



# POLISH AMERICAN ARTS ASSOCIATION of Washington, DC

Winter 2016

NEWSLETTER

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

## 50 Years of PAAA

### Celebrating Polish Culture and Traditions in the Nation's Capital

This year marks the fiftieth year of the existence of the Polish American Arts Association (PAAA) of Washington, DC. It all started with some twenty persons who got together on January 11, 1966, for the purpose of establishing an organization that would be "dedicated to creating public awareness of the richness of Polish culture and to supporting greater cooperation and understanding between the United States and Poland in the fields of art, culture and education." With the first president Marta Korwin-Rhodes at the helm, the PAAA began sponsoring lectures, poetry readings, concerts, cabaret evenings, balls and annual celebrations of holidays with Polish traditions and many other events. For half a century now, the organization has strived to share and inspire with the wealth of Polish culture throughout the Washington area community.

As an affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) since its inception, the PAAA extends its activities to national level. Over the years, several of our leaders served as ACPC presidents, including the current one, Tom Payne, and other PAAA members continue to serve regularly on the board committees and as officers of the ACPC. Accordingly, our anniversary year will start with the hosting of the ACPC Spring Board Meeting on 11-12 March. The very special weekend will include, in addition to business meetings, a tour of the newly refurbished John Paul II Center, and attendance at the **PAAA's Annual Chopin Concert at the Polish Embassy**, which will feature violinist Krzysztof Zimowski and pianist Jarosław Gołębiewski

The big event of the year will be a festive **Anniversary Gala at the Congressional Country Club in Potomac, MD** on September 24. Please save the date and watch for details on our website.

The photo collage on the left represents just a few of the PAAA activities intended to keep us connected as a community that loves and wishes to promote our Polish heritage. Later in the year we will publish stories on the history of the PAAA, its leaders and members. We invite all of 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 past or present office holder, a long time member or have just joined recently, your memories and stories of what being part of PAAA means to you are equally important. Please send your written contributions and photos to [paaanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:paaanewsletter@gmail.com). If you have hard copies of photos or documents, we will scan them and return originals to you. Thank you in advance for participating in the PAAA 50th Anniversary celebration.





## Message from the President

Greetings Dear Members,

It has been almost six years since I was first elected as your President in 2010. I truly appreciate the trust and confidence that you have placed in me. I certainly feel that it is time for the changing of the guard. There is a reason why our constitution limits the president to serve no more than three consecutive terms. It is good to get new blood to the helm of the organization, and if you look back at our roster of past presidents, you can typically identify certain accomplishments that made their terms unique. If you want to know what my accomplishments have been, political analysts say it is always better to wait until someone has left the office to make that assessment, so don't you think it would be better to wait a little longer?

We have had a fruitful and impactful last six years, but the only credit that I want to take is for bringing our Board Members together and encouraging them to feel empowered and work in concert for the greater good. There are many things that may be taken for granted when it comes to the smooth functioning of an organization like ours. Our finances are in excellent shape because our Treasurer accounts for our funds and safeguards the investments as if it were his own money. Through the diligent efforts of our Editor, the Newsletter has become a very high quality document in a colorful glossy finish that people enjoy reading and keep available to share with others. The Scholarship Committee has awarded thousands of dollars to very deserving and appreciative Polish-American students through creative marketing and passionate work. Our event functions such as Chopin Concerts and Wigilia have overall contributed profits to the General and Scholarship Funds, but our various Chairpersons have always kept in mind the greater goal of providing delightful entertainment and an opportunity to socialize. Our Wianki is so consistently and predictably successful. So I have our Board Members over the last six years to thank for these successes.

