

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Anne Wal (414) 287-1530
1st Vice President	Camille Shaw (414) 510-6378
2nd Vice President	Laurie Ufnowski (414) 525-1094
Treasurer	Jean Wroblewski (414) 405-7753
Recording Secretary	Cynthia Lepkowski (414) 425-1248
Corresponding Secretary	Maria Adamiec (262) 997-4742
Historian	Joanne Barndt (414) 962-5634
Publicity	Susan Cieslak (312) 953-4312
Membership	Marjorie Piechowski (414) 963-9055
Newsletter Editor	Jessica Ullstrup (414) 704-6121
Sunshine Chair	Edith Malson (414) 744-9412
Auditing Committee	Judy Chattin Sue Konecny Heddy Moskaluk
Web Master	Dana Michaels (414) 218-7279

Wesołego Alleluja

Polanki Meeting April 12

On Friday, April 12, Polanki's regular membership meeting will be held at Villa St. Francis at 7:30 p.m. in the dining room.

SPEAKER: Martin Kozon, a Ph.D. candidate at UW-M studying under Neal Pease Ph.D., will give a presentation entitled "Poland and her relationship with her neighbors between the World Wars."

HOSTESSES:

Carol Powers
Joan Shrout
Carol Worringner
Nancy Rydell
Shirley Rydell
Nadine Flemming
Devon Flemming
Denna Flemming

Upcoming Events

April 5- April 19 - Fish Fries for Lent at the Polish Center

April 14- Świącone, Blessed Sacrament Church

April 28 - College Achievement Awards Tea at the Polish Center

May 11- Portage County Cultural Fest

June 14-16 - Polish Fest on the Summerfest Grounds

July 18-21- Pulaski Polka Days, Pulaski, Wisconsin

December 15- Polanki Christmas Party, Pulaski Inn, Cudahy

Kościuszko Monument Update

I hope you've all had a good winter. Now that spring is in the air, we're starting to plan for the upcoming garden season around the Kościuszko Monument. Our tentative work schedule is the last Saturday of the month, starting in April or May. I will keep you posted.

As some of you know, there's a new city and neighborhood initiative to improve conditions in the Lincoln Village area, including Kościuszko Park. Among other things, we are exploring the formation of a "Friends of Kościuszko Park" group.

I am forwarding a message from Sam Leichtling of the Department of City Development, with details about two back-to-back meetings scheduled for Wednesday, April 10 at the Basilica. The general meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., with an initial Friends of Kościuszko Park meeting to follow. As is noted, anyone interested is welcome to attend either or both of these meetings.

Claude Krawczyk, Judy Ramazzini and I will be there. Joanne Barndt is also planning to come and share her experience with the Friends of Lake Park.

In other news, the Wenta Monument Co. has picked up the donor stones located behind the monument, and will re-install them on a more substantial base.

Susan Mikós

Polish Fest

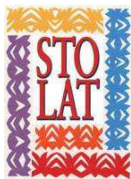
We still need many volunteers for Polish Fest. This event takes a little assistance from all to be a success. Most importantly we want all Polanki members (active and sustaining) to have a chance to enjoy the fun with us. Remember, volunteers receive free entry and parking. Adult children, relatives, and friends are also invited to volunteer - so please bring a partner who will also enter free! Contact Peg Cieslak as soon as possible for your choice of times and assignments (pegc159@yahoo.com, 414-418-1196 anytime.)

Renew Your Polanki Membership

Please remember to turn in your membership renewal form to Marjorie Piechowski by April 15th if you want to be included in the 2019 membership directory. You can also mail it to Polanki, Inc. P.O. Box 341458 Milwaukee, WI 53234 or to her home at 4985 North Iroquois Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53217.

Polanki Apparel Orders

Want some Polanki apparel in time for Polish Fest? There is a variety of styles and colors available. Order forms will be due at the April 12th membership meeting.



April

4/01 Carol Powers
4/10 Kathy Wiczorek
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 Rachel Hooten was in a car accident on March 8th and went to the ER. Her arm and shoulder were sore from the air bags. The children were not in the car. The car is totaled. Rachel's husband Kurtis is laid up from a fall on the ice, postponing his knee surgery.

Sustaining member Audrey Skwierawski Kepler had surgery after falling on an icy driveway picking up her son; she is recovering.

Active member Dolores Winkler has been ill.

Active member Carol Powers is suffering from a reaction to medication that is causing a rash on her body.

Active member Nadine Flemming is fighting a bad cold and congestion.

Active member Diane Ufnowski's husband, Phillip, had hernia surgery.

Sustaining member Anna Rogalski continues to struggle and finished up another round of chemotherapy.

Life member Bette Dulka has a weak left leg.

