



# TRUMPETER

QUARTERLY - NOVEMBER, 2025

POLISH HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND

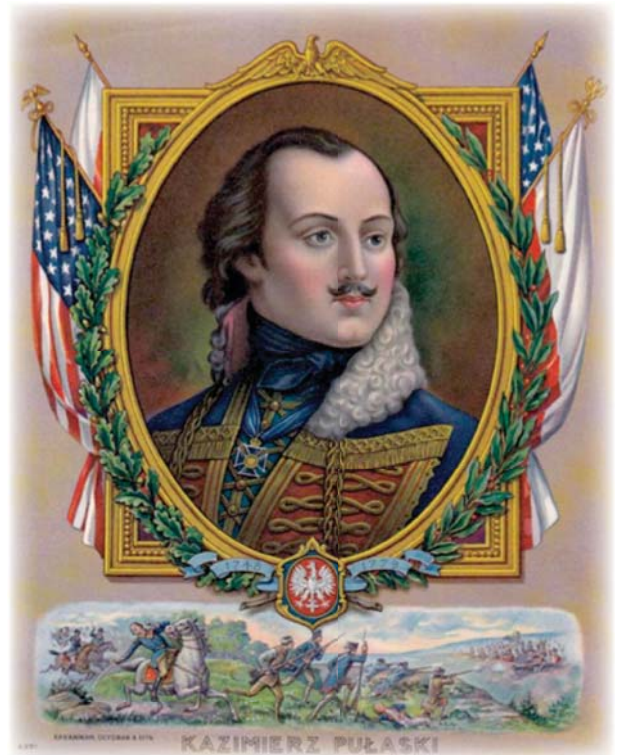
## *Pulaski Day in Baltimore, Oct. 19, 2025: Baltimore's Revolutionary Spirit Endures*

By Michael Carnahan

As stewards of Baltimore's Polish heritage, we gather each October at Patterson Park's Pułaski Monument to honor General 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.

### **Program Highlights and Voices from the Day**

- *Opening and welcome* – Joseph Solinsky, President, Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, set the tone for a solemn and proud remembrance on behalf of our organizing committee and partner organizations.
- *Invocation* – Father Andrzej Bieganski, Pastor, Holy Cross Polish National Catholic



Church, offered prayers for the city, the nation, and all who labor for freedom.

- *Poles in the American Revolution* – Adam Mazurek, PHAM First Vice President, traced the through line from Pułaski's battlefield valor to the enduring Polish commitment to the American experiment, situating Baltimore as a critical wartime hub and port that amplified that commitment.
- *The Monument's Story* – Edith Pula, PHAM Board Member, brought the monument to life, recounting the Baltimore citizens who conceived, funded, and dedicated it, and how the site has anchored community remembrance for generations.

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## PULASKI DAY IN BALTIMORE



• *Greetings from the Republic of Poland* – Honorary Consul Richard Poremski delivered remarks on behalf of the Embassy, saluting Baltimore's Polish community for keeping faith with shared American and Polish ideals of independence.

• *Benediction* – Father Janusz Sok, CSsR, Associate Pastor, Holy Rosary Catholic Church, closed the ceremony with a blessing for Baltimore and all who serve in the cause of peace.

### Dignity in Tradition: Colors, Wreaths, and Anthems

A Color Guard from Casimir Pulaski Post 209 of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, together with Boy Scouts of America Troop 1814, framed the proceedings with a procession of flags. Wreaths were placed by Baltimore's Polish organizations and friends, including the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, the Polish Legion of American Veterans, the National Katyń Memorial Foundation, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Ojczyzna Polish Dancers, Wiślanie Polish Folk Song and Dance Ensemble, Polish National Alliance Council 21, Polish Home Club, Cardinal Hłond Polish School, and Boy Scouts of America Troop 1814. Voices rose together for the American and Polish national anthems, led by the Ojczyzna Polish Dancers.