And again I thank all of you who have provided encouragement to someone who was not sure that he was the right person for the job back in 2010. It has provided me with a springboard to become the President of the ACPC and I look forward to continuing to promote the success of the PAAA as a Past President. My support will be with the new President who will be elected in May 2016

Tom Payne

### **PAAA OFFICERS**

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Thomas Payne

#### **1st Vice President**

Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil

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### **PAAA NEWSLETTER**

#### **Editor**

Celia Larkin

#### **Editorial Assistant**

Rose Kobylinski

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Organization tax exempt under  
Internal Revenue Code Section  
501(c)(3) since 1966**

# Performers at the PAAA Chopin Concert at the Polish Embassy on March 12, 2016

## Krzysztof Zimowski



Born in Wrocław, Poland, violinist Krzysztof Zimowski began his musical studies at the age of six. He participated in international music programs organized by La

Federation International des Jeunesses Musicales (International Federation of Young Musicians) and in 1976, joined the L'Orchestre Mondial des Jeunesses Musicales (World Youth Orchestra) in Brussels and Paris. While still a student at the Wrocław Academy of Music, he was also appointed concertmaster of the State Opera Orchestra in Wrocław. After graduation in 1977 with a Master's degree, he continued to be a soloist in high demand throughout Poland and abroad. It was during this time that he became more interested in chamber music, forming many ensembles, and enrolled in master classes with eminent violinist Henryk Szeryng.

Mr. Zimowski won the third prize in the Karol Szymanowski National Music Competition in 1977 in Warsaw. He participated in the Carl Flesch International Violin Competition in London in 1978 and the J.S. Bach International Violin Competition in Leipzig in 1980. He then enrolled for advanced violin studies at the Morley College of Music in London.

In 1981, Mr. Zimowski joined the Mexico City Philharmonic Orchestra and was appointed its concertmaster and soloist when the orchestra toured Europe, South America, and the United States. In 1986, he moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he formed the Helios String Quartet, an ensemble-in-residence at the Placitas Artists Series.

Mr. Zimowski performed with the Phoenix Symphony, Santa Fe Opera, Santa Fe Symphony, and Santa Fe Pro Musica. He was also the concertmaster and soloist of the Chamber Orchestra of Albuquerque. In October 1986, he began his long association with the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, becoming concertmaster and soloist in 1999. During the 2009 season, he performed the New Mexico premiere of the Karol Szymanowski first Violin Concerto. He currently serves as concertmaster of the New Mexico Philharmonic and the Opera Southwest Orchestra. During the summer, Mr. Zimowski performs with the Grant Park Orchestra in Chicago. In 2015, he was the featured artist at the American Council for Polish Culture Convention concert Music by Polish Emigrant Composers, which included works by Jarosław Gołombowski.

In 2015, Mr. Zimowski was awarded the Knight's Cross of Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland by President Bronisław Komorowski.

## Jarosław Gołombowski



Jarosław Gołombowski, DMA, composer, conductor, educator, and concert organizer was born in Bielsko-Biała in Poland. He studied music at the Karol Lipinski Academy of Music in Wrocław from which he received the Master of Arts degrees in Music Education in 1981, and Music Theory, Conducting, in 1986. In 2013, he received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw. Dr.

Gołombowski is a composer of over 100 works for piano, choir, chamber orchestra and full orchestra. His compositions have been performed in Poland as well as other countries. The Polish premiere of *Preludes* took place during the Days of New Music in Wrocław in 1985, and computer music premiere at the "Warsaw Autumn" Festival in 1985. His *Gloria* for mixed choir premiered at a concert in the Jasna Góra Cathedral in Częstochowa at the 325th Anniversary of the Siege of Vienna in 2008.

He has presented his compositions at the annual Composer's Conferences in Aspen, Colorado., participated in a Composers Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania., and performed his pieces at the Conference of Texas Composers (National Association of Composer-USA) in San Marcos. His music was presented during numerous concerts in Chicago, including one for the Prime Minister of Poland, Tadeusz Mazowiecki in 1990; the Grand Concert commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising (1994-Ave Maria for voice and organ); concerts of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra; the Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra (2001-Millennial Polonaise for orchestra); and the annual concerts celebrating the birthday of John Paul II.

