



# Polanki, Inc.

The Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee Newsletter

November (listopad) 2020

## **NOVEMBER 13, 2020 MEMBERSHIP ZOOM MEETING AT 7:30 P.M.**

**Guest Speaker: Distinguished Professor Anna  
Jaroszynska-Kirchmann**

**To Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88480253467?pwd=dDQwTlRhWGJvTFdVcTRoVGpCMG5wdz09>

Meeting ID: 884 8025 3467 Passcode: 991963  
Dial-in: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 884 8025 3467  
Passcode: 991963

If you have internet access, click on the link above to log into Zoom. Your computer will connect you and you will be able to see and listen to other participants.

For members who will call in, if you are asked to enter a "participant" code, you should press the pound (#) and you will be let into the meeting. Then you will be able to listen to the meeting on your cell phone or land line. Push \*6 to mute or unmute your phone and \*9 to raise your hand to speak.

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### ***From the President's Desk***



*(Photo courtesy of Joanne Barndt)*

### **Gratitude, Appreciation, and Thanksgiving**

November brings to mind all that we have to be grateful for. I am shocked that the first thing that came to my mind is technology. Not being someone who uses technology intuitively, I always approach it with some tension.

With Zoom, however, Polanki has been able to continue our board and general membership meetings and, most spectacularly, Polanki's Book Club was able to take place on Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup>. And it was spectacular. A robust conversation was facilitated by Professor Joanna Trzeciak Huss, who had translated our selection, "Drive your Plow over the Bones of the Dead" by Nobel prize-winning Polish author Olga Tokarczuk. Ewa Barczyk Pease did a great job of organizing this event.

Gratitude for and inspiration from the late Victor Podlaski, a Sustaining Member of Polanki, and his generosity and his joy for the Polish community. Grateful that he was able to be with Polanki for our last Awards Tea. Read more about Victor later in this newsletter.

### **Gratitude, Appreciation, and Thanksgiving, continued...**

The tenacious work habits and creativity of Kathy Wieczorek allowed Polanki to reach out in a concrete way to all of our members. Members picked up Kathy's hand-designed and hand-sewn Polish Heritage Pandemic masks at the Polanki Library at the Polish Center of Wisconsin. Members who could not come for the pick-up were mailed the masks. I am grateful for Kathy as she continues her mask project for sales. Many members have also expressed their gratitude for these unique masks.

Many others participated in this project through donations for fabric and postage. These generous donors include Teresa Frankowski, Cindy Lepkowski, Valerie Lukaszewicz, Susan Millikin, Susan Mikoś, Diane Reed (Kathy's sister in Indiana), Camille Shaw, Laurie Ufnowski, Anne Wal, and Mr. Thomas Wal.

Of course, thank you to the Library volunteers under the leadership of Susan Mikoś. Kathy Camacho, Roma Numrych, Shirley Sternig, Anna Rogalska, Sandy JeT'aime, Pat Koronkowski, Halina Sosnowski, and Edith Malson diligently organize the many donations that come to the library.

I am especially grateful to our board members who can be counted on for their support and skills. Susan Cieslak makes our Facebook posts interesting and lively. Jean Wroblewski watches our accounts and investments in addition to managing the ordering and selling of Bolesławiec ceramic pieces, and Marjorie Piechowski weaves together a professional newsletter from offerings written by nonprofessionals. Anne Wal arranges interesting programs for Polanki membership meetings and Laurie Ufnowski coordinates hostesses for our greatly missed in-person meetings. Maria Adamiec manages all the details of Polanki membership. Tamara Johnston prepares minutes of board and membership meetings and Kathy Camacho handles Polanki correspondence and distributes the membership directory. Joanne Barndt maintains Polanki's history through documents and photographs. Behind the scenes, Dana Michaels takes on the role of the Polanki webmaster. Polanki is not a one woman show and every member is important.

A special thanks to the kindness shown by Polanki members who keep other members in the know by paying their dues. This is a longstanding Polanki tradition. Judy Chattin keeps us informed of members who are ill and in need of cards, visits and the traditional Polanki concern for each other.

Soon the well-crafted and virtual Christmas Party will show the care and concern of Nadine and Denna Flemming to bring us together in a very creative set of activities.

Added to all those mentioned are each and every member as well as friends of Polanki. Together we can continue to achieve the goals of our mission. Thank you to everyone. Dziękuję bardzo!

