



# POLISH AMERICAN ARTS ASSOCIATION

## of Washington, DC

Spring-Summer 2015

NEWSLETTER

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

## Cecilia and Raymond Glembocki: Vision with Perspective

Cecilia and Raymond Glembocki like to say that they have a vision they want to share with the world. This vision encompasses all things that have to do with Poland, its culture, history, heritage and traditions. For a number of years, their tool in fulfilling the mission of sharing knowledge about Poland has been the Polish Perspectives, an American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) project, consisting of a traveling exhibit presented at the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) conferences. Since taking over the positions of Chairpersons from Henrietta Nowakowski and Barbara Lemecha six years ago, Cecilia and Ray traveled to NCSS conferences in Denver, Seattle,



***Cecilia and Ray Glembocki are passionate about their work with all things Polish and their home is filled with Polish art objects and books. They proudly show off the new panels for the Polish Perspectives exhibit and some of the educational materials they will hand out at NCSS conferences and other events. The ACPC is honoring them this year with its Distinguished Service Award.***

Washington DC, St. Louis and Boston, setting up the Polish Perspectives booths, and displaying and giving away books for educators and children, posters, DVDs, CDs, power point lesson plans, as well as, brochures and bookmarkers with images of notable Poles or illustrations of Polish traditions. Perspectives CD alone contains almost a hundred and fifty pages of text on, among other things, the history of Poland, famous Poles who made contributions to the world of science, politics and the arts, history of Poles in America, etc. There are numerous links to further reference materials as well as to websites of various Polish organizations and institutions, plus photographs and posters that can be downloaded and printed for use in classrooms. Hundreds of educators and curriculum directors visiting each conference

browse in the booth and go away with materials on Poland they can use in teaching history, art, geography and social studies. In Cecilia Glembocki's words, "if you want to reach a wide audience of young people, the best way is to reach out to educate those who influence and present accurate information to their students." Over the years, thousands of teachers have seen and taken away fresh knowledge and teaching tools from the Polish Perspectives exhibit. In November of this year, the exhibit will travel to the 95th NCSS Conference in New Orleans.

A great deal of effort is required to keep a project like the Polish Perspectives viable, up to date and responsive to the current needs. Cecilia and Ray are constantly engaged with soliciting funds, obtaining grants, and creating, gathering, storing and transporting materials. They work with artists, such as Carla Tomaszewski, who creates posters and visual materials, as well as authors and publishers who donate books, often subsidized by Polish organizations or likeminded individuals, and make sure relevant anniversaries and historical events are observed. Because last year marked the hundredth birthday of Jan Karski, the Glembockis are focusing on his service during World War II, when he made the world aware of the holocaust atrocities committed by Hitler, and Karski's contributions as activist, author and professor at Georgetown University.

*Continued on page 3*



## Message from the President

Dear Fellow PAAA Members,

May is the concluding month of the PAAA fiscal year. We had an excellent General Meeting on May 24, at which I provided the President's Report for the year. Highlights of our activities include:

Sponsorship of Cultural Events: Wigilia at the Arts Club of Washington, Wianki on the National Mall, Chopin Concert at the Polish Embassy. I want to thank all of our chairmen and their assistants for their part in making these events successful and enjoyable.

Future Activity: PAAA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 2016.

Scholarship Promotion: Grants were awarded to three very deserving young Polish Americans. Special thanks are in order for Mr. Leonard Karpinski for his generous donation to substantially fund the awards.

Publication of Three Newsletters: Appreciative thanks to our Editor Celia Larkin who tirelessly develops a very high quality publication and puts up with my habitual late submissions. Since many of the members are not able to attend the General Meetings, this is a critical form of communicating with our membership.

Cooperation with Fellow Polonia Organizations: PAAA is very well represented in other related organizations and exercises considerable leadership in their activities.

Financial Situation: Our finances are in good order thanks to our extremely capable and efficient Treasurer, Ted Mirecki. A concern is that our General Fund is gradually decreasing as our events experience rising costs. We depend on substantial special contributions from individual Board members to fund free events such as Wianki, as well as administrative costs of publishing and distributing the newsletter. Limited funding diminishes the possibility of sponsoring more activities supporting the arts in our area.

Thank you all for your kind support and encouragement to our efforts to promote Polish American cultural activities here in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area. I wish all of you a happy and safe summer and I look forward to another successful year serving you as President.

