



# Polanki, Inc.

The Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee Newsletter

January (styczeń) 2022

## January Membership Meeting

**Monday January 17, 2022 on Zoom  
6:30 p.m.**

**Program:** Our January presentation will be made by our own new member Sue Browne, who is a recently retired MPS art teacher. She will share some background information and then demonstrate the Polish folk art of making "pajaki", or Polish paper chandeliers. If you would like to try your hand at making one during or after the demonstration, Sue suggests the following supplies: tissue paper cut into 3"- 4" circles, scissors, a pencil, needle and thread, glue, and a small sheet of kitchen foil.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://wisconsin->

[edu.zoom.us/j/94637263548?pwd=YVVuMzBJL1ZxROIPVEFyM1B2VjNCQT09](https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/94637263548?pwd=YVVuMzBJL1ZxROIPVEFyM1B2VjNCQT09)

Meeting ID: 946 3726 3548

Passcode: 927741

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 946 3726 3548

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## From the President's Desk



*(Photo courtesy of Joanne Barndt)*

2022 has arrived. This means that soon my term as president will be finished and there will be a new president. This term was unique because of the challenge of Covid 19. Despite the challenge, there were situations that showed the flexibility and creativity of Polanki members. Zoom itself was fantastic as were the Polanki members who have the skills and experience that allowed our club to meet despite the pandemic. Because of the technology we had a wonderful Zoom Christmas party in 2020 and had very interesting speakers from other states. Of course I was also thrilled to go back to a face to face Christmas party recently. We are now in a spike and so will be meeting virtually again, but this flexibility is wonderful.

I have great gratitude to the Polanki board and members who have demonstrated their ability to change with the peaks and valleys as they are presented. Looking forward to a new year. Best of everything, especially health, in 2022.

*Camille Shaw, Polanki President*



## January Birthdays

01/01 Beth Gavin  
01/06 Sybil Grandeck  
01/09 Sandy Je T'aime  
01/10 Rose Meinholz  
01/19 Diane Ufnowski  
01/21 Rebecca Kiefer  
01/27 Theresa Markowski  
01/31 Roma Numrych

## Directory Changes and Additions

Please make these changes to your 2021-2022 membership directory for the following members:

New Sustaining Member  
Paul Cieslak  
W171 S7932 Lannon Drive  
Muskego, WI 53150

New Contact Information for Active Member  
Wanda Kosmalski  
W215 N10190 Hickory Drive  
Colgate, WI 53017  
Email:  
[jwkosmalski@gmail.com](mailto:jwkosmalski@gmail.com)



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, with a card, an email or a phone call.

We offer our condolences to Sustaining Member Beth Gavin, whose mother passed away on December 25.



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

Judy Chattin  
(414) 425-7965-home  
(414) 429-2196-cell  
[j.chattin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j.chattin@sbcglobal.net)

# Polanki and the Conservancy for Healing and Heritage

Story and Photos by Susan Mikoś

Founded in 2003, the Conservancy for Healing and Heritage occupies 36 acres of woodland, wetland and lake in Franklin, Wisconsin. It adjoins the Reiman Cancer Center, to the west, and the Polish Center of Wisconsin, to the east. It was established by representatives of both entities, under a charter providing that the natural environment will be maintained in perpetuity.



Because of the Conservancy's connection with Polish heritage, Polanki decided to support it by sponsoring the Entrance Garden, which would be recognized with a small individual sign. Polanki's Board agreed that it would be appropriate to incorporate some Polish poetry lines on the theme of nature.

While there is a rich body of Polish poetry dealing with nature, it wasn't easy to find just a few lines that could stand on their own. After much searching, Roma Numrych came up with the perfect poem – just four lines long, and titled "In the Woods." It was written by a Polish woman named Maria Czerkawska, whose life story is very touching and has special meaning for a group like Polanki. A story about the poet follows on the next page.





# Maria Czerkawska (1881-1973)

By Roma Numrych



Maria Czerkawska was born in Bezmiechowa Górna, in the southeastern corner of Poland. Her parents belonged to the impoverished nobility, and she grew up in the countryside, on the family estate. She always had a special feeling for nature, and especially for trees and forests. Her mother died when she was four years old. She and her younger brother, Józef, were brought up by their father.

Educated at home, she was a voracious reader of Polish literature and poetry. She attended the Jagiellonian University in Kraków for two semesters, but returned home when her father fell ill. He died a year later. Maria was left to take care of her brother and assumed the management of her family estate. She also wrote poetry and published her first collection of poems in 1908.

