



# Polanki, Inc.

The Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee Newsletter

February (luty) 2022

## Annual Business Meeting on Monday February 21, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. 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://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/94637263548?pwd=YVVuMzBJL1ZxR0lPVEFyM1B2VjNCQT09>

Meeting ID: 946 3726 3548

Passcode: 927741

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) and enter

Meeting ID: 946 3726 3548

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## The Mission Continues

My term as president of Polanki will soon be over. Both because of Polanki members and Polanki's mission, it has been an honor and privilege to have served for the last two years. Although this time was challenging in certain ways, it was also a time of growth and inspiration due to the support and encouragement of Polanki members, especially Polanki board members.

As my term comes to an end, I think of the many enjoyable, challenging, and interesting activities that I have experienced through Polanki. A variety of activities hold special memories, including friends that I have made through Polanki committee work. Some are no longer with us, but their hard work, dedication and inspiration remain with me. Besides cherished friendships, I have especially enjoyed board work, helping with many receptions, Folk Fair cultural exhibits, Cultural Village work at Polish Fest, organizing Poland under Glass, joining in book club meetings, and mostly meeting wonderful Polanki members. The best part is that I look forward to new experiences that will come my way through my continued membership in Polanki.

My wish for you is that you find your own niche in Polanki, perhaps by activity in an area you have passion for, or by pushing the walls of your comfort zone to learn new skills and interests. Personally I look forward to joining with you in future Polanki activities. It takes a full and active membership to continue Polanki's robust mission. Much joy, friendship, learning and accomplishment in 2022 and beyond.



*Camille Shaw, Polanki President*



## February Birthdays

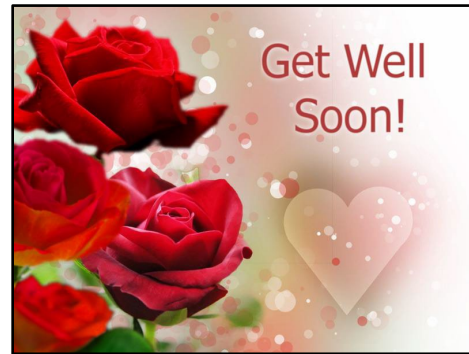
02/01 Iwona Nowak  
02/09 Veronica Artus  
Cynthia Lepkowski  
02/13 Ewa Barczyk-Pease  
02/13 Sharon Kearns  
02/16 Kathleen Johnston  
02/20 Diane Holytz  
Jerry Moskaluk  
02/23 Rachel Hooten  
02/26 Anna Rogalski

## Upcoming Polanki Events

**Awards Tea:** March 29, 2022 at 2:00 p.m., Polish Center of Wisconsin  
**“Songs of the Polish Soul,” Kinga Vnuk and the Modern Minstrels Concert:** May 15, 2022 at 4:00 p.m., All Saints Lutheran Church, Oak Creek, WI  
(See separate flyer for more details)

## Community Events at the Polish Center of Wisconsin

**Pączki Day:** March 1, 2022, 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.  
**Lenten Fish Fries:** beginning on March 4, 2022, 4:00-8:00 p.m., continuing on Fridays throughout Lent  
**Easter Bazaar:** April 2, 2022  
**Maxwell Street Klezmer Band:** April 10, 2022  
**Easter Brunch,** April 17, 2022



Polanki sends sincere get well wishes to Sustaining Members Joan ShROUT, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer and is undergoing treatment, and Margie Hess, who sustained a broken wrist.

We encourage all Polanki members to keep in touch with those members who are confined in their homes. Please remember them with a card, an email or a phone call.

