



TRUMPETER

QUARTERLY - NOVEMBER, 2024

POLISH HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND

50th
1974



Anniversary
Year
2024

~SALUTING OUR PAST & EMBRACING THE FUTURE~

The past five years have been a great challenge of survival for many non-profit organizations including our own PHAM. Along with the horrific pandemic lockdown, shifting demographics, and societal changes, within those few years PHAM also suffered a double whammy with the sad loss of two of our organization's presidents, Victoria Leshinsky and Jean Puła. It is only with dogged determination that we have chosen to carry on and revitalize our PHAM, forging ahead towards another fifty years of promoting love and appreciation of our beloved Polish heritage.

The result of this determination was the grand success of our Fiftieth Anniversary Gala fundraiser, held on September 7th at the PNA Council 21 great hall in Baltimore. Even though PHAM has a very robust Scholarship Fund, the club had a serious problem with the health of its operating fund. Because of the extremely hard work and dedication of PHAM's officers, board members, and volunteers in holding the gala, our operating fund is now healthy enough to allow PHAM to offer more programs and benefits to its members in the year ahead. And, we are optimistic that we can maintain that momentum going forward through grant funding and increased participation at



our events from the greater community.

The PHAM Gala was a tremendous success - not only financially, but also socially! The PNA Great Hall was full of people, stomachs were full of traditional food and drink, our cultural spirits were stirred by the authors and silent auction items, and at evening's end we screened the visually stunning film, *Chłopi* (*The Peasants*), a nod to our cultural history.

Months of planning and work on the part of many people made the night special and memorable. Homemade bigos and the beloved vegan version, "vigors", plus fresh salads, like mizeria, and of course kielbasa, gołąbki & pierogi - the old standards that never ever get old.

Some highlights included...

Authors Tom Hollowak, Cathy Rouhana, and Carla Tomaszewski gave presentations of their books and were on-hand to sign copies available for purchase (or to order). From a children's book, *Poland, Portrait of the Country Through its Festivals & Traditions*, to the vastly different immigrant experiences in the memoir, *When the Fudge Trees Bloom* and the soon-to-be published *Picking, Packing and Shucking: The Migrant Experience of Baltimore's Polish Immigrant*

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~SALUTING OUR PAST & EMBRACING THE FUTURE~

Community, all call to mind the depth of experience, knowledge and talent in our community.

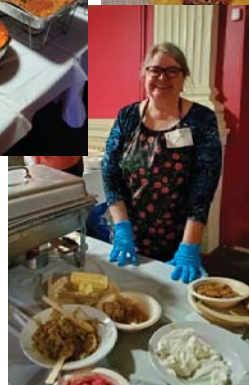
Resident storyteller and librarian, Adam Mazurek, gave **tours of PNA's Sienkiewicz Polonia Library** and hosted a very successful sale to support the library, answering questions and reminding us that viewing and discussing films together is a monthly occurrence as part of Polish Cinema Circle.

The **silent auction** was well received and winning a bid felt like winning a treasure! Included items were Polish pottery, artisan jewelry, Polish handicrafts, honeybee products from the Tomaszewski southern Maryland apiary, and Polish spirits, to name a few. The auction's grand prize was a week's stay at a mountain retreat in Poland's Podhale region!

Our partygoers went home happy

with their silent auction treasures, and for the evening finale, our wonderful crowd of supporters enjoyed each other's company while viewing the feature length **film from Poland, "Chłopi" (The Peasants)**. We couldn't have asked for a more perfect event where all could enjoy and appreciate our Polish culture together.

Many thanks go out to all our very hard-working volunteers, organizers for the hall setup, food prep, clean-up and break-down and various technical aspects of the day. Also thanks to Polish National Alliance Council 21 for the use of their facility. We are so proud that this event served to bring together so many groups and individuals of our Baltimore Polish community. **Thanks to all who attended! Serdecznie dziękujemy!**



Stanisław Kopec and Agnieszka Jaje: A family chronicle of war, slavery, and love

Their stories as told to Martha Kopec, their daughter-in-law.



On September 1, 1939 the Nazi invasion of Poland began. On September 17th, the Soviet Union invaded eastern Poland. Their overwhelming military superiority meant that by October 7th of that year, Germany and the Soviet Union signed a non-aggression pact, and the fate of Poland was sealed. Poland had fallen. Britain and France declared war on Germany and World War II began.

