



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

Nov./Dec. 2019

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING AND HOLIDAY EVENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019

6:30 p.m.

Food Drive / Turkey Drawing

Location: **Dining Room**

Polish National Home

60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

On Wednesday, November 20, the PCCGH will hold its Annual Meeting in the Dining Room of the Polish National Home beginning at 6:30 p.m. In addition to general business, the usual Food Drive and Turkey Drawing will be held. Tickets for the turkey raffle will be exchanged for a donation of up to three (3) boxed or canned non-perishable items. **Please review the expiration dates on all products.** The food that is collected will be offered to the Brother Albert Society at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church for holiday distribution. A copy of the 2018/2019 Historian's Report is included in this newsletter.

You may also bring your donations for Club-sponsored Szopka tables (Major Raffle, Unique Boutique, and Vintage Jewelry). Please see page 2 for suggestions.

Szczęśliwego Dnia Dziękczynienia



SZOPKA FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2019

9:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Free Admission / Public Event

Location: **Chopin Ballroom**

Polish National Home

60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

The Szopka Festival and Competition, the Club's annual fundraiser for scholarships, will be held on Sunday, December 1 in the Chopin Ballroom of the Polish National Home. Come enjoy the stunning array of szopki created by local students and the atmosphere of a Polish Christmas Fair. The Country Kitchen will again offer delicious pierogi, kielbasa, babki, baked goods, and opłatki. Vendors will be on hand with a selection of beautiful wares for Christmas gift giving and, of course, the popular Kawiarnia will be featuring pączki and tempting homemade pastries to enjoy with coffee or tea. We also expect a visit from Sw. Mikołaj.



A Buffet Lunch will be available for purchase in the Polish National Home Dining Room from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Reservations are suggested for parties of 8 or more. Call: (860) 247-1784.

WIGILIA *Note NEW DAY!*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019

6:30 p.m.

(See Attached Flyer for Details)

Location: **Dining Room**

Polish National Home

60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

Our holiday season culminates with the beautiful Wigilia (Christmas Vigil Supper) event on December 14. Please invite family members and friends to join us in celebrating this very special Polish Christmas tradition when all gathered are "family." The sharing of the *opłatek*, dining on a traditional meatless meal, and the singing of *kolędy* are all part of the festivities. The evening is one of gaiety and warm holiday spirit.

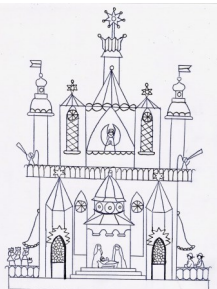
Please note that Wigilia is being held on a SATURDAY this year. The deadline for reservations is Sunday, December 8. A flyer is included with this newsletter for reservation information.



SZOPKA COLORING PAGES

Two coloring pages have been uploaded to our Club website www.polishculturalclub.org. One is for the children who wish to participate in the beautiful tradition of szopka-making by using crayons and pens in preparation for making their own szopka in the future. The other is for younger children which shows a traditional scene of Polish carolers in costume. Copies will also be available at the coloring table reserved for children at Szopka. We hope you enjoy this introduction to a unique and meaningful Polish Christmas custom.

SAMPLE PAGES



Very special hand-crafted szopki are made and presented on the first Thursday of December in special competitions in Cracow. They have shaped of Cracow's buildings e.g. St. Mary's church.

Please visit:

www.polishculturalclub.org
to download a full size copy of coloring pages.

We will also have copies available at Szopka.



It's Poland to go about carol-singing from house to house is still popular. The carolers carry a large star, wear costumes of King Herod, an Angel, David, Joseph, Wild-Go etc. Caroling begins on Christmas Eve and in some areas continues to Candlemas Day, February 2.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Dear Members:

As this newsletter goes to press, there is a lot happening as we finalize plans for our annual Szopka Festival on Sunday, December 1 at the Polish National Home in Hartford. Thanks to our resident szopka artist, Marek Czarnecki, we did some outreach to several regional schools to solicit entries for our Szopka Competition. During his visit to New Britain in September, Andrzej Duda, President of Poland, recognized several of CT's Polish language schools for their work in keeping our language and culture alive, and we hope that our collaboration with the youth of Polonia will reap results. Our Club needs their involvement and energy, especially with an event such as Szopka.

