



Polanki, Inc.

The Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee Newsletter

October (październik) 2023

**Polanki Membership Meeting
Wednesday October 18, 2023 at 6:30
p.m.
Polish Center of Wisconsin**

Program: Professor Bożena Tieszyn from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will speak about Polish dog breeds

Hostesses: Kathy Camacho, Teresa Jankowski, Edith Ann Malson, Edyta Mlot, Anita Rabiega, Kathy Wieczorek

To join the meeting by Zoom:
<https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j96403758692>

To join the meeting by telephone:

**312 626 6799
Meeting ID: 964 0375 8692 Passcode: 165776**

In This Issue

Page 2: President's message; Sunshine News
Page 3: Birthdays; Directory Updates
Page 4: Guided Tour of European Village; College Achievement Awards; A&J Deli Closing
Pages 5-7: Polanki 70th Anniversary Celebration
Page 8: Holiday Folk Fair, Polanki's Costume Collection and Pani Ada
Page 9: Ada Dziewanowska
Page 10: Polish American Heritage Month

From the President's Desk



(Photo courtesy of Laurie Ufnowski)

Dear Polanki Members:

What can I say... The 70th Anniversary Celebration was beyond spectacular. The table decorations, the balloon arch, the raffle table, the costumes, the program, the scrap books and Jean Wroblewski's beautiful display of what Polanki does and is about really highlighted a wonderful evening. Syrena dancers did a fabulous job and Kinga Vnuk's music was beautiful.

We had many dignitaries from Milwaukee and other communities attend, truly an honor to our organization. Their presence shows what Polanki does for the community and others outside our community. We make things happen and we help continue the strong Polish culture and traditions we are so proud to have as our heritage.

I could not have been more proud to be a Polanki member. We even made the Channel 58 News, really showcasing Polanki and our Polish culture. I heard wonderful comments from our guests and members. It seemed everyone had a fantastic evening.

President's Message, continued....

I want to thank the committee for your hard work and efforts to make the evening a night to remember: Camille Shaw, Louise Cieslak, Judy Chattin, Susan Cieslak, Diane Holytz, Susan Mikoś, Kathy Murkowski, Marjorie Piechowski, and Jean Wroblewski. You ladies truly outdid yourselves, exemplifying what we are all about as an organization. As president I also served on the planning committee and observed all of the work behind the scenes to produce our anniversary celebration.

I cannot believe that September is over and we are well into October. We have many events coming up in the next few weeks and as always I ask for your assistance and help. Please volunteer as you can when you are called. I thank you in advance for all you do.

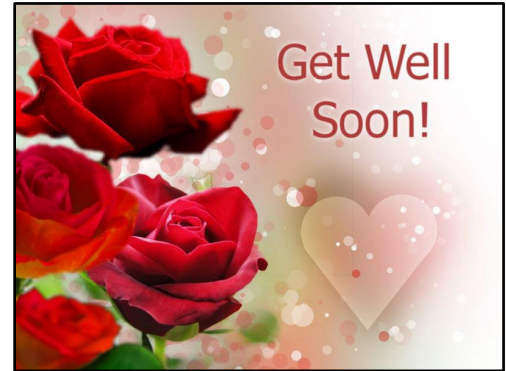
Our upcoming events include the recognition of Polish and Hispanic veterans at the Kosciuszko Monument, Fungi Fest, International Holiday Folk Fair, Holiday Bazaar and maybe some we do not know about yet. Jean Wroblewski is organizing sales of Polish merchandise for many of these events and we hope our sales go well. These sales really help us continue our mission of bringing Polish culture and heritage to our community so your help is appreciated.

I want to say a "SPECIAL THANK YOU" to our new member Edyta Mlot for stepping forward to handle the New Berlin Heritage and Cultural event on October 14th. There is a lot going on that weekend for Polanki and Edyta came forward to help. Edyta, Polanki and I truly appreciate your help and kindness.

