



Polish American Arts Association

Polish American Arts Association of Washington, DC

2024 Annual Report

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



On the next pages you will find details of our 2024 report so that you, our members and supporters, can have a fuller understanding of what our organization has been up to these last twelve months, and so that you can see all the good that your financial contributions and dues have resulted in. It is only thanks to you, our members, that PAAA can continue to flourish, so I invite you to acquaint yourselves with our report, and consider how else you can get involved with our organization. I can be reached anytime via email at paaa.wdc@gmail.com. Any errors of oversights are mine alone.

Matthew Stefanski

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

REGISTERED AGENT

We thank **Mary Ann Evan** for her many years of dedicated service as PAAA's registered agent in Washington, DC. This position is required by the Government of the District of Columbia and primarily serves as a liaison between PAAA and the DC Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection.

We are grateful that former PAAA President **Stefan Lopatkiewicz** has agreed to take up this position. Thank you!

Below is a reflection Mary Ann has shared about her beginnings with PAAA:

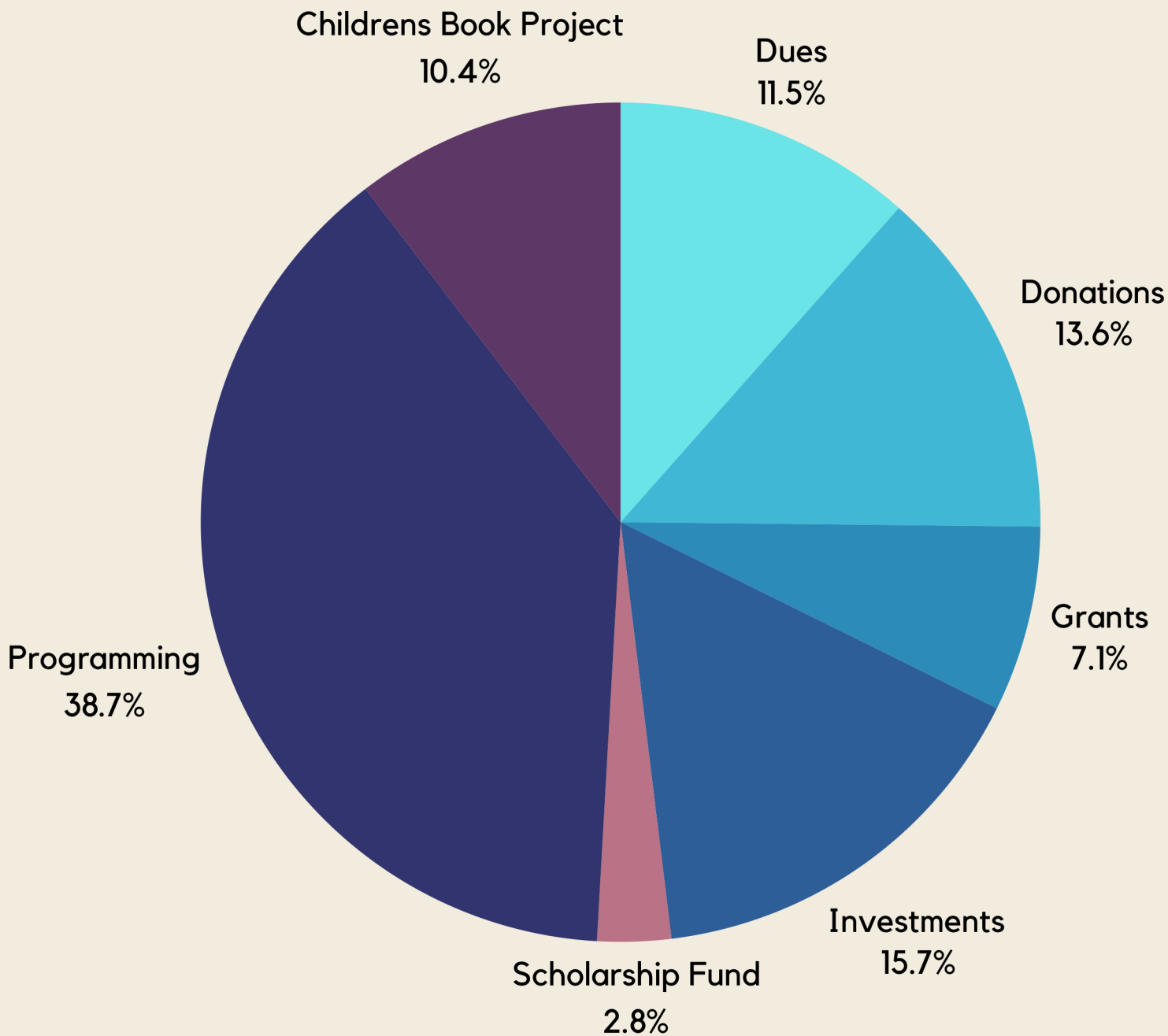
I returned to Washington after working on the West Coast for several years. I went to Poland for the Kosciuszko Foundation summer study program of the Polish language. One day, as I was walking down a hallway of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, where my classes were held, I struck up a conversation with another woman. When she heard that I was settling down in Washington, she told me about the PAAA and suggested that I join, which I did. Soon I was helping produce the newsletter, and then one thing led to the other. And who was the woman who "recruited" me? Edwina Conrad, of very happy memory. I am grateful to her, and to all those with whom I have worked and cooked and enjoyed many good times in this organization.

