



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

September 2015

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

PCCGH TAG AND TREASURE SALE A Phenomenal Success!

The Tag and Treasure Sale to benefit the Club held on Saturday, June 13, 2015 exceeded all expectations. Our volunteers were on hand to set up on Friday on the front lawn of 33 Worthington Road, Glastonbury, and they were on site at the crack of dawn on Saturday to greet and assist the early bird shoppers who arrived before the official opening. Everything went like clockwork, the weather was beautiful, the items were varied and appealing, sales were brisk, and camaraderie was rampant. The event was enjoyed by all. The following THANK YOU's are in order:

First, to all members and friends who donated many beautiful and useful donations for the sale.

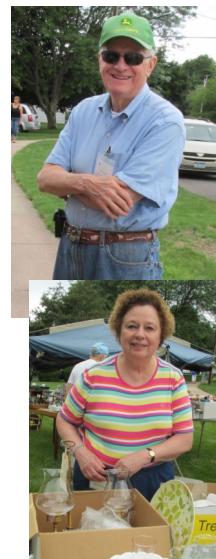
Second, to our Tag and Treasure Sale Committee who planned, organized, and worked very hard for three months to execute a flawless event:

Barbara Cecere	Fran Pudlo
Judy Kabilis	Gini Pudlo
Pattie Kaczynski	Phyllis Stawiariski
Florence Langridge	Nancy Yiznitsky
Carol Phelan	

Third, in addition to the above list, to the following volunteers who worked tirelessly and cheerfully on Friday and/or Saturday.

Gen Bednarz	Anna-Mae Maglaty
Mike Cecere	Lou Maglaty
Ed Farley	Ann Oleasz
Krystyna Farley	Christine Panek
Adilia Janiero	Sophia Panek
Jen Jaronczyk	Robert Phelan
Sandra Kasavage	Elizabeth Sikorsky

It "took a village" to make this event possible, and we are grateful to each and every individual who joined hands to help stage this inaugural and well-received Club event.





CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

We sincerely hope that your summer hiatus was both memorable and restful. Eight of us traveled to Chicago in early August for the American Council for Polish Culture's annual convention. We enjoyed touring this magnificent city of striking architecture and vitality and then renewing contact with ACPC delegates and friends from around the country.



PCCGH Delegates to the ACPC Convention: Standing L to R: Stasia Hodyl, Florence Langridge, Pattie Kaczynski, Gini Pudlo, Fran Pudlo. Sitting L to R: Ann Oleasz, Marion Winters, Jo Louise Winters

2015 has been, and will continue to be, very active for the Club. Our fall season begins with a lecture and demonstration on Sunday, September 27 with Marek Czarnecki called "Polish Folk Art of the Nativity Scene "Krakowska Szopka" sponsored jointly by the PCCGH and PNH (see enclosed flyer), followed by our presence at the Genealogical Seminar on October 2 and 3 at CCSU, a lecture on Thursday, October 22 with Nicholas Pettinico, Jr. who will speak on the 40th anniversary of the Polish Studies Program at CCSU, our Annual Meeting and Turkey Drawing, Szopka Festival, and Wigilia. None of these programs would be possible without the support of our members and volunteers. We, as well as everyone who enjoy our PCCGH events, thank you all.

We send special GET WELL WISHES to the following members who have weathered some medical issues this summer. Please keep them in your prayers.

Cliff Archie	Monica Kowalski
Henry Fedina	Gini Pudlo
Jadzia Kieltyka	Marion Winters

And we congratulate **Krystyna Słowikowska Farley** who marked her 90th birthday on August 19, 2015 with a joyous party attended by extended family and friends. STO LAT!

Pattie Kaczynski

(860) 677-0628

Fran Pudlo

(860) 659-0356



PLEASE SEND US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS. We have started to contact our members via electronic communications. If you have e-mail and would like to be included, please respond to: francespudlo@att.net. We will be happy to add your name to our e-mail list. For those who prefer regular mailings, those will continue. THANK YOU!

MEET OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



PCCGH Scholarship Committee Chairs, Florence Langridge and Virginia Pudlo, are pleased to announce the names of the three recipients of the 2015 Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship. Each of the young scholars of Polish heritage received a \$1,000.00 check at a presentation ceremony held at the Polish National Home on Thursday, June 18, 2015. Congratulations!

Jeffrey DePinto, Jr., son of Jeffrey and Michelle DePinto of Newtown, CT, will be attending the University of Connecticut—Storrs, majoring in Biomedical Engineering. Jeffrey was sponsored by member, Felicia Gajda.

Matthew Guminiak, son of Gary and Bozena Guminiak of Suffield, CT, will be attending the University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island, majoring in Marketing. Matthew was sponsored by member, Chester Madey.

