



# Polanki, Inc.

The Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee Newsletter June, July, and August (czerwiec, lipiec, i sierpień) 2020



*(Photo courtesy of Joanne Barndt)*

## In This Issue

Page 2: Quarantine Queries and General News and Information

Page 3: Birthdays, Get Well Notices, and Condolences

Page 4: Joyce Hryniewicki Obituary and Polish Genealogy Interest Group

Page 5: Kościuszko Gardens and Quarantine Queries, continued

Page 6: Quarantine Queries, continued

Page 7: Board Members, Note from Newsletter Editor and Membership Renewal Reminder

Page 8: Modern Polish Composers by Joanna Rogowski, 2020 College Achievement Award Winner

Page 9: Polish American Historical Association Memoirs Project

Page 10: Auschwitz Webinar on June 17, 2020

## *From the President's Desk*

### Quarantine Queries

With the absence of events in which to participate, the thought of composing an article for the newsletter was a tad challenging. Then I thought of our Polanki events and they are always a team effort. I decided to do the same for this article and I got a team to assist. The quarantine query will consist of several Polanki members sharing the positive activities they have discovered in this quarantine time. What have these tireless volunteers found to fill their days during the pandemic? Here are stories about Polanki members who shared the joy in their lives.

**Helen Miller, Active Member**, has been busy making masks from her hand-dyed fabric. A prolific quilter, she has picked up her pace even more. She is especially pleased with a clothing creation made from micro-fleece that she fashioned with a self-designed pattern. Between all this creative activity she is also exploring the Oak Leaf Trails from Estabrook to Lake Park, to Grant Park, Bender Park and Whitnall Park. A picture of Helen's hand-dyed fabric is shown below—amazing colors and patterns!



*(Photo courtesy of Helen Miller)*

## Quarantine Queries, continued...

**Bernie Jendrzeczek, Sustaining Member**, has been staying close to home, ordering her groceries for pick-up and appreciating her good neighbors' offers to pick items up when they shop. She took time from making potato soup to explain that she is taking a break from wycinanki and trying her hand at watercolors. She and a friend have a unique and creative method to work at enhancing their skills. Via the technology of Zoom, YouTube, and the good old-fashioned telephone, Bernie and her friend decide what to paint from YouTube and then share their finished products. In addition to enjoying gardening, including heavy chores like transplanting plants and bushes, Bernie loves that she is home more and has the time and opportunity to enjoy the wildlife that shares her property.

**Veronica Artus, Active Member**, stated that she is doing things that she previously hadn't had time to do. She is now in the habit of walking every morning at 10:00 a.m. In our recent streak of heavy rains, she changed to walking in her halls and working with weights. Veronica is an avid reader. She has yet to get to some items on her list like learning to play the harmonica and practicing the piano. One disappointment was a canceled trip to the Bahamas to celebrate her granddaughter's graduation with a 4.0 average, but a 4.0 is surely something to be excited about.

**Anne Gurnack, Sustaining Member**, who is a retired college professor from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, is giving three Zoom lectures through the UWM OSHER series. July 2, 2020 will be her first presentation on the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918. In preparation Anne is reading a book a day. She suggested **The Great Influenza** by John M. Barry and an article in the **2000 Wisconsin Historical Society Magazine**, entitled "The Wisconsin Experience," authored by Stephen Burg. Anne is doing this as a volunteer.

Having retired over 10 years ago, I had a plan. I would learn to play the harp and become fluent in a foreign language. Finally, the pandemic and a great pandemic sale led me to purchase the Babbel program for learning foreign languages. Fourteen languages are offered and I am starting with Polish. Hopeful when travel restrictions are lifted, I may be able to travel to the motherland and use my new skills. I have been assured by an expert that the quarantine will be lifted by Octemburay 54<sup>th</sup>. The expert is Facebook so it must be true.

*Camille Shaw*  
*Polanki President 2020*

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## General News and Information

**Upcoming Events:** No Polanki events are scheduled at this time, including the Pierogi Dinner and membership meetings. When events and meetings do resume, that information will be communicated through the newsletter.

Thanks to Susan Cieslak and Dana Michaels for keeping us up to date on the Polanki Facebook page and the Polanki web page about new activities and opportunities. Be sure to visit these sites for frequent updates.

**New Sustaining Members:** Polanki welcomes Charlene Kaletka Delaney from Rosemount, Minnesota, June Czarnecki from South Milwaukee, Meg Skwierawski from Milwaukee, Molly Skwierawski from Shorewood and Jenny Skwierawski from Nashotah.

