



Friends of Polish Art
Founded 1937 Non-Profit Organization

Newsletter November 2023

Page 1

*An Affiliate of the
American Council
for Polish Culture*



Inside This Issue:

ACPC Convention	1 & 5
President's Letter	2
Calendar of Events	3
FPA Scholarships	4
Polish Day Parade	6
Szopka Competition	7
General Meeting	8

**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.

FPA does not assume any responsibility for statements advanced by contributors to this newsletter. The editor reserve the right to edit any submission.

Friends of Polish Art Awarded a Pulaski Medal of Honor

We feel very proud and honored that this year American Polish Central Citizens Committee bestowed a Pulaski Medal of Honor on our organization. This important recognition is given to organizations and individuals who through their work make an impact on the Polish American community in our area.

We are in very distinguished company, as other awardees included Polish Alliance Dancers, Gen. Pulaski Language School, Polanie Song and Dance Ensemble, Piast Institute, Teresa Jędrusko, Anne Moise and Christine Wilk.

The 50th Annual Pulaski Awards Banquet, during which the ceremony took place, was held on Sunday October 22 at the Barrister Gardens in St. Clair Shores. Many members of FPA were in attendance to show their support as Frank Dmuchowski accepted the award on behalf of FPA.



*Frank Dmuchowski, FPA President, accepted the Pulaski Medal of Honor on behalf of the organization.
In the photo with Stella Szczesny and Sigmunt John Szczepkowski Jr.,
Central Citizens Committee's President.*



FPA members at the ceremony

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of The American Council for Polish Culture

By Barbara Lemecha

It is my great pleasure and satisfaction to report that out of six people on the Convention Committee, five members (myself, Donna Bielecki, Jacqueline Kolowski, Patricia Malski and Stella Szczesny) were from Friends of Polish Art. Richard Tarnicki, President of the American Polish Cultural Society/Center, was honorary chair. We worked diligently for five months planning, scheduling and arranging this celebration. The Convention was a great success because of the hard work and the untiring dedication of the committee and the members of FPA supporting the committee's work.

The convention opened on July 27, 2023, with welcome greetings by APCS President, Richard Tarnicki and the Mayor of Troy, Ethan Baker. The keynote speaker of the event was Dr. Paweł Zyzak, Consul General of Poland, who thanked all of the delegates for continuing the legacy of our predecessors. In his address that followed, our Honorary Consul Richard Walawender highlighted Polish roots here in Michigan.

(continued on page 5)



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Friends of Polish Art
Founded 1937 Non-Profit Organization

Dear Members,

Since this is the last newsletter until the January 2024 issue it will cover a few topics –albeit briefly. I hope you will enjoy reading this letter as well as the entire newsletter.

First, a special warm welcome to our new members: Pamela and Jessica Saunders, John Cebrowski, Eddy Logan, Dariusz Klepko, Rose Kruszewski, Anya Pelshaw, Maya Pelshaw, John and Krystyna Roland and Deanna Welemirov.

Second, please consider participating in our annual **Szopka Competition**. We have two categories: Children and Youth (ages-5-17) and Adult (18 and above). More information in this newsletter and on the FPA website.

Third, Friends of Polish Art are pleased to be a co-sponsor of **Kolędy, A Polish Musical Concert featuring The Lira Singers and Lira Chamber Players**. It will be held at the beautiful Sweetest Heart of Mary Church on December 10, 2023 at 3pm. More information in this newsletter and on the FPA website.

Fourth, FPA is a sponsor of the **30th Annual Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival**, November 10-12, 2023. See their website: annarborpolishfilmfestival.com for more information and please attend.

Fifth, recently the annual Chopiniana was held at the American Polish Cultural Center and your fellow members were the largest single number of attendees over 20 - an amazing number. Also, FPA was the most extensive advertiser through our website, newsletter, and Facebook. This is only one of many projects in which FPA members have participated and/or attended. Congratulations to everyone!

Sixth, the Wigilia committee has been diligently working to make it a wonderful event. Wigilia historically has been one of FPA's most cherished and best attended event and we hope to see you all on December 16th! Please bring your family and friends, and let's celebrate this beautiful Polish Christmas tradition together!