In closing I want to wish everyone a wonderful fall season and look forward to the upcoming holidays where we spend special times with our family and friends. Please watch for information on our Christmas Party, to be held at the Polish Center of Wisconsin on December 10. Nadine, Denna and Darla Flemming are planning a beautiful event and I encourage all to attend. It creates such wonderful camaraderie among us.

Here's to all of us and those who preceded us. Na zdrowie!

Laurie Ufnowski
2023 Polanki President



Polanki sends thoughts and best wishes to Active Member Susan Konecny, rehabilitating from knee surgery, Active Member Jennifer Konecny, undergoing another chemotherapy regimen, and Life Member Edith Ann Malson, experiencing health-related issues.

Polanki also sends thoughts and prayers to the Flemming family, Nadine, Denna and Darla, whose husband and father, Tom Flemming, is being treated for stage four cancer.

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

If you know of other members who are sick or who would appreciate 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





October Birthdays

10/01 Joyce Broderick
10/03 Darla Flemming
10/08 Wanda Kosmalski
10/14 Grace Janusz
Nancy Purtell
10/16 Margaret Wadzinske
10/22 Patricia Koronkowski
10/26 Ann Pienkos
10/30 Mary Wasielewski

November Birthdays

11/04 Margaret Cieslak-Etlicher
11/08 Susan Konecny
11/15 Bette Dulka
Anne Wal
11/18 Dorothy Fennig
11/21 Helen Miller
11/22 Kathy Murkowski
11/29 Camille Shaw
11/30 Joan Shrout
Alena Wadzinske

Directory Updates

Please make the following changes in your membership directory:

Zip codes: House # Teresa Frankowski 6616
Irene Harrison 53146
Nancy Purtell 53185

New email for Marjorie Piechowski: marjpiechowski@gmail.com

Corrected email for Marilu Jasinski: tootl_lu@sbcglobal.net

New Members

Polanki welcomes the following new members; please add this information to your directory. Additional details will be provided in future newsletters for email addresses and telephone numbers.

Cheryl Chybowski
13540 W. Edgewood Ct.
New Berlin, WI 53151

Edyta Mlot
8817 Greenvew Ln.
Greendale WI 53129

Anita Rabiega
7731 W. Cedar Ridge Ct.
Franklin, WI 53132
Cell phone: 414-810-8157
Rabiega4@yahoo.com

Returning Sustaining Member:

Katherine Ott
1837 N 71st St
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
Phone: 414-801-1580
ott.kath@gmail.com

Sign up for Guided Tour of Milwaukee Public Museum's “European Village” on 11/11 at 11 am

The “European Village” at the Milwaukee Public Museum opened in 1979. Many ethnic organizations contributed funds, artifacts, and information to this exhibit, which shows the European origins of the city’s diverse settlers as a composite village, with houses or rooms representing various nationalities. Polanki was involved in helping to create the Polish *chata*.

The Milwaukee Public Museum will be moving into new quarters in 2026 and has not announced any plans to recreate the European Village exhibit. If you would like to see this beloved exhibit, with the benefit of a Museum docent, you can sign up and pay at the Polanki meeting on October 18.



We will meet inside the Museum entrance at 10:45. Parking is available in the MacArthur Square parking garage (entrance from James Lovell Street, with direct access to the Museum). Two-hour street parking in the area is free on Saturdays.

Polanki’s cost for adults age 18-64 is \$26 and for seniors 65+ it is \$22. This cost includes discounted Museum admission and \$6 per person for the docent-led tour. **Checks should be made out to Polanki. The deadline to sign up is October 20.** Questions can be directed to Susan Mikoś.

Polanki 2024 College Achievement Awards

Every year, Polanki presents awards to college juniors, seniors and graduate students who are of Polish ancestry and/or have engaged in Polish language study or culture. The awards range between \$1,000 - \$2,000. The deadline for submitting an application is January 8, 2024.

