



Friends of Polish Art
Founded 1937 Non-Profit Organization

Newsletter August 2026

Page 1

*An Affiliate of the
American Council
for Polish Culture*



Inside This Issue:

FPA Scholarships and Grants	1 & 5
FPA Holds an Annual Picnic	1 & 5
President's Letter	2
Calendar of Events	3
Happy Birthday	3
FPA Competitions	4
General Meeting Announcement	6
Szopka Workshop Announcement	6

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 PRESENTS THE ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

The FPA scholarship and grants programs are monetary awards, but they are also a symbolic way of recognizing individuals and groups for their excellent work and commitment to Polish culture and to the Polish American community.

On Friday, May 22 at the APCC in Troy, FPA awarded five scholarships of \$2,000 each and one grant in the amount of \$2,500 to exceptionally talented, diligent and accomplished awardees, each with a formidable list of achievements. *(Continuation on page 5)*



(L) Olivia Sokolowski, Eleanor Raygorodsky, Iliana Woloch, Rebecca Berry (recipients of the 2026 FPA scholarships),

Patty Malski (FPA Scholarship Committee), Anna Irene Gilders (recipient of the 2026 FPA scholarship), Stella Szczesny (2026 FPA Donald Samull Folk Dance Grant Committee)

and Brian Malski (FPA President and Scholarship Committee Chair). (R) Mary Skurnit, Stella Szczesny, Karen Lubiarz and Alina Klin (2026 FPA Donald Samull Folk Dance Grant Committee Chair).

FPA HOLDS PERHAPS AN UNCONVENTIONAL BUT VERY ENJOYABLE PICNIC

On Sunday, July 26, Friends of Polish Art held their annual summer picnic. Although no games were played this time, this less-traditional picnic, held - due to the hot weather - inside the Galeria on the Orchard Lake Schools campus, was very enjoyable, entertaining and also educational as a viewing of the current exhibition "Faces of Polonia", was its highlight. The exhibition, which celebrates Polish American contributions and involvement in the 250 year history of the United States, was the idea of Dr. Alicja Karlic, the Polish Media Center Director of the PICROL. *(Continuation on page 5)*



(L) Ann Bankowski and Donna Bielecki; (R) Joann Ozog and her son Mark



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NEWSLETTER

EDITORS

Alina Klin

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Dear Friends of Polish Art

I hope everyone is making the most of these warm, sunny summer days, whether in the garden, on a walk, at an outdoor concert, or relaxing by one of Michigan's many lakes. Whatever is on your summer agenda, be sure to enjoy it while you can because summer always seems to fly by.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome new member, Christopher Quarello. Thank you for joining FPA. We are glad to have you in our organization.

Since the last newsletter, our organization has hosted and/or supported a significant number of events and activities. **In April** we celebrated Święconka, the traditional Easter meal where we honored the *Wawel Dance & Song Ensemble* on their 60th Anniversary, and **in May** we organized a group outing to the Detroit Institute of Arts. Święconka featured a wonderful program with performances by the youth dance group, *Mały Dunajec* and children's group, *Mireczki*. We received many compliments from those who attended the guided tour of selected art collections at the DIA. More information about both events can be found in the summer issue of the Polish Heritage.

At our **May** General Membership Meeting we awarded five scholarships and one grant. This year for the first time FPA awarded three Lillian and Chester Mitchell Scholarships which replaced the Frank Filipek Scholarships, after the Filipek Fund was exhausted last year.

In early June, several FPA members and representatives from the Polish American Congress once again participated in the Novi Community Festival. At the festival, information about Polish culture, traditions, and history, along with materials from each organization about membership, scholarships, competitions, etc. were offered to visitors who stopped at our table. A week later, **on June 14**, FPA partnered with Café Prowincja and the American Polish Cultural Society to host *Wisława Szymborska. Poetry & Life*, a live theatre performance celebrating the 30th anniversary of receiving a Nobel Prize in Literature by this renowned Polish poet. The Toronto cast of the *Poetry, Music and Theatre Salon* gave a wonderful performance featuring many of Ms. Szymborska's well-known poems.

