



Friends of Polish Art
Founded 1937 Non-Profit Organization

*An Affiliate of the
American Council
for Polish Culture*



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**The FPA Newsletter
is published
4 times per year.**

Submissions from FPA members are highly encouraged. Please send them as an e-mail to the editor.

The opinions and editorial views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Friends of Polish Arts.

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A Donald Samull Polish Folk Dance Grant Awardee Goes to Poland!

On March 31, during our General Meeting, FPA proudly awarded the first annual FPA Donald Samull Polish Folk Dance Grants. The Donald Samull Polish Folk Dance Grants are intended to help local dance groups with their operational costs, especially with the cost of attending folk festivals, and are awarded every year. The awards, ranging from \$2,000-\$2,500 were accepted by the representatives of three excellent local dance groups, **Gwiazda, Tatry and Wawel**. We are excited to report that in July two of the awarded groups, Wawel and Tatry, took part in this year's International Rzeszów Folk Dance Festival.

Here is what one of the festival participants, Elise Lubiarsz, wrote about her experience in Poland: Participating in the 19th Rzeszów Folk Dance Festival was truly the experience of a lifetime! I participated in the festival with my group, the Wawel Folk Ensemble. Presenting dances that we worked so hard on at the Rzeszów Rynek for all the other groups to see was amazing. We presented dance suites from Lublin, Eastern Krakowiak, Biłgoraj, Cieszyń and Sieradz. We had a wonderful time in the town of Markowa, where we were warmly welcomed with amazing meals and hospitality! Spending time getting to know people from Polish dance groups from all around America and the world was priceless. There were dance groups from countries such as Brazil, Australia, and Ukraine. Everything led up to the Gala performance on the last night of the festival. It was amazing to watch each group present a dance. The energy was amazing as we all supported each other.

After the festival, members of our group traveled to Zakopane and Kraków. We first went on a river raft on the Dunajec River. After we arrived in Zakopane, we shopped and went up the Gubałówka mountain to look at the beautiful scenery. Some of us took a day trip to Morskie Oko, which was absolutely stunning, even on an overcast day!

After Zakopane, we stopped at the Wieliczka Salt Mines on our way to Kraków. In Kraków, we ate amazing food, shopped at the Sukiennice, and visited our namesake, Wawel Castle! My time with Wawel in Rzeszów was truly a once in a lifetime experience, and something that I will never forget!



Wawel Folk Ensemble at the Rzeszów Folk Dance Festival



The 2023 FPA Donald Samull Polish Folk Dance Grants ceremony: Tom Skurski, Charles Pelshaw, Maya Pelshaw and Donna Skurski (Wawel Folk Ensemble), Basia Nowakowski and Jessica Urban-Wendt (P.R.C.U.A. Gwiazda Dance School), Mary Skurnit (P.R.C.U.A. Tatry Dance), Anne Tyszkla, Ann Bonkowski, Stella Szczesny and Alina Klin (the members of the FPA Donald Samull Polish Folk Dance Grant Committee), and Frank Dmuchowski (FPA president). Photo by Alicja Karlic.



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Dear Members,

I hope that summer has been a good and healthy time for you! Your Board and I look forward to seeing you at our September 22nd Meeting (Details in another part of the newsletter.) This year has been filled with sadness and joy for the Friends of Polish Art.

American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) Convention

On a more pleasant note there was tremendous participation by FPA members in the 75th Anniversary celebration of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) in Detroit. The sponsoring group was the American Polish Cultural Society (APCS) whose President is Ryszard Tarnicki. FPA and APCS organizations are members of ACPC. Of the 41 delegates to the convention the largest number was from FPA. We are the largest participating member organization.

The Convention events were held from July 26-29 at various venues—Somerset Inn for all business meetings. On Friday afternoon the delegates visited the Orchard Lake Campus where Father Witek gave a tour of the Saint John Paul II Shrine. Afterwards there was a tour of the campus by Polish Institute for Culture and Research President John Radzilowski. This was followed by a delicious dinner on the campus. There was a visit to Holy Sepulchre Cemetery to see the Memorial to Blue Army Soldiers. In the evening at the Steinway Gallery, soprano Dorothy Gal the 2023 recipient of the ACPC Marcella Sembrich Competition gave a spectacular concert.

