



Polanki, Inc.

The Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee Newsletter

February (luty) 2023

February 15, 2023

Annual Business Meeting and Election

6:30 P.M.

POLISH CENTER OF WISCONSIN

6941 South 68th Street, Franklin, WI 53132

Program: Member Focus Group Discussion on Planning for Polanki's Future: brainstorm on Polanki's activities and goals for the near and far future.

Hostesses: Judy Chattin, Joy Kuharske, Diane Laus, Marjorie Piechowski, Camille Shaw

To join the meeting by Zoom:

<https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/96403758692>

To join the meeting by telephone:

312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 964 0375 8692 Passcode: 165776

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From the President's Desk



[Photo courtesy of Laurie Ufnowski]

Happy Valentine's Day! Time is just flying by and spring will be here sooner rather than later. To plan for events during the next year, the Polanki Board held two retreats in January and February. After much discussion, the Board determined that a dues increase was necessary, the first in 26 years. An article (pages 4-5) provides more background for this increase, announced at the January meeting. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support and volunteering that makes Polanki the terrific organization that it is. Our new volunteer form has a wide selection of opportunities so please sign up when you renew your membership. The February meeting is our annual business meeting and election. After the business meeting, we are inviting you to participate in a planning session to help determine Polanki's direction for the next year and into its next seventy years.

I have been honored to be your president this past year for such a SPECIAL group of women in an organization we can all be very proud of.

Warm regards, Laurie Ufnowski



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

March Birthdays

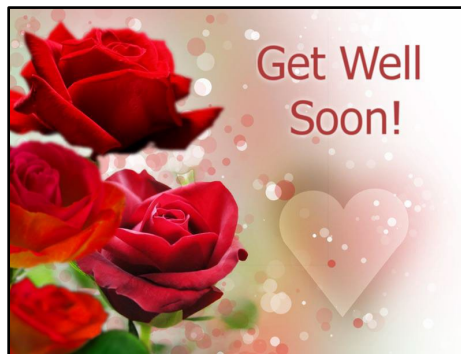
3/05 Elizabeth Emer
3/09 Kristine Chmielewski
3/15 Helen Waliszewski
3/16 Marilyn Zuehlke
3/19 Joanna Nowakowski
3/21 Lori Sykora
3/27 Jane Sorenson
3/28 Marjorie Piechowski
3/31 Edith Malson

More February Birthdays

Tadeusz Kościuszko, Freedom Fighter for America and Poland, was born 277 years ago in Poland on February 4, 1746.

Mikołaj Kopernik, internationally known by his Latin name, Nicholas Copernicus, was born 550 years ago in Toruń, Poland, February 19, 1473. He is known as the Father of Modern Astronomy, as well as “the Man who Moved the Earth and Stopped the Sun.”

Fryderyk Chopin, an internationally known pianist and composer, was born 213 years ago in Poland on February 22, 1810.



This month we are sorry to report that Active member Jennifer Konecny has been diagnosed with uterine cancer and is undergoing a regimen of chemotherapy, followed by surgery and then radiation. Please keep Jennifer in your prayers and thoughts.

We also send condolences to Active Member Pat Koronkowski, on the loss of her brother in law and to the family of Sustaining Member Dolores Winkler, whose obituary follows on the next page.

Please continue to remember Polanki members who are confined to their homes and greet them with a visit, a card, an email or a phone call.

Contact Judy Chattin, who is serving as Sunshine Co-Chair this year with Edith Malson, with any news to share.

Edith Malson (414) 744-9412
Judy Chattin (414) 425-7965-home
(414) 429-296-cell
j.chattin@sbcglobal.net





Dolores Winkler

August 10, 1929-January 26, 2023

Polanki Sustaining Member



Born to eternal life January 26, 2023, age 93, as the result of a cardiac arrest January 17, 2023. Dolores was born August 10, 1929 to Charles and Eugenia Kowalski of Shorewood. She was preceded in death by her parents, her beloved husband of 45 years, Donald, and infant children Thomas and Mary Jean. Selfless, loving and caring mother of David (Therese Pickart), and proud grandmother of Sarah. Dear sister of Audrey (Hank) Andreis, of Clewiston, Florida. Loving aunt of Terry (Ken) Osborne, Barbara Lynch (Billy Cox), Henry Andreis, Mary (Jason) Martinez, and Linda (Roy) Tucker. Also survived by cousins, other family members and friends.

