

# Kopernik Memorial Association Newsletter

Member of Polish American Congress  
American Council for Polish Culture  
Kosciuszko Foundation  
Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute

The Kopernik Memorial Association is a 501c3 not for profit organization. Please consider a tax deductible donation to the Scholarship fund.



Fall Newsletter September 2019

Issue 24

## Welcome Polish Heritage Month !

Kopernik Memorial Association will host an Open House with new exhibits titled "Polish Folk Clothing: Pure Joy ". A parade of regional and national costumes with live models as well as costumed mannequins will take place following the brief talks at 1:30 and at 2 p.m.

Ten minute talks will be given about the costumes displayed, as well as famous artist Zofia Stryjeńska, a prominent Polish artist in the early 1920's, whose work shows the colors, motion, and detail of the costumes.

The event is free and open to the public on Sunday October 6th from 1-3 pm in the Cultural Center located on the second floor of the Polish Community Home at 810 Columbia St. Utica, NY.



### OFFICERS

Richard Noga -President  
Carol Dinger- 1st Vice-President  
Joanne Szczygiel- 2nd Vice-President  
Valerie Elacqua -Treasurer  
Mary Currie—Recording Secretary  
Dan Jadowski - Corresponding Secretary  
John Ossowski—Cultural Center Director

Website: [cnykopernik.com](http://cnykopernik.com)

## BULLETIN BOARD

Sun. Sept. 8, 12-4  
Holy Trinity Polish Dinner

Mon. Sept. 9, 6:00  
KMA Meeting PCC

Sat. Sept. 14, 9-12  
Cultural Center Library reorganization  
Breakfast, Bagels and Books

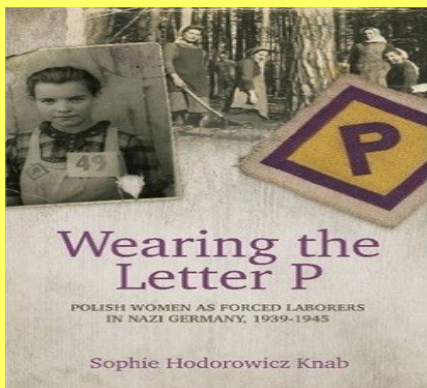
Sun. Sept. 22, 1-3  
Sophie Knab PCC Presentation

Sun. Oct. 6 1-3  
Cultural Center Open House PCC

Mon. Oct, 14 6:00  
KMA Meeting PCC

Sat. October 19, 1-3  
Scholarship Awards luncheon PCC

## WEARING THE LETTER P POLISH WOMEN AS FORCED LABORERS IN NAZI GERMANY 1939-1945



Join us on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019 from 1-3 p.m. for a presentation and book signing with author Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab at the Polish Community Club 810 Columbia St. Utica. The event is free and the venue is handi-capped accessible.

*Wearing the Letter P* is historical non-fiction with extensive bibliographic references documenting the plight of women who suffered and died as forced laborers during

World War II at the hands of the Nazis.

Hodorowicz -Knab is the author of many other notable books that include *Polish Customs, Traditions, and Folklore, Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook, Polish Wedding Customs & Traditions, Polish Herbs, Flowers & Folk Medicine, and Polish First Names*. Other titles will also be available for sale.

## OUR WORK IS NEVER DONE.....PLEASE VOLUNTEER !

We are grateful for the teamwork over the summer that transformed the main room of the Cultural Center. Thanks to center director John Ossowski, Betty Matuszewski, Richard Noga, Sue and Gary Moszak, Valerie Elacqua and Mary Currie for the hard work that was done in time for Open House held on Sunday August, 18th during Polish Community Club's Polish Days. A special thanks to Joe Elacqua who repaired one of the electric cords to put light on in one of the beautiful glass showcases. The next Open House is scheduled for Sunday October 6, 1-3 pm. Look for the announcement elsewhere in the newsletter.

### **Teamwork is again needed !**

**Please join us for a WORK session  
"Breakfast with Books and  
Bagels" on Saturday September,  
14th 9-noon.**

Members can help in the library to preview book titles and sort the books into special topics.

**We need help!**



**Kopernik Cultural Center**



### **Pysanky USA Retreat 2019**

Kopernik secretary Mary Currie and treasurer Valerie Elacqua traveled to Wilkes-Barre, PA this past July to participate in the 9th Pysanky (Ukrainian spelling) USA Retreat. This was a first trip to this particular venue for both Mary and Valerie. This yearly gathering brings together 100 participants and instructors from across the country and Japan. The week long event provides a great number and variety of pisanki classes taught by experts in the field, a vast array of dye colors to select from, a pisanki on-site store, and enthusiastic and artistic participants willing to share their technique and know-how with others.