I recently attended the Fall Board Meeting of our national ACPC in Syracuse, NY. What a great town — full of Polish pride. That weekend the Syracuse Polish National Home celebrated its 100th anniversary. I'm glad to have made some new friends, and I hope to build on these associations to benefit our Club. Many ideas were noted, including a literary competition to help connect to the youth of Polonia.

Please try to attend the "Mission of Honor" film event on November 17 and our Annual Meeting on November 20. **MOST IMPORTANT; DON'T FORGET TO TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO COME TO SZOPKA ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1.** It's going to be terrific.

On behalf of the members of the Board of Directors, we wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Wesołych Świąt i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!

Lilia KIELTYKA, President



Congratulations to Frances Pudlo, a recipient of the United Polish Societies of Hartford's 2019 Distinguished Service Award. Vice President, Ursula Brodowicz [L] and Board member, Florence Langridge [R], were on hand to honor Fran at the banquet held on October 27 at the Polish National Home.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

When you get a chance, please visit the PHOTO GALLERY on our website: www.polishculturalclub.org. Photos from Club events through June of 2019 have been uploaded. You are sure to find some familiar faces.



2019-2020 CLUB OFFICERS / BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President: Lilia Kieltyka
- Vice President: Ursula Brodowicz
- Secretary: Frances Pudlo
- Treasurer: Raymond Kowalski
- Historian: Virginia Pudlo
- Board Members: Patricia Archie, Marek Czarnecki, Edward Farley, Krystyna Farley, Patricia Kaczynski, Florence Langridge, Anna-Mae Maglaty, Louis Maglaty, John Majdan, Carol Bogon Phelan, and Nancy O. Yiznitsky.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR SZOPKA!

Our annual Szopka Festival at the Polish National Home is just a few weeks away. This is a large undertaking for the Club, and once again we are requesting that members and friends assist us during the weekend of November 30 and December 1. Here is a list of opportunities that you, your family, and friends can consider. Please call Ed Farley at (860) 225-5204 or Lilia Kieltyka at (860) 841-3477 if you can lend a hand or for further information.

Saturday, November 30 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Help with covering and decorating the tables, transporting materials to the Ballroom, setting up individual Club tables, and general decorating. Please bring scissors and scotch tape. We especially appreciate help from our current and former Scholarship recipients.

Sunday, December 1—Early Morning and Late Afternoon

7:30 a.m.—9:30 a.m. Help vendors transport their merchandise.

2:30 p.m.—4:00 p.m. Help with dismantling and clean up.

If you are interested in manning a Club table, that would be great.

Sunday, December 1 — Baked Goods Needed for Country Kitchen and "Kawiarnia" Coffee Bar

Breads, cakes, pies, cookies, and Polish delicacies are requested. Pastries should be delivered before 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. Please indicate on the label whether an item contains nuts or peanut butter; do not use toothpicks. Also, please price your item, if possible.

Club Table Donations Requested

Raffle Table: Gifts and Gift Certificates (minimum value of \$20.00). Please feel free to identify any item with your name. Deliver on Saturday or early Sunday.

Unique Boutique: New or slightly used items in excellent condition

Vintage Jewelry: Jewelry of all varieties

Members who cannot contribute to any of the above are invited to send a monetary donation to: PCCGH, P.O. Box 380699, East Hartford, CT 06138-0699

◆ Remember, all proceeds from this event benefit the **Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Fund.**

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- Annual Dues: \$25 per member / \$40 dual or household / \$10 student
- Mail to: Mrs. Anna-Mae Maglaty, Membership Chair
35 Fernridge Road, West Hartford, CT 06107-1425
- Tel.: (860) 521-7621



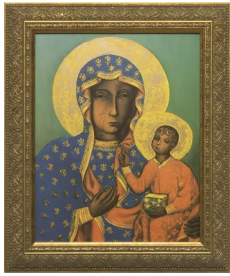
to update us when you have a change of name, address, phone number, or e-mail address by notifying Carol Phelan by E-mail: hopscoth77@sbcglobal.net or phone: 860.646.3114.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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



DID YOU KNOW . . . Americans Have a Walking Pilgrimage to Częstochowa?



