



Polanki, Inc.

The Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee Newsletter

April (kwiecień) 2021

Polanki Membership Meeting Friday April 9, 2021 at 7:30 on Zoom

Program: "The Magic of Interpretation." Our guest, Iwona Srienc, will share her path from Poland, her Ph.D. studies at UCLA, settling in Minnesota and becoming a simultaneous and consecutive translator from Russian and Polish.

To join the 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: 967 8235 4458

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From the President's Desk



(Photo courtesy of Camille Shaw)

The sun is shining, green plants are pushing out of the ground, vaccinations are being completed, and Easter Sunday preparations are happening. After a long and sometimes grey winter, things seem to be looking up. Even procrastinators are being rewarded. A postponement on the upcoming Zoom Book Club gives us all more time to complete the selections. April 18th at 1:00 p.m. is the new date. Consider joining in. Welcome to those who have enjoyed Book Club previously, and a special welcome to first time attendees.

For myself, I am hoping for and looking forward to being closer to business as usual. Let's all resolve that when the time comes, we will participate with real enthusiasm and until then connect as best we can via Zoom, telephone, Facebook, and even snail mail.

Best wishes to everyone to stay well and enjoy the change of seasons! *Wesołego Alleluja* and *Smacznego Jajka!*

Camille Shaw
2021 Polanki President



April Birthdays

4/01 Carol Sobanski Powers
4/09 Barbara Sadowski
4/10 Kathy Wiczorek
4/11 Sue Zblewski
4/21 Elena Shebelski

New Polanki Member

Please welcome Amy Konecny as a new Sustaining Member. Amy is the daughter-in-law of Active Member Sue Konecny and the sister-in-law of Active Member Jennifer Konecny.

Kościuszko Garden Clean-up: Saturday, April 24, 10-12

Bring your own tools (rakes, trowels, weeding implements) or use ours. Check our Facebook page (Kościuszko Milwaukee Monument) for updates. Future gardening dates are planned for the last Saturday of each month. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Mikos sgmikos@yahoo.com, (or 414-628-1937).

Polanki on Facebook

Have you checked out Polanki's Facebook page recently? "Like" us to receive timely updates, news and information about Polanki's varied activities, present and past. Tell your family and friends about us, too!



This month Sunshine Wishes are due to Active Member Judy Chattin, who normally is the one providing us with good cheer. Judy is recovering from a recent severe bout of vertigo and now receiving therapy to recover her balance. We have received no other reports of illness from Polanki members during the last month.

Please continue to remember Polanki members who are confined to their homes and greet them with a card, an email or a phone call, especially as this long pandemic continues to limit in-person socializing.

If you know of any members who are sick or who would appreciate sunshine greetings, please contact Judy Chattin, who is serving as Sunshine Co-Chair this year with Edith Malson:

Edith Malson
(414) 744-9412-home

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

A Reminder: 2021 Annual Membership Dues

Please note that your annual active or sustaining membership renewal is due. *To renew, fill out the membership form (included with this mailing) and send it with your payment 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.

Note that members who have not renewed by May 15 will no longer receive the newsletter and will not be included in the 2021 member directory. Thank you in advance for your prompt renewals. Your continued support is important for Polanki's future success and planned activities that we hope to resume later in 2021.

Easter Photo Courtesy of Margaret W.



Revision of Polanki Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation

About a year ago President Camille Shaw appointed a committee to review and revise Polanki's Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. These documents had not been revised in many years and needed to be brought up to date.

Committee members were Denna Flemming, Tamara Johnston, Susan Mikoś, and Marjorie Piechowski, committee chair. After many meetings and detailed review of the existing documents, the committee presented the revisions to the Polanki Board of Directors. The Board carefully reviewed and considered the revisions and unanimously approved them at the March 29, 2021 board meeting.

Major changes to the bylaws included tightening language and format, clarifying officer eligibility and duties, eliminating the prescribed meeting day, and revising the current treasurer duties into two positions: Managing Treasurer and Investment Treasurer. The committee also recommended changing the Auditing Committee to the Financial Review Committee, a more accurate description of its role. The Articles of Incorporation were updated to meet current language and regulations.

