

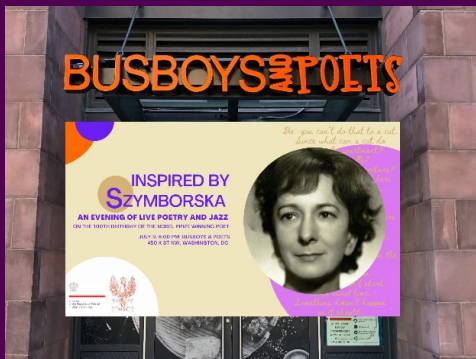


POLISH AMERICAN ARTS ASSOCIATION of Washington, DC

Fall 2023

NEWSLETTER

Member of the American Council for Polish Culture, Inc. since 1966



Some Like Szyborska's Poetry

By Matthew Stefanski

Poetry is not for everyone. Poland's most renowned female poet Wisława Szyborska (1923-2012) acknowledged this openly in her now-iconic poem "Some People Like Poetry" writing: "Some people –that means not everyone." But one does not have to be a voracious poetry reader to appreciate the art form, or to seek out opportunities to occasionally experience it in a communal setting. Such was the case in Washington, DC this summer when over one hundred guests gathered for an evening of poetry and jazz on the occasion of what would have been Szyborska's 100th birthday.

Szyborska, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1996, is one of Poland's most celebrated poets. Her poetry achieved not only critical acclaim, but her books sold around the world at rates far surpassing the norm for the genre. She published just about 350 poems during the course of her life, and twelve of those poems were presented on July 9 at the legendary Busboys and Poets Café at an event organized by the Polish American Arts Association of

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Celia Larkin Elected ACPC President at 75th Anniversary Convention



PAAA members in the ACPC governing body, from left: ACPC President Celia Larkin, Nominating Committee Chair Rose Kobylinski, Treasurer Tom Payne (4th from left), Director/Financial Secretary Margaret Butler (front right). Also pictured: ACPC 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, Jarosław Gołombiowski (front) and Lilia Kieltyka (in the back)

Polish American Art Association's Past President Celia Larkin has been elected the new president of the American Council for Polish Culture at the 75th Anniversary Convention, held in Troy, Michigan, a nearby suburb of Detroit. In her first president's message Celia noted that it was especially moving for her to be elected there since Detroit is where she first arrived in America and where she began her activities in Polish organizations, including the Friends of Polish Art and the Polish American Congress. She also directed the *Polish Varieties* radio program. After moving to Washington, she immediately joined the PAAA and organized a number of its events, among others, staging its first Wigilia celebration. In the past dozen or so years, she was a board member, membership chair, and a three-term president. Since 2013, she has been the editor of the PAAA Newsletter. In her professional capacity, Celia spent more than twenty-five years with the U.S. government and is especially proud of her work in support of the Solidarity movement and struggle for independence that ended the communist rule in Poland.

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Message from the President

Dear fellow PAAA members and friends,

On behalf of our organization, it brings me great joy to congratulate our past President, current 1st Vice President, longtime newsletter editor and dedicated PAAA champion Celia Larkin on her election to the Presidency of the American Council for Polish Culture! Our organization has benefited dearly from Celia's work and dedication over these many years, and we look forward to continuing to work with her and also supporting her work within ACPC of which we are proud affiliates. Celia is the third

President in a row of ACPC that hails from PAAA. *Gratulacje* Celia!

The holidays are right around the corner, and in less than a month's time we will gather for our annual PAAA Wigilia. This is one of our most prized events every year, as it offers an opportunity to reconnect, indulge in our beautiful Polish Christmas customs, and embrace the spirit of the season. This year we will be hosting Wigilia at Saint Luke Catholic Church in McLean, which has plenty of parking and extra space that will allow us to accommodate more guests. Our artists are once again preparing a festive program, and we will have authentic Polish catering prepared by Pani Danuta and her team. So please respond soon, invite your family and friends, and join us on December 10.