*Camille Shaw*  
*Polanki President 2020*

## Speaker



The speaker at Polanki's membership meeting on November 13, 2020, will be Distinguished Professor Anna D. Jaroszynska-Kirchmann, Ph.D. The title of her presentation is, "What's Cooking: Polish American Cookbooks and What They Tell Us About Polonia."



## November Birthdays

11/04 Margaret Cieslak-Etlicher  
11/07 Monika Sobierajski  
11/08 Susan Konecny  
11/10 Janet Rydlewicz  
11/15 Bette Dulka  
Anne Wal  
11/18 Dorothy Fennig  
11/21 Helen Miller  
11/22 Kathy Murkowski  
11/29 Camille Shaw  
11/30 Lorraine Grzechowiak  
Joan Shrout  
Alena Wadzinske



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

Sustaining Member Iwona Nowak, who has recently been diagnosed with cancer.

Sustaining Member Anna Kozlowski, who was involved in a car accident. She said that she was grateful that when she had the auto accident that she did not break any bones. She is recovering at home and is able to care for her dog and herself, but she would appreciate cards and prayers and hearing from Polankas.

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.

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)



## Our deepest sympathy to

The family of Sustaining Member **Renee Collette**, the daughter of (deceased) Sustaining Member Ruth Klewin.

The family of Sustaining Member **Rachel Finger**

The family of Sustaining Member **Victor Podlaski**, a generous donor to the Polanki College Achievement Awards for many years.

**Renee E. Collette** passed into eternal life Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at her home in East Troy, WI. She was born in Milwaukee, WI, the daughter to the late Albert and Ruth (Dziadosz) Klewin. Renee was united in marriage to Thomas G. Collette on February 4, 1998 in Waikapu, Maui, Hawaii. She worked as a Senior National Account Manager for McKesson Corporation. Renee graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and was a member of the University Club of Milwaukee. She was an avid reader and traveled extensively, loved boating and enjoyed relaxing at the beach. Renee also loved animals, especially her many cats and dogs. Renee is survived by her husband of 22 years, Tom, three brothers; Albert (Katherine) Klewin III of New Berlin, WI, Mark Klewin of Oregon, WI, and Guy (Sherilynn) Klewin of Elkhorn, WI, and many nieces and nephews.

**Rachel Finger** died peacefully in her home on Sunday, October 18th, 2020 at the age of 91. Dear cousin of Douglas (Marilyn), Richard, and Donald Olsen. Preceded in death by her parents, Elmer and Nora Finger, and dear friend, Wally Oestreich. Also survived by many other relatives and dear friends. Private services have been held. Rachel retired from Milwaukee Public Schools after teaching for many years.

**Victor Francis Podlaski**, special "Uncle Victor" to many. Passed away on October 27, 2020 at the young age of 99. Brother of the late Alice (the late Henry) Zremski and the late Edmund (the late Leona) Podlaski. Uncle to Neal (Becky) Zremski, Linda (Bruce) Warren, Paul Podlaski (Jayne) and Dr. Kazimierz J. Zaniewski. Great-uncle to Tammy (Bob) Kelly, Tammy (Guillermo) Salas, Jef Warren and Daniel Podlaski. Godfather of Mary Pratt, Karen Marek, and George Podlaski. Further survived by many other loving nieces, nephews, family and friends.



Victor was a kind, generous and caring person who was interested in where a person came from. He spent lots of time visiting with "aunts," loved music and concerts, family events and getting together even at short notice. He had a devoted love of Polish heritage and history.

He was a proud member of Polanki-Polish Women's Cultural Club. He enjoyed travel and being up to date with what was going on in the world around him. He was a lifelong Milwaukee resident and a very happy resident at Village at Manor Park Independent Apartments for the last 3 years. He was a 1939 Pulaski High school graduate, a graduate of Spencerian Business College, World War II Army Veteran (Technical Sergeant), a lifelong parishioner of SS Cyril and Methodius Parish Roman Catholic Church and worked for the Veterans Administration.



