



TRUMPETER

QUARTERLY - FEBRUARY, 2025

POLISH HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND



MARYLAND POLONIA PRESERVATION PROJECT

"I believe that America is a mosaic. Each one of us is part of a great mosaic where, in our own respective heritage, is culture, language, pride, and identity."

Barbara Mikulski, U.S. Senator from Maryland

Kicking off our fifty-first year of 2025, the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland is excited to announce our partnering with Digital Maryland, affiliated with Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library. We are initiating a significant project to create a digital collection of information about, by, and for the Polish community (Polonia) of Maryland and those who are interested in its history.



We have named it the **Maryland Polonia Preservation Project**, and YOU are a big part of it. If you have stories, photos, documents, programs, booklets, posters, business records and advertisements, newspaper articles, films of your immigrant forbears, Polish church and organizational activities of all stripes, we want to know about it and evaluate it for preservation.

Our first phase is to identify, then collect and curate as much as we can so it can be digitized and cataloged, then made available online through Digital Maryland. (Originals will be returned if requested.)

What can you do? Write down your family stories, collect and ID photographs and documents (e.g., immigration records, naturalization papers, letters to and from Poland).

Look in Busia's basement and Dziadzi's footlocker. Much is there and **much is in danger of being lost or degraded**. We want to save it for the future for research and historical documentation.

Whether your great grandparents came over in 1900 or YOU came over in 2000, all the stories are valuable and a part of our community story.

While we are still in planning, and are hoping for a grant that PHAM has applied for, we are pressing ahead in any case. Time is moving on and documents and photos get lost or destroyed and with that, our history.

Poles and Polish-Americans have played a rich and wonderful part in Maryland's history, and that history deserves to be saved and shared.

Contact phaofmd@gmail.com for more information. We're excited and hope you are, too!



Visit us Online at phaofmd.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends, Officers, and Members of the Polish Heritage of Maryland,



What an exciting year 2024 was and 2025 is already off to a great beginning, starting with our stellar annual Oplatek dinner. I wish to thank the Officers and Board members, and members Gosia and Larry Janowski and Irena and Zbigniew Rybak, for all the effort of organizing the event, from handling tickets to setting up the hall and many things in between. Gosia

Bondyra and Mark Rybczynski provided beautiful music, Carla Tomaszewski worked her graphics magic, and Judi Zamzow created our event booklet. Krysia Osowski catered a delicious meal for over 70 people without a hitch. I also wish to thank the Polish Drama Club for its multimedia Nativity presentation and our beloved clergy, Fr. Ryszard and Fr. Robert of Holy Rosary, and Fr. Andrzej and Mrs. Ewa Bieganowska of Holy Cross for being a part of our event (and donating tasty dessert treats). We can never thank our friends at PNA enough, especially Michael Carnahan, Richard Poremski, and Ryan Kotowski for hosting the event at the Council 21 Hall.

Looking ahead, we will have a membership meeting on February 16, 2-4 p.m., at the PNA lounge and on Zoom to outline the plans for events this year. With our recent grant award (see the article in this issue) we are planning programs for all to enjoy. Help us spend this grant wisely, and think of activities that interest you, especially in the areas of music, cinema, literature, drama, Polish folkloric crafts and ways to highlight cultural achievement within the Maryland Polonia community. And of course, we continue with our very active monthly book club hosted by Dot Tassone and moderated by Dr. Dorothy Puła Strohecker and PNA's Cinema Circle at the PNA hosted by PHAM 2nd Vice President and PNA Librarian, Adam Mazurek.

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact me directly at presidentphamd@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing you at the general meeting.

Kind Regards,
Joseph Solinsky



TOOTING OUR HORN...

Major Grant Awarded to PHAM

On December 16, 2024, PHAM was thrilled to learn that it was awarded a Creative Baltimore Fund grant for 2025. This grant, funded by the City of Baltimore on behalf of the Mayor's office, and administered through the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts (BOPA), will allow us to provide two or more impressive cultural events this year. Deep thanks to Board Members Judi Zamzow and Edith Puła who wrote and applied for the grant.