Tom Payne

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## Cecilia and Raymond Glembocki: Vision with Perspective

*Continued from page 1*

Work with the Polish Perspectives is just a part of Cecilia's and Ray's lifelong commitment to service in the Polish community. Born and raised in Connecticut, Cecilia did her graduate studies at California State College where she earned a Master of Arts degree in Family and Consumer Sciences. Hailing from Detroit, Ray graduated from the prestigious Cass Technical High School and earned an MBA from Pepperdine University. He also studied Eastern European Economics and completed all the course work for his Ph.D. at the Catholic University of America. He was an adjunct professor at American and Marymount Universities. Growing up in areas with strong Polish émigré presence, their childhoods were steeped in Polish traditions that helped develop their love for the land of their ancestors. They always found ways to incorporate Polish themes into their work, hobbies and lives. While working with the Virginia Egg Council at the Virginia Department of Agriculture, and Consumer Services, currently the Executive Director thereby representing the egg industry, Cecilia established an exhibit called Springtime Traditions. Starting in the early 90s, for over a dozen years, she featured Polish traditions along with those of twenty-eight other countries during the annual Easter Egg Roll on the lawn of the White House. She also gave talks at the Smithsonian Institution's Renwick Gallery and Museum of American History. Ray has been associated for many years with the Federal Aviation Administration. His love of East European history prompted him to become a historical model builder and he included figures such as the Polish Winged Hussars in the Historic Model Builders Exhibitions.

For many years now, the Glembockis have been associated with a number of Polish organizations, notably the ACPC, PAAA, Polish American Congress, the Piast Institute, and are especially active in the Friends of John Paul II Foundation, where both served as presidents for a combined period of six years. They are the Chairpersons of the "Educational Legacy Project" to create and disseminate information about St. John Paul II to schools in dioceses of Washington DC, Baltimore and Arlington. They support many Polish causes and participate in numerous Polish events locally and nationally. Their home in Northern Virginia is filled with many objects representing Polish arts and traditions. Cecilia believes that food is an important part of any nation's heritage and is always ready to show off samples of Polish cuisine at her home and at larger gatherings elsewhere. They are also passing on their traditions to the three Glembocki children and twelve grandchildren

In 2012, Cecilia and Raymond were awarded Cavalier Crosses of Merit from the President of the Republic of Poland for promoting Polish culture, heritage and traditions. In October 2015, Cecilia will be presented the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, the highest medal awarded by the Pope for work on behalf of the church. This will be presented at the 30th anniversary of the JP II Foundation at the Catholic University in October. They are also being honored this year with the ACPC Distinguished Service Award which will be presented in August at the annual ACPC Convention in Chicago.

Cecilia and Raymond deserve to be highly proud of their lifelong accomplishments. You can say that their vision reaches far and wide with a true Polish perspective.

*Celia Larkin*



### The Right Perspective

*Above: Long active in the Friends of John Paul II Foundation Cecilia and Ray Glembocki traveled to Rome for the Canonization of St. John Paul II. Here they take in a peaceful moment in St. Peter's Square before it's filled with multitudes of visitors participating in the ceremonies.*

*Clockwise from the right: Cecilia and Ray at the Polish Embassy receiving their Cavalier Crosses of Merit; Cecilia shows Marie Skłodowska Curie poster designed by Carla Tomaszewski at NCSS Polish Perspectives exhibit; Polish Easter display at the White House Springtime Traditions, with Kaya Ploss; there is always a dish of Polish candy at Glembocki home.*

*Photos from Glembockis' personal collection*



# Duszpasterz with a Polish Heart

The Polish language has a beautiful word to describe a priest or spiritual leader: *duszpasterz*. Shepherd of souls. Someone who watches over and leads the flock, speaking to it in the language it understands. Reverend Canon Philip Majka has been a *duszpasterz* to the Polish community in the Washington Metropolitan Area for many years. There is hardly a gathering of Poles in our area where Father Majka, as he is commonly known, is not present. He opens meetings with invocations, offers grace at dinners and banquets, distributes *opłatek* at Wigilia, blesses the eggs in *Święconka* at Easter, and joins everyone in singing of *koledy* or other traditional Polish tunes. He fills his *duszpasterz* role at all occasions that call for a shepherd to stand up and lead. Years ago, on two separate occasions, Father Majka even shepherded the then Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, now St. John Paul II, on two of his visits to Washington, in 1969 and 1976, taking him wherever he needed and wanted to go. At one point, the Cardinal said: "You know Majka, you've got a Polish heart." What the now Saint in heaven told the young Father then, is visible to all on earth: his heart is Polish through and through, and it is a big heart, indeed.