### After the Ceremony:

Baltimore Hospitality  
Following the commemoration, neighbors and guests gathered at the Polish National Alliance lounge in Fell's Point for good food and lively conversation.

### Special thanks to:

- *Clergy:* Fr. Andrzej Bieganski; Fr. Janusz Sok, CSsR
- *Civic:* Honorary Consul Richard Poremski (on behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland)
- *Honors:* PLAV Casimir Pulaski Post 209 Color Guard; BSA Troop 1814
- *Participating organizations:* Polish

Heritage Association of Maryland; Polish Legion of American Veterans; National Katyń Memorial Foundation; Embassy of the Republic of Poland; Ojczyzna Polish Dancers; Wiślanie Polish Folk Song and Dance Ensemble; Polish National Alliance Council 21; Polish Home Club; Cardinal Hłond (is it Hłond?) Polish School; BSA Troop 1814

**Editor's Note:** Next year marks the 250th "birthday" of the United States of America. We plan for a larger and special Pulaski Day Commemoration to reflect this important milestone. We are working now on grants to clean the monument and improve its landscaping in time for the event. Look for more information on that in 2026.



## PHAM LOVES MUSIC!



PHAM and An Die Musik venue in downtown Baltimore presented a concert performance on October 22 by Polish duo Karolina Mikołajczyk on violin and Iwo Jedynecki on accordion. The duo, just off a Kennedy Center performance, has been described as "one of the most vibrant and innovative chamber ensembles of the current generation of classical musicians" and was awarded Poland's most prestigious prize for classical music, the "Polityka Passport" in 2024.

The near capacity crowd was wowed by the virtuosic presentation of a program of the *Four Seasons* by Vivaldi and Piazzolla, interspersed with seasonal sonnets by Piazzolla in spoken word by Mr. Jedynecki.

The audience was literally enthralled at the artists' virtuosity, calling it "exquisite" and "spectacular." The intimate venue of An Die Musik was the perfect showcase for the chamber music adaptations of each work.

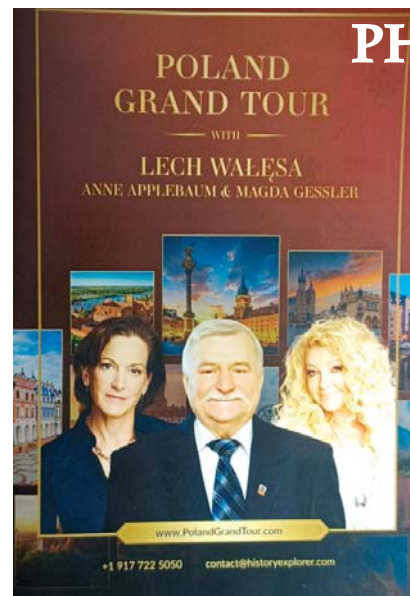
Members attended at no cost, and general public tickets were discounted due to PHAM's 2025 grant from the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts (BOPA).

Thank you to member Leszek Strelecki and An Die Musik owner, Henry Wong for their assistance in arranging this memorable musical presentation.



Photos courtesy of Melissa Kalinowski

## PHAM LOVES HISTORY!



PHAM members gathered on October 27 to hear former Polish President and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lech Wałęsa at Baltimore's Convention Center. Members enjoyed discounted tickets to hear President Wałęsa discuss world events, particularly those in Poland, Ukraine, and the U.S. The event was followed by a book signing and photo opportunity with the former President.







## ANNOUNCING...

### *The Polish Heritage Association of Maryland undergraduate scholarships open on February 1, 2026.*

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 2026 and Spring 2027 semesters.

Selection will be based on financial need, with additional evaluation focusing on academic standing, leadership potential, and pride and participation in their Polish heritage.