We thank our longstanding volunteers such as Mary Ann who have helped make PAAA what it is today. If you are interested in helping PAAA grow and continue its mission, we invite you to get involved. There is room for everyone!

INCOME

5/2023 - 03/2024

TOTAL: \$27,981



Dues: \$3,227

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our membership chair **Gregory Butler**, as well as our board members such as **Elzbieta Vande Sande** who have been engaged in outreach to new members, our membership figures have steadily grown in recent months. We thank all our longstanding members who continue to financially support our organization over the years, and welcome all new members. Thanks to your financial support through dues, we are able to continue our mission.

Donations: \$3,815

We are grateful to all the generous donors who have made financial contributions to the PAAA this past year.

Donations of \$100 or more are noted below:

- Mary Ann Evan
- Anna Freska
- Piotr Gajewski
- Teresa Kowalczyk
- Elizabeth Marchut-Michalski
- Celia & Richard Larkin
- Stefan Lopatkiewicz
- Elzbieta Vande Sande

Thank you to all our donors

Investments: \$4,407

The PAAA maintains an investment portfolio which is predominately made up of our scholarship endowment, but also has some holdings belonging to the association's discretionary funds. Thanks to a healthy market this year, our investments provided our organization with additional funds to award scholarships and support our programming.

Programming: \$10,830

These funds reflect the income from tickets sold to our annual Wigilia event, which was held this year at St. Luke's Catholic Church. More details on page 7.

Children's Book Project: \$2,909

These funds are collected from the sale of the children's Poland book, sponsored by our organization. Our ongoing thanks to **Celia Glembocki** for her dedicated effort to promote and sell these beautiful educational books.

Scholarship Fund: \$793

Thanks to our partnership with the National Philharmonic, PAAA received a portion of ticket sales to the recent Brian Ganz Chopin concert, as well as donations from our membership. This figure reflects the 2023 partnership and some 2024 donations.

