



POLISH AMERICAN ARTS ASSOCIATION of Washington, DC

Spring-Summer 2017

NEWSLETTER

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

Artists Among Us

Patti Pogodzinski – A Painterly Illustrator

By Laura Kafka-Price

When I needed someone to illustrate and design the layout for my soon to be released compact disc recording of Karol Szymanowski's *Rymy Dziecięce* (Children's Rhymes), Op. 49 song cycle, I didn't have far to look. A young Polish-American illustrator living nearby, who as a child was inspired to be an artist by admiring the wonderful watercolors of Janusz Grabiański she found in her *Elementarz*, was an obvious choice. Her delicate drawings and painterly images were just right to echo the pictures brought to mind by Szymanowski's music and Kazimiera Iłakowiczówna's poetry. Both children and adults will be able to relate to them. And so collaboration has begun which revealed some interesting and at times surprising things about this young artist.

Patti Patrycja Pogodzinski, a Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) graduate, and a 2015 PAAA Scholarship recipient, grew up speaking Polish and hearing her parents' stories about life in Poland before they immigrated to the United States in 1983 during the Martial Law. Patti's parents and her heritage had a profound influence on her career as an artist, sparking her interest in 20th century Polish illustration and graphic design. Her mother, Halina, worked for an architectural firm in Warsaw and now works in CAD (computer aided design), drafting roads and highways. Her father, Stan, is a building contractor, who studied *budownictwo* in Poland and worked in Africa. Both currently work in Columbia, MD. Patti lived in nearby Baltimore until she recently moved to Florida after marrying Tom Kilian, also an illustrator.

Patti received her Master of Arts degree in Illustration Practice from MICA in May 2016. In 2011, she received the

Gilman Award at MICA to help fund a study abroad program in Poland, where she studied at Akademia Sztuk Pięknych in Wrocław. With a focus on print-making and graphic arts, she learned different print-making methods such as *mezzotint* (a form of etching on a copper plate) and screen printing, as well as calligraphy, lithography and relief printing. For her senior thesis project at MICA, she created drawings and paintings reimagining photographs of her aunt and uncle's wedding which took place in Warsaw in 1979.

When she was learning to read, Patti was introduced to the Polish elementary school primer, *Elementarz*. She fell in love with Grabiański's illustrations and wanted to be like him. Showing artistic talent at a young age, she attended arts magnet schools in her hometown of Jacksonville, FL. She became interested in the graphic arts, illustration and print-making, as well as computer arts.

As a junior in high school, Patti suffered an injury, resulting in hematoma or blood leaking into the spinal cord. Over a period of two years, she became

temporarily paralyzed three times, only returning to normal activities and sports after the hematoma was absorbed into her spinal cord. The third time, her spinal cord was compressed too long resulting in damage that left her a quadriplegic. Through determination, physical therapy, love and support of parents, friends, and now her husband, Tom, she regained the use of her hands. She hopes to make a full recovery someday.

Because of the weakness in her hands, she could not grip a paintbrush like before her injury. She invented a style



Illustrator and designer Patti Pogodzinski received a PAAA Scholarship in 2015 at the Arts Club of Washington. She is shown here at the awards ceremony with some of her works.



Message from the President

Dear fellow PAAA members and friends,

It seems like for the past several years I have been dividing my year by the events and activities of the PAAA. Winter is for the Chopin Concert, spring marks preparation for the Annual Membership meeting, followed by the Wianki Festival, and before long, it's time to start planning for the Fall Meeting and then the Wigilia in December. In the meantime, there are board meetings, special projects and ad hoc activities, as well as participation in meetings and events of our sister Polish organizations involved in promoting, supporting and maintaining Polish culture and Polish identity in the US.

I am proud of the cooperation we maintain with these organizations and where possible, provide support to cultural endeavors undertaken by others. In this issue you will find two announcements asking for your participation and help: Laura Kafka's *Children's Rhymes Project* and Hanna Bondarewska's Ambassador Theater ambitious undertaking to produce, and hopefully take on the road, a Shakespeare play with a Polish angle. Please take a look at their websites and give whatever assistance you can.

