TRUMPETER

QUARTERLY -NOVEMBER, 2027

POLISH HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND

Pulaski Day in Baltimore, Oct. 18, 2026: Baltimore's Revolutionary Spirit Endures

AMERICA 250

"For Our Freedom and Yours"

The famous phrase "For our freedom and yours" originated as an unofficial motto of Poland. It was coined by the Polish historian and political leader Joachim Lelewel during the November Uprising in 1831.

The original, longer version was "In the name of God, for our freedom and yours". It was created to show solidarity with other nations struggling for independence, conveying that the Polish people's fight against oppressive empires was directly linked to the universal fight for human liberty everywhere.

The phrase became an enduring rallying cry used by Polish soldiers, exiles, and resistance fighters in various global conflicts, including the Polish Armed Forces fighting in World War II.



As stewards of Baltimore's Polish heritage, we gather each October at Patterson Park's Pułaski Monument to honor Generał Kazimierz Pułaski and to reflect on Baltimore's outsized role in the struggle for American independence. In the darkest months of the war, Baltimore sheltered the Continental Congress at the Henry Fite House, provisioned Washington's army through its merchants and craftsmen, and launched privateers from Fell's Point that strained British supply lines. Our commemoration stands squarely in that Baltimore tradition: civic courage, shared sacrifice, and steadfast friendship with the cause of liberty. It was an absolutely beautiful, sunny afternoon, with a steady breeze catching the red and white of the Polish flag flying high at the monument.



'For Our Freedom...'" continued on page 2

Pułaski Day in Baltimore, Oct. 18, 2026

By Liz Lipinski and Claire Puła

Thank you to everyone who joined us for a beautiful Pułaski Day Commemoration and USA 250th Anniversary recognition on October 18.

We had a very special afternoon gathering at the Pułaski Monument in Patterson Park and later at the Polish Home Club. Seeing our community come together to honor General Casimir Pułaski's legacy of freedom reminded us all of the deep history and active heritage of our community.

A sincere thank you to our emcee, speakers, and participants who lent their voices to this occasion, including PHAM board members President Adam Mazurek, Rev. Claire Puła, and Ms. Edith Puła. Fr. Andrzej Bieganowski from Holy Cross Polish National Catholic Church and Fr. Janusz Sok of Holy Rosary Church opened and closed the ceremony with moving words and prayers. A stately Color Guard presentation was given by the Polish Legion of American Veterans, Gen. Casimir Pułaski Post 209. The Governor's Proclamation of Polish-American Heritage Month was read aloud.



Photo credit: Michelle Hastings

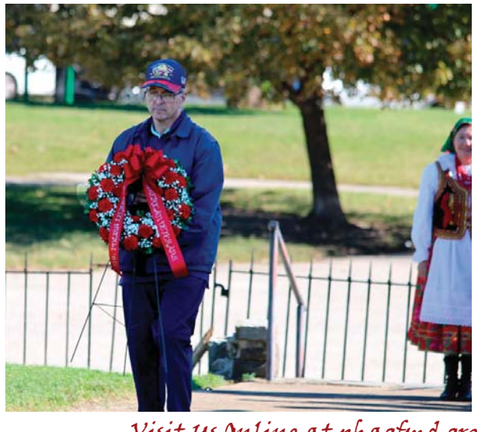
Long (Friends of Patterson Park), spoke movingly of the beacon the Pulaski Monument has become for communities surrounding Patterson Park, which continues to be home to immigrants searching for freedom. The Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D.C., was ably represented by Honorary Consul Richard Poremski.



Distinguished guest speakers included Maryland Senate President Bill Ferguson, who presented the Maryland Senate Resolution as well as the Governor's Citation in recognition of the "Father of the American Cavalry". Mr. Garry Bien Aime of the Komite Ayiti provided inspirational background about the Haitian cavalry who so nobly fought alongside French and American forces at the Siege of Savannah. Ms. Katie

Also remembered during the day were the many other Poles who contributed to American independence, particularly Tadeusz Kosciuszko and Haym Salomon.

Beautiful red and white wreaths (made by Perżynski & Filar Florists) were presented by Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, Polish National Alliance Council 21, Cardinal Hlond



Polish School at Holy Rosary, National Katyń Memorial Foundation, Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D.C., Polish Legion of American Veterans Post 209, Polish Home Club, Komite Ayiti, Embassy of the Republic of Poland, and Friends of Patterson Park. In addition to laying wreaths, the Ojczyzna Polish Dancers and Wiślanie Polish Folk Song and Dance Ensemble led everyone in singing the American and Polish national anthems. Their colorful folk costumes added to the beauty of the clear autumn day. Production and printing of the programs were kindly provided by Board Member Judi Zamzow and First VP Michael Carnahan.



