



Friends of Polish Art
Founded 1937 Non-Profit Organization

*An Affiliate of the
American Council
for Polish Culture*



Inside This Issue:

FPA Awards Scholarships & Grants	1 & 4
FPA Literary & Fine Arts Competitions	1 & 4
President's Letter	2
FPA Events in Photos	3
Jadzia Kolowski	
In Memoriam	4
Calendar of Events	5
Save the date: Wigilia & Szopka Competition	6
ACPC Convention	7
Contributors & Acknowledgement	8
Upcoming Events	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.

FPA AWARDS SEVEN SCHOLARSHIPS AND FOUR GRANTS

During the uplifting and joyous ceremony held on Friday, May 30, at the APCC in Troy, Friends of Polish Art presented five awardees with Frank Filipek Scholarships, two awardees with Mitchell Fine Arts Scholarships and four dance groups with Donald Samull Polish Folk Dance Group Grants. This year the scholarships were \$2,000 each, and the grants were \$1,250 – \$2,500 each.

FPA is very proud of all the scholarship and grant recipients and congratulates them on their impressive achievements.



The Mitchell Fine Arts Scholarships were awarded to Karolina Śpiewak and Ian Zelek, and the Frank Filipek Scholarships recipients were Julia Brown, Sasha Gilders, Paulina Kowalczyk, Hannah Alexandra Saunders and Ella Sidorowicz.

The Donald Samull Polish Folk Dance Group Grants went to PRCUA Malbork Dance Group - Grand Rapids, the Wawel Folk Ensemble, the Dunajec Polish Song & Dance Ensemble, and the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers.

In the photo, grant recipients with the Donald Samull Polish Folk Dance Group Grants Committee Members. Standing (L-R): Brian Malski (FPA), Tomasz Kielar, the Dunajec Polish Song & Dance Ensemble, Tom & Donna Skurski, the Wawel Folk Ensemble, Basia Nowakowski, the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers, Natalia Szczygiel and Amber Gillette, Malbork Dance Group, Patty Malski, FPA, Stella Szczesny, FPA and Ann Bankowski, FPA. Sitting in front: members of the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers. Not in the photo: Alina Klin, Chair of the Donald Samull Polish Folk Dance Group Grants Committee. *(Continued on page 4)*

FPA LITERARY AND FINE ARTS COMPETITIONS: WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON

We are very excited that our literary and fine arts competitions drew a lot of attention from the public this year.

The **Suzanne Marie Margaret Sloat Youth Literary Competition** and the **Estelle Wachtel-Torres, MD Literary Competition** (for adults) were restarted last year after a few years' hiatus.

This year Ms. Pamela Saunders, the FPA Literary Committee Chair, diligently promoted the competitions which resulted in a huge increase in entries submitted compared to last year. Thank you, Pamela Saunders, and the committee members for this success! Awards will be presented to the winners during the next FPA General Meeting on October 25, at 4 pm in the OLS Galeria.



Pamela Saunders

We are also thrilled that we are bringing back yet another important competition, dormant for 10 years, the FPA Fine Arts Competition (formally known as the Richard Kubinski Fine Arts Competition). We organized its 29th edition together with the Polish Institute of Culture and Research at Orchard Lake (PICROL). Without this partnership the 2025 FPA Fine Arts Competition would have not been possible. The artists have already submitted digital images of their works, and the original artwork will be on display in the OLS Galeria starting October 5, when the opening reception will take place at 2 pm and the winners will be announced at 3 pm.



FPA BOARD of DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President

Brian Malski

First Vice President

Alina Klin

Second Vice President

Michael Ostrowski

Treasurer

Iwona Jedrzejczak

Financial Secretary

Carol J. Surma

Corresponding Secretary

Position Vacant

Recording Secretary

Position Vacant

DIRECTORS

Barbara Hantz

Patty Malski

Charles Pelshaw

Stella Szczesny

NEWSLETTER

EDITORS

Alina Klin

Brian Malski

Carol J. Surma

President's Letter, September 2025

Dear Members,

I hope this letter finds you in good health.

The summer has been a busy but also an exciting time for Friends of Polish Art. We accomplished quite a lot and here in a nutshell is what we did. In this newsletter you will read more about some of the events as well as what we planned next.

We began the season **in May** by presenting awards to this year's well-deserving scholarship recipients and folk-dance groups at the general membership meeting. **In June**, we attended the Novi Community Festival, distributing flyers about our upcoming events and membership applications. FPA also coordinated a performance by the PRCUA Gwiazda dancers.