In less than two months, the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) will hold its Annual Convention in Toronto, Canada. In addition to PAAA members who are already on the ACPC Board or Committees, we are entitled to five delegates. Of course, any member is entitled to attend and I urge you to consider spending a few days in the charming Old Mill Hotel in which the ACPC has reserved a block of rooms at a special rate for August 9-12. The US dollar is holding strong so it's a good time to plan a vacation in this foreign, yet nearby country, and get to know your fellow ACPC members. Please see: http://www.polishcultureacpc.org/Conv_2017/Toronto_2017.html

Every few years, we publish the PAAA Membership Directory to help keep us connected and right now, a committee is making final preparations for the next issue, slated to come out in just a few weeks. If you haven't yet sent in your dues, please do so now to ensure that you are included in the 2017 directory. If you are not a member but would like to join, applications are available at: <http://www.paaa.us/org/membership.htm>

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new PAAA members who joined in the past year, including our five 2017 Scholarship recipients. A special welcome to Edleen Bergelt and her husband Keith who despite living in North Carolina have joined as members and make an effort to come to our events whenever possible. They were present at the Chopin Concert along with Edleen's brother Ed Pawlowski and a guest, and honored their father, the late PAAA past President Edward Pawlowski, with a generous contribution to the Scholarship Fund. A big thank you also to each one of the donors whose generosity keeps our scholarship program thriving.

I wish you all a great summer and look forward to seeing you at the next PAAA or other Polish event.

Cecilia Larkin

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of drawing that was a little bit more abstract and squiggly to accommodate this weakness. During this time, synchronized swimming also played an important part in Patti's life; she wanted to be an Olympic-level swimmer, started at age six and showed a promise in attaining that goal. After her injury, it was art that played an important role in her recovery and she was determined to succeed in becoming an artist. It was also a form of physical therapy itself because she had to use both her hands to relearn herself how to eat, draw, and perform personal grooming. Art was a good escape, something to keep her going in life. Despite the injury, Patti is quite strong in her upper body and can lift thirty-five pounds over her head!

Patti's works are for the most part *painterly*, which means that she works expressively with water colors and wet media, such as oils and *gouache*. Professionally, she has branched out into creating patterns for textiles and has recently signed a contract with Colette and Blue, a pattern studio based in Philadelphia, PA. This is her first full-time freelance position, in which she produces six patterns a week for women's wear and children's fashions. Previously, she designed wedding stationery and produced illustrations for a children's novel.

Recently Patti has embarked on an artistic journey of a hundred days of drawing fashion in which she draws something each day from the world of fashion. She is posting the drawings on Instagram and they can be seen at: <http://www.instagram.com/patrizjaaa>. Another project is a series of note cards in which she is hand lettering and illustrating each letter of the alphabet. Each corresponds with the name of a country that begins with the particular letter, with a focus on lesser-known countries. So, A is Azerbaijan, K will be Kosovo, and, although it is quite well-known, P will be for Poland.

Patti's goal is to open her own pattern studio in parallel with her illustration practice and to make designs for fashion, publications, stationery and anything that can be brought to life with a bit of color formed into sublime shapes. Judging by what she's accomplished thus far, it will certainly be worth seeing.

Top right: "Bocian" (The Stork), a painting inspired by the Mazury region in Poland; bottom right: "Poseidon". In the announcement below, two illustrations for the "Rymy dziecięce" (Children's Rhymes) CD and book: a design for the cover and an illustration for one of the poems/songs. More works on Patti's website: <http://www.pattipogodzinski.com/>



Announcing: Children's Illustration Contest

Are you a young artist or do you know one who is in grades 2-7? Would you like to help illustrate a book about classical music? If so, we would love for you to be a part of *The Children's Rhymes Project* illustration contest.