Afterwards, attendees retired to the Polish Home Club for excellent traditional buffet catered by Krystyna Osowska. The hall was filled with cultural and historical displays and items provided by Carla Hazard Tomaszewska, Adam Mazurek, Judi Zamzow, Edith Puła, Terrica Davis, Dorothy Strohecker Tassone, Ania Wilton, Claire Puła, and the Komite Ayiti.

We are very thankful to all who participated!







Photo credit: Michelle Hastings















ANNOUNCING...

The Polish Heritage Association of Maryland undergraduate scholarships open on February 1, 2027.

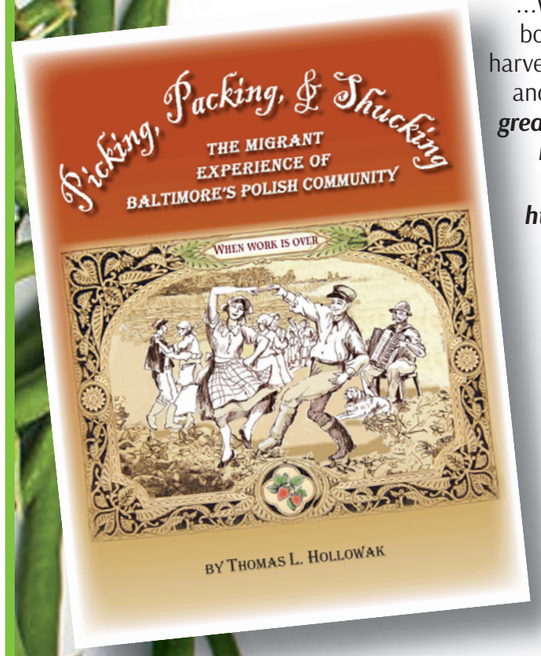
The Polish Heritage Association of Maryland will be providing several scholarship grants to undergraduate students for the academic year 2026-2027. To qualify, applicants must have at least two Polish ancestors, be a legal resident of Maryland, and be a full-time student at a Maryland High School or an accredited post-secondary institution in the USA during the Fall 2027 and Spring 2028 semesters.
Selection will be based on financial need, academic standing, leadership potential, and pride of and participation in their Polish heritage.

Complete information on how to apply will be posted on our website on February 1, 2027 at phaofmd.org/scholarship

YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT OUR YOUTH...

...with your purchase of Tom Hollowak's book about our own Polish ancestors' lives harvesting crops outside the Baltimore city limits and shucking oysters down South. ***Makes a great Christmas gift for anyone interested in Baltimore's Polish immigrant history.***

Please go to https://www.phaofmd.org/book-sales to make your purchase now.



Thank You!

You will be pleased to know that the proceeds from your purchase of *Picking, Packing & Shucking: The Migrant Experience of Baltimore's Polish Community,* will be used to fund a Polish Heritage Association of Maryland memorial scholarship in Tom's name.

www.phaofmd.org

HONOR FOR A 'FAVORITE SON'

The Baltimore City Historical Society awarded its 2026 HISTORY HONORS *at a public ceremony on October 10, 2026 at the historic Lovely Lane United Methodist Church, downtown Baltimore*

Submitted by Carla Tomaszewski





The prestigious History Honors are awarded annually to people who have expanded historical knowledge of Baltimore, led improvements to our civic life, or left enriching legacies here. The ceremony serves as a moving testimony to these individuals and the contributions they made and continue to make to our city's identity, culture, and expression.

Among the total of twelve Awardees, Tom Hollowak, Historian of Polish Baltimore and Associate Director Emeritus, University of Baltimore Special Collections & Archives, was one of three persons receiving posthumous recognition for their special contributions to Baltimore history. The other two were: Rev. Dr. Theodore (Ted) Durr, Founder, Baltimore Region Institutional Studies Center, housed at University of Baltimore's Baltimore Studies Archives, and Dr. Earl Richardson, President Emeritus, Morgan State University.

Heartfelt presentation remarks were made by Aiden Faust, coworker of Tom and current Associate Director of Special Collections and Archives at the University of Baltimore. Present at the ceremony were Tom's life partner, Dave Amos, who formally accepted the award expressing his personal comments and thanks; also, Tom's sister Mary Hollowak, his twin brother Stan and wife Eva along with his cousin Will Shanahan and wife Margaret. Representing Baltimore Polonia and PHAM at the ceremony were PHAM President, Adam Mazurek and Carla Tomaszewski, both personal friends of Tom for many years.