One of the instructors was Larry Kozlowski, a notable ethnographer, folk artist and prolific author of Polish folk craft manuals including many Easter and Christmas tradition books. Larry shares his knowledge and handiwork extensively throughout the US at workshops, summer camps and Polish festivals. It was a reunion of sorts for Val as she took her first Polish folk art class with Larry in 1979 at Alliance College, PA where he was a professor and director of the Polish folk dance ensemble "Kujawiaki". Watch for the fruits of their egg-perience in upcoming workshops in advance of Easter 2020!

## On The Road...With Kopernik Memorial Association

On October 15, 2018 the Kopernik Memorial Association was recognized by the American Council For Polish Culture Affiliate Grants Committee to receive this year's (2019) Matching Grant Award. The check for \$750.00 was awarded to help the organization create display materials which promote learning about Polish culture through workshop programs, to be more visible at various public venues, to expand awareness about KMA's name-sake: Mikolaj Kopernik and to promote the benefits of membership in the organization.

The Association's responsibility would be to match the funds and for members to help in the planning and development of the projects.



In February 2019, work began on researching and writing the information to be shared about the famous Polish citizen Mikolaj Kopernik. KMA worked with Utica Sign and Graphics through several months of writing and revising until the wording of the statements, sequencing and artwork yielded a clean and readable product. Finally in July, KMA was notified that the product was ready. (see above picture at Kopernik Park during the Levitt Amp series)

### Why Join the Kopernik Memorial Association? Benefits of Membership

- Subscription to quarterly newsletter featuring events, photos and future activities.
- Access to extensive library of books and materials.
- Reduced fees to Association sponsored workshops about Polish traditions, culture and history.
- Participation in meetings with committee reports, Association news and correspondence.
- Communication with other Polish-American organizations including the Polish American Congress, the American Council for Polish Culture and the Kosciuszko Foundation.
- Maintain visibility of the Polish-American presence in the community.

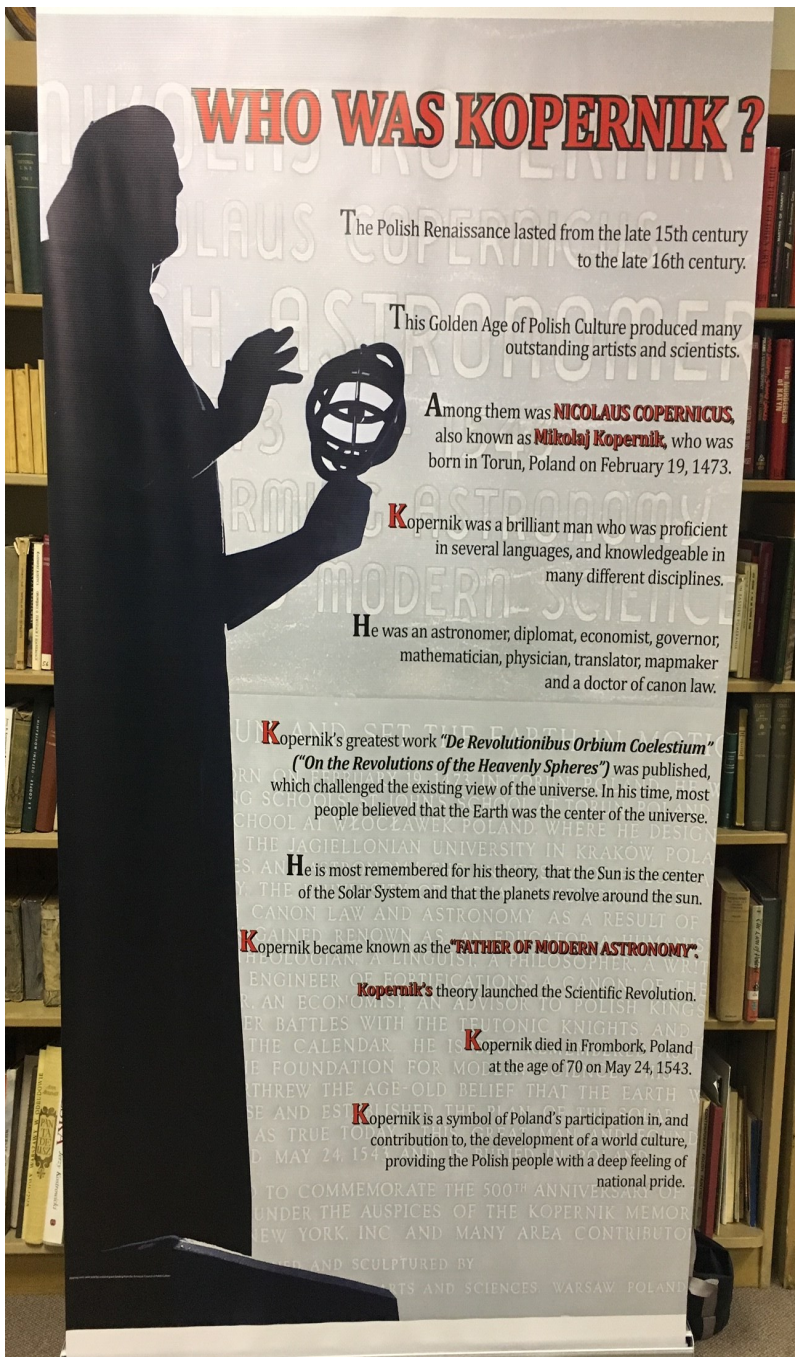
Simultaneously, work was also proceeding with a membership poster to provide clear statements describing what the benefits of becoming a member would be, and to showcase the new logo. These new materials were displayed on August 18th, at the annual Polish days for the Kopernik Cultural Center's Open House at the Polish Community Club.