I hope you found time this past year to read some of Wisława Szymborska's poetry. Earlier this summer we hosted a spectacular event to commemorate the centennial of her birth, which so many of you were able to attend. I was proud to see our organization serve as a convenor and present the works of Szymborska to such an eager audience and I thank everyone who participated.

No summer in DC is complete without our PAAA Wianki on the National Mall. While it looked earlier that rain might derail our plans, St. John worked his magic and the clouds parted about an hour before the start of our festival. What followed was an exciting evening of singing and dancing. My thanks to our Wianki Chair Marianna Eckel and our musicians and MCs Stasia and Olek Skrypczuk for making this year's festival another great success. Next year, we will be celebrating the 40th edition of our Wianki at the Reflecting Pool near the Lincoln Memorial! Please join us on June 22, 2024 for a festival of wreaths unlike any other.

The events of this summer showcased PAAA at its finest, as a promoter of accessible culture and the arts and an organizer of memorable experiences in our nation's capital. I hope we can continue to play this role and I ask for your help in envisioning or planning the next PAAA event. Have an idea or suggestion? We would love to hear from you!

I write to you on All Saints' Day, a day when many in Poland visit the graves of their departed loved ones. This past year we lost two individuals who have dedicated many years to PAAA – Kaja Mirecka Ploss, a former President, and Father Philip Majka, our long-time member and chaplain at many of our functions. We will miss them both dearly.

I want to once again thank all of our members, officers and board members for their dedication, commitment, and support of our organization. Thanks to the efforts of our new Membership Chair Greg Butler, all members should have received membership renewals in the mail. I humbly request that you consider renewing your membership so that we can continue in our common cause of promoting our Polish heritage, culture, and the arts in our community. Thank you for your consideration and as always, please contact me directly at paaa.wdc@gmail.com with any questions, suggestions or otherwise.

Do zobaczenia,

Matthew

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<http://paaa.us/>

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75th Anniversary ACPC Convention

Continued from page 1

In her new position in ACPC, Celia Larkin follows other PAAA leaders who went on to head the national organization: Feliks G. Bochenski, Walter Zachariasiewicz, Kaya Mirecka Ploss, Richard Wiermianski, Ted Mirecki, and most recently, Tom Payne and Ray Glembocki. The PAAA is one of the most actively involved affiliates of ACPC and over the years was represented by numerous board and committee members, as well as hosted a number of ACPC conventions and board meetings. In Detroit, in addition to the president, Tom Payne was re-elected treasurer, Rose Kobylinski chairs the Nominating Committee and is on the Eye of the Eagle Scholarship Committee, Margaret Butler was elected as Director and appointed Financial Secretary, Laura Kafka-Price and Dick Larkin serve on the Music Committee, Cecilia Glembocki is on the Awards and Membership Committees in addition to co-chairing the NCSS program with Ray Glembocki.

A detailed report on the convention can be found in the current issue of the Polish Heritage (Fall 2023) as well as, along with many photos, on the ACPC website (polishcultureacpc.org/) and Facebook Page. As this was the ACPC's 75th Anniversary Convention, the central theme was celebration of the past achievements with a focus on the future and plans for continuing joint work among its numerous affiliates and supporting organizations for the goal of promoting Polish culture in America. The PAAA and its members can be proud of playing a significant role in this endeavor.



Above: At the Award Concert, ACPC Marcella Sembrich Competition winner, soprano Dorothy Gal, with pianist Jarosław Gołombowski, Music Committee Chair Celia Larkin, Committee member Dick Larkin and ACPC President Ray Glembocki.



Right: the 75th Anniversary cake.

