



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

Summer 2021

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

2021 JENNIE MARCONI-JAVORSKI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



On Thursday, June 17, 2021, at a ceremony held at the Polish National Home in Hartford, the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. awarded five outstanding students with its 2021 Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship. Florence Langridge and Virginia Pudlo, Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs, introduced the candidates, provided background information on their accomplishments, and presented a check for \$1,000.00 to each recipient. All are fluent in Polish!

Damian Kret — will return to the University of CT – Hartford Branch where he is majoring in Business. He was President and Co-Founder of the Polish Cultural Club at Farmington High School and received a Certificate of Knowledge of Polish Language from the Polish Language

School, Inc. of New Britain. He also raised funds for the *Wielka Orkiestra Swiatecznej Pomocy* (Great Orchestra of Christian Charity) to benefit children and hospitals for the elderly in Poland, and portrayed one of the Three Kings during the live Christmas pageant at Sacred Heart Church in New Britain.

Julia Nowak — a recent graduate of Farmington High School, will attend Boston University in the fall studying Biomedical Engineering. She is also a 2020 graduate of the *Szkoła Języka Polskiego Imienia Jana Pawła II* (Polish Language School, Inc. in New Britain) where she took and passed multiple exams, including Language Other Than English Examination for which she received a perfect score. She volunteers at the UConn Health Center in Biomedical Engineering Discovery Programs.

Victoria Pietrucha — will enter Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT to obtain a degree in Nursing. She is a graduate of the Polish Language School, Inc. of New Britain, where she received the highest grade of 100 in the Certificate of Proficiency in the Polish language and a diploma for “Best Student,” and where she still volunteers. Victoria has devoted over 100 hours of service to the Polish “Great Orchestra of Christian Charity” organization and was a Varsity athlete in Tennis and Indoor Track at Berlin High School.

Jessica Szaro — a recent graduate of Rocky Hill High School, will enter the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign studying Animal Science with the goal of becoming a Veterinarian. Fluent in Polish, Jessica’s activities include the Polish Scouting Organization, where she has served as a Troop Leader and Camp Counselor. She also volunteers at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Hartford as an assistant teacher for CCD Religious instruction and as an altar server. Jessica is a talented dancer and assistant dance teacher.

Maya Wieckowska — a recent graduate of Glastonbury High School, will study Biology at the University of Connecticut – Storrs this fall. A graduate of the Polish Saturday School, Maya credits her grandmother, Zyta Kónska, for being a great influence on her life, teaching and sharing Polish culture, traditions, and stories of Poland. Maya helped her grandmother organize the Polish American Congress of CT’s Scholarship Ball and is involved with volunteer activities at St. Isidore and Maria Parish in Glastonbury, as well as in her community.

This year’s essay featured the Kosciuszko 303 Squadron and the crucial role they played in the Battle of Britain in 1940 during WWII, as well as their significant contributions to the Allied war effort in the air.

PLEASE CONSIDER A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO THE CLUB’S DEDICATED

JENNIE MARCONI-JAVORSKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Szopka Festival has always been the main source of income for our Scholarship Fund, but since this event is in a holding pattern until next year, it is important to find other ways to replenish it. Please consider making an individual contribution or perhaps designating a donation in memory of a loved one or friend. Assisting Polish youth in achieving their higher education goals is an important aspect of our Club’s mission and something of which we can be proud. The recipients are amazing young men and women who exhibit high ideals, extensive community service, and a love of their Polish heritage.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Dear Members: I sincerely hope the summer has fallen to a steady crawl for most of you, as all summers should. We as a Club are trying to pick up speed and are setting up some ideas to refresh our activities, yet the caution lights continue to flash all around us.



This newsletter shows how our brilliant our Polish youth are and how proud it makes us to be able to help them along. This September a few Club members are heading down to the Annual ACPC Convention in Washington, DC (our national organization). There is always lots to learn from this respected organization and also from the other affiliates that gather from all around the country. We will do our best to represent Hartford and will report back in our next newsletter. Happy Summer.

Lilia Kieltyka

POLISH AMERICAN FOUNDATION OFFERS POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

Beginner Class via ZOOM starts Tuesday, September 14 from 6-7:15 PM. 10 week session is \$99. (In-person Beginner Class in New Britain starts Thursday, September 16 from 7:30-8:45 PM—\$99).

NOTE: PAF members receive a discounted rate for Beginner classes.

