



Polanki, Inc.

The Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee Newsletter

April (kwiecień) 2023

Polanki Membership Meeting Wednesday April 19, 2023 at 6:30

Hostesses:

Suzanne Holcomb, Wanda Kosmalski, Joy Kuharske, Elaine Posard, Diane Ufnowski, Laurie Ufnowski, Margaret Wadzinske

**Program: Planning for Polanki's Future:
member discussions and recommendations**

To join the Zoom meeting:

<https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/94637263548?pwd=YVVuMzBJL1ZxR0IPVEFyM1B2VjNCQT09>

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)

Dear Polanki Members:

I hope all of you had a wonderful Easter holiday. I was very fortunate to celebrate with my family including my Mom, almost 95, and my great niece Rosie, an absolute sweetheart at 9 months old. She made our day extra special as it was her first Easter, giving us four generations of family together. We loved watching her eat and play with the colorful plastic Easter eggs. My sister-in-law (also a Polanki member) hosted a fabulous meal in her beautiful home. It was so warm and welcoming and beautiful weather made for a perfect day.

I want to thank all our wonderful members who helped at the Polish Center fish fries during Lent. We raised a nice sum of money and created much good will for Polanki.

We continue to be very busy and appreciate everyone's efforts to volunteer. Committees are working hard to prepare for the Awards Tea and Polish Fest and starting the planning for our 70th

President's Message, continued

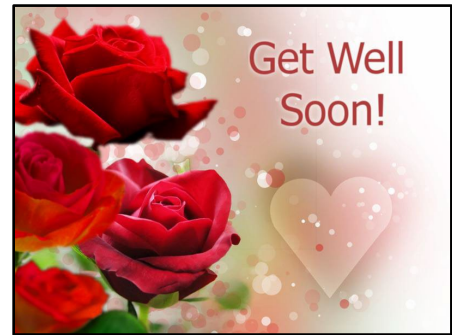
anniversary celebration. I encourage all of you to attend our Awards Tea, a beautiful event to be held on April 23 at the Polish Center of Wisconsin. We should be very proud that as an organization we are able to contribute to these deserving students' education, definitely a big part of our mission.

Thanks to Susan Mikoś for the nice Facebook posts at our events, Diane Holytz for making the volunteer calls, Jean Wroblewski for her fabulous job with organizing and managing our sales tables, adding some beautiful new items. I also want to say an extra thank you to Marjorie Piechowski for all her help getting emails out to our members for special announcements.

Finally, I am asking that you all try to volunteer for Polish Fest, donating your time as you are able. We really need many hands to have a successful event. I treasure all the help from our dedicated members. I wish all of you a beautiful spring and I look forward to another successful year for Polanki.

Warm regards,

Laurie Ufnowski
2023 Polanki President



We have a number of Polanki members needing sunshine wishes this month. Recovering from surgery or injury are Active Members Barbara Sadowski, Diane Laus and Helen Waliszewski. Sustaining Member Joan ShROUT continues her treatment for cancer, grateful to attend meetings by Zoom and for cards and calls from Polanki members. Life Member Edith Malson, Sunshine Co-Chair, is receiving treatment for blood pressure issues.

Active Members Nadine Flemming (knee) and Jennifer Konecny (uterine cancer) are both scheduled for surgery. Chloe Hooten, young daughter of Sustaining Member Rachel Hooten, is undergoing plastic surgery for skin grafting due to her burn injury last summer.

Please remember these and Polanki members who are confined to their homes with a card, an email or a phone call. If you know of any members who are sick or who would appreciate sunshine greetings, please contact Judy Chattin or Edith Malson, Sunshine Co-Chairs:

Edith Malson
(414) 744-9412-home

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

A Reminder: Annual Membership Dues

Please note that your annual active or sustaining membership renewal is now due, at the new rate approved during the January 2023 meeting. 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.

Polanki, Inc.
P.O. Box 341458
Milwaukee, WI 53234

You can also send the form and payment 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 2023 member directory.

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



April Birthdays

4/01 Carol Sobanski Powers
4/05 Julia Chom
4/09 Barbara Sadowski
4/10 Kathy Wiczorek
4/11 Sue Zblewski
4/21 Elena Shebelski
4/28 Margie Hess

May Birthdays

5/06 Krystyna Matusiak
5/08 Julie Lenkiewicz
5/09 Dorothy Broihier
5/11 Lucille Trebatoski
5/15 Angela Pienkos
5/17 Meg Skwierawski
5/20 Nadine Flemming
5/25 Marcia Korducki
5/25 Barbara Stankiewicz
5/26 Valerie Lukaszewicz
5/27 Claire Anderson
5/28 Lynn Adams
5/28 Jennifer Konecny



Condolences

Polanki sends our deepest sympathy to the family of Sue Konecny on the passing of her 99 year old aunt, Catherine Bavaretti, and to the family of former Polanki member Lorraine Grzechowiak, whose funeral was held on April 1. An Easter lily was taken on the morning of the funeral at St. John Paul II church.