**The Polish Center of Wisconsin** will reopen on Friday June 12 with the Polish Center Café and Social Fundraising Events Wednesdays and Fridays from 4:00-8:00 p.m. through July 31.



## Summer Birthdays

### June

6/01 Lidia Sobierajski, June Czarnezki & Molly Skwierawski  
6/06 Rachelle Ebenhoe  
6/12 Carol Worringer  
6/13 Anne Gurnack  
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 Angela Glowacki  
6/24 Janina Zurko

### July

7/04 Elżbieta Walentynowicz  
7/06 Audrey Skwierawski  
7/10 Adrienne Zuber  
7/14 Ewa Melenchuk  
7/15 Anna Kozlowski  
7/17 Tamara Johnston & Ruth Brzezinski  
7/20 Kim Swedowski  
7/28 Katherine Ott  
7/29 Suzanne Holcomb  
7/30 Laurie Ufnowski & Julita Kosiak-Chaltry

### August

8/02 Joanna Frączek  
8/04 Susan Cieslak & Charlene Kaletka Delaney  
8/05 Barbara Rutkowski  
8/06 Loretta Nyland  
8/08 Kathy Camacho  
8/09 Gloria Skwierawski  
8/10 Dolores Winkler & Christine Ostrowski  
8/13 Barbara Spalda  
8/17 Katherine Ociepa  
8/19 Louise Cieslak & Victor Podlaski  
8/21 Jeanne Ziebka  
8/25 Bernie Jendrzeczek  
8/26 Paula Meisner  
8/31 Susan Mikoś

We are happy to report that Life Members Geraldine Reszel and Jadwiga Korasz both have returned to their regular residences following stays at rehab facilities.

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

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.



**Our deepest  
sympathy to**

The family of Sustaining Member Joyce Hryniewicki, who passed away on May 23, 2020. Her obituary follows on the next page.



## Obituary: Joyce Hryniewicki



Joyce Hryniewicki (nee Nowicki) joined her beloved husband of 55 years, Ronald, in God's peace and eternal life on May 23, 2020. She will be greatly missed by her daughters Shari (William) Butler and Judith Hryniewicki, and her beloved granddaughter Tessa Hryniewicki. She was a loving sister to John "Jack" (the late Barbara) Nowicki, the late Edward (Anita) Nowicki, and David (Janet) Marshall. Sister-in-law to the late Laverne (the late Lee) Ball, Patricia (the late Ron) Witkowiak, and Darlene (the late Patrick) Godsell. Further survived by nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, other relatives and friends.

Joyce was a lifelong resident of Greendale, daughter of one of the original residents. She was proud of being Polish and continued to volunteer weekly, until social distancing, at the Polish Heritage Center. She promoted their events with everyone she talked to. Joyce was always actively involved in activities with her daughters. When they were in grade school, she was a girl scout leader. She was also a teacher's aide working with children requiring extra attention.

Learning new things and keeping up to date on working with computers were things Joyce enjoyed up to the end. She was a strong and sometimes stubborn woman who insisted on finishing out her life on her own terms. She was friendly, outgoing, and loving and will be missed by all.

Due to current gathering restrictions, funeral services were private for family. A live stream service took place on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 11:30 A.M.

Joyce was a Sustaining Member of Polanki for the last five years. Past President Anne Wal recalls that her late mother worked with Joyce at the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

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## Polish Genealogy Interest Group by Susan Mikoś



The Polish Genealogy Interest Group is still on hiatus. We encourage you to use this time to explore the many online resources for researching your family history.

If you haven't yet signed up for our Google Group - Polska MKE Genealogy - email Susan Mikoś or Terri Cieslak and we will send you an invitation.

We are monitoring the situation with COVID-19 and will notify you when we are able to safely schedule a meeting.



## Kościuszko Gardens by Susan Mikoś

Previous years' volunteer efforts at the Kościuszko Monument have paid dividends this spring, with a profusion of colorful blooms. Garden work will resume on **June 20** from 10 a.m. to noon. Other planned dates are **July 18**, **August 15**, and **September 19** (3rd Saturday of the month). Rain dates will be the following Saturday.

Because of the uncertain outlook for gatherings, our activities will be limited to essential clean-up and maintenance. Everyone is welcome and we will practice social distancing, but we encourage anyone who might be at increased risk to remain safe at home. For questions, contact Susan Mikoś: [sgmikos@yahoo.com](mailto:sgmikos@yahoo.com) or at (414) 628-1937.

*(Photo courtesy of Judy Ramazzini)*

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## Quarantine Queries, continued...