Please join us for

Wigilia

A celebration of Polish Christmas food, traditions, kolędy singing and the age old custom of sharing opłatek with friends and family



The Polish American Arts Association of Washington, DC cordially invites you to its annual

Wigilia

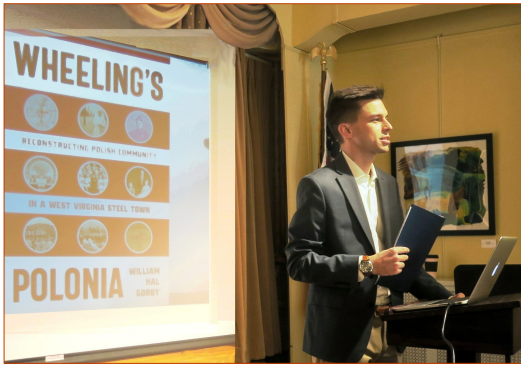
Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 PM

Saint Luke Catholic Church
Bishop Flaherty Hall
7001 Georgetown Pike
McLean, VA 22101

Artistic program with Laura Kafka-Price, Alvin Smithson, Wanda O'Brien-Trefil, Valerie Dzielski and the Joyful Skrypczuk Duo of Stasia and Olek leading kolędy singing by all

Traditional Polish food by Creative European Cooking
Free admission for children up to 6 years and special prices for students.

Information and tickets at: paaa.us/upcoming-events



History and Scholarship at the May PAAA General Membership Meeting

The PAAA Spring Membership Meeting took place on May 7, 2023, at the Arts Club of Washington, and featured as guest speaker Dr. William Hal Gorby, a historian of West Virginia and Appalachia, who is a teaching associate professor and director of undergraduate advising at West Virginia University. He is a recipient of the 2022 Oscar Halecki Prize from the Polish American Historical Association. Professor Gorby delivered a presentation on his book *Wheeling's Polonia*, exploring nearly 50 years of rich Polonia history in Wheeling, West Virginia. His work focuses on the role of immigrants in the state's steel and coal mining industries, particularly during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. While the people and places he described are unique to the upper Ohio River Valley, the themes explored can be found in Polish communities large and small across the United States. PAAA members were joined at the meeting by some West Virginia University alumni and a couple of residents of Wheeling.

During the business portion of the meeting, PAAA President Matthew Stefanski shared an overview of our organization's undertakings from the past year, including details about our finances, which is available on the PAAA Website. President Stefanski thanked outgoing board members Hanna Bondarewska and Cecilia Glembocki for their service and dedication to PAAA over the years and welcomed the newly elected board members, Greg Butler and Stasia Skrypczuk, as well as the elected members of the Nominating Committee: Ray Glembocki, Rose Kobylinski and Tom Payne. The meeting ended with an elegant wine and cheese reception in the main salon of the Arts Club, giving those gathered an opportunity to socialize, catch up on the news with old friends and make new acquaintances.



Top: Matthew Stefanski opens the meeting and introduces guest speaker. Above: Professor William Hal Gorby with Cecilia Glembocki who presented him with the PAAA children's book

PAAA Scholars: Valerie Dzielski and Emily Kowal

During the May meeting, the PAAA Scholarship Committee, chaired by Mary Beth Sowa proudly recognized two outstanding students as PAAA 2023 Scholars, awarding them grants totaling \$4,000.

Valerie Dzielski is pursuing a Master of Music degree in voice performance at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She loves languages and history, the research of which informs her interpretations and inspires her to invite audiences to connect with the shared human experiences and emotions from stories across every era. Valerie has long had a curiosity for the language and culture of Poland and a drive to explore the fascinating history and politics encapsulated in Polish songs. Valerie is cantor and soprano section leader at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore. Valerie graduated from Westminster Choir College with a Bachelor of Music degree in voice performance in 2020.

Emily Kowal (right) is a senior at George Washington University pursuing a degree in International Affairs with a Certificate in French. She is the President of her university's Polish Culture Club where she has organized events to promote an understanding and appreciation of Polish Culture. "As a proud Polish American, I feel greatly honored to receive the Polish American Arts Association Scholarship" writes Emily, "My involvement in the community and scholarship on the region has been a key part of my college experience. I look forward to continuing these endeavors and to study Central Europe at Charles University in Prague this fall. *Dziękuję* to everyone at the PAAA."



