

# Polanki, Inc.

The Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee Newsletter

February (luty) 2021

## Polanki Upcoming Events Annual Business Meeting on Friday February 12, 2021 on Zoom

The meeting agenda will include annual reports from board members and committee chairs, followed by election of officers and board members. To join Zoom meeting:

https://zoom.us/j/96782354458?pwd=ajlYUGh0MWxLTXcvUUVXQWVldElJdz09

Meeting ID: 967 8235 4458

Passcode: 233332

To call in by phone, dial the following number:

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Enter meeting ID when asked:

Meeting ID: 967 8235 4458

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#### President's Message



(Photo courtesy of Camille Shaw)

Dear Polanki members,

Joe Shaw found peace on February 3rd after 35 years of the challenge of heart disease. My children and I are grateful that he had a long productive happy life and died quickly while ignoring doctors and spousal advice. He greatly enjoyed showing off his membership card in Iowa which informed his friends that he was a sustaining member of Polanki, the Polish Women's Cultural Club.

Thank you very much to the many people who have reached out with kind words and loving support during this difficult time.

Camille Shaw Polanki President 2020







## **February Birthdays**

02/01 Iwona Nowak
02/09 Veronica Artus
Cynthia Lepkowski
02/11 Geraldine Reszel
02/12 Anna Napiorkowski
02/13 Ewa Barczyk-Pease
02/13 Sharon Kearns
02/14 Jadwiga Korasz
02/16 Kathleen Johnston
02/20 Diane Holytz
Jerry Moskaluk
02/23 Rachel Hooten
02/26 Anna Rogalski

## **Directory Changes and Additions**

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

Delete land line (home phone) for Sustaining Member Joan Shrout





We are happy to receive no reports of members who are dealing with health issues, very welcome news at this time of year. However, we 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 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-home

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



## Our Deepest Sympathy to the family of Sustaining Member Barbara Spalda

Barbara Spalda (nee Kolanko) entered into Eternal Life on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at the age of 83. Longtime resident of Shorewood and more recently of the Milwaukee Catholic Home. Beloved wife for 54 years of the late Michael P. Spalda. Dear sister of Mary Ellen and Bill (Chris) Kolanko. Cherished aunt of Holly (David) Delgado, Nick (Michele) Kolanko, Angie (Ted) Mamayek, and Emmy (Enrique) Kolanko. Proud great-aunt of Mona, Lucy, Frankie; Bo, Clark; Alex and John. Best friend of Mary (the late Jerry) Borman, and special aunt to Michael (Ann) Borman, Betsy (Scott) Deakin, and Carolyn (Brad) Caspari. Special great-aunt to Alan, Matthew, and Thomas Deakin; Robert and Christopher Caspari. Further survived by many loving cousins and friends.

Barbara was a longtime and very active member of SS. Peter and Paul Parish. She was a volleyball coach there for the CYO volleyball leagues, a member of the SSPP choir, and she served as Parish Council president at one time. She was also very active in various social justice and service ministries, including St. Ben's Meal Program and the Milwaukee Ladies of Charity organization. Barbara loved to host and entertain her family, including her many cousins, neighbors, and friends. She was an expert baker and cook. Barbara loved to read, complete crossword puzzles, and watch movies. She possessed a wealth of knowledge about flowers and gardening. She was an avid quilter, sewer, and knitter and she enjoyed knitting hats for the NICU babies. Together with Mike, Barbara traveled the world, vacationed Up North, and took in musical events whenever possible. Barbara lived life with a joyful heart and a positive spirit that she imparted to anyone she met.

A private Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Saturday, January 23, at 10:30 a.m.. Private interment took place at Holy Cross Cemetery. Memorials in Barbara's name may be made to SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 2490 N. Cramer St., Milwaukee, WI 53211.

## Our Deepest Sympathy to the family of Polanki Sustaining Member Rachelle Ebenhoe

Rachelle A. Ebenhoe, Milwaukee - (Nee Raymond) Born to Eternal life on Thursday, December 3rd, 2020 at the age of 63 years. Beloved wife of the late Jerome. Dear mother of Becky (Matt) Owsley and Matt (Bri) Ebenhoe. Loving grandmother of Hannah and Nathan. Sister of Gary Raymond. Further survived by nieces, other relatives and friends.

Visitation took place on Wednesday, December 9th, 2020 at the Heritage Funeral Home (16880 W. National Ave.) from 5:30 p.m. until the time of service at 7:00 p.m. Private interment was at Holy Cross Cemetery.