Father Philip S. Majka was born in New Britain, Conn. He studied for priesthood at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield Conn.; Queen of Apostles Seminary in Madison, Wis.; and SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Mich. He was ordained on May 1, 1965, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Richmond. In Virginia, he served as associate pastor in parishes in Alexandria, Vienna, Mount Vernon, and Annandale, and in 1976, was named founding pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Lake Ridge. He also served as pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Warrenton and St. Patrick Parish in Fredericksburg, before being assigned as parochial vicar of St. James Parish in Falls Church.

Father Majka served as chaplain to various Knights of Columbus Councils throughout Northern Virginia, to the Sierra Club, to the Alhambra Club and to the Fairfax County Fire Department. He has served as the Catholic chaplain at Dulles International Airport since June 2006, and was elected vice-president of the National Conference of Catholic Airport Chaplains in 2010.

Father Majka is a member of various Polish American organizations, including the Polish American Arts Association. 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 American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) honored him with its Career Achievement Award.

On May 3, 2015, the St. Mark Church in Vienna filled with members of church hierarchy, local dignitaries, representatives of various organizations, and former parishioners and friends of Father Majka as he celebrated his Golden Jubilee of Priesthood. After the Holy Mass, guests gathered in the parish hall for a reception during which Polish and English were heard interchangeably as throngs of well wishers thanked Father Majka for his service. And when we sang *Sto lat*, the meaning was clear: we all wish him another fifty years as Polonia's beloved *duszpasterz*.

*Celia Larkin*

*Right: Cardinal Karol Wojtyla told Father Majka in 1976, "you have a Polish heart;" Below Right: Father Majka joins Stasia and Olek Skrypczuk and Connie Donnelly in a song at his Fiftieth Jubilee celebration; Below left: Father Majka at PAAA Wigilia at the Arts Club of Washington where, as usual, he blessed the opłatek for everyone to share.*



# Mikołaj Radomski: Medieval Music and Manuscripts

By Paul Brazinski

*Ask an average American about Polish composers and most will readily bring up the name of Frédéric Chopin. Some will add Szymanowski, Paderewski and perhaps Górecki and Penderecki. Fewer still will recall the names of Wieniawski or Lutosławski. Paul Brazinski, a Ph.D. Church History Student and Teaching Fellow at the Catholic University of America, and a recipient of 2014 PAAA scholarship grant, goes much further. When I asked him to write an article for our newsletter, Paul's particular interest in religious history and art led him to Mikołaj Radomski, an early 15<sup>th</sup> century Polish composer about whom little is known but who nonetheless made a significant contribution to the world of music.*

Celia Larkin

Nicholas of Radom, was a famous medieval composer, known for his polyphonic pieces, meaning that these works consisted of two or more simultaneous and independent lines of melody (Figure 1). Moreover, he is the first-known Polish musician to compose such pieces. These polyphonic works were a recent development from the traditional monophonic type, simpler pieces that consisted of a melody without accompanying harmony.

Unfortunately, little is known specifically about the person or life of Nicholas of Radom. Thus, at times, even music historians must turn to the archaeological record and material culture for nuggets of information. For example, we only know that his name is Nicholas given his colophon (signature) on some of his compositions, which he signed "N. de Radom," "Mycolay Radomsky," and "Nicolaus de Radom." In manuscripts, specifically Latin and Greek ones, colophons are very rare; thus, we are lucky that he signed his mark on these pieces. His colophon is in both of his extant manuscripts, which preserve his twelve works – Wn 378 and Kras 52. From these manuscripts and his colophons, we also know that Nicholas was from Radom, a city between Kraków and Warsaw, and that he lived during the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Since music was an educated specialization, some scholars have tried to identify our Nicholas of Radom by searching the student registry at the Kraków Academy for enrollees with this name; however, this search yields numerous results.

Given Nicholas of Radom's famous Italianizing style, some scholars have speculated that he is actually Nicholas Gerald de Radom, who was a member of the Roman Curia under Pope Boniface IX (r.1389-1404). Thus, this would explain how Nicholas of Radom was so well-learned in Italian polyphonic style, which originated from Rome during the Avignon Papacy (c.1309-1377). However, this is simply speculation, since Poland was already a major importer of polyphonic music in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Although we only know a few details of Nicholas of Radom

the person, whoever he was, his musical legacy is a different story.