**Complete information on how to apply will be posted on our website on February 1, 2026 at [phaofmd.org/scholarship](http://phaofmd.org/scholarship)**

## PHAM LOVES COMMUNITY!

An appreciative audience at the **Wise & Well Center for Healthy Living at Keswick** in Baltimore met on August 29 to hear about "Polish Immigration to Maryland: Origins, Journeys, and Community Contributions" as part of the class and lecture series offered by the Center. Joe Solinsky introduced the group, then Adam Mazurek, Claire Puła, and Edith Puła presented the story of when, why, and how Poles came to Maryland up to the present day. Mary Rybczynski and Tom Rybczynski, dressed in authentic Krakowian costumes, and Dot Tassone joined in to close the session with a rousing selection of Polish songs. Books on Polish and immigration history and folk artifacts were laid out on a nearby table, providing input for lively discussion afterwards. Community outreach like this is a key part of the PHAM mission.

*If you know of opportunities for us to engage with other groups on this or similar topics, please contact [phaofmd@gmail.com](mailto:phaofmd@gmail.com).*



## ONE FAMILY'S ARTISTIC LEGACY

Dr. Dorothy Puła Strohecker, a lifelong fixture of Baltimore's Polonia, was born and raised on Bank Street in Fell's Point to the Puła-Nowakowski family, whose roots in the area trace back to the late 1800s. A longtime member of the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, Dr. Strohecker is the founder of its Polish Book Club, which she continues to lead at age 95. Best known for her non-fiction writing, Dr. Strohecker has also written fiction, poetry, and created art in pastels.

The Puła-Nowakowski family has been and remains deeply engaged in the community, and is known for its strong cultural awareness and appreciation for the arts, literature, and music. This artistic tradition includes her brother, Robert Puła, known for his paintings and musical compositions, including an album of original piano music, *Robert Puła : Music for Piano*.

Continuing this familial cultural commitment, Dr. Strohecker recently made a significant donation to PNA Council 21 of her Knabe baby grand piano. PNA Council 21 is thrilled with the gift, which will enhance its ability to host musical

events and is expected to bring many years of enjoyment to their hall and community. "We are truly overwhelmed by Dr. Strohecker's generosity in making this great gift to Council 21," said Richard Poremski, President of PNA Council 21 and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland. He continued, "her thoughtfulness will allow us to honor the family legacy of cultural proliferation, including this piano

in our programming as we continue our legacy of celebrating and preserving the tremendous cultural experience that is our Polish heritage."

The piano will soon have a commemorative plaque affixed to it, reading: "This piano was donated by Dr. Dorothy Puła Strohecker to Polish National Alliance Council 21 in honor of the Puła-Nowakowski family, well known for their literary and musical arts amid Baltimore's vibrant Polonia."

By Judi Zamzow



Original album cover design by Carla Hazard

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# 100 Years of Caring...

## FOR BALTIMORE POLONIA'S ELDERLY & CHILDREN

### PART TWO - GROWTH & EXPANSION ...continued from February, 2025 issue

*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.*

#### DAY NURSERY & HEALTH CARE

From the beginning of their apostolate in East Baltimore, the Sisters were involved in various services for the local community. Under the direction of the City Health Department, a Health Clinic was organized at the Day Nursery in the forties, and health facilities were extended to the children who did not attend the Nursery. In 1942 a need for expansion became necessary. With the development of the nursery program, a changing emphasis had been placed in the function of day nurseries. The standards for these institutions stressed the need to help pre-school children in their social adjustment and in their preparation for school life.

For this reason, in the beginning of 1944, the Sisters participated in a Course on Child Development and Behavior. This course was completed after a few months, in March, 1944. In September, the Day Nursery was approached by the National Catholic School of Social Services, Washington, D.C., for the placement of two Polish students, to do their field study by working in that school. By arrangements with Catholic Charities, a supervisor was provided and permission granted for studying, to use the Nursery as a field work placement.

From 1936 until 1952 approximately 2500 children, up to age six, had received daily care and nursery school training. In 1946, the average daily attendance was about 50 children.

