Ron Rutkowski



Name translators





Jennifer Konecny



Devon Flemming



Step One . . .



. . . Done!



. . .

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