We thank all PAAA members and friends who contributed to the PAAA Scholarship Fund or supported our fundraising by attending the 2023 Brian Ganz Chopin Concert. We hope we can count on your continued support in 2024. Many thanks also to our PAAA Scholarship Committee members for their dedication to this effort: Laura Kafka-Price, Rose Kobylinski, Katherine Rivard, and PAAA President Matthew Stefanski as ex-officio member.

Use code: **PAAA10** for
10% off tickets

Chopin the Virtuoso

Brian Ganz, piano

Saturday, February 24, 2024 · 7:30 pm

Strathmore

National Philharmonic and PAAA Partner Again Brian Ganz Recital on February 24, 2024

The Polish American Arts Association is proud to announce its continued partnership with the National Philharmonic to promote the music of Chopin while supporting Polish-American students in their educational pursuits.

Pianist Brian Ganz returns in recital to the National Philharmonic stage at the Strathmore Music Center on Saturday, February 24, 2024, to continue his enduring quest to perform every note the great Polish composer Frédéric Chopin ever wrote. Since its inception in 2011, the "Extreme Chopin" project has showcased Ganz's virtuosity, deep musicality, and engagement with his audience through Chopin's magnificent works. This year's program highlights Chopin's own virtuosity through some of his most challenging compositions, masterfully performed by Ganz.

Thanks to the support of the National Philharmonic and its Artistic Director, Maestro Piotr Gajewski, all who purchase tickets for Ganz's *Chopin the Virtuoso* performance using code **PAAA10** will receive a 10% discount AND a portion of the proceeds will benefit the PAAA Scholarship Fund.

The collaboration started a year ago when Maestro Gajewski suggested at a meeting of the PAAA Board of Directors, of which he is an Honorary Member, that our organization participate in promoting the February 2023 Ganz recital in the "Extreme Chopin" series and a percentage of tickets purchased by PAAA members and friends will go to support the PAAA Scholarship Program. The board readily agreed and the concert was promoted in the PAAA Newsletter (Winter 2023 issue), on the website and Facebook page, as well as by word of mouth. The campaign started a little late into the season so the results were not as high as we hoped for because many of our members had already purchased their tickets. This year, we are starting earlier with the special code already in hand so you can start ordering your seats now.

Last year's concert was a complete sellout and it is expected that the house will be full for the next one. So order your tickets now and experience the passion and precision of a master, while supporting the PAAA and promoting Polish music.



Above: Brian Ganz with Matthew Stefanski at the National Philharmonic Gala Soiree last September: Below: Mary Beth Sowa, Matthew Stefanski, Elżbieta Vande Sande, Maestro Piotr Gajewski, Celia Larkin, Margaret and Greg Butler, Rose Kobylinski.



Wianki

The celebration known as Wianki or Festival of Wreaths, has become such a given each June on the National Mall that to some it seems like it has been there forever. In fact, for those forty and under, it has been there all their lives. As a signature event sponsored by the Polish American Arts Association it started even earlier, just shortly after the organization came into being in 1966. At first, the gatherings, which included singing and dancing to Polish folk melodies and a procession of young girls carrying wreaths they made from fresh flowers to the lake or stream, were held on private properties around the Washington, DC, area. Then in early 1980s, it was time to make a bigger splash and an initiative came forth to move the celebration to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial where the flowery wreaths could be cast on the waters of the Reflecting Pool for all the world to see. So now, we are poised for a big celebration next year as we mark the 40th Anniversary of Wianki on the National Mall. Make a note on your calendar and plan to be there on June 22, 2024, to listen to the old, and some newer, Polish melodies, watch the dancers spin and leap in their colorful costumes and then join in the grand Polonaise, proclaiming that we are Polish and proud of our culture.

In the meantime, let's look at some memories from this year's Wianki, which featured four dance groups, each in its distinct regional costumes, showing off the intricate steps they practice all year. Performing this year were: *Ojczyzna Polish Dancers* and *Wiślanie Polish Folk Song and Dance Ensemble*, both from Baltimore, Maryland; *PKM - Polskie Kółko Międzykolegialne* from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; *Mazury Folk Dance Ensemble*, from Atlanta, Georgia. Leading the program were Stasia and Olek, known as *the Joyful Skrypczuk Duo*. Here are just a few photos from the festivities; to see more, go to the PAAA Facebook Page and click on the Wianki Albums from this and past years..



