



Polanki, Inc.

Polish Women's Cultural Club Newsletter

February-March (Luty-Marsz) 2019

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Happy Pączki Day!

Polanki Meeting March 8

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

SPEAKER: Anne Wal will discuss her whirlwind trip to Poland last October where she was a guest of the Governor of the Lublin Province.

HOSTESSES:

Wanda Kosmalski
Peg Cieslak
Sandy JeT'aime
Urszula Tempska
Cynthia Lepkowski
Veronica Artus
Marjorie Piechowski
Juliane Gaseor

Upcoming Events

March 5- Fat Tuesday, Happy Pączki Day!

March 8- April 19 Fish Frys for Lent at the Polish Center

April 14- Święconka, 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

From the President's Desk

Dear Ladies,

Although it has been awhile since I have written, Polanki has continued its mission of preserving Polish traditions and promoting Polish heritage. Since last October, Polanki:

- continued the annual Polish Soup Festival at a new location, Blessed Sacrament Church;
- participated in Holiday Folk Fair by not only having a successful marketplace booth to sell Bolesławiec pottery and other Polish folk art, but also creating an award-winning cultural exhibit featuring folk costumes from Ada Dziewanowska's collection and featuring Polanki's folk artists, Kathy Wieczorek (Konfederatka cap) and Susan Konecny (wianki);
- participated in the Holiday Bazaar at the Polish Center in early December, again showcasing the beautiful pottery, folk art, Konfederatka cap and wianki;
- hosted a fabulous Christmas Party at the Polish Center where event chairs, Nadine Flemming and Denna Flemming, arranged for Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI to attend, and where over \$1,300 was raised from attendees for Laski;
- continued the annual Pierogi Dinner at a new time of year—January—successfully chaired by Susan Cieslak; and
- supported the Bal Moscovy which benefits the Syrena dancers by purchasing an ad in the program book and donating two pieces of Bolesławiec pottery for the silent auction.

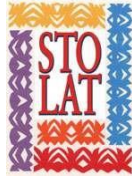
None of these events would have been possible without the tireless efforts and resourcefulness of Polanki members. During the past year, I have seen firsthand how members are eager to assist each other so that dinners, exhibits and sales run smoothly—it is truly magical. It is my pleasure and honor to be a member of Polanki!

Now, as I look out my window, I see the sun and its message that spring will soon be here. Spring brings Polanki's 50th annual awards tea where deserving students will receive college achievement awards, spring turns to summer, and summer brings Polanki's Cultural Village at Polish Fest—and, once again, time for the Polanki ladies to work their magic!

Anne Wal

Polish Fest Cultural Village

Planning is underway for this year's Polish Fest and the Cultural Village presented by Polanki. The festival will be held June 14, 15, 16 - as it is each year, and Sunday is Father's Day. We will be sharing more details in upcoming meetings and newsletters. At this time, we are especially looking for seamstresses, artists, and those able to do simpler carpentry tasks. Our aim is always to divide tasks so that many hands can make light work. We also appreciate help from spouses, relatives, and reliable friends. Please call or email all leads to Peg Cieslak (pegc159@yahoo.com, (414) 418-1196) or Laurie Ufnowski (lufnowski@wi.rr.com, (262) 347-8962).



February

02/01 Iwona Nowak
02/09 Veronica Artus
02/11 Geraldine Reszel
02/12 Anna Najpiorkowski
02/13 Ewa Barczyk-Pease
02/13 Sharon Kearns
02/14 Jadwiga Korasz
02/17 Charlotte Dzimiel
02/20 Diane Holytz
 Eleanore Jenrzejczak
 Jerry Moskaluk
 Jill Swenson-Parra
02/23 Rachel Hooten
02/26 Anna Rogalski

March

3/09 Kristine Chmielewski
3/19 Joanna Nowakowski
3/28 Marjorie Piechowski
3/31 Edith Malson

Welcome to the following new Polanki members...

Elena Shebelski and Nancy Purtell

Get Well Wishes to...

Sustaining member, Audrey Keppler
Active member, Anna Rogalski

Reminders...

Membership forms: Please remember to turn in membership renewal forms to Marjorie Piechowski or to the Polanki mailbox no later than April 15 to be included in this year's directory. Order forms are attached to this newsletter.

Apparel orders: Get ready for our spring and summer Polanki events. Don't forget to order your Polanki apparel! Order forms will be due at the April membership meeting. Order forms are added to this newsletter.