Stanisław Kopec 1916 - 1983

Stanisław was born and grew up in Kaczaki (Podkarpackie) to a family who farmed a small holding. Realizing that the farm would not provide for three sons and with few jobs to be had, he joined the Polish Cavalry. He said, "When the Nazis came, we were on horseback while they were in tanks, so we surrendered." He was sent to a coal mine near Köln (Nordrhein Westphalia) as a Landarbeiter (forced laborer). Eventually, he was sent to a farm near Stuttgart (Baden-Württemberg) where he remained until the end of the war.

Stanisław was not a compliant prisoner. While the Landarbeiten were restricted to their assigned workstations under the threat of death, he was not good at following the rules. This rule-breaking is the only part of the war he ever talked about. His favorite story involved leaving the farm at night to meet with Poles from a neighboring farm. Suddenly, he came upon a German tank. "I hit the ground and stayed there, barely breathing. Then I noticed that the tank was not guarded. Perhaps, the soldiers had all gone to the bar for a beer." While he always laughed telling the story, he emphasized how he had to sneak back to the farm, still terrified, because he could come across the soldiers at any time. The work was very hard and there was little food. As the war continued, food became even more scarce and the Landarbeiten were brutally treated. He said they had little hope of survival.

Agnieszka Jaje 1922 - 2012

Agnieszka was born and grew up in Radgoszcz (Malopolskie). She was only 17 in 1939 when the Nazis came to her town. Her only brother was shot and killed as he walked down the street, leaving behind a wife and two children. The Nazis came to her house and demanded that one of the family had to go to Germany. Her older sister had a husband and son and was ill with tuberculosis, while her younger sister was only 14. So Agnieszka was taken. She wasn't even given a chance to gather any belongings. She told me "We were put on an open train car with straw on the floor. There was no room to sit down. We rode the train until evening, and they took us to a church with straw on the floor. We were given a piece of bread and a drink of water each. And then told to lie down and sleep. There were insects in the straw." "The next day, we arrived at a place where people selected workers," she said. What she described sounded like a slave auction.

"Some other girls and I were told to stand, and a lady told us to come with her to a Gasthaus. It was allowed to stay open to serve the Nazi officers. I worked there cleaning, helping in the kitchen and in the fields, which is where I met my husband." She had been selected for that same farm near Stuttgart.

"We slept in the attic which was so cold that we wore all our clothes and covered up with our coats. I was afraid when we heard bombs falling that we would be killed. We were afraid of the German soldiers and the Americans." Her time at the farm had small spots of hope, Stanisław, whom she would eventually marry, and the woman who owned them, who she always said was kind to them, despite the circumstances.

May 7, 1945 - the end of the war. From Forced labor to Displaced Persons.

When the war ended, Agnieszka found herself pregnant. She decided to go back to Poland, so was sent to a Displaced Persons camp at Elwangen (Baden-Württemberg). The conditions there were very bleak. They slept in barracks and had nothing to do but wait to go to Poland. In September, Stanisław appeared at Elwangen and informed her that they "need to get married." They married on September 23, 1945, in the camp. There was one wedding dress in the camp. It was made of a parachute (at that time made of silk) with very ample seams so it could be let out or taken in to fit the bride. There was also one pair of white shoes. Unfortunately for Agnieszka, they were too small so she said her feet ached the entire time.



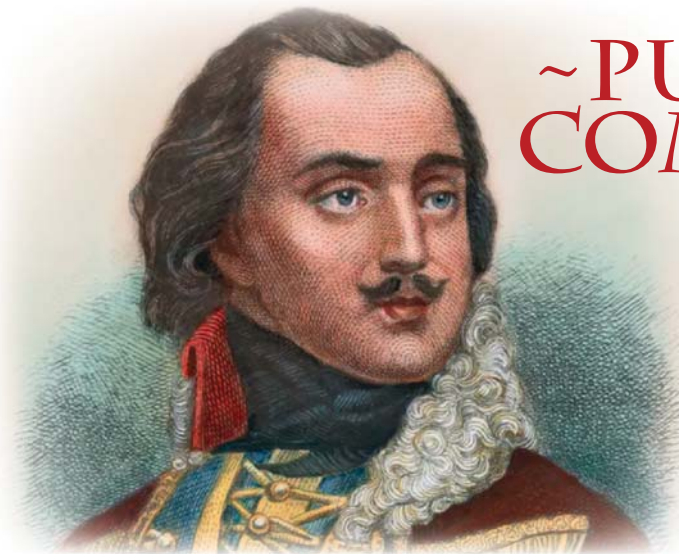
Soon after their wedding, they were moved to Displaced Persons Camp Heilbronn (Baden-Württemberg). Their son, Alfred Jan (John), was born December 30, 1945. On March 30, 1947, a second son, Henryk Kazimierz, was born, and then, sadly, died November 13 of that same year. They lived in a small room in a barracks which they shared with a single man. Stanisław was ambitious and studied English. He applied to be part of a police force that patrolled the camp, learning to drive and taking classes, but was dismissed because of drinking and fighting. They applied to go to Poland and twice packed up all their belongings and waiting at a bus stop all day for a bus that never came. They applied to go to Canada and were denied. They moved once again to Ludwigsburg (Baden-Württemberg). Their youngest son, Alexander Stanisław, was born April 27, 1949.

