



Polanki, Inc.

The Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee Newsletter

May (maj) 2021

Polanki Membership Meeting Friday May 14, 2021 at 7:30 on Zoom

Program: Kathleen Wroblewski is a lecturer and Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies for the History Department at the University of Michigan, where she finished her Ph.D. in 2018. Her presentation to Polanki is titled "Polish Migration as a History of Family."

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 Polanki Committee that Shines!

Polanki has a history of dedicated gracious women who have functioned as chairs and co-chairs of the Sunshine Committee. Presently, Judy Chattin and Edith Malson share these duties. Before this dynamic duo, the duties were shared by Edith and deceased member Vera Buczkowski.

During the coronavirus pandemic, home and hospital visits have been altered, but with a spirit of caring and creativity our chairpersons and other members have reached out to our members in need.

One of Polanki's special and cherished traditions has been our flower presentations at our members' funerals. A bouquet of red and white carnations is placed at the rear of the parlor or church and an empty vase is placed at the front. As members come to pay their respects, they place one flower in the vase at the front.

All members are needed to fulfill the responsibilities of the Sunshine Committee. In what ways can you help?

1. Notify the chairs or a board member of members' illness, hospitalizations, surgeries, deaths or other special situations that need attention.
2. Send cards, notes, make phone calls or visit if appropriate to support members who would benefit from these personal contacts.
3. Send monetary donations to Judy Chattin who will use the money for cards, postage and flowers. (Checks can be made out to Judy Chattin.)

Yes, Judy and Edith are chairpersons, but every Polanki member is a member of the Sunshine Committee. If we all participate as best we can, the sun will definitely shine.

Camille Shaw
2021 Polanki President



This month Sunshine Wishes are sent to Active Member Adrienne Zuber, who is dealing with several health issues.

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) 429-2196-cell
j.chattin@sbcglobal.net

Congratulations are Due!

Active Member Jessica Ullstrup Condit and her husband Jeff are pleased to announce that they are expecting the birth of a baby boy in August.

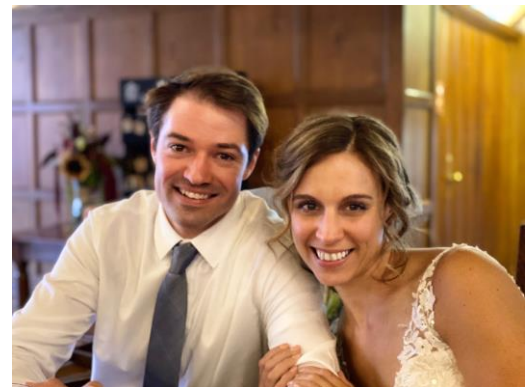


Photo courtesy of Jessica Condit

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.



May Birthdays

5/06 Krystyna Matusiak
5/08 Julie Lenkiewicz
5/09 Dorothy Broihier
5/11 Lucille Trebatoski
5/15 Angela Pienkos
5/17 Margaret (Meg) Skwierawski
5/20 Nadine Flemming
5/25 Marcia Korducki
5/25 Barbara Stankiewicz
5/26 Valerie Lukaszewicz
5/27 Claire Anderson
5/28 Lynn Adams
5/28 Jennifer Konecny
5/30 Shirley Rydell

Belated April Birthday Wishes

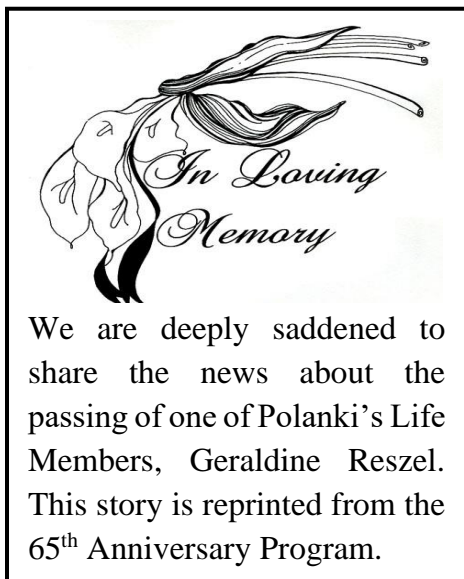
4/29 Margie Hess

Notes from Polanki's Archives

Did you know that Polanki organized a singing group in the second year of its existence? We came across this in a program booklet for an event commemorating the death of Adam Mickiewicz, sponsored by Marquette University and the Casimir Pulaski Council of Milwaukee on November 6, 1955:

“The Polonaise Chorus was organized in 1954 by the Polanki, a Polish women’s cultural organization in Milwaukee. Janusz Oksza-Czechowski, outstanding director of Polish choral music in Poland and England was invited to conduct the group.”