In July, members and friends convened at the residence of Barb Hantz for the FPA summer picnic which turned out to be a lot of fun where we played lawn and board games, had plenty to eat and drink and enjoyed each other's company. Later, **in August**, representatives participated in the Polish Day Parade in Warren, MI, where the group carried the FPA banner and distributed candy to children along the parade route. It should also be mentioned that during this period entries for the Literary Competition were received and plans were being developed for the Fine Arts Competition and the Szopka Workshop.

The final event was the recent Detroit City Football Club (DCFC) Polish Heritage Game where the club before the start of game recognized FPA for the support it has provided to local Polish organizations and groups over the years. At the event FPA handed out business cards and promotional swag to those who came over to our table to either learn about FPA, find out about our upcoming events or just say hello. DCFC also agreed to give a portion of tickets sales to the game to the FPA scholarship fund. Funds raised by this generous gesture amounted to a donation of over \$800.00 to the scholarship fund! Dziękujemy!

As summer concludes shortly, we are now preparing to host our fall events and programs. On **Oct. 5** there will be the opening of the 29th Fine Arts Competition followed by the General Membership meeting on **Oct. 25th** where we will present awards to the Literary Competitions winners. **We will need volunteers at the Galeria on the weekends when the Fine Art Competition entries are on display (Oct. 5 – Nov. 16). Please contact me if you are interested.** In November, we will host the annual Szopka Competition and conclude the year with the annual Wigilia scheduled for Saturday, **December 13**.

Please try to attend as many of these events as you can and encourage your family and friends to support FPA's mission to promote art and culture.

Warmest regards,

Brian Malski

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to **David Muzzarelli** of Sterling Heights, **Mrs. Roza Woloch** of Fraser and **Mr. & Mrs. James Prentkowski** of Warren who just joined FPA. Thank you for joining our society! We are looking forward to talking to you at our next meeting or event!



Friends of Polish Art
Founded 1937 Non-Profit Organization



FPA summer picnic at the home of Barbara Hantz



FPA at the Novi Community Festival



The 2025 Polish Day Parade: Patty & Brian Malski, Ania Bankowski and Barbara Lemecha with the PAC float at the Parade Company Studio. Brian Malski and David Rhine carrying the FPA banner at the Parade.



FPA President Brian Malski, scouts and Gwiazda Dancers at the Detroit City Football Club (DCFC) Polish Heritage Game

In Memoriam

On July 11, 2025, FPA lost longtime member, Jacqueline “Jackie” Kolowski (January 1, 1939 - July 11, 2025). In 1978, within a month of joining FPA, she was invited to join the FPA Nominating Committee and soon became the organization's treasurer; she later served on its board in several positions and chaired many events. Notably, she chaired a committee that raised over \$25,000 pledged to the DIA, honoring its 50th anniversary. The FPA donation was presented at the 1987 American Council for Polish Culture Convention. Everyone knew Jackie. She was at every event, usually taking pictures. She was the kind of person that would get things done. She always had a copy of an FPA membership application in her purse to distribute. She will be deeply missed by FPA and the many Polish organizations she supported. May she rest in peace.



(Left) Jackie (with Brian Malski) proudly displaying award from Piast Institute earlier this year for “Top 25 in 25 in Polonia”. (Right) Dianna Welemirov, Jackie Kolowski, Ania Bieciuk, Ania Bankowski and Andrea Slomczynski at the opening of the exhibit at the MM-O-DD on November 8, 2024.

(Continuation from page 1)

Here are brief bios of the recipients of the 2025 FPA scholarships:

Sasha Gilders is an incoming freshman at the University of Notre Dame who plans to major in chemical engineering and minor in musical theater. She recently graduated from International Academy West, where she was the class Salutation and Choral Singing Department Award winner. The arts play a significant role in Sasha's life. She has received recognition in soloist and ensemble competitions and is active in the Bluebirds Honors Choir and community theatre. For 16 years Sasha has been a member of the PNA Centennial Dancers, which is her favorite extracurricular activity.

Karolina Spiewak is a rising sophomore at Harvard University, majoring in Molecular and Cellular Biology with a minor in the History of Art & Architecture. During her first year at Harvard, she found a vibrant community of Polish-speaking peers through Harvard's Polish Society. She is passionate about the intersection of sciences and the arts.

Ian Zelek, a recent high school graduate from Plymouth, plans to pursue an artistic career in video game design. This fall he will be taking courses in animation, psychology and sketching at Eastern Michigan University to enhance his design and creative abilities. Ian danced with the Wieliczka Dance Ensemble for eleven years.