Since 1986, Jarosław makes his home in Chicago, Illinois, where he is active in the Polish community and in American musical circles. He is an active member of The American Society of Composers and Publishers, The Minneapolis Composers Forum, and the Chicago Area Music Teachers Association. He serves on the jury of the Chopin Youth Piano Competition in Milwaukee. As a member of the Music Committee of the American Council for Polish Culture, he has on many occasions helped to organize annual concerts, as well as the Marcella Sembrich-Kochanska Vocal Competition. In 2004, in order to promote Polish and American music more effectively, he founded The Chicago Chopin Society and in 2008, he was accepted as a member of The Polish Composers Society.

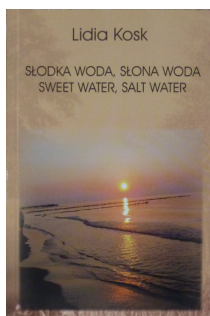
# Literary Corner by Danuta E. Kosk-Kosicka



In the last issue of this newsletter, we introduced Danuta E. Kosk-Kosicka, Polish born poet and author of *Oblige the Light*, winner of the fifth Harriss Poetry Prize; and *Face Half-Illuminated*, a book of poems, translations, and prose. Below, she presents poems translated by her from two bilingual books by Lidia Kosk, *niedosyt/reshapings* and *Słodka woda, słona woda/Sweet Water, Salt Water*. The latter has been nominated for two translation prizes. To learn more about Kosk-Kosicka, please visit her website: [danutakk.wordpress.com](http://danutakk.wordpress.com)

I have translated close to a hundred poems for two bilingual books by the Warsaw-based poet and writer, Lidia Kosk. I am pleased to share with you poems from each of her bilingual books. My translation of the first poem was featured at the recent conference on translation. The second inspired a series of choral compositions that are being performed internationally by the McDonogh school choir. Why are the English and Polish versions not verbatim translations? Because it's poetry. Translating poetry is both a creative process and detective work of sorts, as I discuss in *Face Half-Illuminated*. There's the structure, the rhythm, the key words, the special effects, the layers of meaning, the diction, the mood created, and the words or phrases with double meanings that lack their counterparts in the other language. By rendering a poem in the new language the translator imprints herself upon it. For more information on Lidia Kosk, see [pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lidia\\_Kosk](http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lidia_Kosk). Links to her works, interviews, and reviews can be found in English and Polish at: [danutakk.wordpress.com/about-lidia-kosk/](http://danutakk.wordpress.com/about-lidia-kosk/)

From *Słodka woda, słona woda/Sweet Water, Salt Water*



## Glass Mountain

The load is bigger than I  
as I climb the frozen hill  
carrying the treasure  
bucket of water from the stream

The responsibility  
moves my feet  
tripping over the glacial  
lumps of snow

I fall  
the water flows down with me  
freezing  
as it rolls  
like tears on my cheeks

Above me looms the ever icier mountain

In the flash of sun  
I grow larger with my shadow  
as once more I go to wrestle

my glass mountain

## Szklana góra

Wspinam się pod górę

dźwigając skarb  
przerastający moje siły  
wiadro wody

Odpowiedzialność wspomaga

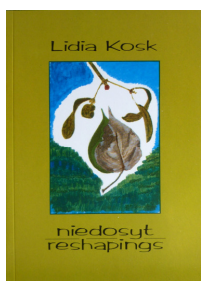
nogi potykające się  
o zlodowaciałe  
grudy śniegu

Padam  
woda splywa  
razem ze mną w dół  
zamarzając  
jak lzy na policzkach

Przede mną znów góra  
coraz bardziej szklista

Błysk słońca na moment  
powiększa mnie cieniem  
gdy znów idę mierzyć się  
z moją szklaną górą

From *Niedosyt/Reshapings*



## From the Window of My Apartment

Above the apartment house,  
whose windows exchange looks with mine,  
the moon got stuck  
among the rocks and boulders of clouds.  
He kept hanging there, stubbornly,  
until I forgot that I had broken with him  
permanently.  
Until I forgot that my soul  
did not sing anymore.  
Until all of me was a song.

