



# Polanki, Inc.

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## Polanki Meeting June 9

On Friday, June 9, Polanki's regular meeting will be held at Villa St. Francis at 7:30pm in the dining room.

**SPEAKER:** Susan Mikos presenting on the Polish National Anthem

**HOSTESSES:** Majorie Piechowski  
Suzanne Holcomb  
Terri Cieslak  
Judy Chattin  
Peg Cieslak  
Camille Shaw  
Nancy Monfre/Shirley

### *From the President's Desk*

Summer is here which means that Polish Fest is just around the corner. Thanks to everyone who is working so hard to make Polish Fest a success. The Cultural Village is always an enjoyable educational experience, and I know a lot of Polish Fest's attendees look forward to shopping at Polanki's sales booth. We will also have the book sale again this year at Polish Fest. If you have any English language books that you no longer need, please consider donating them to the book sale. As in year's past, Polanki also has the opportunity to partake in the Procession at Polish Fest's Mass on Sunday, June 18, which is always an honor. If you are planning to participate, please wear your costume. After Polish Fest, Polanki is on hiatus for the summer. I will make arrangements for a private tour of the Basilica this summer for Polanki's members. Hopefully, Geraldine, our newsletter editor will be ready to resume the helm of the newsletter this fall. In other news, the Norway House has been sold, which will impact the venue and date of the Soup Festival. This year's Soup Festival will be on October 22 at the Polish Center, so mark your calendars. 2018 marks Polanki's 65th Anniversary, so if anyone is interested in helping to plan a celebration, please let me know. Thanks again for all that you do and have a healthy and restful summer.

-Denna Flemming

# Long Night of Museums

Saturday-Sunday, May 20-21

From “Love Poland”

The first Long Night of Museums took place in Berlin in 1997, and the concept spread through Europe like wildfire: currently over 120 major European cities (and many minor ones) organize their own museum nights.

It's a pretty big deal in Warsaw: nowadays over two hundred institutions participate in the event, and the visitors total around 200,000 over the course of the night.



## Białowieża Forest

*Impressions by Katarzyna Gubrynowicz*

The Białowieża Forest World Heritage site, on the border between Poland and Belarus, is an immense range of primary forest including both conifers and broadleaved trees covering a total area of 141,885 hectares. Situated on the watershed of the Baltic Sea and Black Sea, this transboundary property is exceptional for the opportunities it offers for biodiversity conservation. It is home to the largest population of the property's iconic species, the European bison.

Bialowieza Forest is a large forest complex located on the border between Poland and Belarus. Thanks to several ages of protection the Forest had survived in its natural state to this day. The Bialowieza National Park, Poland, was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979 and extended to include Belovezhskaya Pushcha, Belarus, in 1992. A large extension of the property in 2014 results in a property of 141,885 ha with a buffer zone of 166,708 ha.

This property includes a complex of lowland forests that are characteristics of the Central European mixed forests terrestrial ecoregion. The area has exceptionally conservation significance due to the scale of its old growth forests, which include extensive undisturbed areas where natural processes are on-going. A consequence is the richness in dead wood, standing and on the ground, and consequently a high diversity of fungi and saproxylic invertebrates.

The property protects a diverse and rich wildlife of which 59 mammal species, over 250 birds, 13 amphibians, 7 reptiles and over 12,000 invertebrate species. The iconic symbol of the property is the European Bison: approximately 900 individuals in the whole property which make almost 25% of the total world's population and over 30% of free-living animals.



# Zbigniew Wodecki

From "Love Poland"

Zbigniew Wodecki, a Polish musician and composer whose career spanned almost five decades, died on Monday, May 22 at the age of 67.

Wodecki was one of Poland's best-known singers, musicians, composers and all-round entertainers. He started playing music at the age of five, later graduating from the State Music School studying violin under Juliusz Weber.

In recent years he was one of the jurors on the Polish edition of the "Dancing with the Stars" TV show. A statement on his website said that Wodecki, who had suffered a stroke in early May, died at a Warsaw hospital on Monday. He will be buried in his "beloved Kraków", the statement added.



## Polish National Flowers - Red Poppies

By: Marcin Kesek

Does Poland have a national flower? This question is not that easy to answer. The average Pole - would have a hard time to answer this question. The more Polish people you ask - the less they would agree which flower is a national one.

Definitively, there is no any one flower who could be pinpointed as a ~ single ~ one ~ and the only ~ national Polish flower but there are few - which for some reasons are important in Polish culture and history.