FPA's recently supported and arranged events include **July** concerts by the youth music ensemble, Scholares Minores pro Musica Antiqua from Poniadowa, Poland and the FPA picnic held on Sunday, **July 26**. Scholares Minores, a talented group of young musicians specializing in Baroque and Renaissance music, performed 11 times during their two-week visit to Michigan. We are grateful to everyone who donated to help cover transportation costs of the group as they traveled across the state to perform.

The picnic in the Galeria on the Orchard Lake Schools campus offered much to enjoy, from shared dishes to the *Faces of Polonia* exhibit. It was great time when nearly a group of 50 were able to come together and recall, discuss and for some to learn about Polonia's accomplishments and contributions to the local Detroit area community as well as to reminisce about the past.

We have many exciting events and activities planned in the coming months. These include participating as a unit in the Polish Day Parade on Saturday August 29 and hosting the 30th Annual Fine Arts Competition and the Polish Literary Competitions. The deadlines for both competitions are the middle of August; please encourage your friends and family members to participate. Be also sure to check the calendar in this newsletter for the complete list of events and add the dates to your schedule. We hope you'll join us.

Warmest regards, Brian Malski



FPA proudly sponsored the Michigan tour of a youth ensemble from Poland, Scholares Minores pro Musica Antiqua. During the tour (July 9-23), the group played 11 concerts across Michigan. In the photo: Scholares Minores performing at the St. Albertus Church in Detroit on July 12.

DATE/ TIME	EVENT	PLACE
Saturday, August 15 (midnight)	Deadline to submit the entries to the FPA Literary Competitions (for youth and adults)	Online: check the FPA website for the details
Monday, August 17 (midnight)	Deadline to submit the entries to the FPA Fine Arts Competition	Online: images need to be submitted online; check the FPA website for the details
Saturday, August 29 Lineup at 3:00 pm Parade begins at 4:10 pm	Polish Day Parade	Cousino High School 30333 Hoover Rd, Warren, MI 48093
Saturday, September 12 2:00 pm	Opening of the 30th FPA Fine Arts Competition	Galeria on the OLS Campus, 3535 Commerce Rd, Orchard Lake MI 48324
Saturday, September 19 10:30 am-1:30 pm	FPA Szopka Workshop with Charles Pelshaw	APCC 2975 E. Maple Road Troy, MI 48083
Saturday, September 19 7 pm Pre-match: 6:45 pm	DCFC Polish Heritage game/match benefitting FPA Scholarship Fund	Keyworth Stadium, 3201 Roosevelt St, Hamtramck, MI 48212
Sunday, October 4 5 pm	Chopiniana. A Musical Tribute to Frederic Chopin, featuring Cezary Karwowski	APCC 2975 E. Maple Road Troy, MI 48083
Saturday, October 10 (evening—time TBA)	250th Birthday of the United States Gala	APCC 2975 E. Maple Road Troy, MI 48083
Sunday, October 11 2:30 pm Doors open: 2:00 pm	FPA General Meeting and Award Ceremony for the Literary Competitions	Galeria on the OLS Campus, 3535 Commerce Rd, Orchard Lake MI 48324
Saturday, October 24 2:00 pm	FPA Fine Arts competition closing	Galeria on the OLS Campus, 3535 Commerce Rd, Orchard Lake MI 48324
Saturday, December 12 (Save the date)	FPA Wigilia	APCC 2975 E. Maple Road Troy, MI 48083

FPA WISHES HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND “STO LAT!”

TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE, JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER:

Anne Marie Tyszka (June 3), Delphine Hejka (June 4), Brian Bowman (June 5), Anya Pelshaw (June 5), Joseph Barczyk (June, 17), Matthew Meleski (June 18), Brian Malski (June 22), Nina Stephenson (June 23), Jessica Saunders (June 26), Władysław Bankowski (June 27), Joseph Greenbaum (June 28), Charles Pelshaw (June 29), Iwona Jędrzejczak (July 1), Dariusz Klepko (July 7), Evelyn Bachorski-Bowman (July 14), Leszek Bartkiewicz (July 22), Alicja Karlic (July 22), Richard Zdon (July 23), Dr. Munther Ajlouni, (July 27), Kathy Novak (August 2), Eugenia Górecki (August 15) Stephanie Sokolnicki (August 23), Elizabeth Ajlouni, (August 24), Mary Holt (August 30), Leonard Zabawski (September 1), Elzbieta Mscichowska, (September 2), Steve Walker (September 3), Robert Novak (September 5), Henry J. Tyszka (September 19), Barbara Hantz (September 21), Carol Surma (September 21) and Patricia Malski (September 26).

***Sto
lat!***

***Congratulations to Mary & Dennis Holt
who on September 24 celebrate their wedding anniversary!***



***Only one week left to submit entries to the
2026 Friends of Polish Art Literary and Fine
Art Competitions!***

Enter the competitions and spread the word!

**ATTENTION ALL VISUAL ARTISTS!
FPA is still accepting submissions for the 30th
FPA Fine Arts Competition.**

See the FPA website for details and entry form.

Submission deadline is August 17.

For detailed information check:

<https://www.friendsofpolishart.org/competitions>

Open Call for Submissions 

**30th Friends of Polish Art
Fine Arts Competition**

In Partnership with the Polish Institute of Culture & Research



Detail of painting by Richard Kubinski

All visual art media are welcome
Please submit by August 17, 2026
Go to <https://tinyurl.com/FPA-Competition-Submission>

Accepted works will be exhibited at the Galeria
on the Orchard Lake Schools campus located at
3535 Commerce Rd, Orchard Lake, MI, 48324

Opening Reception September 12, 2026	Closing Reception October 24, 2026
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Send questions to Elijah Majeski, PICROL Galeria Manager
emajeski@picrol.org

The Friends of Polish Art Fine Arts competition, formerly known as the Kubinski Fine Arts Competition, began in 1985 to encourage the development of artists of Polish descent and to promote Polish culture. The annual exhibition is dedicated to the memory of Richard Kubinski, former FPA vice-president, art chair & cultural activities chair.

FPA LITERARY COMPETITIONS:

Sharpen your quill, dip it in fresh ink, summon your muse and start writing! As before, there are **two contest editions**, **one for youth** (up to 18 years of age) and **one for adults**, but the theme is the same for both. To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the 1776 signing of the Declaration of Independence, the FPA contests' theme showcases influential Polish Americans, people who have made a substantial impact on the United States in politics, arts, culture, business, sports, etc. Writers may choose their protagonist from the list available on the FPA website or come up with their own. On the list, among many others: Matt Urban (most decorated WWII veteran), Stephen Paul Mizwa (founder of the Kosciuszko Foundation), Loretta Swit (actor), Tom Paciorek (baseball player), Zbigniew Brzezinski (National Security Advisor), Marcella Sembrich (opera singer), Steve Wozniak (Apple Computers), Tamara de Lempicka (painter), Stephanie Kwolek (inventor of Kevlar), Mary Zuk (activist; organized a massive strike against high meat prices during the Great Depression) and Marcia Lewandowski (promotor of Polish folk culture). Fame and monetary prizes await! **The deadline to submit your work is August 15.** For detailed information check: <https://www.friendsofpolishart.org/competitions> With questions, contact Pamela Saunders, the FPA Literary Contests Committee Chair.



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**POLISH
LITERARY
COMPETITIONS**

Entries due: August 15, 2026

Suzanne Marie Margaret Sloat Youth Literary Competition	Estelle Wachtel-Torres, MD Adult Literary Competition
Open to all Michigan students: Level I: 4th - 6th Grade Level II: 7th - 9th Grade Level III: 10th - 12th Grade	Open to all adult Michigan residents.

