



TRUMPETER

QUARTERLY - AUGUST, 2024

POLISH HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND

50th
1974



Anniversary
Year
2024

~SALUTING OUR PAST~

So many things could be said about the many accomplishments of our beloved Polish Heritage Association of Maryland during the past fifty years. Accomplishments are a great thing, but even better are the relationships made amongst a group of individuals bound together by a common love and respect for their ancestral roots and cultural heritage. PHAM members are very proud of their ethnic roots and also the accomplishments as a group dedicated to making everyone aware and appreciative of their Polish heritage. We are especially proud of our programs aimed at Polonia's youth, and the positive effects on their futures. Following are just a few that stand out. THANKS TO YOU ALL!



PHAM members at Katyn Remembrance Mass in front of Holy Rosary church, Baltimore



Scholarship awards



Cooking Classes



Book club



Program presentations

Congratulations!

The results of the 2024 PHAM General Election are as follows:

Officers:

President: Joe Solinsky
1st Vice President: Adam Mazurek
2nd Vice President: Michael Carnahan
Treasurer: Andy Fury
Recording Secretary: Dot Tassone

Board Members-At-Large:

Edith Pula
Ann Margaret Zelenka
Pat Skurzynski
Judi Zamzow
Claire Pula

SALUTING OUR PAST...

1983~ The Polish crisis of 1980–1981, associated with the emergence of the ‘*Solidarity*’ national free trade union movement in the Polish People’s Republic, challenged the rule of the Communist regime’s Polish United Workers’ Party and Poland’s alignment with the Soviet Union. An authoritarian government, led by General Wojciech Jaruzelski and the Military Council of National Salvation (WRON), introduced severe political oppression in an attempt to crush political opposition in 1981.



On December 13, 1981 - Poland’s communist government imposed martial law on the country’s territory. The decision was meant to stifle the “Solidarity” opposition movement which united millions of citizens. The coup, carried out by the military junta, cost the lives of dozens. It also put Poland’s economy into a tailspin resulting in a lack of the basics for living including food, medicine and health products.

In response to this crisis, the Maryland Action for Poland was created with the intention of supplying the Polish people with essential medical and health supplies, clothing, foodstuffs and even candy for the children, especially for those families suffering from the imprisonment of the family breadwinners. The group was chaired by PHAM president Stanley Ciesielski, along with Dr. Danuta Mostwin and Hon. Cornell Dypski. The full working committee had 24 members, most of whom were active PHAM members, including Dr. Jacek Mostwin, Stanislaw Bask-Mostwin, Hon. Barbara Mikulski, Stanley Jamrosz, Rev. Francis Okroy, Robert P. Pula, Edward P. Rybczybski, Esq., and Barbara Miegion. The Action for Poland logo and stationery were designed by PHAM member and artist, Carla Hazard.

2006~ DUTY (Dialogue in Understanding Through Youth) was a fully subsidized summer program

sponsored by the U.S. State Department in partnership with the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, the Baltimore Jewish Council, and the Jewish Agency for Israel. DUTY was actualized in response to expressions of interest from the Polish and Jewish communities of Baltimore for a dynamic framework in which teens could build both intercommunity and international relationships; these relationships can serve as the backbone for a community-wide conversation and, ultimately, fellowship between the communities.