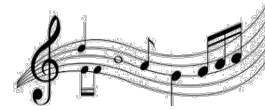
Fall Membership Meeting Filled with Songs at a New PAAA Event

Stasia and Olek Skrypczuk have long been known for taking the lead whenever music is called for at PAAA and other gatherings. Each year, they are front and center at Wianki, filling the air with Polish songs and sweet violin music; they lead *kolędy* singing at Wigilia dinners; and are called upon to entertain at events from simple meetings to elegant banquets. Earlier this year, they proposed a series of gatherings entitled "Let's Remember Polish Songs," "*Pamiętajmy Polskie Piosenki.*" Every two months since last February our members and friends gather in their house on a weekend afternoon to celebrate Polish music, learn new songs, or simply enjoy their melodies.

Because the program proved to be so popular, President Matthew Stefanski proposed to combine the PAAA Fall Membership Meeting with its fourth installment on October 28. The first part of the afternoon was devoted to a recap of the most recent undertakings, most of which are described in this newsletter, and was followed by discussion of planned upcoming programs and events. Since the weekend was just before Halloween, many of those attending dressed in costumes which added to a very spirited rendition of the familiar and newly discovered songs.

If you haven't yet experienced the joy of singing with your fellow PAAA members, there are new editions of "Let's Remember Polish Songs" coming up next year. Dates are as follows:

January 21, March 17, May 19, July 21,
September 15 and November 17, 2024
at 2:00 PM



Watch for email announcements and check the PAAA website and Facebook Page.

Pamiętajmy Polskie Piosenki!



Artists Among Us

Jowita Wyszomirska

Polish born Jowita Wyszomirska is an interdisciplinary artist working in the areas of drawing and large scale installations. We recently had the pleasure of seeing her works at the GALLERY NEPTUNE & BROWN in Washington, DC, in an exhibition called LIMITLESS ARE LEAVES

As explained in the gallery brochure and on her website (<http://jowitawyszomirska.work/>), Wyszomirska's artistic process is layered and involved. She begins her journey on foot, exploring and carefully foraging leaves and flora under the lofty canopies of the tulip poplar, sycamore, hemlock, and red spruce trees. In working with nature, she steams flora onto paper allowing the naturally occurring green chlorophyll pigment to act as ink that unveils the hidden hues and textures.

The resulting images are used as the foundation for her intricate mixed-media drawings, which reference elements from historical maps, weather data, and tree network graphs. A visual nexus between her love of nature and ecological concerns, Jowita's art captures the magnificence and vulnerability of our planet. Through her artistic layering and observation of Old-growth forests, Jowita reminds us of the connections that exist between all living things.

Jowita Wyszomirska was recently a finalist for the Baker Prize at The Baltimore Museum of Art in 2023. She has held residency fellowships at the Jentel Foundation, Wyoming; Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, Nebraska; and the International School of Painting, Drawing and Sculpture, Italy. She is currently Professor of Art at the University of Maryland.

Above left: LISTENING TO TREES 3 by Jowita Wyszomirska.

Left: the artist with the American Council for Polish Culture President Celia Larkin and PAAA member Julian Teixeira at the exhibition of her works at the GALLERY NEPTUNE & BROWN



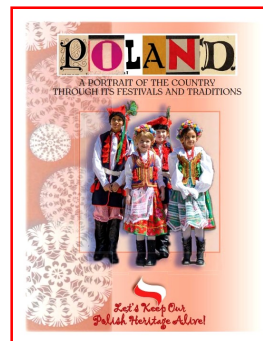
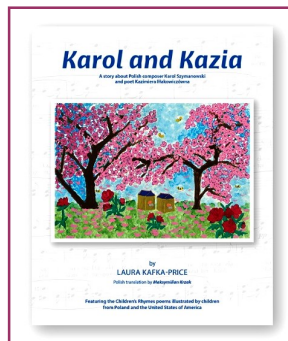
Karol and Kazia

By Laura Kafka-Price

A beautiful book of poetry by Kazimiera Włakowiczówna in Polish with English translations, illustrated by children for whom the poems were created. Plus a story of how the poet's friendship with the great Polish composer Karol Szymanowski led to the creation of a song cycle *Rymy dziecięce* or Children's Rhymes.