Seventh, in January we will have elections for all positions (officers and the board). Please think about running or making a recommendation (you can even nominate yourself). Please plan on attending this particularly important meeting on January 26, 2024 at the APCC in Troy. Let me conclude with sincere wishes to all of you and your family and friends for a **Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas (Wesołych Świąt), Happy New Year (Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku) and Best Wishes for a Joyous Celebration to all our members of different faiths and traditions.**

Frank Dmuchowski

With sadness we remember our members who have passed away during the last few years: William Gorski, Janet Krawulski, Halina Konwiak, Ray Okonski, Roland Ozark, Irene Zelazny, Henrietta Zukowski, Richard Lapham and Mary Ellen Tysza. May they rest in peace.

DATE/ TIME	EVENT	PLACE
November 10 -12 This event is sponsored by Friends of Polish Art	The 30 th Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival	On Friday at the Michigan Theatre and on Saturday and Sunday at the State Theatre
Friday, November 17 Doors open 6 pm Meeting begins 6:30 pm	FPA General Meeting. Program: "Copernicus, Michelangelo, and the Sistine Chapel" by Frank Dmuchowski	American Polish Cultural Center 2975 E. Maple Road Troy
November 18 -19 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Szopka Submissions for Annual Szopka Competition	Polish Art Center 9539 Joseph Campau Hamtramck
Sunday, December 3 2:00 pm	Szopka Awards Presentation	Polish Art Center 9539 Joseph Campau Hamtramck
Sunday, December 10 3:00 pm This event is cosponsored by the Polish Institute of Culture and Research at Orchard Lake and Friends of Polish Art	The Lira Singers &The Lira Chambers Players of The Lira Ensemble Koledy: A Polish Music Christmas Concert Tickets: \$30.00, students and seniors: \$25.00	Sweetest Heart of Mary Church, 4440 Russel St. Detroit
Saturday, December 16 5:00 pm doors open 6:00 pm dinner	FPA Wigilia and display of Szopka Competition winning szopki	American Polish Cultural Center 2975 E. Maple Road Troy
Friday, January 26, 2024 Doors open 6 pm Meeting begins 6:30 pm	FPA General Membership Meeting and annual elections	American Polish Cultural Center 2975 E. Maple Road Troy

Watch for your Wigilia invitation coming soon by mail! Ticket prices:
adult - \$50.00, children 12 and under - \$25.00, patrons - \$85.00,
benefactors - \$125.00, children under 4 - free.

During the May General Membership meeting FPA presented the 2023 scholarship awards (\$2,500 each) to seven outstanding students. This year's Frank Filipek Scholarship awardees are: Lauren Marie Bartkiewicz, Mateusz Conrado, Julia Klepko, Anna Kotlarz and Maya Grace Pelshaw. The Mitchell Fine Arts Scholarship awardees are Alayna Storey and Elise Lubiarz.

We congratulate all of the very deserving recipients!

The FPA Scholarship Committee: Brian Malski (Chair), Agnes Bongero, Marcia Lewandowski, Patty Malski & Carol Surma.

Ceremony photos by Alicja Karlic



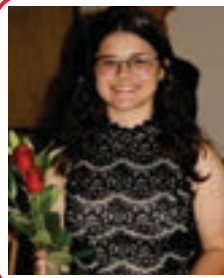
Lauren Marie Bartkiewicz and Brian Malski, Chair of the FPA Scholarship Committee. Lauren Bartkiewicz is a 2023 graduate of Bishop Foley High School. She is attending Adrian College studying sports management and playing basketball for the Bulldogs.



Chuck and Maya Grace Pelshaw. Maya Pelshaw, a recent graduate of Bishop Foley Catholic High School, is attending the University of Dayton studying Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in Aerospace Engineering and a minor in Spanish.



In August of 2022, Matt Conrado began studying for his graduate degree at Yale University's School of Medicine, where he will be receiving a Master of Medical Science in Physician Associate Studies in 2024.



Anna Kotlarz is a senior at Wayne State University pursuing a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. As a member of Formula SAE, she participated in designing and building a small-scale racecar and in competitions against other universities.



Julia Klepko is a 2023 graduate of Utica Academy of International Studies. She is attending the University of Michigan pursuing a degree in computer science.



Alayna Storey graduated from North Central Michigan College with an Associate Degree in General Studies. She is attending Northern Michigan University in Marquette pursuing a bachelor's degree in fine arts, with a concentration in drawing and painting.