The substantial \$10,000 award is designated for cultural and arts events. It must be used during 2025, so the Executive Committee is hard at work thinking about how we will use the funds to provide you with outstanding event programming – and we want to hear from YOU as well!

What kind of cultural, music, arts, and related events do you want us to hold? Some ideas so far are Polish folk handicraft workshops (e.g., pisanki, wycinanki, szopki); concerts by Polish and Polish-American musicians; a drama presentation; Polish choral concert; an art exhibition.

Please email your ideas to phaofmd@gmail.com with a subject line 'Event Ideas' then stay tuned. Our 50th anniversary year was great for the organization. With this grant and your participation, our 51st can be spectacular.



ANNOUNCING...

The Polish Heritage Association of Maryland undergraduate scholarships open on February 1, 2025.

The Polish Heritage Association of Maryland will be providing several scholarship grants to undergraduate students for the academic year 2025-2026. To qualify, the applicant must currently be a fourth-year high school student or full-time college student, a legal resident of Maryland, and have at least two Polish ancestors. Students must attend an accredited college or university in the United States of America. Final requirement is to attend the May 18 award ceremony. Selection will be primarily made on the basis of financial aid. Additional evaluation will focus on academic standing, leadership potential and the student's pride in their Polish heritage.

**Complete information on how to apply are posted on our website
phaofmd.org/scholarship.**



Happy Święty Walenty! Saint Valentine Day!

Every year at this time I love making an annual tribute to my great grandpa, Walenty Staszak. In 19th century Poland, the name Walenty was very popular for men born on or near the Feast Day of St. Valentine. It was traditional across

Catholic Europe to name a newborn after a saint, so Poles did NOT celebrate birthdays, but their name days – their "Imieniny".

In today's secular times, St. Valentine gets forgotten on what was supposed to be his feast day - February 14.

Here is what is known about him:

*Feast of St. Valentine:
Love God - Love Each Other
by Bishop Demetri (Khoury)*

St. Valentine was a priest near Rome in about the year 270 A.D, a time when the church was enduring great persecution. His ministry was to help the Christians to escape this persecution, and to provide them the sacraments, such as marriage, which was outlawed by the Roman Empire at that time. For his belief and practice, St. Valentine was arrested, and imprisoned for his refusal to deny Christ and embrace the Roman gods.

While in prison, St. Valentine continued to minister, even witnessing to those who guarded him. One of the guards was a good man who had adopted a blind girl. He asked St. Valentine if his God could help his daughter. Valentine prayed and the girl was miraculously given her sight, demonstrating the power of the One True God. The guard and his whole family, 46 people in all, believed in Christ and were baptized. The emperor was furious about this, so he had St. Valentine beheaded.

St. Valentine knew that he could be arrested for his belief and Christian ministry. He knew that refusal to recognize the Roman gods would result in imprisonment. And he knew that if he continued to witness to Christ in the prison he would make his captors angry, and would probably result in his death. But he continued, because he loved the Lord and his fellow humans. He was willing to risk his life in being an instrument in the healing of the blind girl's infirmity, and in doing so spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who needed to hear it.

*Happy 155th Imieniny,
great grandpa Walenty!!*

--Carla Tomaszewski



Annual Opłatek Dinner

Over 70 guests enjoyed music, dinner, conviviality, a dramatic presentation, and hearty singing at the annual Opłatek Dinner, held January 12 at the Great Hall of Polish National Alliance Council 21 in Baltimore.

The event opened with a social hour, during which attendees were treated to an expansive appetizer buffet from Rouge Catering while Gosia Bondyra and Mark Rybczynski played holiday music on violin and keyboard. Fr. Robert of Holy Rosary charmed us by singing an English carol to their



OPŁATEK DINNER



accompaniment.

After remarks by President Joe Solinsky, all were invited to share their pieces of opłatek wafer with their tablemates after which a sumptuous three course dinner was served, catered by Krystyna Osowski who was assisted by a serving team from the Wright People.

After dinner, the dessert buffet opened with makowiec, orzechowiec, and pączki provided by Holy Cross PNC Church, along with several kinds of specialty cookies.

