



Polanki, Inc.

The Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee Newsletter

October (wrzesień) 2021

Polish American Heritage Month

OCTOBER 18, 2021
MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6:30 P.M.
POLISH CENTER OF WISCONSIN
6941 South 68th Street, Franklin, WI 53132

To provide as safe a meeting as possible, in-person attendees are asked to wear masks except while eating or drinking.

Hostesses: Volunteers needed

Program: Dożynki (Harvest) Celebrations in Poland and America

Zoom Connection – The meeting also will be available by Zoom for members who prefer not to meet in person.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86889537052?pwd=ZWwyRkZ5dGEwYk5BQ1pUK1IDUDJyOT09>

Meeting ID: 868 8953 7052 Passcode: 566076

For 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 telephone access only, call 312 626 6799 and enter the meeting ID when asked to do so. You will be able to listen to the meeting on a cell phone or a land line.

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From the President's Desk



(Photo courtesy of Joanne Barndt)

So Good to See You!

How wonderful it was to meet in person once again for the September Polanki meeting. Hopefully, we will be able to do so on a regular basis. I also appreciate the tech skills of the members who made it possible for the meeting to be on Zoom. Our maiden voyage of hybrid in-person and Zoom meeting was a success, but should become even better with more experience.

Thank you to all the members who helped to make the rummage sale for Laski a success. A special thank you to Kathy Wiczorek for spearheading the sale of costumes. Many hours of hard work behind the scenes make all of this possible.

Besides the September meeting, we also enjoyed in-person events at Polonia Sport Club. We found Polonia to be a very good fit with Polanki. Joining with another Polish organization was a nice opportunity to learn more about Milwaukee's Polish community.

President's Message continued:

For me personally, one of the best parts of Polanki is developing relationships with other members through the camaraderie of working together. Thank you to all of Polanki's volunteers and the helpfulness of Polonia Sport Club's members.

At this time, besides looking forward to in-person meetings, we can look forward to an in-person Christmas party on December 19th at the Polish Center of Wisconsin. We also look forward to a concert in March, led by Kinga Vnuk and sponsored by Edith Malson. Of course we also look forward to the Awards Tea, a special event that has a history of being very enjoyable. And we pray that Polish Fest will happen again next June.

Sadly, the last year was a year of loss. Polanki has lost many active and sustaining members. To continue to promote our mission, we need new, active and dedicated members. This is where each member can help. Share Polanki events and activities with family and friends.

Most importantly, invite your circle to consider membership in Polanki. Our small group of dedicated women has achieved much in our history. I personally look forward to equal vitality and achievement in the future. To continue these accomplishments Polanki needs you to help.

Camille Shaw, 2021 President



October Birthdays

10/03 Darla Flemming
10/08 Wanda Kosmalski
10/14 Grace Janusz
Nancy Purtell
10/16 Margaret Wadzinske
10/22 Patricia Koronkowski
10/26 Ann Pienkos
10/30 Mary Wasielewski



We offer our get-well wishes to Rita Rose Mauermann and Adrienne Zuber. If you know of any other Polanki members who are sick, please contact Judy Chattin, who is serving as Sunshine Co-Chair this year along with Edith Malson.

Edith Malson (414) 744-9412
Judy Chattin (414) 425-7965



Polanki sends our condolences to the family of Life Member Jadwiga Maria Korasz, who passed away on September 27, 2021.



Jadwiga Maria Korasz: Polanki Life Member



Jadwiga Korasz (née Błachowicz) was born to Maria Koziół and Jan Błachowicz in Częstochowa, Poland in 1927. Her mother was a teacher and her father, an entrepreneur and award-winning inventor of lamps and medical apparatuses, presented his productions at the World's Fair in Paris. Sadly, he was imprisoned and died in Auschwitz shortly before the end of WWII as the German concentration camp was being evacuated. At the age of 17, Jadwiga took part in the resistance effort known as the Warsaw Uprising, serving in the Starówka neighborhood. She narrowly escaped arrest and transport to a camp with the brave actions of her fellow members of the Polish Underground Army.

