



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

June 2016

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

*Members & Guests are cordially invited
to attend the 2016*



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION & RECEPTION

Wednesday - June 22, 2016

**Polish National Home Dining Room
60 Charter Oak Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut**

Handicapped Accessible & Free Parking

6:30 PM - Reception

7:15 PM - Meeting

7:30 PM - Awards Ceremony

Celebration Cake



Please join us for this special evening!

Presented by the
Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.

www.polishculturalclub.org

Information: (860) 659-0356



CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY IS FAST APPROACHING!

We need your help soliciting ads for our Souvenir Program Book

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary on Saturday, October 22, 2016 at a lovely venue, the Riverfront Community Center in Glastonbury, CT. In addition to a gala banquet and outstanding entertainment, there will be a commemorative 40th Anniversary Program Book marking the occasion. We invite you to place an advertisement, greeting, or tribute into our book. We would also appreciate your making a personal approach to friends, family, and local businesses who might also be interested in advertising or expressing best wishes.

This is a unique opportunity to show your support of Polish culture and heritage. Throughout its forty-year history, the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford has remained true to its Mission Statement to preserve, promote, and share the history, culture and customs of Poland. This has been accomplished on many levels and in numerous ways, most particularly through scholarships, education, history, cultural awareness, arts and crafts, cuisine, and fund-raising. For details on our Club's history, please visit our website—www.polishculturalclub.org.

We hope that you will want to be a part of this 40th Anniversary Program Book. **Please review and fill out the Order Form, which is inserted in this newsletter, enclose your check, and mail them both to the address listed.** The deadline for submittals, including all text, digital photos and PDFs, is September 1, 2016. Advertisements and sentiments will be accepted in both English and Polish.

If you need additional letters and forms for solicitations or have any questions about formulating an ad, please contact either Carol Phelan at 860.646.3114 or Lilia Kielytyka at 860.841.3477. They will be happy to help you.

Invitations for the Anniversary Banquet will be sent out in late summer. You will be able to reserve individual seats or a table for 8. We look forward to welcoming members of the national ACPC Board of Directors, who will be joining us as part of their Fall Board Meeting weekend in Glastonbury. We expect to enjoy a memorable and gay evening of a renewal of friendships, camaraderie, and celebration.

Calling All Volunteers! A general 40th Anniversary Committee meeting for all interested volunteers will be scheduled in early summer. We would love to include you. Please feel free to contact Pattie or Fran to be added to our list. **Thank you in advance for your anticipated support!**

Fran Pudlo and Pattie Kaczynski, Co-Presidents

(860) 659-0356 (860) 677-0628

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK. We have been sending electronic communications to those members who have e-mail. Is this working well? Are you satisfied with the process? Please send an e-mail to: hopscoatch77@sbcglobal.net with any comments or suggestions. We will continue to send hard copies to those members who wish to receive mailings in that form. Please let us know your thoughts.

MEET OUR 2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



We are pleased to announce that the following four students will receive the 2016 Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship at a reception/ceremony on Wednesday, June 22.

Cameron Fedina, son of Chris Fedina of Niantic and Alliene Poirier of Newington, sponsored by grandfather, **Henry Fedina**, who will be graduating from Newington High School and attending Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT majoring in Business Management.

Elizabeth Marconi, daughter of Robert and Louise Trojanowski-Marconi, sponsored by father, **Robert Marconi**, who will be graduating from Columbia University in NY and attending the Centre for Global Health, University of Dublin, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland majoring in Global Health.

Cameron Torres, son of Felix Torres and Felicia Torres of Manchester, sponsored by grandmother, **Ann Oleasz**, who will be graduating from East Catholic High School and attending Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, NH majoring in Sports Management.

Rachel Zlotnick, daughter of Andrew and Janice Zlotnick of Glastonbury, sponsored by grandmother, **Nancy Yiznitsky**, who will be graduating from Glastonbury High School and attending Villanova University in Villanova, PA majoring in Nursing.

Please join us in honoring these impressive young people. Details on the scholarship presentation can be found on the cover page of this newsletter.

Florence Langridge and Virginia Pudlo, Scholarship Co-Chairs

POLISH DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Congratulations once again to member, **Marek Czarniecki**, iconographer and scholar, who was recognized on May 3, 2016 at Polish Day at the Capitol in Hartford.



