



Polanki, Inc.

The Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee Newsletter

March (marszec) 2022

Polanki Membership Meeting Monday March 21, 2022 at 6:30 on Zoom

The program will feature *Prof. Marta Cieślak*, "From Cabbage to American Vegetables: The Re-education of Polish Women in American Cities in the Early 20th Century." A Visiting Assistant Professor at University of Arkansas at Little Rock since 2017, she is a researcher, educator, and coordinator with experience in academic, public history, and community-based institutions. She is First Vice-President of the Polish American Historical Association.

To join the 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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From the President's Desk



(Photo courtesy of Laurie Ufnowski)

A NEW ADVENTURE

My dear Polanki members, it is an honor to be elected as your president and I will do whatever possible to keep Polanki strong and vibrant in the years to come. I know I have very dedicated and resilient footsteps to follow. Camille Shaw was beyond excellent as were former presidents Anne Wal, Denna Flemming, Diane Holytz and many more.

I promise to do my best over the next year, and I always welcome everyone's input and assistance. It is what keeps our organization strong and growing.

I am asking all members for your extra assistance over the next year as we start to bring back many of our in-person events. The Awards Tea on March 27, 2022, is the first and I want to thank everyone for the excellent response for sweet and savory goodies as well as monetary donations.

President's Message, continued

Louise Cieslak and Judy Chattin told me the response was wonderful. These two wonderful ladies and their committee have a beautiful event scheduled. I want to encourage you to attend. It should be fabulous. The Awards Tea represents a core mission value of our organization and we should be very proud of the contribution it makes to students in our community. The Awards Committee works extremely hard and is very thorough with the application process and choice of awards to be given each year. They are a very dedicated team and we as an organization are truly blessed to have them.

I also want to make a plea for more members to come forward to help with our future events. We have several coming up and we could definitely use some help. I will bring these up at our meeting on March 21, 2022, so please have your calendars handy.

I would also like to promote the Polish Center Fish Fry during the Lenten season. Camille and I attended on March 4, 2022, had a very tasty meal, with a very nice portion and at a reasonable price. You can also stop by our terrific library and see the beautiful and refreshed doll display and check out the sales table in the main entrance hall.

Finally, I want to say "Thank You" (Dziękuję) to all of you for placing your confidence in me to help lead us through the next year. Warm regards and miłego dnia.

Laurie Ufnowski
2022 Polanki President



We continue to encourage all Polanki members to keep in touch with those who are confined in their homes. Please remember 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. Their contact information is:

Edith Malson
(414) 744-9412-home

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



March Birthdays

3/05 Elizabeth Emer
3/09 Kristine Chmielewski
3/15 Helen Waliszewski
3/16 Marilyn Zuehlke
3/19 Joanna Nowakowski
3/27 Jane Sorenson
3/28 Marjorie Piechowski
3/31 Edith Malson

A Reminder: 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 **Lynn Adams, Membership Chair**, at the Polanki mail box. You can also send the form and payment directly to Lynn 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 2022 member directory.

Thank you in advance for your prompt renewals. Your continued support is important for Polanki's future success and planned activities.

2022/23 POLANKI BOARD

The following slate of candidates was presented for election at the February Polanki annual meeting; all were elected for a one-year term. The Nominating Committee included Judy Chattin, Edith Malson and Kathy Camacho.

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Marjorie Piechowski



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

Active Member Susan Mikoś on the loss of her brother in law, Andrzej Królikowski, in Łódź, Poland

Sustaining Member Krystyna Matusiak, on the loss of her mother, Teresa Kornacka, in Tomaszów, Poland

2022 College Achievement Award Winners

The following students were selected to receive college achievement awards for 2022. They will receive their award certificates and checks at the Awards Tea on March 27, 2022.

