



# Polanki, Inc.

The Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee Newsletter

December (grudzień) 2020

## Polanki Christmas Events

**Polanki Christmas will continue to be celebrated at these remaining events, all on Zoom at 7:00 p.m.**

**December 11:** Anne Wal: The Mighty Poppy Seed

**December 15:** Kinga Vnuk: Koledy Sing-Along

**December 22:** Ewa Barczyk-Pease: Wigilia and Sharing Opłatek with Camille Shaw

**January 6:** Camille Shaw: Epiphany and Laski Raffle

Log-in information will be sent separately for each event. More details appear on page 4 of this newsletter.



## *President's Message*



*(Photo courtesy of Camille Shaw)*

## Post-Thanksgiving Gratitude

Elżbieta Walentynowicz's lovely and heartfelt thank you card to all the Polanki members [on pages 5-6 ] brings to the forefront our members' generosity as well as the gratitude we receive from so many recipients.

Now that we are in busy with our own Christmas preparations, it also is a good time to recall Polanki's generosity to Laski. For the last forty years Polanki has organized donations to Laski School for the Blind in Warsaw, Poland. Since that time Christmas and Laski have been connected in Polanki members' minds and hearts.

In 1922 Roza Czacka, who developed blindness and later became Mother Elizabeth, founded the Services for the Blind, which later became Laski School for the Blind. The school cares for, educates, and assists their students in life skills toward independence, including students who are blind, cognitively disabled, and multiply handicapped.

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*President's Message, continued*

The beginnings of this “heart project” between Polanki and Laski were recounted by long-time Polanki members Heddy Moskaluk and Angela Pienkos. The most significant person in this association between Polanki and Laski was Heddy’s aunt and one of Polanki’s founding members, Harriet Gostomski. Mrs. Gostomski’s name is proudly etched in a brick in the Laski chapel honoring her support to Laski. She would take private donations from Polanki members to the sisters to support the school’s mission. On tours to Poland she also introduced Laski to the travelers on the tour.

In the early days due to the hardships in Poland there was a great need for basics. Since approximately 1980 Polanki members donated warm winter knitwear that was shipped to Laski to be distributed to students for Christmas. Heddy Moskaluk, with the same generous heart as her aunt, would ship and pay for the knitted items to be sent to Poland. As goods became more readily available in Poland and shipping expenses skyrocketed, Polanki’s donations became monetary rather than goods. Heddy Moskaluk, until her retirement from Polamer, also took upon herself the exchange fees for this process.

For years, our Christmas party raffle, along with donations from individuals, a Polish rummage sale at the September meeting and Coins for Laski at all of the meetings, have added up to a very generous donation to Laski through Polanki. [A touching thank-you note from Laski for Polanki’s previous support appears on page 11]. This year due to Covid19 there has been no opportunity for some of these fundraising events. For this year’s raffle, raffle prizes will be limited to twelve and the raffle will be held at the last Zoom Christmas party, celebrating Three Kings holiday on January 6. We will share pictures of raffle items in the January newsletter.

How will the raffle work? We need your help to guarantee a success for Laski. Please note the following action items:

1. If you wish to donate to the raffle prizes, call Camille Shaw (414-475-5124) to discuss a possible donation. Small items might be collected into a basket.
2. If you wish to be included in the raffle, mail a check ***made out to Polanki for \$20 or more***, to

Camille Shaw  
4906 W. Washington Blvd.  
Milwaukee, WI. 532018.

3. Participate in whatever ways you are able!

In gratitude for all of the Polanki members’ generosity there is a plaque honoring Polanki for their generosity to Laski. It can be found attached to the outside of a building on the Laski campus. Thank you for your past generosity and your continuing generosity to Laski and the children they serve.

***Camille Shaw  
Polanki President 2020***



## December Birthdays

12/03 Janet Protasiewicz  
12/05 Carol Bialek  
Elaine Posard  
12/07 Shirley Sternig  
12/14 Denna Flemming  
12/16 Aneta Miller  
12/15 Jane Dunn  
Jean Wroblewski  
12/20 Maria Adamiec  
12/21 Carol Knudson  
12/26 Halina Sosnowski

## Directory Changes and Additions

Please make the following corrections to your  
2020-2021 membership directory:

New Address for Jessica (Ullstrup) Condit  
8148 S 57th St  
Franklin, WI 53132

Corrected Cell Phone Number for  
Bernadine Jendrzeczak  
(414) 916-7600

New email for Elżbieta Walentynowicz:  
[ela.walentynowicz@outlook.com](mailto:ela.walentynowicz@outlook.com)



Polanki sends best wishes for a speedy recovery to the following members:

*Active Member Bernie Jendrzeczak* has crushed her finger in a door. *Active Member Halina Sosnoski's* husband is hospitalized. Sustaining Member *Barbara Januchowski* is in care for cancer.