# General Polanki and Community News and Information

## **3 Day December 2020 Holiday Vendor Event – Mayfair Mall**

**Dates of Event:** December 4th, 5th and 6th 2020

**Times:** Friday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Location of Event:** Mayfair Mall, 2500 N. Mayfair Rd, Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Polanki will have a sales table of Bolesławiec Pottery, Books and Folk Art. Come out and Shop. Bring Friends and Family or Just Get the Message Out

Polanki volunteers will be needed to help out with sales during all three days. The link for Sign-Up Genius is the following: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4CA9AD2CA0FD0-holiday>

Polanki members also received an email from Anne Wal with event information and the sign-up link. Since our regular fund-raising events have been cancelled this year, this is a good chance to promote Polanki and sell some of our wonderful merchandise for the holidays.

## **Pre-Thanksgiving Ronald McDonald Fundraiser Direct Sales And Craft Vendor Fair**

**Date:** Saturday November 21st 2020 9 a.m. -11a.m. Set up

**Time:** Show 11a.m. -9 p.m. **Location of Event:** Masonic Lodge 4450 Pilgrim Road Brookfield WI 53005

## **November 20-22 Virtual Holiday Folk Fair 2020**

Explore the World of International Music, Food, Dance and Arts: education, entertainment, artisan and cooking demonstrations, photographic exhibits and shopping that fair-goers have come to cherish at folkfair.org or <https://www.facebook.com/HolidayFolkFair/>

## **Polanki Fundraising Nail Bar and Partnering with Color Street**

Rachel Hooten, Sustaining Member, is currently holding a Polanki Fundraising Nail Bar and partnering with Color Street. **All commission made from the party sales will be donated to Polanki. The fundraiser will run through the holidays.** Color Street nail strips are 100% nail polish and are pretty, quick and easy to do. There's no dry time and they will last about 10-14 days. Prices are Solids: \$11, Glitters: \$12, Designs: \$13, and French: \$14. All orders are Buy 3 Get 1 free for solids, glitters, glitter designs and nail art sets. All French Manicure sets are Buy 1 Get 1 free. Shipping is only \$3 no matter how many sets you order. To place an order to support Polanki here is the shopping link: <https://www.colorstreet.com/HootieHoo/party/1962829>

Rachel, daughter of Active Member Jean Wroblewski, officially joined Polanki in 2016. Unofficially she accompanied her mother and older sister, Jenny Flores, to many Polanki events, helping where needed. In addition to working full-time Rachel is an Independent Stylist – Team Leader with Color Street, and mother of two girls with a baby boy due this month. For questions, please contact Rachel at [rachel.hooten@yahoo.com](mailto:rachel.hooten@yahoo.com)

## **New Polanki Member**



Polanki welcomes new **Active Member Alena Wadzinske**. She is the daughter of Sustaining Member Margaret Wadzinske and the granddaughter of Barbara Godlewski (deceased), former Polanki member and well-known folk artist. Alena has followed in her grandmother's footsteps by demonstrating pisanki at Polish Fest and other events. We look forward to her participation in future Polanki activities.

# Polanki Library Update

Articles and Photos By Susan Mikoś



Polanki Library volunteers have been working on Tuesday mornings, 10:30 to 12:30, to better organize our rich and varied collection of information about Poland and Polish Americans. We have received some beautiful new books recently, but would appreciate your checking with us before dropping off donations, so we can tell you in advance whether it is something we can use.

We do need more volunteers to help speed up our processing and eliminate the clutter. If you would like some reading material for the coming months, feel free

to drop in on a Tuesday morning or give us a call, and we may even be able to deliver. Books and videos can normally be checked out for one month, but we are prepared to be lenient during these difficult times.

We also have an exceptional selection of duplicate and withdrawn books for sale at bargain prices. Some are brand new or almost new. Others are vintage treasures. Stop in or give us a call to find out what we have, and pick up something special! If you would like to help out, we would love to have you.

Regular hours are Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or by appointment. Email [sgmikos@yahoo.com](mailto:sgmikos@yahoo.com) for more information.

## Polish Cookbooks



In addition to its rich and varied collection described above, the Polanki Library also has a wealth of Polish cookbooks. Distinguished Professor Anna Jaroszynska-Kirchmann, our speaker for the November meeting, is researching the history of Polish cookbooks in America. She is especially interested in locally produced community cookbooks. Ewa Barczyk asked us to check our shelves.



These are some of what we found. If you are interested in learning more about the history of Polish cookbooks in Poland, the following link has amazing pictures and a very interesting and detailed story.