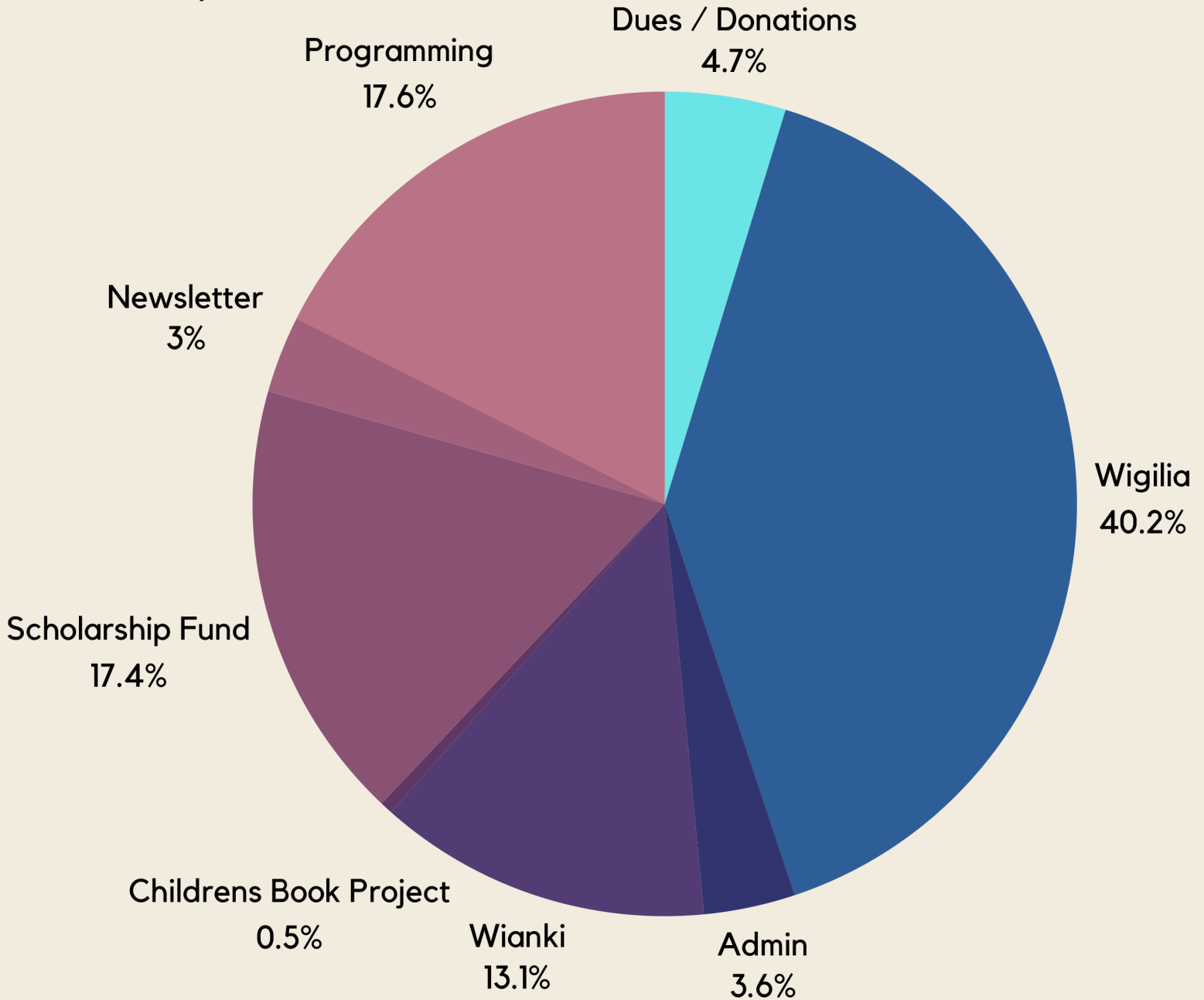
Grants: \$2,000

For many years, including in 2023, the Consular Section of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland has supported our annual Wianki Festival of Wreaths with a supporting grant.

EXPENSES

5/2023 - 03/2024

TOTAL: 23,050



Admin: \$826

These are the costs for maintaining the PAAA USPS PO box, various postage and mailing expenses, as well as other fees. PAAA sent a floral bouquet to the funeral of our longtime chaplain, Father Philip Majka. The PAAA website hosting fees are currently being sponsored by the PAAA President and are not reflected here.