## Our Deepest Sympathy to the family of Sustaining Member John "Joe" Shaw

John Joseph "Joe" Shaw found peace on February 3, 2021 at the age of 78. Beloved husband of Camille (nee Stroinski) for 52 years. Father of Bill (Lynn), Celine (Ross), Ben and Richard. Foster father of the late Val, Joaquin, William, the late Julie, Jessica, Steven, Alan, Benjamin and Patrick.

Loving grandfather to Patrick Keegan, Alexander Thomas, Jeremiah Joseph "J.J.," and Elyse Jane. Dear baby brother of Margaret "Peg" (Del) Lins.

Preceded in death by his parents Roy and Maryellen and siblings Thomas, Mary Patricia, Elizabeth Jane, Barbara and Colleen.

Special friend from Army days, Ray Gajewski.

Joe served with the 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, U.S. Army, in Asschaffenburg, Germany and dedicated 35 years to the I.T. department at Northwestern Mutual. He worshipped with John XXIII/Catechetics and was more recently a member of the St. Benedict the Moor Parish in Milwaukee.

Editor's note: Joe was a proud and long-time sustaining member of Polanki. Many members will remember his smiling face and bear hugs at Polanki events.

Visitation will be held at Bruskiewicz Funeral Home on Wednesday February 10, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., followed by a funeral service at 6:00 p.m. The address is 5355 W. Forest Home Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53220.

If you choose to visit, please respect the funeral home's current COVID-19 policies, including staying home if you are currently experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have recently tested positive for COVID-19, our current capacity limit of 50 visitors, social distancing and mask requirement for all visitors.

Funeral services will be live-streamed on Wednesday February 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. and can be viewed live or anytime after the service takes place at https://my.gather.app/remember/john-shaw

## Update on Polanki's Marketing of Bolesławiec and Other Merchandise

#### by Anne Wal

The coronavirus pandemic has not only changed the way Polanki members meet, but also how Polanki sells its unique merchandise without a physical presence at festivals, fairs, bazaars and other events.

During the past year, our Publicity Chair, Susan Cieslak, began using posts on Polanki's Facebook page to "drive" persons to Polanki's web site for purchasing Bolesławiec pottery, face masks, the Polanki Cookbook and opłatek. On the web site, our webmaster, Dana Michaels, created a "Shop" tab so that persons can link to a third-party vendor selling Bolesławiec pottery on Polanki's behalf (with Polanki receiving a portion of sale proceeds). The "Shop" tab also informed users how to purchase the Polanki Cookbook and facemasks. In December, another Polanki member provided a way for persons to purchase opłatek through Facebook. Although this "hodge-podge" has worked, it is an inconsistent way to promote Polanki and the sale of inventory.

"We want our Facebook and website visitors to know Polanki members use and love their Polish pottery." --- Kathy Wieczorek Building on this foundation, the Development Committee chaired by Kathy Wieczorek plans to create a virtual store for selling Polanki's merchandise, such as Bolesławiec pottery, cookbooks, and seasonal items. The virtual store on Polanki's website will allow Polanki members, family, friends and the general public to purchase items as if they were attending a festival, fair or other

event, pay for the purchases online, and receive purchased items by mail or in person (depending on the shopper's location). The link to the virtual store can be promoted on Polanki's Facebook page, copied by Polanki members, and posted on their Facebook pages.

To implement the virtual store, the first step is to take high quality pictures of merchandise from Polanki's storage units. Volunteers are needed to take pictures that will then be posted on the virtual store site. If you can assist with photography, please contact Jean Wroblewski <u>jean.wroblewski@yahoo.com</u> or at (414) 405-7753. She will arrange a time for the photography session.

## Promotion of Bolesławiec Pottery—"Living With Polish Pottery"



Polanki members also can get involved in the promotion of Bolesławiec pottery by submitting photos on how you use your Bolesławiec pottery collections at home. According to Kathy Wieczorek, "Examples of photos could be children or grandchildren eating ice cream from bowls, drinking coffee, food displays from the kitchen/dining room table, wall decorations, or cats or dogs eating from a bowl. ... In other words, let's give 'life' to our Polish pottery."

Please submit your photos to Kathy Wieczorek <u>kwieczorek@sbcglobal.net</u> and advise if your name can be used on Polanki's website and/or Facebook. For questions, you can also contact Kathy at 262-785-1196 or 414-587-9554.

[Photo courtesy of Kathy Wieczorek]

## **February Birthdays of Three Famous Poles**

February marks the birthdays of three of Poland's most famous historical persons, Tadeusz Kościuszko, Frédéric Chopin, and Mikołaj Kopernik, each representing different aspects of Polish history and culture. Here are brief sketches of their lives and accomplishments.

