

**POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**July 2016 – June 2017**

**July 2016**

On July 8, five members of the PCCGH (Pattie Kaczynski, Ann Oleasz, Carol Oleasz, Fran Pudlo, and Gini Pudlo) enjoyed a “photo op” with Curator/Registrar Bethany Sheffer and Peter Sonski at the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven, CT. The Club donated a prize-winning Szopka from Kraków, Poland, which will be featured as part of the Museum’s annual Christmas creche collection.

**August 2016**

Adrian Sylveen, nominated by the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc., was the recipient of the American Council for Polish Culture’s “Cultural Achievement Award,” presented at the ACPC National Convention, August 10-13, 2016 in Pittsburgh, PA. This award is given to a prominent American of Polish descent for outstanding achievement in the field of artistic or cultural endeavors.

Members of the PCCGH visited the exhibits celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Connecticut Cultural Heritage Arts Program, a statewide initiative that documents diverse cultural traditions and sharing of folk artists residing in Connecticut. CT Polonia was represented by an icon of “Our Lady of Ostrabrama” written by member, Marek Czarnecki, as well as a prize-winning Szopka from one of the Club’s past Szopka Festival competitions.

**October, 2016 – Polish Heritage Month**

Member, Krystyna Słowikowska Farley, Ms. Senior Connecticut, spent a week in Atlantic City, NJ competing for the national title of Ms. Senior America.

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. hosted the Fall Board Meeting of the American Council for Polish Culture at the Glastonbury Hilton Garden Inn on October 21 and 22 and also celebrated the Club’s 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Glastonbury Riverfront Community Center on October 22. ACPC guests and Club members joined together in acknowledging innumerable accomplishments over four decades while honoring the many dedicated and active members who brought the Club to this milestone. All who attended this gala celebration will long remember this heart-warming event, most especially the performance of “Let the Polish Music Flow” by the Theatre of Imagination Novum, Inc.

**November, 2016**

Members gathered for the Club’s Annual Meeting/Food Drive Collection/Turkey Drawing on November 15 at the Polish National Home. The Historian reported on the past year’s events and programs. The slate of Officers for 2017-2018 was presented, a vote taken, and the following individuals elected: Co-Presidents: Patricia Kaczynski and Frances Pudlo; Vice President: John S. Majdan; Recording Secretary: Lilia Kieltyka; Treasurer: Raymond Kowalski; and Historian: Patricia Kaczynski.

The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Szopka Competition and Festival was held at the Polish National Home in Hartford on November 27. The committee and numerous volunteers responsible for the coordination of this very successful event are acknowledged for their hard work, dedication, and generous spirit. All proceeds benefit the Club’s Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Fund.

## **December, 2016**

The annual Wigilia celebration was held at the Polish National Home in Hartford on December 9 to a capacity crowd. For this one special evening, all guests became “family” while sharing the “opłatek” and enjoying a traditional meatless meal to the music of the accordion. The swearing-in of the Officers took place.

## **February, 2017**

The Club sponsored its third pre-Lenten “Pączki na Karnawał” on February 26 in the lower hall of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Hartford. Over thirty dozen pączki, in a variety of flavors, were sold. Polish Easter items were also available for purchase.

## **March, 2017**

On March 23, 2017, 100 attendees enjoyed a lecture and slide presentation on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America’s National Parks by Dr. Richard Benfield, Professor of Geography at Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT.

## **April, 2017**

On April 30, the PCCGH sponsored “An Exclusive Sunday at the Museum” at the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning in Chicopee, MA. An exhibit showcasing 32 exquisite original costumes from various regions of Poland, donated to the Museum by member Krystyna Słowikowska Farley, were on display. Executive Director, Staś Radosz lectured on their history. An acquisition from the estate of Bernard Pajewski, a former Club member, representing one of the largest privately-owned collections of Polish folk art in the U.S., was also on view. Marek Czarnecki, member, iconographer, and historian offered commentary on these artifacts. Mr. Radosz was awarded the PCCGH’s “Distinguished Service Award” for his many years of devoted service to the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning and also his tireless work on behalf of Polonia.

## **May, 2017**

On May 2, 2017, member Maria Brodowicz was honored at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual CT Immigrant Day at the State Capitol in Hartford, CT, which was sponsored by the Office of the CT Secretary of State and CT Immigrant and Refugee Coalition. A contingent of PCCGH members, family, and friends were present to support her on this momentous occasion.

## **June, 2017**

On June 21, four outstanding scholars of Polish descent received a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00 each: Christina Bolduc, a graduate student at Saint Joseph University in West Hartford working toward an MS degree in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration; Justine Kieltyka, who will be returning to Union College in Schenectady, NY as a sophomore with a Neuroscience major; Diana Sitnik, a sophomore at Salve Regina University in Newport, RI with a major in Marketing and a minor in sports Management and Business Administration; and Ewelina Zambrzycka, who will be a senior at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT majoring in Biology.

Submitted by Patricia A. Kaczynski, Co-President and Historian