**Beth Gavin, Active Member:** I have been doing my daily gym class from Class A Fitness via Zoom. It has been very interesting learning how to improvise using things from home as weights and still getting a great workout. Zoom is a godsend but I can't wait to get back to the gym.

I did lots of cleaning and organized pictures, cooked more and caught up with old friends, too. I brought my mom over to my house as the lockdown began. She missed her home and I took her back and now go help her every day. She said I treat her like a queen but I just want to make her days happy.

So much has changed, all aspects of life. Finding new adventures and joy in every day and bringing joy to others truly brightens my day. I helped support Hunger Task Force, St. Gregory the Great St. Vincent de Paul food bank and St. Alphonsus food pantry. Helping those who hunger is one of my passions.

**Dorothy Fennig, Sustaining Member:** I did learn to Zoom with my family (daughters who live in Florida and Chicago and some nearby in Waterford and Wind Lake area). I also read more and talked on the phone to many of my friends and to my brother and a cousin nearby. I also caught up on some projects here in my apartment. I didn't mind the confinement at all and I will be slowly getting out. I am not in a hurry just in case the virus flares up again. I was fortunate to be healthy and well and I don't want to ruin that by being eager to go all out as normal. I prayed a rosary daily and I taught a friend of mine in my apartment building how to pray one again because she hadn't for a long time and forgot. She was grateful. I hope all is well with you and all other Polanki members.



**Joanna Frączek, Active Member:** Frankie is 13 months old; she's quite a walker (she was 9.5 months when she started), golfer and a daredevil. Daddy has been watching her most of the time while daycare is closed and I have been working twice as much.

I wish I could share some good recipes I tried or tell you about fun activities but this lockdown only added stress and removed good routine from our family life. Regardless, we're cherishing every day, watching Frankie grow in good health. All the best to Polanki; see you when the world opens again!

*(Photo courtesy of Joanna Frączek)*

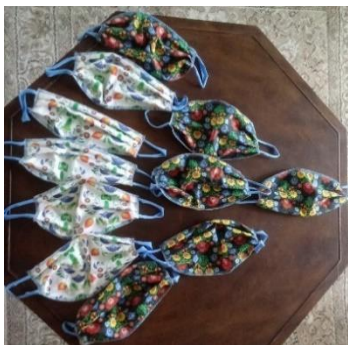
**Nadine Flemming, Active Member:** In answering how I've been spending my time during the quarantine, I could say that I've been sitting on my dupa getting fat and sassy but that wouldn't be true. I thought I would possibly gain the "quarantine 15" the media was talking about but that didn't occur. Initially, I began surfing the net for new and exciting recipes but most of them didn't warrant a repeat making. Although most of the recipes looked great on paper, the final results were more like dog food! And it wasn't my culinary ability!



I started reading Dean Koontz novels but the initial darkness in his books became difficult to get through in order to obtain the hope that is delivered at the end. I was tired of sleeping with the lights on. So I started going on Facebook, but the nasty comments became just too political and at times were even darker than the Koontz books. I was hoping people would get kinder and more helpful but many have become just hateful. So I decided to teach myself a new skill and followed Anne Gurnack and turned to the piano. I got as far as a rousing rendition of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*. My musical talent seems to have diminished since I took lessons when I was 8! I have now turned to activities that bring me calm: cleaning, talking with friends at least once per day, walking, and most importantly, praying. Thoughts and prayers for everyone's continued safety and

health. *(Photo courtesy of Nadine Flemming)*

**Margie Hess, Sustaining Member:** Margie has continued to make colorful masks, now totaling 1,974. Some of these masks used Polish fabrics donated by **Active Members Anne Wal and Kathy Wieczorek.**



*(Photos courtesy of Camille Shaw, left, and Anne Wal, right.)*

**Shirley Sternig, Sustaining Member:** My cousin owns Pulaski Inn (where Polanki had their Christmas Party in December). Because he is a banquet facility all his weddings, anniversaries, showers, etc. have been cancelled. For the past four weeks he has had curbside pickup on Fridays with different entrees. My sister and I have been spending 8-10 hours helping him on Thursdays and 3 hours on Fridays prepping the meals. We have been peeling 100-125 pounds of potatoes, chopping vegetables for coleslaw, wrapping bread and frying bacon. Literally we have been doing all the behind the scene work in preparing the meals. He has had fish fries, meat



loaf dinners, a Polish plate, baked chicken, breaded chicken breasts, brat dinner with bun, beans, mac and cheese and rye bread.

