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## **Polanki Meeting June 8**

On Friday, June 8, Polanki's regular meeting will be held at Villa St. Francis at 7:30 p.m. in the dining room.

**SPEAKERS:** Francis Wasieleski will talk about Chopin

### **HOSTESSES:**

Elaine Posard  
Wanda Kosmalski  
Camille Shaw  
Sue Holcomb  
Marjorie Piechowski  
Judy Chattin  
Cindy Lepkowski  
Janet Rydlewicz

## ***From the President's Desk***

One of the most important events of the year for Polanki, Polish Fest, is on the horizon—June 15, 16 and 17 on the Summerfest grounds. Once again, Polanki and its members are integral to the success of the Cultural Village—being a Bronze sponsor, having a vibrant selection of Bolesławiec pottery and other folk art for sale, scheduling full days of speakers, involving the Polish School of Wisconsin, collaborating with the Polish Consulate to obtain exhibits, collaborating with PHA and PAC—Wisconsin Division to create exhibits highlighting the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Poland's independence, honoring 20 years of the Chopin Piano Competition by sponsorship and an exhibit, bringing back the Milwaukee County and Chicago genealogy groups and featuring artisans and demonstrators that include Polanki members. The Cultural Village at Polish Fest is Polanki's opportunity to shine and showcase its expertise in Polish culture.

(Continued on next page)

## From the President's desk continued...

Volunteers are still needed in certain areas—please contact Peg Cieslak at (414) 418-1196 or Camille Shaw at (414) 475-5124. There are a limited number of complimentary tickets to Polish Fest that will be available at the membership meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact me for tickets at (414) 287-1530.

Please enjoy Polish Fest and the summer break!

Anne Wal

P.S. I am the reason the newsletter is going out late.

P.P.S. The tiger exhibit was scheduled without Polanki's involvement.



May, 2018

Dear Members of Polanki,

Your organization is cordially invited to participate in this year's procession at Polish Fest Mass on Sunday, June 17, 2018. The liturgy will begin at 10:15 am on the Cultural Stage near the main entrance of Maier Festival Park. The line-up for the procession will be at 9:45.

We welcome any members from your organization to join us, as we welcome our presider, the newly ordained Fr. Aaron Laskiewicz, to lead us in prayer.

Please feel free to contact either one of us at the numbers or e-mail below should you have any questions, or to RSVP\*. We joyously look forward to your presence at this year's Polish Fest Mass!

Z Bogiem,

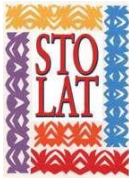
Jane Jonietz or Deacon William Banach

Co-chairpersons, Polish Fest Mass Committee

[janejonietz@aol.com](mailto:janejonietz@aol.com) / 543-3524

(Deacon Bill: 645-8185)

\*We apologize for the late notice.

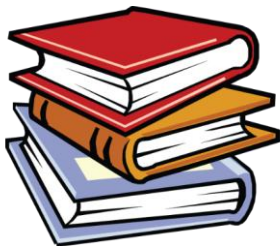


## June

6/01 Lidia Sobierajski  
6/06 Rachelle Ebenhoe  
Esther Nowicki  
6/12 Carol Worringer  
6/15 MaryEllen DeVito  
6/16 Urszula Tempska Napora  
Jennifer Flores  
6/17 Rita Rose Mauermann  
6/18 Jessica Ullstrup  
6/21 Teresa Jankowski  
6/23 Joyce Banachowski  
Angela Glowacki  
6/24 Janina Zurko

## Reminders

Please turn in your membership renewal form (attached) with dues as soon as possible.



Bring in books that you would like to donate to the book sale at Polish Fest to the June membership meeting. All books are welcomed, but especially children's books, current fiction, Polish cookbooks, and WWII history books and books about Poland. The majority of the people who come to Polish Fest cannot read Polish and thus, are looking for books printed in English.