Cousins of Agnieszka who lived in Camden, New Jersey, worked at a farm in southern New Jersey, where they were picking strawberries. Timothy and Susan Campbell owned a chicken farm along with orchards and berries where people came to pick their own. In the cousins' conversation with Timothy, they mentioned that their Kopec cousins' family was in a Displaced Persons camp in Germany and would like to come to the United States. Campbell said that he needed help and could sponsor them. He got their information, and they arrived in Philadelphia on September 19, 1949.

Both got jobs. They bought a car and a house, sent their children to school, even vacationed in Florida. They both were very proud that they had worked hard for what they had. They had traveled such a long way from 1939 and despair.

Martha Barnum Kopec:

"I have always been interested in family history. My grandmothers knew who everybody was in our family. I felt I should include the family of my husband, John. I never dreamed what I would learn. I became interested in the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland when my granddaughter, Alysa Younger, won a scholarship to go to Notre Dame College. We began attending meetings and enjoyed ourselves immensely. Even though I have no Polish ancestors, I felt at home."



~PUŁASKI DAY 2024 COMMEMORATION~

Thanks to beautiful weather and effective publicity, PHAM's annual Pułaski Day ceremonies on October 13 at the Pułaski Monument in Baltimore's Patterson Park had one of the best turnouts in recent memory.

After welcoming remarks by PHAM president, Joe Solinsky, an opening prayer was offered by Fr. Andrzej Bieganski of Holy Cross Polish National Catholic Church. Adam Mazurek, PHAM First Vice President, presented his own brief account of Pulaski's exploits during the American Revolution. Following that was an address from a D.A.R. perspective by Lin Formwalt, Regent, Commodore Joshua Barney, John Eager Howard Chapter, Maryland Daughters of the American Revolution. Joe Solinsky then presented a history of the monument itself.

The following organizations contributed to the laying of wreaths:

- ~ Polish Heritage Association of Maryland
- ~ Polish Legion of American Veterans,
Gen. Casimir Pulaski Post 209
- ~ Maryland Daughters of the American
Revolution
- ~ National Katyń Memorial Foundation
- ~ Ojczyzna Polish Dancers
- ~ Wiślanie Polish Dancers
- ~ Polish National Alliance Council 21
- ~ Polish Home Club
- ~ Cardinal Hlond Polish School



After the singing of the American and Polish national anthems, with a salute by the Maryland Sons of the American Revolution color guard, a closing prayer was offered by Fr. Ryszard Czerniak of Holy Rosary Catholic Church. Participants gathered at a reception at the Polish National Alliance Council 21 hall on Eastern Avenue to enjoy delicious bigos, refreshments and fellowship.

Special thanks to Color Guardsmen David Embrey, John Davidson, and Don Eberhardt.



FROM OUR MAILBOX...

We are always gratified to receive notes from longtime members and friends. Following is a note from past PHAM officer, Paul Plevyak:

"Thank you for this email and the August copy of the PHA Quarterly Newsletter. I enjoyed reading it.

I am now 95+ years old and live with my spouse, Mary, for the past ten years at the Mercy Ridge Retirement Community in Timonium. Tomorrow, August 22, we will be celebrating our 71st wedding Anniversary.

We were active members of PHA and regularly attended meetings until we stopped driving and had no way to get to Fells Point. When Stanley Ciesielski was President, I served as his Vice President and Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. As I remember, Thomas Hollowak was one of the recipients. I recall other members of PHA whose names appeared in this issue of "The Trumpeter"—Dorothy Pula Strohecker, Carla Tomaszewski. Please extend my best wishes to them.

