

Polanki, Inc.

Polish Women's Cultural Club Newsletter

April [Kwiecień] 2017

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Denna Flemming 414-897-7336
1st Vice President	Anne Wal 414-287-1530
2nd Vice President	Laurie Ufnowski 414-525-1094
Treasurer	Jean Wroblewski 414-405-7753
Recording Secretary	Jessica Ullstrup 414-704-6121
Corresponding Sec.	Wanda Kosmalski 414-418-2203
Historian	Joanne Barndt 414-962-5634
Publicity	Nadine Flemming 414-282-1872
Membership	Louise Cieslak 414-422-0652
Newsletter Editor	Geraldine Reszel 414-541-2433
Sunshine Chair	Edith Malson 414-744-9412
Auditing Committee	Heddy Moskaluk Susan Konecny Judy Chattin
Webmaster	Dana Michaels 414-712-4301
Polanki Library	414-858-9357

*Wesołych Alleluja
Happy Easter
Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych!*

Polanki Meeting April 7

Polanki will be meeting a week early because of Good Friday. On Friday, April 7, Polanki's regular meeting will be held at Villa St. Francis at 7:30 p.m. in the dining room.

DUES ARE DUE THIS MONTH!

SPEAKER: Anne Wal will discuss the history of pierogi; samples will be served.

HOSTESSES:

Denna Flemming
Devon Flemming
Nadine Flemming
Barbara Rutkowski

From the President's Desk

I'm proud to be part of Polanki, which is an amazing organization thanks to our dedicated members. Our members always come through to make our events wonderful experiences for all. I heard the Spring Bazaar was successful even with the inclement weather, so thanks to everyone who volunteered. Our next major events are the Scholarship Awards Tea on April 23 (chaired by Teresa Frankowski, Nadine Flemming and me) and the Pierogi Dinner on April 30. Everyone looks forward to the sweet and savory creations at the Tea, homemade by our generous members. We will also need some more volunteers for the Pierogi Dinner which is being co-chaired by the Board. If you or your family/friends are able to help in any capacity, we would greatly appreciate it. We'll pass around the sign up sheet at the Membership Meeting, which will be on April 7, a week earlier due to Good Friday. This past week, I had the opportunity to spend a

long weekend in New York City and had the chance to meet up with a friend I met in Poland in 2015 while participating in the Szkoła Liderów, which Roma Numrych told me about. My friend showed me around Greenpoint in Brooklyn where she grew up. We ran into many leaders from the Polish community that she knew. What a wonderful part of the City. I filled up on delicious Polish food. It was wonderful to see her again and get a personal tour of the historically Polish neighborhood of New York City.

Denna Flemming

Święconka or Blessing of Food Baskets



The blessing of the Easter food, or the *Święconka* is a tradition dear to the heart of every Pole. Being deeply religious, he is grateful to God for all His gifts of both nature and grace, and, as a token of this gratitude, has the food of his table sanctified with the hope that spring, the season of the Resurrection, will also be blessed by God's goodness and mercy.

The usual fare on the Easter table includes ham and *kielbasa*, cakes of all kinds—particularly *babka*; eggs—some shelled or some decorated. There is usually a Paschal Lamb or *Baranek* made of butter, some cheese, horseradish, salt, vinegar and oil.

The food is brought to the church and blessed by the parish priest on Holy Saturday. The food can also be blessed in the home. After the blessing, the food is usually set aside until Easter morning when the head of the house shares the blessed egg, symbol of life, with family and friends. Having exchanged wishes, all continue to enjoy a hearty meal.

This centuries old custom is indeed richly symbolic and beautiful. It is one in which the whole family can participate and help prepare. May this tradition endure for many generations to come.

All of you can enjoy this beautiful Polish custom by participating at the blessing of the Easter food *Święconka* at the Polish church nearest you.

The Syrena Polish Dancers will again present their Polish Easter buffet at Blessed Sacrament on Palm Sunday, April 9, at 2 p.m.; doors open at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$8 for children.

Eight Polish Souvenirs That Aren't Tacky

Marek Kepa
Culture.pl April 2016

Avoid the Polish equivalent of a Mind the Gap t-shirt or a figurine of the Statue of Liberty! Stay clear of mass-produced shawls and nesting dolls and look for these affordable and original items instead.

