



# Polanki, Inc.

The Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee Newsletter

May (maj) 2020

## *From the President's Desk*



*(Photo courtesy of Joanne Barndt)*

### **In This Issue**

Page 2: Birthdays, Get Well  
Notices, and Condolences

Page 3: Elizabeth Wagner  
Obituary

Page 4: Upcoming Events and  
Message from Immediate Past  
President Anne Wal

Page 5: Memories of Easter

Page 6: General Polanki News

Page 7: Free Masks for Polanki

Page 8: Thank you note from  
College Achievement Award  
Winner Denna Flemming

Page 9: Board Members, Note  
from Newsletter Editor and  
Membership Renewal Reminder

Hoping that when this newsletter reaches members you are experiencing good health and a peaceful spirit. Although Polanki's calendar has been emptied, planning continues with proper social distancing. Ways to make sales are being sought out, new ideas for fundraising are needed and of course, the treasurer, Jean Wroblewski and Newsletter editor, Marjorie Piechowski, are continuing to be busy.

The Polanki Board has been meeting through conference calls, made available by Anne Wal. Of course, the most important part of Polanki is the members. Please communicate ideas you may have for Polanki to continue their mission.

At this time, Judy Chattin has been a real trooper in continuing the work of our Sunshine Committee. Let's all think of ourselves as Sunshine Committee members and reach out to those members that are in nursing homes or have compromised health conditions. If you don't know the member well, just identify yourself as a Polanki member. So many of the senior members are the reason that Polanki has existed so many years. This is another reason to express our gratitude to members especially who worked so hard in the past.

No one knows when we will be together physically, but let's use what is available to support each other. A good old-fashioned phone call or actual snail mail can be very satisfying. Share with us what activities have kept you busy during this time that you have enjoyed. Louise Cieslak and Kathy Wieczorek have been making masks. Margie Hess not only is making masks but is offering them to Polanki members free of charge.

How about you? Let us know. Uncertainty is something that makes many unsettled but there will be a time when we will see each other again face to face. Our gratitude then will be overwhelming. And I am grateful to know the vibrant, hardworking and talented women in Polanki.

*Camille Shaw, Polanki President 2020*



## May Birthdays

5/06 Krystyna Matusiak  
5/08 Julie Lenkiewicz  
5/09 Dorothy Broihier  
5/11 Lucille Trebatoski  
5/11 Karen Zakowski  
5/15 Angela Pienkos  
5/17 Margaret (Meg) Skwierawski  
5/20 Nadine Murawski Flemming  
5/25 Marcia Korducki  
5/25 Barbara Stankiewicz  
5/26 Valerie Lukaszewicz  
5/27 Claire Anderson  
5/28 Lynn Adams  
5/28 Jennifer Konecny  
5/30 Shirley Rydell

Life Members Edith Malson, Geraldine Reszel and Jadwiga Korasz continue to undergo rehabilitation after hospital stays.

Please remember them in your thoughts and with a card or a telephone call, especially in this time when visiting is difficult.

We wish all of them a quick recovery.

If you know of any other Polanki members who are sick, please contact Judy Chattin, who is serving as Sunshine Co-Chair this year with Edith Malson.

The Polanki Board also has begun a telephone calling tree for members without email when there are immediate notices of Polanki news.



## Our deepest sympathy to

The family of Life Member Elizabeth Wagner, who passed away in April, 2020. Survivors include Polanki members Wanda Kosmalski, Katherine Ociepa, Katherine Ott and former Polanki member MaryEllen DeVito.

Active Member Marjorie Piechowski, whose sister-in-law passed away in April, 2020.



## Obituary

Elizabeth S. Wagner (nee Stasiak)

Born August 1 1939 in Bydgoszcz, Poland

Age 80

Elizabeth passed away peacefully at her home in Elkhorn, WI.

Daughter of the late Marian and Sophie Stasiak

Elizabeth was married for 60 years to beloved husband Stanley, who passed away 2 months ago.

She studied medicine in Poland. In the United States her career ranged from the field of chemistry at MSOE to pathology at the Medical School of Wisconsin to financial adviser and ending as a tax

preparer at H&R Block.