Frank Dmuchowski and Elise Lubiarz. Elise Lubiarz is a junior at Wayne State University majoring in Speech Pathology, with minors in psychology and Polish Studies.



Scholarships recipients with their families

Are you getting FPA announcements by email?

We encourage our members to provide us with their email addresses so we can inform you about FPA events as well as other important Polonia events. Your address is safe with us; we DO NOT share email addresses of FPA members with third parties. To provide your email address, or to report that you have not been receiving our mailings, please contact Brian Malski at bjmalski@gmail.com.

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of The American Council for Polish Culture

Each day of the convention consisted of business sessions, reports from affiliate organizations and historical presentations. Among the presentations: “Returned Art from the Polish Pavilion at the 1939 New York World's Fair in New York” by Peter Obst, “Blue Army Veterans of WW I” by Henrietta Nowakowski, “Surviving Genocide: Personal Recollections, a book written by Donna Chmara”, by John Cebrowski, and “Jan Matejko and His Historical Paintings” by Frank Dmuchowski.

Friday afternoon all the delegates and guests traveled to the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery to pay homage to Halerczycy, Polish World War I Veterans of General Józef Haler's Blue Army who fought for a free Poland. The delegates laid a wreath at the newly dedicated grave markers and the monument erected to honor the soldiers' sacrifice. After the visit to the cemetery, we toured the beautiful campus of the Orchard Lake Schools where Dr. John Radzilowski, Director of the Polish Institute of Culture and Research, proudly presented the amazing history and legacy of Orchard Lake. Following the tour, we had a delicious dinner at the OL Dining Hall, beautifully transformed into an elegant setting with linens and fresh roses, and viewed a special display of priceless Polish art, arranged by Dr. Radzilowski. To complete the wonderful day, we enjoyed the beautiful soprano voice of the talented Dorothy Gal, the winner of the 2023 Marcella Sembrich Vocal Competition in a concert at the Steinway Concert Hall, followed by an afterglow.

Every year we end the convention with the Awards Banquet, where we honor and recognize people of merit for their contributions in promoting Polish heritage. Five awards were given to deserving members and three of these honored members of our own organization. We are so very proud of them! Henrietta Nowakowski was awarded The Lifetime Achievement Award for her many years of research into the first settlement of Poles in Jamestown (1608) and devoting the last 15 years of her time researching the Haller's Army Veterans resting at the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Carol Surma was recognized with a very well-deserved Founders Award for her dedication to FPA for the last three decades in numerous functions and serving in many positions at the national level. Brian Malski was honored with the Founders Award, for his many years of dedication to FPA and his very valuable work at the national level.

In closing, on behalf of the Convention Committee I must convey our gratitude to all who made this celebration a great success, celebrating our rich history and our accomplishments in those 75 years of ACPC. Now, as we start a new chapter, we are looking to a bright future as we continue the legacy of the leaders before us.

The article is a fragment of the 75th ACPC Convention report written by Barbara Lemecha. The Convention took place July 27-29, 2023, in Troy, Michigan. For the entire text please go to: <https://www.friendsofpolishart.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/ACPC-2023-Convention-Article-Lemecha-0909.4.pdf>



The opening of the Convention: Richard Conrad presenting the American flag The banquet at the APCC in Troy



The banquet started with traditional polonaise led by Barbara Lemecha and Arnold Slonimski



Carol Surma, recipient of the Founders Award, with Carolyn Meleski and Carl J. Surma



Proclamation Presentation: President of ACPC Raymond Glembecki, Consul General RP Pawel Zyzak, Richard Walawender, Debbie Majka, Richard Poremski, Hon. Consuls of Poland



Barbara Lemecha, Jacqueline Kolowski, Zosia Duniec-Dmuchowski and Patty Malski checking in the banquet guests



Brian Malski, recipient of the Founders Award, with Lilia Kieltyka and Jacqueline Kolowski



Henrietta Nowakowski, recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, with Raymond Glemboski and Corporal Michael Zapytowski



Richard Walawender, Donna Bielecki and the Mayor of Troy

*Text by Barbara Lemecha;
photos by Alicja Karlic*

FPA Participates in the Polish Day Parade

It was a bright sunny day for this year's Polish Day Parade held on Saturday, Aug. 26. Considering the weather of some past parades (hot or torrential downpours) the weather was probably as ideal as it could ever be for a parade: a beautiful blue sky and a cool breeze, with an occasional cloud above providing periodic shade for both the marchers and spectators.