Original artwork in ink, watercolor, pastel, colored or graphite pencil is being solicited from children everywhere to illustrate a book by Laura Kafka on the Polish composer, Karol Szymanowski (1882-1937).

The book features nineteen rhymes by Polish poet, Kazimiera Iłakowiczówna (1892-1983), set to music by Szymanowski. Children in grades 2-7 can submit original artwork that best illustrates the meaning of each song. The best work selected by qualified judges will be included in the book. Winners will also receive monetary prizes, and a copy of the book.

A website will soon be up www.the-childrens-rhymes-project.com where you can find complete instructions and will be able to listen to each rhyme recited by a child in both Polish and in English translation to inspire you to draw something beautiful. Deadline for submission of entries is November 30, 2017.

The Children's Rhymes Project is supported by grants from The Kościuszko Foundation, The American Council for Polish Culture, The Polish American Arts Association of Washington, DC, The Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University, and generous individuals.



Scholarships, Sculptures and Paintings Highlighted at the May PAAA General Membership Meeting



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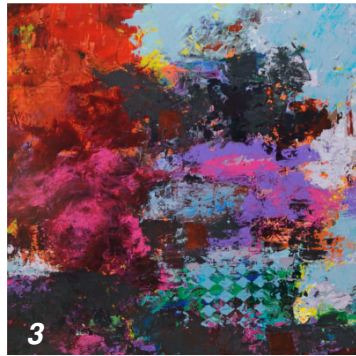
Five scholarships were awarded to outstanding Polish-American students at the PAAA General Membership Meeting which was held on a sunny Sunday, May 7, 2017, at the Arts Club of Washington. The grant recipients were announced by the Scholarship Committee Chairman, Dr. William Klepczynski, who provided each of them with a certificate and a check. The business portion of the meeting included election of three Board Members for 2017-19 term: Sharon Brzostowski, Cecilia Glembocki and Bill Klepczynski. Also elected was the new Recording Secretary, Mary Beth Sowa, replacing Irene Sowa who has resigned after serving many years in this position, due to professional commitments. We wish Irene all the best in her pursuits and thank her for her long-time service.

After a break for a wine and cheese reception, meeting participants were treated to a lecture on a number of renowned sculptures and monuments found around Washington, DC, and elsewhere, presented by their creator, sculptor Gordon Kray. In a slide presentation, Mr. Kray introduced the audience to works such as the Kahlil Gibran Memorial, sculptures of prominent Americans, President James Monroe and Justice John Marshall, and a depiction of the Virgin Mary at the St. Matthew Cathedral, among others. He spoke and answered questions about the process of design and execution of these large works of art, some which took a few years to finish. The one hour was much too short to do justice to the artist and his work and we plan to fill a few more gaps in an article being prepared for an upcoming issue of the PAAA Newsletter.

As usual, the Arts Club galleries were filled with paintings. The featured artist in the Spilsbury Gallery, was PAAA member and until recently, Vice President of the Arts Club, Susanne Eisinger. Susanne was on hand to show and answer questions about her work.



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Photos: 1. Gordon Kray talks about his works in a slide presentation; 2. Mr. Kray is shown with his sculpture of President James Monroe on the William and Mary campus where both of them studied; 3. Painting by Susanne Eisinger titled "Images of Music IV"; 4. Father Majka congratulates newly elected Recording Secretary, Mary Beth Sowa, and Board Members, Dr. William Klepczynski, Sharon Brzostowski and Cecilia Glembocki; 5. Wine and cheese reception in the front parlor of the Monroe mansion; 6. 2017 PAAA Scholarship winners receive their certificates, left to right: Virginia Whealton, Kasia Kucharska, PAAA President, Celia Larkin, Scholarship Committee Chairman, Dr. William Klepczynski, Matthew Zezula, Margaret Mrzyk; 7. Operatic tenor David Cook received his scholarship certificate separately as he was unable to attend the meeting due to a concert commitment at his university.



