

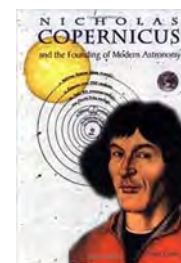
Kopernik Memorial Association

Member of Polish American Congress
American Council for Polish Culture
Kosciuszko Foundation
Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute

Website: www.cnykopernik.com
Google Phone Number (315) 818-4212

OFFICERS

Richard Noga -President
Carol Dinger- 1st Vice-President
Joanne Szczygiel 2nd Vice-President
Valerie Elacqua -Treasurer
Mary Currie—Recording Secretary
Dan Jadlofski - Corresponding Secretary
John Ossowski—Cultural Center Director



Winter Newsletter 2018-2019

Issue 22



You can find the 2019 membership form in this Newsletter



KOPERNIK MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION RECEIVES GRANT

The Affiliates Committee of The American Council for Polish Culture has awarded a 2018-19 matching grant to the Kopernik Memorial Association. The purpose for the grant is to help develop a more attractive mobile educational display for public events. The Kopernik Memorial Association has been seeking additional venues for presentations, workshops and other events.

One aspect of the display will include a portable szopka with a built-in puppet theatre and a large poster with labeled components to accompany the szopka. There are plans to have a retractable banner with a photo of the Kopernik statue, highlighting Kopernik's scientific as well as other achievements to educate the audience. The actions to complete the grant's purpose will be completed in 2019. The KMA was notified by letter of the award and also announced in the fall 2018, "Polish Heritage" publication which is the triennial newsletter of The American Council for Polish Culture.

BULLETIN BOARD

Mon. 2/11 KMA meeting,
6:00 PCC . Chopin presentation;
meeting following.
Refreshments

3/3 Paczki Sunday
After 10:00 a.m. Mass Holy
Trinity

Mon. 3/11 KMA Meeting
6:00 PCC

Sun. 3/17 1-3
Egg Decorating Workshop,
Zuzana

Mon. 3/12 6:00 KMA meeting,
6:00 PCC

Mon. 4/8 KMA Meeting
6:00 PCC

Sun. 4/14 11-2
Palm Sunday Workshop

Sat. May 25 Slavic Embroidery with Carol Lernihan

The third Szopka Festival and Competition on Saturday, December 8, 2018

was once again a tremendous success. In partnership with the Utica Public Library, and Notre-Dame Jr/Sr. High school Art and Music Departments, the Kopernik Association was proud to present an afternoon featuring this unique aspect of our Polish Christmas tradition. A szopka essentially represents an imagined setting for the Nativity scene. The creator relies on centuries-old folk art traditions to incorporate the architectural and spiritual influence of the craft's city of origin, Krakow, Poland.

This year an estimated crowd of 300 joined us in the Gallery and Music room of the Library to vote for their favorite szopka among the 43 entries on display created by students from Notre Dame Jr. Sr. High school under the direction of Art Teacher Denise Tan. Fourth grade teacher Michelle Ekross and her students from Most Holy Rosary Catholic School in Syracuse created a single szopka entry and provided additional szopka images drawn on aluminum tooling that were also on display.

The Notre Dame Praise Band and members of the Notre Dame concert band under the direction of Valerie Elacqua, Elizabeth Evans as well as John Ossowski and his accordion performed a repertoire that included Polish koledy and traditional and contemporary religious hymns.



John Ossowski



Val Elacqua and Denise Tan

Elizabeth Evans

Below: Beth Evans, Theresa. Stokes, Juliet Thistleton, Bella Scholl, Luke Radel, (seated) Lena Romero, Abby Waite, Emma Blazer



The Szopka competition winners included: 1st Place Kennedy McCoy, (far right) Viewers choice award to Ashley Peterson (2nd from the left), 2nd place Destiny Woods (far left) 3rd Place Emily Lyga (2nd from the right) Previous prize winning szopka were also on display.

Szopka Festival and Competition December 8, 2018

This year we also included **activities for children** that focused on the Christmas Star (Gwiazda). Under the supervision of Mary Currie and her team Carol McCoy, Eileen Waskiewicz and Carol Lernahan, the children cut and pasted



traditional designs to fashion a star suitable for carrying in the processions for Christmas Eve mass. A second related craft was the decorating of a star-shaped piernik (honey cookie) with royal icing. The crowd was robust and the children filled the tables till the closing of the event. Aside from the technical perspective of the crafts, the spiritual significance of the exercise was stressed. Our faith is often apparent in the outward expression of our customs and traditions.



Photo by Anna Kuchta



A 2nd Place Professional 1989 Szopka Competition Winner from Krakow, Poland by artist Kazmierz Stopinski was also on display through the kindness of Mr. Don Parda of Deansboro. A brief video of this outstanding prize winner with its moving turntable is available for viewing at our website cnykopernik.com

You may be surprised to learn that the artist behind this prize winner is a machinist and mechanic by trade. His szopki won 1st prize in 1980 and 2003 in the Krakow competition and have placed 2nd and 3rd many times. In 2012 he was the recipient of a Special Prize for his lifetime of creative work from Zofia and Roman Reinfuss. Many of his Prize-winning works are featured in the Historical Mu-

Photo by Denise Tan

seum of the city of Krakow.



(Right)
Rich Noga,
Michele Krul,
Joanne
Szcziel



Phyllis Gowarek, Joanne Szcziel
at the Polish Boutique



Claire Biedrzycki, and Jane Kosuda

(Left) Theresa
Stokes and Luke
Radel

(Right) Carol Dinger and Ed
Nowak at the Membership
table



Photos Courtesy of Dariusz Jablonski unless otherwise noted



Some Kopernik Memorial Association members join with other individuals of local Polish organizations and the Polish American Congress to welcome Vice-Consul Mateusz Gmura from the office of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York. The gala celebration was held in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Poland's regaining its independence in 1918.

Seated l to r: Tomaz Mroczek, Mateusz Gmura, Ela Pawlowski, Artur Pyrda, Fr. Artur Krawczenko, Fr. Canon John Mikalajunas. Standing: Steve Lewasco, Dariusz Jablonski, Michelle Krul, Rich Noga, Brian Karwowski, Karen Karwowski, Henry Jaworski, Val Elacqua, Mary Currie

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