Help wanted! Join the Kosciuszko Garden Group

By Susan Mikoś



Kosciuszko Garden Group

Did you know? The Kosciuszko Monument on Lincoln Avenue was commissioned by Milwaukee Poles and dedicated in 1905. Over the years, the Monument served as a gathering place for the Polish community and symbolized Polish national pride. In 2012, the Monument was restored to its original magnificence through the efforts of a community group led in part by Polanki. We continue to maintain and improve the landscaping around the Monument to represent the Polish community at its best.

We meet once a month from April through October, for two hours, from 10 a.m. to noon. Whether you have a green thumb or not, we could use your help.

Meeting dates for this season are: April 29, May 27, June 24, July 29, August 26, September 30, and October 28 (weather permitting). Contact Susan Mikoś with any questions.



Library News

By Susan Mikoś



Active Member Diane Holytz with new books

What's new in the Polanki Library? Check out these two beautiful and informative books by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab. You may borrow them free for a month. Polanki also has a few copies available for sale.

The Polanki Library also served up generous helpings of knowledge at every Fish Fry during Lent. The Library is also open on Tuesdays from 11-2.



Library Visitors and Active Member Roma Numrych

Polanki's Recent Sales Events

By Susan Mikoś

Continuing a long tradition, Polanki members offered authentic Polish wares for sale during Lenten fish fries at the Polish Center of Wisconsin and at Syrena's Święcone, held on April 2 at Blessed Sacrament Church. See related story about Polish Bolesławiec Pottery on pages 7-9.



*Polanki Life Member Bette Dulka and
Active Member Julie Lenkiewicz*



Active Member Jean Wroblewski



Active Member Helen Miller



Active Members Louise Cieslak and Camille Shaw

Cards for Ukraine: Follow-Up

One of the most touching and successful events at the Holiday Folk Fair was Polanki's invitation for children and adults to make cards for Ukrainian children. Polanki's cultural booth, featuring both Polish and Ukrainian Christmas customs, provided a variety of construction materials that produced an array of sincere and original cards. Our Ukrainian colleagues shared time in the cultural booth and collected several boxes of cards that they sent to Ukraine. Ewa Barczyk recently received a picture of Ukrainian soldiers from a contact in Ukraine, showing that some of these cards reached far beyond children and families.

Photos courtesy of Ewa Barczyk



March Meeting Speaker Follow-Up

Professor Laura Gellott spoke at Polanki's March membership meeting about her book, *Helen Perry Curtis and The European Trip of a Lifetime*. She is professor of history, emerita, at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, where she taught European history for 30 years. Gellott is an award-winning teacher and in retirement a frequent lecturer on European history and contemporary European affairs. This recently published book describes her search for the origins of a beloved book that first, at a young age, sparked her interest in Europe.

Photo courtesy of Susan Mikoś



Polish Bolesławiec Pottery

By Madeleine Muzdak



Photo: Stock Photos from ABC PHOTO/Shutterstock

In a small city in southwest Poland, some of the world's most beautiful pottery is produced for sale around the world. The stoneware known as Bolesławiec pottery—named after the medieval city of Bolesławiec—is popular among collectors and bakers alike. The classic organic designs in cobalt, green, and red paint complement the natural cream of the local clay. Today, modern designs build upon the traditional as the craft is an important element of Polish culture and folk art. To fully appreciate contemporary examples of this eye-catching craft, one would have to take a look back at the history of Bolesławiec wares.



Bolesławiec, Poland. (Photo: Stock Photos from LIDIA MUHAMADEEVA/Shutterstock)

The 18th century brought innovation in styles and materials. Bolesławiec became a part of the Kingdom of Prussia in 1742. This new unity with Germanic lands brought an influx of potters to the region. The Prussian rulers took an interest in Bolesławiec pottery (*Bunzlauer* in German) and encouraged its growth by facilitating the exchange of ideas between local potters and renowned professors of art. To meet new consumer needs, potters produced new items such as coffee and tea pots. New techniques of molded reliefs glazed in white were added on top of the classic brown background of vessels. Potters also experimented with “cold-painted” overlays of heraldry and religious iconography.