Pączki

(<https://www.atlasobscura.com/foods/polish-donuts>)



The clock counts down as the crowd goes wild. A row of competitors push toward the finish line. It's not a bike race or a 5k. It's a pączki-eating contest. Every Mardi Gras, from Tappan, New York, to Hamtramck, Michigan, these fried, sugar-dusted fluffs of pastry have become an occasion for celebrating pre-Lent excess, Polish culture, and of course, gastronomic athleticism.

Golden-brown with a characteristic light ring around the middle, these yeast-risen doughnuts are deep fried and covered with powdered sugar or fried orange zest. They were first made by Polish people using up the last of the sugar, lard, and fruit in the house before the austerity of Lent. In Poland, they're filled with rose petal, prune jam, and even fried rose buds, and are eaten on Fat Thursday (the Thursday before Lent) as part of the zapusty, or "carnival season." These pre-Lent festivities continue to the present day, and bakeries making pączki are known to be the site of hours-long lines on Fat Thursday.

Pączki immigrated to the United States alongside their Polish creators and became ubiquitous in Polish communities on the Eastern seaboard and in the Midwest. In the United States, they're eaten on Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras), the day before Lent begins. While some pączki are filled with the traditional rose and prune, they've also become a vehicle for more inventive fillings, ranging from banana cream to charred rosemary. They've also become a vehicle for some serious celebration. Fat Tuesday has officially been dubbed "Pączki Day" in Hamtramck and Chicago. Celebrations in Hamtramck include beer, music, dancing mascots in Pączki costumes, and of course, the annual pączki-eating contest. Meanwhile, Chicago bakers estimate that they sell tens of thousands of the fried treat each day between Fat Thursday and Fat Tuesday every year.

While your average Chicagoan has no problem eating a pączki or 12, they disagree on how exactly to pronounce the beguiling bread's name. For the record, pączki is the plural form of the singular, pączek, and the proper pronunciation is "pownch-key," though "delicious" works just fine.

Need to Know

Pączki are also eaten in the United States on Casimir Pulaski Day, which is particularly observed in the Midwest. Born in Poland, Casimir Pulaski was an American Revolutionary War hero who has been dubbed "the father of the American cavalry." Raise a toast—or a doughnut—to Polish American culture by enjoying one of these clouds of dough on the next Casimir Pulaski Day.

Pierogi Dinner

2,000 pierogi, 100 pounds of Polish salad, 2 apple sheet cakes, 10 feet of poppy seed loaf, 100 kolacki and 250 people served!

New and returning people dined this year at the annual Pierogi dinner on Sunday, January 27th at the Polish Center of Wisconsin. This year reservations for dining service were spread over three seatings. This kept the kitchen humming along and was well received by our guests. Pre-orders were packaged for grab and go pick-up and sales for any remaining pierogi, salads and dessert were brisk! Pottery sales and the library were also available at this heritage event to Polanki.

Thank you to all those that attended and who volunteered to once again make this annual event a signature showcase of Polish Culture and Heritage as Polanki has done so well during the past 65 years.

Thank you!
Susan Cieslak



General Polanki News

Char Dzimielia resigned from Polanki at the end of 2018 so that she can spend more time with her family. Margie Hess also resigned last month because of health reasons. Char and Margie made numerous contributions of their time and talent to support Polanki's mission—they will be greatly missed.

Edith Malson will be the Sunshine Chair and an Advisor; Ewa Barczyk-Pease and Susan Mikos will be Advisors; and Judy Chattin, Sue Konecny and Heddy Moskaluk will comprise the Auditing Committee. We thank Adrienne Zuber, Terri Cieslak and Joanna Fraczek for their contributions to the 2018-19 Board.

There were many accomplishments in 2018-2019, too numerous to name. Some include:

