



Polanki, Inc.

Polish Women's Cultural Club Newsletter

June (Czerw) 2019

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Polanki Meeting June 7

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

SPEAKER: No speaker, wrapping up Polish Fest discussions

HOSTESSES:

Anne Wal
Judy Chattin
Suzanne Holcomb-Zoltan
Camille Shaw
Elena Shebelski
Sandy JeT'aime
Cindy Lepkowski
Laurie Ufnowski

Upcoming Events

June 5 and June 12- Polonia's Beer Garden

June 14-16 - Polish Fest on the Summerfest Grounds

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

August 4- Polonia's Annual Festival

September 15- Dożynki (Harvest Festival) at Polonia

October 27- Soup Festival at Blessed Sacrament

**Looking for members willing to serve on the committee.
Contact Anne Wal if interested.*

December 15- Polanki Christmas Party, Pulaski Inn, Cudahy

December 31- Polonia's Gala New Year's Eve Ball

Save the Date for Polanki's Rummage Sale



At the General Membership meeting on September 13th we will be having a rummage sale of your Polish items. All the profits will go to support Laski School for the Blind in Poland.



Corpus Christi on June 20

(adapted from Public Holidays Global <https://publicholidays.pl/corpus-christi/>)

The Latin term *Corpus Christi* means “body of Christ,” in reference to the bread administered by priests during holy communion. Though communion is held every Sunday during mass throughout the year, a special day to celebrate the taking of communion was instituted on the basis of visions reportedly seen by Saint Julianne in the Belgian town of Liege in 1247. The first celebrations of Corpus Christi on Polish soil took place in 1320.

The date of Corpus Christi is based on Easter, being set on the Thursday of the ninth week following Easter Sunday. In Poland, many people take off not only Corpus Christi but also the following Friday, to create a festive four-day weekend.

Corpus Christi is one of the five days of the year on which Catholic bishops are not to be away from their dioceses unless absolutely unavoidable. It is a day on which special masses are held in honor of the Eucharist. However, the processions immediately after mass are the real center of attention. Devotees dressed in traditional Polish garb, varying region by region, march through the streets holding up banners. The priest holds high a canopy-covered Eucharist, and children throw flowers in the priest's path as he walks along. At four different altars along the way, the procession stops to allow the crowds to sing hymns and say prayers. Finally, the procession returns to the church building, where the priest pronounces a blessing upon the Eucharist.

Some Poles will decorate their homes for Corpus Christi, putting religious pictures or flower garlands in their windows. Streets along which a procession is to pass are often lined with flowers and other decorations, and in large cities, each church will have its own procession and at different times of day. Some believe that Jesus walks on the flowers strewn on the streets, and some even tear off twigs adorning the street altars to bring themselves “good luck.”

Victor Podlaski and the UWM Polish Studies Scholarship Program

Story by Marjorie Piechowski and Donald Pienkos

At the recent Academic Awards Achievement Tea, two students at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee received UWM/Victor Podlaski Polish Studies Scholarships. In addition to receiving the awards, the students also had the opportunity to meet and thank Mr. Podlaski in person. The story behind his generosity is little-known but thanks to Dr. Donald Pienkos, we have the following information to share.

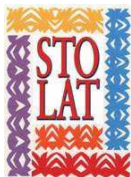
Victor Podlaski, a veteran of World War II, did not attend UWM but because of his strong Polish heritage and his commitment to education, established an endowment fund that has provided scholarships for almost forty years. In Don's words, "Back around 1975 I was a very young assistant professor in political science and had the idea of establishing a scholarship for outstanding UWM students of Polish descent. I asked for and received a commitment from the Milwaukee Society of the Polish National Alliance fraternal organization to provide about three or four hundred dollars a year for this award. I then went to Vice Chancellor Ernest Spaights and received his commitment to match our money on a dollar for dollar basis with UWM funds.