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](mailto:j.chattin@sbcglobal.net)

## Directory Change: New Address

Margie Hess  
114 Downing Drive  
Apt G108  
Chadron, Ohio 44024



**Polanki sends our deepest sympathy to the following Polanki members who recently lost loved ones:**

**Jennifer Flores, on the loss of her mother in law, Guadalupe Flores**

**Rachel Hooten, on the loss of her mother in law, Christine Hooten**

**Marjorie Piechowski, on the loss of her life partner, Nate Jorgensen**

**Elena Shebelski, on the loss of her sister in law, Evelyn Shebelski (nee Rogowski)**

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## **Library Corner: Love and Polish Poetry**

*By Roma Numrych*



February 14 has been known around the world as Valentine's Day for decades. Its roots, however, go back as far as the 3rd century AD. On that day, according to various legends, the physician/bishop Valentine was executed by the Roman emperor. One of the reasons may have been his love for a patient, which is known from the letter he wrote to her.

In the Middle Ages, this day was celebrated in Europe as the Feast of Lovers. The main theme was love, with motifs of water, fire and herbs. In Poland, a similar day on June 21/22 was called Kupala Night and was associated with the summer solstice. Over the years, the traditions have been modified, and there is a different name, but the most important thing is always to confess your feelings to your loved one. The February

Valentine's Day was taken over from Western Europe in the 1990s and today it is celebrated in Poland the same as in other countries of the world. Old customs required that the chosen ones were sent letters of confession of feelings, often in the form of poems. Sweets and flowers, especially red roses, are also good ways to show feelings. Critics allege that merchants are using this day to liven up the shopping season between New Year's and Easter. Thus, there are fewer traditions and gestures in the form of a personally written poem for a loved one, and more commercialism.

That is why we invite those who are in love to the Polanki Library, where we will help you find the right work, both in Polish and in translation. It will definitely be more original than a card from a store with a ready-made text. It will also be a good opportunity to get acquainted with the numerous love poems in Polish literature. Who has not been in love at least once?

The *Treasury of Polish Love Poems* contains works by 44 authors, ranging from Kochanowski to Halina Poświatowska. Some masters of this literature are widely known: Staff, Tuwim, Leśmian, Pawlikowska Jasnorzewska, Prus, Sienkiewicz, Konopnicka, and Orzeszkowa.

This verse by Stefan Witwicki (1802-1847) was famously set to music by Fryderyk Chopin. You can listen to it here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRL87P5Eamc&ab\\_channel=AleksandraRykowska](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRL87P5Eamc&ab_channel=AleksandraRykowska)

### *Życzenie*

Gdybym ja była słońcem na niebie,  
Nie świeciłabym, jak tylko dla ciebie.  
Ani na wody, ani na lasy:  
Ale przez wszystkie czasy  
Pod twym okienkiem i tylko dla ciebie,  
Gdybym w słońeczko mogła zmienić siebie.

Gdybym ja była ptaszkiem w pięknym gaju,  
Tylko bym w twoim chciała śpiewać kraju.  
Ani na wody, ani na lasy:  
Ale przez wszystkie czasy  
Pod twym okienkiem i tylko dla ciebie...  
Czemuż nie mogę w ptaszka zmienić siebie?

### *My Wish*

If I were the sun in a sky of blue  
I would only shine on for you.  
Not above the river, nor the tree  
But rather for all eternity  
At your window and only for you  
If I could into a sun be born anew!

If I were a bird from that grove most grand  
I would sing in no other land.  
Not above the river, nor the tree  
But rather for all eternity  
At your window and only for you--  
Why can't I into a bird be born anew!  
(Translated by Mirosław Lipiński)





# Poland at the Olympics

*By Marjorie Piechowski*

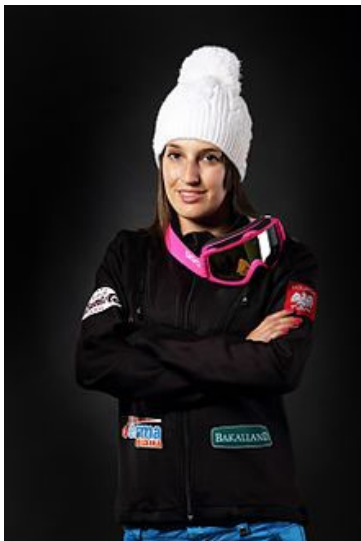


Poland first participated at the Olympic Games in 1924 and has sent athletes to compete in every Summer Olympic Games since then, except for the 1984 Games, when they were part of the Soviet-led boycott of the 1984 Summer Olympics. Poland has also participated in every Winter Olympic Games. Over the years Polish athletes have won a combined total of 320 medals: 79 gold, 96 silver, 145 bronze at the Summer and Winter Games.

