



Polanki, Inc.

The Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee Newsletter
June, July, and August (czerwiec, lipiec, i sierpień) 2023

Polanki Membership Meeting Wednesday June 7, 2023 6:30 p.m. Polish Center of Wisconsin

Program: Polish Fest Details, Updates and Logistics

Hostesses: Judy Chattin, Diane Holytz, Joy Kuharske, Diane Ufnowski

To join the meeting via Zoom:

<https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/94637263548?pwd=YVVuMzBJL1ZxR0lPVEFyM1B2VjNCQT09>

Meeting ID: 946 3726 3548 Passcode: 927741
Dial by your location
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Meeting ID: 946 3726 3548

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From the President's Desk



(Photo courtesy of Laurie Ufnowski)

Dear Polanki Members:

It's hard to believe Polish Fest is almost here. Summer is in full swing and the weather has been absolutely beautiful. I want to personally THANK everyone for volunteering for Polish Fest. We really have a wonderful group of hard-working ladies. I appreciate all you do to make Polanki such a vibrant organization.

Please come to the meeting on Wednesday, June 7, 2023 to get your tickets and parking passes for Polish Fest. It really will help if these get picked up since it will be too late to mail any after the meeting.

Our Cultural Committee has worked numerous hours to make the Cultural Village a crucial part of the festival with wonderful exhibits, speakers, demonstrators, and artists.

I cannot miss thanking Ewa Barczyk, Tamara Johnston, Camille Shaw and Heddy Moskaluk, who calls and helps to recruit our artists who speak Polish.

These members have put in so much time to make the Cultural Village exciting and meaningful. I am forever grateful for all their time and talents.

I would also like to thank Susan Mikoś and the Library Crew for all their hard work to get items ready for the book sale and Jean Wroblewski for the endless hours of work making sure our sales booth shines.

Planning has begun for our 70th Anniversary and it is looking to be a spectacular event. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 24, 2023 at the Polish Center. The committee has some wonderful things planned and I truly believe it will be an event you do not want to miss.

Please come and enjoy the Fest, which really is a treasure for the Milwaukee Polish community that we are able to be represented in such a wonderful way.

Finally, I wish all of you a beautiful summer. Enjoy this special season with your family and friends. I really love the picnics, festivals, and all summer activities that allow me time with my family and friends. They create such special memories for me.

If you can, visit the Polish Center Café on Wednesday evenings through October. It's a great way to support the Polish Center and have some fun. Also watch your emails this summer to notify you of any events at Polonia Sport Grounds and the Polish Center that might be happening. We will keep you informed on all things Polanki and Polish during the summer.

Laurie Ufnowski
2023 Polanki President



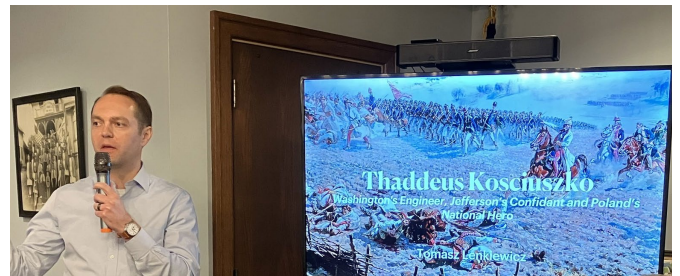
Polish Fest Speakers

Here's a preview of the speakers and their topics to be presented at this year's Polish Fest. You will find them speaking in a tent within the Cultural Village on the days and times shown below.