The third poster describes "What Is a Szopka?" More about this element will be described in a future newsletter as well as the 8 ft. puppet show szopka still being constructed.

The next opportunity to view the projects will be at an open house during October: Polish Heritage Month. The date is Sunday, October 6 from 1-3 pm. Read more about

this open house elsewhere in the newsletter.





## WHO WAS KOPERNIK ?

The Polish Renaissance lasted from the late 15th century to the late 16th century. This Golden Age of Polish Culture produced many outstanding artists and scientists. Among them was Nicolaus Copernicus, also known as Mikolaj Kopernik, who was born in Torun, Poland on February 19, 1473.

Kopernik was a brilliant man who was proficient in several languages, and knowledgeable in many disciplines. He was an astronomer, diplomat, economist, governor, mathematician, physician, translator, mapmaker, and a doctor of canon law.

Kopernik's greatest work, "*De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium*" ("*On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres*") was published, which challenged the existing view of the universe. In his time, most people believed that the Earth was the center of the universe .

He is most remembered for his theory, that the Sun is the center of the of the Solar System and that the planets revolve around the Sun.

Kopernik became known as the "**FATHER OF MODERN ASTRONOMY**"

Kopernik's theory launched the Scientific Revolution. Kopernik died in Frombork, Poland at the age 70 on May 24, 1543.

Kopernik is a symbol of Poland's participation in, and contribution to, the development of a world culture, providing the Polish people with a deep feeling of national pride.

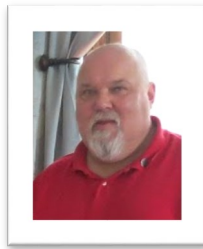
(Enlarged text to the right ) Retractable banner funded by the ACPC grant Ghost writing in the background of the banner is from the base of the Kopernik monument.



Sue Moszak and John Ossowski preparing for new exhibit the Open House at the Cultural Center

# From the Cultural Center Director

*John Ossowski*



The Kopernik Association Open House held on Aug. 17, 2019 from 1-5 p.m. was during the Polish Days celebration at the Polish Community Club. The cultural center, located on the 2nd floor, has been beautifully re-decorated during the past month by many volunteer members of our organization.

Upon entering, dazzling in the showcase were sparkling Polish crystal and amber jewelry. The new red velvet curtains against the far wall made a beautiful backdrop for our Polish costumed dolls and mannequins. The handsomely adorned picture of our Lady of Czestochowa was elevated at the center of the display. The richness of Polish design came to life!

Much planning and imagination plus hard work done by our members, in a whirlwind of preparation, went into the planning for this special day.

One young woman visitor spent time chatting with us. She was elated upon seeing the Sto Lat birthday cards for sale for her Polish grandmother. Gary Sroka, radio host, was very delighted to see how much had been done to create a very stimulating and colorful atmosphere for our community. Another visitor who claimed to know very little of the organization and its intent walked away pleasantly surprised and more interested after browsing through our copy of The Polish-American Encyclopedia. He was shocked to discover the large number of famous Polish Americans.

Our library has an assortment of new books on display. Many visitors stopped to browse. The new seven foot display banner with a description of Mikloaj Kopernik and his accomplishments drew much attention as well. It was used for the first time this summer at the Levitt Amp Series at Kopernik Park on Genesee St. Utica.

Approximately 30 visitors attended the Open House. Brian Karwowski, our Communication Director, was instrumental in encouraging many of the attendees.

Many colorful pictures were taken that day at the Center and should soon be available on our Website. We wish to thank all who visited.

Please join us on Oct. 6 for the next Open House opportunity. Invite your friends!