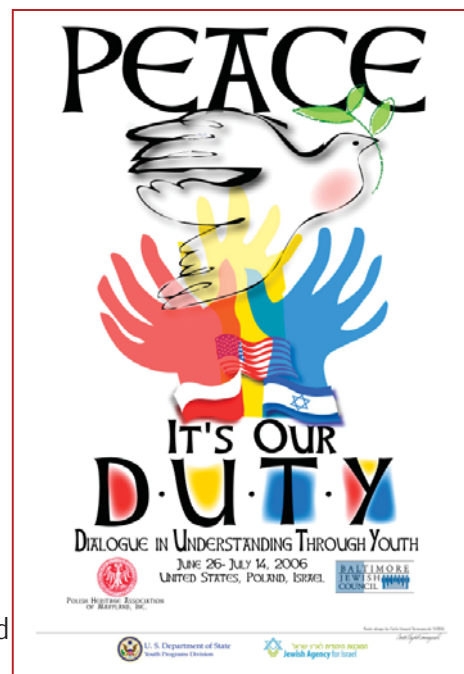


Before their travels, the two groups of Baltimore Polish and Jewish youth participated in 10 days of workshops and visits to each others’ churches and synagogues. They then traveled first to Poland, touring the Jasna Gora monastery, site of the Madonna of Czestochowa and also the Nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz in Oświęcim. American, Israeli and Polish participants returned home with first-hand knowledge of Poland and Israel and a more profound understanding of each others’ historical and cultural heritages.

At the November nineteenth 2006 PHAM general meeting, a group of Polish and Jewish students who traveled to Poland and Israel as participants in the DUTY Program spoke to the members about what the trip meant to them.

President Leshinskie offered some background information on the numerous meetings that took place between the Polish and Jewish Communities and acknowledged those involved who worked to organize the trip made possible by a State Department Grant arranged by Senator Barbara Mikulski.

At the conclusion of the students’ presentations Carla Hazard Tomaszewski presented PHAM President Leshinskie with a framed commemorative print as thanks for her part in the organization of the program and being a chaperone during the group’s travels..



SALUTING OUR PAST...

2010~ MASTER & APPRENTICE AWARDED GRANT TO CARRY ON POLISH FOLK TRADITION OF PISANKI



An audio/slideshow that the MD State Arts Council, Traditions program created of Carla and Alysa making pisanki has been posted on YouTube. Go to :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHlt6NRbfy>

In January 2010, PHAM’s resident artist, Carla Hazard Tomaszewski, together with PHAM scholarship winner Alysa Younger, applied to the Maryland State Art Council’s (MSAC) Traditions program for a Master/Apprentice grant to preserve the traditional Polish folk art of pisanki. On the strength of their application, the MSAC awarded them a \$2,000 grant for 2010-2011. Over the year, Carla and Alysa met at each other’s homes in southern Maryland, and even at Alysa’s college dorm, to sit down, discuss and create a variety of pisanki from traditional to contemporary. Their first show together was at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, DC at their Polish Heritage Day celebration in October 2010.

The grant year culminated in the 10th Annual Folklife Festival at the Creative Alliance in East Baltimore on June 17-18, 2011. Traditional arts, crafts, foods, and music delighted the 6,000 attendees to the 2 day indoor/outdoor event.

Dr. Clifford Murphy, Program Director of Folk & Traditional Arts, expressed delight in the fact that this was the first time his program had ever given a grant to any Polish folk artists.



AND TODAY? ... Hi, Alysa Younger here. In 2006, I was fortunate to receive a scholarship from the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland. The award was presented at one of the monthly meetings and this led to my discovering a wonderful community of folks who had fascinating stories to tell, great food to eat, and shared experiences. I especially loved learning about pisanki, which led to studying with Carla Tomaszewski in 2010-11.

I graduated from Notre Dame of Maryland University with honors, earning Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and History. Later, I spent a year with Americorps in New Hampshire working with teenagers on environmental and ecological improvements in the area. I returned to Notre Dame for a Master of Arts in English Literature

My husband, Christopher Perez, and I live in northern Vermont where I teach high school English at Lisbon Regional School. My experiences, as well as my studies, allow me to include a broader range of literature for my students, and I value the people I met at PHAM who enriched my outlook on history and language.



Polish Heritage Association of Maryland Director Richard Poremski with President Victoria Leshinskie



Paderewski's BALTIMORE CONNECTIONS

By Claire I. Pula

Ignacy Jan Paderewski was an internationally acclaimed pianist, composer, and Polish patriot who served as Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the newly resurrected nation of Poland after World War I. Born in 1860 in the Russian section of his then-partitioned homeland, he grew to become a powerful advocate for Polish sovereignty in the years leading to and including World War I. He was especially successful with the American public, and he was a good friend of President Woodrow Wilson's close advisor, Edward "Colonel" House. House persuaded Wilson to include regained Polish independence in his Fourteen Points at the Paris Peace Conference. Paderewski's role in Poland's rebirth cannot be underestimated.