Brian, my cousin, has also been making dessert. Today is apple and cherry sheet pies as well as chocolate chunk cookies. People can go to the Pulaski Inn website (usually Tuesday or Wednesday) to see what he is having for that week and place an order. He has pick-up between 4 and 6, with no need to get out of a car. If my sister

and I wouldn't be helping him, he would be doing all of this by himself.

*(Stock photo from Google Search—credit not required)*



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

<b><i>President</i></b>	Camille Shaw (414) 510-6378
<b><i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</i></b>	Anne Wal (414) 287-1530
<b><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</i></b>	Laurie Ufnowski (414) 525-1094
<b><i>Treasurer</i></b>	Jean Wroblewski (414) 405-7753
<b><i>Recording Secretary</i></b>	Tamara Johnston (610) 986-7386
<b><i>Corresponding Secretary</i></b>	Kathy Camacho (414) 988-9355
<b><i>Historian</i></b>	Joanne Barndt (414) 962-5634
<b><i>Publicity</i></b>	Susan Cieslak (312) 953-4312
<b><i>Membership</i></b>	Maria Adamiec (262) 960-0924
<b><i>Newsletter Editor</i></b>	Marjorie Piechowski (414) 963-9055

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## **APPOINTED POSITIONS**

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

This will be the last regular newsletter until early fall, when we hope to resume membership meetings in person. In the meantime, if you have ideas for future stories or meeting programs, please submit these to me at [marjorie.piechowsk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marjorie.piechowsk@sbcglobal.net) or 414-963-9055.

Marjorie Piechowski  
2020 Polanki Newsletter Editor



*(Photo courtesy of Marjorie Piechowski)*

## **Annual Membership Renewal and 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. The renewal form is included with the mailing of this newsletter.

It would be very helpful if you would complete your renewal by June 15 so the membership directory can be prepared. *If you are not sure whether you have sent in your renewal and dues, please contact Maria Adamiec* at [mariaadamiec@yahoo.com](mailto:mariaadamiec@yahoo.com) or at (262) 960-0924. Thank you for your attention.

Maria Adamiec  
2020 Membership Chair

## Modern Polish Composer Hanna Kulenty

By Joanna Rogowski, Recipient of the 2020 George and Barbara Niemczycki Memorial Award

Modern Polish composers come from a long and outstanding musical lineage. A musician's repertoire would be considered incomplete if it did not include the works of at least one of the Polish masters. While these great musicians provide a strong tradition for today's composers to draw from, they also inadvertently shadow the new generation. The most timely initiative to correct this is the "100 for 100-Musical Decades of Freedom" concert series. The event was sponsored by the Polish Music Publishers and was held in celebration of one of the proudest moments in modern Polish history – the centennial of Polish independence after 123 years of geographical obliteration. One hundred pieces, one for every year, were programmed into concerts both in Poland and throughout the world, gracing concert halls from Tokyo to Chicago. The concert series honors the unbeatable Polish spirit, able to create art despite the turbulence of the first 100 years of independence. Hanna Kulenty is one of the 90 esteemed Polish composers to be included in this festival.



Ms. Kulenty was born in Białystok in 1961. At age 19, she began her compositional training in Warsaw. She continued her study throughout Europe, familiarizing herself with the wide variety of modern compositional techniques as she developed her own voice, which has undergone frequent reinvention. First, she coined the term "polyphony of arcs" to evoke her complex overlay of multiple parts developing at different rates. In the 1990s, Kulenty abandoned the complicated style of her younger career and instead worked within the post-minimalist style that emphasizes repetition of a limited palette of musical ideas. Most recently, Ms. Kulenty has described her compositional approach as "musique surrealistique."

*(Photo courtesy of Hanna Kulenty web page, retrieved June 5, 2020)*

*Concerto Rosso* comes from this section of Hanna Kulenty's career. This dynamic piece, written for a string quartet concertino and a string orchestra ripieno, debuted December 7, 2017 in Wrocław. Kulenty explains that "musique surrealistique" is characterized by transformation, challenging traditional musical understanding. Quite appropriately, Kulenty juxtaposes the 300-year-old form of the concerto grosso with modernistic approaches to technique, harmony, and texture. As the piece develops, audiences experience the deconstruction and gradual mutation into the more free-form music of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond. *Concerto Rosso* opens with a driving, ostinato within a limited and consonant range. Gradually the range is extended and the dissonance increases, the strings begin to bow harshly, making the sound angular. These periods of jagged modernism are punctuated by returns of the opening ostinato, a historical reference to the traditional concerto grosso form in which there is a recurring idea interspersed with episodes of virtuosic material. These returns in Kulenty's piece are increasingly rare as the end draws near. The conclusion of the piece is completely modernistic in style. The texture is sparse, the bowing is only on the surface of the string, and traditional tonal harmony is entirely absent; the transformation is so total that the opening and closing barely resemble one another, yet the process has been so gradual that the listener is not surprised by the arrival. This is a truly thoughtful work, balancing homage to the past with progressive technique.