Year 2 Class on ZOOM starts Wednesday, September 15 from 6-7:15 PM. 10 week session is \$160. (In-person class in New Britain starts September 16 from 6:00-7:15 PM—\$160) **Year 3 and Year 4 Classes** also available. Information: dorenaw@paf-ct.org

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual Dues: \$25 per member / \$40 dual or household / \$10 student
Payable To: PCCGH
Mail to: Virginia M. Pudlo
33 Worthington Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033-1372
Tel.: (860) 659-0356 E-mail: ginipudlo@att.net



... to update us when you have a change of name, address, phone number, or e-mail address. Please notify Carol Phelan by E-mail: hopsotch77@sbcglobal.net or by phone: (860) 646-3114. Thank you.

2021-2022 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

- 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, Florence Langridge, Louis Maglaty, John Majdan, Carol Bogon Phelan, and Nancy Yiznitsky.

Feel free to contact any of us at any time.

RECOMMENDED READING

THE THINGS WE CANNOT SAY

by Kelly Rimmer, published by Graydon House-2019



In 1942, Europe remains in the relentless grip of war. Just beyond the tents of the Russian refugee camp she calls home, a young woman speaks her wedding vows. It is a decision that will alter her destiny and produce a mystery that will remain buried until the next century.

Alina Dziak always knew she would marry her childhood best friend, Tomasz. Now fifteen and engaged, Alina is unconcerned by reports of Nazi soldiers at the Polish border, believing her neighbors that they pose no real threat, and dreams instead of the day Tomasz returns from college in Warsaw so they can be married. But little by little, injustice by brutal injustice, the Nazi occupation takes hold, and Alina's tiny rural village and families are divided by fear and hate, and the fabric of their lives is slowly picked apart. Then Tomasz disappears.

Slipping between Nazi-occupied Poland and the frenetic pace of modern life, Kelly Rimmer creates an emotional and finely wrought narrative that weaves together two women's stories into a tapestry of perseverance, loyalty, love, and honor. *The Things We Cannot Say* is an unshakeable reminder of the devastation that occurs when truth is silenced . . . and how it can take a lifetime to find our voice before we learn to trust it. It is a book that once you start reading, you can't put down.

Kelly Rimmer is the NY Times bestselling author of ten novels, including *Before I Let You Go*, *The Secret Daughter*, and 2021 *The Warsaw Orphan*. Her books have sold more than one million copies and have been translated into more than 20 languages worldwide.

SAVE THE DATE —SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021 LADIES GUILD OF SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS CHURCH “HOLIDAY BAZAAR” with a “Szopka Festival” Touch



The Ladies Guild of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church will hold their annual HOLIDAY BAZAAR in the lower Church hall in Hartford on Saturday, November 20, which will be open to the general public. Vendors will be invited to sell their wares and Polish food will be offered. In an opportunity to keep the tradition of the Szopka Festival alive and remain in touch with our members and supporters, the PCCGH will be hosting tables selling books,

Christmas cards, music/records, Polish imports and crafts, Unique Boutique, jewelry, attic treasures, etc. All proceeds from the sale of PCCGH tables will benefit the Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Fund. Look for more details in the fall. Two air purifiers, purchased by the Ladies Guild, have been installed in the Church hall to filter the air. We hope you will support both of these worthy organizations.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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



DID YOU KNOW . . . Medieval Coins Were Recently Found Buried in Biskupiec, Poland?



During more than 10 years of tramping through fields and forests with a metal detector, a Polish treasure hunter has unearthed many relics of Europe's bloody past. In November 2020, however, he made a discovery that startled even scholars steeped in the ebb and flow of European warfare and left them wrestling with a tantalizing question: How did a cornfield in northeastern Poland come to hold silver coins minted more than 1,100 years ago and nearly 1,000 miles away by the medieval rulers of what is now France?

One theory and working hypothesis promoted by a Polish archaeologist leading the hunt for an explanation is that the silver coins date from one of Europe's earliest and most traumatic episodes of armed extortion — when an invading Viking army laid siege to Paris in A.D. 845 and had to be paid off with more than 2 tons of silver to prevent it from destroying the city. The Vikings — Scandinavian warriors greatly feared because of their unruly habits and military prowess — later systematized what became an elaborate protection racket in the 11th century by imposing taxes in England known as Danegeld, tribute payments in return for safety. What happened to the huge ransom they received for sparing Paris in 845 has always been a mystery.

The Vikings had a major trading post called Truso just 30 miles from Biskupiec, the Polish village where the coins were found. That has led some experts to speculate that the silver extorted in Paris made its way there and then spread into nearby areas as part of a flourishing Baltic-region trade, whose main commodity was slaves. "This is an exceedingly rare and surprising find," said Lukasz Szczepanski, the head of archaeology at a regional history museum in the Polish town of Ostroda. "We previously only knew what happened in Paris from written sources, but now, suddenly, we have it in a physical form."