We send our best wishes for much success with your fall events, Mary and Paul."

PHAM sends heartfelt belated 71st wedding anniversary wishes to Paul and Mary. Sto Lat!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

...and here's another letter regarding our showing of the film *Chłopi* at our September 7th Gala:

"Dear Editor,

CONGRATULATIONS to PHAM on the fabulous success of the 50th Anniversary "gala" on September 7! It was gratifying to see so many people gathered at PNA Hall, enjoying the talks, tours, silent auction, displays, and food, and each other! Kudos to the conceivers, organizers, and producers of this lovely event!

One highlight of the evening was the screening of the Polish-language, subtitled, and animated film *Chłopi*! (The Peasants). Although some question the decision to show this R-rated movie, I believe that there are numerous reasons why this was a fitting choice to celebrate the PHAM's 50th Anniversary:

1. The film tells part of the story of the four-volume novel of the same name, which garnered the Nobel Prize for its author, Wladyslaw Reymont, in 1924. The Nobel Committee considered this work to be a "great national epic."
2. As such, the story is well-known to Polish readers and is an important part of Polish culture; hence, it is very appropriate for Americans of Polish heritage.
3. The movie is a highly esteemed work, having won numerous awards, including the Polish Film Festival; AFI Fest of the American Film Institute; TIFF (Toronto International Film Festival); and other esteemed international film awards.
4. *Chłopi*/ *The Peasants* is the work of the Polish director DK Welchman (formerly Dorota Kobiela) and Hugh Welchman, who created the award-winning 2017 art film *Loving Vincent*; both films feature especially stunning visuals using a new method of animation. Released by Sony Pictures Classics in 2023, *Chłopi*/ *The Peasants* is a representative of the contemporary Polish art scene, again befitting for audience members of Polish heritage to know.

THANK YOU to the leadership of PHAM for making it possible to see this most recent effort at translating the 4-volume novel into film, in the only screening mounted in Baltimore! It was a unique opportunity, and I believe that it helped to make the 50th anniversary fundraiser event very special!

Sincerely and respectfully yours,
Dot Strohecker Tassone"

Editor's note: The film *Chłopi* has been widely shown within Polonia in the U.S. More information regarding the books and film can be found at <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1924/summary/>, and <https://www.sonypictures.com/film/thepeasants/>.



A SAMPLING OF POLISH HERITAGE

Another PHAM Event ~ Another triumph! Polish Heritage Featured in Baltimore City “Free Fall” Events

by Edith Pula

Polonia and Baltimore City came together on Sunday, October 27 to enjoy an afternoon of Polish food, music, folk dance, legends, crafts and more during a “Sampling of Polish Heritage”. PHAM was proud to be part of this month-long citywide “Free Fall” series of arts and cultural events and to be able to showcase our Polish heritage to the City with a free public event that was enabled by a grant won from the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts.

The Great Hall at Polish National Alliance was filled with people sampling free Polish food, enjoying music and storytelling, creating wycinanki bookmarks and other Polish crafts, and perusing vendors’ offerings for early Christmas shopping.

A highlight of the event was a dazzling “fashion show” of Polish regional costumes arranged by Ojczyzna Polish Dancers. Individual couples in regional finery strolled the “catwalk” to the appreciative “oohs” and “aahs” of the capacity audience in the Great Hall and made a stunning display of the amazing and colorful diversity of Polish folk costumes. Costumes from Lowicz, Opole, Krakow, Kurpie, Podhale, Szamotuly, and other regions showed the rich variety among Polish folk dress.

Thanks go to Judi Zamzow, Edith Pula, and Claire Pula, who wrote and reviewed the grant proposal to the City of Baltimore which provided foundational funding, and who pulled

everything together even after spending weeks in Poland just prior to the event.

Our many volunteers were responsible for the event’s success, doing marketing, cooking, set up and break down, serving, vending and more: we thank Ashlyn Giardina, Gosia Janowski, Larry Janowski, Adam Mazurek, April Mitchell, Krysia Oswowski, Claire Pula, Edith Pula, Cathy Rouhana, Ruthie Rouhana, Petra Rouhana, Sade Segovia, Pat Skurzynski, Joe Solinsky, Margie Strohecker, Dot Tassone, Carla Tomaszewski, Ania Wilton, and Judi Zamzow. Polish National Alliance Council 21 was the gracious venue host (thanks to Richard Poremski, Michael Carnahan, Ryan Kotowski, et. al.).

