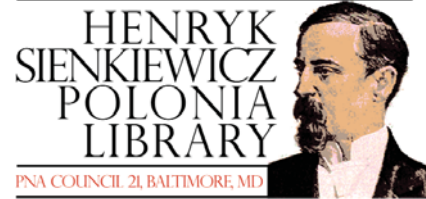


PHAM BOOK CLUB AT THE



YOU ARE INVITED to join the Book Club of the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland (PHAM)!! The Polish Heritage Book Club meets from 2 pm until 4 pm on the second Saturday of each month, except during the summer. All selections have either been written in English or translated from the Polish into English. (We do not read books that are still in the Polish language.) Our leader is **Dorothy P. Strohecker, Ph.D.**



The Book Club was created in 2008 by Dorothy Puła Strohecker as an initiative of the Education Committee, which was founded in 2005. "The Professor" began the Book Club out of her love for sharing great literature and of her desire to explore specifically Polish literature. Since then, the group has read novels, plays, poems, short stories, and some nonfiction by giants of the Polish literary canon (including Mickiewicz, Słowacki, Krasiński, Wyspiański, and Prus) and by Nobel Prize winners (Sienkiewicz, Reymont, Miłosz, Szymborska, and Tokarczuk), as well as works by many other authors, including Pope John Paul II.

For the month of June 2024, the reading selection for the Book Club is the play called *Beelzebub Sonata* (1925), by Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz. 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, June 8, 2024.

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

TOOTING OUR HORN...

Our local historian, Tom Hollowak, will soon be publishing a book about Baltimore's Poles who worked on Maryland farms during the spring and into the summer picking strawberries, string beans, and tomatoes, and shucking oysters down south. It will be titled, **"Picking, Packing & Shucking: The Migrant Experience of Baltimore's Polish Community"**. Look for future announcements about it on PHAM's FaceBook page at <https://www.facebook.com/100064326774353/>

Another PHAM author, artist Carla Hazard Tomaszewski, has published a children's book about Poland, under the sponsorship of the Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D.C.. **POLAND, A Portrait of the Country through its Festivals and Traditions** debuted in 2015, and is now in its third printing. To know more about Carla's book, go to <https://www.facebook.com/PolandChildrensBook>.

THE ARCHIVES OF MARYLAND POLONIA

was founded in 1982 by longtime PHAM member, Thomas L. Hollowak to preserve, document, and make available to researchers the history of Polish immigrants and people of Polish heritage in the State of Maryland. On March 15, 1999, Hollowak donated the collection to the University of Baltimore.

This collection contains newspaper clippings, brochures, correspondence, photographs, books, and other artifacts documenting the Polish community and its history in Baltimore and Maryland. Some subjects include immigration and customs, various industries, labor and trade, education, housing, genealogy, government, and other issues and events related to the Polish community in Baltimore and Maryland.

At the time of the donation, Tom established an endowment to defray the cost of archival preservation. He has given additional monetary gifts to offset the additional material that will be added to the collection upon his death.

In an effort to document every aspect of the Polish experience in Maryland, the public is encouraged to donate items related to the history and genealogy of the Polish presence in Maryland. Monetary gifts from the public towards the endowment are also welcome and tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

For more information on how to donate, contact **Theresa A. Silanskis, Executive Director, The University of Baltimore Foundation** – tsilanskis@ubalt.edu / or 410.837.683.

Thomas L. Hollowak is the Associate Director for Special Collections, Emeritus, University of Baltimore. He has been researching, writing, and publishing on the Polish Community in Maryland for over forty years. In 1992, he founded Historyk Press dedicated to publishing the genealogy and history about and for Marylanders of Polish Heritage.



TRUMPETER STAFF

Editor, Edith Puła
Photography & Graphics, Carla Hazard Tomaszewski

Contributors: Tom Hollowak, Joseph Solinsky, Dorothy Tassone, Carla Hazard Tomaszewski

The *Trumpeter* is published quarterly and available in full color online at 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



TRUMPETER

QUARTERLY - MAY, 2024

POLISH HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND

50th
1974



Anniversary
2024

All human activity takes place within a culture and interacts with culture. For an adequate formation of a culture, the involvement of the whole man is required, whereby he exercises his creativity, intelligence, and knowledge of the world and of people.