During dessert, the Polish Drama Club delighted dinner guests with a Nativity themed video and dramatic reading presentation featuring kolędy, carols, stories in Polish and English about Polish Christmas customs, and some humorous tips for how to behave better in the New Year.

The event wrapped up with a toast to the New Year with krupnik generously donated by Carol Strohecker, followed by a spirited session of kolędy and pastorki singing, joined in by dozens of happy and well-fed guests.

We thank the many volunteers who made this event possible, and we invite all attendees who are not already members, to join us in strengthening the bonds of Maryland Polonia by joining PHAM today at <https://www.phaofmd.org/membership>.



100 Years of Caring...

FOR BALTIMORE POLONIA'S ELDERLY & CHILDREN

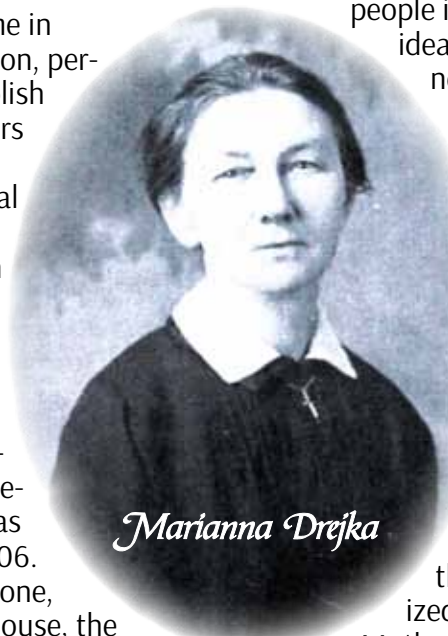
PART ONE - THE EARLY YEARS

The current St. Joseph's Nursing Home in Catonsville is a culmination of the vision, persistent efforts and sacrifices of the Polish order of the Congregation of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. It is a realization and materialization of a real need for the sick and aged of Baltimore's Polish Community beginning in the early twentieth century.

The Congregation did not have an opportunity to cross over to the U.S. from Poland until one of its members, Sister Marianna Drejka, came to Baltimore, and after finding employment, remained in the city. Sister Marianna was invited to the U.S. by her family in 1906. Once Sister Marianna started living alone, as opposed to living in a community house, the rules of the Congregation prevented her from being a member, so she became a lay associate. Therefore, she did not renew her temporary vows; nevertheless she remained heartedly devoted to the Community and worked for its welfare until her death on July 16, 1959.

In 1915 Marianna Drejka met a young local woman named Marianna Wiczorek. They soon became mutual friends, bound by the same ideals and desires to make a great sacrifice for God and for His people. Inspired by them, several women from Baltimore devoted themselves to the financial support of the Congregation of Sisters Servants in Poland who had become materially destitute during World War I. Some of their friends became patrons of middle-class Polish girls who studied at the schools in Mariówka, Poland, and helped many of them to complete their education. Moreover, the two friends had seen in their East Baltimore neighborhoods many sick elderly people, widows, orphans, single women and children of immigrants without sufficient care. There was no nursing home for the aged in East Baltimore locale before 1915.

Both Mariannas began visiting the sick and elderly



Marianna Drejka

people in their work of mercy. Afterwards, the idea to fund a home for the aged in this neighborhood was born. As there was a need for funds, they organized a Society known as "Samopomoc" (meaning 'Self Help' in Polish). The charter members were: Marianna Drejka, Anna Wielinska, Jadwiga Ochal, Marianna Wierzorek, Mrs. Anastaszya Czygier, Miss Josephine Szczepanik, Mrs. Janina Trentowska Kulisz, Mrs. Helen Golembiewska and Mr. George Siwinski, attorney.

Miss Drejka, as a former member of the Community of Sisters Servants, realized that enlisting the involvement of the Polish Sisters among these marginalized people could be a huge help. Knowing Mother General Frances Zmyslowska personally, Miss Drejka appealed to her to send Sisters to the United States. As a result, the Congregation assigned three Sisters to the American Mission on July 6, 1926.