Dolores graduated from St. Robert elementary school, Messmer High School and the Milwaukee Business Institute. At BI she was active in the Beta Chi Rho honorary business sorority, and had regular gatherings with a group of the members for almost the rest of her life.

She began her career in accounting at the Curative Workshop, followed by almost thirty years of employment at West Allis Memorial Hospital, retiring as Director of Budgets and Reimbursement.

Dolores enjoyed being active in professional organizations, and was a former President of the Milwaukee Chapter of the National Association of Accountants (now Institute of Management Accountants), a former President of the NAA Mid-America Regional Council, and a former President of the Wisconsin Chapter of the HealthCare Financial Management Association.

In retirement she was active in the Seniors Club at her parish and in Polanki, the Polish women's cultural club of Milwaukee. Dolores enjoyed traveling in the U.S. and to other countries, including her ancestral homeland of Poland. She particularly enjoyed many trips to Walt Disney World with her sister Audrey. She also enjoyed photography, coffee (black), dark chocolate and, most of all, the company of her family and friends.

Visitation was held at Becker Ritter Funeral Home, 14075 W. North Ave., Brookfield, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 2, 2023, and at St. Mary's Visitation Parish, 1260 Church St., Elm Grove, on Friday, February 3, 2023 beginning at 9 a.m., followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. Graveside services at Holy Cross Cemetery followed. A special thank you to her caregivers from Home Instead Senior Care and the staffs at West Allis and Elmbrook hospitals for their kind care.

Polanki: Celebrating 70 Years and Moving Forward

By the Polanki Board of Directors

Over its seventy years, Polanki has had a major impact on the Milwaukee Polish community and the community at large. In January and February of 2023 the Polanki Board held two planning retreats to review Polanki's many contributions to Polish culture in the past and to assess Polanki's ability to continue to fulfill its mission for the future. Polanki was founded in 1953 by several Polish women with this mission: Polanki, Inc. is a nonprofit, educational and charitable organization that seeks to acquaint Americans of Polish and non-Polish extraction with Polish history, language, culture, arts and customs.



The Polanki founders collected dues of 25 cents at each meeting during the first year. For the next 12 years dues were \$3.00 and were raised to \$5.00 in 1966, remaining at that level for the next 30 years. Thirty years later, in 1996, dues were raised to \$10.00 and have remained so for the next 27 years, from 1996-2023. The value of \$10.00 in 1996 equals almost \$20.00 today.

During those years Polanki membership remained steady, with a relative balance between Active and Sustaining Members, with a very few Polanki members being awarded Life Membership for their extensive contributions to Polanki. ***However, membership has***

shifted dramatically in the last year: the 2022-2023 membership of 123 divides into 48 Active Members, 71 Sustaining Members and 4 Life Members.

Given this shift in the membership and because dues have not increased in 27 years, the Polanki Board determined that an increase was necessary to reflect the increased cost of living and to enable continuous support of Polanki's cultural efforts for the future. ***The Board therefore has established a dues increase to \$20 for Active Members and \$40 for Sustaining Members, beginning with the 2023-2024 fiscal year (February 1, 2023).*** Revised renewal forms are included with this newsletter and will be available in person at the February annual meeting and at membership meetings through May.

Year	Active	Sustaining	Life	Total
2012-13	58	66	4	128
2013-14	58	52	4	114
2014-15	67	58	4	129
2015-16	68	60	3	131
2016-17	56	55	7	118
2017-18	60	63	7	130
2018-19	63	72	7	142
2019-20	60	68	7	135
2020-21	60	69	6	135
2021-22	52	64	5	121

The Polanki Board sincerely appreciates the commitment and loyalty of all Polanki members over these many years and looks forward to renewed commitment and enthusiasm over the next year and the future. Among many ***contributions to the community*** over seventy years, Polanki's hard-working, committed members have:

- Hosted Polonaise Debutante Balls
- Organized and sponsored Chopin Piano Competitions
- Commissioned a bassoon concerto by the Polish composer Andrzej Panufnik
- Hosted two national conventions of the American Association of Polish Cultural Clubs

- Supported the Polish house exhibit at Old World Wisconsin
- Cooperated with the Milwaukee Public Museum on the European Village exhibit and other projects
- Supported the acquisition and digitization of UWM's Kwasniewski Photographic Collection
- Supported the restoration of a Polish painting for display at *Leonardo da Vinci and the Splendor of Poland* at the Milwaukee Art Museum and hosted a reception at the Polish Center of Wisconsin
- Supported Syrena Polish Dancers and other local Polish organizations
- Sponsored concerts of Polish music played by the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra
- Commissioned the "Solidarity" sculpture/fountain in front of the Milwaukee County Courthouse
- Contributed to the preservation of St. Josaphat Basilica
- Contributed to the Conservancy for Healing and Heritage in Franklin
- Supported the Laski School for the Blind in Poland
- Provided scholarships for Polish children to study English at Polish language camps
- Presented numerous programs on Polish culture to local schools and community groups
- Helped to popularize Polish folk arts and pottery while raising funds through frequent sales events.

