



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

November 2018

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING AND HOLIDAY EVENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018

6:30 p.m.

Food Drive / Turkey Drawing / Elections

Location: Dining Room

Polish National Home

60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

On Thursday, November 15, 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 and election of Officers for 2019/2020, the annual 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.** As is customary, the food that is collected will be offered to the Brother Albert Society at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church for holiday distribution.

We will also be accepting donations for Club-sponsored Szopka tables (Major Raffle, Unique Boutique, and Vintage Jewelry). Please see page 4 for suggestions.

Szczęśliwego Dnia Dziękczynienia



SZOPKA FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2018

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, November 25 in the 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 potato/cheese or sauerkraut pierogi; kielbasa; babki; baked goods, and Oplątki. A variety of 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 home-made pastries to enjoy with coffee or tea.

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.

We appeal to all Club volunteers and friends for help on Saturday and Sunday. Call Ed Farley at (860) 225-5204 or Fran Pudlo at (860) 659-0356 for additional information.

WIGILIA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2018

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 7. 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 Oplątek, 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 the deadline for reservations is Saturday, December 1.

Our newly published Club Cookbook FAVORITIES RECIPES will feature a special section on Wigilia customs, as well as provide traditional Polish recipes. Please see page 2 on how to obtain copies.



SZOPKA COLORING PAGES

Two coloring pages have been uploaded to our Club website www.polishculturalclub.org. One is for the younger children who can participate in the beautiful tradition of szopka-making using crayons and pens in preparation for making their own szopka in the future. Another is for adults who might like the challenge of completing a complicated szopka design. 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

Children



Adults



Please visit: www.polishculturalclub.org to download full size copies of coloring pages.

We will also have copies available at Szopka.



CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

It is hard to believe that this is our last column as Co-Presidents. Our journey over the past four years can only be described as an extraordinary honor and privilege. To have served the mission of this Club during this period no doubt involved hard work, dedication, and a LOT of support from the Officers and Board, as well as countless members who volunteered their time and energy without hesitation . . . but what memories we made together! Who can forget the amazing Tag Sale of 2015, hosting the Fall ACPC Board meeting which culminated in the lovely 40th Anniversary Celebration in 2016, the reception at the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning in Chicopee to debut Krystyna Słowikowska Farley's Polish costume collection in 2016, and recently the publication of the Club's cookbook FAVORITE RECIPES.

These are just some of the major highlights. Not to be forgotten are the signature annual events which define our Club: the Szopka Festival and Competition, Wigilia celebration, and very important, the Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship, which assists exceptional young Polish men and women in their pursuit of academic excellence and who bring pride to us all.

There is a lot to be thankful for, but even more to look forward to with the installation of a new President, Officers, and Board. Your encouragement, assistance, and support is what makes this Club so successful. We share a common bond in our Polish heritage, but we also share respect and friendship through our association. Thank you for making the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford an organization that we can be proud of and which serves the purpose of preserving our customs and traditions for future generations and the benefit of all.

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! Wszystkiego najlepszego!**

Pattie Kaczynski and Fran Pudlo, Co-Presidents



THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT!

The cover, designed and executed by artist and member, Ursula Brodowicz, offers a stunning introduction to a treasured collection of recipes shared by Club members and friends. Newly published, it contains 300 recipes, including Appetizers & Condiments; Soups & Salads; Vegetables & Side Dishes; Main Dishes; Breads, Rolls & Muffins; and Desserts. Also included are traditional Easter (Wielkanoc) and Christmas Eve (Wigilia) favorites, as well as 16 bonus pages of helpful cooking hints. The book will be sold at Club events and at the upcoming Szopka Festival, but it can also be purchased and delivered by mail.



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

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

Fill in and mail the Order Form below with a check or money order to: Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.

P.O. Box 380699 — East Hartford, CT 06138-0699

(Information: 860.659.0356)

Order Form

Please send me _____ copy(copies) of "Favorite Recipes" at \$16.00 each or 2 for \$30.00, plus \$4.00 shipping/handling per book. Enclosed is my check for \$_____.