The next step is approval by Polanki's voting members (Active and Life Members). The original and revised documents have been sent to all Polanki members along with this newsletter.

Approval of the revised documents will be requested at the May membership meeting. In the meantime, members are asked to review the changes and direct any questions to the committee members or to the Polanki president.

POLSKIE TRADYCJE WIELKANOCNE

Maria Adamiec

Wielkanoc to czas Zmartwychwstania Pańskiego. Polskie tradycje, które rozpoczynają to święto to święcenie pokarmów, zwane potocznie „święconką.” W Wielką Sobotę tradycyjnie przynosimy w koszyku do święcenia: baranka - symbolizującego Chrystusa Zmartwychwstałego, jajka – symbol nowego życia, zmartwychwstania i zwycięstwa Chrystusa nad śmiercią, chleb – symbol Ciała Jezusa Chrystusa, a także godności człowieka, któremu nigdy nie powinno zabraknąć chleba, wędlin, kielbasy, wody i ciasta, które są symbolem dobrobytu oraz ofiary baranka. Koszyczek ozdobiony jest bukszpanem. Po święceniu, tradycyjnie trzeba obejść z koszykiem trzy razy dookoła domu, aby odstraszyć „złe duchy.”

„Święconkę” wykorzystujemy w czasie uroczystego śniadania Wielkanocnego, w Wielką Niedzielę rano, kiedy po modlitwie, składamy sobie życzenia, dzieląc się święconym jajkiem. Pozostałą część święconki używamy do krajanki do żurku i na stół Wielkanocny, na którym zazwyczaj są: sałatka jarzynowa lub inne sałatki, jajka w majonezie, chrzan, wędlina, serki i oczywiście ciasto. Drugi dzień świąt to tradycyjny Śmigus Dyngus, czyli oblewanie się wodą, szczególnie popularne wśród młodych.

ŻYCZYMY WSZYSTKIM POLANKOM WESOŁEGO ALLELUJA!



POLISH EASTER TRADITIONS

Ewa Barczyk-Pease

Easter is the time of Jesus Christ's Resurrection. The Polish tradition that starts this feast is the blessing of food, commonly referred to as „święconką.” On Holy Saturday, people bring decorated baskets filled with a lamb (butter, sugar or cake in the lamb shape or a ceramic one) symbolizing the Risen Christ; colored eggs or “pisanki,” symbols of new life, resurrection and Christ's victory over death; bread, the symbol of the Body of Christ as the “Bread of Life” as well as the dignity of people who should never lack bread; cold cuts, kielbasa, salt and pepper mixed together as a symbol of purification, water and cakes, which are symbols of prosperity as well as the sacrifice of the Lamb. The basket is decorated with boxwood, flowers and covered with a linen embroidered cloth. After the blessing ceremony, there is a tradition to walk the basket around the house three times to scare off the “evil spirits.”

The blessed food, “święconką,” is eaten for a festive Easter breakfast after prayers are said and then everyone exchanges Easter wishes while sharing the blessed eggs. Some of the foods are used to make the traditional Easter soup, “żurek,” and also are part of the big Easter meal along with Polish vegetable salad as well as other salads, hard boiled eggs in mayonnaise, horseradish—a reminder of the bitterness of Christ’s sacrifice, cold cuts, cheeses and of course a variety of cakes, including “mazurek.” The second day of Easter, i.e., Easter Monday, is called Śmigus Dyngus, which is a day of sprinkling each other with water—particularly popular among the young people.

We wish our entire Polanki family a very blessed, delicious and peaceful Easter. Smacznego Jajka!



Photo courtesy of Ewa Barczyk-Pease

Easter Mazurek

Mazurek, whether homemade or purchased at the many bakeries in Poland, is considered an Easter splurge after 40 days of fasting for Lent. That might be why this cake is tooth-achingly sweet. Another reason is that Holy Week, the period from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, is a busy one in a Polish household.

The interior and exterior of the house are cleaned from top to bottom. In the small town of Chochółow, on the outskirts of Zakopane in southern Poland, the homes are made of beautiful wood and, every spring, the women of the household get out their brushes and pails and scrub the exterior of their homes until the wood is white.