- Strengthening Polanki's branding by using its logo on merchandise bags, apparel and magnets describing pottery care (given to customer who purchase pottery)—shout out to Jessica Ullstrup for taking the lead on this branding;
- Managing Polanki's financial bottom line—shout out to Jean Wroblewski;
- Taking Denna Flemming's lead, taking further steps to engage a financial advisor so that Polanki can achieve more return on its cash balances;
- Acquiring Ada Dziewanowska's costume collection and using pieces from it to create an award-winning exhibit at Holiday Folk Fair—shout out to Ewa Barczyk-Pease and Tamara Johnston;
- Focusing on children at the Cultural Exhibit, leading to the Education Day People's Choice award from Holiday Folk Fair—shout out to Peg Cieslak, Margie Hess and Camille Shaw;
- Featuring the "Women of Poland's Independence" exhibit at Polish Fest, Holiday Folk Fair and the Polish Center—shout out to Ewa Barczyk-Pease for her connections at the Polish Consulate;
- Successful sales of pottery and folk art (over \$60,000 gross) at Polish Fest, Holiday Folk Fair, the Polish Center, Blessed Sacrament Church, Portage and other locations—too many shout-outs—Jean Wroblewski, Ewa Melenchuk, Char Dzimielia, Rachel Hooten, Jennifer Flores, Kathleen Wiczorek, Susan Konecny, Jennifer Konecny, Edith Malson and Bette Dulka—to name a few;
- A new, hopefully annual, event at the Cudahy Family Library, A Day in Poland—shout out to Margie Hess and her "crew;"
- Showcasing Polish heritage at Lane Intermediate School's folk fair—shout out to Peg Cieslak and her committee;
- Fabulous speakers at Polish Fest—shout out to Peg Cieslak and her committee;
- Another round of Chopin pianists at the annual Polish Fest competition—shout out to Monika Sobierajski and Lidia Sobierajski; and
- Bringing "in house" the landscaping of the Kosciuszko monument—shout out to Susan Mikos and her committee; and
- A wonderful celebration of Polanki's 65th anniversary with dinner and entertainment—shout out to Diane Holytz and her committee.

The list of accomplishments and shout-outs could go on and on. Bottom line is that Polanki is so fortunate to have members willing to give of their time and talent to support Polanki's mission.

Congratulations to...

2018 Perfect Attendance

Lynn Adams
Kathy Camacho
Terri Cieslak
Carol Knudson
Susan Konecny
Pat Koronkowski
Camilla Shaw
Laurie Ufnowski
Diane Ufnowski
Jean Wroblewski

At the February membership meeting, the following persons were elected to Polanki's Board for the 2019-20 fiscal year:

President – Anne Wal
1st Vice President – Camille Shaw
2nd Vice President – Laurie Ufnowski
Treasurer – Jean Wroblewski
Recording Secretary – Cynthia Lepkowski
Corresponding Secretary – Maria Adamiec
Historian – Joanne Barndt
Publicity – Susan Cieslak
Membership – Marjorie Piechowski
Newsletter Editor – Jessica Ullstrup

College Achievement Awards Tea

The Awards Tea will be held on Sunday, April 28th at the Polish Center. Denna and Nadine Flemming will have sign-up sheets for sweet and savory dishes available at March and April meetings.



This sculpture by Teresa Brzósiewicz was recently donated to Polanki by our new sustaining member, Carol Carlin. Carol also donated a drawing by the same artist.

Teresa Brzósiewicz was born in 1929 in Siedlce, Poland. She studied at the State Higher School of Fine Arts in Sopot and the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. At one time she lived in the Milwaukee area.

Teresa Brzósiewicz's sculptures can be found on Marszałkowska Street in Warsaw, in the Warsaw National Museum, and in Warsaw's Powązki Cemetery. Her work has been exhibited in Warsaw, Berlin, Paris, Monte Carlo, Oslo, Skopje, Cannes, Lima, and Milwaukee, among other places.

Road Trips!

Consider a road trip with your family and Polanki friends to visit one of these exhibits featuring Polish art or history:

- “Karolina Gnatowski: Some Kind of Duty” through March 31, 2019, at the DePaul University Art Museum in Chicago. An art exhibit featuring handmade weavings by “KG,” a Polish-born, Chicago artist.
- “Nineteenth Annual Katyn Remembrance” (79th Anniversary of the Katyn Forest Massacre) on April 7, 2019, at the National Katyn Memorial in Baltimore, Maryland, with a Mass before the ceremony at Holy Rosary Church, Baltimore, Maryland. Sponsored by the National Katyn Memorial Foundation with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland.
- “100 Years of Polish Independence: Zakopane 1918” through May 3, 2019, at the International Institute Gallery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Presented by The Copernicus Program in Polish Studies in collaboration with the Tatra Museum, the Adam Mickiewicz Institute in Warsaw and Culture.pl as part of POLSKA 100. The exhibit features photographs telling the story about the Republic of Zakopane, established at the end of World War I.
- “Auschwitz. Not So Long Ago. Not So Far Away” from May 8, 2019, through January 3, 2020, at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City. Presented jointly by the Auschwitz Memorial Museum in Poland, other experts and Musealia in Spain.

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