She was a lifetime member of Polanki – the Polish Women’s Cultural Club, where she actively participated and served for 50 years.

Elizabeth is survived by her beloved son Paul (Nichole), grandchildren: Joe, Nate, Ian, Anna Sophia and Ryan, 3 step-grandchildren: Callie, Ashley and Melissa, sister Margaret (Henry) Kupczyk, sisters-in-law Katherine Ociepa and Olga Tarrent, many nieces, nephews and several cherished friends in the U.S., Poland, Austria and Australia.

She took on many challenges in life and the list of her accomplishments, deeds and successes is a long one. She was a loving and exceptionally devoted, kind, compassionate and giving human being.

Elizabeth lived life with passion, courage, an adventurous spirit, always optimistic and willing to help those, who needed it most. Music, dance, reading voraciously, extensive travel in the US and many parts of the world were a great source of her happiness.

Our hearts are broken beyond repair. Her absence leaves a void that will never be filled. The world lost one of the best, with whom we were privileged to share precious moments together.

Her friends and relatives scattered around the globe, especially in Poland, are grieving with us and feel her absence in many ways.

Memorial services will be held at a later date when Elizabeth’s and Stanley’s son Paul will return home from service overseas and the current social distancing requirements will allow.

Condolence messages can be sent to

Wagner Family

426 Harmony Lane

Elkhorn, WI 53121

## A Message from Immediate Past President, Anne Wal



Dear Ladies,

I hope this note finds you and your family safe and healthy. My last day as Polanki's president was February 14, 2020. It was an honor to lead Polanki from February 2018; it was a further honor to get to know and volunteer with many, many Polanki members. The guidance received from my advisors, Ewa Barczyk-Pease, Susan Mikoś and Edith Malson, was very much appreciated and always spot on. The tireless efforts from my fellow Board members for the past two years were terrific and always appreciated.

*(Photo courtesy of Joanne Barndt)*

Thank you to Camille Shaw, Laurie Ufnowski, Jean Wroblewski, Cynthia Lepkowski, Maria Adamiec, Joanne Barndt, Susan Cieslak, Marjorie Piechowski, Jessica Ullstrup, Adrienne Zuber, Terri Cieslak and Joanna Frączek. [Note: I'm certain that their e-mail inboxes are enjoying a break from my correspondence!] Thank you to the auditing committee members as well for their important work on Polanki's behalf—Judy Chattin, Sue Konecny and Heddy Moskaluk.

Numerous Polanki members (together with their family and friends) contributed to make Polanki events successful—from pierogi dinners, to soup festivals, to the 65<sup>th</sup> Polanki Anniversary Dinner, to the Cultural Village at Polish Fest, to the sales booth at Polish Fest, to the cultural exhibit and sales booth at Holiday Folk Fair, to the Awards Tea, to the Spring and Holiday bazaars, and to the Christmas Party—thank you to everyone who chaired and/or participated in these signature Polanki events! Other opportunities came to Polanki through members, such as the Portage County Cultural Fest, A Day in Poland at Cudahy Library, Multicultural Day at Lane Intermediate School, Culture Day at Manpower, and Boston Store Community Days—to name a few—and members stepped up to make these events memorable for all participants. It was heartwarming for me to see members working together for Polanki's benefit.

My life goal—to make things better than how I have found them—was transferred to my goal as Polanki's President. To that end, WE (Board members and advisors) accomplished much during the past two years. Here are some highlights:

- Created a Grant Request Form to be completed by organizations and individuals who seek monies from Polanki
- Utilized press releases and social media to announce Polanki's events
- Drafted and approved an Investment Policy and retained MPC Advisors, LLC to invest certain Polanki funds
- Instituted separation of duties among directors to comply with Polanki's bylaws and business internal control procedures
- Established the requirement that a balance sheet (listing Polanki's assets and liabilities) and income statement (listing profits and losses) be prepared quarterly for Polanki (a necessity which was never before required)

- Established a central depository for Polanki's forms and records (past and present) using FirmEx (a data site used for business projects)
- Created more opportunities for different members to be involved in projects.

