

Polanki, Inc.

Polish Women's Cultural Club Newsletter

March [Marzec] 2017

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Happy St. Patrick's Day

Polanki Meeting March 10

The March general meeting of Polanki, Inc., will be held on Friday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the dining room at Villa St. Francis. This month Polanki gives out perfect attendance awards.

SPEAKER: Susan Rabe from St. Josaphat Basilica Foundation

HOSTESSES:

Ewa Barczyk
Dorothy Broihier
Tamara Johnston
Ula Tempaska
Anne Wal
Janina Zurko

From the President's Desk

One year down, one year to go as President of Polanki. Thanks for entrusting me to be the face of Polanki. We have a great year ahead of us. I want to thank everyone for volunteering. Everyone's contribution is important no matter the size. Lent is upon us. I hope everyone has an opportunity to rest up during Lent because we have a lot of events during the Easter season. I know I will take some time for additional prayer, fasting, and alms giving. At my invitation, Susan Rabe, from the St. Josaphat Basilica Foundation will be coming to the membership meeting on March 10 to thank Polanki for its \$50,000 donation and to answer any questions. She will also be giving us a private tour of the Basilica some time this spring. Stay tuned for further details about this wonderful opportunity. As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Denna Flemming

Resident's 100th Birthday Honored with Polish Dance Piece

In Poland, a common birthday toast is "Sto Lat!" which means "100 Years!" For Milwaukee Catholic Home resident Ada Dziwanowska, who was born in Poland, the traditional toast takes on a special significance this year as she celebrates her 100th birthday. To make her birthday even more special, the Polish dance

community in Milwaukee will be marking the occasion with an original choreographed dance piece based on her life.



Ada has been involved in the traditional art of recreational Polish dance all her life. She's taught in Poland, Japan, Israel, Switzerland, and all over the United States. She's also created teaching tools for other instructors and is the principal author of Polish Folk Dances and Songs: A Step-by-Step Guide, which is considered the authoritative English-language work on Polish folk dancing. She's often shared the cultural riches of the Polish folk tradition with our community at MCH, giving talks and performances and even teaching us a dance step or two!

The dance piece in honor of Ada's life is being performed by the Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble, a group that Ada has led as Artistic Director for many years. The performance will take place on February 11 at the "Bal Maskowy," an annual ball sometimes referred to as the "Polish Mardi Gras." The piece was choreographed by her student and longtime collaborator, Stas Kmiec, an award-winning dancer and choreographer who is currently the Artistic Director of Ballet Western Reserve in Youngstown, OH.

—Reprinted from February 9, 2017, issue of the Milwaukee Catholic Home Newsletter.



Active member Susan Konecny has gout.



3/19 Joanna Nowakowski
3/28 Marjorie Piechowski
3/31 Edith Malson

Get Well Wishes to

Active member Margie Hess who has a degenerative spine. She is in great pain and will be going for pain management.

Active member Judy Chattin is recovering from a very sore shoulder. She tried to turn a chair behind her and did something to the muscles.

Active member Kathy Camacho had a hip replacement.

HELP WANTED

The Polanki library is in need of a volunteer who has clerical skills—typing being No. 1 skill necessary. Contact Susan Mikoś.

Coming Events

April 23	Awards Tea, PCW
April 30	Pierogi Dinner, PCW
June 16-18	Polish Fest
Oct. 15	Polish Soup Festival Norway House
Nov. 17-19	Holiday Folk Fair, State Fair

Community Corner

Norway House Torsk supper dates for 2017:
Mar. 25 and Apr. 22

The Polish Center begins Lenten Fish Fries on
March 3 at 4:30 p.m.

The Syrena Dancers will be holding their Świą-
cone on April 9, Palm Sunday.

The Polish Center will be having their Easter
Brunch–All You Can Eat–on April 16.

Member Tidbits

Nadine Flemming has announced she and her
three daughters, Devon, Denna, and Darla will be
chairing the Scholarship Awards Tea this year on
April 23.