Information and application forms are available on the Polanki website at www.polanki.org For questions or further information, please contact Joanne Barndt, Awards Committee Chair at joanne.barndt@gmail.com, (414) 962-5634.

Another Closing of a Favorite Polish Site



Polanki members and the local Polish community have lost another favorite Polish site with the closing of A & J Polish deli in September of 2023. A&J was a popular source of Polish groceries and other deli foods. The deli closed after thirty-two years because the owners wanted to retire.

Polanki Celebrates Seventy Years!

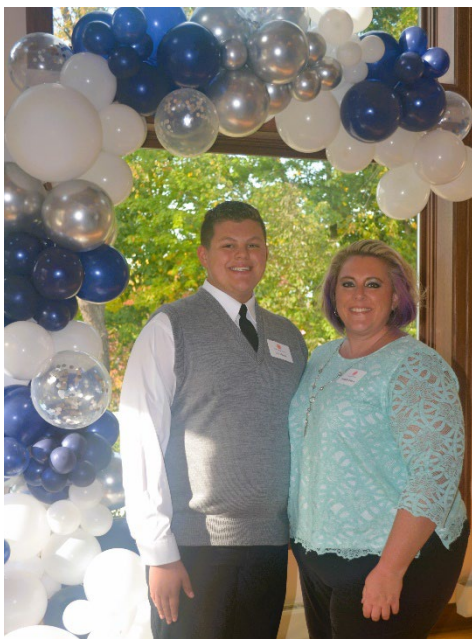


On a beautiful fall day, September 24, 2023, over 130 people gathered to celebrate seventy years of Polanki at the Polish Center of Wisconsin. Two members of the planning committee are pictured on the left, co-chair Louise Cieslak and Judy Chattin. The event was covered by television Channel 58, with interviews of Laurie Ufnowski, Polanki president, and Jean Wroblewski, who described items in an extensive exhibit of scrapbooks, pottery and other materials related to Polanki's seventy years. Kinga Vnuk provided harp music before and piano music during the dinner. Laurie Ufnowski welcomed the guests and introduced Father Henryk Cisnowski, who gave an invocation before the meal. The pictures below, submitted by many Polanki members, can only give a small glance of the wonderful event.

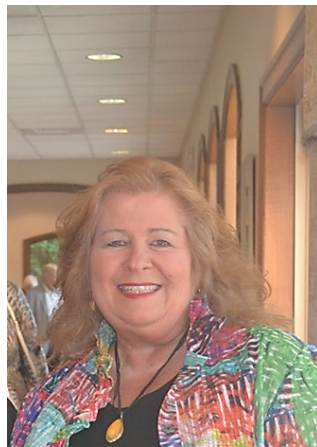
Laurie Ufnowski interviewed by WDJT-CBS 58



Tamara Johnston, Kathy Murkowski, Ewa Barczyk and Helen Miller



Left: A.J. Flores and Jennifer Flores, under the balloon arch
Right: Janine Adamczyk, Jeff Kuderski, Janet Protasiewicz, Michael Ufnowski



Susan Cieslak





Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble



The table setting, with the program booklet and Polanki ornament



Fr. Henryk Cisnowski and
Laurie Ufnowski

Holiday Folk Fair, Polanki's Costume Collection and Pani Ada

Compiled by Ewa Barczyk, Tamara Johnston and Marjorie Piechowski

The theme for the 2023 International Holiday Folk Fair is “Celebrate the Culture of Traditional Dress.” As announced by Paul F. Trebian, President and CEO of the International Institute of Wisconsin, “America’s premier multi-cultural festival, the 80th annual event, will be held from Friday November 17 through Sunday, November 19, 2023, at the Exposition Center of Wisconsin State Fair Park in West Allis, Wisconsin.”