Aiden Faust, Dave Amos, Mary Hollowak

After the award ceremony, a reception with light refreshments was held in the church hall. Books written by several of the awardees were offered for sale. Tom's book, *Picking, Packing, & Shucking - The Migrant Experience of Baltimore's Polish Community,* was displayed and sold by Adam Mazurek and Carla Tomaszewski.

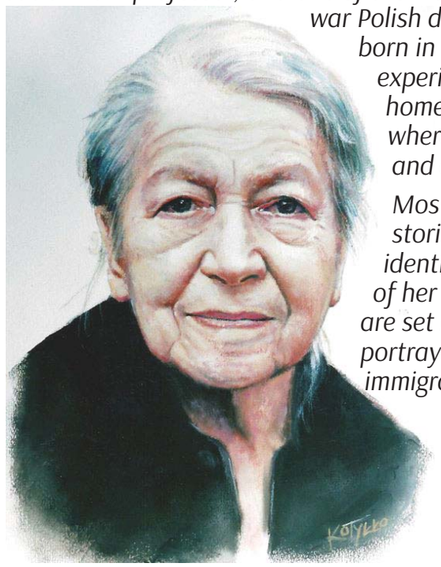


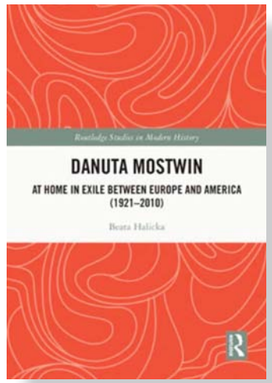
Mary Hollowak, Margaret & Will Shanahan, Stan & Eva Hollowak

BALTIMORE POLONIA'S OWN…

Danuta Mostwin: At Home in Exile Between Europe and America (1921–2010)

By Beata Halicka





"This book is the first full-length biography of Danuta Mostwin -- a writer, social work professor, and one of the most distinguished voices of the post-war Polish diaspora in the United States. Although born in Poland and shaped by the dramatic experiences of WWII, Baltimore became her home for nearly six decades and the place where she built her literary, professional, and community life.

Mostwin wrote numerous novels and short stories exploring the immigrant experience, identity, and the meaning of home. Several of her works, including 'America! America!', are set in Baltimore during the 1950s and 1960s, vividly portraying the everyday lives, hopes, and struggles of Polish immigrants adapting to a new country." -- Beata Halicka

Biographer Beata Halicka says, "More than a biography, this book is also the story of Baltimore as a place of refuge, opportunity, and cultural creativity for post-war immigrants. For Baltimore readers, it offers the opportunity to rediscover one of the city's remarkable yet largely forgotten residents."

Many long-standing members of the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, Inc. (PHAM) remember Danuta Mostwin very well. She was a founding member in 1974 and a leader of the organization for the rest of her life. In recognition of this work, she received an award from PHAM in 1992.

Born and raised in Poland, Dr. Mostwin and her husband Stanislaw Bask-Mostwin (featured in the previous issue of the *Trumpeter*) left their home country in 1945 after World War II for political reasons. They had both been part of the Polish Resistance to the Nazi occupation and subsequently needed to escape from likely Soviet arrest and imprisonment in 1945.

After a temporary stay in London via Prague and Paris, the couple and their son Jacek initially immigrated to New York City. They moved to the Baltimore area in 1952 and settled in Towson, where they lived for over 50 years.

Although she had studied medicine in Europe, Dr. Mostwin could not practice in the U.S., so instead, completed her doctorate in Social Welfare at Columbia University, writing her dissertation on the immigrant experience of Polish families in the United States. She received a Kosciuszko Foundation award for this document in 1971.

Dr. Mostwin went on to a fulfilling career as a researcher, writer of journal articles and monographs, professor, and practitioner in the field of Social Work, focusing on family and individual mental health, Polish-Americans, and post-World War II Polish immigration. She taught both at the Catholic University in Washington DC and in the 1980's at Loyola College in Baltimore (now Loyola University Maryland).

Besides her professional work done in English, Danuta Mostwin chronicled her own immigrant experience and that of others in her novels and short stories, which she wrote in her native language of Polish. She received numerous literary awards for her fiction. **Few people realize that she was also nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature twice, in 2006 and 2008.** Her short story collection called *Testaments* has been translated into English; this book was selected for discussion by the Polish Heritage Book Club of PHAM in May 2025.