FRIDAY JUNE 9

2:30 Tomasz Lenkiewicz

"Tadeusz Kosciuszko: Washington's Engineer, Jefferson's Confidant and Poland's National Hero"



5:00 Don Pienkos

"Looking at Poland's ever changing borders through history and their impact - on Poland and on us too"

SATURDAY JUNE 10

2:30 Tomasz Lenkiewicz

"Tadeusz Kosciuszko: Washington's Engineer, Jefferson's Confidant and Poland's National Hero"

5:00 Ewa Barczyk

Following "Footprints of Polonia through Historical Markers in North America"

SUNDAY JUNE 11

2:30 Laura Gellott

"Traveling the Polish Corridor, 1937"

5:00 Neal Pease

"Poland and the War in Ukraine: An Update"



June Birthdays

6/01 Molly Skwierawski
6/01 June Czarnecki
6/06 Esther Nowicki
6/13 Anne Gurnack
6/16 Urszula Tempka
6/16 Jennifer Flores
6/17 Rita Rose Mauermann
6/18 Jessica Ullstrup Condit
6/21 Teresa Jankowski
6/23 Angela Glowacki

July Birthdays

7/06 Audrey Skwierawski
7/10 Adrienne Zuber
7/14 Ewa Melenchuk
7/15 Anna Kozlowski
7/17 Tamara Johnston
7/17 Ruth Brzezinski
7/20 Kim Swedowski
7/28 Katherine Ott
7/29 Suzanne Holcomb
7/30 Laurie Ufnowski

August Birthdays

8/02 Joanna Frączek
8/04 Susan Cieslak
8/05 Barbara Rutkowski
8/08 Kathy Camacho
8/08 Janine Adamczyk
8/09 Gloria Skwierawski
8/10 Christine Ostrowski
8/19 Louise Cieslak
8/21 Jeanne Ziebka
8/25 Bernie Jendrzeczek
8/27 Paula Meisner
8/31 Susan Mikoś



Polanki sends best wishes for a speedy return to good health to any members who are recovering from surgeries and other health issues. Let's hope the beautiful summer weather will help with the healing process.

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

If you know of any members who are sick or who would appreciate a visit or sunshine greetings, please contact Judy Chattin or Edith Malson:

Edith Malson
(414) 744-9412-home

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



Library Updates and Activities

Photos Courtesy of Susan Mikoś



Ready for the Book Sale at Polish Fest



Genealogy Assistance



Recently Published Books Available in the Polanki Library

Final Reminder: 2023 Annual Membership Dues

Please note that your annual active or sustaining membership renewal is now overdue. *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: P.O. Box 341458, Milwaukee, WI 53234.*

You can also *renew in person at the June 7 membership meeting. Members who have not renewed by the June membership meeting will no longer receive the newsletter and will not be included in the 2023 member directory.* Your continued support is important for Polanki's future success and activities.

Another Chance to Contribute for the 70th Anniversary

Along with the membership renewal this year, Polanki members were invited to make an extra contribution in honor of our seventy years of supporting and promoting Polish culture. Circles of giving are named for accomplished Polish women of the past:

Irena Sendler Circle: \$25.00-\$50.00
Helena Modjeska Circle: \$51.00-\$75.00
Marie Curie Skłodowska Circle: \$76.00-\$100.00
Queen Jadwiga Circle: \$101.00-\$500.00
Polanki Patron: Other amount

We've had an excellent response to date but there is still time to contribute. All donations will be recognized in the 70th Anniversary Program Booklet by listing in the selected Circle. *Members and non-members are welcome to send their contribution by August 15 to be included in the program book.*

Wianki: Polish Flower Wreaths

By Susan Mikoś

Since ancient times, flowers have been a common element in the folk art and costume of Poland. Traditionally, young girls would fashion flowers and herbs into wreaths, called *wianki*, to wear on their heads. These floral creations not only enhanced a girl's beauty but also signified that she was unmarried and perhaps looking for a partner. When she married, a bride would don a particularly elaborate floral headpiece. After the wedding, she exchanged her maiden's wreath for the married woman's cap.

One of the holidays where *wianki* played a part was the feast of St. John the Baptist, which coincides with the Summer Solstice on June 24. The night before – **St. John's Eve** – was a night of magic and miracles connected with the sun, water, fire, and fertility. According to beliefs dating back to pagan times, the earth glowed with celestial fires, devils and witches reveled, and some plants took on magical properties. Certain flowers and grasses, made into wreaths, could foretell one's fate in marriage.