The Clinic was open once a week and served approximately 260 children a year. Also the large pleasant rooms of the Day Nursery, lent themselves in the evenings to the activities of two clubs of teen-age girls and young women. There was group singing of folk songs, dancing and making Polish handcrafted articles. The



Group of Sisters Servants in U.S. (1944)

Sisters also organized evening courses in dressmaking and designing for young women from the locality; the instructor of those courses was Sister Helen Klara Kwiecień.

The nursery was also used as a community center, where War Relief work was carried on. The Sisters helped the Polish Women's Alliance Group 763 supply clothing and other articles for Polish soldiers in Nazi concentration camps and elsewhere in war-torn Europe.

#### CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

An additional service of the Sisters in Baltimore, in their free time and "days off," included visits to the poor, sick, neglected elderly people in the Sisters own neighborhood. They provided food, clothing and medication for these people, but above all, the Sisters brought them consolation, understanding and moral support in their loneliness and helplessness.

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.

When residents of the original home for



the aged were transferred to the new home on Patterson Park Ave., the old building was sold, and the proceeds helped the Sisters to partially liquidate their debt and to furnish St. Joseph's Home. The acquisition of the new home enabled the Sisters to serve the elderly people more effectively and to increase the number of those who desired to find shelter in their institution. Through the period of six years, 63 people were cared for in St. Joseph's Home.

The necessary funds for the operation of this institution were derived from a nominal charge of its residents. Those who could pay were charged fees based upon their ability to pay. Those in less fortunate circumstances were maintained partially by funds provided by contributions of donors and patrons and through fund-raising groups.

After fifteen years of apostolic work in the United States and the growth in the number of Sisters, the General Superior of the Congregation decided to create a separate American Province with headquarters in Catonsville, MD. The Primate of Poland, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, by decree of October 30, 1952, established the American Province of the Congregation of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate.

In the fifties, many laws and regulations governing the operation of nursing homes were changed. St. Joseph's Home for the Aged did not meet the new requirements as to the structure and location of the building. Therefore, the Sisters were compelled to build a new Home in Catonsville, Md., on the property that was purchased by the Community in September 1953. Groundbreaking ceremonies took place on Sunday, September 7, 1958, and a statue of the Blessed Mother, funded by the "Sisters Servants of Mary Guild," was blessed. This modern, efficient building was planned to be bright, attractive, comfortable and sanitary. Since the entire operation was a one floor plan, the problem of stairs for the patients had been eliminated.

#### A TRIBUTE TO PIONEER SISTERS AND BENEFACTORS

Through the years of growth and continuing progress of the Sisters Servants' apostolate in America, there have always been understanding

individuals, groups and organizations who, by their generosity, have helped the Sisters, both financially and personally. They stood by the Sisters in time of many trials. Their financial support not only assured the continued successful operation of both institutions, but also made possible a noteworthy expansion in the 2020s of the new building at St. Joseph's Nursing home in Catonsville.

#### EPILOGUE

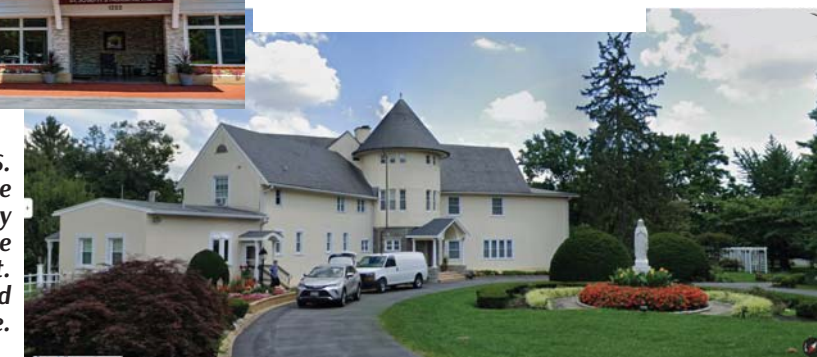
In the centenary year of 2024, the Community of Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate prayerfully reflected upon its humble beginning. One hundred years ago, on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, three young and zealous women devoted themselves to the service of Mary Immaculate and placed the seed of the Congregation in her hands.