The works featured in the book are the result of an international competition for young artists, organized by the book's author Laura Kafka-Price. To see the illustrations and hear the poems please visit the website: childrensrhymesproject.com. If you like what you see and want to learn how to purchase the book, write to Laura at:

laura@laurakafkaprice.com



PAAA's Children's Book

An ideal gift

The ever popular PAAA book *Poland: A Portrait of a Country through its Festivals and Traditions* is a great gift for your family and friends, especially at this time when you are planning what to put under the Christmas tree for a young reader eager to learn something about Poland and its traditions.

To order the book at \$15 a copy, please send a check made out Polish American Arts Association, noting that it's for the "POLAND book project" to:

Mrs. Cecilia Glembocki

911 Saddleback Ct., McLean, VA 22102

or email to: polandchildrensbook@gmail.com

Facebook at: facebook.com/PolandChildrensBook

Some Like Szymborska's Poetry *Cotinued from page 1*



Above: Members of the Polish Drama Club and poet laureates from the DC area. Left: PAAA President Mathew Stefanski with Beata Pękała and Katarzyna Rybka-Iwanska of the Polish Embassy



Washington, DC, with the support of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, and featured the participation of local poet laureates from the Washington, DC region as well as members of the Polish Drama Club.

Entitled *Inspired by Szymborska*, the gathering was modeled after a 2009 poetry reading at the Krakow Opera featuring legendary jazz trumpet player Tomasz Stanko and Wisława Szymborska herself. In Washington, DC, Polish-American jazz saxophonist Krzysztof Medyna, who has been performing nationally and internationally for nearly 50 years, performed stunning jazz interludes, giving the audience time to absorb and process Szymborska's words in between the poetry readings.

When Szymborska won the Nobel Prize, she quipped that her life was transformed as she became an "official" person, known the world over. But this fame did not change her, or her artistic output. Her humbleness and down-to-earth nature defined her throughout her years. During the 2009 poetry reading in Krakow, which was recorded and is available on YouTube, she humorously remarked that she came to the event to listen to the wonderful trumpet playing of Mr. Stanko, but that her publishing house insisted she interrupt the musical performance with her poems.

Szymborska's poetry is known for its wit, humor, irony, poignancy and absurdity, and while poetry is surely not for everyone, anyone can experience its beauty, and this year is a most fitting occasion to revisit Szymborska's writings and find your own meaning in her words.

Some Like Poetry By Wisława Szymborska

Some people –
that means not everyone.
Not even most of them, only a few.
Not counting school, where you have to,
and poets themselves,
you might end up with something like two per thousand.

Like –
but then, you can like chicken noodle soup,
or compliments, or the color blue,
your old scarf,
your own way,
petting the dog.

Poetry –
but what is poetry anyway?
More than one rickety answer
has tumbled since that question first was raised.
But I just keep on not knowing, and I cling to that
like a redemptive handrail.

*Translated by Stanislaw Baranczak
and Clare Cavanagh*

Niektórzy lubą poezję Wisława Szymborska

Niektórzy –
Czyli nie wszyscy.
Nawet nie większość wszystkich, ale mniejszość.
Nie licząc szkół, gdzie się musi,
i samych poetów,
będzie tych osób chyba dwie na tysiąc.

Lubią –
ale lubi się także rosół z makaronem,
lubi się komplementy i kolor niebieski,
lubi się stary szalik,
lubi się stawiać na swoim,
lubi się głaskać psa.