Young people throughout Poland spent St. John's Eve in lighting magical bonfires and general merrymaking. They sang special songs about courtship and marriage. The girls dressed in long white robes and wove wreaths of herbs and flowers. If they were close to a pond or river, they attached lighted candles to their wreaths and

floated them on the water. While the girls watched from shore, the boys retrieved the wreaths from boats or by jumping into the water. Legend had it that fate directed the wreath toward the maker's true love and future husband.

“St. John’s Eve” by Alicja Edwards



Update on the Kosciuszko Monument

Photos courtesy of Susan Mikoś

Gardening work continues on the last Saturday of every month through October to maintain the landscaping and environment at the Kosciuszko Monument. Later this summer the monument will receive its regular cleaning and waxing, usually done every two years.



Corpus Christi Traditions in Poland

Retrieved by Marjorie Piechowski from [Corpus Christi Traditions - Poland.pl](http://CorpusChristiTraditions-Poland.pl)

The dance of sacred pictures in Kashubia, floral carpets in Spycimierz and colorful folk dress at a procession in Łowicz are among the sights and sounds to be admired during the holiday of Corpus Christi. On the eighth Thursday after Easter, a public holiday, richly adorned altars appear around midday at the head of grand processions down the central streets of Poland's cities and villages. The Solemn Holiday of the Body and Blood of Christ – *Corpus Christi* – has been celebrated by the Catholic Church in Poland since 1247, and the first mentions of a procession come from records in the Diocese of Kraków from 1320.

Associated with the adoration of Christ in the form of the Host, in the 15th century it evolved into a folk holiday – prayers for good weather, abundant harvest and protection from natural disasters. It comes after the Celebration of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, known as Pentecost, during which, in times long past, wreaths of herbs were woven and then blessed in the church.



“Both of these holidays are heralds of the summer, and include elements which stem from pre-Christian traditions,” says Robert Piotrowski, ethnologist and director of the Ethnography Department of the Museum of the Mazovian Countryside in Sierpc. “They also made excellent use of the symbolism of pagan holidays, which were celebrations of the spring rebirth of the whole world. The four altars in the Corpus Christi procession symbolize the four gospels, four elements and four sides of the earth, and the processions wind around the altars in the shape of a circle or a square; these figures symbolize a perfect creation, in which nothing can be changed or improved,” the ethnologist adds. In Mazovia, Podlasie and many other regions of Poland the tradition continues of decorating the route of the procession with green branches and cut calamus shoots, filling the air with the

beautiful aroma of freshness while also warding off evil spirits. The windows of houses display crosses, candles and sacred pictures.

The essence of these two holidays can be experienced during day-long thematic exhibitions at the Museum of the Mazovian Countryside, an open-air museum composed of cottages. One of the cottages will be decorated in the traditional manner befitting each holiday. The one dedicated to Pentecost will display wreaths made of herbs with explanations provided to help understand their symbolism, while sacred pictures in the cottage dedicated to Corpus Christi will include branches that residents of some regions gather to this day along the path of the procession to stick inside the frames. “Farmers also place them along the edges of their fields, to ensure a good harvest, and above the doors of their houses to protect them from fire and other disasters,” adds Robert Piotrowski.

Carpets in Spycimierz and a blaze of color in Łowicz: The largest number of spectators traditionally gathers at the Corpus Christi celebrations in the Łódź region. Every year, thousands of tourists flock to the village of Spycimierz with its 400 inhabitants, 75 km north-west of Łódź. They are drawn by the carpets of flowers which the people of Spycimierz use to decorate the Corpus Christi procession route in observance of a 200-year-old tradition.



Visitors will be able to view floral depictions of Bible scenes accompanied by geometric and floral images along a two-kilometer stretch of road, which are first prepared using sand that is then filled with leaves, grass and flowers gathered for days. The carpets are so splendid that local authorities decided to establish a Corpus Christi Trail to attract tourists throughout the entire year.