Today, Sisters Servants continue the mission entrusted to them by their founder, Blessed Honorat Kozminski (a Polish Franciscan Capuchin). Through their consecrated lives and selfless service, they bring the light of God's love to every place they go, becoming a living testament to His hand at work in the world and within the Church. Wherever they are sent, they strive to be a beacon of hope, faith, and unwavering devotion, revealing God's enduring presence in history and inspiring all who witness their journey.

*Source: "A Century of Service", 1978, One hundredth anniversary booklet of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. Provided through the courtesy of Ms. Christie Kearney*



Current view of the U.S. Provincial House of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, sharing the same grounds as their St. Joseph's Nursing Home and Chapel shown above.



Original U.S. Provincial House in Catonsville, Maryland, purchased in 1950



# MAKING FAMILY MEMORIES IN MODERN POLAND

by Liz Lipinski

[Editor's Note: Member Liz Lipinski and family took an extended trip to Poland this summer that featured many "off the beaten track" places and highlighted the modern Poland that many may not recognize from long ago visits. This is the first in a series of articles from that journey.]

It was high time that I took my kids to Poland. Life hurdles popped up along the years and, like any good mom, I had to pivot family plans. Thankfully, we have an amazing Polish community here in Baltimore so we've always felt a connection, but nothing can replace our *ziemia Polska*, and family is family.

Last winter, we got to planning. The last time I went (20 years ago) there wasn't time to see everyone, so this time, the goal was to see as much family as possible. Long ago, I had imagined my kids spending summers in Poland like I did. I'm still sad that didn't work out and that my *babcia* didn't live to see my sons travel back to our homeland. Time for sadness having passed, I would rectify this grzech.

There was A LOT to navigate - sure, travel logistics: planes (do we fly out of Dulles - omg, would I rather pull my eyelashes out?), trains (yes, there's an app for that), car rental (great deals online), where to stay when we're not with family, are all the apps loaded (WhatsApp; AirBNB; Bolt; Uber; and of course the train). We split our time evenly between my mom's family and my dad's. It was not enough time - it's never enough time. But we couldn't just go see family - I needed the kids to not only meet and love our family, I needed them to really \*see\* and LOVE Poland as well.

I spent some time thinking about our interests. What might the kids want to see and do? I knew they were going to feast when we were with family, but what about restaurants during our other adventures... We're a fusion of cultures, what other fusions of cultures can the kids experience?

Months before we left, I started following restaurants, cities, *zamki* on Instagram, which fed me more places that



I might find interesting and I started saving them. I found myself looking at music venues, jazz clubs, art galleries. Before I knew it, I was scheduling around events and happenings - a concert, an art exhibit, a food bazaar, a folk festival. The trip was taking an interesting shape.

The kids and I were happy that their *dziadek* said he wanted to come with us - and so off we went! We rented a car for the family leg of the trip. Roads are amazing in Poland and directions were easy with our phones (look for an article in the spring about road tripping in Poland!). After several weeks with family and friends, we took a break in Zakopane to breathe the mountain air, catch up with friends, see our son's luthier to adjust his violin, and then to visit Kraków where we stayed in trendy Kazimierz. We



had fun finding the best pizza, the best hummus, the best *chłodnik*, the best tea and coffee shops... and we can't forget those blueberry buns from local bakers... *Pyszne!* We stopped at local groceries for thick, local rolled oats (*płatki owsiane górskie*) and fruit. We didn't just visit, we lived. We walked in others' shoes, trying them on for ourselves and loved how comfortable they were.

