



# Polanki, Inc.

Polish Women's Cultural Club Newsletter

December (Grudzień) 2019

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President</b>	Anne Wal (414) 287-1530
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	Camille Shaw (414) 510-6378
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	Laurie Ufnowski (414) 525-1094
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jean Wroblewski (414) 405-7753
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Cynthia Lepkowski (414) 425-1248
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Maria Adamiec (262) 997-4742
<b>Historian</b>	Joanne Barndt (414) 962-5634
<b>Publicity</b>	Susan Cieslak (312) 953-4312
<b>Membership</b>	Marjorie Piechowski (414) 963-9055
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Jessica Ullstrup (414) 704-6121
<b>Sunshine Chair</b>	Edith Malson (414) 744-9412
<b>Auditing Committee</b>	Judy Chattin Sue Konecny Heddy Moskaluk
<b>Web Master</b>	Dana Michaels (414) 712-4301

## Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku

### Polanki Meeting January 10, 2020

On Friday, January 10, Polanki's regular membership meeting will be held at Villa St. Francis at 7:30 p.m. in the dining room.

**SPEAKER:** TBD

**HOSTESSES:**

Ewa Melenchuk  
Camille Shaw

*\*need more hostesses for January\**

Please talk to Laurie Ufnowski if you are able to help.

### Upcoming Events

December 7- Polish Genealogy Interest Group meeting at the Tippecanoe Library Community Room at 10:15 a.m.

December 15- Polanki Christmas Party, Pulaski Inn, Cudahy

*\*Don't forget to bring a raffle item. Proceeds benefit Laski.*

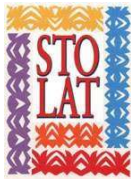
*We will also be accepting donations to Laski in the form of a personal check. Please make the check payable to Polanki with Laski in the memo.*

*\*Polanki Apparel Orders will be available for pick up.*

April 19, 2020- Awards Tea at the Polish Center

May 10, 2020 Portage County Cultural Festival

June 12-14, 2020- Polish Fest at the Summerfest Grounds



## December

12/03 Janet Protasiewicz  
12/05 Carol Bialek  
Elaine Posard  
12/07 Shirley Sternig  
12/13 Romaine Bata  
12/14 Denna Flemming  
12/17 Devon Flemming  
12/15 Jane Dunn  
Jean Wroblewski  
12/20 Maria Adamiec  
12/21 Carol Knudson  
12/26 Halina Sosnowski

## Community Corner

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

January 27, 2020, Dr. Shay Pilnik has agreed to give a lecture regarding the Holocaust at the Polish Center at 7:00p.m. Meet Shay <http://holocaustcentermilwaukee.org/about/staff/>

February 2, 2020- Pączki Tasting at the Polish Center by the Wisconsin Bakers Association. Polanki will be selling pottery and folk art in the Brides' room.

# Christmas Eve Food Part 1: Mains

*From Love Poland Facebook page and thanks to poland.pl, December 22, 2018*

Only two days left to the Christmas Eve. Therefore we will publish a few texts about our traditions. Let's start from the famous food.

Carp, borscht, as well as kutia made of groats, poppy seed, cabbage with peas, Silesian gingerbread and fish head soup. Christmas Eve dishes in Poland vary depending on which part of the country you are in, but almost all dinners on this special day consist of 12 dishes and dried fruit kompot.

On Christmas Eve, December 24th, the appearance of the first star on the sky marks the beginning of one of the most beautiful evenings in the year. An entire day of fasting ends with a prayer, the sharing of the Christmas wafer and wishes of good luck. After that, supper is served – and although it is meant to be a fasting meal, in many cases it will likely lead to heavy overeating.

After devouring the twelve dishes, families leave the dinner table to unpack presents, which are placed under the Christmas tree – decorated with baubles, garlands and colorful lights.

Christmas Eve is full of symbolism, both in terms of the dishes served and their number: despite common belief, there have not always been 12 dishes. In earlier times, sometimes three, five or seven (always odd numbers) dishes were served.

“The tradition of having an odd number of dishes probably came from ancient magical beliefs. It is open, so it gives the basis for multiplying what is on the table to make the number even”, says Robert Piotrowski, the head of the ethnographic division of the Museum of the Mazovian Countryside in Sierpc, when asked by Polska.pl. He adds that the current number of dishes, twelve, is derived from traditions observed by the nobility and minor gentry. Twelve referred to the number of the Apostles and months of the year. It was intended as a wish for a sufficient amount of food for each month of the next year, he explains. Strength and luck was to be guaranteed by tasting each of the dishes.

Christmas was considered a prophetic day, which helps explain a number of related superstitions. For example, it was believed that crying on Christmas Eve meant crying until next the Christmas. It was also believed that the future could be predicted using a blade of grass from under a tablecloth – a green one meant good luck, a blackened one – bad luck. The custom of putting a carp's scale into one's wallet has survived until today. It is supposed to ensure wealth for the entire year. Throughout history, Polish Christmas Eve suppers included a soup based on fermented product, kutia, or noodles with honey and poppy seed, and fish. Uszka – small pierogi (dumplings) which are served with borscht or with sauerkraut and mushroom-filled pierogi - started to be served in more recent times.





# Holiday Folk Fair

The International Holiday Folk Fair was on November 22-24 at the State Fair Grounds. Polanki had a cultural exhibit and a sales booth at the event.



## Holiday Bazaar

The Holiday Bazaar took place on Sunday, December 1, 2019 at the Polish Center. It was a busy event filled with many people doing some early Christmas shopping.



## Tree Decorating

Some wonderful Polanki members decorated the Christmas tree at the Polish Center on Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.



## 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 (Special Holiday Hours)**

Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 4-7 pm

Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 10 am-2 pm

Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 1-4pm, during Bingo 4-8 pm

Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 1-4 pm

Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 1-4 pm

Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 1-4 pm

Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm, during Bingo 4-8 pm

Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 1-4 pm

Monday December 23<sup>rd</sup> 1-3 pm

## Directory Changes and Additions

Please add this information to your directory for our newest Active Polanki Member:

Helen Waliszewski

4757 South 26<sup>th</sup> Street

Milwaukee, WI 53221

Cell phone: 414-736-1672

[helenmw1@yahoo.com](mailto:helenmw1@yahoo.com)

Please update Ewa Melenchuk's new address as follows:

2903 S. 108th St.

Franksville, WI 53126

Phone # and email remain the same

## Upcoming Membership and Board Meetings

### **Membership Meetings**

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Villa St. Francis

December 15 (Christmas Party)

January 10

February 14 (Board Elections and Annual Business Meeting)

### **Board Meetings**

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



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