Easter cooking and baking are often done during Holy Week but with all of the other chores to complete, Easter

desserts naturally devolved into ones that could be prepared well in advance of Easter Sunday without getting stale. Enter the mazurek, often made with an abundance of dried fruits to keep it moist.



History of Mazurek

It is speculated that mazurek, the cake, was inspired by sweet Turkish desserts that came to Poland via the spice trade route from Turkey in the early 17th century, but its origin is uncertain. Russians are also fond of mazurki (plural for mazurek), but they can be entirely different from the Polish form. Often, they are made with hazelnut flour or meal and, so, are gluten-free.

Mazurek starts off with a shortbread-like crust, which may be topped with a layer or combination of layers consisting of fruit jam, dried fruit, a thick caramel, chocolate, or nuts. Like so many foods in Poland, the tarts are beautifully decorated, in patterns, a pussy willow design (a symbol of spring and used in places of palms on Palm Sunday), or with “Wesołego Alleluja” (Happy Easter) piped in meringue or chocolate ganache.

INGREDIENTS

SHORTCRUST PASTRY:

2 cups (300g) all-purpose flour
2/3 cup butter (150g) butter
7 tablespoons (80g) sugar
1 egg
1 – 2 tablespoons milk

TOPPINGS:

heaping 1/2 cup (150g) jam, preferably sour, such as plum, marmalade, or black currant

1 can Dulce de leche (400 or 500g), or 1 can sweet condensed milk
almonds, chocolate, dried apricots for decoration

INSTRUCTIONS:

If you are using a can of sweet condensed milk, it should be cooked in a pot of water on a low heat for 3 hours. The can **MUST** be covered by water the entire time; this will caramelize the sweetened condensed milk

Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C).

Combine the flour, butter, and sugar until uniform.

Add in the egg and milk; work the dough by hand or using a food processor until it comes together; it will be crumbly.

Form into a disk and wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least one hour.

Roll out the dough directly on parchment paper to a rectangle, slightly larger than a 9 x 13 inch pan and trim the dough to the size of your pan.

Place the dough, on the parchment, into the pan.

If you're making a free form shape, such as an egg, roll out the dough on the parchment, use two round shapes, one larger than the other to get the rounded top and bottom of your egg, trim using straight lines between the two arcs to create your egg shape, move dough on the parchment to a baking sheet.

Roll the dough you've trimmed off into long ropes; use these to create an edge around your pastry as dams to hold in the filling.

Cut out a rabbit or chick for decoration; small items will brown more quickly.

Spread jam on the dough.

Bake in a preheated oven until golden brown, approximately 25 minutes and cool.

Spread with dulce de leche or caramelized sweetened condensed milk and decorate as desired.

Retrieved on April 2, 2021 from The Spruce Eats: What is Polish Mazurek Cake by Barbara Rolek

Reminder: Polanki Book Club Meeting Changed to April 18 on Zoom

By Ewa Barczyk-Pease

The next Polanki Book Club will focus on Sławomir Mrożek. Our local poet, Dr. Peter Burzynski, grandson of Polanki Life Member Jadwiga Korasz, will join us for our discussion of three very short stories and one play. The short stories are "The Elephant," "Spring in Poland," and "The Chronicles of a Besieged City." The play is *Emigrants*. Scanned copies of the readings were sent with the March newsletter. If you need the readings sent again, please contact Marjorie Piechowski. Login details:

April 18, 2021 1:00 PM Central Time

<https://zoom.us/j/94995277846?pwd=WGJCL1ZtZXhsbTZBMWJSZmxXTWRtQT09>

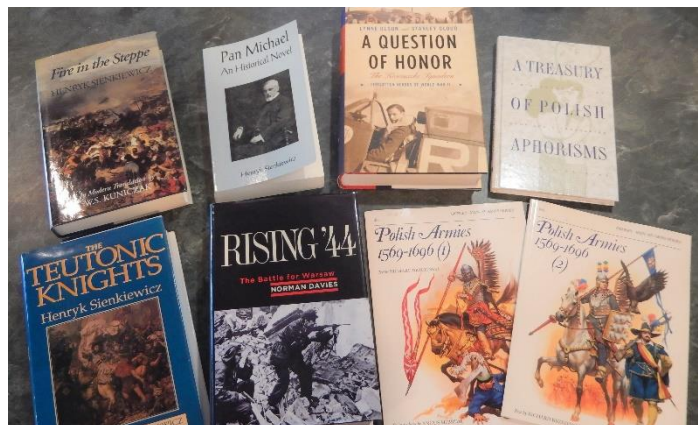
Meeting ID: 949 9527 7846 **Passcode: 596685**