Mail book(s) to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

2017-2018 CLUB OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Co-Presidents: Patricia Kaczynski and Frances Pudlo
- Vice President: John Majdan
- Secretary: Lilia Kietyka
- Treasurer: Raymond Kowalski
- Historian: Patricia Kaczynski

Board Members: Clifford Archie, Patricia Archie, Ursula Brodowicz, Marek Czarnecki, Edward Farley, Krystyna Farley, Mary Heslin (Emeritus), Florence Langridge, Anna-Mae Maglaty, Louis Maglaty, Carol Bogon Phelan, Virginia Pudlo, and Nancy O. Yiznitsky.

Feel free to contact any of us at any time.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford is looking to fill the following positions: **Wait Staff; Bar Staff; Banquet Staff; Kitchen Help; Housekeeping;** and a **Hostess**. For more information and a detailed job description, please contact **Rob Kwasnicki** at (860) 247-1784 or HartfordPNHMarketing@outlook.com. Fluency in the Polish language would be a plus. Please inquire if you feel you might be able to be of assistance. Some positions could accommodate a young person aged 16+.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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



DID YOU KNOW . . . THE WORD “ANGEL” MEANS “MESSENGER?”



Do Anioła Stróża
 Aniele Boży,
 Stróżu mój,
 któremu powierzył
 mnie Bóg w swej
 ojcowskiej dobroci,
 oświecaj mnie
 dzisiaj, broń,
 prowadź i kieruj
 mną.
 Amen.

GAN #PL076

Since ancient times, humans have been fascinated with angels and their existence. Much of what we know about angels outside of Sacred Scripture is taken from the Church Fathers and Doctors, as well as from the lives of the Saints and Prophets. Mankind has studied angels in the theological doctrine of “angelology.”

According to the Bible, angels are spiritual beings, having no material bodies, created during the first seven days of Creation. They reside primarily in Heaven and are neither male nor female. Legend claims that a war took place among the angels in Heaven, led by Lucifer, which resulted in the rebuking of numerous angels who rebelled against God. The only named angels are Gabriel, Michael, Raphael, and Uriel. Old Testament prophets and New Testament saints such as Saint Thomas



Aquinas have been recorded as having had encounters with angels. According to St. Augustine, “Angel is the name of their office, not of their nature. If you seek the name of their nature, it is spirit; if you seek the name of their office, it is angel, from what they are, spirit from what they do.” The Christian concept of an angel, as well as that of Islam, characterizes the angel as a messenger of God, and, although they have greater knowledge than men, they are not omniscient. In fine art, angels are usually depicted as having the shape of human beings of extraordinary beauty and are identified using the symbols of feathered wings, halos, and light.

A guardian angel is assigned to protect and guide a particular person or a group, kingdom, or country. Belief in guardian angels can be traced throughout antiquity in both the East and the West. Guardian angels serve to shield whichever person God assigns them to and offer prayers to God on that person’s behalf.

The word “angel” literally means “messenger,” and it is in this prominent role that angels have become a part of the Christmas story. An angel appeared to Mary to announce the birth of Christ (Luke 1:26-38). An angel appeared to Joseph telling him that the child that Mary was carrying came from the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20-21). And, an angel appeared to shepherds to announce the birth of Jesus after which “a great company of the heavenly host” appeared in the sky (Luke 2:8-14). As heralds of the good news of Christ’s birth, angels spread the news of this joyous occasion to shepherds and peasants in the fields around Bethlehem, as well as to kings and rulers and the wealthy. Angels have become beloved symbols of Christmas, as we place them atop our Christmas trees, surround our nativity scenes with them, use them to decorate our homes, and celebrate them in our Christmas carols.

Source: Głos Polek, Winter 2017

POLISH CHRISTMAS TREE — “CHOINKA”

Christmas in Poland has a different timeframe than what we are used to in the United States. The four weeks prior to Christmas are not devoted to decorating, shopping, and parties, but on the spiritual preparation for the Birth of Christ. Advent is a quiet time spent in anticipation of the holidays and the miracle of Christmas. Handmade ornaments will be made in the evenings, cookies will be baked, and some gift shopping and wrapping will be done, but the Christmas tree or “choinka” will not be brought into the home until a day or two before Christmas itself.