Paderewski played more than once in Baltimore. A Baltimore Sun review published on January 19, 1917, enthuses about the "Polish wizard" who had performed at the Lyric Theater. The writer appreciates "exquisitely clear pianissimos", "wonderful singing tone", "marvelous phrasing", and notes the involvement of the "thrilled" and "fairly hypnotized" audience.

The reviewer concludes with an example of why Paderewski was such a persuasive champion of Polish sovereignty: "The concert closed with the playing of the Polish National Hymn, which Paderewski played with the tears streaming down his cheeks, a never-to-be-forgotten incident of a never-to-be-forgotten evening."

On one of his tours, Paderewski was an overnight houseguest at the S. Linwood Avenue home of Piotr and Walerya Tomala Twardowicz. Mr. Twardowicz was an officer with Kopernik Building and Loan Association (1635 Eastern Avenue). Mrs. Twardowicz was the sister of Kunegunda Tomala Pula, who was strategic in building the new and enlarged Holy Rosary Church at Chester and Bank Streets. Piotr and Walerya's son, Eugene "Utz" Twardowicz, popular local athlete and coach, ran the Red Shield Boys Club in Highlandtown for many years (the athletic field at Patterson Park is named for him). Utz's son, Eugene "Pete" Twardowicz, was an investigator who toppled the political careers of Spiro Agnew and Marvin Mandel. Thus, many Baltimoreans living today can claim just a few degrees of separation from the great Ignacy Jan Paderewski.

Paderewski died in New York City on June 29, 1941, while touring once again on behalf of his beloved native land. One of his close assistants eventually became a resident at a senior home in Catonsville. A visitor recalled that this gentleman spoke passionately about how hard Paderewski had worked for Poland. He called Paderewski a hero and insisted that historians didn't know half of what he had done. He wept, "People should have listened to him more."

Ignacy Jan Paderewski's body was kept at Arlington National Cemetery until he could be buried in a free Poland, which happened in 1992. His heart is enshrined in a monument at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. His spirit lives on in community memory here in Baltimore.

~THE STORY BEHIND THIS PADEREWSKI PHOTO~

by Anne Miksinski Kimball



One day in the late 1920s, a young man's hero came to town; his town - Baltimore. This young man loved music and played the violin. His father and mother were Polish immigrants in 1911. His father was a barber in the Baltimore Polish community. The young man was born in Baltimore in 1913, so he was a proud American of Polish descent. He worked hard at school and tried to make some extra money at odd jobs. The family hoped he would be a doctor, but money was a problem. He already had a girlfriend whose father owned a garage in the neighborhood. Life was good and full of promise. And then, he heard that Paderewski was coming to Baltimore! It was too exciting.

Paderewski was a Polish hero and a wonderful pianist. The young man took his savings and bought a ticket. He went to the performance. As luck would have it, Mr. Paderewski was in a good mood. He was in a reception line after his performance. The young man fought to get into the line and be one of the people to shake his hero's hand. He was so excited, and he did. But he left the theater very confused. He had expected the pianist would have had long, thin and very artistic fingers, but this was not the case. The pianist's fingers were very short and stubby. But, he learned a lesson that night; you must learn to expect the unexpected.

The "boy" was my father, Bolesław Walter Miksinski, DDS. They did not have enough money to get him a medical degree, so he became a dentist. He practiced on Eastern Avenue for 47 years.

This autographed picture was my last gift to my dad. He died in 1984. I hope you enjoyed this story - a beautiful memory of a proud Polish artist.



TOOTING OUR HORN...