Poland is the second most successful country in total medals (after Hungary) of those who have never hosted the Olympics. Its most successful teams have been football and volleyball. Poland ranks fifth all-time in modern pentathlon, seventh in athletics, and has also been successful in weightlifting, martial arts and Nordic skiing.

In 2022 Poland is represented by 57 athletes, 27 men and 30 women, competing in ten categories: Alpine skiing, biathlon, cross-country skiing, figure skating, luge, Nordic combined skiing, short track speed skating, ski jumping, snowboarding, and speed skating.

Two athletes were selected by their Polish teammates to carry the flag in the 2022 opening ceremony. Zbigniew Marcin Bródka is a speed skater and a 2014 Olympic champion in 1500 meters. A 37-year old father of two, he works as a firefighter in the State Fire Service station in Łowicz.



**Aleksandra Król**

Aleksandra Król, 31, is a snowboarder who competed at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, in parallel giant slalom and parallel slalom. She was born in Zakopane.

She completed a degree in applied psychology at Jagiellonian University in 2015, specializing in sports psychology. She later received a master's degree in physical education and works as a physical education teacher.

She describes her sports philosophy by an old Polish saying:  
*"Who doesn't risk never gets to drink champagne."*



**Zbigniew Bródka**

Retrieved on February 10, 2022 from <https://olympics.com/beijing-2022/olympic-games/en/>

# Edmund Lewandowski's "The Spirit of Polonia"

*by Barbara A. Rutkowski*

Upon exiting the Milwaukee County Courthouse after serving jury duty, I glanced at a modern silver sculpture that stood proudly on the south plaza. My inquiring mind wanted to know, "Who was the artist and what is its history?" After doing some research, I found that the name of the sculpture is "The Spirit of Polonia." The artwork is also known as "Solidarity." The artist was a Polish Milwaukeean I had met on a few occasions, Edmund Lewandowski. I admired him and his intricate artwork for years. His works exemplified the Precisionism movement, an American style of painting that depicts the Machine Age. In his lifetime he created more than 1,000 paintings, sculptures, mosaics and many murals for corporations and federal buildings. Other artistic creations included magazine covers, ship interiors, and a U.S. commemorative stamp for the Polish millennium that sold over 100 million copies. Several of his works have been acquired by the Museum of Wisconsin Art in West Bend and the Milwaukee Art Museum owns ten Lewandowski artworks. Although his works hang in many prominent museums and art galleries, he remained a humble gentleman.

"The Spirit of Polonia" sculpture was commissioned by Polanki in 1968 to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of its 1953 founding. In 1969 the sculpture was dedicated and donated to the citizens of Milwaukee County. In 1981 the artwork was moved to a more prominent location at the south plaza of Milwaukee County Courthouse, where it remains today. A fountain surrounding the base of the sculpture works during the summer months. A decorative ball existed inside the circles at the base but the ball has since disappeared.



*Photos courtesy of Barbara Rutkowski*



Although difficult to read, there are two plaques near the sculpture, one with information about the artist and the other noting Polanki's sponsorship of the sculpture on behalf of Milwaukee County's Polish community.

Edmund Lewandowski was born in Milwaukee in 1914. He graduated from the Layton School of Art (now the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design) and later he became the second president of the school. He first worked for the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) during the 1930s and then for the U. S. Army Air Force as a combat artist/map designer. After completing many works in Milwaukee, he taught at Florida State University. Years later he moved to Rock Hill, South Carolina to be the chairman of the art department at Winthrop University. He retired from academic life and remained in South Carolina for the rest of his life, where he died in 1998. His wife Dolores (nee Bingenheimer) died at age 96 in 2013.