“MY LONG WALK TO CHURCH”

By Lilia Kieltyka

The Walking Pilgrimage to the Shrine of our Lady of Częstochowa in Doylestown, PA takes place every August, an event that I have been fortunate to have participated in over the past 10 years. As this time in mid-summer approaches, I feel the need to put everything aside and take a long contemplative walk. The 60 mile journey from Great Meadows, NJ allows me time to clear my mind, reset my priorities, and refocus my energy toward prayer, reflection, and a renewed purpose.

Pielgrzymka is the word for pilgrimage in Polish, a concept very familiar to native Poles. For many years, they have practiced this tradition, and a pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Jasna Góra to honor the miraculous image of the Black Madonna continues to take place each summer in Częstochowa, Poland. Current estimates show that in August, Jasna Góra will be visited by approximately 110,000 pilgrims and nearly 170 organized walking pilgrimages. The busiest days surround the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15) and the Feast of Our Lady of Częstochowa (August 26). Groups of faithful pilgrims begin their journeys as far out as Kraków and Wrocław. This year's Warszawa *pielgrzymka* traveled 128 miles, taking 9 days to complete. My personal *pielgrzymka* begins in Great Meadows, NJ at SS. Peter and Paul Church, a small Polish-American parish with an army of hard-working volunteers. This parish sponsors, and is responsible for, all the successful planning, registration, equipment, safety, facilities, meals, and transportation . . . plus everything else. Many of the volunteers have been involved in this endeavor for many years, and they return each year with the same enthusiasm.

Walking from Great Meadows, NJ enroute to Doylestown, PA takes four days — Thursday through Sunday. The first two days are the longest with 19 to 22 miles completed each day. This may sound like a lot, but it goes by quickly as there is so much to do. There is a lot of prayer, including the rosary, readings, and confession, as well as instruction, music, speakers, information, lectures, and conferences — all shared along the road with the help of loud speakers. We walk in all types of weather, according to God's will. Stops are organized with water and bathrooms, and all meals are provided along the route. There are three main walking groups: the Salvatorian Priests from Great Meadows lead the older Polish speaking group, the Pauline Fathers from Doylestown lead the younger faithful, and the Franciscan Friars from New York City lead the all-English speaking group. Each group is dynamic, and I walk one day with each of the groups. An outdoor Mass is held at the campsite each day, which is usually a state park. Mass is the most beautiful part of *pielgrzymka*, as there is nothing more peaceful and powerful to bolster tired faithful pilgrims gathered in His name under the stars. We sleep each night in tents that are transported for us by large trucks, along with our luggage. Prayer is definitely the focus of every step of the journey, and it is astonishing to see the large number of young religious sisters and priests who participate during the Walk. Each one of them is just beaming in their service to God and praise of Our Lady. They have so much to share and to teach us.

Upon reaching our destination at the Shrine in Doylestown, Mary, Our Mother, Our Queen, welcomes the weary and joyous pilgrims. Our group from Great Meadows swelled to 2,800 pilgrims this year upon entry into the Shrine. Many suffer physical pain along the way, but it is all worth it once we arrive at our Mother's House. I share this same information with my co-workers each year upon my return: “It was grueling yet glorious at the same time.” As one friend responded, “It's a long walk to Church.” Yes it is, but one I plan to repeat as many times as I can. The invitation is open to anyone who wishes to join me next year.