She ultimately survived the war and moved to Gdynia, where she met and married the love of her life, Tadeusz, and became the dedicated mother of Aleksandra (Władysław "George") Burzyński and Barbara (Chester Skreczko, eng.) Rajzer. After the tragic, early loss of her loving and selfless husband, Jadwiga supported her daughters as a single mother most of her life, working as a pharmacy accountant for four decades and as a hat maker on the side while doing everything she could to provide them with a comfortable life. She never remarried. Her steadfast devotion to her family continued as she immigrated to the United States and cared for her three grandchildren, Maria (Jason) Hintzke, MD; Peter Burzyński, PhD; and Michael (Kaitlyn Rosenwald, eng.) Rajzer while also dedicating time to her intricate baking and paper craftwork. She was also involved with Polanki, the Polish Women's Club of Wisconsin, earning a lifetime membership award in 2018. She shared her remarkable life story, immense pride in her family, and deep love of her culture and the arts with everyone she could.

She is preceded in death by her two brothers Jan (Wiesława) and Zbigniew (Lidia) Błachowicz; and her dearest friends; Adela Serwińska, Sophie Rusak, Teresa Ogorzelska, Aniela Kowalska, Aleksandra Karpńska, Alicja Wysocka, and Elizabeth Wagner.

She is survived by her two daughters, two sons-in-law, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren (Ava, Amelia, and William Hintzke). Furthermore, her living relatives in Poland include her cousin Andrzej (Hanna) Żochowski, their daughter Agata (Honza) Zemanova, and her nephews Jacek and Janusz Błachowicz. She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Note: Polanki Active Member Kathy Wieczorek recalls: "When I joined Polanki and started to make head wreaths at Rita Michalak's home, Jadwiga was one of the circle of ladies who made head wreaths. Her daughter Barbara is a former Polanki member. For many years Elizabeth Wagner and Jadwiga arranged the food for Polanki's college achievement awards tea."

Active Member Ewa Barczyk-Pease also remembers many telephone conversations with Jadwiga, who would read Polish poetry to Ewa.

Save the Date:

Sunday, March 6, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

All Saints Lutheran Church, Oak Creek, Wisconsin

“Songs of the Polish Soul”

With Kinga E. Vnuk and the Modern Minstrels



Photo courtesy of Susan Mikoś

This concert is generously sponsored by Life Member Edith Malson, on behalf of Polanki.



Library Notes: What's New?

By Susan Mikoś

Just received from *The Polish Review*, this special issue is devoted to Nobel Prize winning author Olga Tokarczuk. The guest editor is Joanna Trzeciak-Huss, who led our Zoom book club discussion on Tokarczuk's book, *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* in November of 2020.

Polanki Welcomes New Members



I became interested in Polanki because I would like to learn more about Polish culture, including crafts. I also belong to the Riverwest Artist Association, and the state and national organizations for art teachers.

My paternal Busia (Babcia) was born in Poland and was three years old when her family arrived in the U.S. My Grandpa's family first immigrated to Pennsylvania and he was born there. My grandparents lived on the southside of Racine, and when we were children, my sisters and I would walk with my Busia and my Aunt to St Stanislaus Church on Sunday mornings for Polish mass. I also remember that we "helped" in my Busia's kitchen, learning to make kielbasa, kolacki, pierogi, and golabki. Of course, I remember the large Polish weddings and dancing the polka with my Dad and other family members.