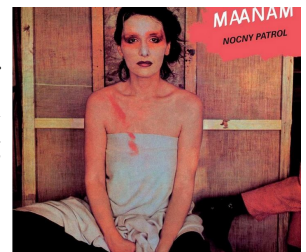
Dried mushrooms

Nothing brings back memories of Poland like the smell of wild forest mushrooms. Even if you haven't been anywhere near a forest during your trip, you certainly encountered dried mushrooms in classic Polish dishes, like *barszcz* or *bigos*. They will last for years when stored properly, and they will allow you to reproduce that authentic earthy taste in your own kitchen.



Music

Music can also bring back vivid memories. While you're getting some Chopin for your great-aunts, why not get a unique retro album for yourself? We recommend Night Patrol, an 80s album by legendary rock band Manaam, an outstanding English-language record. If rock is not your thing, try contemporary folk or jazz.



Traditional whistle



Speaking of music, why not get a Polish instrument as a souvenir? Too expensive, you say? There is one affordable option: a gwizdek, pronounced ‘gfeez-dek’, a small folk instrument/toy. Made from earthenware, it is a water-filled shaped flute shaped like a bird and it makes a pleasant chirruping sound. It doesn’t require any special skill, so you’ll be able to produce a melody without practicing beforehand.

DYI Polish architecture

If you’d like something a bit more imposing than a small whistle, you can always take a Polish building back home with you. You can purchase fashionable cardboard cut-outs that look exactly like the real deal. Made by design studio Zupagrafika, these detailed miniatures of Polish modernist buildings have “cool souvenir” written all over them.



Old-school dishware



Ostalgie is en vogue these days in Poland. If you want some typically Polish, communist-inspired design, ceramic beakers from state-owned cafeterias are the way to go. No need to steal some, you can get their contemporary likeness adorned with stylized retro prints in most design stores.

A surreal painting of Poland

If compulsive photo snapping is not your thing, you could bring back a painting as a keepsake. Tytus Brzozowski, for example, creates attractive and unusual drawings of Warsaw. Most Polish artists and designers sell affordable print-outs of their art.



A classic of Polish cinema



Even if you limit yourself to Oscar nominations or Martin Scorsese’s recommendations, there are a lot of excellent Polish films to choose from. If you want what captures the lost charm and beauty of pre-war Poland, try *The Young Girls of Wilko* by Andrzej Wajda. The film is based on a classic short story by the great writer Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz. Daniel Olbrychski, mostly known abroad because of *Salt*, plays a middle-aged man who returns to a country estate he used to frequent in his younger days.[sic] Most entertainment retailers will carry a subtitled version of the DVD.

A film poster

Film posters from the Polish Poster School are considered extremely valuable by connoisseurs. Most of them were created to promote foreign films, but they don’t conform to mass aesthetics and often have little in common with the familiar blockbuster posters of recent decades.



4/10 Kathy Wieczorek
4/11 Sue Zblewski
4/13 Therese Cieslak
4/18 Barbara Januchowski
4/27 Joe Shaw
4/28 Margie Hess

Get Well Wishes to

Sustaining member Carol Bialek who has a bad case of shingles and says she is pretty much “out of commission.”

Active member Adrienne Zuber who had surgery on her arm above the wrist.

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

Śmigus Dyngus—Wet Monday

Easter Monday is a holiday in Poland called “Śmigus Dyngus” or “Lany Poniedziałek,” which means Wet Monday. It’s a day of fun for young and old alike. This ancient Polish custom is celebrated with great enthusiasm as people sprinkle each other with water. The young especially have a lot of fun this day, with young boys laying in wait to sprinkle (or douse) young girls with water. It is believed that being splashed with water on Easter Monday will bring you good luck throughout the year.

Śmigus Dyngus dates back to the Middle Ages in Poland, and while purification by water is a custom practiced in many cultures, the tradition in Poland goes back to the baptism of King Mieszko I on Easter Monday in 966. He was the king who brought Christianity to Poland over a thousand years ago.

Community Corner

The Syrena Dancers will be holding their **Święcone** on April 9, Palm Sunday.