This was the second time the Polish Day Parade, organized by the Polish American Congress, was held in the city of Warren, Michigan, in conjunction with Warren's annual Birthday Bash Festival. This year's Grand Marshall was a local metro Detroit lad Vinny Dombrowski, lead singer of the popular 1990s rock band Sponge.

Many Polonia organizations, including Friends of Polish Art, participated in the parade. FPA board member Michael Ostrowski, dressed in his hussar costume, carried the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth Flag; Patty and Brian Malski marched in the parade, while Carol Surma and Frank Dmuchowski co-piloted a vehicle, proudly displaying a white and red sign stating they were representing "Friends of Polish Art". Among the parade participants were also the Notre Dame HS Marching Band, the South Macomb Warthogs MC and US Military Veteran's Organizations. The parade featured a newly constructed float (made by the Detroit Parade Company) honoring Mikołaj Kopernik's (Nicolaus Copernicus) 550th birthday.

The parade route this year began at Warren Cousineau HS, travelled down Common Road and finished at the entertainment stage located in front of the Warren Civic Center and festival site. All parade participants were recognized by Polish Day Parade chair, Judge John Chmura and Mayor Jim Fouts as they passed the stage surrounded by an enthusiastic crowd.

Text and photos by Brian Malski



Patty and Brian Malski proudly carrying the FPA banner, with Frank Dmuchowski and Carol Surma riding behind, and Michael Orłowski in a hussar attire carrying the flag



This brand-new float representing Polish Americans was sponsored by PAC Michigan Division

Have You Started Working on Your Szopka Yet?
Announcing: 2023 Friends of Polish Art Annual Szopka Competition
 Hosted by the Polish Art Center



*Adult, Youth & Children
Prize categories*



*All entries displayed
at the Polish Art Center*



*Fun project
for all*

Submission and presentation is at the Polish Art Center, 9539 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck, MI.

Submission Date: Nov. 18 – 19, 2023

Award Presentation: Dec. 3, 2023 - 2:00pm

Construction, Tips, Templates and Rules found on the website:
www.friendsofpolishart.org under "Competitions" - Szopka Competition

**The Lira Singers & The Lira Chambers
 Players of The Lira Ensemble in Koledy:
 A Polish Music Christmas Concert**

Sunday, December 10, at 3:00 pm,
 Sweetest Heart of Mary Church, 4440 Russel St. Detroit



This event is cosponsored by the Polish Institute of Culture and Research at Orchard Lake and Friends of Polish Art. Tickets: \$30.00, students and seniors: \$25.00. With questions, email picrol@org or call (248)836-1284.

Tickets are available through PICROL or at the door.



The annual Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival will take place November 10 – 12, 2023. FPA is proud to support the festival, which this year celebrates its 30th anniversary.

**A m o n g t h e
 f e s t i v a l ' s
 h i g h l i g h t s : F r i d a y ,
 N o v . 1 0 t h 6 p m :
 O p e n i n g G a l a ; 8 : 2 0
 p m : Z i e l o n a
 g r a n i c a / T h e G r e e n
 B o r d e r (d i r .**

Agnieszka Holland, drama, 2023, 147 min.). The program includes three new feature films, many documentaries and a children's program.

The detailed program and links to the box office are available at the festival's official site:
<https://www.annarborphilmsfestival.com/program-2023/>



Friends of Polish Art
Founded 1937 Non-Profit Organization

2615 Twelve Mile Road, Suite 118
Berkley, MI 48072-1627



A 2022 winning szopka
created by Carolyn Meleski.
Have you made your szopka yet?

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

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



**Please join us for the next General Meeting on
Friday, November 17, 2023, 6:30 pm – 9 pm.**

Doors open: 6:00 pm.

**At American Polish Cultural Center,
2975 East Maple Rd (15 Mile Rd) in Troy.**

**Meeting program: Presentation “Copernicus,
Michelangelo, and the Sistine Chapel” by Frank
Dmuchowski. Refreshments will be provided.**

Friends of Polish Art

Cordially invites you, your family and friends to our

Wigilia

Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 5 PM

American Polish Cultural Center

2975 E. Maple Road
Troy, Michigan

Formal Invitation to follow

Information and Reservations: Brian Malski (248) 213-951