Polanki's many contributions to preserving and presenting Polish culture include:

- Sponsoring concerts of Polish music, including two special concerts of original music settings for Polish Renaissance poetry
- Organizing numerous exhibits and coordinating the Cultural Village at Polish Fest
- Establishing and staffing the Polanki Library at the Polish Center of Wisconsin
- Organizing/sponsoring Polish films and lectures by Polish scholars
- Numerous cultural displays of Polish culture and historic Polish folk costumes at Holiday Folk Fair
- Polish folk art demonstrations at Holiday Folk Fair
- Decorating Christmas trees with traditional Polish ornaments at the Polish Center of Wisconsin, the Pabst Mansion, the Governor's Mansion, Dousman Stagecoach Inn Museum and Holiday Folk Fair; artistic displays of traditional Polish creches at the Polish Center of Wisconsin and other venues
- Polish Soup Festival and Pierogi Dinner
- Leading the fund-raising initiative to restore the Kosciuszko Monument site in Kosciuszko Park
- Humanitarian aid for Poland during martial law and for Ukraine following its invasion by Russia
- Donating funds for the restoration of the Royal Castle in Warsaw
- Multiple donations to the Polish Center of Wisconsin and sponsorship of numerous cultural events
- Polanki College Achievement Awards – for 53 years – averaging \$10,000 per annum.

Library Note

By Susan Mikoś



Library volunteers (l-r) Roma Numrych, Kathy Camacho, Julianne Gaseor, and Sue Holcomb are pictured on a recent Tuesday. The Polanki Library is open every Tuesday from 11-2, and during major public events at the Polish Center.

We have received compliments on the quality of our collection, which encompasses books in Polish and in English that relate to Poland, as well as music and films. The Polanki library also has some genealogical resources. We are happy to assist patrons with genealogy and other research projects or simply to find something for their enjoyment.

Photo courtesy of Susan Mikoś

A Reminder: Annual Membership Dues

Please note that your annual active or sustaining membership renewal is now due. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, dues have been increased for the 2023 fiscal year. **The new dues are \$20 for Active Members and \$40 for Sustaining Members.**

To renew, fill out the membership form and the new volunteer 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 or turn it in at a membership meeting.

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 31 will no longer receive the newsletter and will not be included in the 2023 member directory.

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

Jerzy Skolimowski Nominated for Oscar

Retrieved from editors-culture-pl@getresponse-mail.com

Io by Jerzy Skolimowski is among five foreign-language films nominated for the 2023 Oscar. The Oscar nomination for Skolimowski's film was no surprise. It crowned the film's many-week triumphal procession across the USA. Only in recent weeks, **Io** was awarded as the best foreign language film by choice of the New York Critics Association, while the Los Angeles Film Critics Association and the American National Society of Film Critics gave it its awards for best cinematography in a foreign film. Skolimowski's film has been reviewed by major industry magazines, from The Hollywood Reporter to Chicago Tribune, Deadline, Indie Wire and The New Yorker, with Monohla Dargis of The New York Times calling it the most important film of the past year.



In 2022, Jerzy Skolimowski's picture won the Special Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, and Paweł Mykietyn, the author of the film's music, received the European Film Award and the Cannes Soundtrack Award. The Polish film will compete for an Oscar with such films as the German **All Quiet on the Western Front** by Edward Berger, based on the classic novel by E.M. Remarque, the Belgian **Close** by Lucas Dhont, the Irish **The Quiet Girl** by Colm Bairéad and the Argentinian **Argentina, 1985** by Santiago Miter.

Io is one of the most original Polish films of the last decade. A philosophical essay and an ecological manifesto by a rebellious artist who, even in his eighties, proves to be one of the most youthful and courageous minds of the Polish cinema. In **Io** he tells the story of a donkey picked up from a provincial circus and set on a journey to one of Italian slaughterhouses. Accompanying him on this journey, we become observers of the modern world – full of absurdities, saturated with selfishness, violence and human thoughtlessness.