## Community Corner

Free Performance by Syrena and Warsawa Dance Groups on June 19 at the Polish Center

On June 19 at 7 p.m. at the Polish Center, there will be a night of folk dancing & music! Syrena & Warszawa AWF (a dance group from Poland) will join forces to showcase the beauty of Polish folk culture both here & abroad. The Warszawa dance group will be performing at Polish Fest and will be in the Milwaukee area until June 27<sup>th</sup>. There are 19 members who are either university students or recently graduated. Some Syrena members are opening their homes and hosting members of the group from June 13-17; after that, the group will stay at the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee dorms. To offset the dorm cost, Syrena asked Polanki for a donation; the Board agreed to make a donation of \$200. As a thank you, Syrena will reserve first row seats for Polanki members who wish to attend the June 19<sup>th</sup> performance. Please let Anne Wal know if you would like to attend ([awal@vonbriesen.com](mailto:awal@vonbriesen.com) or 414-287-1530). For more information about Warszawa, its web site is <http://www.awf.edu.pl/student/zycie-studenckie/ztl>

## Upcoming Events

June 15-17 – Polish Fest, Summerfest Grounds [Co-chaired by Peg Cieslak, Camille Shaw, Laurie Ufnowski and Anne Wal]

September 15 – Day in Poland at the Cudahy Family Library (3500 Library Drive, Cudahy). [Co-chaired by Ewa Barczyk-Pease and Tamara Johnston]

September 23 – Polanki 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at the Polish Center [Chaired by Diane Holytz]

December 16 – Polanki Christmas Party at the Polish Center [Chaired by Nadine and Denna Flemming]

## Get Well Soon

Lifetime member, Geraldine Reszel, is out of quarantine. She is still at Dycora and we are wishing her well.

Active member, Nadine Flemming, recently had surgery to remove a brain tumor and is recovering. She's now in the Neuro ICU at Froedtert. Thoughts and prayers appreciated.

# College Achievement Essay

(Written by award recipient, Joel Baliccki)

Poland during the Cold War, was a victim of draconian rule imposed by the Soviet Union. Despite Soviet attempts to control Poland through political influence and military alliance, Poland's identity was far from communist. The Soviet-Bolshevik war of 1920 and the Ruch Oporu Armii Krajowej during WWII were evidence of the intense anti-communist fervor in Poland. During the Cold War, Poland's geographic position put Poles at the most significant risk during conflict compared to other Warsaw Pact states. As historical evidence suggests, the Soviets would have no problem immolating Poland (Kingsbury, 2008). One man of exceptional bravery named Ryszard Kuklinski was ready to risk his life and fight to defend Poland.

Kuklinski was born in Warsaw in 1930 (CIA, 2013). He joined the Polish People's Army after WWII and then began a career which brought him to the top echelon of military leadership. During his career, he advanced to the rank of Colonel, which allowed him access to boundless top-secret documents of the Soviet military and Warsaw Pact allies. In 1970, the massacre of Polish workers in Gdansk by the Polish military spurred him to help the Americans (CIA, 2013). Kuklinski realized that Soviet and Polish Communist's aims threatened the existence of the Polish people, as Poland would act as an expendable barrier for the Soviets during potential conflict (Kingsbury, 2008). In 1972, he contacted the U.S. Embassy in Bonn, Germany (CIA, 2013). His attempts were successful, and he was able to arrange a meeting with CIA officers and explain his plans. The CIA gave Kuklinski the codename of GULL, because he loved to sail (Weiser, 2004). From that time on, he acted as an American secret agent handing over incredibly valuable geo-strategic military documents. He ultimately handed over nearly 40,000 documents. After years of divulging sensitive Eastern Bloc intelligence, evading incessant SB (Sluzba Bezpieczenstwa) surveillance, and even some counterintelligence interrogations, Kuklinski's time as an informant ran out. In 1981, the CIA planned and executed a daring escape of Kuklinski and his family, managing to get them out of Poland and to the United States (Weiser, 2004).

For many years following Kuklinski's escape, many Poles found it difficult to understand why Kuklinski did what he did (Kingsbury, 2008). For some, it was a betrayal to his country. To others he symbolized the true values of Poland, like freedom and solidarity. From a Polish- American perspective, it epitomizes the relationship between both countries. Working together to fight for common goals is an essential bond and one that will continue to strengthen. Despite the political controversy that surrounded his actions, Kuklinski is an outstanding example of bravery that occurred during the most trying of times. His willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice exemplifies valiant service and demonstrates his absolute devotion to Poland. "In my heart, my body, I will always remain a Pole." Ryszard Kuklinski (Weiser, 2004)

## Works Cited

- Agency, C.I. (2013, April 30). *News & Information: Central Intelligence Agency*. Retrieved from Central Intelligence Agency Web Site: <https://www.cia.gov/news-information/featured-story-archive/2010-featured-story-archive/colonel-ryszard-kuklinski.html>
- Kingsbury, A. (2008, December 16). *Declassified: the Secret Soviet Documents of a Leading CIA Spy*. Retrieved from US News Website: <https://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2008/12/16/declassified-the-secret-soviet-documents-of-a-leading-cia-spy>
- Weiser, B. (2004). *A Secret Life*. New York: Public Affairs.