We also encourage all Polanki members to keep in touch with those who are confined in their homes. Please remember them with a card, an email or a phone call, especially during this holiday season.

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

Their contact information is:

Edith Malson  
(414) 744-9412

Judy Chattin  
(414) 425-7965-home  
(414) 429-296-cell  
[j.chattin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j.chattin@sbcglobal.net)



## Update on Polanki Christmas Party—Covid-19 Version

On **Friday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m.** Anne Wal will present “An Evening With the Mighty Poppy Seed,” discussing the importance of poppy seeds in Polish culture and demonstrating both savory and sweet items.

**Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m.** will feature a Koledy performance with Polish musician Kinga Vnuk presenting an assortment of carols in both English and Polish for you to listen to or sing along.



During week four, on **Tuesday December 22 at 7 p.m.** Ewa Barczyk will share with us the symbolism of Wigilia and the traditional foods served on Christmas Eve in many Polish homes. Afterwards President Camille Shaw will be sharing opłatek with us.

On the Feast of the Epiphany **Wednesday, January 6, 2021, at 7 p.m.,** we will be posting photos of the Polish decorations members have in their homes. (Don't forget to submit a photo with a sentence or two telling us about the item by December 23). Submit to: Denna Flemming at [daflemming@msn.com](mailto:daflemming@msn.com) or mail to her at 6776 W. Edgerton Ave. Greenfield, Wi. 53220).

Afterwards, President Camille Shaw will be pulling names for a raffle benefiting Laski, the home for blind children in Warsaw, Poland. Epiphany Day in Poland is usually celebrated as the day that the three wise men (*mędzecz*) visited the Baby Jesus. The wise men followed *Gwiazda betlejemska*, or “Bethlehem’s star,” and arrived with gifts of frankincense, gold (*złoto*), and myrrh (*mirra*). For this reason, Epiphany is also viewed as a day of charity and giving, making our Laski raffle on that date an appropriate way to end the Christmas celebrations.

Hopefully, December 2021 will see us celebrating in person.



*Denna and Nadine Flemming*



*Dear Camille  
and ALL members of Polanki*



*Dear Camille Shaw  
and ALL members of Polanki!*



*You made me, my dearest Camille, a big surprise!  
A tear of joy shook my eyes and my heart.  
I'm so happy, because of YOUR letter and .... also I'm sick.  
I have been fighting this disease since 2008,  
twelve years. Since 2014, my illness has deteriorated  
so that I'm on everyday chemistry. I started to lose  
sight, hearing, hair, partially memory ... but I'm alive!  
And it is through memory I forgot to fill application  
for membership.... two years ago....  
I'm very thankful that you remember me and sent me  
a wonderful mask protection for coronavirus,  
with Polish cultural themes and beautiful wishes.  
Thank you very much for everything!  
Be always dear Camille very happy, enjoy excellent  
health, may the way of your life be pleasant and bloom,  
like the most beautiful flowers.  
May the Lord God help you Camille in all and fill  
it with God's blessing!  
I would especially like to thank Kathy Wieczorek  
for her wonderful mask with Polish cultural themes!  
Be Kathy always happy and filled with great life!  
Might your health always flourish excellent  
and walk through life with a smile!  
I cordially greet all the wonderful members of Polanki  
and I wish you always miraculous successes!  
GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU!!!  
HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL OF YOU!!!*

*with a big thanks to ALL of YOU,  
Elzbieta Walentynowicz*



*Greenfield, November 20, 2020*



**Are they Dwarves, Elves, or Gnomes? At this Christmas season, here's a story about these little people in Wrocław, Poland, for your reading pleasure!**

## **There Are Hundreds Of Gnomes Hiding Around This Millennia-Old European City by Laura Studarus**



Founded in the 10th century, Wrocław, Poland, is home to Europe's largest market square and rows of colorful buildings recreated after World War I. Cathedral Island -- the oldest neighborhood in this artsy, bustling city of 643,000 -- houses some of the oldest and most stunning buildings in the city, including the red-bricked St. Martin's Chapel. More than 100 bridges span the Odra River, earning the city the nickname "The Venice of Poland." It's the very definition of old-school European appeal.