The group of lay women under the leadership of Miss Drejka and Miss Wiczorek, set up a plan for support of this endeavor. They contributed time and personal funds, appealed for financial support from others, even to the point of begging on the street. On June 17, 1930 they finally were able to purchase a modest brick row-house at 10 S. Patterson Park Avenue in Baltimore and opened their home for the aged.

The group was then legally incorporated as the "Samopomoc Association, Inc." and was granted authority to raise funds for the purpose of operating an institution for the

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FILM DISCUSSION EVENT

THE PEASANTS FILM: DISCUSSION OF "A VISUAL MASTERPIECE"

Screened at our 50th Anniversary Gala last year, the controversial film *The Peasants* (*Chłopi*) started a discussion among attendees that we are opening to a wider audience. PHAM has arranged a virtual presentation on the film by world-class experts in Polish culture. Dr. Kevin Wiśniewski, of the University of Maryland College Park, will emcee the program and moderate the discussion.

Join us for this hybrid event (in person or virtually via Zoom) on Saturday, March 22, 2025, 1-4 pm EST at the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church at 1710 Dulaney Valley Road, Lutherville MD 21093. There is ample free parking. Light refreshments will be served (coffee, tea, water, and mini-pastries). While free to attend, **registration is required** and there is an optional at-will donation to help defray some cost (minimum suggested amounts are \$12.00 per adult or \$8.00 per student or senior citizen).

Registration will be available by Feb. 14 on our website <https://www.phaofmd.org/events>. The film is rated R.

The Peasants, based on the Nobel Prize-winning novel of the same name by Władysław Reymont, tells the tale of "a young woman determined to forge her own path within the confines of a late 19th century Polish village." *The Peasants* is an award-winning film by the team that produced the Oscar-nominated animation *Loving Vincent*, about artist Vincent Van Gogh, and it uses many of the same animation techniques.

There will be a question-and-answer session after the presentations and before the discussion. Questions will be accepted at the program and can be submitted in advance to Dot Tassone at RecordingSecretaryPHAM@gmail.com.



Anna Zaranko is the author of a new translation in English (The Peasants, 2022) of Władysław Reymont's four-volume Polish novel *Chłopi*. Zooming in from the United Kingdom, she will present about Reymont and the place of his story in Polish literature and culture more broadly.



Dr. Michał Janusz Wilczewski, Associate Professor of Instruction at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, teaches courses in Polish language, literature, culture, and history. He will present about the film's position in Polish cinema and animation.



Katarzyna Anna Zechenter is Associate Professor at University College London and a reviewer of *The Peasants* film. Dr. Zechenter focuses on contemporary Polish culture, and she will present about the unique interpretation of this hundred-year-old story in this very modern film.



Dr. Kevin Anthony Wiśniewski, Lecturer at the University of Maryland College Park, will emcee the program and moderate the discussion. He is also a translator and the co-editor of *Polish Literature as World Literature* (2023), and has professional experience in leading hybrid events.

If you have not yet seen the film or if you would like a refresher, *The Peasants* is now available through several online video streaming services, including Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV, Fandango at Home, Google Play, Netflix, and YouTube.

Abbreviated photo credits:

Anna Zaranko. <https://literarytranslators.wordpress.com/2015/09/08/anna-zaranko-2015-alta-mentee/>

Michał Wilczewski. <https://slavic.northwestern.edu/people/faculty/micha%C5%82-j.-wilczewski.html>

Katarzyna Zechenter. <https://profiles.ucl.ac.uk/3777-katarzyna-zechenter>

A BALTIMORE POLISH FAMILY'S SAGA ~ OF SURVIVAL & SACRIFICE ~

PART 1

The several figures of our city's poignant Katyn memorial are meant to represent the well over twenty thousand Polish officers and civilians- educators, clergy, doctors, lawyers, journalists, engineers, and more- who were murdered by Soviet Russian troops in the Katyn Forest during WWII. Name upon name, face upon face, soul upon soul is hinted at in the sorrowful and noble features. These images can seem surreal. Yet, more than one of these victims have family living today in our own Maryland. There is even one among them who himself lived in Baltimore for a time, before returning to the land of his birth.