It was my pleasure to make personal contributions to Polanki as well. The annual subscription to Sign-Up Genius permits both active and sustaining members to sign up to volunteer at Polanki events. A new projector screen resides at Villa St. Francis. My employer agreed to host the FirmEx data site. My employer also kindly allowed me to make copies of the Board agenda and document packets for distribution at each Board meeting (essential to provide the same information to all Board members). And, as a testament to my life goal to continual improvement—a covered tote with a handle to transport the gavel, microphone and microphone cord to the membership meetings.

Thank you again for the opportunity to lead Polanki. Until we are able to meet again in person, I wish all Polanki members the best.

## **General Polanki News and Information**

**Upcoming Events:** Polish Fest has been cancelled for 2020. Other Polanki events such as the Pierogi Dinner are not scheduled at this time.

### **Kosciuszko Monument Update by Susan Mikoś**

One of the silver linings of the coronavirus cloud has been a decline in the number of people using the monument as a gathering place, with a consequent decrease in litter. We have again engaged Echo Lawns (owned by Henry Barwinski, son of deceased Polanki member Frances Barwinski) to take care of the grass. Neighbors Judy Ramazzini and Dan Jankowski have been keeping an eye on the plantings, and a small group (with appropriate social distancing) will apply mulch supplied by the Parks Department. Our regular volunteer clean-up days will resume on the third Saturday of the month, when government guidelines allow.

### **Polish Genealogy Interest Group by Susan Mikoś**

The Polish Genealogy Interest Group meeting scheduled for May 9 has been postponed and will be rescheduled once the public library meeting rooms open up again. In the meantime, this is an ideal time to research your family history online. The Polish Genealogy Interest Group has its own Google Group - Polska MKE Genealogy - where you can find or share information, and ask for help. Among other things, there is a handy guide to useful websites, posted by Terri Cieslak. If you would like to join this Google Group, email Susan Mikoś, Cindy Lepkowski, or Terri Cieslak. You may also want to check out the Polish Genealogical Society of America website (pgsa.org) and view their Polish Genealogy YouTube video. Stay tuned for future announcements.

### **For your armchair traveling pleasure**

We can't travel to Poland now, but you can do some wonderful armchair traveling by following the link below, which allows you to look at a variety of Polish towns and cities. Enjoy!

<https://culture.pl/en/article/a-window-into-poland-the-best-webcams-of-polish-towns-cities>





**Memories of Easter 2020**  
*(Photos courtesy of Ewa Barczyk-Pease)*

## **Free masks for Polanki members and their families from Margie Hess, Polanki Sustaining Member**

So far in these pandemic times, Margie Hess has made over 650 masks for family, friends and friends of friends! Recently, she made masks for Ewa Barczyk, who suggested that Polanki members and their families would benefit from having masks. The masks will be free to those who need them.

If you are interested in having masks made from any of your Polish scarves or shawls, a 29 inch square scarf can create 12 mask fronts. A 44 square inch shawl can create 32 masks. Margie also can make masks similar to those in the photo.

If you donate a Polish scarf or shawl, Margie will make you 4 masks per person in your household (with Polish fabrics or other fabrics suited to your family's needs, including fabrics suited for males to wear) and then donate the remainder to other Polanki members in need. Margie will accept any new rayon material or quilting cotton to make more masks for Polanki members' families.

The masks were created from patterns offered by Deaconess Hospital. They can be made with elastic or with soft jersey ties. The masks are intended to be worn during one outing, then put into the washer and dryer after use. You can send or drop off your Polish scarves or shawls or other new fabric to:

Margie Hess  
6200 S. Cory Avenue  
Cudahy, WI 53110  
414-306-2334  
[DGWoj@aol.com](mailto:DGWoj@aol.com)

Completed masks can be picked up at Margie's home. Camille Shaw has also volunteered to collect your fabric donations or deliver masks to you. Completed masks can also be sent to your location. If you do not need masks but would like to make a donation of new percale sheet sets, 100% cotton quilting fabric or money to cover postage, that too will be kindly accepted and put to good use for people needing masks.



