

Kopernik Memorial Association Newsletter

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

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Fall Newsletter 2020

Issue 27

OCTOBER 2020

Polish American

HERITAGE

MONTH

Kopernik Memorial Association Receives \$5,000 Grant

Kopernik Association is pleased to announce a \$5,000 Grant from The Good News Center of Central New York. The monies will create a compelling, originally scripted theatrical production of the story of the Birth of the Infant Jesus to complement the hand crafted 9 ft. Szopka Puppet theater revealed last Christmas at Holy Trinity Church. The program would include puppetry, dramatically costumed actors, visual effects, narration and musical accompaniment.



This production will demonstrate one of many living examples of the intersection between the Catholic faith and Polish culture. This beautifully presented program will draw a sharp focus for children and families on the actual meaning of the season... God becoming man.

MOVIE: THE JEWELER'S SHOP

John Paul II's play was made into a movie starring Burt Lancaster. Join us for a showing on Sunday Oct. 18 at 2p.m. Holy Trinity Gymnasium. Free . Mask required

DATE CHANGE !!

COMMEMORATIVE MASS

OF THE FEAST DAY AND DAY OF
PAPAL INSTALLATION OF POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II
Sun. Oct. 25, 10:00 a.m. Holy Trinity
Church , Mask required

Come pray with us and wear a Polish costume or scarf to express your pride.

Babka and refreshment following

Kopernik Cultural Center Exhibit JOHN PAUL II HIS LIFE AND LEGACY

a special display in honor of the 100th Birthday of St. Pope John Paul II, Karol Wojtyla. One of the most influential spiritual and political figures from the last century. Mask Required

Sun. Oct. 25, Open House 1-3 p.m.



This grant will allow us to complete Phase II of our Szopka Puppet Theater project. A szopka is a style of Christmas crib originating in the ancient capital of Poland, Krakow. Its main focus is the manger scene and movable figures of the Holy Family with beautifully lit towers. The lower level is a puppet theater with retractable curtains revealing a custom painted backdrop. Phase I involved the actual designing and building of the approx. 9.5 foot puppet theater with built in LED custom lighting.

Phase II would be to bring the children's theater to life with the presentation it was designed for; the Story of Christmas enchantingly presented with hand-fashioned puppets of the Holy Family interacting with live costumed/ masked actors and the children in the audience to complete the narrative. The performance would be accompanied by sacred

traditional Christmas music in both Polish and English.

The grant request investment of \$5,000 would include the hiring of John James Hickey, Yale School of Drama graduate from Los Angeles, CA with a professional background in theater, TV and film. John will construct 4 large masks and accompanying costumes for King Herod, the 3 kings, and a camel to be used during the production, cast and rehearse a group of teens to assume character, puppeteering and technical roles, rewrite the existing script, and film the process.

We are excited to welcome John this Fall.

MEET JOHN JAMES HICKEY

If you have ever wanted to meet a Renaissance artist, no need to build a time machine. You will have a chance to meet our new artist-in-residence John James Hickey. John James is a highly experienced and passionate theatre director, writer, designer, composer, educator, and arts advocate and he will be creating masks and directing this season's live szopka presentation at Holy Trinity School Gymnasium on Sunday December 6.

John James studied Directing at Columbia University and Producing at the Yale School of Drama, where he earned his Master of Fine Arts. He has worked professionally in theaters nationally in New York City and Los Angeles, as well as internationally at the Royal National Theatre in London. Additionally, he has worked in film and television in Hollywood.



(continued Meet John James Hickey)

John James Hickey is the author of *How Long To Visiting Day: Creative Role-Playing for Training Camp Counselors* and recently edited and illustrated *Acting for the Camera: Back to One* soon to be published by Routledge Publishing Company.

In New York City, Hickey served as Director of the Humor Hatchery developing new plays for Norman Lear and the American Place Theatre and as the Artistic Director of the Yale Drama Theatre of Yale Drama Alumni.

However, some of his favorite experiences have been working with children (ages 7 to 15) teaching them theater and film for 37 years at Camp Scatico in his hometown of Elizaville in New York's Hudson Valley. There he teaches children how to write, act, film, and edit their own films, which are presented in a festival at the end of the summer.

In anticipation of his new project John James said, "I'm very excited to work on a project that celebrates Polish traditions and customs." He is no stranger to Polish culture. When he was a graduate student in Albany, NY-, Utica's Polish Heritage Dancers commissioned him to build a combined total of 16 male and female traditional Polish dance costumes. "I think keeping your culture and language alive is important because it gives children a sense of identity and can build their self-esteem. Additionally, in the greater communities it creates civic pride by providing opportunities for members of the community to celebrate their traditional skills in music, dance, textiles, crafts, and cooking and spark the imagination of the younger generation to keep that heritage alive."

When he was an Art and Theater major as an undergraduate at the College of Saint Rose, John James joined the Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish Catholic Men's organization dedicated to celebrating and preserving Irish language, music, dance, history, and traditions. Every Saturday he went there to learn to read and speak Gaelic and learn more about traditional music and dance. He is now taking that same passion to do extensive research into szopki and kolędy in order to provide a new script firmly rooted in the Polish tradition.