Gosia Bondyra and Ojczyzna Dancers, Stasia and Oleh Skrypczuk provided the costume fashion show, live folk music, and dances from selected regions. Adam Mazurek donned his ‘flisak’ (raftsman) persona and regaled us with Polish folk tales and legends and kept the background music humming.



Our friends in the Polish community, including Fr. Ryszard Czerniak of Holy Rosary Church, Fr. Andrzej Bieganski of Holy Cross Polish National Catholic Church, Marianne and Dave Frederick of Polish Treasures, Lew Hubbard of Polish Home Club, and all the good folks at PNA promoted the event on social media to get the word out. Dziękujemy!

Thanks also to Ms. Teresa Chruszcz, Consul of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, for supplying booklets about the natural beauty of Poland and various other materials that were distributed to all attendees.

This event rounds out a stellar 50th anniversary year for PHAM and is our last public event for 2024. Planning for 2025 will start on Sunday November 17 at the PNA lounge at 2 p.m., with a general membership meeting preceded by a meeting of elected Officers and Board members. Join us in person or via Zoom for a recap of the year, a financial report, and a discussion of activities for 2025 and volunteer opportunities. We hope to see all of you there to kick-start our next 50 years.



ZADUSZKI

by travel.lovePoland Magazine

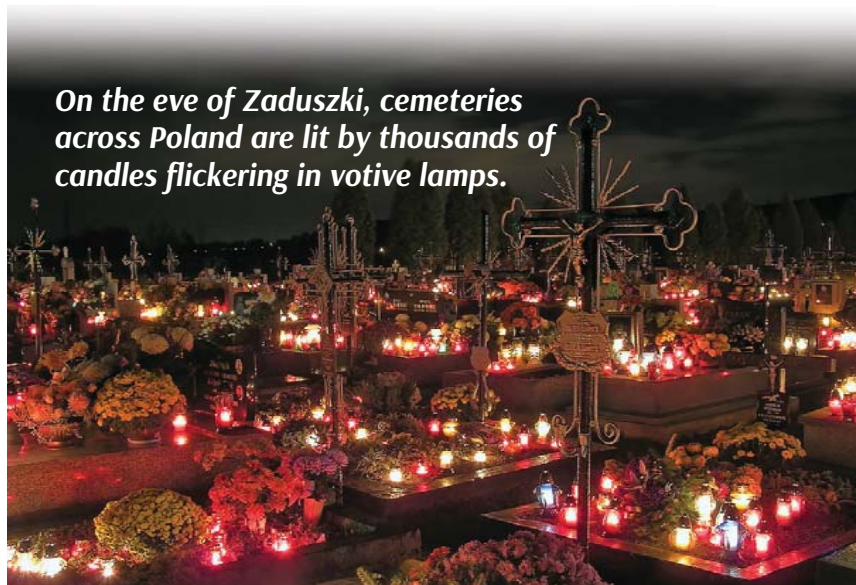
All Saints' Day is celebrated solemnly in Poland. The first of November is a bank holiday during which people visit cemeteries and gather round their family graves, laying flowers and lighting candles.

The Roman Catholic tradition (Festum Omnium Sanctorum) honoring all saints, both known and unknown, is one of the most important Polish holidays. People used to believe that on 1 November, the day the Church traditionally received offerings from believers to celebrate mass in memory of the dead, souls stuck in purgatory would roam around among the living. Pagan beliefs and celebrations have survived to the present day in the Podlasie Voivodeship, historically part of the eastern Slavic lands. Forefathers' Eve, a tradition pre-dating Christianity commemorating restless souls, is still celebrated in some regions.

Zaduszki is All Soul's Day, November 2.

It is a day to honor the souls of the dead. Polish families visit the graves of their dead relatives. Candles are lit, flowers and even offerings of bread and food are placed on many graves.

On the eve of Zaduszki, cemeteries across Poland are lit by thousands of candles flickering in votive lamps.