Marek Czarniecki

The other two honorees were: Irene Grabowy of Bristol, Vice Censor of the Polish National Alliance and 1st VP—New England Fraternal Alliance; and Jozef Smyk, a mainstay of New Britain's Polish community. It bears repeating Marek's words of inspiration: "Whether we are new immigrants, or first generation, second generation, or third, we're all given this thing by birth called 'being Polish.' But, at some point, we all have to very deliberately and self-consciously claim it as a gift. I am grateful to be a part of this and to help others do the same."

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Frances Pudlo (francespudlo@att.net)
Assistant Editor: Anna-Mae Maglaty
Staff: Carol Bogon Phelan, Nancy Yiznitsky



DID YOU KNOW That Two of our Members just Returned from a Trip of a Lifetime

Krystyna Słowikowska Farley (PCCGH Cultural Counsel) and Edward Farley (PCCGH Vice-President) recently returned from a trip that will remain among their most treasured memories. The following article describes their mini-journey to Italy in mid-May 2016 to celebrate the 72nd Commemoration of the World War II Victory at Monte Cassino. — Anna-Mae Maglaty

In late April 2016, Krystyna Farley was about to enter the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in New Britain to attend Mass when a voice behind her made her pause. The speaker was most complimentary about her appearance, noting Krystyna’s elegance, her youth, and liveliness. Krystyna thanked the woman, Mrs. Sophie Pawlak, and responded with the fact that she was ninety years old and that during World War II she had served in the Polish Army under the command of the British. Mrs. Pawlak was incredulous as Krystyna spoke of her role as a nurse’s aide in Italy caring for patients who upon their death were buried at Monte Cassino. Learning of this association moved Mrs. Pawlak to invite Krystyna and an assistant (Edward Farley) to the 72nd Celebration of the Victory at Monte Cassino with all expenses paid by the Polish government. Plans were quickly set into motion and the Farleys were en route to Italy and most notably, to Monte Cassino, to be present at the commemoration scheduled for May 18, 2016.



Present Day Monte Cassino

The multi-faceted battle of Monte Cassino took place from January 17, 1944 to May 18, 1944 and marked one of the longest and bloodiest engagements of the Italian campaign during World War II. After attempts to overcome the Germans in the Liri Valley and at Anzio ended in stalemate, the Allies struggled to capture the western anchor of the Gustav Line and the Roman Catholic Abbey of Monte Cassino, which had been fortified by the Germans. When two more offensives, resulting in the destruction of the Abbey and aerial bombardment of the region, again failed to produce the desired result, the Polish Second Major Tactical Corps (3rd and 5th Div.), under the command of General Władysław Anders, finally succeeded in reaching the summit. The region was almost impenetrable because of its extremely high location — only oxen and mules were able to make the climb. Numerous and various Allied forces had been involved in the grueling battles to take Monte Cassino over this four month period, including the Americans, but none were able to capture the hill and conquer the Germans. The Poles were the first to raise their flag over the site, making it known that they were able to accomplish what eluded other Allied armies.

The events of May 18, 2016 will be permanently embedded in Krystyna’s memory. Under the auspices of the Polish government, the celebration began with a Mass offered by a priest who was a Lt. Colonel in the Polish Army. A military choir and hundreds of children with banners added to the plethora of Polish soldiers from all regions of Poland. Further enhancing the occasion was the presence of the young President of Poland, Andrzej Duda.

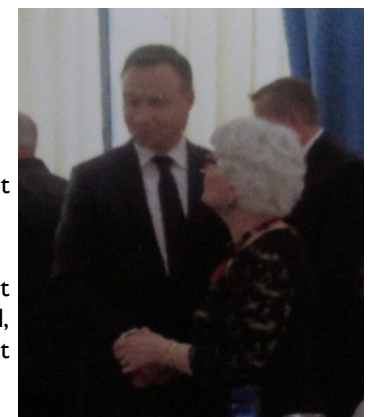


One could only look with awe at the area where the festivities were held. It was close to the size of a football field. Then, too, were the steps along the field which served as the gravesites of the fallen Polish soldiers. An honor guard consisting of Polish and Italian soldiers stood over the burial place of the great General Anders, the major commander of the Italian campaign, whose leadership led to the victory at Monte Cassino. Following Mass, a special ceremony was held at which World War II veterans watched respectfully as President Duda was presented with a sword, a gift of honor.

Honor guard at the gravesite of Polish General Władysław Anders with steps containing graves of the fallen Polish soldiers in the background.

At the dinner culminating the commemoration, Krystyna enjoyed a unique opportunity to meet Polish President Andrzej Duda and have a thrilling “Kodak Moment.”