"I then set out to ask other groups for donations. Several came through—Polanki with \$500 and the Pol-Am Golf Charities group at Tuckaway Golf Course and Attorney Ed Simarski, now deceased. Their generosity brought our annual contributions up to about \$1,300. Chancellor Spaights also committed UWM to give \$1,000 a year from then on.

"Around that time, around 1980, Mr. Podlaski gave us a contribution—a very nice one of \$5,000 or was it \$10,000? It was placed in a separate account at the UWM Foundation. However, only the interest from that donation could be used, not the principle. Eventually he doubled his donation and the interest from that money continues to be used for the UWM scholarships each year."

Dr. Pienkos continued to direct the program for about twenty years, into the mid-1990s, when Polanki agreed to take over the administration and selection of the award recipients from UWM. Since its origins, the program has awarded over \$70,000 and continues to provide one or more scholarships each year.

So why did Victor Podlaski make this very generous and lasting give to UWM and students of Polish descent? According to Dr. Pienkos, Victor Podlaski had a nephew who was studying geography at UWM, who went on to teach geography at UW-Stevens Point after earning his Ph.D. at UWM. It seems that Mr. Podlaski was impressed with the education his nephew received and wanted to show his appreciation. He is a very modest and humble man who said he wanted no recognition for his generous contribution but Polanki and the many UWM students he has supported over the years recognize him as a true Polish hero.



June

6/01 Lidia Sobierajski
6/06 Rachelle Ebenhoe
Esther Nowicki
6/15 MaryEllen DeVito
6/16 Urszula Tempska
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

Get Well Wishes to...

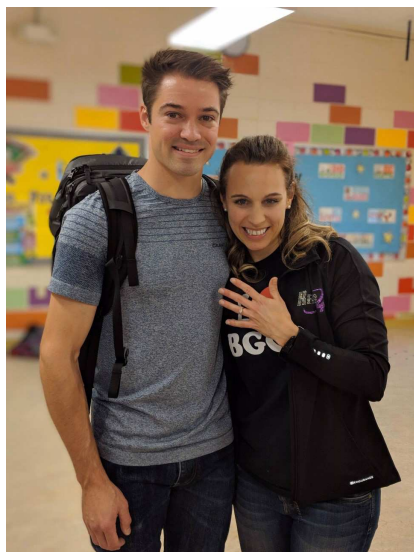
Active member, Maria Adamiec, whose father in Poland is terminally ill, but stable at this time

Sustaining member, Ana Rogalski

Sustaining member, Ann Lalasz was recently hospitalized, had surgery and is now recuperating

Congratulations to...

Active member, Jessica Ullstrup, who got engaged on Friday May 24th!



Solidarity

*Nina Gutmanis, UWM graduate student in Occupational Therapy
Received the UWM/Victor Podlaski /Polish Studies Scholarship*



Photo by Joanne Barndt

One event that had significant ramifications in both Polish and world history was the 1980 formation of the Solidarity movement, originating at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk. The Solidarity movement began with a 17,000 worker strike at the shipyard and was led by Lech Walesa. The primary demands presented to the Polish Communist government included workers having the ability to strike and to organize free, independent trade unions. This was the first time a Soviet-bloc country formally recognized a labor union. While Solidarity started as a trade union, it quickly morphed into a more political and social movement. Solidarity stated, “History has taught us that there is no bread without freedom. What we had in mind were not only bread, butter and sausage, but also justice, democracy, truth, legality, human dignity, freedom of convictions, and the repair of the republic.” Solidarity spread across Poland, with suborganizations forming to represent the needs of specific groups, such as students or farmers and overall membership numbers grew to nearly 9 million, or roughly one-quarter of the entire population. As Solidarity grew in numbers and power, the Communist government attempted to suppress and eliminate the movement. Solidarity was outlawed in December 1981, its leaders, including Walesa, were imprisoned, and martial law was declared. Rather than eliminating Solidarity, these actions merely forced the group to go underground, and they continued to produce anti-communist newspapers and organize protests. The movement continued largely underground through the mid-to-late 1980’s; Solidarity was still illegal though the government did arrange for the release of Walesa and other imprisoned movement leaders. A crucial turning point for a free election. This resulted in Solidarity winning 99/100 Senate seats and all available seats in the Sejm.