But look closer. Amid the stunning architecture and centuries of history you'll find yourself surrounded by... dwarves. Hundreds of them. Some are making withdrawals from tiny ATMs. Others are hailing cabs, or riding itty bitty bikes. They're hiding in plain sight, serving as symbols of the city's progressive present while harkening back to Poland's hard-fought victory over Stalinism.



These easy-to-miss residents -- also referred to as gnomes -- stand between three and seven inches tall. Their diminutive nature makes them easy to overlook, though once you see them, you'll learn they're quite the little exhibitionists. You'll find them sleeping, working on laptops, singing, snapping photos, and riding pigeons. There are hippie gnomes, biker gnomes, and painter gnomes -- there's even a full miniature orchestra, frozen mid note in a park. The official count sits at 163 statues, though some claim there are more than 350 scattered around the historic city.

Despite their whimsy, these statues are loaded with meaning, evoking Poland's struggles against oppression. And in an era where the world is rethinking its monuments, the tiny denizens of Wrocław stand tall and proud.

Wrocław gnomes are seen all over Poland. Wrocław was founded in the 10th century, but its dwarf-based tradition began in the 1980s with a grassroots group called the Orange Alternative (OA). As a form of protest against authoritarianism and censorship, the group leaned into absurdist art as a contrast to the brutalist, propaganda-based messaging of the government.

Along with distributing literature, the OA specialized in street art: Specifically, when Stalinists painted over anti-government graffiti, the Orange Alternative would stencil images atop the paint spots, opting for clowns,

elves, and dwarves to highlight the inherent ridiculousness of the oppression. Eventually, these fairytale images became symbols of the movement, with the dwarf in particular holding unexpected staying power.

The Orange Alternative disbanded in 1989, the same year Polish Communism crumbled. As a tribute to the underground movement, artist Olaf Breezski erected the city's first and largest gnome, known as Papa Kransal ("Papa Dwarf") in the city center. But one dwarf just wasn't enough: In 2004 the city hired artist Tomasz Moczek to create a new generation of fantasy-driven street artwork. And today, they're everywhere.



Moczek, who had just graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in 2003, acknowledges the ideological origins symbolic in his work, but puts his gnomes at a distance from their anti-Communist forebears. "I tried to make sure that my sculptures were not associated with that movement, with politics," Moczek clarifies. "I wanted them to be universally recognized and not divisive, I wanted them to unite people."



Vincent Dwarf

The artist says he sympathizes with the current movement to tear down problematic monuments, saying "It's hard to blame people for destroying what they don't like." However, as the only artist tasked with expanding the city's dwarf population, he sees his creations as occupying a different emotional space: They're helping reshape the character of a millennia-old city where, until recently, saw expression tamped down. Like the city they've come to symbolize, the dwarves' meaning has evolved past Stalinism.

"I wanted them to be small, to blend in with their surroundings, to tell stories, to make people smile, to be universal and apolitical," says Moczek. "Before World War II, (Wrocław) was a German city. Poles settled (here), but for decades they were unable to create their own culture and symbolism here. It wasn't until (after that) my dwarves became a tourist symbol." In case you were wondering what a dwarf on a bulldozer looked like.



[Laura Studarus is a Los Angeles-based travel writer and photographer.

Published on 7/29/2020 at 4:40 PM Życzliwiek Podróżnik, the Traveler | Wrocław Official/Flickr]



# November Speaker Follow-Up

Our speaker at the November meeting, **Distinguished Professor Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann**, described her research on the history of Polish-American cookbooks, sharing photos and stories about the creation of these books. We received the following thank-you note from her, along with a list of the books she discussed.

*I truly enjoyed the presentation for the Polanki Club! My project is a work in progress, but it is moving forward despite the pandemic, in no small measure thanks to the kind librarians like Ewa and other ladies who were so helpful in locating some sources for me. I am very grateful to them. I hope that at some point when the world returns to normal, and my book is published, I will be able to present it to the club in person.*

*Below I am enclosing the list of cookbooks which I discussed during the presentation. Again, thank you for inviting me!*