The Corpus Christi procession in Łowicz is an equally popular attraction. It is one of few opportunities to see traditional Łowicz folk costumes being worn, featuring flamboyant colors not found in other regions. The sight of beautifully embroidered rainbow clothes combined with parish flags and living rosaries parading along a path covered in rose petals draws tourists from around the world.

"The Łowicz procession is such a marvel that it began drawing tourists during the inter-war period, when the Łowicz folk dress style that survives to this day was established. Earlier, both the women's and men's dress worn by residents of Łowicz-area villages was dominated by orange, which has been replaced in women's dress by colder hues – blues, greens, purples, sometimes pink," says Magdalena Bartosiewicz, ethnologist and curator of the Museum in Łowicz.



She adds that the orange which makes the male Łowicz dress similar in appearance to the uniform of the Papal Guard has nothing in common with it. "In the 1920s, the Łowicz folk dress was enriched by the addition of embroidery – the men on their shirts, cuffs and collars as well as hats, while the women on the bodice of their frocks, aprons, collars, shoulders and cuffs," adds curator Bartosiewicz.

The procession, which leaves the Łowicz Cathedral following the 10:30 Mass, is led by residents of Łowicz and the surrounding villages, and people of all generations sport the traditional folk costumes whose prices begin at PLN 1,500. A particularly numerous group is that of 9-year-olds, who will take Holy Communion for the first time this year. Łowicz and its surrounding region is one of few places in Poland where white surplices and dresses have failed to supplant folk traditions. The linen shirts and colorful decorations from wool and linen continue to be made according to the traditional tailoring and embroidery designs from the region. They can sometimes be purchased at special booths where folk art from the region is also on display. There are fragments of Łowicz "kodra" with floral themes as well as images of joyful village scenes, which are hung on ceiling beams, over entrance doors or on walls between windows, coupled with other beautiful folk creations.

Bamberka hats and the dance of the pictures: Lovers of folk costumes also gather in Poznań, where in places like the Jeżyce borough they can observe members of processions in folk clothing and characteristic Bamberka coifs on the heads of descendants of settlers from the German city of Bamberg. It is believed that one in four Poznań residents is of Bambergian heritage, with ancestors from among those invited to settle around Poznań at the beginning of the 18th century by local authorities seeking to repopulate villages which had been emptied by epidemics and war. In spite of the heat that often accompanies the Corpus Christi procession, these Bamberkas put on warm costumes composed of a dress, bodice and broad pants with tulle ornaments. Yet the coifs, also called 'cornets,' are the most spectacular element – they reach a length of around 23 cm, and are made of cloth, wire and artificial flowers, bulbs, ribbons and tissue paper, with copious bows adorning the rear.



Those interested in folk traditions also enjoy attending the Corpus Christi procession in Kalwaria Wejherowska, near Gdańsk, where for over 350 years the locals have cultivated the tradition of the bowing feretory – two-sided sacral images in decorative framing. The "dance" developed by Kashubians consists of a series of gestures performed by those carrying the images in praise of God. In full dress, they remove the picture from the frame and begin to wave it around. The most important movements, however, are the sign of the cross and bowing of the picture, which resemble dances. This is one of the world's most unique and beautiful ways of honoring the Lord. Not only is the bow a means of showing praise to the holy place, but also to other groups of pilgrims from Kashubia.

Other interesting processions are held in Małopolska and Podlasie, where folk traditions are still practiced. The most splendid of them in Kraków is the procession from the Wawel Cathedral to the Mariacki Church, with the participation of members of parishes from the city as well as surrounding villages and towns in folk costumes, carrying flags and feretories, authorities of Catholic universities and guild members. In times gone by, the procession hosted kings and their royal courts.

AUTHOR: KAROLINA KOWALSKA 03.06.2015

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A Note from the Editor

Thank you to all Polanki members who generously provided ideas, pictures and stories for this issue and throughout the year. Please note that this month's issue lists birthdays for all three summer months because this will be the last newsletter until our regular meetings resume again in September.

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

Marjorie Piechowski
2022 Polanki Newsletter Editor



(Photo courtesy of Marjorie Piechowski)

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