Happy Easter from Bochnia Salt Mine

(From Love Poland Facebook Page, April 3, 2018)



Happy Easter from Bochnia Salt Mine... a visit to Bochnia Salt Mine, St. Kinga's Chapel, food blessing. The biggest and best preserved among all chapels in the salt mine is St. Kinga's chapel. It was raised in 1747 under the name of St. Guardian Angels New Chapel. In 1782 the name was changed into Blessed Kinga chapel. The main elements of the chancel are: St. Kinga altar, St. Barbara altar, a pulpit carved in salt and salt sculptures of St. Kinga, St. John Nepomucen, St. Wojciech and St. Thomas from Akwin. Every year on Christmas Eve and on the Patron's Day (St. Kinga's) there are High Masses conducted in the chapel.



Święcone

A Traditional Polish Easter Buffet

Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Blessed Sacrament Church Hall

3100 South 41st Street, Milwaukee, WI 53215



Sample delicious, homemade, traditional Polish food made by the Syrena Dancers. Meal includes Polish sausage, ham, a variety of delectable vegetable salads, and an array of mouth-watering desserts. There will be a roaming accordionist, cash bar, and a raffle which includes an Easter ham. The afternoon is topped off by exciting dance suites performed by Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble and Syrenka Children & Youth Polish Dance Ensembles.

Come share with us the wonderful traditions and food of Poland!



POLISH AMERICAN LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION
9TH ANNUAL MEETING

Collecting Our Stories

The Chicago History Museum | Guild Conference Room

Saturday, April 27, 2019 • 10:00AM – 3:00PM

Register in advance at <http://palalib.org/annual-meeting-registration>
\$30 in advance; \$35 at the door

9:30AM Coffee, Meet & Greet

10:00AM Welcome & Introductions

President's Report: Ewa Barczyk

Secretary's Report: Paulina Poplawska

Treasurer's Report: Bernadette Koryciarz

10:30AM Keynote Address: "Poles in Chicago"

Peter T. Alter, The Chicago History Museum & Polonia Project

11:30AM Polish Luncheon Buffet

Sharing Our Stories

50/50 Raffle Drawing

12:30PM Panel Presentation

- Ania Mueller, University of Michigan - Dearborn PAHA Project
- Malgorzata Kot, Polish Museum of America - Collecting and exhibiting Polish World War Stories – 2 major exhibitions 2018-2019
- Daniel Pogorzelski, editor Forgotten Chicago blog

1:30PM Post-Panel Discussion

2:00PM Closing Remarks

2:15PM "Polish Chicago" Tour of the Museum

Discounted parking is available for \$9 in the lot at the corner of Clark & LaSalle, one block north of the Chicago History Museum.

The Traditional Polish Easter Celebration

(Retrieved from <https://syrenadancers.com/major-shows/swiecone>)

By: Ada Dziewanowska



Easter traditions in Poland are closely tied with the spring season and with old customs that often originated in pagan times. In some parts of Poland, the departure of winter was sped up by observing the celebration called “Marzanna.” A big straw puppet, named Marzanna, was dressed in rags, placed on a stick and carried with noisy singing by younger villagers to a nearby river or pond. There the puppet was drowned. If there was no water in the vicinity, the puppet was carried into the fields and burned. Marzanna was the symbol of winter hardships, of illness, and death. Destroying her was the magic that was to bring winter to an end and speed up the coming of the long awaited spring.

As some of us may remember, the contrast between the mood of Lent and Easter was tremendous, particularly in Poland. Fasting and mortification for the forty days of Lent was strictly observed. On Good Friday (“Wielki Piątek”), some people limited themselves to bread and water, and sometimes a herring. On that day, sadness and solemnity prevailed. This mood was intensified by the singing in a plaintive way of mournful Lenten songs while performing chores. In one of these songs, Jesus tragically asks: “Oh my people, my people, what have I done to you, in what way have I saddened you, how have I harmed you? I have freed you from Egyptian captivity, and you have prepared a cross for my arms.”

The solemnity of Good Friday was further deepened by visiting of the sepulchres. The faithful visited one or several churches where a life-like figure of Jesus was displayed lying in the grave. Soldiers and Boy Scouts took turns in guarding the sepulchres.

The Traditional Polish Easter Celebration (continued)

Another essential part of the getting ready for Easter was a thorough spring cleaning of the entire house and extensive preparation for the Easter feast: roasting of various meats (sometimes even a whole piglet), smoking sausages, decorating colorful eggs called “pisanki,” mixing vegetable salads, and baking the all important “babkas and placeks,” and several varieties of special Easter pastries, the “mazureks.”

For tradition had it that by Holy Saturday (“Wielka Sobota”), everything had to be ready so that for the next few days the women would be free from work. All the dishes were placed on a long table covered with a white linen cloth and decorated with branches of pussy willows and fresh green boxwood. “Wesołego Alleluja” (Joyous Alleluia, equivalent to Happy Easter) would appear on various items. For instance, it was “written” on the ham with cloves or lard, and on the “mazureks” with almonds or raisins. In the center of the table stood an Easter lamb (“baranek wielkanocny”) with a small red banner with the letters IHS. It was made out of sugar or butter.