On July 9th, 2024, representatives of The Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Washington DC Chapter, led by the Chapter's President, Roza Pace, were thrilled to welcome the First Lady of Poland, Agata Duda, at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC. The First Lady was accompanied by the Consul of the Republic of Poland, Dr. Mikolaj Rychlik, and Mrs. Anna Magierowska, the wife of the Polish Ambassador to Washington. Fr. Krzysztof Wieliczko, former administrator of the John Paul II Foundation, also attended the event.

The First Lady took time to personally shake hands with each guest upon entering the conference room. During the round-table discussion, guests were introduced individually to the First Lady, informing her of their personal contributions to local Polonia programs.

Representing the PHAM, Carla Hazard Tomaszewski was fortunate to have been included on the reception guest list, thanks to the thoughtfulness of Ms. Roza Pace and Mrs. Celia Glembocki. Carla was introduced as the graphic artist responsible for designing many of the displays, posters, brochures and other items for Polonia at-large in the DMV region. Copies of Carla's children's book about Poland, a project spearheaded by Mrs. Glembocki, were gifted to Mrs. Duda.

Roza Pace introduced the attendees and familiarized the First Lady with the DC Chapter's organizational structure and its mission of promoting knowledge about the life and pontificate of John Paul II. She touched upon some of the most recent initiatives the Washington Chapter was involved in, including the ceremonial unveiling of the Saint John Paul II bust at the Ronald Reagan Foundation and Institute, the 45th anniversary of the Saint John Paul II Pontificate, and Celebrating the 104th Birthday Remembrance and the 10th Anniversary of the Canonization of Saint Pope John Paul II.

Cecilia Glembocki, the Legacy Chair of the Friends of John Paul II Washington DC chapter, provided an overview of the educational programs the Chapter has been involved in and supported over the years, either alone or in collaboration with other Polish American organizations. The First Lady acknowledged the sacrifices and labor of love of many of our members who spend their free time volunteering for many worthy causes while holding their day jobs. She thanked the Chapter for its support of the Lublin Home for the Ukrainian refugees housed there.

The First Lady also discussed her involvement in the "Help Poles in the East" initiative. She noted that without the support of the American Polish community, it would be difficult to continue helping. The First Lady also touched upon the reality of the changing and demanding war in Ukraine and noted that the response to the needs of the Ukrainian side includes numerous training courses organized by the Polish side, addressed, among others, to Ukrainian volunteer firefighters, Ukrainian women who stay in Poland, and medics who will then use the acquired knowledge in Ukraine. The meeting ended with a photo op and distribution of gift bags from the First Lady to the guests.



I.-r. Stasia Skrypczuk, Cecilia Glembocki, Carla Tomaszewski



I.-r. First Lady of Poland Agata Duda, Stasia Skrypczuk, Carla Tomaszewski

GALA FUNDRAISER PREVIEW



Photo: Malgorzata Kuznik. Courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics.

SILENT AUCTION Among the many tempting items up for auction is this gem - you will be welcome to a weeklong stay in a private apartment in Podhale, Poland in a recently updated mountain home in the town of Makow Podhalanski. This large upstairs apartment sleeps up to 8, and is perfect for groups or families. It's a mere one hour drive from Zakopane and Krakow.



Gala Menu Offerings

Hot Food

Potato Pierogi (3 per serving)	\$3
Sauerkraut Pierogi (vegan; 3 per serving)	\$3
Gofabki (each; stuffed cabbage)	\$5
Kielbasa (with roll)	\$8
Bigos with rye bread (Hunter's stew)	\$10
Wigos with rye bread (vegan Hunter's stew, gf)	\$8
Kapusta (vegan, gf; sauerkraut)	\$8

Fried onions, sour cream, chrzan, butter, mustard, and ketchup at no charge.

Beverages and Dessert

Szarlotka (apple cake) \$4	Szarlotka (vegan, gf) \$4
Chrusciki (3 pieces) \$2	

Soda, Beer, Wine and Alcohol are available for purchase at the bar
Water, Coffee, and Hot Tea are complimentary

BALTIMORE FILM SCREENING ~ 'CHŁOPI'

Comprised of more than 40,000 oil paintings, one for each frame of the film, this awe-inspiring adaptation of Władysław Reymont's Nobel Prize-winning novel is the latest animated film from Oscar®-nominated directing duo DK and Hugh Welchman (LOVING VINCENT).