According to Mr. Trebian, “Traditional dress” encompasses garments, jewelry, and accessories rooted in the past worn by a specific group of people. Holding a special place in the cultures of the world, traditional dress will never go out of style, as it promotes both a sense of diversity and inclusion. Wearing traditional clothing is a symbol of one’s cultural heritage, communicating traditions, values and beliefs. Wearing traditional clothing is a tangible way to see the culture as it is maintained, preserved, and passed down from generation to generation. Those who wear it feel a sense of pride in where they come from, and it prevents individuals from assimilating into the dominant culture and losing their sense of living heritage in the process. The clothing is a visual representation of a culture’s history, and a connection of its past to its present.

In 2018 Polanki was fortunate to acquire the traditional costume collection assembled by Ada Dziewanowska, the long-time artistic director of the amazing Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble. At the age of 101 Pani Ada moved to California to live with her son Jaś. Over the years she was actively engaged in many Polonia activities and Polanki often borrowed from her extensive collection of authentic Polish folk costumes for displays at Polish Fest, International Holiday Folk Fair and other exhibits. These costumes always added color and generated much interest from the participants at these events. Ada wanted her collection of costumes to stay intact and reside in Milwaukee, so Polanki became the proud new owner of Ada’s collection. Polanki purchased the entire collection, which includes over 20 complete costumes for men and women, along with hats, aprons, shoes and belts.



Tamara Johnston and Ewa Barczyk spent a day with Ada and her daughter Basia going over each costume detail and marking them so we would know what belongs together. Thanks to Boston Store’s clearance sale, Tamara Johnston and Jean Wroblewski were able to purchase rolling clothes racks and mannequins for future storage and display.

Polanki is very proud to continue Ada’s tradition of sharing Polish heritage throughout greater Milwaukee. It truly is a one of a kind collection.

Two costumes from Ada’s collection were displayed at the 70th anniversary celebration. The green costume shown on the left is from the White Kurpie region and the red costume from Golina Wielko-Polska. The total collection includes 148 separate items.

Tamara and Ewa plan to make a presentation at a future Polanki membership meeting highlighting the costume collection and share some of the pictures and maps that came along with this unique and invaluable collection.

Next month’s newsletter will feature an article that describes the importance of folk costumes in Poland’s history and how each area of Poland developed its own style of traditional dress.

Ada Dziewanowska, January 19, 1917-July 3, 2021

Pani Ada Dziewanowska was born and raised in Poland before the Second World War took her first to Sweden and then to England. Alongside her husband Kamil, Ada immigrated to the United States in 1947. She began her time in the United States on the East Coast, teaching Polish conversation at Harvard University. From 1963 to 1972, Ada studied dance at the Boston Conservatory of Music. Ada moved to Milwaukee in 1979 and became the artistic director and choreographer of Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble. In 1997, Ada published her book on Polish folk dance, "Polish Folk Dances and Songs: A Step-by-Step Guide."