Rayna Jean Hooten was born at 2:23 a.m. on
February 27, 2017, weighing 8 lbs. 2 oz., 21"
long. Proud parents are Rachel and Curt Hooten.
Jean and Ron Wroblewski are the Proud Grand-
parents.

Jadwiga Korasz Will Receive Life Membership

Jadwiga Korasz, mother of Barbara Rajzer (former Polanki member) and
Alexandra (Polonez Restaurant), has been a member of Polanki since December
1991. Jadwiga has done a number of things for Polanki but her forte was the
Awards Tea. She made posters for the front of the lectern but the kitchen was her
domain. Jadwiga did the fruit displays, flowers, and whatever they needed back
there in the kitchen. In February Jadwiga turned 90 and now lives at Villa St.
Francis and now she rarely misses a meeting.



Casimir Pulaski



Kazimierz Michał Władysław Wiktor Pułaski of Słepowron? Casimir Pulaski
(March 6, 1745–October 11, 1779) was a Polish nobleman, soldier and military
commander who has been called with his Hungarian friend
Michael Kovats de Fabriczy "the fathers of the American
cavalry".

Born in Warka and following in his father's footsteps, he
became interested in politics at an early age and soon
became involved in the military and the revolutionary
affairs in Poland (the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth).

Pulaski was one of the leading military commanders for the Bar Confederation and
fought against Russian domination of the Commonwealth. When this uprising
failed, he was driven into exile. Following a recommendation by Benjamin
Franklin, Pulaski emigrated to North America to help in the cause of the American
Revolutionary War. He distinguished himself throughout the revolution, most
notably when he saved the life of George Washington. Pulaski became a general
in the Continental Army, created the Pulaski Cavalry Legion and reformed the
American cavalry as a whole. At the Battle of Savannah, while leading a daring
charge against British forces, he was gravely wounded and died shortly thereafter.



Savannah Monument

Pulaski has been remembered as a hero who fought for independence and freedom both in Poland and in the United States. Numerous places and events are named in his honor, and he is commemorated by many works of art. Pulaski is one of only eight people to be awarded honorary United States citizenship. He never married and had no descendants. Despite his fame, there have been uncertainties and controversies surrounding both his place and date of birth and burial.

While attempting to rally fleeing French forces during a cavalry charge, Pulaski was mortally wounded by grapeshot. The reported grapeshot is on display today at the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah; The Charleston Museum also has a grapeshot reported to be from Pulaski's wound. A wounded Pulaski was carried from the field of battle and taken aboard the South Carolina merchant brig privateer *Wasp* under the command of Captain Samuel Bullfinch, where he died two days later, having never regained consciousness. His death, perceived by American Patriot supporters as heroic, further boosted his reputation in America.

Personal life

Pulaski was born on March 6, 1747, in the manor house of the Pulaski family in Winiary -Warka , Poland. Casimir was the second eldest son of Marianna Zielinska and Józef Pulaski, who was an advocatus at the Crown Tribunal, the Starost of Warka, and one of the town's most notable inhabitants. He was a brother of Franciszek Ksawery Pulaski and Antoni Pulaski. His family bore the Slepowron coat of arms. The Pulaski family was Roman Catholic and early in his youth, Casimir Pulaski attended an elite college run by Theatines, a male religious order of the Catholic Church in Warsaw, but did not finish his education.

There is some circumstantial evidence that Pulaski was a Freemason. When Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, laid the cornerstone of the monument erected in Pulaski's honor in Savannah in 1824, a full Masonic ceremony took place with Richard T. Turner, High Priest of the Georgia chapter, conducting the ceremony. Other sources claim Pulaski was a member of the Masonic Army Lodge in Maryland. A Masonic Lodge in Chicago is named Casimir Pulaski Lodge, No.1167 and a brochure issued by them claims he obtained the degree of Master Mason on June 19, 1779, and was buried with full Masonic honors. To date no surviving documents of Pulaski's actual membership have been found.