- Pope Saint John Paul II

Welcome FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear friends & members of PHA-MD, I want to welcome you to the inaugural edition of the new *Trumpeter* for 2024, the official newsletter of the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland! If you signed up to be a member, thank you! If you are still thinking about becoming a member, now is a great time to join! Our vision is to build an organization that highlights and showcases the Polish and Polish American experience in Baltimore & Maryland. An important way we do this is offering annual scholarships to deserving students of Polish heritage to help them achieve their academic and career goals. Another way is to promote members of the Baltimore Polish & Polish American community that are active in the arts & letters, through workshops, readings, lectures, demonstrations, & performances. Together we can create a strong Association that will pass on our heritage for generations to come. If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to become a member please contact me at 410.967.9556 or via email at jpsolinsky@comcast.net.

Joseph Solinsky, President

On September 26, 1974, under the leadership of Stanley Ciesielski, the following individuals: Lucian Antosiak, Maria Antosiak, John T. Ciesielski, Emily Conner, Alfreda Jamrosz, Stanisław Jamrosz, Alfreda Zglinicka Kiessling, Tadeusz Leser, Anne F. Miksinski, Bolesław W. Miksinski, Eleanor A. Miksinski, Jan Minkowski, Danuta Mostwin, Stanisław Mostwin, Fr. Franciszek Okroy, Lillian Ozazewska, Adele Slavinsky, Henry P. Struginski, and Loretta Struzinski, came together to form the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland. Their objectives were threefold:

- To preserve and illuminate our Polish heritage and its freedom-oriented spirit
- To present the intellectual, artistic and scientific content of this heritage to the pluralist American society and thus enrich both
- To contribute to the general quality of life and welfare of the Americans of Polish descent in the State of Maryland.

The first issue of the organization's newsletter, simply titled, Bulletin No.1, was published on November 1, 1974. Eventually

it was named 'The Trumpeter', recalling the legendary trumpeter of Kraków. Fortunately, over the five past decades, most of the issues of the PHA newsletter have been preserved. Thus, the publication provides a history on the range of activities, members, and committees of the organization. Though it does not provide a comprehensive list of every person who served on a committee it does provide a complete listing of PHAM's presidents, vice-presidents, executive board members and secretaries.

Taking over the reins as president in 2002 was Ms. Victoria Leshinsky whose focus was growing and nurturing the club's scholarship program. President Leshinsky retired from the club in 2017, after which Jean Puła was elected President. After steering the organization through the difficulties of COVID, Jean was taken from us unexpectedly by illness in May 2024. Joseph Solinsky, then 1st Vice President, stepped up to lead the organization. Note that nominations are still being taken for officers and board members and a slate for elections will be presented very soon.

POLISH HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS FOR 2024-25

We are pleased to announce our winners for this year's scholarships. We had many wonderful and qualified applicants which makes the decisions hard but also gratifying in that we see our community so well represented by these aspiring students.



WILLIAM PAUL PIPKIN is a senior at Loyola Blakefield. From Havre de Grace, William plans to major in civil engineering at University of Maryland or Columbia. Commenting on the family's name change during immigration, he states, "My Polish heritage means representing my ancestors

in a meaningful way that illustrates how the sacrifice of their name was worth it".

MARTIN JOSEPH RATCHFORD, from Mount Airy, is a sophomore at Elizabethtown College where he is pursuing a B.S. in Computer Science. Martin expresses that "a great source of inspiration for me is the story of my great grandmother who courageously faced adversity to ensure the survival of her family".



AGATA MICHALINA DOLINSKA is from Gaithersburg where she is a senior at Winston Churchill High School. She has been accepted to Penn State where she will major in psychology. The first in her family to be born in the U.S., Agata says, "My journey with Polish heritage is not just a part of my identity but also a source of inspiration and commitment to contribute to the preservation of Polish culture around me and in the United States."



We wish our winners all the best and we encourage them and all the applicants to apply again for our next round of scholarships.

PAST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ~ WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



ANN MARGARET ZELENKA, PhD

Ann Margaret Zelenka was a four-time winner of a scholarship through the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, in 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013. She has also been featured in an article in the ACPC Newsletter, as well as in Who's Who among Students in American Universities & Colleges, in 2014 and 2016. A consummate scholar, Ann Margaret

has earned four academic degrees and is currently working on her fifth. In 2025, she expects to graduate from UB with her M.B.A.. She has worked full-time in two of the three branches of the federal government. Prior to that, she has held a U.S. Congressional Commission internship. Beginning in 2018, Ann Margaret has participated as a volunteer in grass-roots efforts to help pregnant mothers and families in crisis by supplying clothing and supplies, and has been active locally with the "Walking with Moms in Need" initiative of the USCCB (United States Congress of Catholic Bishops).