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2017 PAAA Scholarship Winners

The Polish American Arts Association has awarded Scholarship Grants for 2017 to five students selected from among twelve applicants. The Scholarship Committee, chaired by Dr. William Klepczynski included Janet Beane, Dr. Renata Greenspan, Dr. Laura Kafka-Price, Thomas Payne, and PAAA President Cecilia Larkin as ex-officio member. During the presentation of the grants, each recipient had an opportunity to speak briefly about his or her chosen field of study, goals and aspirations for the future, as well as connection to the Polish community and Polish culture. Judging from what each of them said and from the below quotes from their application essays, they are poised to contribute to the creation of awareness of the richness of Polish intellectual and cultural heritage that the PAAA promotes.

► **David Windsor Cook** is a senior at Frostburg State University in Maryland, majoring in philosophy. A gifted tenor, he has been pursuing vocal studies with private teachers as well as in the University's Opera Program. Even though he only recently began singing in Polish, he has placed second in this year's ACPC Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Vocal Competition. "My life has been changed not only by Polish music but also the Polish community which has embraced me with open and loving arms. I am happy to know now the details of where my Klucewicz great-grandparents came from and hope to visit their land one day."



◀ **Katherine Laura Kucharski** is a Master's student in the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University. "I have prided myself on my Polish heritage for my entire life... From taking part in Polish-American conferences throughout my college years to voicing over the experts' forum of the 2016 NATO Summit in Warsaw, I am dedicated to advancing cultural and political ties between Poland and the United States. ...I am eager to further integrate into grass root Polish American society in this area as I was in my home state of Connecticut."



► **Malgorzata Agnieszka Mrzyk** is a graduate student at the Georgetown University Law Center, pursuing a Securities and Financial Regulation Master of Law degree. She has often volunteered to help immigrants and non-English speaking residents obtain the legal representation they needed; often these were the parents of her fellow Polish school classmates. "...my immigrant parents' dream to have a lawyer in the family was actually mine as well. Success should not be measured by the zeros on your paycheck, but instead by the people you help to make their lives better."



◀ **Virginia Elizabeth Whealton** is a PhD candidate in Musicology at Indiana University, Bloomington. "As a scholar, I am best known for my work in musicology in which I examine Polish travelogues related to the Parisian émigré community and travel-inspired compositions from mid-nineteenth century. ...I envision that my studies on Polish musicians in Paris will continue to play an important role in my career. I plan to submit an article for peer-review on Franz Liszt's writing on Poland." Ms. Whealton's scholastic excellence also won her the Pulaski Scholarship from the ACPC, as noted by its President, Tom Payne, during the PAAA presentation.



► **Mateusz Marek Zezula** is a sophomore at Georgetown University, majoring in Economics and History. "Although I was born in the United States, I consider myself more Polish than American... Throughout the academic year, I promote to advance Polish cultural awareness through the Polish Association of Georgetown, organizing readings of Polish literature or pierogi nights. As the Association's Financial Officer, I understand the importance of funding and the constraints a lack thereof imposes. ...while I am at Georgetown, the PAAA Grant will assist in funding the Association, allowing for larger and more frequent events, thus increasing its cultural outreach."



Thank you to Scholarship Contributors

Principal Scholarship Donor: Leonard Karpinski

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Bergelt; Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak; Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Donnelly; Mrs. Mary Flanagan; Dr. Renata Greenspan; Dr. Laura Kafka-Price; Dr. and Mrs. William Klepczynski; Mr. Karl Klonowski; Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Larkin; Ms. Barbara Michniewicz; Mr. Ted Mirecki; Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil; Dr. Kaya Ploss; Mr. and Mrs. Tomasz Robak; Ms. Eve Marie Szczepanski; Mrs. Elzbieta Vane Sande

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, 900 N. Taylor St. No. 617, Arlington, VA 22203. For information and a grant application visit: www.paaa.us/scholarship/