# Governor of Lublin Province in Wisconsin

Submitted by Joanna Fraczek

On May 16 and 17 we had a great honor hosting the Governor of Lublin Province Przemysław Czarnek with the delegation of Polish dignitaries from the Catholic University of John Paul II. The purpose of the visit was to meet dignitaries from the State of Wisconsin and the City of Milwaukee and invite them to visit Lublin region.

Our esteemed guests arrived in Madison on Wednesday morning where they were greeted by Rep. Ken Skowronski and Rep. James Edming. We started with a tour of the Capitol. While admiring the beautiful panoramic views from the rotunda, our guests noted that Madison and Lublin feel a lot similar in the sense that the public spaces are filled with young academics gathered in local coffee shops, beer gardens, outdoor spaces, and that they favor public bikes as their means of transportation. We paused for a moment to enjoy a cup of coffee and snacks that Sarah Gibbs and Rep. Skowronski prepared, making sure that our Polish guests have a taste of the assortment of local delicacies that included fresh cheese curds. This was a thoughtful touch because Lublin region is also known for its excellent dairy products.

Meeting of the Governors – Gov. Scott Walker shared his appreciation for Polish community living across the state of Wisconsin who has always actively participated and contributed to the common welfare as farmers, entrepreneurs, members of the academic community, serving as elected officials, noting both U.S. Congressmen Clement Zablocki and Gerald Kleczka, as well as in the military. Gov. Czarnek expressed his gratitude to the American Polonia and all U.S. citizens for their continuous support of democracy in Poland throughout decades, and highlighted that one of the most productive ways to solidify our strong bond is to pursue economic opportunities. As such, he officially invited Gov. Walker to visit Lublin Province, see first-hand how many similarities exist between our regions and, accordingly, the number of opportunities for partnerships that tie directly to those common points of interest. A number of businesses and organizations are already working towards organizing a trade mission to Lublin later this fall.



Rep. James Edming, Rep. Ken Skowronski, Gov. Przemysław Czarnek, Joanna Fraczek



From left: Małgorzata Tys (Radio Deon, Chicago), Prof. of the Catholic University Dr. Jacek Gołębiowski, Joanna Fraczek, Rep. Ken Skowronski, Gov. Przemysław Czarnek, Agata Gula, Director of Forestry Jerzy Sądół, Gov. Scott Walker, Rep. James Edming, Art Tobolski (Polish-American Chamber of Commerce), Bartosz Ryba, Bogdan, Dawid Kostecki

Polish Center in Franklin hosted Lublin delegation for an exquisite dinner prepared by Chef Mike Norman and sponsored by the Polish Heritage Alliance. PHA President Ken Skowronski, Director of Polish Center Jeff Kuderski and Chef Norman impressed our guests with another thoughtful culinary touch, delicious sauce made with authentic Polish mushrooms. The dinner was attended by representatives of Polish organizations, many contributors to Polish heritage in Milwaukee, state representatives, scholars, entrepreneurs and business owners. Later, our guests used the beautiful weather and a few more hours of daylight to visit Milwaukee's famous Harley-Davidson Museum.

The next day was rich in exploring Polish traces in Milwaukee. The delegation started with visiting the Basilica of St. Josaphat and the Kościuszko Monument. The Governor was beyond impressed with its pristine condition and shared his appreciation for the efforts of Milwaukee citizens who continuously contribute to upholding the treasures of Polish heritage with such dignity.



Attorney Claude Krawczyk, Ron Szymanski, Dr. Jarosław Jęczeń (KUL)

In the afternoon our visitors met Tom Barrett, the Mayor of the City of Milwaukee, whom they invited to participate in the trade mission to Lublin in the fall.





The City Clerk Jim Owczarski spent time with our guests showing them our beautiful City Hall. Mr. Owczarski impressed with his knowledge of the history of Milwaukee and its Polish landmarks. His passion with which he shared various historical facts and anecdotes was infectious.



City Clerk Jim Owczarski – left from Gov. Czarnek

Our guests visited the UWM Library, which has a large and valuable collection of maps of Poland. They also visited the archives where the Kwasniewski Collection was presented. It is worth noting that this was the second time the UWM Library welcomed guests from Lublin as last February a delegation from Governor's office saw the maps and Kwasniewski collection and wanted to make sure that Gov. Czarnek had the opportunity to it too.

The visit to the library concluded our time together in Milwaukee. Our guests drove off to Chicago with great memories, new friends and hopefully lasting and fruitful connections.