Julia Brown is a Junior at the University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, studying Biology, Health, and Society and Polish Language, Literature, and Culture Studies. She wants to pursue a career in dentistry. Julia is a James B. Angell Scholar Award recipient for two consecutive semesters of all A's, University Honors, and the LSA Dean's List. Julia began dancing at age three with the PRCUA Halka Folk Dance Ensemble and continued dancing with the ensemble until graduation.

Ella Sidorowicz graduated from the Athens High School in Troy, and this fall she will be an incoming freshman at the University of Michigan majoring in Biology at the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Ella has maintained a deep love for all things artistic since she was young and continues to nurture this love through her

involvement in community musical theatre groups and her school's art club.

Hannah Alexandra Saunders graduated from the Royal Oak High School with Cum Laude distinction. Also, from the PRCUA Zajaczek Dance Ensemble. Hannah served on Student Council and NHS and was voted by her teammates as captain of the varsity basketball, volleyball, and tennis teams. In the fall Hannah will attend Michigan State University Eli Broad School of Business to pursue a degree in accounting.

Paulina Kowalczyk is a returning Madonna University student pursuing a Bachelor of Health Science in Health Informatics. Deeply proud of her Polish heritage, Paulina is an active member of the Polish National Alliance and serves as Vice President of Youth for Lodge 2525. She is a choreographer and performer of the Polanie Song and Dance Ensemble, Polish Alliance Dancers, and Centennial Dancers. A former Miss Polonia USA (2012) and Miss Polonia World (2017), Paulina continues to support and participate in cultural events and numerous fundraisers.



In the photo: Patty Malski (FPA Scholarship Committee), Sasha Gilder, Karolina Spiewak, Ian Zelek, Julia Brown, Ella Sidorowicz, Hannah Saunders, Mother of Paulina Kowalczyk, and Brian Malski (Chair of the FPA Scholarship Committee)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE/ TIME	EVENT	PLACE
Saturday, September 20 6:30 pm	The KF Michigan Chapter Presents: Spies in My Blood – An Evening with Alex Storozyński (free event)	The Galeria – OLS Campus 3535 Commerce Rd Commerce Township, MI 48324
Sunday, September 21 11:00 am	Polish Scouts Picnic	Camp Białowieża 6127 Downingtown Rd Deckerville, MI.
Sunday, September 28 2:00 pm doors open 3:00 pm concert	Chopiniana Concert and APCS 40th Anniversary Celebration	American Polish Cultural Center 2975 E. Maple Road Troy, MI. 48083
October	Polish Heritage Month	State of Michigan
Saturday, October 4 5:00 pm doors open 6:00 pm dinner	Club Filarets 90 th Anniversary Dinner	American Polish Cultural Center 2975 E. Maple Road Troy, MI. 48083
Sunday, October 5 2 - 5 pm 3:00 pm awards	Opening reception of the 29th FPA Fine Arts Competition (free event)	The Galeria – OLS Campus 3535 Commerce Rd Commerce Township, MI 48324
Saturday, October 25 4:00 pm doors 4:30 pm meeting	FPA General Membership Meeting and Literary Competition awards presentation	The Galeria – OLS Campus 3535 Commerce Rd Commerce Township, MI 48324
Sunday, October 26 4:00 pm doors open 6:00 pm lecture	Lech Walesa: Grand Lecture Tour	Huntington Place Detroit Grand Ballroom B - Level 2 1 Washington Blvd Detroit, MI 48226
November 14 - 16	32 nd Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival (see website for the schedule)	Michigan Theater 603 E Liberty St Ann Arbor, MI 48104
November 15 - 16 12 pm - 4 pm	FPA Annual Szopka Competition submission intake	Polish Art Center 9539 Joseph Campau Hamtramck, MI.
Saturday, November 22 TBA	Wawel Folk Ensemble 60 th Anniversary Dinner	TBA
Sunday, December 7 2:00 pm	FPA Szopka Competition awards presentation	Polish Art Center 9539 Joseph Campau Hamtramck, MI.
Saturday, December 6 TBA	Wawel Folk Dance Ensemble 60 th Anniversary Concert	Warren Woods Middle School, 13400 12 Mile Rd Warren, MI 48088
Saturday, December 13 5:00 pm doors open 6:00 pm dinner	FPA Annual Wigilia and display of winning szopki	American Polish Cultural Center 2975 E. Maple Road Troy, MI. 48083

Friends of Polish Art

Cordially invites members, family & friends to its

Wigilia



Saturday, Dec. 13 at 5:00pm

American Polish Cultural Center

2975 E. Maple Rd, Troy, MI. 48063

Information & Reservations - Brian Malski @ 248-217-5951

Have You Started Working on Your Szopka Yet?