The Line of Walking Pilgrims Stretches Beyond Sight



Outdoor Mass Under the Stars

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019 7:00 p.m.
**A Musical Evening—“Paris—Warsaw—St. Petersburg—Romantic Virtu-
 tuosos and their Legacy” with Maestro Adrian Sylveen**
CCSU—Founders Hall, Davidson Building—Tel.: (860) 832-3010
Sponsored by the Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies FREE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019
PCCGH/CCSU Event: “Mission of Honor” - Film and Exhibit
11:30 a.m. Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church
1:00 p.m. Exhibit/Memorabilia from Kosciuszko Squadron 303
2:00 p.m. Feature Film “Mission of Honor introduced by Prof.
M.B. Biskupski of CCSU (see enclosed flyer) FREE
Polish National Home Dining Room: Open 11:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019 6:30 p.m.
“Annual Members Meeting / Food Drive / Turkey Drawing”
Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23 / SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019
“Annual Holiday Food Fair” SS. Cyril and Methodius Ladies Guild
SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 55 Charter Oak Place, Hartford
Lower Church Hall — before and after all Masses
Enjoy many old favorites along with some new surprises. FREE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2019 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
PCCGH — “Szopka Festival and Competition”
Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford FREE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019 6:00 p.m.
**“Śląsk — Polish National Ensemble — Spectacular Christmas and Pat-
 riotic Concert” (100th Anniversary of Poland Regaining Independence)**
Cathedral of Saint Joseph, 140 Farmington Avenue, Hartford
Tickets: www.polskiexpress.com \$40.00 per person

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019 6:00 p.m.
“Annual Christmas Party” — SS. Cyril and Methodius Ladies Guild
Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford
For Information and Tickets — Cheryl Pietrycha—(860) 977-6868

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019 6:00 p.m.
PCCGH “Wigilia Celebration”
Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford
Cost: \$45.00 Members \$50.00 Non-Members/Guests
(See enclosed flyer for ticket information and cost.) (860) 659-0356

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019 3:00 p.m.
“Annual Polish Christmas Concert” by the Moniuszko Choir
Welte Hall at Central CT State University, New Britain, CT
Presented in collaboration with the Polish Studies Program FREE



Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.
 P.O. Box 380699
 East Hartford, CT 06138-0699

We're on the Web!
www.polishculturalclub.org

NEWSFLASH — CLUB MEMBERS

If you have any “Newsy Tidbits” about family or friends that you would like to share with the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, all you need to do is e-mail or mail a few lines to Anna-Mae Maglaty at either annamae11@comcast.net or 35 Fernridge Road, West Hartford, CT 06107. We look forward to hearing from you.



On October 26, 2019, in Washington, D.C., **Christine Waszynski, DNP, APRN, GNP-BC**, daughter of **Mary Marek Hartz**, was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. She was the only candidate from Connecticut selected to receive this prestigious honor, which was bestowed upon her because of her pioneer work in establishing the role of the Advanced Practice Nurse and her recent work on Delirium in older adults.

“West Hartford Resident Climbs Highest Mountain on Each Continent” — This headline in the Community Section of the Hartford Courant on October 17, 2019 featured **Mark Milewski**, our Club member. Mark became approximately the 160th person to master the “Seven Summits” — the highest mountain on each of the seven continents. Mark’s love of hiking began in his youth as he and his siblings had the good fortune of accompanying their parents who were members of a hiking club. His involvement with the Boy Scouts further encouraged his interest to hike along the Appalachian Trail in New Hampshire. However, once Mark began his professional career and realized that he could no longer be gone for long periods of time, he turned his attention to higher mountains. His first experience was Mount Rainier in Washington state, which readied him for more challenging climbs. From Mount Elbrus in Russia in 2007 to Puncak Java in Indonesia in 2019, Mark’s journey has been a great one. Many of us remember learning about his ascent of Mt. Everest. It is time to have him return to update us on his latest accomplishment, as well as what new adventures await him.



CONDOLENCES

It is with great sorrow that we report the passing of long-time member **Dr. Alex M. Rudewicz** on October 6, 2019 in Tallahassee, FL. He and his wife Regina, a former President of the PCCGH, endowed the Rudewicz Polish Music Series through the Polish Studies Program at CCSU.



A GREAT CHRISTMAS STOCKING STUFFER OR GIFT !



Now in its second printing and containing 300 recipes along with traditional Easter (Wielkanoc) and Christmas Eve (Wigilia) favorites, our Club cookbook can be purchased and delivered by mail for holiday gift giving.

Cost: \$16.00 each OR 2 books for \$30.00

Mail Order: Additional \$4.00 per book for postage/handling

You may order by sending a check or money order to:

Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.
P.O. Box 380699 — East Hartford, CT 06138-0699

Please be sure to include your name, address, phone, and/or e-mail address. (Information: 860.659.0356)