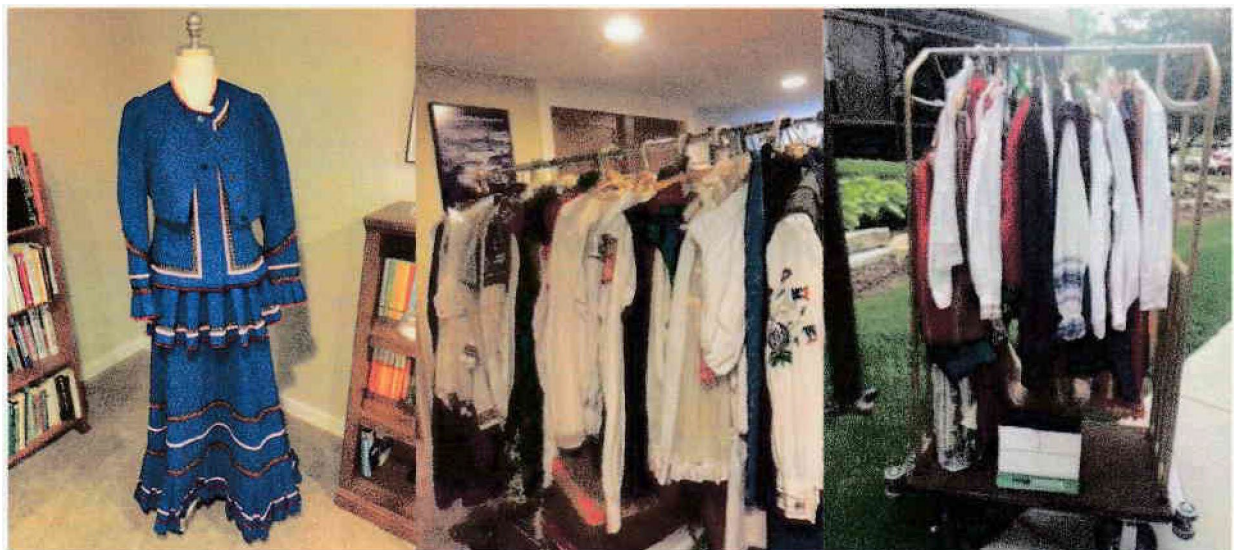


Ada also served as artistic director, mentor and teacher to Syrenka Children's Polish Folk Dance Ensemble. For 104 years, Ada shared the beauty of Polish folk culture. One of her many awards includes the Cross of Merit of the Polish Republic, signed by Polish president Lech Walesa in 1994.



Pani Ada is shown wearing one of her favorite costumes, now in the Polanki collection. She and Ewa Barczyk are pictured at Polish Fest, most likely in 2018, before she moved to California to live with her son, Jaś.

The photos below show that same costume on the left. Samples of other costumes in the collection are shown in the center picture and the right picture. Several costumes from this collection will form the centerpiece of Polanki's cultural exhibit at the 2023 International Holiday Folk Fair.



Polish American Heritage Month

[This article first appeared in the Polish American Journal - October, 2002; dates have been updated]

Since 1608, when the first Polish settlers arrived at Jamestown, VA, Polish people have been an important part of America's history and culture. In 2023, Polish Americans will mark the 42nd anniversary of the founding of Polish American Heritage Month, an event that began in Philadelphia, PA and became a national celebration of Polish history, culture and pride. During 2023, Poles will mark the 415th anniversary of the first Polish settlers who were among the first skilled workers in America. On July 30, 1619, the Polish settlers accomplished another noteworthy achievement by staging the first labor strike in America. Polish Americans will also mark the 244th anniversary of the death of General Casimir Pulaski, Father of the American Cavalry, and General Kosciuszko, Hero of Poland and America.



Pride in Our Heritage

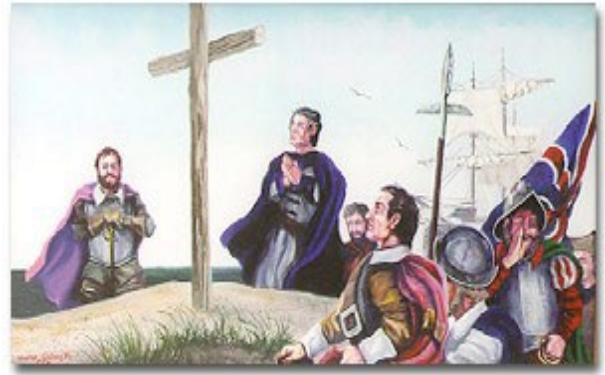
As Polish Americans, we have many outstanding accomplishments of which we can be proud. Throughout the 1970's and 80's Poles stood alone in their struggle for freedom against communist tyranny; they became the beacon of hope for all other Eastern bloc countries and proved it was possible for small countries to retrieve their national identity and break away from the U.S.S.R. The contributions that Poles have made to science, technology, music, art and literature are outstanding. Yes, indeed, we can be proud of our Polish American heritage.