To call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) Meeting ID: 949 9527 7846

Library Notes

New Hours: The Polanki Library will be open **Tuesdays 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.** or by appointment. Polanki members may borrow books and movies for one month. We also have many duplicate books for sale. If interested, please contact Susan Mikoś at sgmikos@yahoo.com or at (414) 628-1937, to arrange for pick-up or delivery. Here is a small sample:

<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
Brzezinski, Richard	Polish Armies 1569-1696 (I)	\$3.00
Brzezinski, Richard	Polish Armies 1569-1696 (II)	\$3.00
Gałązka, Jacek	A Treasury of Polish Aphorisms	\$5.00
Davies, Norman	Rising '44: The Battle for Warsaw	\$8.00
Olson, Lynne and Cloud, Stanley	A Question of Honor: The Kosciuszko Squadron	\$8.00
Sienkiewicz, Henryk	Pan Michael - An Historical Novel	\$4.00
Sienkiewicz, Henryk	Fire in the Steppe	\$7.00
Sienkiewicz, Henryk	The Teutonic Knights	\$8.00



2021 College Achievement Award Winners

The following students were selected to receive college achievement awards for 2021. They will receive their award certificates and checks through the mail and will be recognized at the 2021 virtual College Achievement Awards Tea on April 25, 2021. A Zoom link will be mailed before the event so Polanki members can participate.

RENEE COLLETTE MEMORIAL AWARD

Brianna Japkowski
Carroll University
B.S., Exercise Science, Pre-Physical Therapy

RACHEL FINGER MEMORIAL AWARD

Anastasia Esther
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
B.F.A., Film

ANNE HEINRICH MEMORIAL AWARD

Monica Juras
University of Wisconsin-Madison
B.S., Chemistry, B.A. Polish

BARBARA JANUCHOWSKI MEMORIAL AWARD

Allison Osowski
St. Louis University
B.S., Health Management, Mathematics, Statistics

BARBARA MILNER MEMORIAL AWARD

Kamila Postolowicz
University of Wisconsin-Madison
M.S., Speech and Language Pathology

ANGELA DUBIEL MISCHKE MEMORIAL AWARD

Eliza-Mae Suchan
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
B.A., Water Resources and Fisheries

CLARENCE AND ESTHER NOWICKI AWARD

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

VICTOR PODLASKI MEMORIAL AWARD

Julia Jezykowski
Marquette University
B.S., Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

BARBARA SPALDA MEMORIAL AWARD

Izabela Stankiewicz
Northwestern University
B.S., Biomedical Engineering, Pre-Med

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE: VICTOR PODLASKI POL-AM AWARD

Kacper Zaprzalka
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
B.S., Atmospheric Science

Briant Novinska-Lois
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
B.S., Education and Communications

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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<i>Publicity</i>	Susan Mikoś (414) 628-1937
<i>Membership</i>	Maria Adamiec (262) 960-0924
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Marjorie Piechowski (414) 963-9055

OTHER POSITIONS

<i>Sunshine Co-Chairs</i>	Edith Malson (414) 744-9412 Judy Chattin (414) 425-7965
<i>Auditing Committee</i>	Judy Chattin Sue Konecny Heddy Moskaluk
<i>Web Master</i>	Dana Michaels (414) 418-5414

A Note from the Editor

Thank you to all Polanki members who generously provided ideas, pictures and stories for this issue. Over the next year we will continue to print articles in Polish, usually written by Polanki members and stories about some of our long-time members. The Polanki Board appreciates your patience with Zoom meetings and looks 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.piechowsk@sbcglobal.net

Marjorie Piechowski
2021 Polanki Newsletter Editor



(Photo courtesy of Marjorie Piechowski)

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