On Holy Saturday, the food was blessed with holy water by a priest. He would either come to the house, or samplings of dishes would be taken to church in a basket covered with a white linen napkin, where a general ceremony of blessing of the food would take place. The word “to bless” in Polish is “Święcić,” hence the name of “Święcone” for the Easter Buffet.

Finally, Easter Sunday (“Niedziela Wielkanocna”) would arrive. One was not allowed to taste the Easter feast before attending mass, which could be as early as 6:00 a.m. During the Mass the joyous Easter songs would burst forth, making one forget about the sacrifices of Lent. When all the family and friends gathered at home, just before the start of the meal, the father or mother would take a plate of quartered blessed Easter eggs and approach everyone in the room offering a piece and wishing “Wesołego Alleluja.” Then everyone would eat and drink heartily to make up for all the fasting during Lent. The Easter buffet “Święcone” lasted for at least two days with various guests visiting. It was therefore very practical to have cold dishes to eat.

Easter Monday (“Poniedziałek Wielkanocny”) was also a holiday. It was a very special day, remembered forever by anyone who took part in it. It was called “Dyngus” or “Śmigus,” and on that day young men sprinkled girls with water. They would take the girls by surprise and in olden times – and even now-- pour a whole bucket of water on the poor victims who would run away screaming. Sometimes a girl was even dragged to the village pond and immersed. In town, however, a man just sprayed some perfume from an atomizer on the girl’s neck. It was only the unpopular girl who survived the day without ever being drenched or sprayed.

There are many theories on how this custom began. One is that it might have originated in pagan times as a fertility rite. Many of these and other Easter traditions are still observed in Poland and among the many Poles abroad.

General Polanki News

Polanki Library and Gift Shop are located on the second floor at the Polish Center of Wisconsin.

Polanki Library:
Tuesdays 12-2
Wednesdays 6-8
Fridays during Lent 4:30 - 8

Polanki Gift Shop: Monday-Friday 9-4
Fridays during Lent 4:30 – 8



Loose change will be collected at the April meeting for Laski School for the Blind in Poland.

2018 Perfect Attendance Recipients



Photo credit: Joanne Barndt

Pictured: Top Row: Camille Shaw, Carol Knudson, Susan Konecny
Bottom Row: Kathy Camacho, Lynn Adams, Terri Cieslak, Pat Koronkowski
Not pictured: Laurie Ufnowski, Diane Ufnowski, and Jean Wroblewski

April 22 is Śmigus-Dyngus in Poland

(from Love Polank Facebook page April 2, 2018)

This day, also called Lany Poniedziałek (Wet Monday), is an ancient pagan tradition held in Poland on the Easter Monday, nowadays intertwined with the Christian celebrations of Easter. It has its roots in old Slavic traditions of throwing water on people in rites meaning to purify them for the arrival of spring. On that day, groups of boys (often in festive clothing) were throwing water on the girls or even soak them completely in nearby rivers and lakes. Naturally, the girls were getting their 'revenge' in a similar way. The person who got soaked the most was thought of as being the most popular or attractive. This part of the custom was also connected to the old Slavic rites in which the water was becoming a factor evoking the fertility (similarly to the pouring of water during Kupala Night). The processions were usually going doors-to-doors, often accompanied by traditional songs or verse declarations.

Details of the Śmigus-Dyngus day has many regional varieties. In some regions people were also spanked with pussy willow branches (often by simulating the spanking in a theatrical manner), as to 'throw out' the remains of dark winter out of the bodies. In other regions, it was sometimes accompanied by the so-called 'dziady śmigustne' [example on pic 4 above] - men in costumes made of woven straw, who originally were meant to be symbolic representations of the ancestors arriving for the rite. In some small villages the Śmigus-Dyngus day was ended with a feast for the whole local community, after the processions had visited all the houses.

That custom used to have strict rules and code. For example, if someone wanted to avoid getting wet or spanked, they could give away small gifts like eggs, sausages or sweets to the people in the processions. The oldest Polish source mentioning the Śmigus-Dyngus custom comes from the year 1410. It was an edict entitled "Dyngus Prohibetur" written by Archdiocese of Poznań, which was one of the many attempts of banning these old practices as being too sinful and remaining of old pagan customs. Despite continuous efforts over the centuries, these practices remained almost unchanged up until the 20th century.

Nowadays, especially in some of the cities or bigger towns, it's almost too dangerous to go out on that day - one might end up in dripping wet clothes, 'attacked' by groups of young people who are often hiding in gateways or behind corners with buckets full of water. The custom has sadly lost its original spirit in the course of the rapid industrialization, coming along with uprooting of the rural communities. In most of the cases the 'code' of redeeming is no longer known by the regular people and the traditional processions are recreated in the old ways primarily in local ethnography museums.



Polanki Newsletter published by

Polanki, Inc.
P.O. Box 341458
Milwaukee, WI 53234
www.polanki.org

Editor *Jessica Ullstrup*

President *Anne Wal*