Dues & Donations: \$1,092

As an affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture, our organization pays dues to the ACPC based on our reported membership figures. As a result, our members are also members of the ACPC, and receive the ACPC publication *Polish Heritage*. This section also includes \$500 in donations that our organization made to ACPC, for an ad in the 2023 program and to support the ACPC National Council for Social Studies booth presence, respectively. Our organization continues to play a significant role in ACPC, with our very own VP **Celia Larkin** now serving as President of ACPC, and other PAAA members serving on the ACPC board and various committees.

Newsletter: \$698

PAAA publishes two newsletter editions annually, following last year's decision to move from three to two annual editions. This cost is for the printing and mailing of the Fall 2023 edition. PAAA members receive frequent email communication as well as social media and website updates to supplement the newsletters.

Programming: \$4,050

Catering and venue costs for our Spring 2023 Membership meeting, as well as honoraria for our guest speaker at that event. Also included here are costs for our Inspired by Szymborska event, which is further broken down on page 9.

Children Book Project: \$114

Shipping costs for the mailing of books.

Scholarship Fund: \$4,000

In 2023, PAAA awarded \$2,000 scholarships to two deserving students, Emily Kowal and Valerie Dzielski.

Wigilia: \$9,256

Please see page 7 for full Wigilia expense breakdown.

Wianki: \$3,014

Please see page 8 for full Wianki expense breakdown.



Wigilia 2023

EXPENSES

Venue	\$1,300
Catering & Service	\$6,921.46
Honoraria	\$300
Insurance	\$260.36
Printing & Postage	\$206.43
Supplies & Misc	\$313.61
TOTAL:	\$9,256.41

INCOME

Ticket Sales	\$9,305
Raffle	\$435
Donations	\$1,090
TOTAL:	\$10,830.00

On Sunday, December 11, nearly 100 PAAA members and friends gathered for our traditional Wigilia dinner. This year the event took place at St. Luke’s Catholic Church in McLean, VA, which allowed for greater capacity, and resulted in a significant increase in attendees over the previous year. We are grateful that so many friends, new and old, joined us this past year. If you would like to become involved in organizing next year’s Wigilia, please feel invited! Our thanks to PAAA Wigilia chairperson, **Margaret Butler**, our hardworking Wigilia Committee, and **Alice Laning** for her help in securing the use of the parishes facilities.



EXPENSES

Honoraria	\$2,500.00
Banner	\$209.86
Supplies	\$184.43
Permit	\$120.00

TOTAL: \$3,014.29

INCOME

Poland Embassy Grant	\$2,000
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TOTAL: \$2,000

Our 2023 celebration of Polish traditions on St. John's night featured customary dancing, singing and making of wreaths. Among the performers were Ojczyzna Polish Dancers, Wiślanie Polish Folk Song and Dance Ensemble, both from Baltimore, Mazury Folk Dance Ensemble from Atlanta, and PKM Polish Folk Dance Ensemble from Philadelphia. The event was led by **Stasia** and **Olek Skrypczuk** of the Joyful Skrypczuk Duo and the Polish and American national anthems were sung by soprano **Laura Kafka-Price**. Many in attendance remarked that it was a fantastic evening. A new PAAA Wianki banner added greater visibility to the event.



Inspired by Szymborska

EXPENSES

Honoraria	\$500.00
Venue	\$450.00
Supplies	\$118.15

TOTAL: \$1,068.15

INCOME

Polish Embassy	\$1,000.00
Grant to Artist	

To mark what would have been Nobel Prize Winning Poet Wisława Szymborska's 100th birthday, the Polish American Arts Association of Washington, DC, with the support of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, DC, was proud to host an evening of poetry and live jazz at the iconic Busboys & Poets cafe in July, 2023. Renowned saxophonist Krzysztof Medyna performed in between readings of Szymborska's poetry in Polish and English by members of the PAAA, Polish Drama Club and local poet laureates.