Geraldine Reszel joined Polanki on September 19, 1980. She recalled that her mom and dad met Heddy Moskaluk through Polamer Travel. They encouraged Geraldine and her friend Valerie Lukaszewicz (also a Polanki member of more than 35 years) to plan a trip to Poland a few years later. They did just that and had a wonderful time with Janet Branden and Rita Michalak. Geraldine and Valerie also knew Dorothy Fennig, who encouraged them to join Polanki and served as their sponsor. In those days, potential members had to attend two meetings before they could join. Geraldine remembered her first meeting. That



weekend when she went to choir at St. Veronica's, John Markowski was waiting for her to find out how the meeting went. She said, "WOW! They argued about the Sunshine Fund and where the funds should come from. Some members said dues and others did not agree. So the final decision was to have a free will collection and that is how it is to this day."

Geraldine became a very active member by 1981. She quickly became the newsletter editor, which then consisted of two typed pages on purple ditto paper. As the years went on the newsletter grew and grew. With the advent of computers and desk top publishing pictures were added and the number of pages increased with features of historical and cultural articles, birthdays for the month, announcements of upcoming events, and notices for volunteer needs for planned events. Geraldine served as an active Board Member for 35 years.

Her service to Polanki included: Reservation Chairperson for the Debutante Ball 6 years (1981 -1987); Soup Festival 15 years (2001 - 2016); and Pierogi Dinner 12 years (2004 - 2016). The complex tasks involved with handling reservations included mailing the event flyers, establishing and maintaining address lists, printing mailing labels, opening all the return forms, tallying the numbers of attendees, recording checks for submission to the Treasurer, setting up ticket envelopes, answering the phone with all types of inquiries, keeping track of all expenses, and attending the events to disperse tickets to attendees. She worked at least four months on each event. She also set up the first membership directory, maintained membership lists and set up computer files.

Geraldine loved to work with the public at all of Polanki's events. She enjoyed the camaraderie of the members; she said they are like a family where she has developed life-long friendships. One of her fondest memories from Polanki was when her dad asked her and her sister if they wanted to be Polish Debutantes and they said: "NO." Little did she know that she would become the Reservation Chairperson for the Debutante Balls.

In 1982 Poland was selected as the country that the International Institute honored at Folk Fair. Geraldine and Valerie were asked to be members of an act for Folk Fair, a Polish Wedding. Geraldine was asked to

play the part of the groom's mother and had to wear a Polish costume with a head scarf wrapped on her head. She forgot what part Valerie had, but she did remember having a lot of fun. Geraldine was very proud that she was a member for so many years. Polanki is very proud to have her in the Polanki family!

Polanki Library New Hours

By Susan Mikoś

The Polanki Library is open again, every Tuesday from 11-2 or by appointment. We have a wealth of books and audiovisual materials in both Polish and English. 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.

See who dropped in recently!



Left to right: Kathy Camacho, Camille Shaw, Edith Malson, Pat Koronkowski, Jean Wroblewski, Susan Mikoś

Photo courtesy of Susan Mikoś

2021 Garden Work Begins at Kościuszko Monument By Susan Mikoś

Polanki was instrumental in overseeing the restoration of Milwaukee's historic Kościuszko Monument, which was rededicated in 2013. We were fortunate to raise enough money to also create some beautiful garden areas around the monument. Like any gardens, these need maintenance. After working with several landscapers, we decided that we could give the gardens more TLC by doing most of the work ourselves.

For the past four summers, a dream team of neighborhood residents and Polanki members has met once a month to tend the Kościuszko Gardens. With many hands, the work is not too taxing. We plan on meeting the last Saturday of every month through October, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., weather permitting. Please join us!