As you can imagine bringing the convention was a very complex process requiring many hours of dedicated work. Organizing Committee (who were also Convention delegates): Donna Bielecki, Jacqueline Kolowski, Barbara Lemecha, Patricia Malski, and Stella Szczesny. Other contributors including delegates were Anna Bankowski, Wladek Bankowski, Zofia Duniec-Dmuchowski, Alicja Karlic, Alina Klin, Brian Malski, Carolyn Meleski, Henrietta Nowakowski, Tom Schemanski, Michael Ostrowski and Carol Surma. To mention each person's specific contribution would require a good deal more space. Thank you to everyone who participated in and/or supported the various events which made the convention so successful. Any profits from the convention were given to the Scholarship Fund of the American Polish Cultural Society.

Special thanks should be extended Jerzy Barycki and the Polish-Canadian Business Association of Windsor for sharing the English version of their incredible exhibit on the life of Nicolaus Copernicus. The Polish version was invited to Poland as a part of the year-long celebration of the 550th year on the birth of Copernicus.

Honoring Three Members of FPA

An important part of the Convention was a special presentation at the Awards Banquet recognizing the great contribution of three members of FPA to the success of the ACPC and Polonia. Henrietta Nowakowski received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Carol J. Surma and Brian J. Malski were recipients of the Founder's Award. Congratulations for everything you have done and continue to do! We are very proud that you have each received such well-deserved recognition.

In Memoriam

Sadly, we remember the passing of two members who were very active in FPA, literally until the day of their passing. They are Mary Ellen Tyszka and Richard Lapham. They served in many positions including president. Each of us has a special memory of Mary Ellen and Rick and their incredible commitment to FPA and to Polonia in general. They will be dearly missed.

Frank J. Dmuchowski



DATE/ TIME	EVENT	PLACE
Friday, September 22 Doors open 6:00 pm Meeting: 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm	General Meeting	Polish League of American Vets 25222 W. Warren Dearborn Heights
Sunday, October 15 See flyer insert	Chopiniana	American Polish Cultural Center 2975 E. Maple Road Troy
Sunday, October 22 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Polish American Central Citizens Committee 50 th Annual Pulaski Medal of Honor Banquet	Barrister Gardens 24225 Harper Avenue St. Clair Shores
November 4 -5 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Submission of Szopka for Annual Szopka Competition	Polish Art Center 9539 Joseph Campau Hamtramck
November 10 -12 See their website for details regarding time and movies	The 30 th Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival	On Friday at the Michigan Theatre and on Saturday and Sunday at the State Theatre
Sunday, November 19 2:00 pm	Awarding of prizes for Szopka Competition	Polish Art Center 9539 Joseph Campau Hamtramck
Saturday, December 16 Doors open 5:30 pm Dinner: 6:30 pm	Wigilia and display of Szopka Competition winning szopki	American Polish Cultural Center 2975 E. Maple Road Troy

Have You Started Working on Your Szopka Yet?

Announcing: 2023 Friends of Polish Art Annual Szopka Competition



Hosted by the Polish Art Center

Polish Art Center, 9539 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck, MI.

Submission Date: Nov. 4 – 5, 2023

Award Presentation: Nov. 19, 2023

Adult. & Children Category Prizes

Construction, Tips, Templates and Rules found on the website:

www.friendsofpolishart.org under "Competitions" - Szopka Competition

Save the Date

Wigilia

Saturday, December 16, 2023



Friends of Polish Art
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2615 Twelve Mile Road, Suite 118
Berkley, MI 48072-1627



*Henrietta Nowakowski, Carol Surma and Brian Malski
with awards received at the ACPC Banquet*

EXCITING NEWS – CONGRATULATIONS FPA!

Friends of Polish Art will receive the prestigious Pulaski Medal of Honor at the Pulaski Banquet to be held on October 22, 2023. It is awarded once to organizations who have done exemplary service to Polonia or promoting Polish culture. FPA is quite honored to be this year's recipient of the medal and would like to see many members attend the banquet as we receive this award.

To encourage you to attend, the Board of Directors has approved a \$10 discount toward the cost of the ticket for current members to FPA attend the banquet. BUT you must purchase the banquet ticket through FPA. To receive the discount, please send a check made payable to "Friends of Polish Art" no later than **Saturday, October 7, 2023**, in the amount of \$50 to: Friends of Polish Art, 2615 12 Mile Road, Suite 118, Berkley, MI 48072

Check out the FPA website:
<https://friendsofpolishart.org>

Like us on our Facebook page:
<https://facebook.com/friendsofpolishart/>

Note NEW Location...

PLAV POST 16 Hall - 25222 W. Warren, Dearborn Hgts., MI

**Please join us for the next General Membership Meeting
on Friday, September 22, 6:30 - 9 PM. Doors open at 6 PM.**



**Meeting Program – Discovering Polish Bagpipes
by Tom Osentoski**

Refreshments will be provided