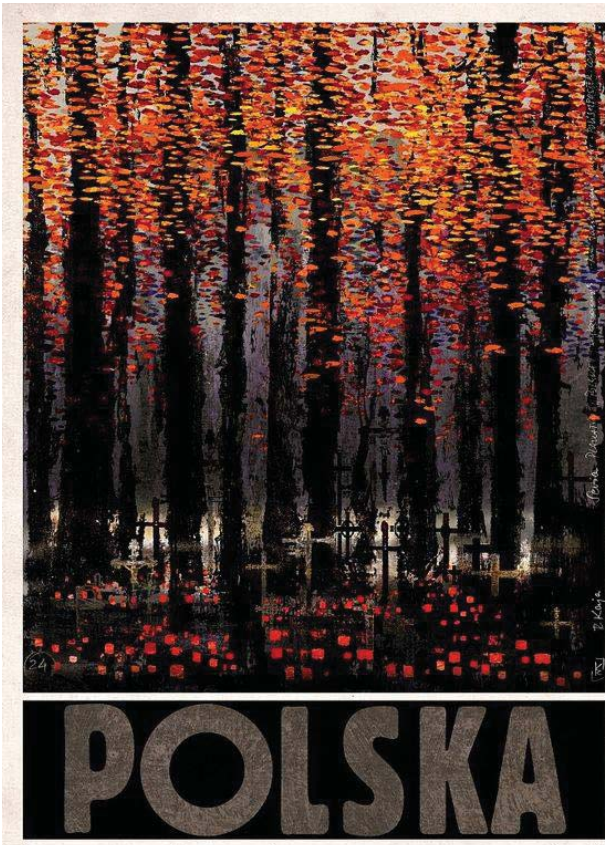
In many villages, food, drink and prayers are still offered to the souls that have to atone for their sins, to help ease their hunger and make their journey to heaven more comfortable. The tradition of a feast during which bread, eggs and honey are consumed has also been preserved. According to one superstition, a spoon which falls to the ground should not be picked up as it is thought to have been snatched by a dead soul searching for food.



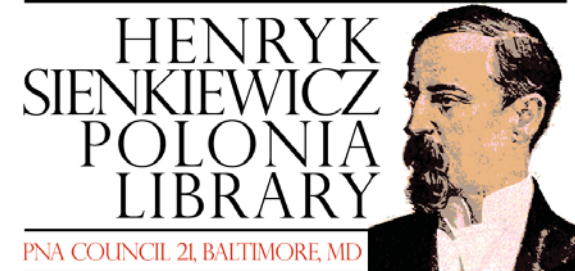
In some villages in southern Poland, people continue to bake the "bread of the dead," marked with a cross and prepared early enough so as not to torture souls which, it was believed, used ovens and chimneys as the shortest way to heaven. People used to share the "bread of the dead" with priests and beggars who would say a prayer for the dead.

Poster at left by famed graphic artist Ryszard Kaja (1962-2019) He said, "This is the last, only unique holiday that unites Poles." Ryszard reminded followers every year with this painting, emphasizing its great identity significance. While traveling, he repeated to the world that if one wants to know Poland, one must visit it at THIS time of year.

www.ryszardkaja.pl , <https://www.facebook.com/KajaRyszard>



PAGES/STRONY: PHAM BOOK CLUB NOTES AT THE



The Polish Heritage Book Club invites you to join us for our **November 23 meeting**, when we will discuss the novel *Victory: An Island Tale*, by Joseph Conrad! We will continue our consideration of this work at the **January 11** meeting. When we meet on **December 7**, we will discuss the essay by Conrad called *Christmas Day at Sea*. And the work for **February 8** will be *The Journal of Countess Francoise Krasinska*, by Klementyna Tanska-Hoffmanowa.

Joseph Conrad (born Jozef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski) was a Polish national who is "regarded as one of the greatest writers in the English language" and who "became a master prose stylist" in English (Wikipedia). The founder and moderator of the Book Club, Dr. Dorothy Pula Strohecker, is a Conrad scholar, having both written her dissertation on this author and presented at many conferences about him. We look forward to benefiting from her professional insights into *Victory*.

Book Club members read a wide variety of works related to Poland and Polonia.



Back in September, we read *Mrs. Mohr Goes Missing*, a mystery story set in 19th century Krakow, by Polish author Maryla Szymiczkowa (a pseudonym). Then in October, we considered *The Card Index*, an absurdist play by Tadeusz Rozewicz. So in the first four meetings of reading season 2024-2025, we will have addressed a classic novel, a mystery, a play, and an essay! And this is not the full extent of the range of works we read; we also cover poetry, short stories, historical fiction, and other genres.