**Tadeusz Kościuszko** [February 4, 1746 – October 15, 1817] was a Polish-Lithuanian military engineer, statesman, and military leader who became a national hero in Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, and the United States. He fought in the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth's struggles against Russia and Prussia, and on the U.S. side in the American Revolutionary War. As Supreme Commander of the Polish National Armed Forces, he led the 1794 Kościuszko Uprising.

Kościuszko was born in February 1746, in a manor house in Brest Litovsk Voivodeship, then part of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth. At age 20, he graduated from the Corps of Cadets in Warsaw, Poland. After the start of the civil war in 1768, Kościuszko moved to France in 1769 to study. In 1776 Kościuszko moved to North America, where he took part in the American Revolutionary War as a colonel in the Continental Army. An accomplished military architect, he designed and oversaw the construction of state-of-the-art fortifications, including those at West Point, New York. In 1783, in recognition of his services, the Continental Congress promoted him to brigadier general.

Upon returning to Poland in 1784, Kościuszko was commissioned as a major general in the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth Army in 1789. After the Polish–Russian War of 1792 resulted in the Commonwealth's Second Partition, he commanded an uprising against the Russian Empire in March 1794 until he was captured at the Battle of Maciejowice in October 1794. The defeat of the Kościuszko Uprising that November led to Poland's Third Partition in 1795, which ended the Commonwealth. In 1796, following the death of Tsaritsa Catherine II, Kościuszko was pardoned by her successor, Tsar Paul I, and he emigrated to the United States.

A close friend of Thomas Jefferson, with whom he shared ideals of human rights, Kościuszko wrote a will in 1798, dedicating his U.S. assets to the education and freedom of the U.S. slaves. Kościuszko eventually returned to Europe and lived in Switzerland until his death in 1817. The execution of his testament later proved difficult, and the funds were never used for the purpose Kościuszko intended.



Mikołaj Kopernik [February 19, 1473-May 24, 1543) was a Renaissance-era mathematician, astronomer,



and Catholic canon who formulated a model of the universe that placed the sun rather than the earth at the center of the universe. The publication of Copernicus' model in his book *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* (*On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres*), just before his death in 1543, was a major event in the history of science, a pioneering contribution to scientific knowledge and revolution.

Copernicus was born and died in Royal Prussia, a region that had been part of the Kingdom of Poland since 1466. He obtained a doctorate in canon law and also was a mathematician, astronomer, physician, classics scholar, translator, governor, diplomat, and economist. Copernicus is known

to have spoken Latin, German, and Polish with equal fluency; he also spoke Greek and Italian, and had some knowledge of Hebrew. The vast majority of Copernicus's extant writings are in Latin, the language of European academia in his lifetime. In 1517 he derived a quantity theory of money—a key concept in economics to the present day—and in 1519 he formulated an economic principle that later came to be called Gresham's law. Toward the close of 1542, Copernicus was seized with apoplexy and paralysis, and he died at age 70 on May 24, 1543.

Legend has it that he was presented with the final printed pages of his  $D\bar{e}$  revolutionibus orbium coelestium on the very day that he died, allowing him to take farewell to his life's work. He is reputed to have awoken from a stroke-induced coma, looked at his book, and then died peacefully

**Frédéric François Chopin** [February 22 1810 – October 17, 1849] was a Polish composer and virtuoso pianist who is widely considered one of the greatest Romantic piano composers. Chopin was born in Żelazowa Wola, a village in the Duchy of Warsaw. A renowned child prodigy, he grew up in Warsaw and completed his music education there; he composed many of his mature works in Warsaw before leaving Poland in 1830 at age 20, shortly before the November 1830 Uprising. Following the Russian suppression of the Uprising, he settled in Paris as part of Poland's Great Emigration.

During the remaining nineteen years of his life, Chopin gave only thirty public performances, preferring the more intimate atmosphere of the salon. He supported himself by selling his compositions and by giving piano lessons, for which he was in high demand. Chopin formed a friendship with Franz Liszt and was admired by many of his other musical contemporaries, including Robert Schumann. For most of his life Chopin suffered from poor health; he died in Paris in 1849 at the untimely age of 39. He is buried in Pere Lachaise Cemetery in Paris but his heart has been returned to Poland, where it is preserved in a crypt in the

Holy Cross Church in Warsaw.



The vast majority of Chopin's works are for solo piano, though he also wrote two piano concertos, a few chamber pieces, and some songs to Polish lyrics. His piano works are often technically demanding, emphasizing nuance and expressive depth. Chopin invented the instrumental ballade and made major innovations to the piano sonata, mazurka, waltz, nocturne, polonaise, étude, impromptu, scherzo, and prélude. Influences on his style of composition include Polish folk music, the classical tradition of J. S. Bach, Mozart, and Schubert. His innovations in style, harmony, and musical forms have had lasting effects on the musical world.