Check the Kościuszko Milwaukee Monument Facebook page for updates, or contact Susan Mikoś (sgmikos@yahoo.com, 414-628-1937) for more information.



Vote Requested to Approve Amended and Revised Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws at May 14, 2021 Meeting

As reported in the April newsletter, Polanki's voting members (Active and Life Members) will be requested to approve the amended and revised Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws at the May membership meeting. The original and revised documents have been sent to all Polanki members with the April and May newsletters for review.

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 amended and updated to meet current language and regulations.

Committee members appointed by President Camille Shaw included Denna Flemming, Tamara Johnston, Susan Mikoś, and Marjorie Piechowski, committee chair. The Board carefully reviewed and considered the revisions and unanimously approved them at the March 29, 2021 board meeting.

Once the revised Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are approved by voting members, the Articles will be submitted to the State of Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions. The revised Bylaws will take effect in Polanki's next fiscal year beginning in March 2022.

May Holidays in Poland

The beginning of May in Poland encompasses three consequent holidays – International Workers’ Day (**Święto Pracy**) on May 1, Polish National Flag Day (**Dzień Flagi**) on May 2 and Constitution Day (**Święto Konstytucji Trzeciego Maja**) on May 3. Together, they form a long holiday weekend, known as **Majówka**.

In many European countries, International Workers’ Day has been celebrated on May 1st since the end of the nineteenth century. In Poland, this holiday was first established in 1889, in order to commemorate the Haymarket Affair – a major labor demonstration and protest that took place in the U.S. in 1886. As weather usually gets better around this time, locals often opt for outdoor activities and family picnics. Occasional marches happen in major cities to promote workers’ rights.

Polish National Flag day was introduced relatively recently, in 2004. On this date, the Day of the Polish Community Abroad is also celebrated. Many Poles live and work abroad, in wealthier EU countries. While May 2 is technically not a public holiday, many Poles take this day off because it is the only date in the calendar that occurs between two national holidays. Thus, it is assumed that much of the country will simply stay closed from May 1-3.



The adoption of the Polish Constitution is also considered to be one of the crucial points in the country’s history and one of the country’s major achievements. The oldest constitution in Europe (and second oldest in the world after the one in the U.S.), it was first adopted in 1791. The official holiday, however, was only established in 1918, when Poland became independent after its partitioning and reinstituted its constitution. The holiday was not celebrated under the communist government, but later, closer to the collapse of the Soviet Union, the holiday was restored. These days, celebrations include parades (including an annual military parade) and speeches from national Polish leaders.

Retrieved from [Polish Holidays: A Complete Guide \(folkways.today\)](http://folkways.today/Polish-Holidays-A-Complete-Guide)

Poland’s Constitution: A Priceless Heritage of Humanitarianism

The annual commemoration of Poland's May 3, 1791 Constitution, which signified the spiritual and moral renovation of the Polish nation after a period of stagnation caused by foreign influences under the Saxon kings, has become a proud and integral part of the civic and patriotic activities in many cities in this country and throughout the world.

To the Poles and their descendants, May 3rd is a national holiday for it bestows upon the Pole a priceless heritage of humanitarianism, tolerance and a democratic precept conceived at a time when most of Europe lived under the existence of unconditional power and tyranny exemplified by Prussia and Russia.

Poland's parliamentary system actually began at the turn of the 15th Century, but a series of defensive wars, internal stresses, outside influences, widespread permissiveness and excessive concern for the rights of dissent brought Poland to the brink of disaster and anarchy in the 18th Century. Urgently needed reforms became imperative.

The May 3rd, 1791 Constitution was the first liberal constitution in Europe and the second in the world, after the Constitution of the United States. Following the American pattern, it established three independent branches of government — executive, legislative and judiciary. Throughout the constitution runs philosophy of humanitarianism and tolerance including: perfect and entire liberty to all people; rule by majority; secret ballot at all elections; and religious freedom and liberty. But, most importantly, the constitution abolished the one vote veto powers of individuals who would undermine proposals, for their own dubious reasons.

The constitution curtailed the executive power of the King and State council. It forbid them to contract public debts, to declare war, to conclude definitely any treaty, or any diplomatic act. It only allowed the Executive branch to carry on negotiations with foreign courts, always with reference to the Diet (Parliament).

