

**Inside This Issue:**

Wigilia	1 & 3
Scholarships & Competitions	1
President's Letter	2
General Meeting	4
Notice of General Election	4

**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.

FPA Continues Beautiful Tradition of Wigilia

On Saturday, December 16, Friends of Polish Art held its annual Wigilia at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy. With over a hundred people in attendance, the event was a beautiful display of many Polish traditions including a szopki exhibit, wonderful performances by the Wawel Dance Ensemble, Ukrainian Women Choral Group and Ukrainian Bandurists. A beautiful solo of "Oj maluśki, maluśki" by Father Roman Pasieczny was also one of the highlights of the event. Everybody enjoyed a festive and cordial atmosphere, sharing of opłatki, a traditional meal and singing of kolędy with Przemek Frączak, while a share the wealth and basket raffles made some lucky winners very happy. The szopki on display were brought to the event by FPA members. We hope that next year on display we will have some brand new szopki made for our annual competition! Do siego roku, let's celebrate Wigilia next year! .



*Laurie Palazzolo and Patty Malski sharing opłatek
Wigilia 2023*



*The Ukrainian Women Choral Group with their guests
Wigilia 2023*



A szopki display compliments of FPA members Wigilia 2023

The 2024 FPA Scholarships, Grants and ... Competitions!

This year FPA will again offer a total of seven scholarships: five **Frank Filipek** scholarships available to students in the areas of law, medicine, architecture, engineering, sciences, and liberal arts, and two **Lillian & Chester Mitchell** scholarships available to students pursuing studies in fine arts and languages. In addition, for the second time FPA will offer **Donald Samull Polish Folk Dance Grants** (up to five grants). We are very proud to announce the return of our two literary competitions, the **Suzanne Marie Margaret Sloat Youth Literary Competition** and the **Estelle Wachtel Torres, MD Literary Competition**. The Literary Competitions Committee is being chaired by Jessica Urban.

Please see the FPA website for detailed information, eligibility, forms and application submission deadlines.

(more photos from Wigilia on page 3)



Wigilia 2023: Mathew Meleski and Henry Tysza, Ph.D.



Wigilia 2023: Richard and Grażyna Tarnicki



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NEWSLETTER

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Friends of Polish Art
Founded 1937 Non-Profit Organization

Best wishes for great health and happiness in the upcoming year 2024 (Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!).

I am writing this letter from Kraków, Poland. Today we visited the exhibition of Kraków Nativity Scenes entered into the 2023 competition (Pokonkursowa wystawa szopek krakowskich). The Szopka tradition in Kraków dates from the nineteenth century and this year was the 81st time the competition has taken place. All of the entrants were marvelous, Kraków's nativity crèche exhibits were made by amateur artists, adults as well as children. Kraków's nativity scene-making as a unique phenomenon of intangible heritage was recognized in 2014 when it was placed on the Polish Intangible Heritage List and in 2018 on the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Please enjoy pictures of two of this year's winning szopki below.

Throughout 2023 our Polonian life has been coming back, and it feels great! We had four general membership meetings during the year with very interesting lectures and exhibits (e.g. Polish Bagpipes, Copernicus, Michelangelo and the Sistine Chapel, Outstanding Polish Women) and another wonderful Wigilia. To our two existing scholarship programs (Frank Filipek and Lillian & Chester Mitchell) we added a grant program (Donald Samull Polish Folk Dance Grant), our website became more refined and informative, and we resumed using email as a means to better communicate with the membership.

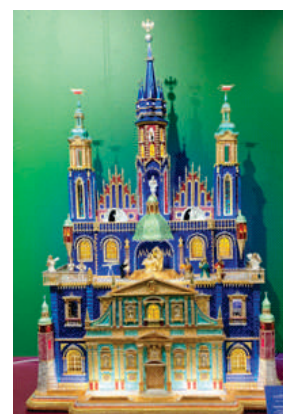
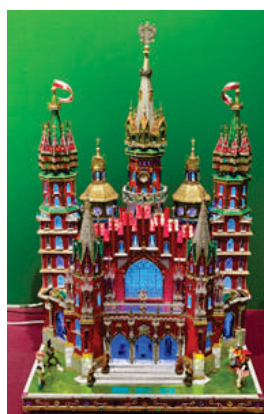
However, one of the greatest challenges in 2024 for FPA and Polonia in general will be encouraging larger participation in Polish American organizations and their activities. Covid clearly has significantly altered the ways in which we used to operate, but we have been emerging from this setback. Hopefully in 2024 we will have even more events that allow people to meet face to face and enjoy each other's company.