NELLIE BARAN MEMORIAL AWARD

Abigail Rydell, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

TOMASZ BRZYSKI MEMORIAL AWARD

Michael Zawicki, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

EMILIA BRZYSKI MEMORIAL AWARD

Caldwell Gluesing, Marquette University

CLARENCE AND ESTHER NOWICKI AWARD

Rachel Zawicki, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

KATHERINE OCIEPA MEMORIAL AWARD

Tobiasz Marchewka, Marquette University

GERALDINE RESZEL MEMORIAL AWARD

Slavomira Tomka, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

SHIRLEY RYDELL MEMORIAL AWARD

Emma Rydell, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

JOHN "JOE" SHAW MEMORIAL AWARD

Celia O'Neil, University of Wisconsin-Madison

ELIZABETH WAGNER MEMORIAL AWARD

Marcel Kas, Marquette University

Support for Ukraine



We are all following events in Ukraine and Poland and sending prayers and support to those suffering due to war and to our Polish brothers and sisters who are helping the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing their country to find refuge in Poland. About 1,700,000 refugees have poured into Poland already and they have been welcomed with compassion and assistance offered by all branches of government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses, and individual citizens – many housing the refugees in their own homes. Here are some options to make donations for aiding the refugees and their helpers in Poland. Note that many donations are tax-deductible in the United States. Please check before donating.

<https://how-to-help-ukraine-now.super.site/help-translate/local-ve/us#:~:text=Ways%20to%20Help,projects%20in%20Ukraine.>

<https://supportukrainenow.org/>

National Bank of Ukraine Special Account to Raise Funds for Ukraine's Armed Forces
<https://uaahelp.monobank.ua/usa>

The **POLONIA FOR UKRAINE** fund was established by the Polish American Congress (PAC) to collect donations for serving medical needs in Ukraine and refugee needs in Poland. The funds will be distributed through the *Council on Aid to Ukrainians* and the *Polish Red Cross*. Here is a link for donating over the internet by credit card, debit or PayPal.

Another option is the **POLAND'S UKRAINIAN ASSISTANCE FUND** established at the Polish Center of Wisconsin. All monetary donations submitted to this fund (by credit card or PayPal) will go directly to the people providing relief on the ground in Poland.

The **HELP UKRAINE NOW** fund, set up by the NYC-based Kosciuszko Foundation under the motto "Stand With Ukraine: For Your Freedom & Ours, " adopted a similar mode of funds distribution. The foundation's president is working in person on the Polish-Ukrainian border and has opened his own house located close to the border to refugees. The Embassy of Poland in Washington D.C. suggests donating to these Polish humanitarian aid organizations that accept donations in foreign currencies:

- Polish Center of International Aid (PCMP)
- Polish Humanitarian Action (PCMP)
- Caritas Polska (forms only in Polish)
- Ocalenie Foundation
- Polish Medical Mission (Polska Misja Medyczna)
- Polish Red Cross (Polski Czerwony Krzyż PCK)
- UNICEF Poland

We Haven't Heard from YOU: Membership Survey

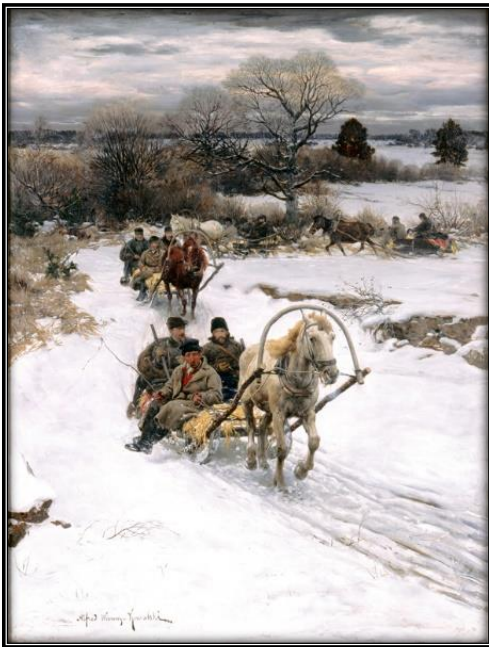
By Kathy Murkowski

Are you tired of working on your taxes, or playing Wordle? Please take 10 minutes and complete the Polanki 2022 Membership Survey. We want to know your thoughts. The survey was sent out with the January Polanki Newsletter. Please return your completed survey to the Polanki mailbox. Printed copies of the survey form also will be available at the April in-person membership meeting. Thank you for helping learn what activities you would like Polanki to engage in during the coming year. Your input is valuable and important.