Chopin's music, his status as one of music's earliest celebrities, his indirect association with political insurrection, his high-profile love-life, and his early

death have made him a leading symbol of the Romantic era. His works remain popular, and he has been the subject of numerous films and biographies of varying historical fidelity. The Fryderyk Chopin Institute has been created by the Parliament of Poland to research and promote his life and works. It hosts the International Chopin Piano Competition, a prestigious competition devoted entirely to his works. Polanki is a co-sponsor of Milwaukee's Chopin Piano Competition held annually during Polish Fest.

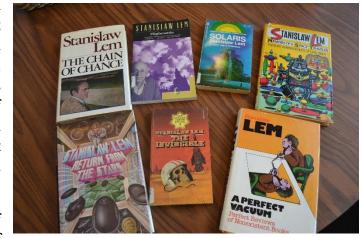
[Information and photos based on Wikipedia and a variety of other sources]

#### Stanisław Lem: Polish Science Fiction Writer

#### by Susan Mikoś

Looking for an escape? Want to explore an alternate reality? Check out a science fiction novel by Stanisław Lem from the Polanki Library.

Lem (1921-2006) was an immensely popular Polish writer of science fiction, not only in Poland but internationally. His many books have been translated into over 40 languages and sold more than 45 million copies. Several of them have been made into films. His best-known work, *Solaris* (1961), is about a crew of research scientists studying an alien intelligence on a fictional planet. In *His Master's Voice* (1968), a brilliant mathematician attempts to decode a message from space.



The Polish Parliament has declared 2021 the Year of Stanisław Lem. The Polanki Library has a number of

books by Lem, in both Polish and English. Check one out today! Due to Covid-19, the Polanki Library is open by appointment, or we can offer curbside pickup. Email <a href="mailto:sgmikos@yahoo.com">sgmikos@yahoo.com</a> or call 414-628-1937 to make arrangements.

#### Polanki Library Duplicate Book Sale

These are just a few of the fabulous books we have for sale at bargain prices. Contact Susan Mikoś <a href="mailto:sgmikos@yahoo.com">sgmikos@yahoo.com</a> or 414-628-1937 if interested.

<u>AUTHOR</u>	TITLE	<u>PRICE</u>
Hoffman, William E. &	First Names of the Polish Commonwealth:	
Helon, George W.	Origins & Meanings	\$6.00
Davies, Norman	God's Playground: Vol. I & II	
	(the definitive history of Poland, in 2 volumes)	\$6.00
Weiser, Benjamin	A Secret Life - The Polish Officer, his covert	
	Mission and the Price he paid to save his	\$5.00
	Country (famed Polish spy Ryszard Kuklinski)	
Zamoyski, Adam	The Last King of Poland	\$5.00
	(Stanisław II August Poniatowski)	

## Pulaski Day to Be Observed Virtually

CHICAGO, IL -- Celebrate Pulaski Day virtually with the Polish Museum of America (PMA) on Monday, March 1, 2021. Top officials from national, state, county, and city governments and leaders of Polonian organizations and institutions will observe the State of Illinois annual recognition of the Polish American community by honoring the Revolutionary War hero Casimir Pulaski.

The program will feature performances by Mirosława Sojka-Topór, Bartłomiej Ciężobka, Polonia Polish Folk Song & Dance Ensemble, and Tatra Mountains Cultural Foundation Ensemble, along with filmed presentations, and conclude with the traditional wreath-laying ceremony at Stanislaw Batowski's painting of Pulaski at Savannah. The program begins promptly at 10 a.m. and will be streamed live on the PMA website: www.PolishMuseumOfAmerica.org

"I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it." – Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski



General Kazimierz (Casimir) Pulaski (born in Warsaw, Poland, March 6, 174 and died near Savannah, Georgia, October 9-10, 1779) is recognized as the "Father of the American Cavalry." He offered his services as an experienced military leader to the American Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. "I came to hazard all for the freedom of America," stated Pulaski in a letter to the Congress. Even before he was officially commissioned by Congress, Pulaski joined the American Army as a volunteer. At Brandywine, in 1777, he greatly distinguished himself by leading a daring attack against the British, thereby saving the retreating American Army.