Visit our website for contest rules:
Themes
Awards
Submission forms

www.friendsofpolishart.org/competitions/

(FPA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS AND A GRANT - continuation from page 1)

The **two 2026 Mitchell Fine Arts Scholarships** were awarded to **Eleanor Raygorodsky**, a graduate student pursuing an MFA in Dance at Florida State University and **Iliana Woloch**, a junior at the University of Michigan, studying for a BA in Creative Writing and English Literature.

This year for the first time FPA awarded **three Lillian and Chester Mitchell Scholarships**. They replaced the Frank Filipek Scholarships, after the Filipek Fund was exhausted last year. The 2026 recipients are **Rebecca Berry** who will study biology at the University of Michigan, **Anna Irene Gilders** who also plans to attend the University of Michigan to study biomedical engineering, and **Olivia Sokolowski**, a junior at Oakland University, majoring in Chemistry and in Spanish.

The 2026 awardee of the FPA Donald Samull Folk Dance Grant are the **PRCUA Tatry Dancers**. On the behalf of the PRCUA Tatry Dancers, Mary Skurnit, the group's director and Karen Lubiarz, the group's choreographer accepted the award. The PRCUA Tatry Dancers were founded in 1970 and operate out of Dearborn.

In addition to the FPA members, the award ceremony was attended by parents, grandparents and siblings of the awardees. With pride and joy they very attentively listened to the presentations which this year, due to the outstanding resumes of the award and grant winners, were truly fascinating and awe-inspiring.

FPA congratulates all the 2026 scholarships and grants winners! Well done and best of luck!

(FPA'S PICNIC - continuation from page 1)

Members of FPA, PAC-MI Division, the APCC/APCS and their friends enjoyed delicious, mostly homemade traditional picnic fare, and shared their memories and information about the photos displayed on the Galeria walls and in the cases. While eating and socializing they watched a video of the first performance of their Michigan tour by the Scholares Minores pro Musica Antiqua (provided by Józef Ledzinski). There were also door prizes and a “share the wealth” raffle, both conducted with flair and wit by Stella Szczesny.

FPA extends its heartfelt “serdecznie dziękujemy” to the Polish Institute of Culture and Research for hosting us at the Galeria. Very special words of gratitude go to Elijah Majeski, whose ideas, hard work and dedication made this picnic possible.

For more information about this and other FPA events go to our Facebook page.



(L) Frank Dmuchowski and Joseph Majcher



(R) Shelly Gyorke just won a door prize. With Brian Malski and Stella Szczesny



(L) FPA picnic at the OLS Galeria (R) Irene Dziechciarz and Deanna Welemirov are looking at the photo of Father Józef Dąbrowski, the founder of the Polish Seminary at Orchard Lake.



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



Iwona Jędrzejczak, FPA Treasurer and the main organizer of the live theater performance "Wisława Szymborska. Poetry & Life", with Agata Pilitowska of the Toronto-based Poetry, Music and Theatre Salon, who starred in the play. On June 14, at the APCC in Troy.

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

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

JOIN US!

Friends of Polish Art
Cordially Invites You to Our
members, children, parents, students, organizations, etc., to our

FREE

Szopka

BUILDING WORKSHOP

DATE: Saturday, September 19, 2026
TIME: 10:30 am – 1:30 pm

American Polish Cultural Center
Hall 3
2975 E Maple Rd, Troy, MI 48063

The workshop-class is for individuals (children, youth, adults, retirees, etc.), families and organizations.
All skill levels are welcome to join the class.

Materials and templates to start construction of your own Szopka will be provided, however you are welcome to bring your own items.

TO ATTEND PLEASE RSVP by THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026 to:
Brian Malski at (248) 217-5951 or email at bjmalski@gmail.com

FPA General Membership Meeting
and the
2026 FPA Literary Competitions
Awards Ceremony

will be held
on Sunday, **October 11, 2026,**
at 2:30 pm
at the Galeria on the Orchard Lake
Schools Campus
3535 Commerce Rd, Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Doors open at 2:00 pm.
Light refreshments will be provided.

FPA periodically emails announcements to keep you informed about upcoming events and activities. Please check your spam or junk mail folders if you are not receiving these announcements. Thank you.