Time To Get Out Again

By Kathy Murkowski

Now that spring is in the air and the corona virus is waning, it is time to start moving and enjoying activities again. One outing could be to the Milwaukee Art Museum. Polanki is a Patron member of the museum. With our membership, Polanki has four membership cards for Polanki members to use. These cards are available for signing out at the Polanki library. With the card you receive priority access to advance, timed tickets. The Donor ID is used for those. Our membership also includes a 10% discount on shopping and dining at the MAM. If you would like your own Family or Dual membership you can join with a 20% discount.



The museum has 18 objects by Polish artists, including *Still Life with Ace of Spades* by Henri Hayden, located in K201. This is a long-term loan on display. Another example of Polish art is in the Layton Collection: *Winter in Russia* by Alfred von Kowalski-Wierusz, on display in S205 and shown here. (<http://collection.mam.org/details.php?id=20019>).

Another interesting place you might like to visit is the new Polish market, Wioletta's, at 3955 South Howell, Milwaukee, phone number 414-226-5986. The recently opened market is still stocking its shelves with many delicious Polish items after its grand opening on March 5.

The owner, Samantha Bartoszek, told us that they hope to have not only cold but hot items in their deli in the future. And yes, there is kielbasa, Black Forest ham, pierogies, dill pickles for the soup you want to make, gift cards and goodies to put in the grandchildren's Easter baskets. And they even have nourishing cream by Pani Walewska for your face! We think you will enjoy a visit to this new resource to find your Polish delicacies.



Poland Joins NATO

By Rachel Zawicki, 2022 College Achievement Award Winner

In 2019 Poland celebrated twenty years since its accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). NATO is a military alliance made of thirty countries that constitute a system of collective defense (Zięba, 2019). Poland joined NATO on March 12, 1999, due to President Lech Walesa addressing Poland's desire for democratic reign and yearning for a safe Europe. Additionally, Poland wanted to strengthen its security and create a safe country for its citizens within Europe (Ministry of National Defense). Poland's membership in NATO is vital to Poland's history because the alliance increased the security and prestige of Poland, transformed the Polish Armed Forces to NATO standards, and allowed for infrastructure investments to the country (Ministry of National Defense, 2019). Poland's accession to NATO was a symbolic rejection of the Russian influence and bound Poland and America for years to come in alliance with one another (Tyburski, 2021). The alliance of NATO has been important for Poland's history by strengthening the country and taking a public stand against Russia.

Poland's alliance with NATO has shaped American history because the two countries declared their alliance to NATO and therefore to each other by showing the world that they would fight for and stand by each other in years to come. Since the accession in 1999, Poland has held military training for American soldiers, taken part in fourteen missions and operations with America, and carried out humanitarian disaster relief in Pakistan to American soldiers (Ministry of National Defense, 2019). Poland's membership in NATO after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 in New York City, shows how strong the NATO alliance is. Poland took part in defending the airspace of the Baltic States and showed the world that they stood with America during the tragedy.

The membership allowed Poland to take an active part in supporting the U.S. in its policy to promote democracy in Eastern Europe. The alliance with NATO changed Poland's government forever to create a democracy* and a multiparty system with the Head of State as the President, who is elected by the majority of voters for a five-year term (Zięba, 2019). Before the end of the Cold War in 1989, Poland was the second-most populous Communist country. Because of the alliance in NATO, Poland has been able to keep a democratic system for the last 22 years and benefit from its citizens' voices and opinions being heard (Tyburski, 2021). America has helped to influence this democracy and has been a friend and ally to Poland just as Poland has been an ally and partner to America over the last 22 years in their membership in NATO.