Count Jan Józefat Potocki (Katyn ID# 11138) was born in Kielce, Russian occupied Poland into a family with long aristocratic roots. Different sources give the year of his birth as either 1888 or 1894. The young Count's patriotism started early. He was expelled from 6th grade following the 1905 school strike and was imprisoned for printing and distributing Polish language materials. He participated in the Polish Socialist Party, pursued his interrupted education privately, then was arrested in 1908, spending 4 years in a tsarist prison. After receiving a life sentence of deportation to Siberia, Jan somehow managed to escape and made his way to America. He studied at Bloomfield Theological Seminary (New Jersey) and is noted in the 1918 list of Lecturers and Tutors as Assistant in Polish Language and Literature. He came to Baltimore to serve as assistant pastor at a thriving congregation of Polish Presbyterians.

The Polish Presbyterian Church in the United States had started as a mission in Baltimore in 1910. Services were held at Broadway Presbyterian Church at 1708 E. Baltimore Street. On April 16, 1916, St. Paul's Polish Presbyterian Church was established with a congregation of 50 members. In addition to worship, church activities included classes in English, citizenship, and training in various needlework crafts and basketry.

By the time Jan Potocki arrived as assistant in 1924, the congregation had more than doubled. A year later, he was ordained and installed as the pastor. He revived



several church societies which provided "Americanization", fellowship, athletics, and other activities. Dances, banquets, lectures, and slide presentations rounded out this all-important support network for recently arrived Polish immigrants. The congregation also owned a country retreat on the city-county line, that included a tract of land, a frame house, and a large pavilion. One can imagine the relief from city heat this must have provided for summer gatherings.

In addition to his ministerial duties, Rev. Potocki was an editor of the weekly *Jedność-Polonia* and a member of the Committee of National Defense. Having secured a post as chaplain in the Polish army, for the Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland, Rev.

Potocki left Baltimore in 1934 for Warsaw. Accompanying him were his daughters from his first marriage, Isabelle and Mira. In 1937, they were joined by Marya Grzegorzak, a Pole whom they knew from Baltimore. Jan and Marya were married and a son, John, was born in 1939. With the outbreak of World War II, Rev. Potocki was ordered to Eastern Poland, near the border with Russia. He was soon promoted to the rank of Major.

His daughter, Isabelle (a graduate of Baltimore's Eastern High School) last saw her father in July of 1939 before returning to her teaching post in Toruń. In September, she fled on foot to Warsaw with hundreds of other refugees, just ahead of the advancing German army. Forced to return to Toruń by the Germans, again on foot, Isabelle soon made it back to Warsaw, this time by train. By then, her sister, stepmother, and baby brother had themselves fled Warsaw. The only reports she could get of her father were that he had died in a Warsaw hospital. With the help of her relatives in Baltimore and the Red Cross, Isabelle was able to return to her grandmother's home on S. Chester Street.

The following April, Marya Grzegorzak Potocka also



managed to get back to Baltimore, along with Mira and 15-month-old John. The news that Marya brought to Isabelle was that her father was living in a concentration camp in the U.S.S.R. Even that was good news to Isabelle, who for months had believed him to be dead. Ironically, the Baltimore Sun article that reports this reunion is dated May 1, 1940. The Potocki family could not then know that their beloved father and husband had already been brutally murdered.

We know now that Jan Potocki was jailed first at Shepetivka filtration camp, then moved to Starobilsk concentration camp. From there he was transported, along with Rabbi Baruch Steinberg and other clergy, to Moscow's Butyrki prison. In March of 1940 Jan was moved to the Kozelsk concentration camp. In April, he was deported to either the execution site in Katyn Forest

or else to the basement of the internal prison of the Regional Directorate in Smolensk. If at the forest, he would have had his hands tied behind his back and then been shot at close range once in the back of his head. If in the basement, he would have been placed in a sewer manhole, with his head placed on the bank, and then shot. In either case, Jan Józefat Potocki died a victim of the attempted German and Russian genocide of the Polish people. Fr. Franciszek Tyczkowski, a fellow prisoner who survived the war, wrote of him, "Fr. Potocki was responsible for dividing the delivered food. His modesty was embarrassing because he gave himself significantly smaller portions."

