

# Polanki, Inc.

Polish Women's Cultural Club Newsletter

January [Styczeń] 2015

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*Happy New Year/Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!*

## **Polanki Meeting January 9**

The holidays are over and it is time to get back to work. The first meeting of the new year will be held on Friday, January 9, at Villa St. Francis in the dining room at 7:30 p.m. Camille Shaw and Margie Hess will be finishing up preparations for Poland Under Glass.

**SPEAKER:** Ewa Barczyk Pease will present The Polish Emigration in France.

### **HOSTESSES:**

Joanne Barndt  
Louise Cieslak  
Teresa Frankowski  
Anna Rogalski  
Halina Sosnowski

## **Polish Poet, Translator Stanisław Baranczak Dies**

By Monika Scisłowska  
The Associated Press  
Warsaw, Poland

Poland's outstanding poet, translator and dissident and a former Harvard lecturer Stanisław Baranczak has died at his U.S. home, Poland's leading daily Gazeta Wyborcza said. He was 68.

Since the 1990s, Baranczak suffered from Parkinson's disease, which made him quit his Harvard job in 1997 after 16 years there. He died in Newtonville near Boston on December 26.

Poland's Culture Minister Małgorzata Omilanowska said that Baranczak's death is a "great loss to Poland's culture." "He paid a great price for his views, for his unwavering attitude," Omilanowska said. "He dedicated his whole life to literature, to

poetry. His work will always be an important part of Poland's culture."

His poems written in Poland in the 1960s and '70s ridiculed the absurdity of the communist system and its artificial language. He co-founded the Workers' Defense Committee (KOR) in 1977, following a brutal communist crackdown on protesting workers. For his activity he was fired from his job at the Adam Mickiewicz University in his native Poznan and his writings were barred from print in Poland.

In 1981 he got a three-year contract as lecturer at Harvard but stayed on, as Poland's communists imposed martial law against the Solidarity freedom movement that year.

He translated many authors from Polish to English and from English to Polish, including works by Shakespeare, John Donne, Emily Dickinson and Bob Dylan. He also translated from Russian and from Lithuanian. He had the rare talent of preserving the spirit and the beauty of the language of the the original.

In 1996 Baranczak shared the U.S. PEN Translation Prize with American Clare Cavanagh for putting into English a collection by Poland's Nobel Prize-winning poet Wisława Szymborska.

Baranczak is survived by his wife Anna, a Harvard preceptor in Slavic languages and literatures.

—ABC News Internet Ventures

## Jeff Poniewaz Advocated Tirelessly for Poetry's Place in the World

By Jim Higgins  
Journal Sentinel  
December 26, 2014

If poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world, as Shelley once wrote, then Jeff Poniewaz would have been the spokesman for their local caucus. He was unceasing in his efforts to promote local poets and poetry events. I know, having received dozens and dozens of letters and emails from him over the years.

Poniewaz died December 13 after living with cancer for several years. At the time of his death, Poniewaz was serving as one of Milwaukee's two poets laureate.

Like his longtime companion Antler, Poniewaz identified with and wrote in the tradition of Walt Whitman and Allen Ginsberg. He also was a passionate ecological activist; for example, he protested vigorously, though unsuccessfully, against the development of the former Humboldt Yards site into a grocery store and drugstore, arguing that the riverside property should be turned into a park.



Poniewaz on right in green shirt

In 1988, Poniewaz organized an Earth Day Poetry Celebration, in part out of frustration with what he saw as the Reagan administration's anti-environmental policies. That event spawned the Earth Poets & Musicians group, which performs annually to celebrate Earth Day and raise funds for ecological organizations. Poniewaz earned a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where for many years he taught a course on the literature of ecological vision.

"Humans are part of Nature, though they tend to overwhelm the nonhuman part and eclipse it, thus endangering the nonhuman part that sustains them," Poniewaz wrote in a 2007 essay for Verse Wisconsin.

Poniewaz published widely in literary anthologies and released several chapbooks. His one full-length book, “Dolphin Leaping in the Milky Way” (1985), articulated his environmental concerns forthrightly.

For example, in the poem “...Kindertotenlied,” he writes: “And so without anybody panicking / let’s hurry up the awareness/of the disaster, / & figure out how to avert as many iotas / of its disastrousness as possible. / To incite awareness & remedy, not panic / do I yell ‘FIRE!’ in a crowded Globe Theatre.”

His last name is Polish for the word “because.” Poniewaz grew up on the south side, a past reflected in his chapbook “Polish for Because: Meditations of a Former St. Josaphat Altar Boy” (2008).

Poniewaz also had a passion for classical music, writing occasional music pieces for the Shepherd Express. In 1997, the Milwaukee Symphony performed a “Song of the Rainforest” concert featuring music suggested by Poniewaz.

Poetry was central to his life, and he refused to accept any suggestion that it shouldn’t be important in public life as well. Over the years, he wrote not only to inform me about poetry events, both his and other people’s, but also to lobby for the inclusion of poetry in the newspaper.