I firmly believe that the membership of Poland in NATO in 1999 has altered and strengthened world events for both America and Poland. The alliance with NATO has shown that these two countries will fight and help the other in times of distress and need. The alliance of both countries with NATO has also shown other countries the power and force that Poland and American have together. I am proud to have a Polish heritage and to see how my ancestors from Poland are united and partnered with America and the ancestors we both share.

*Note: It should be noted that the establishment of democracy in Poland was actually a precondition for its admission into the NATO alliance and not an outcome of becoming a member.

References: Ministry of National Defense: <https://www.gov.pl/web/national-defence/poland-in-nato-20-years>
Tyburski, M. (2021) The accession of Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary to NATO.
Warsaw Institute. <https://warsawinstitute.org/accession-poland-czech-republic-hungary-nato/>
Zięba, R. (2019). The 20th Anniversary of Poland's Accession to NATO. <https://transatlanticrelations.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/09-Zieba.pdf>

Upcoming Polanki Events

Awards Tea: March 27, 2022 at 2:00 p.m., Polish Center of Wisconsin

Polanki Book Club: May 5, 2022 at 7:00 on Zoom

“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

Lenten Fish Fries: 4:00-8:00 p.m., continuing on Fridays throughout Lent

Easter Craft Fair: April 2, 2022

Maxwell Street Klezmer Band: April 10, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Klezmer music is the traditional folk music of the Jews of Eastern Europe. They originally lived in Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Romania and Russia. Originating in the 1600s, klezmer music spread across Eastern Europe where it was essential for weddings. In the 1800s klezmer music came to America’s shores and soon incorporated jazz and swing and had an influence on American pop music. If you have attended a performance of klezmer music or have seen the musical, “Fiddler on the Roof,” you will thoroughly enjoy this concert.

Easter Brunch, April 17, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

Community Event at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

Syrena’s “Swiecone” Easter buffet: Palm Sunday April 10, 2022, 2:00-5:00 p.m. See separate flyer for more details.

Polanki Book Club

The Polanki Book Club will be discussing *One Star Away* by Imogene Salva. The book is available on Amazon for \$14.99 and at Boswell’s Books on Downer Avenue for the same amount. Barnes and Noble also has the book available for on-line ordering.

The author will join the discussion on Zoom. She tells the story of her Polish family and their exile from Poland to Russia and eventually to Africa.

The discussion is scheduled for Thursday May 5, 2022, at 7:00, on Zoom. More details about logging in will be provided closer to the date of discussion.



Celebrating Women's History: Polish-American Women

Compiled by Marjorie Piechowski from a variety of sources

March has been designated as Women's History Month in the United States, so it seems fitting to celebrate some Polish-American women who have excelled in their respective professions from earlier eras and the present.

Wanda Landowska, Concert Pianist and Harpsichordist (1879-1959)

Born in 1879 to Jewish parents, Wanda Landowska began to study piano at the age of four. By the age of fourteen she was a graduate of the Warsaw Conservatory of Music. By twenty-one she decided to revive the harpsichord, Bach's favorite instrument, and play his music on it. Unable to find an instrument anywhere in Europe, she asked the famous Pleyel of Paris to build for her a replica of Bach's instrument. On it she brilliantly played the music of Bach, Mozart and Handel for enchanted audiences.



After 1900 Landowska lived in Paris as a professor of music, also teaching harpsichord at the Musical Hochschule in Berlin. In 1923 she visited Philadelphia, sending her harpsichord ahead of her, to perform under Leopold Stokowski, who had invited her to the United States. After World War II she moved permanently to the United States, arriving on the date of the bombing of Pearl Harbor with two suitcases

as her only possessions. She settled in Lakeville, Connecticut in 1949 and re-established herself as a performer and teacher in the United States, touring extensively. Her last public performance was in 1954. She died in 1959 at the age of eighty, recognized as the world's foremost master of classical harpsichord, and an accomplished concert pianist as well.