A teapot showing a peacock eye design. (Photo: Stock Photos from MUCHOMOROS/Shutterstock)

During the 19th century, Bolesławiec pottery developed the classic look seen today. The most influential figure in this development was Johann Gottlieb Altmann. In addition to refining the purity of the clay used, Altmann developed a feldspar-based clear glaze to replace the more expensive, brown glaze (which contained lead, a recently discovered hazard). He also began to cast vessels rather than using traditional wheel techniques. Inspired by classical designs, Altmann's work won international recognition and inspired much interest in Bolesławiec pieces.

By the 1880s and 1890s, Bolesławiec pottery was in high demand, with over 20 shops operating within the city. A royal pottery school was established in the city to further the craft. It was during this period that—utilizing the clear feldspar glaze—the cobalt blue and white patterns were introduced. Potters hand-cut sponges into designs, then slowly stamped their wares (hence *spongeware*). The fine natural clay of the region was light enough to allow for such embellishment. The potters quickly incorporated popular organic motifs typical of the *Jugendstil* period in Germany—known to Americans as Art Nouveau. By the early 20th century, the most iconic pattern—known as *Pfauenauge*, or peacock's eyes—had become popular. Art Deco designs were also produced.



Production of the pottery encountered difficulties in the 20th century. The inter-war period in Germany was marked by a cratering economy. Although production was increasingly industrialized and airbrush and stencil techniques made hand-finishing pieces easier, potters had to band their workshops together to survive economically.

Magnets showing samples of Bolesławiec patterns, from the Ceramics Festival in 2017.

(Photo: Stock Photos from MAGDALENAGALKIEWICZ/Shutterstock)

World War II proved a radical shift in the history of both the region and Bolesławiec pottery. A defeated Germany forfeited Silesia to Poland, and the German residents of Bolesławiec were expelled. Many continued their craft in East or West German towns, but

Bolesławiec was left mostly bereft of artisans. A strong Polish government effort began in 1946 to rescue the traditional folk art. Factories were rebuilt and ceramic artists recruited from elsewhere in Poland. Under Communist rule, pottery became a cooperative much like other production. The CPLiA Cooperative was founded in 1950, and its training programs produced countless new artisans to carry on the craft. A post-communism version of the cooperative is still active in producing traditional pottery today.

Bolesławiec pottery is still produced today. Often referred to internationally as Polish pottery, it is a popular collectable in the United States and internationally. Each piece is hand-crafted, building on the long-established traditions of the region. The pottery is still made from local white clay fired to extreme temperatures. Each piece is hand-stamped with free-hand details and coated in a lead-free glaze. The pottery may be very beautiful, but it is also extremely useful in the kitchen. As stoneware, these lovely dishes can resist the heat of microwaves and ovens while also remaining crack-free in the freezer.

Today there are several well-established producers of Bolesławiec wares, some of which date back to the post-war period. Ceramika Artystyczna, Zakłady Ceramiczne, Cer-Maz, Manufaktura, Zakłady Ceramiczne BOLESŁAWIEC and WR Unikat are all big names that produce authentic wares. Each authentic piece should be stamped by the maker and have a distinct “Made in Poland” stamp.

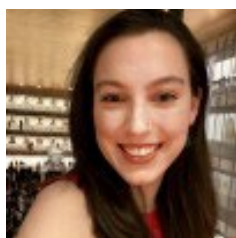
Modern producers of Bolesławiec pottery are constantly developing new designs which incorporate popular historic motifs. Some classic patterns commonly found today include the Old Poland, the Floral Peacock (a variation on the classic peacock eye motif), the Crimson Bells, and the Emerald Mosaic. Whatever your taste—traditional, modern, or bohemian—artisans have created patterns that broad audiences are sure to find appealing.

These patterns can be found on virtually any ceramic form imaginable. Spoon rests, platters, teapots, mugs, and bowls are just some of the many forms available in Polish pottery. While they are durable, proper care will preserve these stunning pieces for generations to come.

Photo: Stock Photos from CURIOSA.PHOTOGRAPHY/Shutterstock



Each piece is unique due to hand-painting, but some are true one-of-a-kind creations by the most esteemed and experienced artisans. After many years of work, some artisans reach a point when they are able to produce their own pieces from start to finish. These pieces are identified as unikat or unique. They are often more expensive but make excellent additions to any collection. Through works such as this, as well as pattern development, the art of Bolesławiec pottery continues to develop.



Madeleine Muzdakakis is a Contributing Writer at My Modern Met and a historian of early modern Britain and the Atlantic world. She holds a BA in History and Mathematics from Brown University and an MA in European and Russian Studies from Yale University. Madeleine has worked in archives and museums for years with a particular focus on photography and arts education.

Retrieved and edited from <https://mymodernmet.com/polish-boleslawiec-pottery/>

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OTHER POSITIONS

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<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



[Photo courtesy of Marjorie Piechowski]

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