<https://culture.pl/en/article/antique-cookbooks-the-meals-of-polands-past>

You can also spread Polish culture and support Polanki at the same time by purchasing the Polanki Recipe Book for yourself or for gifts to family and friends. Cookbooks can be ordered by mail for \$18, which includes the cost of the book and shipping.

To order cookbooks in time for the holidays, send your check made out to Polanki, Inc. to the Polanki mailbox P.O. Box 341458 Milwaukee, WI 53234 by **November 15**. Books will arrive before Thanksgiving in plenty of time for holiday cooking, entertaining and gift giving.



<http://www.polanki.org>

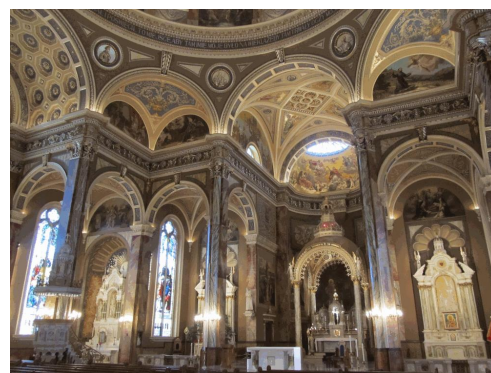
**POLANKI**  
**POLISH WOMEN'S CULTURAL CLUB**  
**OF MILWAUKEE**  
**RECIPE BOOK**  
PUBLISHED 2017, Milwaukee, WI  
3<sup>RD</sup> EDITION

## Congratulations to Polanki Members!



Polanki congratulates **Sustaining Member Teresa Frankowski** and her husband Wes on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, October 17, 2020, and wishes them many more happy years together. Their anniversary was celebrated in a Mass at St. Josaphat's Basilica.

*(Photos courtesy of Teresa Frankowski and St. Josaphat Basilica web page)*



Polanki congratulates **Active Member Anne Wal**, a shareholder at von Briesen & Roper, s.c., who was recently elected to the Advisory Board for the Marquette University Center for Real Estate. As a real estate and construction lawyer at von Briesen, Anne has supported The Center for Real Estate for several years. The Center is the only commercial real estate program offered at a Catholic and Jesuit university and is ranked among the top undergraduate commercial real estate programs in the country by U.S. News & World Report. Advisory Board members guide and support the Center, serve as ambassadors of the real estate program within their professional communities, and serve as a source of new ideas to enhance student experiences in the real estate industry. Anne was honored to be asked to join this prestigious group of commercial real estate professionals. *(Photo courtesy of Anne Wal)*



## Food for Body & Soul

Craving some Polish comfort food to see you through the pandemic? Do you need someone else to cook Thanksgiving dinner? Check out these offerings, and support our local Polish-owned businesses.



### *Tired of cooking?*

#### **Polish Center of Wisconsin**

6941 S. 68<sup>th</sup> St., Franklin  
Wednesdays 4-8 p.m., through November 18;  
December to be determined  
Dine in or carryout. Menu varies.  
polishcenterofwisconsin.org  
414-529-2140

#### **Polonez Restaurant**

4016 S. Packard Ave., St. Francis  
Thursday-Sunday; see website for hours  
Dine in or carryout; regular menu; daily specials  
polonez.restaurant.com  
414-482-0080

#### **Pulaski Inn**

3900 E. Pulaski Ave., Cudahy  
Wednesdays and Fridays, 4–6 p.m.  
Curbside pickup. Menu varies.  
414-481-3068 [info@pulaskiinn.com](mailto:info@pulaskiinn.com)

### *Need those favorite Polish delicacies for the holidays?*

#### **A&J Deli**

1215 W. Lincoln Ave.  
Milwaukee  
414-643-7733

#### **Old World Deli**

7630 W. Grange Ave.  
Greendale  
414-855-0470

## **Kościuszko Monument Gardening Wraps Up**

**by Susan Mikoś**

We squeezed in another day of gardening on October 17. The beds were mulched and holes were dug for spring bulbs, soon to be planted. The roses are still blooming. Kudos to our resident horticulturalist, Dan Jankowski, who has orchestrated a colorful succession of perennials that makes for year-round interest.