At the outbreak of World War I, Maria left the countryside for two years. In 1916, she returned home and married Gustaw Mauthner, a chemist. She found the estate in ruins but rebuilt it. She lived there until the Second World War,

engaging in forestry, beekeeping and herbal remedies. She continued to write poetry, which she published in various periodicals and later in several small volumes. In September 1939, she and her husband accompanied her brother to Lwów, where he went for medical treatment. Her brother died soon after, and her husband disappeared when World War II broke out. She returned to Kraków, where she worked in a bookshop. She continued to write and began to write also for children, sharing her knowledge of life and work in the countryside, and writing with quiet sensitivity about the beauty of nature, especially her beloved forests. One of her poems and drawings about apple trees is shown here.



In 1957 Maria was seriously injured in a road accident and was confined to a wheelchair for the rest of her life. She lived in Kraków and continued to write until her last years, when she could no longer see. An anthology of her collected poems was published in Kraków a year before her death.

Throughout her difficult life, Maria Czerkawska found solace in close contact with nature, especially trees, but also with birds and wildlife. She had an intimate knowledge of the natural world, in which she worked for her whole life, where she rested, and which gave her healing in difficult moments. Until the end of her life she maintained a cheerful spirit and a friendly smile. An engaging storyteller, she drew in both young and old.

She died on November 2, 1973 in Kraków and is buried in the Salwator Cemetery there.

**Photo credits: Portrait:** [https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria\\_Czerkawska](https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria_Czerkawska)

**Poem:** [http://spbezmiechowa.pl/?page\\_id=1112](http://spbezmiechowa.pl/?page_id=1112)

## **Upcoming Polanki Events**

**January 17, 2022: ZOOM Membership Meeting, Polish Center of Wisconsin**

**February 21, 2022: Annual Business Meeting and Election, Polish Center of Wisconsin**

**[to be rescheduled] “Songs of the Polish Soul, ” Kinga Vnuk and the Modern Minstrels, All Saints Lutheran Church, sponsored by Edith Malson, Polanki Life Member, with reception to follow**

**March 21, 2022: Membership Meeting, Polish Center of Wisconsin**

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

**April 18, 2022: Membership Meeting, Polish Center of Wisconsin**

**May 16, 2022: Membership Meeting, Polish Center of Wisconsin**

**June 20, 2022: Membership Meeting, Polish Center of Wisconsin**

## **Planned Community Events at the Polish Center of Wisconsin**

**February 5, 2022: Wisconsin Bakers Association Pączki Day, Polish Center of Wisconsin**

**Pączki Day: Tuesday March 1, 2022 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Lenten Fish Fries: Fridays from March 4 to April 15, 2022**

**Easter Bazaar: Saturday April 2, 2022**

**Easter Brunch: Sunday April 17, 2022**

**Dziękuję bardzo!**

**By Nadine Flemming**

Polanki's first in-person Christmas Party in two years was held at the Polish Center of Wisconsin on December 19, 2021. Due to the rising Covid numbers, the event was for members only, of which 47 people came out. Masks were required as well. We were able to give a few hugs to several members whom we haven't seen since the pandemic began. The event began with a cash bar followed by a tasty Polish buffet. Our members provided plentiful homemade treats as dessert. Transitional deacon, Matthew Ferch, gave an interesting talk about his background and devotion to Our Lady of Częstochowa. Deacon Matthew is Active Member Loretta Nyland's grandson! Numerous gorgeous items were raffled with the profits going to Laski. Special thanks to all the people who helped make the party a success, especially my daughter, Denna, who acted as MC! I won't mention all the other people who helped as I don't want to inadvertently forget anyone. Here's to a healthier and happier 2022 with a bigger and better Christmas party!

# What's New in the Polanki Library? Check it out!

Books on Polish costumes and Bolesławiec pottery



**Library Hours: Tuesdays 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**or by appointment (call Susan Mikoś at 414-628-1937)**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

***President*** Camille Shaw

***1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*** Ewa Barczyk-Pease

***2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*** Laurie Ufnowski

***Treasurer*** Jean Wroblewski

***Recording Secretary*** Tamara Johnston

***Corresponding Secretary*** Kathy Murkowski

***Historian*** Joanne Barndt

***Publicity*** Susan Mikoś

***Membership*** Maria Adamiec

***Newsletter Editor*** Marjorie Piechowski

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## **OTHER POSITIONS**

***Sunshine Co-Chairs*** Edith Malson  
Judy Chattin

***Auditing Committee*** Judy Chattin  
Sue Konecny  
Heddy Moskaluk

***Web Master*** Dana Michaels

## **A Note from the Editor**

Thank you to all Polanki members who provided ideas, pictures and stories during the last 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 at 414-963-9055.

Marjorie Piechowski  
2020 Polanki Newsletter Editor



*(Photo courtesy of Marjorie Piechowski)*

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