Susan Browne

Now, as an adult and art teacher, I have been spending more time making crafts and the foods that I learned to make in my Busia's kitchen. Most recently, I've been making "pajaki" after taking an online class with a Polish woman living in London. These paper chandeliers appear in different forms in all regions of Poland and are considered to bring good energy/fortune into your home, especially when hung in doorways or windows. Here are some of my pajaki made for family and friends:



Elizabeth Emer: I live in South Milwaukee, and work as a massage therapist in South Milwaukee and Racine. My heritage is largely German, but my maternal great grandfather on my mom's side was full Polish (last name Glubka). Both of my parents were born and raised in South Milwaukee, and my paternal grandfather (though German) loved to eat at Polonez. Recently when I moved to the area from Kenosha, I discovered a love for pierogi and created a weekend tradition of going to Polonez to get them. One Friday when I was picking them up, the bartender told me about the Polish Picnic last month at the Polish Cultural Center. I decided to stop by, and while wandering around the Center, I discovered the library and picked up the brochures about Polanki and the Cultural Center. I'm very interested in exploring my genealogy, and ethnic traditions and culture. We didn't grow up with any connection to Polish or German culture, and I'm very interested to bring this into my life and explore the Polish community in Milwaukee.

Polanki Celebration of Membership

Congratulations to these Polanki members for their years of service and commitment.

50 Years

Anna Kozlowski--Sustaining

45 Years

Bernardine Jendrzeczak--Active

35 Years

Teresa Frankowski--Active

Joanna Nowakowski--Sustaining

Camille Swedowski--Sustaining

25 Years

Claire Anderson--Sustaining

Angela Pienkos--Sustaining

Monika Sobierajski--Sustaining

20 Years

Lynn Adams--Active

15 Years

Marcia Korducki--Sustaining

Patricia Koronkowski--Active

Elaine Posard--Active

10 Years

Ruth Brzezinski--Sustaining

Louise Cieslak--Active

Anne Gurnack—Sustaining

5 Years

Susan Cieslak --Sustaining

Jennifer Flores--Sustaining

Rachel Hooten--Sustaining



Polish American Heritage Month

[This article first appeared in the Polish American Journal - October, 2002]

Since 1608, when the first Polish settlers arrived at Jamestown, VA, Polish people have been an important part of America's history and culture. In 2021, Polish Americans will mark the 40th Anniversary of the founding of Polish American Heritage Month, an event, which began in Philadelphia, PA, and became a national celebration of Polish history, culture and pride. During 2021, Poles will mark the 413th Anniversary of the First Polish Settlers who were among the first skilled workers in America. On July 30, 1619, the Polish settlers accomplished another noteworthy achievement by staging the first labor strike in America. Polish Americans will also mark the 242nd Anniversary of the death of General Casimir Pulaski, Father of the American Cavalry, and General Kosciuszko, Hero of Poland and America.



Pride in Our Heritage

The Polish American Journal proudly joins Polish American organizations, schools, churches, libraries, and cultural groups throughout the United States in celebrating **Polish American Heritage Month**. As Polish Americans, we have so many outstanding accomplishments of which we can be proud. The most influential religious leader on Earth, Pope John Paul II, shares our heritage. Throughout the 1970's and 80's Poles stood alone in their struggle for freedom against communist tyranny; they became the beacon of hope for all other Eastern bloc countries and proved it was possible for small countries to receive their national identity and break away from the U.S.S.R. The contributions which Poles have made to science, technology, music, art and literature are outstanding. Yes, indeed we can be proud of our Polish American heritage.

The concept of designating a special month in which to celebrate our heritage was begun in Pennsylvania in 1981 at the suggestion of Michael Blichasz, a Polish American activist in Philadelphia. At that time, August was designated Polish American Heritage Month and it was only celebrated in Pennsylvania. However, in 1986, Blichasz, president of the Eastern Pennsylvania District of the Polish American Congress and of the Polish American Cultural Center in Philadelphia, made a proposal at a national PAC meeting that Heritage Month be celebrated nationwide. His proposal was adopted; however, the month was changed to October, which coincides with the death of General Casimir Pulaski. The celebration in October is also more practical because it allows school children to participate in activities which would not be possible during the summer month of August. Today, all Polish American communities celebrate Heritage Month.