*(Photos courtesy of  
Susan Mikoś)*



## **The Polanki Polish Pottery Store is now online and open for business!**



With the holidays fast approaching, why not add something new to your collection and décor with numerous choices of traditional and signature Polish pottery in stock – including great new patterns and colors! Go to the website [Polanki.org](http://Polanki.org). At the top hit “Shop” and then “Bolesławiec Pottery” or use this link: <https://polanki.org/boleslawiec-pottery/> Save 20% on all purchases with coupon code. **You MUST Use Coupon Code** –

**POLANKI20** - at checkout! (Coupon code is reusable with no expiration date). Free Shipping over \$99 and all orders are shipped within 3 business days.





# Polanki Christmas Party—Covid-19 Version

By Nadine Flemming

The first virtual Polanki Christmas Party is approaching. Every week in December there will be another holiday activity at 7 p.m. for our members to enjoy.

In week one, Bernie Jendrzejczak will demonstrate how to create a lovely mushroom ornament.

Week two on **Friday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m.** will have Anne Wal preparing one of her always tasty treats.

Week three on **Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m.** will be a Koledy performance featuring Kinga Vnuk with 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. Polanki has been contributing to Laski for many years. If you wish to participate in the raffle, please donate a minimum of \$20 (more is certainly welcomed). Make the check payable to POLANKI and mail to Camille Shaw at 4906 W. Washington Blvd. Milwaukee, WI. 53208-1728. If you wish to donate items for the raffle please call Camille (414-510-6378) for types of items and pick-up if necessary.



If you'd like to share one of your favorite Polish holiday recipes with our members, please submit it to Denna at the above email or mailing address by November 23. You can include a sentence or two telling the significance of your recipe in your holiday traditions. A small booklet of submitted recipes and comments will be distributed to members during the month of December. Hopefully, December 2021 will see us celebrating in person.

(Pictures from <https://www.deliciouspoland.com/blog/christmas-in-poland>)

*Denna and Nadine Flemming*



# 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).

## Victor Podlaski and the UWM Polish Studies Scholarship Program

by Marjorie Piechowski and Donald Pienkos

At the 2019 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, Emeritus Professor of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 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 Spaight 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 Spaight 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 gift 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 was 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.

Author's note: Victor Podlaski passed away on October 23, 2020, at the age of 99. His obituary mentions his pride in his Polish heritage and his membership in Polanki. He was a Sustaining Member of Polanki for many years.

## **2019 Podlaski Award Winners with Victor Podlaski**

*(photo courtesy of Ewa Barczyk)*

**Nina Gutmanis**

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
M.S., Occupational Therapy

**Sarah Pardej**

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Ph.D., Clinical Psychology



## Polish Culture on the Web

The **Poland Ministry of Culture and National Heritage** has an amazing collection of cultural institutions in Poland available through the web.

Cultural institutions – run or co-run by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage – in connection with the temporary closure of museums, philharmonics, operas, theatres or libraries, have prepared a rich offer, enabling contact with art through internet channels. The following link will provide access to these cultural riches that we can't access in person. <https://www.gov.pl/web/kultura/kultura-w-sieci>

The offerings include over forty museums, twenty theaters and orchestras, seventeen institutes and cultural centers, and seven libraries and archives. The link also gives information about free virtual visits to royal residences in Poland throughout November.

## Polish Museum of America

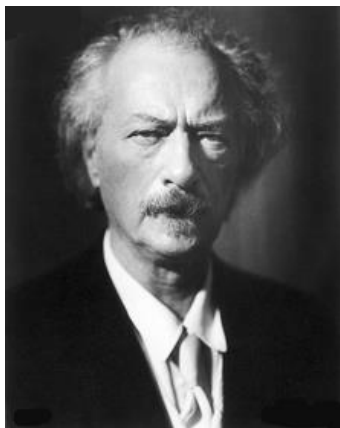
The Polish Museum of America has recently produced eleven YouTube videos on several areas of Polish history and culture drawn from collections at the museum. They can be accessed on this link: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLX0bO9mKYK1eIL9DHpfXWqWy5f\\_WgYfZF](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLX0bO9mKYK1eIL9DHpfXWqWy5f_WgYfZF)

The videos were made possible with a grant from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland as part of the Protection of Cultural Heritage Abroad Program. Ranging from six to eighteen minutes, the topics include the following: Highlander Collections at PMA, Warsaw Uprising 1944, Poland's Decisive Victory in the History of the World, and Churches in Chicago's Polish Downtown. The museum also is hosting a virtual exhibit, The Polish Army in France 1917-1919 and offers a virtual tour of The Transportation Room.