Military career

In 1762, Pulaski started his military career as a page of Carl Christian Joseph of Saxony, Duke of Courland and vassal of the Polish king. He spent six months at the ducal court in Mitau, during which the court was interned in the palaces by the Russian forces occupying the area. He then returned to Warsaw, and his father gave him the village of Zezulince in Podole; from that time Pulaski used the title of Starost of Zezulince.

Bar Confederation

With his family, he took part in the 1764 election of the new Polish monarch, Stanisław II August. In December 1767, Pulaski and his father became involved with the Bar Confederation, which saw King Stanislaw as a Russian puppet and sought to curtail Russian hegemony over the Commonwealth. The confederation was actively opposed by the Russian forces stationed in Poland. Pulaski recruited a unit and on February 29, 1768, signed the act of the confederation, thus declaring himself an official supporter of the movement. On March 6, he received the rank of a pulkownik and commanded a choragiew of cavalry. In March and April he agitated among the Polish military, successfully convincing some forces to join the Confederates. He fought his first battle on April 20 near Pohorele; it was a victory, as was another on April 23 near Starokostiantyniv. An engagement at Kaczanówka on April 28 resulted in a defeat. In early May he garrisoned Chmielnik, but was forced to retreat when allied reinforcements were defeated. He retreated

to a monastery in Berdyczów, which he defended during a siege by royalist forces for over two weeks until June 16. Eventually he was forced to surrender and was taken captive by the Russians. On June 28, he was released in exchange for a pledge that he would not again take up arms with the Confederates, and that he would lobby the Confederates to end hostilities. However, Pulaski considered the pledge to be non-binding, and made a public declaration to that effect upon reaching a camp of the Confederates at the end of July. Agreeing to the pledge in the first place weakened his authority and popularity among the Confederates, and his own father considered whether or not he should be court-martialed; some heated debates followed and Pulaski was reinstated to active duty only in early September.

In 1769, Pulaski's unit was again besieged by numerically superior forces, this time in the old fortress of Okopy Świętej Trójcy, which has served as his base of operations since December the previous year. However, after a staunch defense, he was able to break the Russian siege. On April 7, he was made the regimentarz of the Kraków Voivodeship. In May and June he operated near Przemyśl, but failed to take the town. Criticized by some of his fellow Confederates, Pulaski departed to Lithuania with his allies and a force of about 600 men on June 3. There, Pulaski attempted to incite a larger revolt against Russia; despite no decisive military successes, he was able to assemble a 4,000-strong army and deliver it back to a Confederate staging point. This excursion received international notice and gained him a reputation as the most effective military leader in the Bar Confederation. Next, he moved with his unit towards Zamosc and after some skirmishes was defeated at the Battle of Włodawa on September 15. He spent the rest of the year rebuilding his unit in the region of Podkarpacie.

In February 1770, Pulaski moved near Nowy Targ, and in March, helped to subdue the mutiny of Józef Bierzyński. Based in Izby, he subsequently operated in southern Lesser Poland and on May 13 his force was defeated at the Battle of Debrzyn. Around June 9–10 in Prešov, in a conference with other Confederate leaders, he met Joseph II, Holy Roman Emperor, who complimented Pulaski on his actions. On July 3–4, Pulaski's camp was captured by Johann von Drewitz, and he was forced to retreat into Austria. Early in August he met with the French emissary, Charles François Dumouriez. He disregarded an order to take Lanckoronna and instead cooperated with Michał Walewski in a raid on Kraków on the night of August 31. He then departed for Częstochowa. On September 10, along with Walewski, he used subterfuge to take control of the Jasna Góra monastery. On September 18 he met Franciszka z Krasinskich, an aristocrat from the Krasinski family and the wife of Charles of Saxony, Duke of Courland; he impressed her and she would become one of his protectors. Around September 22–24 Walewski was made the commandant of Jasna Góra, which slighted Pulaski. Nonetheless he continued as the de facto commander of Confederate troops stationed in and around Jasna Góra. Between September 10, 1770, and January 14, 1771, Pulaski, Walewski and Józef Zaremba commanded the Polish forces during the siege of Jasna Góra monastery. They successfully defended against Drewitz in a series of engagements, the largest one on November 11, followed by a siege from December 31 to January 14. The defense of Jasna Góra further enhanced his reputation among the Confederates and abroad. A popular Confederate song taunting Drewitz included lyrics about Pulaski and Jasna Góra. Pulaski intended to pursue Drewitz, but a growing discord between him and Zaremba prevented this from becoming a real option.