Literary Corner by Danuta E. Kosk-Kosicka



Polish-born poet Danuta E. Kosk-Kosicka is the author, translator, and editor of several books of poems in English and Polish, including the most recent *Szklana góra/Glass Mountain*. She has translated poems by Lidia Kosk and other Polish, American, and Catalan poets. She is co-editor of the literary journal *Loch Raven Review*. Her book *Oblige the Light* won the fifth Clarinda Harriss Poetry Prize. <https://danutakk.wordpress.com>

Ernest Bryll, born in 1935 in Warsaw, Poland, is a popular poet, writer, lyricist, journalist, translator (from Irish, Czech and Yiddish), film critic, and diplomat. In the sixties and seventies he was the artistic director of TV Theater, of the “Kamera” film group, and the Polish Theater in Warsaw. In 1974-1978 director of the Polish Culture Institute in London; 1991-1995 ambassador to the Irish Republic. The author of some sixty volumes of poetry, plays, and prose, and a co-translator of seven books on Irish literature. His first poetry collection, *Wigilie wariata (Christmas Eves of a Lunatic)*, appeared in 1958; his third volume, *Twarz nieodstonięta (Non-unveiled face)*, 1963, brought him recognition. Bryll's distinctiveness is marked in his choice of themes, often looking at various attitudes to Polish history and literature. Some of his plays have attained record popularity, especially *Po górach, po chmurach (Over mountains, over clouds)*, 1969, and *Na szkle malowane (Painted on Glass)*, 1970, in which he adapted folk themes.

From *Zwierzętko (The Little Animal)*, Czytelnik, 1975. English translations © Danuta E. Kosk-Kosicka, first appeared in *Loch Raven Review*, 2009. <http://www.lochravenreview.net/2009Spring/bryll.html>

The One Who

The one who harmed a simple man
Will find verse-makers who will erase all
And a historian deft with arguments
Who will sculpt the events with such a noble face
As events have never worn before.
The one who perpetrated harm – if he gets through
Will find his own justice in the ages' darkness
Though he sowed storms he will have a sweet harvest.

Such is the experience. And we would want
The words of a poet to be feared
The emperors to sweat in their crumpled sheets
Thinking what has been written about them.

Such is the experience, always known
And always the stupid poets run against it.

The Lamb

The lamb on brittle legs
Stood in a faded meadow. Waiting
He might live or be dead
All in the man's hands

And the hands squeezed the air
Trembling to the very horizon
And a dirty finger covered
Even parts of heaven

We little people lost on the journey
-- And what could we have done?

-- What could we have used to stop
The giant's ruthless hands?

And yet so many ran
Toward the darkness -- As into flames
The army of paupers
Fought for the innocent lamb

Ten który

*Ten, który skrzywdził człowieka prostego
Wynajdzie rymopisów, co wszystko wymażą
I historyka w dowodach zręcznego
Który wyrzeźbi dzieje z tak dostojną twarzą
Jak nigdy w dziejach jeszcze nie bywało.
Ten, który zbrodnię czynił – byle wyszedł cało
Znajdzie w ciemności wieków swoją sprawiedliwość
Chociaż siał burze, słodkie zbierze żniwo.*

*Takie jest doświadczenie. A my byśmy chcieli
Aby się słowa poety lękano
By imperatorowie w pomiętej pościeli
Pocili się, myśleli – co o nich pisano.*

*Takie jest doświadczenie, które zawsze znano
I zawsze przeciw głupi poeci lecieli.*

Baranek

*Baranek na nóżkach łamliwych
Stał na łące wyblakłej. Czekał
Mógł żyć i mógł być nieżywy
- Wszystko w rękach człowieka*

*A te ręce aż po horyzont
Ścisnęły drżące powietrze
I brudny paluch zakrywał
Kawałek nieba jeszcze*

*My mali zagubieni w drodze
- A co mogliśmy zrobić?*

*- A czym miał kto zatrzymać
Okrutne ręce olbrzymia?*

*A jednak tyłu pobiegło
Naprzeciw ciemności - Jak w ogniu
Baranka niewinnego
Broniła armia ubogich*

2017 PAAA Chopin Concert

The Polish American Arts Association (PAAA) of Washington, DC, held its Annual Chopin Concert on March 5, 2017, at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland. The concert, which benefits the PAAA Scholarship Fund, was performed by the young but already highly accomplished pianist Tomasz Robak. A doctoral student at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore, Tomasz was the recipient of a PAAA scholarship grant in 2016. The afternoon featured a program of piano pieces performed on the Embassy's Steinway once owned by Ignacy Jan Paderewski.