*(Photos courtesy of Margie Hess)*



## **A Note of Thanks from Denna Flemming, 2020 College Achievement Award Winner**

This year one of the College Achievement Award winners was Denna Flemming, a current Polanki member, who served as Recording Secretary and as Polanki President for two years. To our knowledge, this is the first time that an active Polanki member received this recognition and the Awards Committee wanted to share her thank-you note with the membership.

Dear Fellow Members of Polanki,

I am honored to be the 2020 recipient of the Angela Dubiel Mischke Memorial Award. Thank you so much for the generous award. It will help as I continue pursuing my MBA at UW-Parkside.

It was quite fitting that I earned the Angela Dubiel Mischke Memorial Award, which honors one of Polanki's foundresses. In fact, I received notification of the first scholarship I ever earned from Mrs. Mischke's daughter, Angela Pienkos, when I was an 8<sup>th</sup> grader and earned an academic scholarship to Divine Savior Holy Angels High School. Little did I know as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader that my educational pursuits would begin and end with a Polish connection.

I was interested in pursuing an MBA to enhance my business and financial knowledge to, among other things, allow me to better serve various non-profits, including Polanki. I ultimately chose to attend UW-Parkside because the first Polanki member I ever met, Anne Gurnack, is a retired professor from UW-Parkside and spoke highly of her time there. It was Anne who encouraged my mom and me to join Polanki almost eight years ago, which sparked my interest in learning even more about my Polish cultural heritage.

I was looking forward to chairing the tea with my mom and Teresa Frankowski this year and would have loved to have accepted my award in person. However, the current pandemic has precluded that from happening.

Thank you again. Polanki truly is an important aspect of my life, which I treasure. I wish you all health and will keep you in my prayers. I look forward to seeing all of you once the pandemic subsides.

With gratitude, Denna Flemming



*(Photo courtesy of Denna Flemming)*



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

<b>President</b>	Camille Shaw (414) 510-6378
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	Anne Wal (414) 287-1530
<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>	Tamara Johnston (610) 986-7386
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Kathy Camacho (414) 988-9355
<b>Historian</b>	Joanne Barndt (414) 962-5634
<b>Publicity</b>	Susan Cieslak (312) 953-4312
<b>Membership</b>	Maria Adamiec (262) 960-0924
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Marjorie Piechowski (414) 963-9055

\*\*\*\*\*

## **APPOINTED POSITIONS**

<b>Sunshine Co-Chairs</b>	Edith Malson (414) 744-9412 Judy Chattin (414) 425-7965
<b>Advisors</b>	Ewa Barczyk-Pease (414) 412-6456 Susan Mikoś (414) 628-1937
<b>Auditing Committee</b>	Judy Chattin Sue Konecny Heddy Moskaluk
<b>Web Master</b>	Dana Michaels (414) 712-4301

## **A Note from the Editor**

During our stay at home restrictions because of the corona virus, the Newsletter and frequent updates have kept all of us aware of rapidly changing events, including cancelled Polanki and other Polish gatherings. We appreciate your patience and cooperation during this unsettled time and look forward to meeting again in person later this year.

In order to publish the newsletter on the first of each month, the deadline to submit copy will be the **25<sup>th</sup> of each month**. You can submit ideas at any time. I also encourage your comments. You can reach me by telephone at 414-963-9055 or by email at [marjorie.piechowsk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marjorie.piechowsk@sbcglobal.net)

Marjorie Piechowski  
2020 Polanki Newsletter Editor



*(Photo courtesy of Marjorie Piechowski)*

## **Annual Membership Dues**

A reminder that annual active or sustaining membership renewals are due as soon as possible. Please fill out the membership form with payment and mail it to Maria Adamiec, Membership Chair, at the Polanki mailbox or at her home address.

It will be very helpful to receive all renewals by June 1 so a new membership directory can be prepared and shared with the members.

Thank you for your attention.

Maria Adamiec  
2020 Membership Chair

**Polanki Newsletter** published by

Polanki, Inc.  
P.O. Box 341458  
Milwaukee, WI 53234  
[www.polanki.org](http://www.polanki.org)

*Editor* *Marjorie Piechowski*

*President* *Camille Shaw*

Like us on Facebook!