In February 1771, Pulaski operated around Lublin; on February 25 he was victorious at Tarłów and on the night of February 28 and March 1, his forces besieged Krasnik. In March that year he became one of the members of the Confederates' War Council. Dumouriez, who became a military adviser to the Confederates, at the time described him as "spontaneous, more proud than ambitious, friend of the prince of Courland, enemy of the Potocki family, brave and honest" as well as popular among other commanders. This was due to his refusal to follow orders and adhere to discipline. Jędrzej Kitowicz who met him as well around that time described him as short and thin, pacing and speaking quickly, and uninterested in women or drinking.

Furthermore, he enjoyed fighting against the Russians above everything else and was daring to the extent he forgot about his safety in battles, resulting in his many failures on the battlefield.

In May 1771, Pulaski advanced on Zamosc, refusing to coordinate an operation with Dumouriez against Alexander Suvorov; without Pulaski's support, the Confederates were defeated at the Battle of Lanckorona. Pulaski's forces were victorious at the Battle of Majdany and briefly besieged Zamosc, but it was relieved by Suvorov. He retreated, suffering major losses, towards Częstochowa. On July 27, pressured by Franciszka z Krasinski, he declared he would from then on strictly adhere to orders from the Confederacy that he had previously habitually disregarded. In October his responsibilities in the War Council were increased, and the same month he became involved with the plan to kidnap King Poniatowski. Pulaski was initially opposed to this plan but later supported it on the condition that the king would not be harmed. The attempt failed, weakening the international reputation of the Confederates, and when Pulaski's involvement with the attempted kidnapping became known, the Austrians expelled him from their territories. He spent the following winter and spring in Częstochowa, during which time several of his followers were defeated, captured or killed.

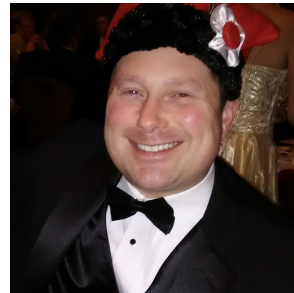
On May 31, 1772, Pulaski, increasingly distanced from other leaders of the Confederation, left the Jasna Góra monastery and went to Silesia in Prussia. In the meantime, the Bar Confederation was defeated, with most fighting ending around the summer. Overall, Pulaski was seen as one of the most famous and accomplished Confederate leaders. " At the same time, he often acted independently, disobeying orders from Confederate command and among his detractors (which included Dumouriez) had a reputation of a "loose cannon".

Leaving Prussia, Pulaski sought refuge in France, where he unsuccessfully attempted to join the French Army. In 1773, his opponents in Poland accused him of attempted regicide, and proceedings began at the Sejm Court on June 7.

Poniatowski himself warned Pulaski to stay away from Poland, or risk death. The court verdict, declared in absentia in July, stripped Pulaski of "all dignity and honors", demanded that his possessions be confiscated, and sentenced him to death. He attempted to recreate a Confederate force in the Ottoman Empire during the Russo-Turkish War, but before he could make any progress, the Turks were defeated, and he barely escaped by sea to Marseilles, France. He found himself in debt and unable to find an army that would enlist him. He spent the year of 1775 in France, imprisoned at times for debts, until his allies gathered enough funds to arrange for his release. Around that time, due to the efforts of his friend Claude-Carloman de Rulhière, he was recruited by the Marquis de Lafayette and Benjamin Franklin (whom he met in spring 1777) for service in the American Revolutionary War.



Bal Maskowy & Ada's 100th



Sustaining member Janet Rydlewicz's son Mark wearing our military cap.





Weather Alert

In case of inclement weather, Geraldine will email everyone. Those without email will receive a personal phone call.

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