To participate live in the November 9 meeting, visit the Henryk Sienkiewicz Polonia Library on the second floor of the PNA Building, at 1627 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore MD 21231, where your host is Adam Mazurek. To join the meeting virtually, email Dot Tassone at dstassone@gmail.com for the online Zoom link.

We hope to see you soon!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENERAL MEETING ~ Full board and membership meeting on **Sunday Nov. 17** from 2 pm to 4:30 pm at the PNA Lounge and on Zoom. Members will be updated on our finances as well as be solicited for ideas for activities this spring. We will also kick off the scholarship season. Let us know by email to presidentphamd@gmail.com if you need the Zoom link.

"OPŁATEK DINNER" The PHAM holiday celebration is set for **Sunday, January 12**, from 2-6 pm at the PNA Hall

PHAM is convening a committee to plan a **March discussion about the 2023 film *Chłopi* (The Peasants)** that was shown at our 50th anniversary celebration in September. The film is based on the four-volume novel of the same name by Nobel Prize-winning author Władysław Reymont. If you would like to join the planning committee or if you have questions about the film that you would like to have covered during this discussion, please submit them by December 1, 2024 to Dot Tassone by email at dstassone@gmail.com or phaofmd@gmail.com, by phone at 443-824-3099, or by postal mail to P.O. Box 20119, Baltimore, MD 21286.

PLANNING AHEAD...

Members, Families & Friends,
Please join us at

The Polish Heritage Association of Maryland's *Annual Oplatek Dinner*



This is tentatively scheduled for
Sunday, January 12, 2025, 2-6 p.m.
at Polish National Alliance Hall, Baltimore
Please Save the Date!
Details will be forthcoming.



Dziękujemy!

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

The Polish Heritage Association extends our thanks
and gratitude to the businesses,
donors and volunteers that helped to make our
50th Gala Celebration a rousing success!

Planning, organizing, execution: Edith Pula, Carla Tomaszewski, Judi Zamzow with assistance from Officers and Board

Food prep and service: April Mitchell, Krysia Osowska, Claire Pula, Ramona Pula, Edith Pula, Margie Strohecker, Carol Strohecker, Dot Tassone, Judi Zamzow

Event prep and setup: Ashlyn Giardina, Adam Mazurek, Richard Poremski, Claire Pula, Edith Pula, Cathy Rouhana, Pat Skurzynski, Joe Solinsky, Judi Zamzow, Dot Tassone, Rowan Tassone, Carla Tomaszewski,

Door, Cashiering, Table Staffing: Gosia Janowski, Sue Mazurek, Adam Mazurek, Margie Strohecker, Rowan Tassone, Carlos Wilton

Graphics and Marketing: Maria Satyshur, Dot Tassone, Carla Tomaszewski, Judi Zamzow

Library Tours: Adam Mazurek

Designated Financial Donations: Ann Zelenka

We'd also like to thank our Officers and Board, and members of our Polish Community, who continue to give of their time and knowledge, including: Thomas Hollowak, Krysia Osowska, Carla Tomaszewski

And finally, *dziękujemy bardzo* to all those who stayed late to put away tables and chairs, clear, wrap, and store food, and generally, help get PNA's hall back to its pre-party state!



~MEMBERSHIP~

Interested in Poland? Love your Polish
Heritage? Please, Come Join us!

Please Sign up Online at phaofmd.org

Witamy!

Polish Heritage Association of Maryland is pleased to welcome new members and those who have recently renewed their memberships:

Gordon Creamer (renewal)
Thomas Chrzanowski (renewal)
Lewis Hubbard
Zbigniew & Jadwiga Jamroz
Barbara Kopec
Melvin Malenski
Agnieszka Roman & Spouse
Zbigniew & Irena Rybak
Jason Seaman
Leszek Strzelecki & Spouse

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. In order to expand the scope of existing events, and add in new ones, we need your help.



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

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The *Trumpeter* is published quarterly and available in full color online at www.phaofmd.org. News and articles are welcome and should be submitted to the Editor by email to phaofmd@gmail.com

The editor reserves the right to edit material for content and available space.
Submission Deadlines: Feb.15, May 15, Aug.15, Nov.15

Visit us Online at phaofmd.org

Sto Lat to the Next Fifty Years!

*I kiss the soil as if I placed a kiss on the hands of a
mother, for the homeland is our earthly mother.*

- Pope St. John Paul II, Karol Wojtyła

The Polish Heritage Association of Maryland



1974 - 2024