Who could believe that a chance encounter while attending Sunday Mass could result in being part of a celebration honoring the victory at Monte Cassino. Indeed, Krystyna and her assistant, Ed, found this mini-journey to be the trip of a lifetime, and May 18, 2016 will forever be a date that the Farleys will remember proudly.



Andrzej Duda, President of Poland greeting Krystyna Słowikowska Farley

Co? What? Gdzie? Where? Kiedy? When?

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2016

PCCGH Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Reception/Ceremony

Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

Reception 6:30 p.m.

Brief General Meeting 7:15 p.m.

Awards Ceremony 7:30 p.m.

Please see page 1 for further details.

No Charge

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10 — SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2016

American Council for Polish Culture 68th Annual Convention

Wyndham Pittsburgh University Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Please see the Spring 2016 issue of "Polish Heritage" for information and registration form or go to www.polishcultureacpc.org.

We applaud **Adrian Sylveen Mackiewicz** who will be honored with the ACPC Cultural Achievement Award at the Convention.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016

6:00 p.m.

PCCGH 40th Anniversary Banquet

Riverfront Community Center

300 Welles Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033

The evening will begin with elegant Hors D'oeuvres followed by a custom-designed Dinner menu, both catered by Russell Przybek of Russell's Creative Global Cuisine, West Hartford.

A special performance by the "Theatre of the Imagination Novum" will engage and enchant all with a traditional Polish songfest.

Invitations will be mailed in late summer. — Save the Date!

LOOKING FOR A HOME FOR POLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

The Polish Cultural Club has a collection of books in the Polish language that we would like to donate to an interested individual or group. We have made the list available to a Polish library and museum, but they declined. Authors with multiple volumes in the collection include: Michał Bałucki, Józef Ignacy Kraszewski, Julian Kryżanowski, Adam Mickiewicz, Eliza Orzeszkowa, Bolesław Prus, Henryk Sienkiewicz, Juliusz Słowacki, Lew Tołstoj, Stefan Żeromski. There are numerous other Polish authors of individual books as well.

Please contact Fran Pudlo at (860) 659-0356 or francespudlo@att.net if you are interested in any or all of the books or would like further information.



Polish Cultural Club of Greater
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P.O. Box 380699
East Hartford, CT 06138

We're on the Web!

www.polishculturalclub.org

MEMBERS' NEWS

Hail to the Queen! On May 7, 2016, **Krystyna Słowikowska Farley** was crowned Ms. Connecticut Senior America 2016 at a coronation ceremony held at the Holiday Inn in Enfield, CT. The event was sponsored by the Cameo Club of Connecticut, an affiliate of Ms. Senior America. Wear your crown proudly, Krystyna!

Congratulations to **Mark Milewski**, son of the late Dr. Stanislaw Milewski, who at 6:10 a.m. on May 20, 2016, after a 50 day expedition, achieved his goal and reached the summit of Mt. Everest. Bravo!

Matthew Whitesell, grandson of **Patricia and Clifford Archie**, a member of the University of Virginia Men's Rowing Team competed in the ACRA's Championship Regatta in Gainesville, Ga on May 28 and 29, 2016. This event is considered to be the best collegiate championship regatta in the United States. As a member of a quad boat (four rowers), Matthew spent countless hours of time practicing, strategizing, and devising a solid race plan, one that proved to be successful, as the team won the gold medal by beating George Mason and Michigan by 5 seconds. It is the first gold medal for Matthew who is in his third year on the rowing team. Matthew is a 2013 recipient of the PCCGH Scholarship. Congratulations, Matthew!



Matthew Whitesell (at left) with teammates



Rachel Zlotnick, face painter
at the 2015 Szopka Festival

Congratulations to **Rachel Zlotnick**, granddaughter of **Nancy Yiznitsky**, and a 2016 Jennie Marconi-Javorski scholarship recipient. Rachel participated in the National Russian Essay Contest in the fall of 2015 and won gold. All gold medal essays were then sent to Moscow to be judged internationally. Rachel received an International Russian Essay Contest medal as well.

The first **Eva Brodowicz Wickwire Volunteer Scholarship**, managed by the Main Street Foundation, will be awarded on June 22 in Southington. Eva's family will make the presentation.

EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. wishes to express its deepest sympathy to the following members and family:

Maria Jozwik on the loss of her husband, John, on April 30, 2016.

Alice Rogala on the loss of her sister in April.

The family of **Helen McGee** who died on May 1, 2016.

Ray Kryzak on the loss of his wife, **Irene**, on June 2, 2016

May they rest in peace.