



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

October 2019

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

SAVE THE DATE!

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. and the S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies will be sponsoring a Special Film Presentation of

"MISSION OF HONOR"



The true story of the heroic Kosciuszko 303 Squadron fighter pilots who helped the British Royal Air Force (RAF) win the Battle of Britain during World War II.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019

2:00 p.m.

Chopin Ballroom

Polish National Home

60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

Dr. M.B. Biskupski, Chair of Polish Studies at Central CT State University, will give a brief historical Introduction preceding the film with a Question and Answer period following.

There will also be an exhibit of original items from the curated collection of the Kosciuszko 303 Squadron Memorabilia and other material that will be on display — Doors will open at 1:00 p.m.

At 11:30 a.m., a special commemorative Mass honoring all Polish veterans will be held at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 55 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford, CT.

The Polish National Home will be open for dining from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Free Admission — Free On-Site Parking — Handicapped Accessible
PUBLIC CORDIALLY INVITED**

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

Information: 860-841-3477, 860-832-3010 or 860-247-1784

HIGHLIGHTS OF LITTLE POLAND FESTIVAL

June 2, 2019

The PCCGH's first venture into the annual Little Poland Festival held in New Britain was a great success. Cookbooks, pierogi Christmas tree ornaments, Ursula Brodowicz's Christmas card, and apple szarlotka purchased from the Unicorn Bakery in Vernon were flying off the tables! Many thanks to all our members who volunteered to help. It was a fun day and we look forward to next year.



Maureen Sylvester, Fran Pudlo, Gini Pudlo, Jadzia Kieltyka, and Lilia Kieltyka



Janit Romayko "took to the street" to sell cookbooks!



Felicia Gajda



Maureen Sylvester and Jadzia Kieltyka



Gini Pudlo selling "Pillow for Baby Jesus" Christmas tree ornaments



Nancy Yznitsky making sure that Jahana Hayes, U.S. Representative from CT's 5th District receives a copy of our Club cookbook.



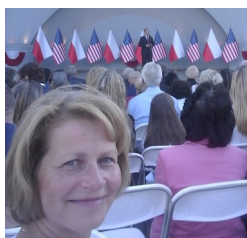
FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Autumn Greetings

The good weather in CT keeps us thinking of summer, but Club happenings are pointing toward the events we have set for the fall. But before I mention all the upcoming business, what a memorable day we had on September 22 when the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, and his wife, Agata Kornhauser-Duda, visited New Britain and toured "Little Poland" to the warm greetings of thousands of Polonians.



It was certainly an unprecedented event, and our Club was included in the planning because as your President, I was offered a seat in the reserved VIP section during President Duda's speech in Walnut Park. During this speech, he noted our deep commitment to our Polish language and culture and said that he felt so welcomed by the largest and strongest Polish-American community in the USA. I thoroughly enjoyed myself, and I have been talking about my experience to everyone I know. What a great day for Connecticut's Polonia. Congratulations also to Rob Kwasnicki, President of the Board of Directors of the Polish National Home, who was called on stage to receive an award from President Duda for the PNH's role in preserving and cultivating Polish culture.



We are currently rolling up our sleeves in preparation for our annual Szopka Festival taking place this year on Sunday, December 1 at the Polish National Home in Hartford. It is our Club's biggest fundraiser and all profits benefit our scholarship fund. We are working with the szopka makers and soliciting vendors. The Planning Committee is looking for a few new volunteers to lend a helping hand, so let's make this year's Szopka Festival a huge success. Please call me if you can help: (860) 841-3477. Many thanks, as always.

Lilia Kieltyka – President, PCCGH

P.S. Please see the information regarding the feature film "Mission of Honor" that we are sponsoring with CCSU on November 17 at the PNH. It is the true story about the Polish Fighter Pilots during WWII and another great event the Club is excited to be involved with.

2019-2020 CLUB OFFICERS AND BOARD

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.

MEET OUR 2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



L to R: Bruno Wieckowski, Jessica Witkowski, Karol Wroblewski (Missing: Olivia Dybinski)

Olivia V. Dybinski, daughter of Jaroslaw and Agnes Dybinski of Berlin, CT, plans to attend UConn, Storrs, majoring in Applied Mathematical Sciences with a goal of becoming a Math teacher. A 2019 graduate of Berlin High School and High Honors student, Olivia was inducted into the National Honor Society and tutored a middle school student in math for four years. She has a life-long love of dance, was active in the Drama Club, Madrigals, Jazz Choir, and as a Town of Berlin volunteer for four years. She attended Polish Language School for eight years.