Announcing: 2025 Friends of Polish Art Annual Szopka Competition

Hosted by the Polish Art Center

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

Submission Date: Nov. 15 - 16, 2025

Award Presentation: Dec. 7, 2025

Adult. & Children Prizes



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

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

FPA DELEGATES RETURN FROM THE ACPC CONVENTION INVIGORATED AND WITH RENEWED SENSE OF PURPOSE

Four members of Friends of Polish Art (FPA) – Barbara Lemecha, Brian Malski, Patty Malski, and Stella Szczesny - attended this year's Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) which was held July 30 – August 2, in Buffalo, New York. This year's convention - the 77th - was organized by the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo, which just celebrated its 80th anniversary. The convention theme was “Art & Architecture”, and its main goal, in the words of Celia Larkin, ACPC President, “celebrating our past achievements and planning our future”.

An important convention takeaway for Brian Malski was learning about the Detroit-based Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. Recently the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo received a grant from them and now FPA will consider applying once the right project comes to mind.



Photos: (left) Stella Szczesny, Jules Furgal, Brian & Patty Malski and Basia Lemecha. (right) The 2025 ACPC Convention delegates at Assumption Church in Buffalo.

Also, very memorable for Brian, was the presentation by Henry Swiatek Jr. and his son Brett, whose company Swiatek Studios, since 1967 has been renovating old historical buildings such as churches, theaters, private residences and museums. Brian was fascinated by the quality of their work, as well as the work ethic expressed when they said: “We don't want to be the biggest, we want to be the best.”

The FPA delegates appreciated the visit to the Buffalo AKG Art Museum, where they viewed the “Northern Light” exhibit featuring Scandinavian and Canadian artists from the beginning of the 20th century, which just opened on August 1. Another great convention experience was an excellent concert featuring mezzo-soprano Jules Furgal, this year's winner of the ACPC Marcella Kochańska Sembrich Vocal Competition which took place at another architectural gem, the Montante Cultural Center, former St. Vincent de Paul Church. The recital was preceded by a classical guitar performance by James Piorkowski.

It was the fifteenth convention for Barbara Lemecha, an ACPC officer of many terms. Attending filled Barbara with an immense sense of satisfaction coming from being around people who share a common goal of promoting Polish culture, from supporting each other in their efforts and getting inspiration from each other.

For six years (2004-2010) Barbara Lemecha with Henrietta Nowakowski, a fellow long-time FPA member, with passion and dedication shouldered the ACPC Polish Perspective Exhibit, at the National Council for the Social Studies. They met with hundreds of teachers of geography, history, government and economics from all over the US, and encouraged them to include information about Polish contributions in their teaching, as well as supplied them with materials to do so.

It was decided that due to the 250th anniversary of the United States, next year's convention will be held in Philadelphia; the preparations are under way.

Although membership in many ACPC affiliate organizations is decreasing, the convention participants felt optimistic about the future. A big cause for optimism is the fact that the number of ACPC members has been growing impressively, with nine organizations joining this past year.

FPA is one of the oldest organizations in ACPC and has sponsored several conventions (the last one in 2023). For 2028, for the ACPC's 80th anniversary, FPA will try to bring the convention back to Metropolitan Detroit.

(Based on: polishweekly.com)



Friends of Polish Art
Founded 1937 Non-Profit Organization

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



At the 2025 FPA Święconka in April, the Club Filarets was recognized for 90 years of beautiful singing for Polonia.

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

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

Please join us for these upcoming events:

**The 29th FPA Fine Arts Competition
Opening Reception**

On Sunday, October 5, 2025, 2 – 5 pm
At the Galeria on the Campus of Orchard Lake Schools

**FPA General Membership Meeting
and**

Literary Competitions Awards Presentation

On Saturday, October 25, 2025, 4 pm (doors open)
At the Galeria on the Campus of Orchard Lake Schools

***We extend our sincere appreciation to the following
organizations and individuals who have recently
made contributions to FPA:***

- Polish Century Heritage Fund
- American Council for Polish Culture
- Detroit City Football Club
- Mr. and Mrs. Tadeusz Gorecki
- Nicolas Nowakowski
- Donors to the 2025 FPA Święconka basket raffle and everyone who purchased a ticket package to the DCFC Polish Heritage Game

Your generosity will help us continue our efforts to promote Polish culture, traditions and the arts.

Payment & Donate Button now available on Website

You might have noticed that we just added “Payment” and “Donate” buttons to our FPA website. The buttons can be used for paying dues and competition fees, purchasing event tickets, and making contributions.