## More Must-Try Polish Cakes and Pastries

### Doughnuts and carnival cakes



*Pączki*, or doughnuts, came to Poland from Arabic cuisine. They’ve been around for centuries but they were once hard as rocks. “An old-fashioned pączek could be used to hit someone over the head. And today they are fluffy and light like a sponge which the wind could blow off your plate,” writes Father Jędrzej Kitowicz in an essay on the eating habits of the times of King Augustus III, Polish doughnuts are shaped like a flattened sphere and fried in deep oil, so they’re not exactly diet food. There are a variety of fillings: rose marmalade, liqueur, pudding. They are to be found in pastry shops all year round but pączki are a symbol of the end of carnival season. On Fat Thursday, the last day before Lent, tens of millions are consumed.

Another famed carnival treat is a sweet crisp pastry made out of ribbon-shaped dough, deep fried and sprinkled with powdered sugar. It’s called either *chrust* (typical for Krakow) or *faworki* (in Warsaw) and can be loosely translated as crisp ribbons or angel wings. They were once made from different doughs: yeast, sponge or batter. Today the most widespread is battered cake obtained by pounding the dough with a wooden rolling pin, which makes it crisp. Nelly Rubinstein sees the pastry as representative of Christmas even though “faworki were made on the last day of carnival” she says, “the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday was the last “fat” day before the forty-day Lent.” The crispy and delicate ribbons fill the shelves of pastry shops during carnival.

### Easter cakes

Along with the aforementioned *babka drożdżowa*, the *mazurek* is an Easter classic. The flat shortbread can be made of different kinds of



dough: half-crispy, sponge, marzipan, or waffles. The mazurek has been an Easter symbol since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The top of the cake is filled or covered in sweet glazing, then decorated. In some households pascha is served instead. This tasty dessert is made of twaróg, yolks, raisins and nuts, and resembles American cheesecakes. Pascha became popular thanks to the former Eastern provinces of Poland.

### Kremówka or Napoleonka?

The cherry on the top of this sweet review is *Kremówka* or *napoleonka*—the name preferred in Warsaw. No pastry shop leaves it out from its offerings. This sweet indulgence originated in France. The Polish version is a cousin of the mille-feuille. In Poland, the puff pastry layers are separated by whipped cream, sweet cream, pudding or meringue (made of egg whites), and the top is sprinkled with powdered sugar or covered in icing. Even after many years in the Vatican, John Paul II always talked about the kremówki from his home town Wadowice.



Author: Magdalena Kasprzyk-Chevriaux. 7/11/2014 Culture.PL

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.

Sustaining member Jadwiga Korasz who took a spill outside of the Villa St. Francis.



## Polanki Cookbook

We are getting low on cookbooks again so another printing is in order. Julie is again collecting recipes to add to the book, especially Wigilia and Christmas recipes. Email them to Julie Lenkiewicz at [tahnjets@gmail.com](mailto:tahnjets@gmail.com)

## Get Well Wishes to

Sustaining member Janine Adamczyk who had knee surgery on the same leg she had foot surgery. She is now recovering at home.

Sustaining member Barbara Godlewski who had a very bad stroke;

Sustaining member Eleanor Jendrzyszczak who had cataract surgery; and

12/03 Janet C. Protasiewicz  
12/05 Carol Bialek  
Elaine Posard  
12/14 Denna Flemming  
12/17 Devon Flemming  
12/15 Jane Dunn  
Jean Wroblewski  
12/26 Halina Sosnowski

### *Happy Belated Birthday!*

01/02 Barbara Godlewski  
01/06 Sybil Grandeck  
01/09 Marie Myler  
01/11 Denise Polka  
01/12 Paula Marek  
01/14 Kathleen Wroblewski  
01/15 Mary Kramer  
01/19 Diane Ufnowski



01/27 Terry Markowski  
01/31 Roma Numrych

## Community Corner

### Norway House Torsk Schedule:

Jan. 24, Feb. 28, Mar. 28, and Apr. 25

### The Polish Center has a number of events coming up:

Jan. 11 Celebrate **Trzech Kroli/Three Kings Day** at 2 p.m. at the Polish Center with Koledy (Polish Christmas carols). Blessing of the Polish Center. Followed by dancing and a nativity play.

Feb. 1 **Czerwone Gitary Band from Poland—Sunday, 2:30 p.m.**

The Red Guitars is one of the most popular rock bands in the history of Polish popular music. Often considered the Polish equivalent of the Beatles, it toured extensively in Europe and the USA. The band was founded in 1965 and reorganized in the 1990s. Czerwone Gitary has received many awards, including a Billboard magazine award. \$40.

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 p.m.**

Feb. 20 **Fish Fries begin.**

Mar. 15 **Spring Bazaar**

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

## Coming Events

Jan. 11 Book Discussion, PCW

Jan. 17 Poland Under Glass, Domes

Feb. 7 Syrena's Bal Maskowy at the Wisconsin Club

March 22 Pierogi Festival

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



# The Bridges of Wrocław: A Virtual Walk Across the Venice of the North

by Anna Legierska  
Translated by Paulina Schlosser



A panorama of Wrocław, photo: Klearchos Kapoutsis

They are works of architecture, historical engineering, and art which connect a dozen islands within the city of Wrocław. Soon, the centuries-old history of more than 100 bridges will be brought to the public by an array of artists.