Bruno L. Wieckowski, son of Beata Wieckowski of Glastonbury, CT, will continue his studies at CCSU in New Britain, CT majoring in Accounting. He has distinguished himself by spending a month at the University of Miami as a lab volunteer researching traumatic brain injury (2015) and epilepsy (2016) resulting in two professional abstracts, one of which he co-authored. He worked on the Restoration Team helping to establish the No. 303 Kosciuszko Squadron RAF exhibit at the New England Air Museum and was instrumental in reviving the Polish Club of CCSU. Bruno joined the CCSU Accounting Society advancing to President in 2019 and became an IRS Certified VITA Tax Preparer in 2018.

Jessica M. Witkowski, daughter of Slawomir and Krystyna Witkowski of Farmington, CT, will continue her studies in Political Science at Pace University-Dyson College Arts & Sciences, New York City. She was initiated into the National Honor Society and maintains a Dean's List status. Active in sports, she has been involved in Field Hockey as a Unified Sports volunteer and Relay for Life Captain. Jessica is proud to have been an active member of Polish Scouting for 15 years (serving as Troop Leader for 2 years), a student of the Hartford Polish Saturday School, and an altar server at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church in Hartford for 10 years.

Karol Wroblewski, son of Marek and Barbara Wroblewski of Wethersfield, CT, will continue his studies in Pharmacy at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Albany, NY. Karol plans to graduate with a PHMD Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2023. He was initiated into the National Honor Society and has consistently been on the Dean's List. He serves as Secretary of the National Community of Pharmacists Association and is a volunteer coordinator for the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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



DID YOU KNOW . . . Poles Initiated the First Labor Strike in the United States in 1619?

This essay was written by Bruno Leszek Wieckowski, one of this year's Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship recipients.

In 1667, three English ships arrived at the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia to establish the first British Colony in North America. The head of the settlement, John Smith, decided that the Colony would best benefit from establishing an industry to stimulate its growth and development. He set as his goal the building of a glass factory. Before setting out on his journey to the "New World," Smith had an opportunity to tour a glass plant in Poland. He was impressed by the craftsmanship of the Polish workers, and soon five Polish glassmakers arrived in Jamestown. They initiated and oversaw the production of glass, tar, soap, and turpentine. Thanks to Polish technological expertise, the American economy began to grow its industrial power. But that's not the end of the story . . .



Polish workers also made an important contribution to the Yankee democracy and the system of civil rights. As the settlement continued to develop, the political structures began to evolve. In 1619 Jamestown established a Town Council whose members were elected by popular vote. The Poles, however, were deprived of their right to vote by the ungrateful British who were afraid that the Polish minority practically controlling the entire industry would ultimately gain too much power and influence. To their surprise, the Poles would not let anyone push them around and on July 30, 1619, they initiated the first labor strike in the history of North America. The American economy became completely paralyzed by these protests.

At that time the population of Jamestown numbered around 1000 residents, of which only 50 were Polish. Thousands of miles away from home, with no contact with family, our fellow countrymen stood against 950 British armed with swords and other tools of destruction. They fought and won their cause since they were brave, motivated, mobilized, and organized. They didn't wait around until someone else solved their problems. As a result, Polish settlers gained equal civil rights while the Yankees learned that it is not so easy to use and abuse Polish workers by capitalizing on their contributions and assuming that they would comply.

Looking back at recent history and the events that took place in Poland in the 1980s, thanks to the famous "Solidarity" labor union movement born in 1978, it seems that we, the Polish people, have it in our blood to rise up and fight for our rights when our rights are threatened. "Solidarity," led by Lech Wałęsa, was aimed at years of Communist rule in Poland that caused deteriorating work and living conditions. Following a number of strikes, Marshall Law was implemented in 1981 and in strong opposition, Poles united to succeed in abolishing the Communist government. In 1989 Poland began its journey into a free market economy. I am proud to be a grandson of "Solidarity" movement activists. Both of my grandparents were strong supporters of the movement and participants in countrywide strikes. By celebrating the 400th anniversary of the events of 1619 in Jamestown, we are validating the bravery, commitment to equality, and solidarity of the Polish labor force of the distant, as well as, recent history. I am also personally celebrating my closest family members' involvement and devotion to Polish democracy and freedom.

The Polish National Home, 60, Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford welcomes everyone to try their new menu. Telephone: (860) 247-1784. Hours: Tues/Wed 11:30 a.m.—3 p.m., Thurs/Fri/Sat—11:30 a.m.—9 p.m., Sunday 11:00 a.m.—5 p.m.