On Christmas Eve, as the women in the family start to prepare the evening vigil meal, *Wigilia*, the men and children are busy putting up and decorating the Christmas tree with Polish ornaments. These have a very old tradition and are often made of blown glass which are then painted and decorated by hand. Glass ornaments called “bombki” are very delicate and have many shapes — some are round, others are shaped like icicles, pine cones, or angels. More simple ornaments are made from paper, wood, straw, or hollowed out eggs. Fruit, cookies (*pierniczki*), and candies are also sometimes hung on the tree. Foil icicles and chains made from paper or wooden beads are added at the end, and a large star is placed on top. Small beeswax candles add the final touch. After the *Wigilia* meal is ended, the candles on the *choinka* are lit and the family gathers around the tree to open presents and sing carols (*kolędy*).

The decorated tree will stay up at least through the Twelve Days of Christmas which ends on January 6, the Feast of the Three Kings, and sometimes even until February 2, Candlemas Day, the official end of the Christmas season in the liturgical calendar. Christmas parties and Christmas pag-
 eants continue throughout the month of January, so everyone has time to enjoy their *choinka*. (Source: Polish Women’s Alliance of America)

Christmas in Poland
 Nov. 17, 2018 to Feb. 3, 2019
 1 State Street, New Haven
 203-865-0400
 kofcmuseum.org
 Free admission and parking
 Open 10-5 daily
 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MUSEUM

SPECIAL LECTURE
 “Polish Christmas Traditions”
 Saturday, December 15, 2018
 2:00 p.m.
 Knights of Columbus Museum
 New Haven, CT
 Presented by Marek Czarnecki
FREE

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018 6:30 p.m.
 "PCCGH Annual Meeting / Food Drive / Turkey Drawing"
 Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford
 (See page 1 for details)
 NOTE: We will be accepting Raffle prizes, Unique Boutique items, and Vintage Jewelry for the Szopka Festival

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17 / SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2018
 "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
 Home-made baked goods, pierogi, babki, pączki, kielbasa, raffle, vintage jewelry, and attic treasures. Everyone is welcome! FREE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2018 to SUNDAY, FEB. 3, 2019
 Exhibit: "A Polish Christmas"
 Knights of Columbus Museum, 1 State Street, New Haven, CT
 Information: (203) 752-4035 or (203) 865-0351 FREE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2018 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 PCCGH — "Szopka Festival and Competition"
 Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford
 See page 1, page 4, and the enclosed flyer for details.
 Note: Reservations for the PNH Buffet are suggested for parties of 8 or more — Telephone: (860) 247-1784 FREE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2018 11:30 a.m.
 "13th Annual Krakus Festival" (Polish Center of Discovery & Learning)
 Social Hour, Elegant Luncheon, Raffle, and Entertainment
 MGM Springfield, One MGM Way, Springfield, MA
 Tickets: \$100.00 per person RSVP by November 23, 2018
 Information: (413) 592-0001 or www.polishcenter.net

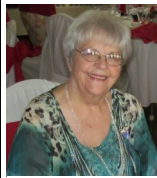
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2018 6:30 p.m.
 PCCGH "Wigilia Celebration"
 Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford
 See enclosed flyer for ticket information and cost. (860) 659-0356

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2018 6:30 p.m.
 "Annual Christmas Party" — SS. Cyril and Methodius Ladies Guild
 Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford
 Cost: Members: \$35.00 Non-Members: \$38.00
 Information and Tickets: Cheryl Pietrycha—(860) 523-4878

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018 2:00 p.m.
 Lecture: "Polish Christmas Traditions" by Marek Czarnecki
 Knights of Columbus Museum, New Haven (see page 3) FREE

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.



Alice Dalenta

It is with great sorrow that we report the passing of two long-time members: **Alice Dalenta** (October 6) and **Maria Brodowicz** (October 13). May they both rest in peace and their families find comfort and solace in the memories they share of these two beautiful women.



Maria Brodowicz

We also note the passing of **Chester Madey**, a former member of many years, at age 99.

Kudos to **Helen Olejarz**, and her team of volunteers, for spearheading the Fundraiser on October 28 to benefit the Roof Restoration Fund of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. Over \$30,000 was raised with the support of parish organizations, parishioners, and friends.

SZOPKA FESTIVAL

How Members and Friends Can Help

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 kindly devote some time assisting us during the weekend of November 24 and November 25. Here is a list of volunteer opportunities.

Saturday, November 24 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, November 25—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.

Sunday, November 25 — 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 identify any item with your name.

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.



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 P.O. Box 380699
 East Hartford, CT 06138-0699

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