Kara Sitnik, daughter of Richard and Joyce Sitnik of Wethersfield, CT, will be a sophomore at Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island studying Fashion Merchandising and Retail Marketing. Kara was sponsored by member and grandmother, Mary Sitnik.

The Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Fund is supported by the proceeds of the Club's annual Szopka Festival.

IT'S TIME TO MAKE PIEROGI!

We could use your help . . .

Two pierogi making sessions have been scheduled in the lower hall of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. The sale of pierogi at the Szopka Festival is a fund-raiser for scholarships.

Saturday, October 17 at 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 24 at 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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



DID YOU KNOW . . . That one of our own members is an internationally renowned Iconographer?

Marek Czarnecki is familiar to us as a long-standing Club member who has served on our Executive Board and who, each year, goes out to local schools to discuss the history, meaning, and development behind the unique and charming tradition of szopka making in connection with our annual Szopka Festival competition. What may be overlooked is his mastery of Iconography, both as an artist and teacher, of which he continues to receive international acclaim.



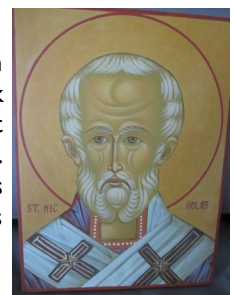
What is an Iconographer? In an interview with Lidia Gruse on May 9, 2015, Marek explains: “As an iconographer, I wear a lot of hats. I need to be an artist, a careful craftsman, a theologian, a chemist, a carpenter, a gilder. I must be observant and grounded in my Christian faith. The way I integrate the discipline of iconography into my life is more important than taking formal vows. But like a monk, iconography is a vocation, not just an occupation. It takes a lot of time, it is very isolating, it’s a struggle and takes practice, and discipline. It’s not something one does for the reward of money or ambition or recognition, but out of our piety and ideals. . . . You have to be prepared to change yourself to do the work. For everyone, it’s different. Sometimes this is a spiritual challenge, sometimes the challenge is the physical clumsiness of your body or eyes. You can’t use iconography for what you want; iconography will use you for what God needs. But you have to get out of your own way.”

Marek did not set out to become a writer of icons. The son of Polish immigrants, and a graduate of the prestigious School of Visual Arts in New York City, he was working in a rare bookstore in Manhattan in 1991 when he learned that his father “volunteered” his services to paint an icon of Our Lady of Częstochowa for his parish, St. Stanislaus Church in Bristol, CT. At first resentful for being put on the spot, he nevertheless dutifully returned home and began the assignment. He says, “I didn’t understand the depth of my work until I saw people praying in front of the icon, which is when I understood the responsibility and importance of what I had undertaken. I saw that nothing in my life had tied together the threads of my life as had that one icon. No one work of art I have ever made was as useful to the world as that clumsy copy. I also understood that in order to do this work, I would have to drop everything else. Like the gospel tells us, once we have found that ‘pearl of great price,’ we sell everything in exchange for it.”

After struggling on his own for six years, Marek began studying with prominent Russian iconographers living in this country and eventually connected with Ksenia Pokrovsky, who became his teacher, mentor, and very special friend. When they first spoke about the work he was facing, she told him that it would take him at least 10 years of study to become an iconographer. When he responded that he had already worked 8 years, she said, “No, from today.” When he stated that he was an artist, she said, “Oh, then it will take you 15 years!” because he had so much to “unlearn.” Their very close relationship continued until Sunday, July 13, 2013 when Ksenia Pokrovsky fell asleep in the Lord.

Marek works out of his studio, Seraphic Restorations, in Meriden, CT. His business includes restoring old religious statues and antique icons, and creating new ones for churches and individuals, as well as teaching the art of Iconography. He travels the world giving lectures and workshops and he currently is a major component of the teaching team for the *Six Days of Creation* courses for Hexaemeron, a non-profit organization based in Kentucky. He authored the instruction manual for the *Six Days of Creation* workshop: *The Technique and Teaching of Ksenia Pokrovsky* (copyright held by Izograph Studio, 2003).

For one week this past June, eighteen students from around the country gathered to immerse themselves in an intensive, week-long *Six Days of Creation* workshop held at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield led by Marek Czarnecki as instructor and guiding spirit. One of the attendees was Club member, Virginia Pudlo. Without any formal artistic training and solely on faith, she responded to an inner calling and signed up for the course. She found it to be a transforming experience and one she hopes will continue to inspire her as she pursues her own work in Iconography. To the right is a photo of the icon of Saint Nicholas that Gini wrote at this workshop — with a LOT of help from Marek!