The concept of designating a special month in which to celebrate our heritage was begun in Pennsylvania in 1981 at the suggestion of Michael Blichasz, a Polish American activist in Philadelphia. At that time, August was designated Polish American Heritage Month and it was only celebrated in Pennsylvania. However, in 1986, Blichasz, president of the Eastern Pennsylvania District of the Polish American Congress and of the Polish American Cultural Center in Philadelphia, made a proposal at a national PAC meeting that Heritage Month be celebrated nationwide. His proposal was adopted; however, the month was changed to October, which coincides with the death of General Casimir Pulaski. The celebration in October is also more practical because it allows school children to participate in activities that would not be possible during the summer month of August. Today, all Polish American communities celebrate Polish American Heritage Month.

Because of active participation by Polish Americans across the country, more and more children are learning about the contributions of Poles and Polish Americans. These take the form of guest speakers at schools, exhibits within schools, ceremonies at town and city halls and memorials, exhibits and displays in shopping malls, and social events such as dances and food festivals. Do you volunteer at any such event? If not, you should. You will be doing your part to help spread the good word about Poles and help to preserve our heritage here in the United States. It is up to us as parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents to instill Polish pride in the younger generation. If we don't do it, no one else will, and that would be a tragedy and the end of a lineage strong in faith, family and community. One of the greatest benefits of Polish American Heritage Month is that it causes us to take time from our daily routine to pay special attention to our heritage. Regardless of what we do to celebrate this month, make a promise to yourself to do something special because you are special, you are a Polish American!

First Polish Settlers Arrived in America on October 1, 1608

Story retrieved from PolishAmericanCenter.com



On October 1, 1608, the English ship Mary and Margaret arrived at Jamestown, Virginia. Aboard the ship were several persons of Polish descent who had been hired by the Virginia Company of London, at the request of Captain John Smith, leader of the Jamestown Colony. Captain Smith, who had first learned of the Polish craftsmen's work while traveling in Eastern Europe, invited them to Jamestown for the specific purpose of helping to establish a glass industry in the colony. Upon their arrival, the Poles made a vital contribution to the survival of the colony by digging a well to provide fresh drinking water, which was seriously lacking in the colony.



The next accomplishment was the building of a furnace to produce glass products, which became the first factory in America. In addition to producing glass products, the Polish settlers also produced pitch and tar, vital building materials for expanding the new colony. Despite many hardships due to the climate and living conditions, the Poles and their fellow settlers persevered and eventually were able to produce enough glass, pitch and tar for export to England. These products became the first commercial items to be exported from America to Europe.

On July 30, 1619, the Polish settlers accomplished another noteworthy achievement in the Jamestown colony by staging the first labor strike in America. After being denied participation in the first Virginia assembly, the Polish settlers conducted a labor walkout, not for wages or better working conditions, but for democratic rights. The newly formed House of Burgesses quickly acknowledged the vital role of the Poles in the settlement's wellbeing and granted them the same voting privileges as those enjoyed by the English.



The arrival of the first Polish settlers in America marked a humble, yet significant event into American history. Over the years, people from Poland continued to immigrate to America. Today Poles are the sixth largest ethnic group in America, residing in all fifty states and participating in every aspect of American life. Poles comprise a significant portion of the tens of millions of immigrants who have come to America from all over the world and now proudly call this nation their home. For more information, visit the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street in Historic Philadelphia, and the Museum's Internet site at: PolishAmericanCenter.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

APPOINTED POSITIONS

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



A Note from the Editor

Thank you to all Polanki members who generously provided ideas, pictures and stories for this issue.

If you have ideas for future stories or potential meeting programs, please submit them to me at 414-963-9055 or marjpiechowski@gmail.com

Marjorie Piechowski
2023 Polanki Newsletter Editor



(Photo courtesy of Marjorie Piechowski)



Polanki Newsletter published by

Polanki, Inc.
P.O. Box 341458
Milwaukee, WI 53234
www.polanki.org

Editor Marjorie Piechowski

President Laurie Ufnowski



Like us on Facebook!