Poezję –
tylko co to takiego poezja.
Niejedna chwiejna odpowiedź
na to pytanie już padła.
A ja nie wiem i nie wiem i trzymam się tego
jak zbawiennej poręczy.

Remembrances

Rev. Canon Philip Majka - Remembering Our Duszpasterz



His full official name was **Reverend Canon Philip S. Majka**, but to all of us in the Polish community he was simply known as **Father Majka**. If any title was to be used, it was *duszpasterz*, the shepherd of souls, a role he cherished and filled with all the passion of his Polish heart. It was Father Majka who opened meetings with an invocation, offered grace at dinners and banquets, distributed *opłatek* at *Wigilia*, blessed the basket with *Święconka* at Easter, and joined everyone in singing *kolędy* or other traditional Polish songs. He was the chaplain of the Polish American Arts Association and the American Council for Polish Culture and was a constant presence at their meetings and conventions.

Father Majka was a member of various Polish-American organizations, in addition to the PAAA and ACPC. He received an award from the John Paul II Foundation in 1996, and was honored with a national award by the Polish American Priests Association in 1999. He received the Cavaliers Cross of Merit from the Polish Government in 1999 for his service to the Polish American Community. In 2014, the ACPC honored him with its Career Achievement Award.

In December 2022, the PAAA celebrated the last *Wigilia* at which Father Majka blessed and distributed *opłatek* and talked about its meaning. He once again insisted that the wafers shared at the dinner and taken home by those present be a personal gift from him. We saw him last on May 21st at the annual John Paul II Foundation's dinner at the Army Navy Club in Arlington. Looking frail but still showing high spirit, he made a speech and offered grace before the meal, remembering, as he always did, to "bless the cook, the waiter, and the dishwasher."

In May 2015, Father Majka concelebrated a festive mass with members of the church hierarchy and fellow priests to mark the fiftieth anniversary of his priesthood. On July 1st of this year, St. Mark's Church in Vienna was filled with some three dozen clergymen in white robes with a blue cross, and many parishioners and members of the Polish community who came to pay homage to this extraordinary man so devoted to service of others. After the final procession, as we gathered in the hall for a reception, a group of Poles made a short presentation which included singing of some traditional Polish church melodies to honor the wish of our *duszpasterz* that there will be something Polish at his funeral. Father Majka was probably smiling from above and maybe even broke into a song himself.

Kaya Mirecka Ploss: President of PAAA and ACPC



Kaya Mirecka Ploss was a prominent Polonia leader. She was President of the Polish American Arts Association from 1986 to 1989 and President of the American Council for Polish Culture from 1989 to 1993. She was a writer, a close friend of Jan Karski, and a lifelong advocate for tolerance and peace.

As a young girl, Kaya was held for years in a Nazi internment camp. After her release, she joined the Polish 2nd Army's Drama Theatre in Italy before going to England, where she studied fashion design at St. Martin's College of Art and worked in Paris with Dior and Saint Laurent. After returning to Poland, she helped found *Moda Polska* and became a writer, but following several arrests for refusing to cooperate with communist authorities, she emigrated to the U.S. in 1966.

Kaya was a national leader in Polish-American cultural affairs. While President of the ACPC, she found and finalized the purchase of the building that became the home of the American Center of Polish Culture which she co-founded and of which she was the Director from 1991-2005. She worked with Poland's former first lady, Jolanta Kwasniewska, to bring more than 200 disadvantaged Polish children to visit the U.S. over the course of several years. She received many honors for her indefatigable efforts to promote Polish culture in the United States, including The Medal for Distinguished Service to Polish Culture (President Wałęsa), the Commander's Cross for Poland Reborn (President Kwasniewski), U.S. Polonia's Woman of the Year, Kosciuszko Foundation's Award for Dissemination of Polish Culture, and the ACPC's Distinguished Service Award. Ms. Ploss was an author and playwright, with works including *The Road Across the Bridge*; *The Emperor of Madagascar* and other Polish Profiles; *The Woman Who Saw Too Much*; and her memoirs, *Jan Karski: The Man I Told the Truth*. Ms. Ploss, a dear friend of the late Dr. Karski, was his close companion during his final year.