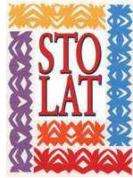
One of these flowers is a corn-poppy - in Latin - *Papaver rhoeas*, in Polish - mak. It is red - just like one of two Polish national colors (the other one is white). Poppy became linked with Poland after a famous song entitled - Red poppies at Monte Cassino.

Poppy (in Polish, mak) is also present in Polish folk songs, poems and phrases. There is a folk poem - Siala baba mak (grandma was sowing a poppy).

Siala baba mak -Grandma was sowing poppies  
Nie wiedziala jak - she did not know how  
dziadek wiedzial nie powiedzial - the grandpa (old man) knew but he did not tell.

A to bylo tak - and so the story goes...  
This is a refrain which repeats itself over and over again!





**May**

- 5/05 Jackie Mielczarski
- 5/06 Krystyna Matusiak
- 5/08 Julie Lenkiewicz
- 5/09 Dorothy Broihier
- 5/10 Deborah Tyszka
- 5/11 Lucille Trebatoski, Karen Zakowski
- 5/15 Angela Pienkos
- 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

**June**

- 6/01 Lidia Sobierajski
- 6/06 Rachele Ebenhoe, Esther Nowicki
- 6/15 MaryEllen DeVito
- 6/16 Jennifer Flores, Urszula Tempska Napora
- 6/17 Rita Rose Mauermann
- 6/18 Jessica Ullstrup
- 6/21 Teresa Jankowski
- 6/23 Angela Glowacki
- 6/24 Janina Zurko

**Get Well Wishes To**

Sustaining member, Christine Ostrowski had detached retina

Active member, Barbara Januchowski has been ill with pneumonia

Active member, Margie Hess has a deteriorating spinal condition

Active member, Elaine Posard needs prayers and hugs because she was recently diagnosed with breast cancer

Active member, Nancy Monfre was hospitalized with high blood pressure

Good news! Active member, Kathy Wroblewski has no new tumors on recent MRI of her brain

**Community Corner**

**Polonia Sports Club Spring Festival,** Sunday June 4. 1pm Polish mass at outdoor chapel. Silver Orkiestra from Chicago will be playing. Admission \$5 per car.

**Congratulations to**

Active member, Mary Ellen DeVito graduated on May 20.

**Deepest Sympathy to**

Sustaining member, Janine Adamczak whose mother passed away recently.

**Upcoming Events**

- June 16-18 Polish Fest, Summerfest Grounds
- October 22 Polish Soup Fest, Polish Center
- Nov. 17-18 Holiday Folk Fair, State Fair Park

## Geraldine, the Member with the Purple Face

By: Geraldine Reszel

Many of you know more than I do about what happened to me. I am still piecing things together. I fell in my bedroom, hit the floor with my head and told the EMTs to take me to St. Luke's. After 2 cat scans and X-Rays of my knees they sent me home. Apparently the next day I went down again. EMTs told my nieces I was going back to St. Luke's and they were to find out what was wrong with me.

I ended up in St. Luke's ICU for infectious diseases with a horrendous case of pneumonia. They treated me with antibiotics and massive doses of Vitamin C. I was a wild woman so they had to restrain me. I fought those restraints constantly, which is one of the reasons I am in rehab. I lost use of my biceps and triceps.

The big day was when they removed the tubes from my throat. I started speaking immediately and have not stopped. No speech therapy for me. Good Friday I was transferred to Dycora Rehab Facility because I was not doing well at St. Luke's. I have been working very hard to get out of here.

My cheerleaders are Eleanor and Bernie Jendrzeczak, Judy Chattin, and my Polish sister Teresa Frankowski, who brings me fresh flowers every couple of weeks. I am hoping to get out of here in a few days and hope to see you in September.

## Upcoming Events

### Polish Fest

If you haven't volunteered yet the committee chairs will be passing around sign-up sheets at the next meeting. Please come and sign up for 1 or 2 shifts. If you work one shift you will receive one food token. If you work all day then you will receive 2 tokens.

If you have English Language books, cookbooks, or children's books please bring them to the next meeting and give them to Joanne Barndt.

Remember we have golf carts available to shuttle members to and from the booths. Please call Camille Shaw or Anne Wal if you need a ride.

This is the last meeting before Polish Fest so they will be passing out tickets, wrist bands and parking passes.





Ada and Jadwiga bonding after our meeting on May 12

**Polanki Newsletter** published by

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