At the insistence of General George Washington, Pulaski was made a Brigadier General and the first Commander of the American Cavalry. He established the Pulaski Legion, a corps of Frenchmen, German

Hessians, and Poles, who were instrumental in saving the City of Charleston, South Carolina, from British occupation in 1779. In October of 1779, at the age of 34, General Pulaski paid the ultimate price for freedom: he died from mortal wounds received while leading a cavalry charge in Savannah, Georgia. The General's mortal remains were ceremoniously reinterred at the Pulaski Monument at Monterey Square in Savannah, GA in October of 2005. Posthumous honorary U.S. citizenship was granted to General Pulaski in 2009.

In 1977, Illinois made Casimir Pulaski Day an official state holiday. Join friends and supporters of the Polish Museum of America as your representatives in government celebrate the commitment of Polish Americans to liberty and justice for all in the United States of America.

[Article and photo courtesy of the Polish Museum of America]

## **Annual Membership Dues**

In February, your annual active or sustaining membership renewal is due. Please fill out the membership form (included with this mailing) along with your payment and send it to Maria Adamiec, Membership Chair, at the Polanki mail box. You can also send the form and payment directly to Maria at her home address.

It is important to renew as soon as possible so we have accurate contact information to enter into the Polanki membership database, used for the membership directory and available to committee chairs to identify volunteers for Polanki events. Thank you in advance for your prompt renewals.

\*

## **Congratulations to Polanki Members**

Three Polanki members, Ewa Barczyk-Pease, Bernie Jendrzejczak and Heddy Moskaluk, were awarded Certificates of Recognition from the International Institute of Wisconsin for their participation in the virtual

2020 International Holiday Folk Fair. Heddy was recognized for many years of active participation in the Folk Fair and Ewa was recognized for interviewing Heddy on video to document Heddy's journey to the US, what brought her to Milwaukee, her work with Polanki and Polish Fest. In the video Heddy highlighted how much she has enjoyed volunteering for all these years. Bernie received her recognition for presenting a virtual demonstration on how to make wycinanki (Polish paper cutting).



As always, Polanki women generously share their time and talent to spread knowledge of Polish culture. We are proud that such talented and generous members received this well-deserved recognition.

## Planned Community Events at the Polish Center of Wisconsin

**Paçzki Day:** February 16, 2020 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Lenten Fish Fries: February 19 and 26, 2021; March 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2021

Lectures by Professor Neal Pease on Polish History: *Poland Through the Centuries: Who, What, Where, When?*—ongoing on YouTube presentations

You Tube Log-In: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ah4hKS4HH4Y

## Fat Thursday and Herring Night (Tłusty Czwartek and Śledzik)



Poland has its own version of the French Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday), known in Poland as Tłusty Czwartek, or Fat Thursday. With Lent forbidding sweets and treats, Fat Thursday is a similar celebration of gluttonous indulgence as in other Catholic countries, but with an early jump. Instead of parading and partying, the Poles queue up in lines that sometimes stretch around the corner in order to purchase pastries from the local cukiernia, or bakery.

Poland's favorite pastries, particularly on Fat Thursday, are paczki - large deep-fried doughnuts typically filled with rose

jam (or other marmalades), glazed with sugar, and sometimes topped with candied orange peel.

Another Fat Thursday favorite is faworki, also called chruściki, as in meaning brittle. In America they are often called angel wings. They are thin dough ribbons, fried until crispy and sprinkled with powdered sugar. The number of these baked goods consumed annually on Fat Thursday is truly astronomical, but you can buy them any day of the year in most Polish bakeries.

The day before Lent actually begins also has its own traditions. The Tuesday following Fat Thursday and the day



before Ash Wednesday is the last day before the Wielki Post (Great Fast) begins. It is the day that marks the end of the Karnawal (Carnival) period, which in many other countries is the day people will celebrate before the forty days of fasting and religious observance should begin. In Poland this is known as Śledzik (literally Herring Night) and you'll find the traditional pickled herring washed down with shots of vodka in many homes, bars and restaurants.

On the first day of Lent - "kocanki" or "bazie" (willow branches) are cut and placed in water. While Groundhog Day is a prognosticator of winter's end in America, Poles believe that the buds opening in a few days is a good omen for a fair and mild spring. Because of the obvious climatic conditions, traditionally these willow twigs are used on Palm Sunday as "palms" to be blessed in the church. They are then taken home and placed by the holy picture of the Blessed Mother, where they remain the entire year.

[Source of information: Polish Toledo.com, culture.pl and internet photos]

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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## 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 <u>marjorie.piechowsk@sbcglobal.net</u> or 414-963-9055.

Marjorie Piechowski 2020 Polanki Newsletter Editor



(Photo courtesy of Marjorie Piechowski)

#### **Polanki Newsletter** published by

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