JAN TADEUSZ TOMASZEWSKI

After being awarded PHAM's Baltimore International College scholarship in 2006, Jan began his culinary career working as a sous chef in restaurants in Baltimore's Fell's Point. Later, he moved to south Florida working in private resorts and eventually as an award-winning corporate sous chef in South Beach, Miami under the mentorship of well-respected European chef Wolfgang

Birk. Following his dream, Jan moved to Germany at the age of 29 to begin work in several restaurants, eventually teaming up with chef Birk to design and open a new American-style steakhouse in Wurzburg, Germany. After working six years in Germany, Jan was hired by the Kimpton Hotel group and moved to Amsterdam to work at one of their boutique hotels as chef and food/beverage manager. Recently, Jan was called back to the States by his hotel group to take over the chef position at the Lyle Hotel in downtown Washington, DC. Jan's strengths are creative menu development and kitchen management.

A 1979 JOURNEY OF LOVE: MASS WITH JOHN PAUL II IN POLAND

By Carla Hazard Tomaszewski



Forty five years ago, in June 1979, I was in Poland on a pilgrimage, by myself, without the fluency of the Polish language to help me along. Why? - I just HAD to be in Poland, for it was the return of the first Polish Pope in history, Pope John Paul II (Karol Wojtyła), to his homeland one year after his election to the Papacy. I did have friends in Poland whom I had met on my previous trips to the then-communist nation. They knew my purpose instinctively, because for all of us, this was a hugely historic event of which we all wanted to be a part. I named these friends my 'guardian angels,' anioły stróży, who housed me, got me onto trains and busses, and made arrangements to eventually usher me to the southern mountain town of Zakopane.

My Zakopane angels arranged for me to attend the Pope's Mass in the nearby alpine field of the mountain town of Nowy Targ. They drove me to the area, but there was a point at which I was simply dropped off, given a ticket and told to 'follow the procession'.

I walked miles through the Tatra countryside accompanied by many thousands of devoted, faithful gorale - mountain folk dressed in their Sunday-best traditional garb; some traveling as musical groups sawing away on bass fiddles and violins, singing their hearts out - all being pulled in horse-drawn wagons. Other groups from numerous parishes were led in singing hymns by their pastors and priests. Every humble peasant cottage, barn, and fence along the way was decorated with billowing streamers of gold, white and red ribbons (Papal and Polish colors) that sur-

rounded images of the Madonna of Częstochowa, and the Pope with large bouquets of fresh field flowers, colorful woven tapestries and intricately handcrafted lace doilies adorning all variety of makeshift altars and shrines.

After miles of processing along the stony dirt roads, we saw the countryside open up before us onto a huge open alpine field. Volunteers guided us to our roped-off sections according to our ticket. There were already tens of thousands of people waiting patiently in the warm morning sun, some picnicking on slices of home-made bread, cheeses and smoked kielbasy. They must have started their trek way before sun-up. When it was getting near to when the Pope would arrive for Mass, the field was packed with over 1 million faithful souls. Never have I seen so many people in one place in my entire life. They were prayerful, respectful and orderly, all in expectation of 'their' Pope John Paul II who arrived in a helicopter. I was so far away from the main altar that the bright white-cassocked figure of the Pope appeared only as a small white flash in the distance, waving his arms to the crowd. I could not really understand any of his homily, BUT I was there! Best of all, the Spirit was there.

Before leaving, I gathered up a handful of grasses and a tattered paper Papal flag from the field where we sat. I brought them home specifically for my Polish grandma, Martha, who, even though she was born in Poland, never had any memory of it, because her parents brought her over as a baby on the boat to America. I mounted the grasses around the flag, wrote a description in silver ink and framed it for her. The description reads:

"On June 8, 1979, Pope John Paul II, native son of Poland, said Mass for 1 million people at Nowy Targ, Poland. These grasses, flowers and this papal flag were taken from that field on that holy day in June and were given his Papal Blessing."



A NEW SEAL FOR THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS



PHAM's first Bulletin in 1974 notes that the organization's "... distinctive seal was the creation of Baltimore's nationally respected artist/portraitist, Mr. Stanislaw Rembski." Mr. Rembski served as the Honorary President of PHAM for twenty-four years until his death at the age of 101 in 1998.

And so, in celebration of the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland's 50th anniversary year, we have updated our seal to reflect the design standards of the twenty-first century. That task was ably accomplished by another well-known Polish-American artist and member of the club since its beginnings, Carla Hazard Tomaszewski.