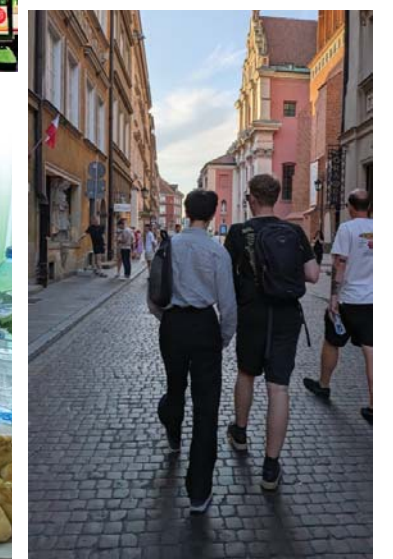
While we were planning, I often asked myself: Poland has been changing by leaps and bounds - was I going to recognize it when I go back? What I found was that many of the changes over the last 20 years did make sense - for me, they are intuitive and even when I wished some things were different, I could understand. While it helps to speak the language, my kids don't speak much Polish yet they didn't have too much trouble. *Jakoś się dogadały...* People are kind, for the most part - even fast-paced *Warszawians*, on a good day. I didn't find myself missing the past. I found a Poland infused with energy and color and spirit, moving forward and yet beaming with tradition.

We weren't afraid to try things off the beaten track. Sure we spent time in Kraków's *Stary Rynek*, but we loved

the food and art bazaar at *Stary Kleparz*! We still find ourselves dreaming of stopping by there on a lazy Sunday afternoon. These community events make us feel like we're part of something bigger - not just the historical significance of *Sukiennice* but the future historical significance of what's happening at that moment, and being part of making our own history: Stopping by a violin shop with an amazing cafe next door; Buying school supplies at *Biedronka*; Even missing out on things gives us something to look forward to for next time: Jazz Festival, anyone?

Though we've left Poland, parts of Poland aren't leaving us so quickly. We will still find ourselves occasionally looking for a light switch before walking into a room or we try to pull up a TV show that's not available through Netflix or Prime here in the US. I've accidentally made my coffee *zaparzoną* when I was in a rush. We regularly lament not having a *Żabka* when we need one!

We're already talking about going back - our hearts are warm and our tummy's are still full. We're looking forward to seeing what the next trip brings!



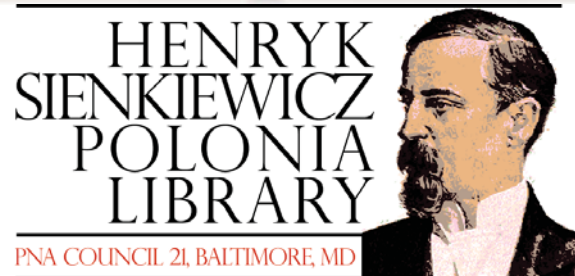
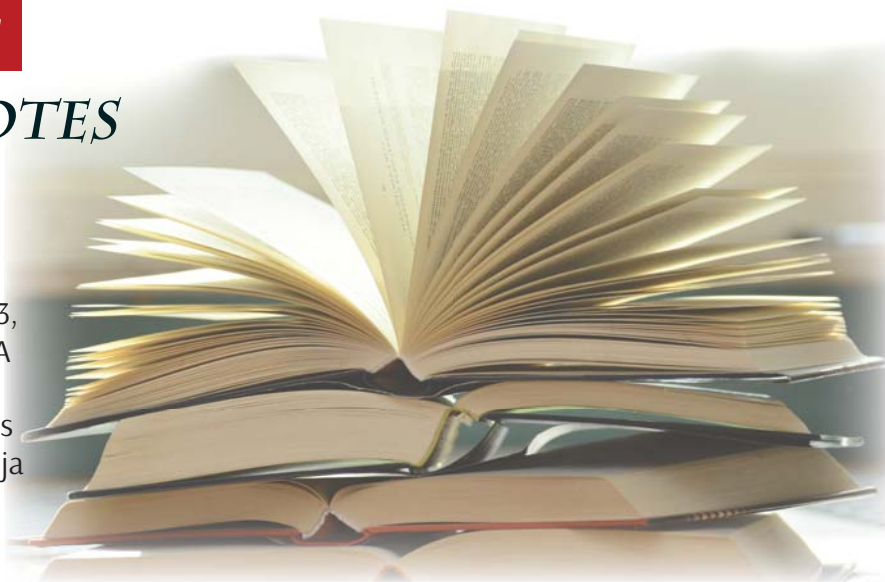