Lewandowski's local artworks, in addition to "The Spirit of Polonia" sculpture, include mosaics and murals. The War Memorial Center's west side exterior mosaic (1.4 million pieces of glass/marble) was completed in 1976. When constructed, this artwork was not only the largest public art commission in Wisconsin's history, but it was also the largest outdoor mosaic sculpture in America.



*Photo retrieved from <https://warmemorialcenter.org/about/> on February 11, 2022*



For Marquette University Lewandowski created a mosaic to show the meaning of the life of the late Father Peter A. Brooks, S.J., past Marquette University president for whom the Brooks Memorial Union had been named. When a new Alumni Memorial Union was constructed, the mosaic was carefully removed and brought to the second floor of the new building in the summer of 2007.

Other local murals survive at Miller Brewing, St. Luke's Hospital, and the former Allen-Bradley Company's cafeteria.

*Photo retrieved from <https://www.marquette.edu/alumni-memorial-union/art-collection.php> on February 11, 2022*

Thanks to Susan Mikoś and Marjorie Piechowski for their contributions to this article.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE: [Outdoor Sculpture in Milwaukee](#) by Diane Buck, 1995

# February Birthdays of Three Famous Poles

By Marjorie Piechowski

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.

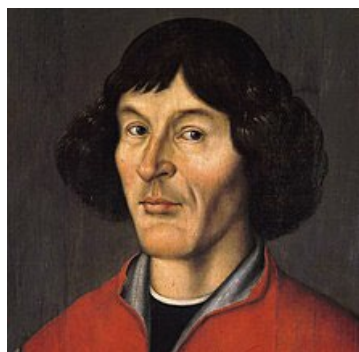
Kościuszko was born in February 1746, in a manor house in Brest Litovsk Voivodeship, then part of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth. At age 20, he graduated from the Corps of Cadets in Warsaw, Poland. After the start of the civil war in 1768, Kościuszko moved to France in 1769 to study. In 1776 Kościuszko 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 Catholic canon and scholar 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 was known to have spoken Latin, German, and Polish with equal fluency; he also spoke Greek and Italian, and had some knowledge of Hebrew. He also was



a mathematician, astronomer, physician, translator, governor, diplomat, and economist. 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 *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* on the very day that he died. 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. For many years Polanki has co-sponsored Milwaukee's Chopin Piano Competition held during Polish Fest.

*[Information and photos retrieved from Wikipedia and a variety of other sources]*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

<b><i>President</i></b>	Camille Shaw
<b><i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</i></b>	Ewa Barczyk-Pease
<b><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</i></b>	Laurie Ufnowski
<b><i>Treasurer</i></b>	Jean Wroblewski
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<b><i>Historian</i></b>	Joanne Barndt
<b><i>Publicity</i></b>	Susan Mikoś
<b><i>Membership</i></b>	Maria Adamiec
<b><i>Newsletter Editor</i></b>	Marjorie Piechowski

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## **OTHER POSITIONS**

<b><i>Sunshine Co-Chairs</i></b>	Edith Malson Judy Chattin
<b><i>Auditing Committee</i></b>	Judy Chattin Sue Konecny Heddy Moskaluk
<b><i>Web Master</i></b>	Dana Michaels



## **A Note from the Editor**

Thank you to all Polanki members who provided ideas, pictures and stories during this last year. We appreciate your patience and cooperation and look forward to a more normal 2022.

If you have ideas for future stories or potential meeting speakers and programs, please let me know: [marjorie.piechowsk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marjorie.piechowsk@sbcglobal.net) or 414-963-9055.

Marjorie Piechowski  
2022 Polanki Newsletter Editor



*(Photo courtesy of Marjorie Piechowski)*

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