PAAA Website Included in the Library of Congress Archives

The PAAA is grateful and proud that the Library of Congress chose our website to be included in the Library of Congress Archives. The website has been part of our media presence for many years and recently it has been refurbished in an attractive format that is easy to navigate and user friendly. By visiting it you can learn about our organization and its programs and keep up with the upcoming events. There is information about the PAAA Scholarship Program, including applications, and past issues of our newsletter can be seen and read online. We have recently added a DONATE button to facilitate making donations, for which we are always grateful, but also payment of dues and purchase of tickets to our events. If you haven't done so yet, make sure to visit <https://www.paaa.us/> and take a closer look at your organization.

Speaking of media and online presence, do visit and "like" and "follow" the PAAA Facebook Page. Enjoy photos from past events and learn about new ones and make sure to click on the Like icon and/or leave a comment. It's a way for all of us to connect.

Here is what the Library of Congress tells us about website archives and its value for the future generations.

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To Whom It May Concern:

The United States Library of Congress has selected your website for inclusion in the Voices: Eastern and Central European Americans Web Archive, which is part of a larger collection of historically and culturally significant websites that have been designated for preservation. The following URL has been selected: <https://www.paaa.us/>.

The Library of Congress or its agent will engage in the collection of content from your website at regular intervals over time. In order to properly archive the above URL, we may archive other portions of the website and public content that your page links to on third party sites such as social media platforms. In addition to the aforementioned collection, archived content from your website may be added to other relevant collections in the future. This content will be available to researchers at Library facilities and by special arrangement. It may also become more broadly available through hosting on the Library's public website, which would be done no sooner than one year after it was collected. For more information on the web archiving process, please read our [frequently asked questions](#).

The Library hopes that you share its vision of preserving digital content and making it available to current and future generations of researchers. As the internet has become an increasingly important and influential part of our lives, we believe the historical record would be incomplete if websites like yours are not preserved and made a part of it. We encourage you to learn more about the Library's [Web Archiving program](#) and explore our [collections](#) to see examples of how we archive websites. If you have any questions, comments, or recommendations concerning the archiving of your website, please email the Library's Web Archiving Team at webcapture@loc.gov.

Thank you.

Library of Congress Web Archiving Team
webcapture@loc.gov



Jan de Rosen Monument Fund

Jan Henryk de Rosen, was a great Polish artist and patriot, well known for his murals and mosaic works which can be seen in churches and shrines throughout the United States and in other countries, including the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, St. Matthew's Cathedral and The National Cathedral in Washington DC. A monument in his honor, designed by sculptor Gordon Kray, stands on the Avenue of the Meritorious at the Czestochowa Shrine in Doylestown, PA.

The Polish American Arts Association is now in the final stages of having a smaller version of the monument placed at de Rosen's actual grave at the Columbia Gardens Cemetery in Arlington, VA, where he is buried according to his wishes. We still need funds to complete the project. To contribute, please send your check made out to PAAA, with a note that it is for the Jan de Rosen Fund, to: Margaret Butler, 13321 Cooper Ridge Rd., Germantown, MD 20874

Contributors of \$25 or more will receive a copy of the beautiful illustrated biography of Jan Henryk de Rosen
With Paintbrush and Sword written by Mary Flanagan.

Upcoming Events

Wigilia - Traditional Christmas Eve Dinner

December 10, 2023 at 4:00 PM
Saint Luke Catholic Church, McLean

Chopin Concert

February 24, 2024 at 8:00 PM
Strathmore Music Center

PAAA Membership Meeting

May 2024

Wianki Festival - 40 Years on National Mall Celebration

June 22, 2024
Reflecting Pool at Lincoln Memorial

[PAAA Facebook](#)

paaanewsletter@gmail.com

<http://paaa.us/>

Polish-American Arts Association
P.O. Box 9442
Washington, DC 20016

