

Polanki, Inc.

Polish Women's Cultural Club Newsletter

May [Maj] 2015

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Happy Mother's Day!!!

Polanki Meeting May 8

The general meeting of Polanki, Inc., will be held on Friday, May 8, at Villa St. Francis in the dining room at 7:30 p.m.

SPEAKER: Marjorie Piechowski—"Polish Nobel Peace Prize Winners"

HOSTESSES:

Teresa Frankowski
Margaret Hess
Anna Rogalski
Halina Sosnowski
Anne Wal
Kathleen Wieczorek

The President's Pen

Polanki Springs Forward

Sunday, April 26, 2015, was a perfect day at The Polish Center for the Forty-Sixth Annual College Achievement Awards Tea. One of our repeat guests commented that it was the best scholarship awards tea to date. This was in large part due to the high quality of recipients who were presented with awards this year. Five of the twelve recipients were Ph.D. candidates in a variety of programs and every recipient showed themselves as worthy recipients. Talking to these recipients and their parents was very heartwarming and sometimes inspirational.

Mayan Essak, a high school senior, presented a stellar Chopin program. His introductions gave the audience a better understanding and knowledge of Chopin and his works.

The beautiful tea tables were a tasty and beautiful ending to the traditional Po-

lanki event. Without the scholarship committee and the tea committee as well as the accomplished Polanki bakers and cooks this event would not be possible. Special thanks to the scholarship committee including Ewa Barczyk-Pease, chair, Joanne Barndt, who arranged the piano program, Susan Mikoś, and Marjorie Piechowski, awards tea booklet. The Polanki members who make up the tea arrangements are Iwona Nowak, chair, Teresa Frankowski, and Joanna Nowakowski.



Of course the entire event could not be possible without the generous Polanki women and the scholarship donors who make all of this possible.

Polanki Is

Margie Hess and Pat Koronkowski who represented Polanki at The St. Francis Library mini-folk fair at the children's library on April 11, 2015. Margie wowed the children with her interactive beading and embroidery demo, while Pat manned the booth and answered questions regarding the display.

Jane Dunn and Jean Wroblewski who sold Polish pottery and jewelry at the Dells Polka festival on April 25. They enjoyed the family spirit at the Fest and especially the little people who were dancing.

POLANKI COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2015

STANLEY F. AND HELEN BALCERZAK AWARD

Martin John Kozon

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
M.A., History

NELLIE BARAN MEMORIAL AWARD

Gabriella Renata Pyptiuk

Concordia University
M.S., Nursing/Nurse Practitioner

JANET DZIADULEWICZ BRANDEN MEMORIAL AWARD

Anna Borovskaya

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Ph.D., Slavic Languages and Literature



COPERNICUS AWARD

Joanna Teresa Swinarska

University of Wisconsin-Madison
B.S., Biology and Spanish

BARBARA GODLEWSKI MEMORIAL AWARD

Piotr Puchalski

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Ph.D., European History

ROBERT J. LEONARD MEMORIAL AWARD

Katelynn Ann Prebish

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
M.A., Linguistics and TESOL Certificate

RITA AND ED MICHALAK MEMORIAL AWARD

Michael Thaddeus Rajzer

Milwaukee School of Engineering
B.S., Electrical Engineering



GEORGE NIEMCZYCKI MEMORIAL AWARD

Thomas E. Matusiak

Princeton University

Ph.D., Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Cultures

CLARENCE AND ESTHER NOWICKI AWARD

Emilia Maryla Brahm

Georgetown University

B.S., Culture and Politics

MSGR. ALFONSE S. POPEK MEMORIAL AWARD

Michael Anthony Guzik

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Ph.D., History

POLANKI COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Robert Borowik

Marquette University

B.S., Middle/Secondary Education, History, Economics

Joint Awards with Marquette University:

MARIA AND MICHAEL LASKOWSKI AWARD

Hans Michael Moscicke

Marquette University

Ph.D., Theology



Hedy Rabiega Honored

Pulaski Council of Milwaukee annually honors a Polish-American who has made significant contributions to promote Polish culture in Milwaukee. This year, Pulaski Council is honored to present Sustaining Member Hedy Rabiega with its Annual Polish Heritage Award.

For decades, Hedy has been involved in many organizations within Milwaukee's Polish community. Her volunteerism includes 38 years with the Polish National Alliance (past National Director, past Commissioner and current Financial Secretary of Council 8), current member and fundraiser for Polonia sport Club, current director of Polish American Congress-WI Division, current member of Polish Heritage Alliance, Inc., a sustaining member of Polanki, and a supporter of the Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble.