## Z okna mojego mieszkania

Nad domem naprzeciwko,  
co oknami patrzy ku memu oknu,  
zawiesił się księżyc,  
wśród skał i kamieni z obłoków.  
I wisiał długo, wytrwale,  
aż zapomniałam, że z nim zerwałam  
na stałe.  
Aż zapomniałam, że w duszy  
już tak dawno brak grania,  
aż cała byłam z zapamiętania.

# INTRODUCING...

Our a 32 page children's book project, *POLAND - A Portrait of the Country Through its Festivals and Traditions*, is a work created in partnership with the Polish American Arts Association of Washington, DC., the Kosciuszko Foundation and The Foreign Ministry of Poland.

It is for young children and their teachers and parents to help them learn about the customs and traditions of Poland. The first printing of December 2015 has been limited to only 1,000 copies. We wish to get them distributed to various Polish schools and organizations across the country.

If you or your group are interest in acquiring copies of the book for home or school use, please let us know and we can arrange to send them. Since this is our first effort, and having been funded through private and non-profit sources, we had decided, at least for this first printing, to make them available on a donation-basis only.

As you can imagine, it is costly to produce a 32 page full-color booklet. We can only suggest that a \$10 (more or less) per copy donation would be reasonable, but it is up to you and your own budget how much you would like to contribute. Hopefully, next year, with your help, we can make one bigger and better. *Your donation can be claimed as a tax-deductible contribution.*

**Quantities are very limited, so don't delay in getting your copies!** Please send a check made out to The Polish American Arts Association of Washington DC - *noting it's for the POLAND book project.* Your order for quantities and check should be sent to: Mrs. Cecilia Glembocki, 911 Saddleback Ct., McLean, Va 22102. Cecilia's email is [virginiaegg@cox.net](mailto:virginiaegg@cox.net) . Many thanks for your support!



Pages are 6 in. x 9 in.- approximately the size of National Geographic magazine

Let's Keep Our  
Polish Heritage Alive!



**PAAA Wigilia 2015**

1. Guests enjoy reception in the front parlor of the historic Monroe mansion - Kristen Coughlin and Paulina Wasicka chat with Dick Larkin; 2. Dorota Dymon and Eve Marie Szczepanski; 3. Director of Washington Opera Society, Michael Reilly, Rose Kobylinski, former PAAA President Stefan Lopatkiewicz, Laura Kafka-Price, BGen (USA Ret.) George B. Price, Rafi Prieto; 4. Former board member and long time supporter Paul Konopka is always a reliable presence at PAAA cultural and social events; 5. Ted Mirecki, Celia Larkin, and Rose Kobylinski welcome guests; 6. Barbara Saunders, Susanne Lotarski and PAAA President, Tom Payne; 7. Ben Filipczyk, Renata Greenspan, Susanne Lotarskii, Brian Buckoski and Paul Konopka; 8-9. Father Philip Majka talks about opłatek before sharing it with guests; 10. Kirk Bennett with Stasia and Olek Skrypczuk lead the kolędy singing; 11. James Bennett at the piano; 12-14. Wigilia guests sing kolędy.

*Photos by Celia Larkin*



## PAAA Wigilia 2015

Once again, the PAAA members and friends enjoyed a traditional Polish Wigilia, held on December 6, 2015 at the Arts Club of Washington. In the beautifully decorated rooms of the historic Monroe mansion, guests shared *opłatek* blessed by Father Philip Majka while exchanging wishes, and then feasted on barszcz with uszka, herring salad, and other traditional Polish dishes, ending with poppy seed cake and delicious dried fruit compote. Dinner was followed with a short concert performed by the very young and very talented pianist James Bennett who thrilled the audience with his soulful rendition of two nocturnes by Fryderyk Chopin, the poetic *Angel* by Siergiej Bartkiewicz, and spirited *Dance* by Stephen Paulus. This was followed by the lively *Čardäs* by Vittorio Monti played on the violin by Olek Skrypczuk who was then joined by Stasia Skrypczuk and Kirk Bennett to lead the singing of *kolędy* by all.

