

Third Tuesday Polish Book Club Promotes Reading and Discussion of Great Literature

In partnership with the Polish Studies Program of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Loyola University Chicago, the Polish American Librarians Association has organized the “Third Tuesday Polish Book Club,” kicking off March 18 at Loyola with a program and discussion of *Story of a Secret State* by Jan Karski to be led by Dr. John Merchant. The book club will meet monthly through February 2015 on the third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m., with discussion groups at five other Chicagoland libraries: the Polish Museum of America Library in Chicago, Prospect Heights Public Library, Wood Dale Public Library, Indian Trails Library District in Wheeling, and Eisenhower Public Library in Harwood Heights. Discussions at Indian Trails, Prospect Heights, Wood Dale, and Polish Museum of America will be in Polish; discussions at Loyola and the Eisenhower Library will be in English.

“Because this year is the centennial of Jan Karski’s birth, we felt that our efforts to raise awareness of Polish history and culture would benefit from the work that has been done by the recently formed [Jan Karski Educational Foundation](#),” said PALA President Elizabeth Marszalik. “*Story of a Secret State* is a remarkable work, on a par with Anne Frank’s *Diary of a Young Girl*, and the story of this remarkable man who risked his life to warn the Allies of the horrors of the Holocaust is the perfect kick-off for a discussion group that will raise awareness about Polish literature and history.”

Books will be available to eligible borrowers at the participating libraries. Register on the [PALA website](#).

The schedule:

March 18: Loyola University Chicago, Crown Center, Room 102. *Story of a Secret State* by Jan Karski. Discussion Leader: John Merchant, 773-508-2991, jmerchant@luc.edu. English.

April 15: Wood Dale Public Library, Art Gallery Kafe. *Sztukmistrz z Lublina* by Isaac Bashevis Singer. Discussion Leader and Librarian Contact: Joanna Klos, 630-766-6762 x212, jklos@wooddalelibrary.org. Polish

April 15: Loyola University Chicago, Crown Center, Room 102. ***The Grasinski Girls*** by Mary Erdmans. Discussion Leader: Joanna Wojdon, historian from University of Wrocław, Poland and Fulbright Scholar at Loyola, 312-626-5784, jwojdon@luc.edu. English.

May 20: Indian Trails Public Library, Wheeling. ***Traktat o luskaniu fasoli*** by Wiesław Myśliwski. Discussion Leader and Librarian Contact: Elizabeth Marszałik, 847-279-2211, emarszalik@indiantrailslibrary.org. Polish.

June 17: Polish Museum of America Library, Chicago. ***Prawiek i inne czasy*** by Olga Tokarczuk. Discussion Leader and Librarian Contact: Małgorzata Kot, 773-384-3352 ext. 101, malgorzata-kot@polishmuseumofamerica.org. Polish.

July 15: Indian Trails Public Library, Wheeling. ***Jadąc do Babadag*** by Andrzej Stasiuk. Discussion Leader and Librarian Contact: Elizabeth Marszałik, 847-279-2211, emarszalik@indiantrailslibrary.org. Polish.

August 19: Eisenhower Public Library, Harwood Heights. ***House of Day, House of Night*** by Olga Tokarczuk. Discussion Leader and Librarian Contact: Kathleen Weiss, 708-867-7828, www.eisenhowerlibrary.org. English

September 16: Indian Trails Public Library, Wheeling. ***Ciemno prawie noc*** by Joanna Bator. Discussion Leader and Librarian Contact: Elizabeth Marszałik, 847-279-2211, emarszalik@indiantrailslibrary.org. Polish.

October 21: Prospect Heights Public Library. ***Spuścizna*** by Isaac Bashevis Singer. Discussion Leader and Librarian Contact: Aldona Salska, asalska@phpl.info, 847- 259-3500. Polish.

November 18: Prospect Heights Public Library. ***Mini-wykłady o maxi-sprawach*** by Leszek Kołakowski. Discussion Leader and Librarian Contact: Aldona Salska asalska@phpl.info, 847- 259-3500. Polish.

December 16: Prospect Heights Public Library. ***Ferdydurke*** by Witold Gombrowicz. Discussion Leader and Librarian Contact: Aldona Salska, asalska@phpl.info, 847- 259-3500. Polish.

January 20: Polish Museum of America Library, Chicago. *Listy na papierze wyczerpanym* by Agnieszka Osiecka and Jeremi Przybora. Discussion Leader and Librarian Contact: Małgorzata Kot, 773-384-3352 ext. 101, malgorzata-kot@polishmuseumofamerica.org. Polish.

PALA encourages libraries across the country to sponsor book discussion groups. For more information about how to form a Third Tuesday Polish Book Club or bring discussion leaders to your library, contact PALA series coordinator Leonard Kniffel at lkniffel@sbcglobal.net.