Because of active participation by Polish Americans across the country, more and more children are learning about the contributions of Poles and Polish Americans. These take the form of guest speakers at schools, exhibits within schools, ceremonies at town and city halls and memorials, exhibits and displays in shopping malls, and social events such as dances and food festivals. Do you volunteer at any such event? If not, you should. You will be doing your part to help spread the good word about Poles, and help to preserve our heritage here in the United States. It is up to us as parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents to instill Polish pride in the younger generation. If we don't do it, no one else will, and that would be a tragedy and the end of a lineage strong in faith, family and community. One of the greatest benefits of Polish American Heritage Month is that it causes us to take time from our daily routine to pay special attention to our heritage. Regardless of what we do to celebrate this month, make a promise to yourself to do something special because you are special, you are a Polish American!

Proclamation S229 of August 17, 1984 Polish American Heritage Month

By the President of the United States of America: A Proclamation

The United States is a country in which people of many different heritages are bound together by a common dedication to democratic principles. The mosaic of ethnic diversity invigorates our culture and strengthens our society. For this reason, the Polish American Congress and other Polish American clubs and organizations across the country are celebrating August 1984 as Polish American Heritage Month.

The millions of Americans who trace their ancestry to Poland have made vast contributions to our Nation. Tadeusz Kosciuszko and Kazimierz Pulaski crossed the ocean to help the American colonies win their independence. Throughout the last two centuries, thousands of Polish Americans have fought bravely to help preserve that independence. Polish Americans have also made outstanding contributions in the arts, the sciences, and in industry and agriculture. Through these efforts they have helped in innumerable ways to establish a strong and free United States.

Americans of Polish descent take great pride in and honor two great world leaders who have their roots in Poland. Both Pope John Paul II and Lech Walesa, the Nobel Peace Laureate and founder of the Solidarity Labor Federation, have gained the world's respect and admiration. Solidarity has been continuing the Polish people's struggle for freedom since its founding in August 1980. The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 577, has designated August 1984 as "Polish American Heritage Month" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this occasion.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim August 1984 as Polish American Heritage Month, and I urge all Americans to celebrate this month with appropriate observances.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and ninth.



Community News and Information



Polish Center of Wisconsin continues to host a Piwo Patio Party and Café on Wednesdays throughout October from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Polish Center of Wisconsin: Wednesday October 20 at 7:00 p.m. Veterans Room: Lecture by Professor Donald Pienkos: "Dynamics of The Polish American Vote in Major U.S. Elections"

Photo courtesy of Polish Center of Wisconsin website

Polish Center of Wisconsin: Sunday February 22, 2022, The Maxwell Street Klezmer Band

Upcoming Polanki Membership Events

November 15, 2021: Membership Meeting

December 19, 2021: Christmas Party at Polish Center of Wisconsin

January 17, 2022: Membership Meeting

February 21, 2022: Annual Business Meeting and Election

March 21, 2022: Membership Meeting

March 27, 2022: College Achievement Awards Tea at Polish Center of Wisconsin

April 18, 2022: Membership Meeting

May 16, 2022: Membership Meeting

June 20, 2022: Membership Meeting



"For Our Freedom and Yours" Monument Unveiled in Stevens Point

Text and photos by Irena Frączek

[Excerpted from October 2021 Newsletter of The Polish Heritage Club of Wisconsin-Madison]

*"The memory of our common fate, Poles and Americans, intertwining both in times of peace and war, is perfectly reflected in memorials like this one. The allegory of work unveiled here today, **For Our Freedom and Yours**, becomes clear to anyone who knows the shared history of our two nations" - from the letter of Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Malgorzata Bąk-Guzik*

The theme of interwoven history reverberated strongly throughout the dedication ceremony of the "Freedom" sculpture unveiled in Stevens Point on September 18, 2021. Its full name, **For Our Freedom and Yours**, derives from the Polish motto **"Za wolność naszą i waszą"** that inspired generations of Poles fighting for freedom of Poland and other nations since the November Uprising (1830-1831). Unmistakably, though, the Polish white eagle and the American bald eagle at the focal point of the monument spotlight the ties connecting Poland and the United States.