## Events in Polish History During November

### Ignacy Jan Paderewski

November 6, 2020, is the 160th anniversary of the birth of **Ignacy Jan Paderewski**, pianist, composer, Polish independence activist, and statesman. It is also the 79th anniversary of the opening of the permanent exhibit of the Paderewski Room at the Polish Museum of America (PMA). Paderewski is one of the most important



figures in Polish history. His multifaceted activities as a composer, pianist, politician, statesman, and philanthropist distinguished him as one of the greatest influences on the cultural and political scenes in Poland, and indeed the world, during the first half of the past century. His contemporaries called him the greatest pianist since the time of Liszt, with a piano career that lasted over 50 years.

Paderewski was not only a talented composer and pianist but a devoted and effective politician who worked for his homeland in its most difficult times. He was a co-architect of the Second Republic of Poland, a country that was reborn at the end of World War I, after 123 years of captivity. He fought for the new republic as a member of the Polish National Committee, during meetings in the White House and in the State Department in Washington, as an ideological leader of Polish Americans, and as president of the cabinet. His cabinet attained many

important goals for the newly independent Poland, including conducting democratic elections, developing a public education system and undertaking the economic reconstruction of the country. In 1919 Paderewski became head of the Polish government; later he became the first delegate of the Republic of Poland to the League of Nations.

After his involvement in politics he returned to his music, touring extensively up to the time of his death. He devoted a portion of his income from his piano recitals to charities, especially for musicians and also in aid of Jewish intellectuals and other victims of Hitler.

## Józef Piłsudski

On November 11, 1918, **Józef Piłsudski** arrived in Warsaw and announced Poland's restoration of sovereignty as the Second Polish Republic after a century of partitions and foreign rule. November 11 now is observed in Poland as National Independence Day. A new Piłsudski museum opened in August 2020 in Sulejówek, on the anniversary of the win over the Bolsheviks.

Józef Klemens Piłsudski (December 1867-May 1935) was a Polish statesman who served as the Chief of State (1918–1922) and First Marshal of Poland (from 1920). He was considered the *de facto* leader (1926–35) of the Second Polish Republic as the Minister of Military Affairs. After World War I, he held great power in Polish politics and was a distinguished figure on the international scene. He is viewed as a father of the Second Polish Republic re-established in 1918, 123 years after the final Partition of Poland by Austria, Prussia and Russia in 1795.



Seeing himself as a descendant of the culture and traditions of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, Piłsudski believed in a multi-ethnic Poland, "a home of nations," including indigenous ethnic and religious minorities he hoped would establish a robust union with the independent states of Lithuania and Ukraine.

Early in his political career, Piłsudski became a leader of the Polish Socialist Party. Believing Poland's independence would be won militarily, he formed the Polish Legions. In 1914, he predicted a new major war would defeat the Russian Empire and the Central Powers. After World War I began in 1914, Piłsudski's Legions fought alongside Austria-Hungary against Russia. In 1917, with Russia faring poorly in the war, he withdrew his support for the Central Powers, and was imprisoned in Magdeburg by the Germans.

From November 1918, when Poland regained its independence, until 1922, Piłsudski was Poland's Chief of State. In 1919–21 he commanded Polish forces in six border wars that re-defined the country's borders. On the verge of defeat in the Polish–Soviet War in August 1920, his forces threw back the invading Soviet Russians at the Battle of Warsaw. In 1923, with the government dominated by his opponents, in particular the National Democrats, Piłsudski retired from active politics. Three years later he returned to power in the May 1926 *coup d'état* and became the strongman of the Sanacja regime. From then on until his death in 1935, he concerned himself primarily with military and foreign affairs. Some aspects of Piłsudski's administration, such as imprisoning his political opponents at Bereza Kartuska, remain controversial. Yet, he is highly esteemed in Polish memory and is regarded, together with his chief rival Roman Dmowski, as a founder of the modern independent Poland.

*(Photos and text retrieved and edited from internet on November 6, 2020)*

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## **A Note from the Editor**

During our limited social life 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 or on the next year.

If you have ideas for future stories or potential 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)*

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