Tomasz's recital, which included music of Fryderyk Chopin, as well as other Polish composers, can easily be called a revelation. The high point of the program was Chopin's Ballade in G minor, Op. 23, rendered in bravura style that is inherent in this musical form, invented by Chopin. Other Chopin works were the Waltz in E minor and the "Heroic" Polonaise in A-flat, played at a fast tempo, but with absolute accuracy and dazzling technique, yet with emotional depth.

Works of lesser-known Polish composers were a welcome addition to the oft-heard repertoire of Chopin and Ignacy Jan Paderewski – especially the variations on a Ukrainian folk tune by Franciszek Lessel, a predecessor of Chopin who studied with Haydn in Vienna. The 4 Etudes, op. 4, by Karol Szymanowski completed the program.

Mr. Robak, who is not only an excellent pianist but a very personable young man, touched everyone's heart with a story about how he got his first keyboard for practice when he was growing up in Poland. His teacher recognized that he had a student with great promise whose family could not afford to buy him a piano. So he organized a benefit concert and with the profits, young Tomasz got his very own Casio keyboard. During that concert long ago, Tomasz played the same Chopin Ballade with which he now dazzled the audience at the Polish Embassy. He told this story to illustrate how important it is for young students and artists to receive support and encouragement to develop their talents. To set an example, Tomasz donated part of his concert honorarium to the PAAA Scholarship Fund. A great artist and a great, caring person!



Photos, clockwise from top right: Pianist Tomasz Robak; Keith and Edleen Bergelt, Ted Mirecki, Pamela Mandeleris and Ed Pawlowski; Irina Gomelsky and Laura Kafka-Price; meeting of generations – PAAA charter member, Kaya Ploss, with students Chris Siuzdak and Jan Sieluk; Consul Zygmunt Matynia of the Polish Embassy, was a gracious host welcoming guests with Rose Kobylinski and PAAA President Celia Larkin.



*In the Footsteps of Helena Modrzejewska
(Modjeska)*

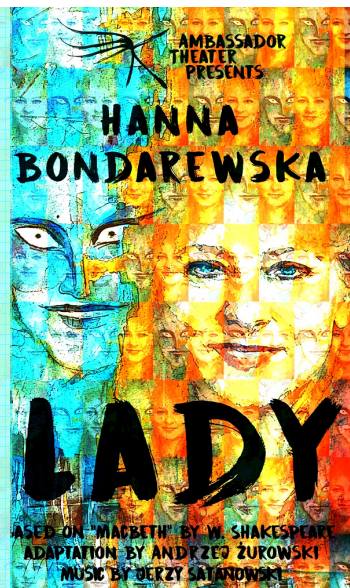
Śladami Heleny Modrzejewskiej

SHAKESPEARE'S **LADY**
TO LIFE!

Lady Macbeth was the last role portrayed by the world famous Polish actress **Helena Modrzejewska**.

Now the **Ambassador Theater** celebrates Shakespeare with the upcoming production of "**LADY**" based on "Macbeth"

Script adaptation by **Andrzej Żurowski**
and **Hanna Bondarewska**
Music by **Jerzy Satanowski**



HELP MAKE THIS PROJECT A REALITY!

The cost of the show is high, we need to secure money for the space, for costumes, set, visual and sound effects!

TO DONATE

go to:

<http://www.aticc.org/home/support>

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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 24, 2017 - 6:00 - 10:00 PM
at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool Steps

Save the Date: December 10, 2017, PAAA Wigilia at the Arts Club of Washington

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