2019 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS



The 2019 Distinguished Service Awards sponsored by the United Polish Societies (CENTRALA) will be held on Sunday, October 27, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at the Polish National Home. The PCCGH is pleased to announce that **Frances Pudlo**, active Board member and former Co-President, will be one of the recipients. Congratulations Fran! The other two honorees are: Janina Karnas and Kazimierz Gąsior. Tickets are \$45.00 per person. Deadline is October 18.

Congratulatory ads are being solicited for the Program Book as follows: Full Page — \$100; Half Page — \$75; One-quarter Page — \$50 and Patron — \$10. Deadline is listed as September 30.

**Payment for tickets and ads can be sent to:
Janusz Kocur, 15 Albert Avenue, Wethersfield, CT 06109**

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF MEMBERS



**Clifford G. Archie
and Mary Mazurek
Heslin**

On June 21, 2019, the Club lost two stalwart and dedicated members — Clifford Archie and Mary Mazurek Heslin — both of whom loved their



Polish heritage intensely and both of whom served Polonia with a pride that left an indelible mark in Connecticut and nationally. Cliff will always be remembered as our beloved Sw. Mikołaj, while Mary leaves a lasting legacy as a result of her work as CT's former Commissioner of Consumer Protection and political activist. May our two former Club Presidents and very dear friends rest in peace.

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019 7:00 p.m.

"AN AMERICAN IN WARSAW" — Vivian Reed (Fiedorczyk Lecture)

Sponsored by the S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies

CCSU, Founders Hall, Davidson Building **FREE**

Information: (860) 832-3010 or jacquesm@ccsu.edu

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019 2:00 p.m.

"BAJKI IGNACEGO KRASICKIEGO z obiadem w królewskim stylu"

Teatre Wyobraźni Novum

Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

Information: Kasia (860) 214-2885 or Ewa (860) 374-8015

Ticket Price: \$45.00 per person

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019 2:00 p.m.

Baroque Opera: **"DAPHNIS ET EGLÉ"** by Jean-Philippe Rameau

CT Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra and CT Lyric Opera

Wadsworth Atheneum, 25 Atheneum Square, Hartford, CT

Information: (860) 325-2826 Call for Ticket Prices

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2019 7:00 p.m.

TALK: "POLISH OPERA — MONIUSZKO AND OTHERS"

Talk about Baroque opera in the context of historical events. Will also feature a performance of selected operatic pieces by singers of the Connecticut Lyric Opera **FREE**

Information: (860) 832-3010 or jacquesm@ccsu.edu

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019 After all Masses

"PANCAKE BREAKFAST" SS. Cyril & Methodius Ladies Guild

SS. Cyril and Methodius Church — Lower Hall

55 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

All are invited — come enjoy delicious food and fellowship

Cost: \$5.00 per person

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019 1:00 p.m.

"DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS" (United Polish Societies)

Polish National Home Ballroom, 60 Charter Oak Ave., Hartford

Tickets: \$45.00 per person Send check to: Mr. Janusz Kocur

15 Albert Avenue, Wethersfield, CT 06109 / jkocur@cox.net

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019

EXHIBIT — Kosciuszko Squadron #303 Memorabilia 1:00 p.m.

MOVIE: "MISSION OF HONOR" 2:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the PCCGH and CCSU Chair of Polish Studies

Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford **FREE**

A commemorative Mass for Polish veterans will be held at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church at 11:30 a.m. The Polish National Home will be open for meals from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



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

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.

Wedding News:

Many years of happiness to **Carol Oleasz** and William Grondin who were married at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church on August 31, 2019.

Anniversary Celebrations:

Edward and Krystyna Farley — 40 years — 7/24/19

Leszek and Zyta Konski — 58 years — August 2019

Louis and Anna-Mae Maglaty — 65 years — 11/23/19

Sincere Condolences

To the family of **Violet (Vi) Bladek**, who passed away on August 2, 2019.



To **Mrs. Jadwiga Czarnecki** and son, **Marek Czarnecki**, on the passing of beloved husband and father, **Bernard Czarnecki** on September 20, 2019.



Included in this newsletter as an insert is an inspiring article written by Club member **Ken Mostello** of Carlisle, MA about his involvement and experience with the Pan-Mass Challenge "Bike-a-Thon." This event, now in its 40th year, has grown to become the single largest athletic charity fundraiser in the nation, attracting thousands of riders annually from 44 states. This year the PMC will raise over \$60 million to support cancer research and treatment for pediatric cancer patients. It produces more than half of the money for the entire Jimmy Fund, and it is the single largest benefactor to the Boston-based Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. It is a touching tribute.

Witamy!

A Warm Welcome to New Members

Terri Jakupco of Farmington

Mary Pakulski of Canton

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.