*Pozdrowienia,*

*Anna Kirchmann*

## TIMELINE FOR COMMERCIAL COOKBOOKS

- 1898: *Kucharka polska i amerykańska* (Paryski catalog)
- 1910: Irena Paryska, *Kuchnia jarska*
- 1917: A. J. Kamionka, *Kuchnia polsko-amerykańska* (publ. Worzalla)
- 1919?: Jan F. Rozner, *Dyeta domowa i kuchnia ekonomiczna*
- 1948: *Treasured Polish Recipes for Americans*, Polanie Club, Minneapolis
- 1958: Maria Ochorowicz- Monatowa, *Polish Cookery, the Universal Cookbook*, Uniwersalna ksiazka kucharska (org. 1910 Poland), trans.
- 1965: Helena Mollowa, *Polsko-Amerykańska Kuchnia Domowa* (Chicago)
- 1969: Alina Żerańska, *The Art of Polish Cooking*
- 1973: Alina Żerańska, *Continental Entertaining for the Young and Busy*
- 1985: Marianna Olszewska-Heberle, *Polish Cooking*
- 1993: Robert and Maria Strybel, *Polish Heritage Cookery* (New York: Hippocrene Books, 1993).
- 2007: *Polish Chicago: Our History, Our Recipes*, ed. by Joseph W. Zurawski

Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann is Distinguished Professor of History and the CSU Professor in the Department of History at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, CT. She received her M.A. in history from the Marie Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland, and her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.

She has published *The Exile Mission: Polish Political Diaspora and Polish Americans, 1939-1956* (Ohio University Press, 2004); *Letters from Readers in the Polish American Press, 1902-1969: A Corner for Everybody* (Lexington Books, 2014); *The Polish Hearst: Ameryka-Echo and the Public Role of the Immigrant Press* (University of Illinois Press, 2015), as well as numerous articles on various aspects of the Polish American experience. Dr. Kirchmann is past president of the Polish American Historical Association, and currently serves as Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Polish American Studies*.

## **New Publication Available About Poland**

Polanki has been given print copies of the brochure “Do you know Poland,” created by the PAC-Wisconsin Division. The print brochure was paid for with a grant from the Polish Consulate. Print copies will be mailed to those Polanki members who receive a print version of the newsletter. Additional print copies are available in the Polanki library when it reopens.

Here is the link to download electronic version:

<http://pacwisconsin.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Do-You-Know-Poland-2020-11-PAC-WI.pdf>

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## **Polanki College Achievement Awards**

**By Joanne Barndt**

Polanki, the Polish Women’s Cultural Club of Milwaukee, recognizes students who have demonstrated high achievement and who are committed to understanding, preserving, or disseminating Polish culture and/or language. Awards range in amounts from \$1000 to \$2000.

### **CRITERIA**

1. College junior, senior or graduate student in an accredited degree program during the 2020-2021 academic year
2. U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident
3. Wisconsin resident OR attending a Wisconsin college or university
4. Of Polish ancestry OR have studied Polish language, history, society, or culture OR significantly engaged in Polish culture
5. Minimum 3.0 GPA on a four-point scale preferred

**Application Deadline: Monday, January 11, 2021**

**For additional information about the 2021 awards or to download an application form, go to [www.polanki.org](http://www.polanki.org).**

Please share this information with friends and relatives who might be eligible to receive one of these academic achievement awards. The Awards Tea is planned for April 25, 2021 at the Polish Center of Wisconsin.

## A Thank-you Message and Picture from Laski on Polanki's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

CONGRATULATIONS TO LONG-TERM DONOR **POLANKI**  
ON THEIR 65TH ANNIVERSARY FROM

### **TOWARZYSTWO OPIEKI NAD OCIEMNIAŁYMI LASKI/POLAND**

which for over 100 years has assisted the blind and partially sighted on every stage of their life. We provide a comprehensive education and revalidation for our pupils. We want to prepare them for independence, finding employment, active participation in social and cultural life, that is, to their integration. We believe that they will find their place in society.

**Polanki!** We appreciate so much that you have been supporting our activities for the blind for so many years!





## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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## **OTHER POSITIONS**

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<b><i>Advisors</i></b>	Ewa Barczyk-Pease (414) 412-6456 Susan Mikoś (414) 628-1937
<b><i>Auditing Committee</i></b>	Judy Chattin Sue Konecny Heddy Moskaluk
<b><i>Web Master</i></b>	Dana Michaels (414) 418-5414

## **A Note from the Editor**

Thank you to all Polanki members who provided ideas, pictures and stories during these last few months. We appreciate your patience and cooperation during this unsettled time and look forward to meeting again in person in 2021.

If you have ideas for future stories or potential meeting programs, please submit these to me at [marjorie.piechowski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marjorie.piechowski@sbcglobal.net) or 414-963-9055.

Marjorie Piechowski  
2020 Polanki Newsletter Editor



*(Photo courtesy of Marjorie Piechowski)*

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