Helena Modjeska, Theatrical Artist (1840-1909)

Born as Helena Opid in 1840 in Kraków, she was one of ten children in a family of moderate means. She received a good education, learned German and French, and studied music and voice in Kraków. Her tutor, Gustaw Modrzejewski, whom she married and whose shortened name she used in the United States, helped her deepen her studies of literature, art and music, including Polish and foreign writers, especially Shakespeare. After her marriage, she performed on the stage of a company that her husband managed. She eventually went to Poznan and then to Warsaw. After the death of her daughter and then her husband, she married Count Chlapowski. In the meantime, she was acquiring international recognition and was invited to play in Vienna, Berlin, and Paris.

At the height of her career, a series of unpleasant events in Russian Poland disturbed her to the point that her health broke down. She and her husband emigrated to the United States in 1875, settling on a California ranch. With great effort, Helena learned enough English in one year to perform in a theater in San Francisco, with instant success. She was soon booked for a tour of small western towns and then New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and other cities, performing with great success. By 1883 she was recognized as part of the American stage, playing Shakespearean and other dramatic roles for the next 25 years, in America and in Europe. Helena Modjeska was recognized as an outstanding dramatic artist and a beautiful woman with an exceptional voice and manner, and also as a great human being. She lived in Orange County, California until her death in 1909 and, at her request, was buried in her hometown, Kraków.



Marcella Kochańska Sembrich, Violinist, Pianist, Operatic Artist, and Teacher (1858-1935)

Born in Poland in 1858, Marcella Kochańska, was the daughter of a poor musician, Casimir Kochański, in Wisniewczyk, near Lwów. She enrolled at the age of 11 at the Lwów Conservatory, where she majored in violin and later studied piano, violin and voice in Vienna. In 1883, she made her American debut at the Metropolitan Opera House, acclaimed by leading critics. Madame Sembrich made her last Met appearance in 1909. Every seat had been sold and every inch of standing room was taken. After 1918 she lived permanently in America, spending winters in New York and summers on the shores of Lake George. She became director of the vocal department at both the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and the Juilliard Graduate School of Music in New York. The studio she built off the shores of Lake George has been converted into a memorial for her and is open to the public each July and August.



Maria Elizabeth Zakrzewska, Physician (1829-1902)

Dr. Maria Zakrzewska broke the barriers that prevented women in the United States from practicing medicine, founded hospitals for women, and opened the nursing profession to black women. She was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1829 of a wealthy, intelligent and distinguished Polish family. Her mother was a midwife who tried unsuccessfully to become a physician. From her earliest years Maria Zakrzewska dreamed of entering the medical profession. After several applications, at the age of 18, she was admitted to the School of Midwifery in Berlin. Her outstanding work there gained her high recognition and a position as a professor in the School of Midwifery. When she learned that in the United States women could become full doctors of medicine, she resigned in 1853 and came to the United States. In 1856 she graduated from Western Reserve College of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio but there were no hospitals where a woman doctor could intern and do a residency. Determined to break this barrier, Dr. Zakrzewska founded the New York Infirmary for Women and Children and became its first resident physician. In 1859 she organized the New England Hospital for Women and Children, serving as its director for 40 years and teaching obstetrics. The first black woman doctor, Dr. C. Still, interned at Dr. Zakrzewska's New England hospital and the first black woman nurse graduated from the school of nursing at that hospital. She devoted her entire life to the cause of opening the medical profession in the United States to women.



Tamara Lempicka (born Tamara Rosalia Gurwik-Górska in 1898), was a Polish painter who spent her working life in France and the United States. She is best known for her polished Art Deco portraits of aristocrats and the wealthy and for her highly stylized paintings of nudes. Born in Warsaw, Lempicka briefly moved to Saint Petersburg where she married a prominent Polish lawyer, then traveled to Paris where she studied painting and developed her blend of late, refined cubism and the neoclassical style. She was an active participant in the artistic and social life of Paris between the Wars.