The son of Danuta Mostwin, Dr. Jacek Mostwin, provided access to primary sources in the Mostwin Family Archive at their Towson home for Dr. Halicka. During 2023, she spent nearly two months there researching his mother's history and legacy.

Now Dr. Halicka will be returning to the United States from Poland to introduce her book during January 2027. We are fortunate that she will make Baltimore an important stop on her itinerary. **Submitted by Dorothy Tassone**

PHAM members and friends will have the exciting opportunity to meet Dr. Beata Halicka on January 23, 2027, 2-4:30 pm.

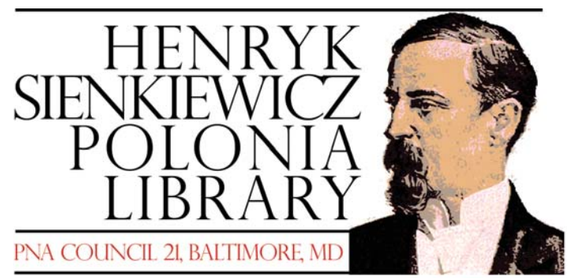


Dr. Halicka will give a presentation about Dr. Mostwin and the recently published book, followed by a reception.

The Baltimore-area venue location will be announced closer to the event and will be published online and on our Facebook page.

Due to sponsorship by PHAM and the Pula-Nowakowski family, there is no charge for this event (donations to defray costs are always welcome).

PAGES/ STRONY: PHAM BOOK CLUB NOTES AT THE HENRYK SIENKIEWICZ POLONIA LIBRARY



As we prepare for the 2026-2027 holiday season, the Polish Heritage Book Club is planning three Zoom meetings, 2-4 pm on the second Saturday of each month.

On November 14, we will discuss the landmark 1961 science fiction novel *Solaris*, by renowned author Stanislaw Lem. Then on **December 12**, we will consider winter poetry b**y Nobel Prize winner Wisława Szymborska** and other female poets. Finally, on J**anuary 9** we will address Sławomir Mrozek's absurdist play called *Tango* (1964).

Since the August issue of the *Trumpeter* came out, we have held two Book Club meetings. On September 26, we began the 2026-2027 reading cycle and discussed Joseph Conrad's early spy novel called *The Secret Agent*, which was based on a real attempt to bomb the Greenwich Conservatory in London. Then on October 10, we covered excerpts from Stefan Zeromski's novel *Ashes*, as well as a couple of his short stories. Consensus was that we would like to read a full-length work by Zeromski.

To participate in any of the upcoming meetings, please request the Zoom link by emailing RecordingSecretaryPHAM@gmail.com during the week prior. We hope to talk with you soon!



The founder and moderator of the Book Club, Dr. Dorothy Puła Strohecker, is a Conrad scholar, having both written her dissertation on this author and presented at many conferences about him. Book Club members read a wide variety of works related to Poland and Polonia.

SAVE THE DATE!...

Members, Families & Friends, Please join us at the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland's

Annual Opłatek Dinner

Sunday, January 10, 2027, 2-6 p.m.

Details will be forthcoming.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please check the Events page on our website for updates at https://www.phaofmd.org/

January 9: PHAM Book Club

January 10: PHAM Annual Opłatek Dinner

January 23: PHAM-Sponsored Lecture on Danuta Mostwin by Profesora Beata Halicka, followed by a Reception

January 30: WORKSHOP: Candle-making for Candlemas, Święto Matki Boskiej Gromnicznej, Festivity of the Holy Mother of the Thunder Candle

February 1: Scholarship Applications open

February 13: PHAM Book Club

March 13: PHAM Book Club & Pisanki Workshop

March 15: Scholarship Applications close

March 30: PHAM will have a table at Polish Home Club for Dyngus Day

Witamy!

Polish Heritage Association of Maryland is pleased to welcome all new members and those who have recently renewed their memberships this past quarter.

Maria Caughey
Dr. Carol Strohecker
Adrianna McDaniel
Katherine McDaniel
Francis McDaniel
Lore Fadrowski
Anne Wieliczko
Dorothy Tassone
Dr. Dorothy Puła Strohecker

TRUMPETER STAFF

Editor, Edith Puła
Layout & Graphics, Carla Hazard Tomaszewski

Contributors: Elizabeth Lipinski, Edith Puła, Michelle Hastings, Dorothy Tassone, Carla Hazard Tomaszewski

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