Marek Czarnecki has exhibited his works in many U.S. and European cities. Among the honors he has received is the American Council for Polish Culture’s Jan de Rosen Artistic Achievement Award in 2000, the Southern New England Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Award funded by the National Endowment for the Arts for continued studies with Ksenia Pokrovsky, the Connecticut Commission on the Arts Painting Fellowship (twice), the 2005 Polish American Historical Association’s Creative Arts Award, and the 2015 United Polish Societies of Hartford’s (Centrala) Distinguished Service Award. His icons can be found in the homes and chapels of individuals, as well as churches across the country, and they have been featured in numerous exhibits, videos, and articles, including *The New York Times* and *Saint Anthony Messenger*. Marek also serves as a community scholar for the Polish immigrant community in the U.S. and was featured as a narrator in the public television documentary “*Polish Life in Our Valley*,” which won the 2004 PBS Best Documentary Award. The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. is honored and proud to have Marek actively involved in our organization.

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 7:00 p.m.
Film: "Miasto 44" - A story of love, friendship and the pursuit of adventure during the bloody and brutal reality of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising
CCSU, Vance Academic Center, Room 105 (Polish/English subtitles)
Information: JacquesM@mail.ccsu.edu FREE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2015 7:00 p.m.—11:00 p.m.
"12th Annual Miss Polonia CT 2016" Pageant
Polish National Home—Chopin Ball Room
Tickets: General Admission: \$25.00 / VIP & Sponsors: \$50.00
Information: (860) 883-2277 / E-mail: MissPoloniaCT@gmail.com

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2015 1:00 p.m.
Come and Learn How to Make a Szopka — Children/Adults
"Lecture and Demonstration — Polish Folk Art of the Nativity Scene — Krakowska Szopka" - Lecture by Marek Czarnecki
Sponsored jointly by the PCCGH and Polish National Home
Polish National Home—Chopin Ball Room
Information: Tel.: (860) 659-0356 FREE

FRIDAY/SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2 & 3, 2015
"2015 Genealogy Conference" — see article on page 4.

NEW BRITAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY FALL BOOK SALE

Thursday, October 15, 2015 2:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.
Friday, October 16, 2015 10:00 a.m. —4:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 17, 2015 9:00 a.m. —2:00 p.m.
Books in Polish and about Poland will be available. If you have Polish books to donate, they would be most appreciated.
Information: SVBH@yahoo.com (Stella Heyl)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015 7:00 p.m.
Film: "Papusza" - A story about distinguished Polish-Gypsy poetess, Bronisława Wajs, and her discoverer, writer Jerzy Ficowski
CCSU, Vance Academic Center, Room 105 (Polish/English subtitles)
Information: JacquesM@mail.ccsu.edu FREE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2015 1:00 p.m.
"85th Anniversary Polish National Home of Hartford, Inc."

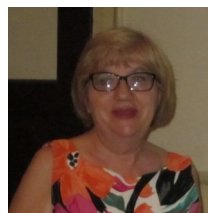
Polish National Home—Chopin Ball Room
Info: (860) 247-1784 / PNH85th@gmail.com Tickets: \$50.00

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015 6:30 p.m.
PCCGH Lecture with Nicholas Pettinico, Jr. FREE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2015 1:00 p.m.
"2015 Distinguished Service Awards"
Polish National Home—Chopin Ball Room
Info: Gen at (860) 721-1655 or (860) 593-3499 Tickets: \$37.00

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

The United Polish Societies of Hartford (Centrala) have announced their Distinguished Service Award recipients for 2015. All three honorees are members of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. and we express our heartiest congratulations to each of them.



Sophie Bieniek



Mark Bruks



Marek Czarnecki

An Awards Banquet will be held on October 25, 2015 at the Polish National Home at 1:00 p.m. All are invited to attend and share your support for these three individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the benefit of Polonia. Tickets are \$37.00 and can be obtained before and after Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church or by contacting Gen Bednarz at (860) 721-1655 or (860) 593-3499.

2015 POLISH GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc. AND The S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair of the Polish and Polish American Studies are conducting a two-day Genealogy Conference to which all interested individuals are cordially invited.

Friday, October 2, 2015 and Saturday, October 3, 2015

Central Connecticut State University Student Center

1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT

Fee: Friday, October 2 ONLY: \$35.00

Saturday, October 3 ONLY: \$65.00

Friday, Oct. 2 and Saturday, Oct. 3: \$85.00

Session Topics Include: Notary records in Poland (with emphasis on the 19th century); Galician maps in Poland; Introduction to Polish Research; A Life in Darkness: Poles and Slavs in Pennsylvania's Coal Mines; Changed by Thalerhof—An Anniversary Documentary; Stuck? Research Strategies for Those Brick Wall Ancestors; Digital News: Utilizing Online Newspapers in Your Genealogy Research; Pennsylvania Resources for Polish Genealogists; Packrat or Genealogists? Effective Methods for Organizing your Family History Research.

Information: Diane Szepanski, (860) 919-6333

E-mail: Szepanski3@cox.net

Visit our PCCGH table on Saturday, October 2.



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

We're on the Web!

www.polishculturalclub.org