MEET THE AUTHORS - BOOK SIGNINGS, SALES, DISCUSSION Part of the program for PHAM's fundraiser Gala will be a presentation by three Polish American authors - an historian, a novelist, and an artist - who also just happen to be members of PHAM.

Thomas L. Hollowak is the Associate Director for Special Collections, Emeritus, University of Baltimore. In 1992, he founded Historyk Press, dedicated to publishing the genealogy and history about and for Marylanders of Polish Heritage. He will soon be publishing **"Picking, Packing & Shucking: The Migrant Experience of Baltimore's Polish Community"** about Baltimore's Poles who worked on Maryland farms picking strawberries, string beans, and tomatoes, and shucking oysters down in the south.



A Baltimore native of Polish descent, and mother of three, **Cathy Rouhana** traveled to the Middle East with her Lebanese husband Nagib, in the early '80s. Between Saudi Arabia and war-torn Lebanon, they experienced a slow and opulent life in Saudi, and then bombs and political upheaval in Lebanon. Cathy returned to the States with her children in the late '80s. Her book, **"When the Fudge Trees Bloom: Memories of an American in the Middle East"**, was born of that experience.

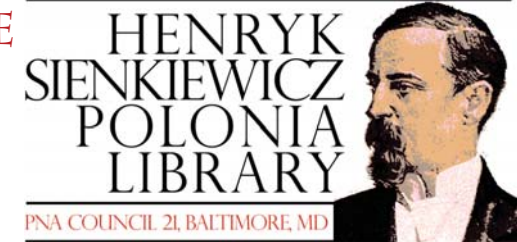
Carla Hazard Tomaszewski is an artist and graphic designer of Polish descent who has been with PHAM since its beginnings. Carla has worked over the years designing displays, posters, pamphlets, logos and more for various Maryland Polonia organizations. Her illustrated children's book, **"POLAND: A Portrait of the Country Through its Festivals & Traditions"** was first published in 2015 as a non-profit educational publishing project aimed at the Polish American English-speaking audience, to expand their knowledge of Polish culture.



POLONIA LIBRARY TOURS During the festivities, director of the Henryk Sienkiewicz Polonia Library and PHAM vice-president, Adam Mazurek, will be conducting tours of the Polonia Library for those interested. A 10-15 minute tour will be done once an hour before the film begins.

PHAM BOOK CLUB

AT THE



The Polish Heritage Book Club has a busy Fall reading season planned!

Our summer title is **Mrs. Mohr Goes Missing**, a mystery story by Maryla Szymczkova. Although the Book Club usually meets from 2 pm until 4 pm on the second Saturday of each month, we will meet on **Saturday September 28** to discuss this book.

Then for the **October 12** meeting, we will read the play called **The Card Index**, by Tadeusz Rozewicz. Our third Autumn choice, for the **November 9** meeting, is the novel **Victory**, by Joseph Conrad. It will likely take us more than one meeting to fully address this work.

Professor Dorothy Pula Strohecker invites you to join us at any or all of these meetings, for lively discussion and camaraderie. To participate in person, visit the Henryk Sienkiewicz Polonia Library on the second floor of the PNA Building, 1627 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore MD 21231. We hope to see you soon!!



To participate live in this next meeting of the Polish Heritage Book Club, visit the Henryk Sienkiewicz Polonia Library on the second floor of the PNA Building, 1627 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore MD 21231, 2-4 pm, on **Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024**.

To join the meeting virtually, email Dot Tassone at dstassone@gmail.com for the online Zoom link. We hope to see you then!!

COMING EVENTS

50th Anniversary Gala Fundraiser

September 7, 2024
4 to 10 p.m.

Join us in The Great Hall at PNA to celebrate our history and to keep it going for the next 50 years.