Patriot, officer, activist, minister, father, and husband, he was one martyr among tens of thousands. In 2007, he was posthumously promoted to the rank of Colonel of the Polish Army. We honor him and all who died for Poland's freedom.

In our next edition of *The Trumpeter*, we will further recount the harrowing escape of Count Potocki's family from war-torn Poland back home to Baltimore.

Author: Claire Puła Research Assistant: Carl Wilton

(sources: Liber Albus Martyrology of the Clergy-Poland; Minutes of the General Assembly Presbyterian Church(USA); Baltimore Sunpapers; Find a Grave Memorial; Baltimore's Polish Churches by Anthony J. Monczewski, Jr.; and Grzegorzak family lore, including a 1992 reminiscence written by Marya's nephew, Milton Jarosz a.k.a. Mieczysław Jaroszewski)

In Memoriam

Our Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, along with the entire Baltimore Polonia community, mourns the loss of our great friend and colleague, Dr. Bill Krol. Bill dedicated his life to promoting and preserving his beloved Polish heritage.

Bill was active in many Polish community organizations; founding member of the Trojaki Dance Circle (later Ojczyzna), writer of the charter and by-laws and Chairman of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation, Treasurer at Polish Home Club, portrayed Sw. Mikołaj (St. Nicholas) at Holy Rosary Christmas celebrations, and also Lajkonik (legendary folk-figure) at Polish festivals and for a time church corporator. Bill loved teach-



ing others about Polish heritage and history. He especially loved dancing.

Bill had also been a board member and benefactor of our PHAM. Of course, his loving wife, Jeanette was equally engaged and supportive of Bill in all their Polonia activities. We fondly remember Bill's many appearances as the Lajkonik at various Polonia and PHAM events.

Please join us in conveying our sincerest and most heartfelt condolences to Jeanette and their entire family. Visitation was at Kaczorowski Funeral Home on Saturday, February 8th and interment at St. Stanislaus Cemetery.

DR. WILLIAM "BILL" KROL
NOV. 13, 1936 - JAN. 29, 2025

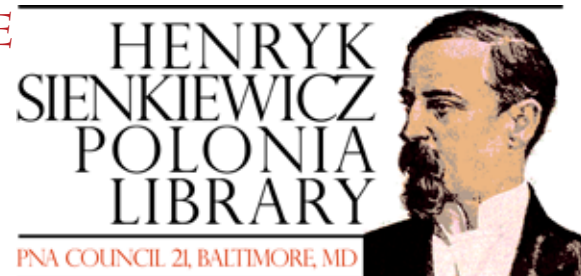
PAGES/STRONY: PHAM BOOK CLUB NOTES AT THE

The Polish Heritage Book Club invites you to join us for our next meeting on March 8, we will discuss *The Journal of Countess Francoise Krasinska*, sometimes subtitled: *Great-Grandmother of Victor Emmanuel*. This is a fictional account about a historical Polish woman, written by Klementyna Tanska-Hoffmanowa and first published in 1825. Then for April 12, we will read a 1959 philosophical essay by Leszek Kolakowski, called "The Priest and the Jester," a more contemplative selection in keeping with Lent. On May 10, we will discuss *Testaments: Two Novellas of Emigration and Exile* by Danuta Mostwin (2005), about the Polish immigrant experience in the USA (specifically in Baltimore, Maryland).

To participate live in one or all of these meetings, 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 librarian Adam Mazurek, First Vice President of PHAM.

To join the meetings virtually, email Dot Tassone at dstassone@gmail.com for the online Zoom links.

We hope to see you soon!



On February 22, we will view a 1995 film of Joseph Conrad's novel *Victory* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0114846/>). This is a work that we read this past Fall and then discussed on November 9, 2024 and January 11, 2025. Our December meeting had to be cancelled because of illness.



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.

100 YEARS OF CARING FOR BALTIMORE POLONIA'S ELDERLY & CHILDREN

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care of the aged and orphans with the further authority of engaging in welfare work on a non-profit basis. However, the establishment of this institution placed a heavy burden on its foundress and very little funds remained for its operation. Aged people, with means or without, were accepted and given care and security. The acceptance of the first six residents was the beginning of this work in East Baltimore.