The curator of the Mosty (Bridges) project, Chris Baldwin, explains that “for one day, we are going to stop the city, and transform these bridges into cultural sites.” According to Baldwin, the aim is to find an interesting story which will inspire groups of young people to take over a bridge, transforming it into the venue of a cultural or artistic happening. A whole series of events will take place in June 2015. The finalization of the project is to coincide with the official announcement of the program for Wrocław’s year as European Culture Capital in 2016.

## 500 kilos of love on the Tumski Bridge



Couples’ padlocks on the Tumski Bridge in Wrocław, photo: CC

Bending under the weight of love, Tumski Bridge is a hallmark of the city and one of its most romantic sites. Specialists estimate that the collection of padlocks with carved lovers’ initials must weigh about 500 kilograms. The padlocks hang on the historic iron spans of a bridge whose construction followed a centuries-long tradition. The very first records of a passage between the former Ostrów Tumski city and the Piasek island date to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and are connected to the construction of a Roman cathedral. The very first bridge in this place also constituted a border of the ecclesiastical jurisdiction—with a landmark bearing the



Czech and bishopric emblems. Lit up with gas lanterns, the Bridge of Love was also witness to bloody moments in history—some of its elements still bear traces of shooting from the 1945 Festung Breslau siege of Wrocław—one of the last battles of World War II. Since 1983, two neogothic figures adorn the entry onto the bridge on the island side. The patron of Silesia (St. Hedwig), and St. John the Baptist, sculpted by the Wrocław-based artist Gustaw Grunenberg.

### The neo-baroque Oławski—feels almost like Rome



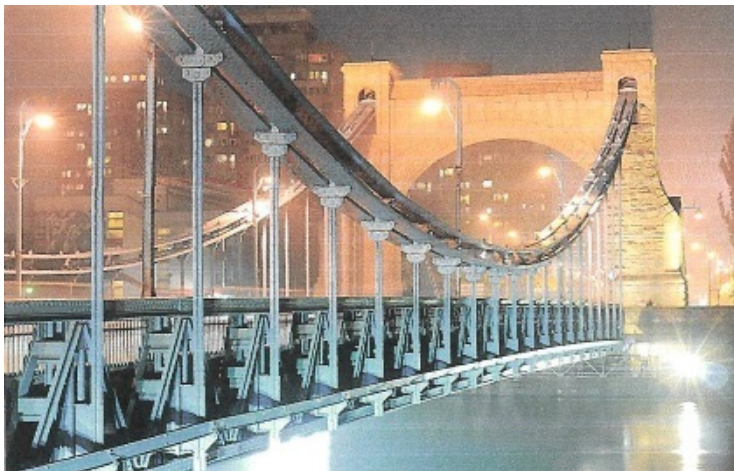
Oławski Bridge in Wrocław, photo: Bartłomiej Kłudowicz/ Forum

A couple of centuries ago, it was just a modest wooden footbridge which led onto the meadows surrounding the Odra and Oława rivers. It is said to have been used mostly by Walloon weavers who dwelled in the nearby Oławskie suburbs. This area was often called St. Moritz, due to the name of the patron of a local church. Hence, the name of the bridge first raised in this place—Most Maurycego (Mauritusbrücke, meaning Moritz's Bridge).

It was raised between 1882 and 1883 according to the design by Aleksander Kaumann, and his collaborators, the engineers Eger and Reichelt. Its construction, which is evocative of bridges found in Rome and Paris, is based

on arches, with stone and granite supports, as well as pillars and abutments. The bridge is decorated with balustrade railings and baroque sculptures, which depict mythological figures connected to the realm of water. Those who promenade on the bridge walk in the light of gas street lamps, which were based on the original etched designs from the year 1885. One of the oldest ports of Wrocław, the Ujście Oławy, is located right by the bridge.

### Flying under Grunwald



Grunwaldzki Bridge, photo: Bartłomiej Kłudowicz/Forum

An icon of the city, and once one of the most modern suspension bridges in the world. Raising the Grunwaldzki Bridge, based on a design by a prominent German architect, Richard Plueddemann, took 2 years, and it was completed in October, 1910. The official opening was attended by Emperor William II. Until 1918, it was called the Cesarski (Imperial) Bridge, Kaiserbrücke in German. After the First World War, at the time of the Weimar Republic, its name was changed to Most Wolności (Freedom Bridge), or Freiheitsbrücke, and under Hitler, the name Kaiserbrücke was restored again. This bridge was partially destroyed during a bomb raid.

One urban legend has it that in the 1950s, a crazy unidentified pilot flew a plane under the bridge. It was supposed to be Stanisław Maksymowicz, a stunt pilot from Wrocław—but to date, the hero himself denies this deed. Apparently, there are rumors that he was trying to impress a woman ...



Barbara Godlewski



Jerry Moskaluk



**Polanki Newsletter** published by

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