- ~The first Baltimore screening of the award winning film "The Peasants" ("Chłopi")!
- ~Silent auction!
- ~Polish food for purchase, music!
- ~Polish-American Book authors!
- ~Polonia Library tours!



Pulaski Day Commemoration

The annual Pulaski Day Commemoration will take place on Sunday October 13 at 2 p.m. at the Pulaski Monument in Patterson Park (Eastern and Linwood Avenues), Baltimore.

PHAM will be joined by many other Polish and American organizations to honor the memory of General Kazimierz Pulaski, Revolutionary War Hero and "Father of the American Cavalry".

A reception will follow.



"A Sampling of Polish Heritage"

October 27, 2024
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

PNA Hall, 1627 Eastern Avenue' Baltimore, MD

October is traditionally Polish Heritage Month so, plans include: Polish food samplings, folk dancing with public lesson, regional Polish costume fashion show, storytelling, crafts, food for sale, and displays. Held in conjunction with Baltimore Office of Promotion and tourism's "Free Fall" citywide arts and culture celebration.



Visit us Online at phaofmd.org

~MEMBERSHIP~

PHAM welcomes all people, from all backgrounds, young and old, who wish to share in this cultural legacy and to learn more about Polish culture, history and traditions.

Interested in Poland? Love your Polish Heritage?

Zapraszamy!

Please, Come Join us!

Enjoy ...

- ~ Cultural & educational programs in history, music, art & film
- ~ Learning about Polish Americans' contributions to America
- ~ Meetings followed by good food & fellowship where you can hear and speak the Polish language
- ~ Monthly Book Club get-togethers
- ~ Receiving the Association's newsletter, *The Trumpeter*

Your membership is a vote for our mission to promote Polish culture, arts, music, literature, traditions, and more. It's called "Polskość" ("Polishness") - all the things that make us proud to be Polish and Polish-American.

Membership type:

Individual - \$35

Couple - \$60

Family (includes children under 21) - \$75

Full Time Student - \$20

Emerita/Emeritus (over 80) - Free!

Please Sign up Online at phaofmd.org

Witamy!

Polish Heritage Association of Maryland is pleased to welcome new members who have joined since the Covid-19 pandemic.

*Karen Szczesniakowski Bangerd
Claire Solinsky Hawbaker & Neil Hawbaker*

*Anthony Monczewski
Greg Pokrywka & Family
Claire Pula & Carlos Wilton*

*Karen Ratchford
Cathy Rouhana
Maria Satyshur & Paul J. Solinsky
Judi Strohecker Zamzow*

We also welcome back many folks who have renewed their memberships during that time.

Special thanks go out to Heather Madlener.

Witamy to all!

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

WE NEED YOUR HELP... The Polish Heritage Association of Maryland is on track to expand our programming while growing our membership in 2025, reviving awareness of the Polish Diaspora in Baltimore and throughout Maryland, with events that are accessible and appealing to the public. We believe Polish Heritage is important to the understanding and continuity of Maryland's cultural landscape, and that expanding awareness is dependent on increasing exposure and hands-on involvement.



What better way to do that than with events filled with good cheer, good food, and good music, that also conveys a portrait of an existing and historically important population! In order to expand the scope of existing events, and add in new ones, we need your help.

The PHAM is looking for volunteers for a variety of events in some or all of the following areas: assisting with setup and breakdown; food prep and service; admin tasks; working a display table, and more, as the occasion may require. Additionally, we are always interested in small businesses and artisans that may want to vend at events, folks with a talent or skill to present workshops, and musicians for hire.

If you can spare some time to help out in the months ahead, it would be greatly appreciated. Even just a few hours can make a big difference. Please email phaofmd@gmail.com with the subject VOLUNTEERS.

TRUMPETER STAFF

Editor, Edith Pula

Layout & Graphics, Carla Hazard Tomaszewski

Contributors: Tom Hollowak, Dorothy Tassone, Carla Hazard Tomaszewski, Anne Miksinski Kimball, Claire Pula, Judi Zamzow, Alys Younger

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The editor reserves the right to edit material for content and available space.