Hedy was a director of Pulaski Council of Milwaukee for many years. Hedy was also a member of New Life Chorus during its existence and was successful in organizing and getting materials from Chicago for the Choir women's skirts and shawls.

A director of the very first Board of Directors for Polish Fest (established over 30 years ago), Hedy has been a volunteer at Polish Fest ever since. Hedy raised her children to be proud of their Polish heritage and to keep Polish traditions alive—and she is proud to have passed the “Polish torch” to them!

Get Well Wishes to

Sustaining member Paula Marek who fell and broke her pelvic bone. Paula is in rehab at Golden Living on 54th & Loomis Rd.; and

Active member Adrienne Zuber who had cataract surgery.



5/02 Edith Moravcsik
5/05 Jackie Mielczarski
5/09 Dorothy Broihier
5/10 Deborah Tyszka
5/11 Lucille Trebatoski
5/13 Jennifer Eldredge
5/20 Nadine Murawski Flemming
5/25 Marcia Korducki
5/26 Valerie Lukaszewicz
5/27 Claire Anderson
5/28 Lynn Adams
5/28 Jennifer Konecny
5/30 Shirley Rydell

Coming Events

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| 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

The Polish Center has a number of events coming up:

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|--------|---|
| 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.

July 24

Polish Beer Tasting—Friday, 7-10
p.m.

Sept. 13

Chopin Concert

You're Invited!

To join the Polanki Library Polish Speakers Group bus trip.

Where? The Polish Museum of America in Chicago

What else? Time for Shopping

Polish Food? Lunch at Staropolska in Chicago

Cost? Approximately \$50.00

Meet at the College Park & Ride to depart at 9 a.m. and return at about 7 p.m.

For reservations or questions contact Adrienne Zuber at 414-744-4018 or email zuber43@wi.rr.com

So What's the Story Behind Nesting Dolls?

Posted on 14 January 2014 by Kasia in Countries, Culture, History
Article submitted by Active Member Diane Holytz



Image by Phillippa Willitts incurable_hippie on flickr.com

Who doesn't love them? While the modern day nesting doll is most popularly associated with Russia or Poland, the first nesting dolls actually came from China. The Chinese crafted nesting boxes that date back to the Song Dynasty, around 1000 AD. These boxes were both functional and decorative. Sometime during the 1700s they applied this concept to a set of dolls and the first nesting doll was born.

Chinese nesting dolls are similar to the nesting dolls that are common today. In the original Chinese sets the smallest doll held a single grain of rice.

Soon after nesting dolls originated in China they made their way to Japan. Japanese wooden dolls were made to look like the Seven Lucky Gods from Japanese mythology. The outer most doll was Fukurokuju, the Japanese god of happiness and longevity. He had an abnormally long forehead.

It seems logical that the nesting doll concept would take off in Japan as they already had a tradition in similar dolls. Like nesting dolls, kokeshi dolls and daruma dolls do not have arms or legs. Both kokeshi and daruma dolls are hand painted with decorative bodies and simplified facial features.

Daruma dolls are modeled after Bodhidharma, the founder of Zen Buddhism. Daruma dolls originated in the city of Takasaki around the mid 1760s. They are a hollow Papier-mâché doll and often have a wooden mold to create their shape.

Kokeshi dolls originated in Northern Japan during the Edo period (1600-1868). Kokeshi dolls are hand made of wood and have decorative painting. Many kokeshi dolls are also made as nesting dolls.

How the Nesting Doll came to Russia? Some stories say the earliest set of Japanese nesting dolls were actually made by a Russian monk. Whether this is true or not, the nesting dolls made their way to Russia in the early 1890s when Savva Mamontov discovered a set. Mamontov was a wealthy supporter of the arts and wanted to revive Russian folk art. One of his artists, Sergei Mallutin created the first Russian set with the help of Vassily Zvizdochkin. Their concept was to turn the nesting dolls into a symbol of Russia. . . These dolls can still be seen at the Sergiev Posad Museum of Toys in Zagorski, Russia.

Russian nesting dolls go by many names, Matryoshka (and many variations of that name), Russian Nesting Dolls, Stacking dolls, and sometimes Babushka dolls, though there are arguments that this is not actually a name for the dolls. Matryoshka comes from Matryons, a popular Russian women in traditional Russian dress.