## PAGES/STRONY: PHAM BOOK CLUB NOTES

The next three meetings of the Polish Heritage Book Club will take place via Zoom at 2:00 pm on the second Saturday of each month: December 13, 2025, January 10, 2026, and February 14, 2026. A Christmas-themed essay by Polish author Joseph Conrad is the reading for December, and January's selections will be poems and short stories by Marja Konopnicka (including the famous patriotic song "Rota"). Then February will feature a biography of Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, who was a nurse in Poland while the country endured Communist oppression. Please join us!

Since summer's end, we have had three meetings. For September, we read and discussed *Jadwiga's Crossing*, a work of historical fiction by Aloysius A. and Richard J. Lutz. Attendees especially enjoyed sharing some of their own families' immigration stories. Then for October, we considered Andrej Szczypiorski's World War II novel *The Beautiful Mrs. Seidenman*, also known as *The Beginning* or *The Origin*. Discussants were impressed by this work's disjointed chronology, large number of characters, and detailed portrayals of their lives. Finally, for November, we addressed John Guzlowski's touching poetic memoir *Echoes of Tattered Tongues*, a poignant prose/poetry story of the emotional toll on the author's family's life during and after World War II.

During the coming winter and spring of 2026, in addition to fiction, we will also cover a play and a work of literary criticism. In **March**, we will cover two short stories by Stefan Zeromski, followed in **April** by a literary criticism excerpt from *The Legend of Young Poland*, by Stanislaw Brozowski. Then in **May**, we will read Poland's first modern novel (1816), titled *Malvina*, or *The Heart's Intuition*, by Maria Wirtemberska. The absurdist play called *Tango*, by Slawomir Mrozek, will round out the 2025-2026 reading cycle in **June**.



For on-line participation in any of these meetings, email Dot Tassone for the Zoom link during the week prior, at [dstassone@gmail.com](mailto:dstassone@gmail.com). Please remember that attendees usually supply their own copies of the selections, and that our readings are always in the English language.

In-person meetings will resume in Spring 2026 at 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.

We hope to see 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.

## ~MEMBERSHIP~ Time to renew for 2026!



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.

## Witamy!

Polish Heritage Association of Maryland is pleased to welcome new members. We also welcome back many folks who have recently renewed their memberships.

Rev. Ivan Mehosky  
Kirk, Amy, and Henry Mantay  
Maura Kolakowski Taylor  
Joann Wheeler  
Thomas Chrzanowski  
Dr. Gregory Pokrywka  
Kenneth Skrzysz  
Melissa Kalinowski  
Theresa Marcinko Perez  
Kayleigh Burkowski  
Agnieszka Roman  
Matthew Konopka  
Renee Nicholson

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!

**SIGN UP AT**

<https://www.phaofmd.org/membership>



**SAVE THE DATE!...**

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

# *Annual Oplatek Dinner*

**Sunday, January 11, 2026, 2-6 p.m.**

*Details will be forthcoming.*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**January 11 ~ Oplatek Dinner, 2-6 pm**

**February 1 ~ PHAM Scholarship Applications open**

**May 2 ~ Majowka weekend!: Wycinanki workshop planned**

**May 3 ~ PHAM Scholarship Award Luncheon**

**July ~ Genealogy workshop planned**

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

## **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](mailto:phaofmd@gmail.com) with the subject VOLUNTEERS.**

### **TRUMPETER STAFF**

Editor, Edith Puła

Layout & Graphics, Carla Hazard Tomaszewski

Contributors: Michael Carnahan, Carla Hazard Tomaszewski, Elizabeth Lipinski, Christie Kearney, Dorothy Tassone, Judi Zamzow, Mellisa Kalinowski

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

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