Nicholas' works are mostly Latin liturgical pieces that were paired with mass movements. For example, Nicholas of Radom wrote three paired Glorias and Credos that were meant to be sung together. This style of combining Glorias and Credos in mass was a new movement that Nicholas must have learned in Italy, since this form originated there at this time.

Nicholas' works were played in the royal chapel at Kraków, which at the time was the seat of the joint Polish-Lithuanian Jagiellonian Dynasty. The only piece we can date with certainty is his *Hystorigraphi aciem*, which was composed in 1426, to celebrate the birth and christening of King Jagiello's second son, Prince Kazimierz IV Jagiellończyk (r.1440-1492). Nicholas' most famous work is the Magnificat, his most avant-garde composition. Nicholas uniquely starts this piece with the intoned sung word "Magnificat," which was unheard of at the time. Moreover, his Magnificat was polyphonic throughout, which was also unique, since most Magnificats at that time shifted between polyphonic and chanting.

It is unfortunate that we do not have more information about Nicholas of Radom's life or his music. Nevertheless, his accomplishments for the history of music and Poland were extraordinary.



Figure 1: An example of Nicholas of Radom's Polyphonic Music (source: Wiki Commons)

Further Readings and Works Cited:

Everist, Mark [ed.], *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Music* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011)

Taruskin, *Music from the Earliest Notations to the Sixteenth Century* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010)

# Chopin Concert

By Ted Mirecki

This year's PAAA Chopin Concert was held at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland on March 8, 2015. We are grateful to the Embassy and the Consular Division for making the venue available.

The Borowsky siblings: Elizabeth on piano, Frances on cello and Emmanuel on violin, played works by various composers for trio, duos and solo piano. They opened with Mozart's Piano Trio in B-flat major, K. 502 – a very tuneful piece with flashes of virtuosic brilliance. Next were two works for violin and piano: Chopin's posthumous Nocturne in C-sharp minor, in an arrangement by violinist Nathan Milstein, and Henryk Wieniawski's Grand Caprice Fantastique Op. 1, his first published composition, written at the tender age of 12! It exhibits not only virtuosity but great musical maturity, and is an apt precursor to a long and brilliant musical career.

The centerpiece of the program was Chopin's solo Piano Sonata in B Minor, Op. 58. It is a pillar of the Romantic piano repertoire, a large-scale virtuosic work in four movements, with its crowning moment in the bravura finale. Musicologist Herbert Weinstock wrote about it in 1949: "Its master must be not so much a virtuoso as a giant." And Elizabeth was certainly that. She played with dazzling technique, yet always with clean definition that allowed the emotional depths of the music to shine through.

The final work was Chopin's Introduction and Polonaise for Cello and Piano, Op. 3. By Chopin's own admission, this is not profound music, but its lively polonaise rhythms are dear to Polish hearts. Frances and Elizabeth gave a stirring performance.

As an encore, the Borowskys played a trio of their own composition entitled Postcards from Dilsberg, a collection of five musical pieces portraying the history, legends and people of Dilsberg, Germany. It was composed in 2008 during their residency at the historic Dilsberg Castle. Although containing somber allusions to war (the theme of "Dies Irae" is heard in one of the sections), for the most part it resounds with rollicking good fun, complete with glissandos on the piano.

Afterwards, many in the audience remarked on the interaction between the musicians, by means of glances, gestures and other body language. This is a particular characteristic of chamber music, quite different from solo or orchestral performances. It shows that the performers were totally enjoying themselves, which serves to heighten the enjoyment of the audience.

The performance was followed by a buffet reception in the Embassy's dining room, with food prepared by Creative European Cooking.