At our next general membership meeting on Jan. 26, 2024 to be held at the American Polish Cultural Center, we will have elections for all officer and board positions, including the president. Please consider nominating a member or yourself for one of the officer or director positions. **You can either email or contact Committee Chairperson, Ann Bankowski (ann.bankowski@gmail.com) or me (frankdfpa@gmail.com) with your nominations.**

It has been my honor and privilege to be the president of FPA over the last two years. As I have decided not to run for another term as President, I do look forward to being emeritus and supporting the continued growth of FPA.

Thank you for everything which all of you have done for FPA and Polonia!

Frank Dmuchowski



Frank and Zofia Dmuchowski in Kraków in December 2023, and two of the award winning szopki



Ann Bankowski, Donna Bielecki, Jackie Kolowski, Dariusz Klepko, Rev. Bernard Witek and Deanna Welemirov



Richard and Anna Kubina, Ann and Walter Bankowski, Joseph and Mary Majcher



A lucky winner of one of the monetary prizes!



Elzbieta Mscichowska & family and Judy and Tracy Dies



Ukrainian Women Choral Group performing at the Wigilia



Dave Muzzarelli, a winner of one of the baskets!



Jackie Kolowski and Rev. Roman Pasieczny



The Wigilia Organizing Committee: Brian Malski, Iwona Jędrzejczak (Chair), Ann Bankowski, Donna Bielecki, Stella Szczesny and Patty Malski. Not in the photo: Frank and Zofia Dmuhowski.



The Wawel Folk Ensemble



Ukrainian bandura players



Brian Malski, Iwona Jędrzejczak and Revs. Bernard Witek and Roman Pasieczny

Sincere thanks to everyone who helped to ensure the success of this event:

Benefactors:
 Frank Dmuhowski & Zofia Duniec-Dmuhowski, Ph. D., Gerald Graczyk, Polish Institute of Culture & Research, Barb Szymanski in honor of Walter J. Szymanski, Dennis & Sue Walkowiak on behalf of the Suzanne Sloat & Ray Okonski Foundation

Patrons:
 Carolyn & Matthew Meleski, Nina Stephenson, Susan Surlotta, Anne Tysza

Donors:
 Krystal Greniuk Wioncek, Katrina Rye & Elana Wioncek, Tadeusz & Eugenia Gorecki, Marcia Lewandowski

Basket Donors:
 Ann & Wladyslaw Bankowski, Donna Bielecki, Barbara Gronet, Frank Dmuhowski & Zofia Duniec-Dmuhowski, Ph.D., Brian & Patty Malski, Polish American Federal Credit Union, Polish Scouting Organization, Curtis Possuniak & John Booth, Carol Surma, Thomas Schemanski & Stella Szczesny

Wigilia Committee:
 Iwona Jędrzejczak – Chair
 Ann Bankowski, Donna Bielecki, Frank Dmuhowski & Zofia Duniec-Dmuhowski, Ph.D., Brian & Patty Malski, Stella Szczesny

Big thanks to everyone who helped with Wigilia!



Friends of Polish Art
Founded 1937 Non-Profit Organization

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*The Lira Ensemble in Koledy:
A Polish Music Christmas Concert
at the Sweetest Heart of Mary Church in Detroit.
FPA was an active sponsor of this concert.
Photo: Donna Malski*

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

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



Please join us for our first General Meeting in 2024!

**On Friday, January 26, 6:30 pm – 9 pm
at APCC in Troy.**

**Meeting program: Annual Reports of all officers and
board members, general elections for all offices.
Refreshments will be provided.**

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

Please be advised that the Annual Meeting and Election of officers and members of the Board of Directors shall take place on FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024. The meeting will be held at the American Polish Cultural Center located at 2975 E. Maple Road, Troy; meeting from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. All positions are open for this year's election. The office of President is for a two-year term. All other positions are for a one-year term. Only members who are current in their dues will be allowed to run for a position and to vote in the election. Please see the President's Letter for information on who to contact for further information.

It is time to pay your membership dues!

The dues are: individual: \$25, couple: \$30, student, under 21 years: \$10, patron: \$50.
Please use the provided envelope to mail your check. Thank you!