It was clearly an enjoyable evening and many individuals contributed to making it so. The atmosphere was worldly and cozy at the same time with many traditional Polish touches. Because our Wigilia was held on St. Nicholas Day, each guest received a gift of Polish candy donated by the Polish Market in Vienna and a beautiful book *Tajemniczy świat* (Secret World) by Julian Kulski, donated by the author. We wish to thank them, as well as the Wigilia Committee members: Rose Kobylinski and Marianna Eckel for help in making arrangements, Renata Greenspan and Ben Filipczyk for organizing the raffle with gifts donated by PAAA Board members, Ted Mirecki for overseeing reservations and Eve Marie Szczepanski for donating her exquisite table centerpieces. A heartfelt *Bóg zapłać* goes to our beloved duszpasterz, Father Philip Majka, for his gift of *opłatek* and for explaining its meaning and tradition. Special thanks to Yann Henrotte, General Manager of the Arts Club, Kevin Kievit, Executive Chef, and their staff for providing us with smooth service and great food. Thank you all for being there and keeping our wonderful Polish traditions alive.

Celia Larkin, Wigilia Chairman

### PAAA General Membership Meeting Election of Officers and Scholarship Awards

Please mark the date for the PAAA General Membership meeting on 22 May 2016, at 2-5 PM at the Arts Club of Washington. Since we will be electing new PAAA officers and board of directors, it is especially important that a large number of the members attend.

A special attraction will be presentation by Dorota Ponikiewska and members of the Polish Drama Club (see box at right), followed by a reception. The program is free and open to the public. Please invite your family and friends.

### Dorota Ponikiewska and the Polish Drama Club



Dorota Ponikiewska, a medical indexer by profession, has a real passion for the theatre. While still in high school in Poland, she won a poetry contest and thought that this could be her first step to the stage. She chose Polish Studies as her major at the university with specialization in theater. She wrote and published two books in Poland. Since coming to the United States, she has been involved with various Polish organizations in the Washington area, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, the Polish Saturday School, the Church of Our Lady Queen of Poland, and the Polish Library, working to promote Polish language and culture. Dorota is the founder and director of the Polish Drama Club of Silver Spring, MD. Since 2003, she directed numerous theatre productions, some of which she wrote, including, among others, the Christmas Carols program at the Polish Embassy. In 2012, Dorota was awarded the Gold Cross of Merit by the president of Poland for her contribution to the enrichment of the Polish community in the Washington, DC, area.

The Polish Drama Club is a grassroots community non-profit organization dedicated to promote the rich heritage of Polish literature and drama for the members of the Polish community in the Washington Metropolitan area. It started its productions in 2006 with the play *Where Is My Bethlehem*, and has since produced such shows as, *Venusians and Martians*, a cabaret directed and scripted by Dorota Ponikiewska, performed at the Polish Embassy; *Mr. Jowialski*, a comedy by Polish playwright Aleksander Fredro; *The Day of Wrath* by Roman Brandstatter; the French comedy *The Bourgeois Gentleman* by Molière; and most recently, *Norymberga*, a drama written by Wojciech Tomczyk. Since 2006, Dorota organized, scripted and directed *Concerts of Christmas Carols*, performed at the Polish Embassy, the Polish Consulate and The Kościuszko Foundation in Washington, DC, and the Polish Cultural Centers in Baltimore. In 2011, the group participated in the ceremony on the 100th birthday of Władysław Zachariasiewicz, *nestor* of Washington Polonia, who, by the way, is a charter member of the Polish American Arts Association.

# PAAA Chopin Concert

March 12, 2016 at 6:00 PM  
Embassy of the Republic of Poland

# PAAA General Membership Meeting

May 22, 2016  
Arts Club of Washington

# Wianki Festival

June 18, 2016 (corrected date)  
Reflecting Pool at Lincoln Memorial

# PAAA 50th Anniversary Gala

September 24, 2016  
Congressional Country Club, Potomac, MD

For more information on above events please visit our website: [www.paaa.us](http://www.paaa.us)

Polish-American Arts Association  
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