*Photos: 1. Chopin concert Chairman, Ted Mirecki; 2. Emmanuel, Frances and Elizabeth Borowsky perform; 3. The artists with Consul Piotr Konowrodzki and Walter Zachariasiewicz; 4. Frances Borowsky with her mother, Cecylia Barczyk, a noted cellist; 5-8. Guests and performers enjoying the ambiance of the Polish Embassy at the after concert reception.*

*Photos by Celia Larkin*



# PAAA Scholarship Grants 2015

The PAAA Scholarship Committee headed by Tom Payne and including Dr. Laura Kafka, Dr. Renata Greenspan and Janet Beane, reviewed eight applications for the PAAA Scholarship Grants for 2015 and selected three outstanding students to receive a total of \$7,000 in scholarship awards. The Committee is happy with the selection of these deserving young students of Polish origin. They wear their heritage on their sleeve and use it to influence their life interests. They are all local residents of Maryland and Virginia. We do expect these awards to further the growth and appreciation for Polish culture in the areas of politics, literature and art.

The Committee, which has now been joined by Dr. William Klepczynski as its new member, will meet this summer to revise and enhance the current guidelines so that requirements and award criteria are better defined.

Following are the three awardees for 2015:

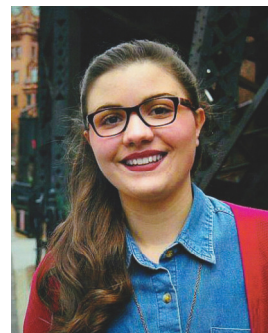
## Patti Pogodzinski

**\$3,000 Grant** Patti is a graduate student at Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Maryland, pursuing a Master of Fine Arts Degree with a major in Illustration Practice. From a young age, she drew artistic inspiration from the colorful watercolor illustrations in her mother's Polish alphabet book *Elementarz*. Her interest is in retelling narratives through the form of illustration. She has worked on children's book illustrations and greeting cards in preparation for her future career. She greatly appreciates the PAAA award to avoid becoming a starving artist at such a promising age. She continues to draw on her family's heritage to inspire the subject matter of her artwork.



## Meredith Lewanowicz

**\$3,000 Grant** Meredith is a sophomore at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in English. While excelling in her program of studies, she has also spearheaded several volunteer activities in the community, including those in local theatrical productions. She hopes to use this PAAA award for study abroad during spring 2016, blogging in Kraków and getting more deeply in touch with her Polish cultural roots. Her future goals include writing a novel and a career in travel writing and photography.



## Caitlyn Hutchison -

**\$1,000 Grant** - Caitlyn is a junior at the American University of Paris pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Politics. Caitlyn belongs to local PNA Lodge 3191, has served as a summer intern for the local Polish American Congress, and participated in Polish cultural events and activities too numerous to list. She simply eats, drinks and lives everything Polish! In her words, "My blood gushes with the history of an incredible nation."



### Thank you to Scholarship Contributors Principal Scholarship Donor: Leonard Karpinski

Elizabeth and Frances Borowsky; Mrs. Connie Donnelly; Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Eisinger; Ms. Mary Ann Evan; Dr. Renata Greenspan; Mr. Robert Hart; Mr. and Mrs. Edward Henry; Dr. Elżbieta Marchut-Michalska; Mr. Dan Neumann; Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil; Dr. Richard Okreglak; Mrs. Barbara Saunders; Mr. and Mrs. Olek Skrypczuk

The PAAA Scholarship Grant Program depends on contributions from our members and friends. To make a donation, please make your check payable to PAAA and mail to: PAAA Scholarship Fund, c/o Mr. Ted Mirecki, 4041 41st St. N., McLean, VA 22101. For information and a grant application visit: [www.paaa.us/scholarship/](http://www.paaa.us/scholarship/)

# Art, Scholarship and Poetry

## PAAA General Membership Meeting on May 24, 2015



1. Ted Mirecki and Renata Greenspan; 2. Sharon Brzostowski and William Klepczynski being sworn in;
3. Celia Larkin and Danuta Kosk-Kosicka; 4. Patti Pogodzinski shows her works;
5. Caitlyn Hutchison receives her scholarship certificate from Tom Payne; 6. Meredith Lewanowicz is congratulated by Tom Payne;
7. Patti Pogodzinski and Danuta Kosk-Kosicka talk about art and poetry.

Photos by Celia Larkin



The Arts Club of Washington again opened its doors to the PAAA members who gathered in the art filled historic mansion for the General Membership meeting on May 24. Despite street closures for Memorial Day festivities and resulting traffic snarls, a full membership quorum was present to discuss the association's past and future activities and elect two board of directors members for positions that were up to be filled for a two-year term. Sharon Brzostowski and Dr. William Klepczynski, both of whom previously served as PAAA presidents, were elected by acclamation. President Tom Payne provided a summary of recent events sponsored by PAAA, including Wigilia at the Arts Club and Chopin Concert at the Polish Embassy, and introduced chairmen of committees who provided updates on their work. The PAAA Scholarships were presented to three outstanding Polish American students. Tom, in his role as the Scholarship Committee Chairman, announced the three grant recipients, Caitlyn Hutchison, Meredith Lewanowicz and Patti Pogodzinski. All three were there with their families and friends. Patti Pogodzinski brought some of her illustrations which fit right in among the works of the ongoing Arts Club exhibit.