Speaking to the crowd gathered around the monument overlooking the Cultural Commons of the Pfeiffer Pioneer Park, the sculpture creator, Bolesław Kochanowski, elucidated, "The canted and skewed spires signify the difficulties of upholding and retaining justice and liberty. The cracked and broken tips of the spires indicate that freedom came with hardship and sacrifice." The artist explained also his choice of materials: "Corten alloy and stainless steel are used for durability and permanence, signifying strength and longevity. These materials also differentiate the Polish white eagle and the American bald eagle." And finally, "The eagles are turned away from each other, signifying they're guarding the other's flank."

A picture perfect dedication ceremony matched the immense significance of the monument to Polish Americans. In fact, Portage County has more people of Polish descent per capita than any other county in America," reported the WSAW-TV station on that day and one can only add that this area is a true birthplace of Wisconsin Polonia. The first Poles arrived here in 1857 and the Polish settlements they built were the first in Wisconsin and only the second in the U.S.



Introducing his own family at the ceremony, Bolesław Kochanowski characterized the monument itself as a true family effort because his three sons, Vincent, August, and Valerius, participated in the design, engineering, and installation of this massive undertaking (2000 man-hours to complete). The artist also paid a moving tribute to his wife Anna for managing the family business office and splendid Polish cooking, and to his late father Bolesław Sr., for being the most decisive influence in his life.

With over 300 guests in attendance, the ceremony began with a Polish Legion of American Veterans color guard setting the flags of Poland and the United States at the foot of the monument. In an unscripted but awe-inspiring

development, the sudden appearance of a bald eagle overhead enthralled the audience, graced the ceremony's opening and enhanced its symbolism.

During the interviews that followed, Kochanowski stressed that apart from the sculpture being his personal point of pride, he hopes that it will inspire many to get in touch with their roots and heritage. The meaning of his creation, however, extends well beyond the potential effect on individuals. Even before the ceremonial unveiling, David Rydzewski astutely remarked, "This monument is likely the most important work dedicated to Polonia since the Kościuszko monument dedication in Milwaukee in 1906." As such, Kochanowski just wrote a new page in the history of Polish Americans.

The blacksmithing tradition runs deep in Bolesław Kochanowski's family, with roots in Kotlice, a small village near Zamość in southeastern Poland. His father, Bolesław Kochanowski Sr., became a blacksmith journeyman after mastering the trade as an apprentice of his uncle, Hipolit Kochanowski. Rounded up and sent to forced labor in the Nazi Germany during WWII, he ended up in the refugee camp in Gablingen, where he married and started a family. They eventually emigrated to the United States, where Boleslaw Sr. took employment at Chicago Transit Authority as a lead blacksmith for the storied "L" trains. Later he moved on to become the boilermaker-blacksmith layout designer at the huge shops of the Milwaukee Road Railway.

One of two brothers born in the United States, Bolesław Kochanowski earned a degree in International Relations from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The draw of working with his hands prevailed, however. He joined Bolesław Sr. at the Milwaukee Road shops, where his father's motto "Look and Learn" was instrumental in mastering his blacksmithing skills. This mastery, in combination with his natural artistic inclination, led him to strike out on his own into the field of architectural ironwork. Results of this highly successful endeavor range in scale from gates, railings, screens, and fine metal artistic pieces to monuments that adorn many parks, civic centers and commercial buildings throughout Wisconsin and beyond.

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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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A Note from the Editor

As we try to resume in-person meetings and public events, we will keep you informed and updated as circumstances change. ***At this point we are planning our traditional Christmas party and the College Achievement Awards Tea, both to be held at the Polish Center of Wisconsin.***

If you have ideas for future stories or potential meeting programs, please contact me or submit ideas at marjorie.piechowsk@sbcglobal.net or 414-963-9055.

Marjorie Piechowski
2021 Polanki Newsletter Editor



(Photo courtesy of Marjorie Piechowski)

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