For the sake of art music, audiences everywhere must seek to strike the same balance as Hanna Kulenty between old and new; tradition cannot be thrown aside and innovation cannot be disregarded. The same is true in culture. Despite historical turmoil in Poland, for example, her people's strong sense of culture held her together when governing bodies did not. However, Poland did not become so mired in the past that progress stagnated. Hopefully, this same attitude will be adopted in the world of music.





## **POLISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEMOIRS PROJECT**

### **Polish Migrant Memoirs and Letters: Documenting the World War II Diaspora**

With the outbreak of World War II on September 1, 1939, the Polish nation faced an overwhelming experience of displacement and dislocation. As a consequence, close to six million Poles found themselves outside Poland's new borders; at the end of the war, nearly 500,000 Poles remained in exile, scattered over many countries on all continents. About 140,000 Polish immigrants -- political exiles, civilian refugees, displaced persons, former soldiers, slave laborers, and prisoners of concentration camps -- settled permanently in the United States.

With this war generation passing, it becomes ever more urgent to tell their story, to preserve the record of their experience and make it available to the next generations. The Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) is a professional organization international in scope and in existence since 1943 (for more information please see [www.polishamericanstudies.org](http://www.polishamericanstudies.org)) whose goal is scholarly research and promotion of the study of the history and culture of the Polish American diaspora. PAHA is alarmed by the disappearance of documentation on the history of the World War II and immediate postwar wave of Polish migration to the United States. Recognizing the contributions of Polish migrants to Polish American as well as American history, PAHA appeals to the members of the exile generation, their families, and their organizations to deposit their existing records in archival and research institutions.

To facilitate the preservation effort, the Polish American Historical Association is inaugurating a new project titled "Polish Migrant Memoirs and Letters: Documenting the World War II Diaspora." In collaboration with the Central Connecticut State University's Library (Polish Heritage Collection) and Stanislaus A. Blejwas Chair in Polish and Polish American History, the Polish American Librarians' Association, PAHA is announcing a search in the United States for the following documents among members of the WWII Diaspora in North America: memoirs (published and unpublished); diaries; letters; interviews and photos. The war and immediate post-war period is the main focus of the search; however, we are interested in the entire life of these migrants, not just the war years.

The documents, along with the deed of gift, should be sent to:

Central Connecticut State University  
Elihu Burritt Library  
Attention: Ewa Wolynska  
Head, Special Collections  
PAHA Memoirs Project  
1615 Stanley St.  
New Britain, CT 06050

If you are interested in donating to this project and are seeking more information please contact:  
Ewa Barczyk ([ewa@uwm.edu](mailto:ewa@uwm.edu) 414-412-6456).



## **AUSCHWITZ: PRESERVING A PLACE OF TERROR**

FEATURING

**WOJCIECH SOCZEWICA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE  
AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU FOUNDATION**

**INTERVIEWED BY CLUB MEMBER MICHAEL TRAISSON**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17/ 11:50 A.M. -1:00 P.M. CDT**

*Lunch@65West* invites you to join us when the Union League Club of Chicago and The Standard Club welcome **Wojciech Soczewica, Director General of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation**. During this timely, complimentary webinar, Director General Soczewica will be interviewed by club member Michael Traisson. They will discuss the physical enormity of Auschwitz-Birkenau (20 separate camps), the events that occurred there, its continuing importance in contemporary life – especially in light of last year’s global increase in anti-Semitic attacks, and the mission of the Foundation to preserve Auschwitz-Birkenau for future generations. This program is presented in collaboration with the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, Anti-Defamation League, Chicago Loop Synagogue, Decalogue Society, Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities, and the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago.

**Advance registration is required. Please click on the link below to complete your registration:**

**[https://ulcc-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_BeX0SZmhSmC4EjcmI8Ju0A](https://ulcc-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BeX0SZmhSmC4EjcmI8Ju0A)**

**Please log-on by 11:50 a.m. CDT.** The program will begin before the hour to minimize technical difficulties with Zoom servers strained by the high number of videoconferences that begin on the hour. For further information, please contact ULCC Public Affairs at [publicaffairs@ulcc.org](mailto:publicaffairs@ulcc.org).

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