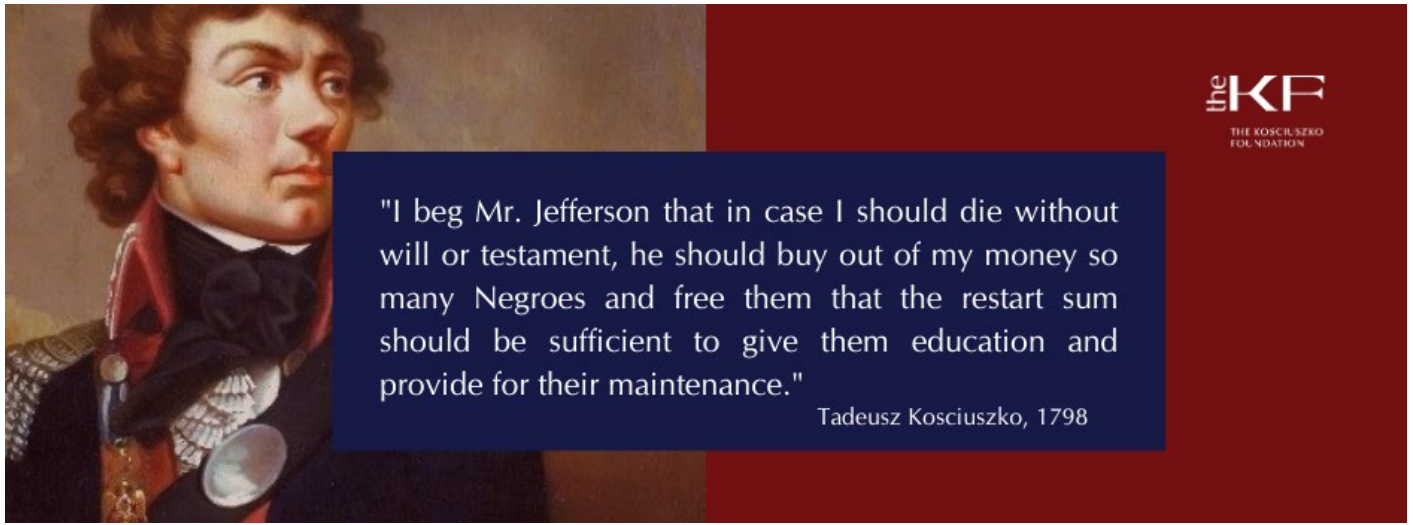
Referencing Robert Bresson's masterpiece, **Au Hasard Balthazar** from 1966 (another story about a donkey and a girl), Skolimowski makes **Io** a witness to prosecution in a trial against humankind. Because **Io** is a story about cruelty towards nature and the brutality with which we 'subdue Earth,' Skolimowski's dazzlingly beautiful picture takes the form of a philosophical essay in which the visual and the musical dimensions are important as the on-screen events. Young Michał Dymek's daring cinematography combine symbolic power with documentary observation, making **Io** at times reminiscent of a music video, while at other times - an intimate documentary about an animal with a soul. Paweł Mykietyn's wonderful, expressive music, as well as Agnieszka Glińska's editing make **Io** one of the most important and boldest pictures of Polish cinema in recent years, perhaps even decades. The winner of the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film will be announced on March 13, 2023.



Author: Bartosz Staszczyszyn is a film expert, film and literary critic, scriptwriter. Graduate in film studies at the Jagiellonian University. As a journalist, he has been published by **Polityka**, **Film**, **Filmweb** and **Dwutygodnik**, among others. He is the scriptwriter of the series **Nielegalni** [The Illegal] and a script consultant and co-author of books on the history of cinema and television.

Celebrating Black History Month with Kosciuszko's Legacy

Submitted by Ewa Barczyk and Neal Pease



Dear Friend of the Kosciuszko Foundation,

You likely know about Tadeusz Kosciuszko's merits in the American Revolutionary War. As a mastermind war tactic, he orchestrated a critical British defeat at Saratoga and designed the military fortifications at West Point. Less known, however, are his progressive views and beliefs for that time. These included racial and social equality, notably the need to **liberate enslaved African Americans**.

In his will drafted in 1798, Kosciuszko specified that the proceeds from his service in the American Revolutionary War were to be used to **free and educate enslaved African Americans**. His words have a special meaning as we celebrate **Black History Month**. It is observed in the United States each February to pay tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship rights in American society.

Kosciuszko attempted to liberate and empower that oppressed part of society 65 years before President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. It made him not only a hero who contributed to American independence but also an advocate for racial and social equality in the United States.