While Solidarity was incredibly important to Polish history, it also had significant international impact. I believe that when most people now think of the 1980’s and the dwindling Communist control over Soviet bloc countries, images of the Berlin wall being torn down mainly come to mind. However, the 1989 election predated the fall of the Berlin wall by six months and resulted in Poland becoming the first Soviet bloc country to have a non-communist government. The election struck a major blow to Communism and as Poland transitioned to a free government, others, too, would follow, eventually resulting in the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union.

After learning more about this period in Polish history, it is clear that Solidarity had a profound impact on both Polish and international history. I recall learning about post-WWII Europe and the rise and fall of the Soviet Union in school, but don’t remember ever hearing about Solidarity, which both surprises and saddens me. I believe this was an incredibly important movement for the obvious reasons – Poland regaining independent government rule and the formation of free, self-governing trade unions – but also because of the overarching principles by which it operated. One aspect of Solidarity that struck me as especially important was their belief in non-violence, even while leaders were being imprisoned and protesters were killed. Much like through the work of Martin Luther King Jr., I believe this shows that significant social and political change is indeed possible through peaceful means.

Polish Fest Information



Books Needed!

Here are some general guidelines for book donations. You never know what people will be interested in buying and their interests change from year to year, but here are some suggestions:

- Books in English sell better than books in Polish
- Old Polish Cookbooks (in English)
- Books about the Polish Military
- Children's books
- Polish History
- Phonograph records

Bring books to the June membership meeting and give to Joanne Barndt

Mass Processional

Volunteers are needed for the Sunday morning mass processional. Come dressed in your Polish costume and enjoy a Polish Mass followed by admission into Polish Fest. Please see Bette Dulka if interested.

Cultural and Sales Booth

Volunteers are needed for the Cultural and Sales booths. Please see chair members at the June meeting to sign up for open time slots.

-Cultural booth is in need of volunteers for Saturday afternoon and evening shifts.

-Wristbands, tickets and parking passes will be handed out at the June meeting

**Perks for volunteers:* If you work for 4 hours you will receive a free meal token, weekend admission pass and free parking in P Lot.



Portage County Festival in Stevens Point

The 27th Annual Portage County Cultural Festival was held on Saturday May 11, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Stevens Point Area Senior High School (SPASH). The event is "Admission Free" thanks to contributions from businesses, community organizations and individuals. Polanki has participated at this annual event since 2007.

Full details are on the web site link. <http://www.PortageCountyCulturalFestival.org>



Polanki Market Booth offering Bolesławiec Polish pottery, Polish books and Polish glass ornaments

Volunteers: Polanki members Jean Wroblewski and Jane Dunn and sister Joan Spindler (in picture)



Ethnic Arts Demonstration - Polish Egg Painting: Pisanki (wax-resist technique to decorate blown-out eggs). Demonstrators: Polanki member Margaret Wadzinkske (center) with her children Alena (left) and Jacob (right); passing on a skill nurtured by her Mother and Polanki member Barbara Godlewski