“**Memories of Poland**” concert at the Polish Center, April 9, at 6:30 p.m. Adults—\$15 at door and \$12 in advance.

The Polish Center will be having their **Easter Brunch**—All You Can Eat—on April 16. Two seatings: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Adults—\$29; children (12 and under)—\$12.

Skrobanki egg workshop, PCW, Thursday, April 6, 6-8 p.m. Adults: \$12 for PHA member; \$15 for non-members.

Nalepianki egg workshop, PCW, Thursday, April 13, 6-8 p.m. Adults: \$12 for PHA members; \$15 for non-members.

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

A speaker is featured at monthly Polanki meetings to inform members about Polish culture and special traditions, recent visits to Poland, and Polish literature, music and art. We welcome Polanki members to be monthly speakers—it’s a great way to practice public speaking or to hone existing speaking skills with a friendly audience. Please let Anne Wal know if you are interested in speaking at a future Polanki meeting.

The Flowers of Easter

Easter always comes in spring, the time when nature is awakening from its winter sleep and flowers and trees start to bloom. This rebirth of nature symbolizes the Resurrection of Christ, the life that comes after death. Easter is a moveable feast, celebrated on the first day of spring. During this time, churches are decorated with traditional Easter flowers to celebrate the Resurrection and they are full of symbolism, reflecting the meaning of Easter.

Easter Lily

Easter lilies are the traditional Easter flower in the United States. Lilies are believed to have been found in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's death and are sometimes called "White-Robed Apostles of Hope." The fragrant trumpet-shaped white flowers are known for their holiness and purity. The lily is also mentioned numerous times in the Bible.

Pussy Willow

Pussy willows are the traditional Easter flower in Poland, Russia, and the United Kingdom. They are soft and fluffy with yellow or silver catkins that appear on the branches before leaves in the spring. In Poland, where palms are hard to obtain, pussy willows (called bazie or kotki) are substituted for palms during Palm Sunday and brought to church to be blessed. On Ash Wednesday, pussy willow branches are cut and placed indoors in water, so they will sprout the catkins and leaves in time for Palm Sunday.

Daffodil

Bright yellow, trumpet-shaped daffodils are a symbol of Jesus's resurrection from death, as new flowers miraculously sprout from dormant bulbs. In Germany, daffodils are called "Osterglocken" or "Easter bells." In England, daffodils are nicknamed "Lenten lilies."

Narcissus

Narcissus was the original Easter flower in Italy and Greece. Ancient Greeks thought of narcissus flowers as a representation of spring and rebirth. It is still the traditional Easter flower in Northern Italy and Southern France.

Red Tulip

In Germany, the red tulip is traditional Easter flower. It symbolizes the blood that was shed by Jesus during his crucifixion.



Hyacinth

In many countries, the hyacinth, with its pungent smell, is also a traditional Easter flower.

–Reprinted from Spring 2011 Głos Polek, p. 24.

Congratulations!!

The 2017 Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Awards Committee has chosen Jean Wroblewski as the Outstanding Dietitian of the Year. The Awards Committee was impressed with her application and the impact Jean had on the profession.

To quote Camille Shaw’s letter to the Committee: “In Polanki, Polish Women’s Cultural Club of Wisconsin, Jean and I have worked closely on many projects, committees, as well as the board. In some of the events, such as the Pierogi Dinner, the Soup Festival, and the Folk Fair food booth, it was clear that Jean had excellent leadership skills, organizational skills, and the ability to keep calm under the most difficult situations and challenges.



Jean has been the treasurer of Polanki since 1998 and brought our financial records to a new level of expertise, technology, and usefulness. She uses her work ethics, intelligence, and expertise in a humble and effective way.

Jean is exceptional in her skills, reliability, and ability to work with others. Anyone who has the opportunity to work with Jean will learn many things, the most important being sticking to the mission and putting ego aside. Jean’s most important teaching tool is her own character which cannot go unnoticed due to her character, ethics, and generosity.”

Polanki agrees wholeheartedly with every word Camille wrote and along with WAND we congratulate you, Jean, on your remarkable accomplishments!





Congratulation to Polanki's Perfect attendance winners

Weather Alert

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

Polanki Newsletter published by

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

Editor

Geraldine Reszel
greszel@wi.rr.com

President

Denna Flemming