The administration, care, and maintenance was provided by the membership of the Association. These women worked tirelessly, without remuneration, thereby saving a great deal of expense. But after a few years, the personnel consisted of only a few women. While performing this work of mercy with the elderly, they



simultaneously had to look after their own homes.

By 1934, due to monetary difficulties resulting from the effects of the Great Depression, the Samopomoc Society decided to turn the Home over to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. The first two Sisters were Sister M. Helen and Sister M. Alexandra. In 1936 with the help of Rt. Rev. Stanislaus A. Wachowiak, P.A., of Holy Rosary Church, five more Sisters came from Poland together with the Provincial, Mother M. Laurentia. Six years later a need for expansion became necessary. The Sisters purchased the properties at 130-132 S. Patterson Park Avenue where they moved their patients and continued work with the sick and aged.

Source: "A Century of Service", 1978, One hundredth anniversary booklet of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate.

~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.

Rachael Rife and family
Matt Ogorzałek
Richard Krzywicki
Cathy Szewczyk Krzywicki
Aleksandra Jackson
Ania Jadwiga Wilton
Mary-Jane Kusiak
Andrea Poniecki-Crooms
Anna Carnahan
Emmett Carnahan
Gretchen Tome

We also welcome back many folks who have recently renewed their memberships.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!..

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. 7, May 7, Aug. 7, Nov. 7

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENERAL MEETING ~ Full board and **membership meeting on Sunday Feb. 23** 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 coming year, and building our standing committees and volunteer lists. We will also kick off the scholarship season.

Bring a friend and let's continue to grow our membership.

If you need the Zoom link, let us know by email to presidentphamd@gmail.com.

February 22 ~ Book Club viewing of a 1995 film of Joseph Conrad's novel Victory
(<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0114846/>).

February 27 ~ Tłusty Czwartek (Pączki Thursday), 4-10 pm, PNA Council 21 lounge

March 22 ~ The Peasants Film: Discussion of "a visual masterpiece", 1 pm to 4 pm,
Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1710 Dulaney Valley Road, Lutherville MD 21093.
Featuring: Expert presenters, Questions-and-Answers, Lively Discussion, Light Refreshments
Registration will be available February 14, at <https://www.phaofmd.org/events>

March 22 ~ Katyn Silver Jubilee Gala, 6-9 pm <https://www.katynbaltimore.org/katyn25>

March 23 ~ St. Stephen's Church Polish Festival, Kingsville, MD (PHAM will have a table)

May 18 ~ PHAM Scholarship Award Luncheon, PNA Council 21 great hall

GREAT GRAPHICS!

RYSZARD KAJA is considered one of the best and most prolific contemporary poster artists in Poland. Unfortunately, he passed away in 2019 after spending seven years working on his "POLAND" poster series. The poster shown here is but one of a total of 163 titles in the series.

*Published by: Ryszard Kaja · December 13, 2018:

"My parents, and especially my father, whenever they found out that around Christmas, there were carol singers in some village near Poznań, we would go there immediately. My father hunted Christmas monsters going from house to house like a hunter who liked an aurochs with a snapping mouth. He was very sorry that in the city, carol singers had stopped dressing up. When instead of a star, an angel, a devil, an aurochs, snotty children came, my father would get emotional, invite them, listen to the carols delightedly, and wait with the reward for the performance to listen to the carols one more time, the poor children, hungry for sweets, had to sing for half an hour. The monsters are in many of my father's works, such as on the canvas "Carolers", they appear in graphics and in Tadeusz Pasikowski's bookplate, also on numerous postcards and in folders. Now they have appeared on my poster. Surrounded by a slight sadness, because I feel sorry that the tradition of carol singers is fading away, I feel sorry for the sight of these costumed folk theater people, these sniffly pranksters, this noise, chaos. This is how another poster from the series in which I tell about Poland was created, a poster sprinkled with snow and nostalgia. I managed to paint it before the holidays."

Ryszard Kaja (1962-2019)

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