In terms of democratic precepts, the May 3rd Constitution is a landmark event in the history of Central and Eastern Europe. The Polish constitution was deemed too dangerous by the tyranny of absolutism still rampant in Europe. Thus Russia, Prussia and Austria decided to wipe out "the Polish cancer of freedom" from the face of the earth. In 1795 partitioned Poland ceased to exist as a state and in terms of national life. She lost the entire 19th century, being reborn in 1918 at the conclusion of World War I. Between 1918 and 1939, the people of Poland were once again free to govern themselves and looked forward to a bright future.

That bright future, however, ended very abruptly with the beginning of World War II on September 1, 1939. Invaded by Nazi Germany from the west and communist Russia from the east seventeen days later, Poland could not withstand the strength of their combined forces. But Poland continued to fight on the Allied side with the hopes of regaining her newfound freedom. The end of the war, however, found Poland betrayed and under the communist yoke.

The Polish government was based on principles far different from those of the Constitution of 1791 as were the other countries in Eastern and Central Europe dominated by the Soviet Union. The spirit of the Constitution did not die and in 1980, the flame of democracy arose again under the banner of Solidarity.

Solidarity honored the memory of the "Bill on Government" and after the totalitarian system was overthrown in the parliamentary elections of June 1989, the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, at the request of the Senate on April 6, 1990, reestablished the May 3 Constitution Day.

Retrieved from <https://www.polamjournal.com/Library/Holidays/3rdMay/3rdmay.html>

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

A reminder that our Polanki Polish Pottery Store offers many choices of traditional and signature Polish pottery in stock – including great new patterns and colors! Go to the website 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.



2021 College Achievement Award Virtual Tea

By Joanne Barndt

On Sunday, April 25, Polanki held its 52nd Annual College Achievement Awards “Tea” via Zoom. Although we all missed the elaborate teas of bygone years with the beautiful flowers and the sweet and savory finger foods, we reminded ourselves that this was a year beyond our control, and we did what we could to make it special. Invitations were sent to the parents and to Polanki members via email. The usual program booklet was prepared and emailed to everyone, including all Polanki members. Kinga Vnuk provided a short musical program of piano pieces composed by Polish composers for the cinema and the remarks made by the students were well received by those in attendance. The eleven students each received in the mail an ornate certificate with their check.

Each year, the Awards Committee starts its work in September by sending out announcements to all Wisconsin colleges and universities. By the end of December, we will have identified the memorial awards that will be made in honor of members who had passed away during the calendar year and the named awards for members who had contributed money during the year. In January, we review all applications and make our selections. The names of the recipients are presented to the board at its January/February board meeting.

As chair of the committee, I wish to thank this year’s committee members: Ewa Barczyk-Pease, Susan Mikoś, Marjorie Piechowski, and Carol Powers.

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If you shop with Amazon you can support Polanki, at no cost to you, every time you shop! Simply set up Polanki one time as your Amazon Smile non-profit recipient and Amazon will then donate 0.05% of your eligible purchases to our organization. When customers sign up for AmazonSmile, they’re asked to select one of over a million charities to support. When you click on the Polanki unique link, you will skip this charity selection process. Instead, you will be taken to smile.amazon.com and will automatically be asked if you want to support POLANKI. The **POLANKI** unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-6068373>

Polanki information and the Polanki link to Amazon Smile is on the Website at www.polanki.org

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2nd Vice President	Laurie Ufnowski (414) 525-1094
Treasurer	Jean Wroblewski (414) 405-7753
Recording Secretary	Tamara Johnston (610) 986-7386
Corresponding Secretary	Kathy Murkowski (414) 305-6239
Historian	Joanne Barndt (414) 962-5634
Publicity	Susan Mikoś (414) 628-1937
Membership	Maria Adamiec (262) 960-0924
Newsletter Editor	Marjorie Piechowski (414) 963-9055

OTHER POSITIONS

Sunshine Co-Chairs	Edith Malson (414) 744-9412 Judy Chattin (414) 425-7965
Auditing Committee	Judy Chattin Sue Konecny Heddy Moskaluk
Web Master	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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