Retrieved from The Kosciuszko Foundation | info@thekf.org | www.thekf.org

2022: A Year in Review for Laski

By Kathy Murkowski

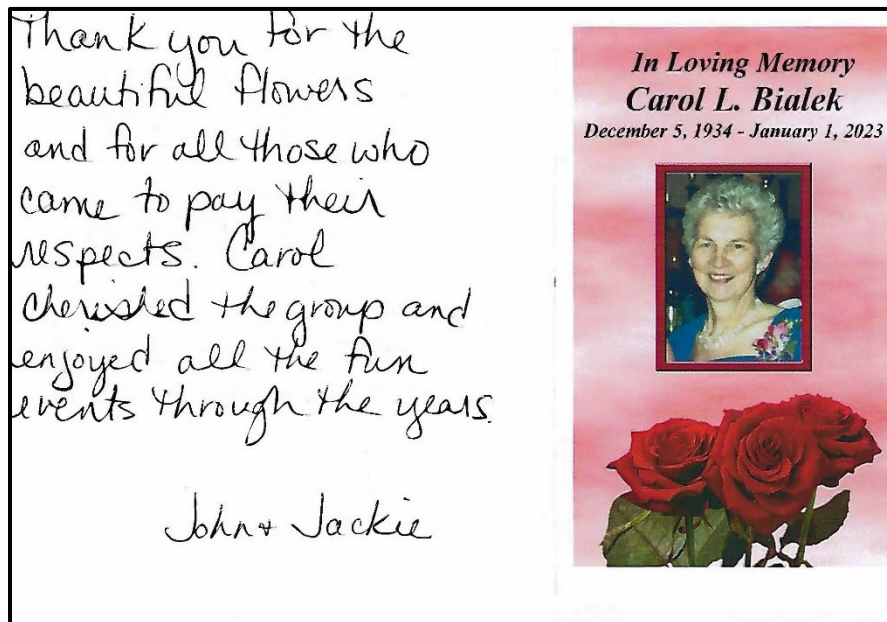
Again, the women of Polanki opened their hearts and purses to donate \$2500 to Laski in 2022. Your contributions helped support many projects. Polanki received this year-end report from Laski, describing some significant events during the last year in their mission to serve blind children and their families

In January, Laski lost the Head of Laski Society, Wladyalaw Golab. He was dedicated to the work of Blessed Mother Elzbieta Czacka and the development of Laski's Society. Laski was greatly affected by Russia's attack on Ukraine in February. The society accepted blind Ukrainian students and their families, giving them housing and education at the centers in Laski and Rabka. Laski also sent supplies to Zhitmor and Stary Skalat for Ukrainian families.

As Laski tried to move forward they worked on projects to improve the infrastructure on their campus. This initiative brought new roofs, HVAC systems, solar panels, and a renovated swimming pool building. Additionally, Laski improved educational aids for the classrooms ranging from Braille machines and audio equipment, to a sensory music trail and funding for school trips and sports camps for all students.

Later in the year Laski celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Edwin Kowalik Music School with concerts and programs. Laski also celebrated the first anniversary of the beatification of the Blessed Mother Czacka. The archdiocese of Warsaw has named her Patron of people working with the handicapped. Father Marcin Klotz commented that people facing physical and mental disabilities need to see a role model for how to work with the handicapped, but also need to see meaning in such work.

Polanki received this gracious thank you note from the family of Carol Bialek, who passed away in January.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<i>President</i>	Laurie Ufnowski
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Ewa Barczyk-Pease
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Diane Ufnowski
<i>Investment Treasurer</i>	Denna Flemming
<i>Managing Treasurer</i>	Jean Wroblewski
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Tamara Johnston
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Kathy Murkowski
<i>Historian</i>	Joanne Barndt
<i>Publicity</i>	Susan Mikoś
<i>Membership</i>	Lynn Adams
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Marjorie Piechowski

OTHER POSITIONS

<i>Sunshine Co-Chairs</i>	Edith Malson Judy Chattin
<i>Financial Review Committee</i>	Judy Chattin Sue Konecny Heddy Moskaluk
<i>Web Master</i>	To be named



A Note from the Editor

Thank you to all Polanki members who provided ideas, pictures and stories during this last year. Please note that there are several other volunteer opportunities for the newsletter in addition to writing.

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

Marjorie Piechowski

2023 Polanki Newsletter Editor



Polanki Newsletter published by

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