Following the outbreak of World War II in 1939, she and her husband moved to the United States and she painted celebrity portraits, as well as still-lives and, in the 1960s, some abstract paintings. Her work was out of fashion after World War II, but made a comeback in the late 1960s, with the rediscovery of Art Deco. She moved to Mexico in 1974, where she died in 1980. At her request, her ashes were scattered over the Popocatepetl volcano.



Contemporary Polish-American Women

Singer/song writer **Pat Benatar**, who has sold 35 million albums worldwide and is a four-time Grammy Award winner, was born Patricia Mae Andrzejewski in 1953, in Brooklyn, New York. Her mother, Mildred was a beautician, and her father, Andrew (*Andrzej*) Andrzejewski (1926–2009), was a sheet-metal worker. Her family moved to Lindenhurst, a village on Long Island. Benatar became interested in theater and began voice lessons, singing her first solo at the age of eight.



After completing one year of college, Benatar worked as a bank teller but quit her job to pursue a singing career after being inspired by a Liza Minnelli concert. In 1975 she moved to New York to pursue her singing career. Benatar was nominated for induction in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame alongside fifteen other artists; despite coming in second in the fan vote, she was not among the inductees. She was nominated for a second time in 2022.

Mika Emilie Leonia Brzezinski Scarborough (born in 1967) is an American journalist, talk show host, political commentator, and author. Formerly a CBS News correspondent, she was their principal "Ground Zero" reporter during the September 11 attacks. In 2007 she joined MSNBC as an occasional anchor, and was subsequently chosen as co-host of *Morning Joe*, alongside Joe Scarborough.



Mika Brzezinski is a visiting fellow at the Harvard Institute of Politics. Her main political interest is in wage equality for women. She is also the author of three books, two on her career as a journalist and one on food addiction. She is the daughter of diplomat and political scientist Zbigniew Brzezinski, who served as a counselor to President Lyndon B. Johnson and as the National Security Advisor to President Jimmy Carter.

Christine Baranski was born in Buffalo, New York, in 1952, the daughter of Virginia (née Mazurowska) and Lucien Baranski, who edited a Polish-language newspaper. Her grandparents were stage actors in Poland. Baranski was raised in a heavily Polish and Roman Catholic neighborhood in a Buffalo suburb. She graduated from New York City's Juilliard School with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1974.

An actress, comedian, producer, and singer, she is a 15-time Primetime Emmy Awardee. Baranski won two Tony Awards for Best Featured Actress in a Play for the Broadway productions of *The Real Thing* and *Rumors*. For her recurring role as Dr. Beverly Hofstadter in the sitcom *The Big Bang Theory* she received four Emmy Award nominations. She is currently starring in the HBO series, *The Gilded Age*. Baranski was married to actor Matthew Cowles from 1983 until his death in 2014 with whom she had two daughters. In 2018 she was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame.



Dagmara Domińczyk was born in Kielce, Swietokrzyskie, Poland, in 1976. The daughter of Aleksandra and Mirosław Domińczyk, a member of the Polish Solidarity movement, she moved with her family to New York City in 1983 as asylum seekers due to her father's involvement with Amnesty International and the Solidarity movement. She is a Polish-American actress and in 2013, she became a published author with the release of her novel, *The Lullaby of Polish Girls*. She graduated from Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama in Pittsburgh, where she met fellow student and future husband Patrick Wilson, with whom she has two children. She got her big break on Broadway in Patrick Marber's *Closer* in 1999. Since then she has appeared in many movies, in the Broadway play *Enchanted April* and has a main role in the HBO comedy-drama television series *Succession* (2018–present).



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A Note from the Editor

I appreciate the opportunity to serve for another year as the editor of this newsletter. Thank you also 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 or 414-963-9055.

Marjorie Piechowski
2022 Polanki Newsletter Editor



(Photo courtesy of Marjorie Piechowski)

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