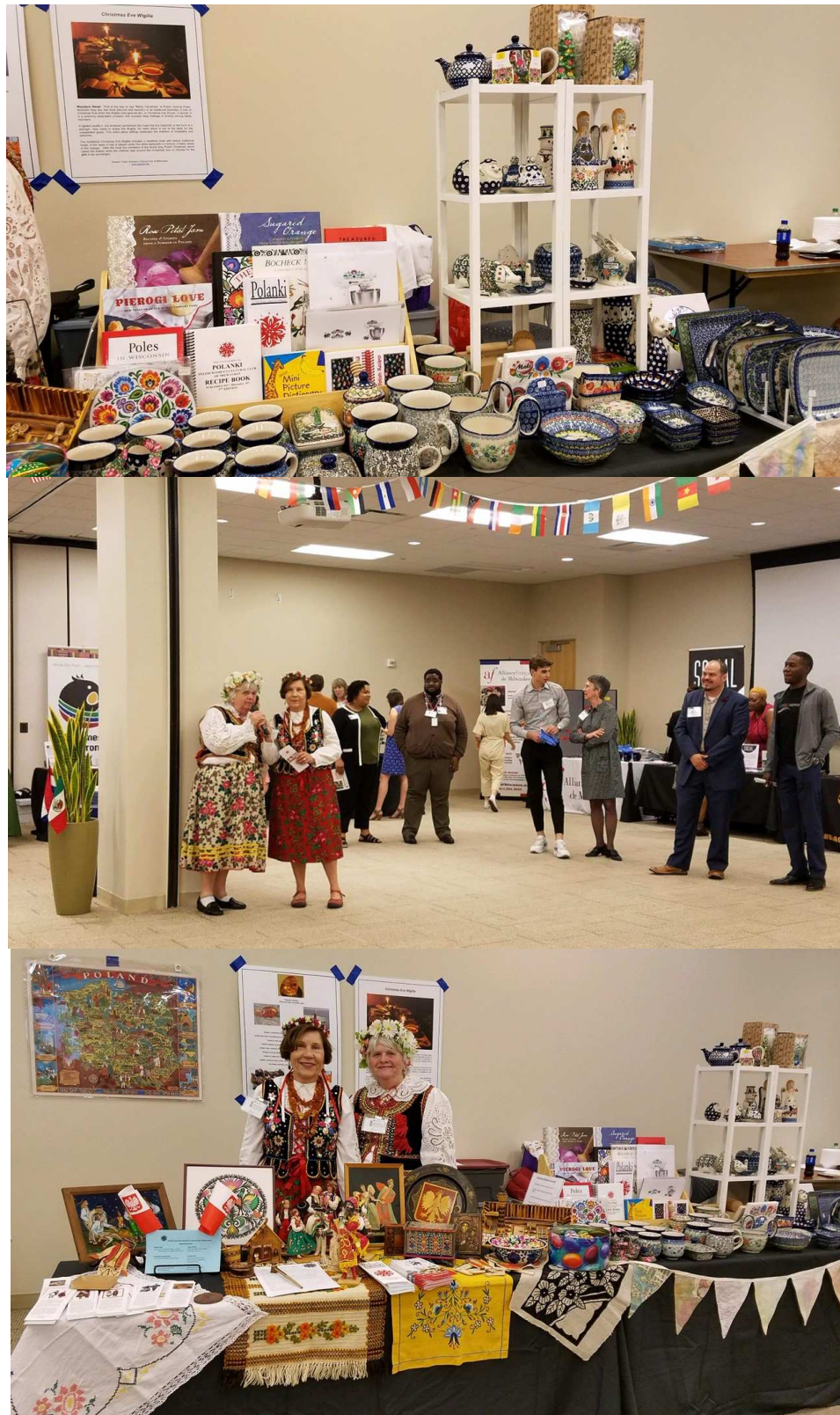
Overview of activities in the Field House



Ethnic Arts Demonstration - Polish Ornaments: Jeszyki and Nalepianki (wycinanki or paper cut-out technique to decorate blown-out eggs) Demonstrator: Polanki member Kim Swedowski with husband Edwin

ManPower Event on May 23rd

(Pictures from Jean Wroblewski)



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

Polanki Gift Shop:

Monday-Friday 9-4



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

Upcoming Membership and Board Meetings

Membership Meetings

2nd Friday of the month at 7:30pm at Villa St. Francis

June 7
September 13
October 11
November 8
December 15 (Christmas Party)
January 10

Board Meetings

Last Monday of the month at 7:00pm at Villa St. Francis

June 24
August 26
September 30
October 28
November 25

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