In 1900 Mamontov's wife presented the first Russian nesting dolls at the World Exhibition in Paris. Soon after nesting dolls were being made throughout Russia and the surrounding regions. Nesting dolls today can be found in Eastern and Eastern Central Europe in countries like Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Italy, Ukraine. Many of these countries have created their own motifs that are common to their region. Nesting dolls are popular souvenir items throughout Eastern Europe.

Dolls from Poland have a more complex shape than the traditional Russian dolls. They are really hard to find though. . . the original ones.

Today nesting dolls are popular all over the world. Beyond the traditional motifs dolls, nesting dolls now come in sets of political leaders, pop icons, santas, animals, and fairy tales, really almost anything you can imagine. They've transcended their traditional form and have become a very popular icon, especially in the crafting community. A search for matryoshka on Etsy yields more than 2500 results!

More Polish Architecture

by Anna Cymer
Culture.pl 12/30/2014

In the second half of the 17th century, the Dutchman Tylman van Gameren often worked for Polish aristocrats. Although he was a representative of the baroque, his works are temperate and elegant. Toned-



Krasiński Palace in Warsaw, view from the Gardens, photo: CC

down forms typical of van Gameren were given to palaces in Warsaw—the Krasiński family Palace and Gniński-Ostrogski Palace—residences in Nieborów and Białystok, as well as St. Anna’s Church of the Holy Sacrament in Warsaw.

Because of its tumultuous history and the geographical location between two empires, the borders of Poland were moved numerous times. Thus, present day Polish cities have many works by Dutch and German architects. A souvenir of the past political and economic significance of Gdańsk are the works of Willen van den Blocke, and his son, Abraham van den Blocke. 17th-century Dutch architects and sculptors also worked in Gdańsk during the construction of the Wyżynna (Highland) and Złota (Golden) Gates, the Manor of Artus, the Fountain of Neptune, the Wielka Zbrojownia (Great Armory), as well as numerous tombstones and epitaphs.



Great Armory building in Gdańsk, a view from the Mariacka Tower, photo: CC

Kamieniec Ząbkowicki in Lower Silesia, Kórnik, Antonin, and Buk—all of these are sites which have preserved the works of an important 19th-century classicist, Karl Friedrich Schinkel. Another Silesian city, Wrocław, is home to the Centennial Hall recently made a UNESCO World Heritage site, and designed by Max Berg in the early 20th century, Wrocław is also home to WUWA, an experimental modernist housing area, the work of German modernists, whose research would influence European house-building of the subsequent decades.

Buildings and politics—20th-century Polish architecture wins independence twice

In the 20th century, Poland regained its independence twice. The first time was in 1918, following 124 years of existence under the partitions. The second came in 1989, when the communist regime was successfully overthrown without any bloodshed. Both of these events were extraordinarily important and also impacted the development of architecture.



Centennial Hall in Wrocław, photo: Marek Skorupski/Forum

The two decades of the interwar period 1918-1939 proved to be an unprecedented time of blossoming artistic life. The regained independence influenced architects, some of whom began to design elegant and stylish venues for public use, which were to also become symbols of power for the reborn state (some of these architects include Adolf Szyszko-Bohusz, Marian Lalewicz and Bohdan Pniewski).

Reaction to Modernism—Architecture of Adolf Szyszko-Bohusz—Image Gallery

Others, infatuated with the avant-garde, and keeping contact with Le Corbusier, as well as German and Dutch modernists, designed modern minimalist homes for citizens. Helena and Szymon Syrkus played an important role among the avant-garde architects, as well as the duo of Bohdan Lachert and Józef Szanajca. These twenty years saw a true explosion of Polish architecture, which rushed to make up for the years lost under the partitions. Architectural schools developed, and many new styles were shaped—from the



Cichy Kącik housing, Kraków, 1936-1937



Spa house in Żiegstów, 1930

Zakopane style, inspired by the folk traditions of the Górale highlanders, through to the ultra contemporary functionalist style.

After the political transformation of 1989, many designers and investors dreamt of catching up with the West. This ambition resulted in constructions which deliberately alluded to a capitalist lifestyle.



President's castle in Wisła, 1930

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Polanki, Inc.
P. O. Box 341458
Milwaukee, WI 53234
www.polanki.org
414-858-9357

Editor

Geraldine Reszel

greszel@wi.rr.com

President

Camille Shaw