Jovanka Ristic & Michael Doylen, UWM Library



Prof. Donald Pienkos

On their way back the Governor briefly stopped by the Art Museum to take a few pictures. Regretfully, it was too late for dinner in Café Calatrava but they asked me to pass along one more Thank You to Polanki who kindly treated our Lublin guests to dinner there in February.



On Saturday, May 19, we met again in Millennium Park in Chicago to celebrate together with the President of Poland Andrzej Duda the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence of Poland.



Joe Malak, Mark Pienkos PNA, Joanna Fraczek  
Gov. Przemysław Czarnek, Agata Grula, Rep. Ken Skowronski PHA  
Bartosz Rybak, Art Tobolski, Jeff Kuderski PHA

On a personal note: there is nothing I want more than to write Chapter 2 to this story, titled “Here is a List of Great Things that Resulted Directly for the Visit in May of 2018.” I will work effortlessly to make that happen. Success is so much more likely with Polanki’s support. Thank you for all your kindness, support, sharing your contacts, insights, time and money.



## Polanki at Lane Intermediate School Multicultural Fair

*(submitted by Peg Cieslak)*

Along with a variety of cultural organizations, Polanki joined the students of West Allis' Lane Intermediate School for the school's first multicultural fair on Friday, May 18th. The sixth, seventh, and eighth graders showed a great deal of interest in the colorful folk arts and historical items that were displayed. Louise Cieslak, Peg Cieslak, Margie Hess, and Elaine Posard enjoyed the range of questions students had and discussions about their similar cultures. Carol Powers also helped in baking kolaches for the 600 students and teachers! Polish Fest donated three sets of 4 family packs of tickets to this year's Polish Fest for a student raffle prize. Lane's staff shared great appreciation for Polanki's participation and hope we will join them for future fairs.



Dear Peg:

Wanted to make sure we get a HUGE thank you out to you for your participation in Lane's Multicultural Fair. You and the others went above and beyond with the traditional Polish dress and Polish artifacts. Our fair was a success due to community participants such as yourselves. So appreciated!

Sincerely,

Christine Piotrowski  
Lane School Counselor  
Multicultural Fair Advisor

## 2018 Portage Cultural Festival

This year marked the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this wonderful festival in Stevens Point and Polanki was well represented. It was a great event attended by Jane Dunn, Joan Spindler, and Jean Wroblewski. Thank you for all your hard work at this festival.



## Gardening at the Polish Center

(submitted by Sandy Je T'aime, Gardens & Landscaping Chair, gardens@inbox.com)

Garden Committee Members,

Thank you to Jim and Al who helped me weed the patio garden this morning, and to Jennifer and Al who helped me weed the patio garden Wednesday evening. Also, thank you to all who expressed an interest in helping with gardening, but could not make it on Wednesday. Please join us next week.

After speaking to those who attended Wednesday's meeting, we will continue meeting on Wednesday evenings so those who work may help us. We will begin Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. and continue until the mosquitos and bugs are too bad. If you need to begin later than 4:30 p.m., that is fine. **If you plan to work with us on Wednesdays, please state the time that works for you, the earlier time, or if 6 p.m.**

We added another day, most likely Tuesday mornings, beginning **May 29 at 7 a.m.** until about 11:30 or thereabout. You can come early and leave before the hot sun is out. Please let me know if this time works for you. We are still working out details for time and days. Suggestions were to begin working early.

Jim, our new member, I have discovered is a bird watcher. To me, that is wonderful news. That is one of the most enjoyable things to watch when gardening. In past years, we have gardened while hummingbirds, hummingbird moths and many types of bees flutter around the flowers in the patio garden. Jim will also put up and maintain a hummingbird feeder.

If you have any other suggestions, please let us know. We will also compile a "Wish List" of plants or bulbs that we would like donated. Thank you for your interest in maintaining the Polish Center grounds, we look forward to working with all of you!

## In honor of Polanki's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year!



**Did you know...**

Polanki has also provided educational and humanitarian assistance to Poland. We have maintained a special, long term relationship with Laski, the school for blind children located near Warsaw. We contributed to the building of a children's hospital outside of Kraków. When books were hard to come by in Poland, Polanki shipped them to several schools and libraries.

During the turbulent 1980s, Polanki sent nearly \$30,000 in relief money and supplies to help the Polish people. Later, Polanki contributed to Habitat for Humanity in Poland. In 2013, Polanki made a donation to St. Stanisław Kostka High School a new public Jesuit institution serving disadvantaged children in Kraków.



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