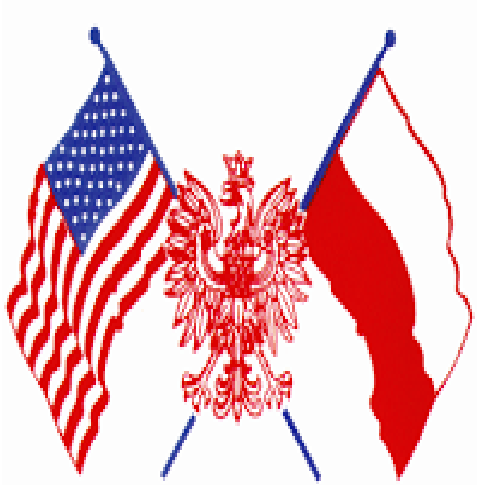
One of his most passionate goals is finding and using local talent. He said that he has found that every town has an extraordinarily rich community of local talent itching to be a part of something bigger than themselves. "I discovered this when I directed Rida Johnson Young's long-lost musical *Lady Luxury* as part of the 90th anniversary celebration of The Al. Ringling Theatre's 90th Anniversary in Baraboo, Wisconsin. It became apparent that there were people who wanted to be a part of this amazing event, but were too shy to act or sing or dance." Mr. Hickey continues to explain, "I let them know that there are so many ways people can be a part of this production from set construction, helping make the costumes and hats, playing in the orchestra, or even donating something to raffle off every performance at intermission. Throughout the run of the show audience members won cookies from the local bakery, a quilt made by a local resident, and jewelry designed and crafted by a team of artisans, and many other items. Everyone felt a sense of pride, because they in a very important way, contributed to the ongoing success of our show." By way of a long explanation, John James wishes to invite anyone to lend their skills, talents, and passions to creating our show.

If you are interested in being a part of this year's Szopka Festival, contact Valerie at by using the Contact us tab on our website cnykopernik.com We would love for you to contribute in any way that you feel you can.

Kopernik Memorial Association
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Get Ready To Celebrate !

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR UPCOMING SZOPKA FESTIVAL AND COMPETITION



30+ students from Notre Dame Jr. Sr. High School, under the direction of Kopernik member and Art teacher Denise Tan, and 20 students from St Mary's and Most Holy Rosary elementary schools in Syracuse with Art teacher Michelle Ekross are beginning preparation for this year's Szopka Festival and Competition.

They are exploring the history of this folk art, examining examples, and gathering materials to build their own unique creations. We look forward to an exciting display of their work. They will produce a variety of two dimensional and three dimensional entries. More details to follow !!

ITEMS AVAILABLE AT OUR KOPERNIK BOUTIQUE OPEN HOUSE at THE CULTURAL CENTER October 25, 1-3

Check out these items on video on our website <https://www.cnykopernik.com/videos/>
The video is called "KMA Boutique 2020"

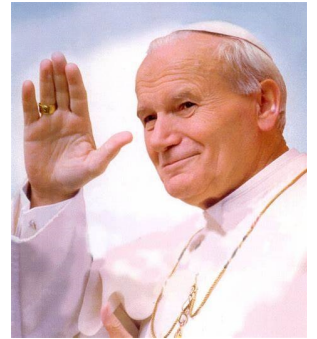
- "I love Poland" sturdy utility bags \$5
- Polish patterned Infinity scarves \$12
- Polish flags 3'x5' \$10
- Polish flags 12"x 18" \$5
- Polish flag small \$1.
- Buttons and pins \$1
- Polish patterned napkins \$4
- Poland history softcover book \$5
- Holy Trinity Church ornament made in Poland \$30
- Polish clothespin dolls \$2
- Polish language Christmas gift tags \$.50
- Polish proverb notecards \$2
- Sto Lat note cards \$2
- Szopka note cards \$2
- Handmade Polish Christmas "porcupine" ornament \$12
- Krakow Coasters \$4
- Mini hand made Szopka \$15
- Pierogi magnet \$1
- Red Polish beads \$8
- Polish kitchen towels \$4
- Men's White ties with Polish Eagle applique \$10
- Handpainted Christmas ornaments from Poland
- Baseball Hats Polish Eagle \$10
- Visor (hat) with Polish design \$8
- Tiny handmade men's Krakowiak hat ornament \$2



FIVE REASONS to attend our OPEN HOUSE

on October 25 from 1-3 p.m.

1) Learn more about the life of one of the most influential people of the 20th century Pope St. John Paul II.



2) Take advantage of our giveaways * Free masks with Polish eagle applique (while they last),
Kopernik bracelet, Pope St. John Paul II bookmarks.



Free Covid -friendly refreshments
Fresh Babka for Sale as well.



3) Visit our Kopernik Boutique with many one of a kind items for your early Christmas shopping and Polish Pride memorabilia (See back of this page)



4) Every visitor receives a chance to win a vintage Polish Barbie doll in its original box. Polish Barbie by Mattel. 1997 collectors edition - Dolls of the World Series. Brand new (previously owned) but has never been removed from the box. This Barbie is wearing a traditional folk costume in a red striped skirt with a lace apron. Beautiful blonde hair in 2 braids with a crown of flowers and ribbon. Great addition to any collection!

5) Take a chance at a Raffle (\$69 value), 20.5 in. tall Christmas tree with images of the Holy Family nestled in its colorful branches. Perfect for someone who doesn't want the fuss of putting up a tree but wants a table top reminder of the Holy season. Tickets \$5 each or 3 chances for \$10. Thank you to Brian and Karen Karwowski for this lovely donation!



MEMBERSHIPS PAID 2020 *indicates ACPC dues

Ed Nowak *
Henry Jaworski *
Diana Raymond *I
Stephen Karbowsk

Theresa Bunk *
Ted and Joan Rajchel
Joanna Luczka