After the meeting, participants were treated to a program of poetry reading and discussion by the Polish American poet, translator and co-editor of the literary journal *Loch Raven*, Danuta Kosk-Kosicka, who won the Harriss Poetry Prize for 2014 for her book *Oblige the Light*. The poet read a number of her own works as well as a few poems by her mother, Lydia Kosk, which she translated from Polish into English. After the reading, she answered questions about writing poetry in two languages, the pitfalls of translating while keeping the original meaning intact, and life in America where she came from Poland at the time of the Solidarity movement and was not able to return after the Martial Law was declared in 1981. During a wine and cheese reception that followed, there was an opportunity to purchase books of poetry which the poet obligingly autographed.



## **Darkness of Her Head** *after Gauguin*

On the pillow of light  
lies the darkness of her head.  
Encased in Prussian blue fear,  
the abundance of her golden flesh stifled  
under layers of green-brown.  
Alone like this at the mercy of *Tupapaus*.

Move.  
Abandon the dark layers.  
Move away from that one.  
Start a new painting.

Paint the mountain in its vibrato ocher,  
the ocean in broad ultramarine,  
mango pears in short strokes  
on the ground, in the bowl,  
mango flowers in the long sweeps of hair.

Move.  
Like the orchid bloom furled  
in the green womb, sensing its way.  
Oblige the light  
till you can feel the spray on the wave  
crest, the strength of the red  
mountain, the scent of mango.  
Till the stillness feels right.

*Danuta E. Kosk-Kosicka*

## **I Am...**

I am a wandering tree

I am on a continuous journey  
begun with the leaves of  
faith, love, and hope

Their deep-reaching veins  
map out the flow of my blood  
my thoughts, and my feelings

I am on a ceaseless quest  
not to be limited to a trunk

## **Jestem...**

Jestem wędrującym drzewem

Jestem w stałej podróży  
rozpoczętej od wiary  
spajającej z gałęzią  
moje trzy żywe liście

Mój krwiobieg, moje myśli, moje czucie  
zależą od trzech płaszczyzn - symboli  
z rozwiniętą arterią komunikacji

Odbywam ciągłą podróż  
by nie zostać tylko pnem

*Lydia Kosk*

*Translated by Danuta E. Kosk-Kosicka*

Dear PAAA Members and Friends,

As we make plans to celebrate the Polish American Arts Association Golden Jubilee in 2016, we would like to ask you to share with us any mementos, photographs, or simply memories you may have collected over the years as you participated in the many events sponsored by our organization. Whether you are a long time member or just joined recently, your memories and stories of what being part of PAAA means to you are equally important. Do you remember a special person you met through the PAAA? Maybe you found a great friend for life, even a spouse. Yes, it happens sometimes. Did you join because some person invited you and that made you learn more about and appreciate Polish culture? Tell us about that person and the experiences you had. Did you know a past president of PAAA who is now gone but who made a difference in the organization and in your life? We will be publishing the most interesting stories in the newsletter throughout the year and beyond.

We are also interested in old programs from events and other mementos, especially photographs. The PAAA is trying to supplement its archives with materials that may have been lost but which some people may have kept. If you are one of those, please let us know. Hard copy photographs will be scanned and originals returned to you if you wish.

Please send your stories and photos to: [paaanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:paaanewsletter@gmail.com). Other material can be sent to: Polish American Arts Association, P.O. Box 9442, Washington DC 20016

We thank those who have already responded and look forward to hearing from others who have a story.

# Festival of Wreaths - Wianki



**Annual celebration of Polish traditions of St. John's night  
with dancing, singing and making of wreaths**

**Live performances by Polish folk dance groups**

**Saturday, June 20, 2015 - 6:00 - 10:00 PM  
at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool Steps**

Information: (703) 255-9645

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**Save the Date: December 6, 2015, PAAA Wigilia at the Arts Club of Washington**

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