Others, however, are skeptical, Simon Coupland, a British expert, noted that the coins found in Biskupiec seemed to date from several years before the 845 siege. But, he added, they could be part of the booty extracted by the Vikings during earlier attacks on the western part of the empire established by Charlemagne, or simply the proceeds of regular trading and raiding by the Vikings. But, no matter what, Szczepanski said, the discovery of silver coins in a Polish hamlet from so far away and so long ago was both exciting and unsettling.

In a country whose own capital, Warsaw, was occupied and then obliterated by the Nazis during World War II, the survival of Paris more than a millennium before, thanks to a payment to the Vikings, has a painful resonance. Despite their reputation for violence, medieval Vikings, Szczepanski said, behaved far better than 20th-century Germans, whose actions during the war "are incomparable with anything in world history." The trauma of World War II, he added, has severely hampered archaeological work in northern Poland. Much of the area used to be part of Germany, and post-war Polish archaeologists, focused on uncovering and celebrating their battered country's own past, have had little interest in digging up reminders of German hegemony.

Szczepanski is now making plans for a full-scale excavation of the field this year, once the farmer who owns the land finishes harvesting his crops. The discovery of yet more Carolingian coins, the archaeologist said, would strengthen his belief that the area contains part of the vast hoard of silver paid to the Vikings. Most of the coins found so far date from the rule of Louis the Pious, Charlemagne's son, with only one minted under his grandson Charles the Bald, who ruled the western part of the Carolingian Empire and was in power during the Viking siege of Paris.

Source: Excerpted from an article by Andrew Higgins, published by [The New York Times](#) 7/13/2021 and republished in [The Hartford Courant](#) on 7/14/2021.

A PERMANENT KOSCIUSZKO SQUADRON EXHIBIT AT THE NEW ENGLAND AIR MUSEUM OPENS IN NOVEMBER 2021

The New England Air Museum, one of the largest aviation museums in the country, has teamed up with the Polish Studies Program at Central CT State University to create and display a multi-media exhibit paying tribute to the Kosciuszko Squadron. This newly renovated space will house the artifacts, display cases, and touchscreen kiosks, each presenting elements of the Squadron's story in different ways and through different periods of time. It is not a coincidence that the emblem of the Kosciuszko Squadron bears the American Stars and Stripes. The Squadron was formed in 1919 by a group of Americans, led by Merian C. Cooper, who volunteered to fight with the Polish army in the Russian-Polish War. The insignia, designed by one of its members, Elliot Chess, features a red, four-cornered military *rogatywka* that was worn by Tadeusz Kosciuszko in the 1794 Polish rising. Superimposed are two scythes crossed diagonally to represent the peasants who fought with him against a background of the red, white, and blue Stars and Stripes of the American flag. Poland is America's most loyal European ally. This exhibit will help to understand why.



WE ARE STILL SEEKING POLISH ITEMS THAT NEED A NEW HOME



The Club has a collection of new and gently used Polish imports and items which are offered for sale at events like the Szopka Festival, or used in public displays such as library programs. These include books, carved wooden objects, craft pieces, textiles, ceramics, dolls, music, costumes, etc. If you or your family are cleaning house and have items relating to Poland or Polish culture that you no longer are interested in keeping and would like to donate to the Club, we would be most appreciative. Unfortunately, our contemplated summer Outdoor Tag Sale did not materialize, but we have plans for hosting several "Szopka" tables at the Ladies Guild of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church "Holiday Bazaar" on November 20. If you have questions, please call Fran at (860) 659-0356. Dziękuję.



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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021 — ZOOM PROGRAM 6:00-8:00 PM

“Polish Paper Cutting — Hands-On Workshop”

Conducted by Susan Urban, Polish Art & Culture Specialist

Hosted by the Chicopee Public Library

FREE

Register by phone—413-594-1800 X-3 or e-mail: cbagley@cwmar.org

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21— FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

“American Council for Polish Culture Annual Convention”

Hosted by the Polish American Arts Association of Washington, DC

Convention registration fee of \$500.00 includes:

- ◆ Three breakfasts and two lunches at the Arts Club of Washington
- ◆ Reception at the hotel Tuesday evening (September 21 arrival)
- ◆ Dinner at a nearby restaurant on Wednesday
- ◆ Sembrich Concert and Reception on Thursday
- ◆ Tour of Washington attractions on Friday afternoon
- ◆ Awards Banquet at an elegant venue on Friday evening

Accommodations: Hotel Lombardy (special ACPC rate)

Information about the Convention, as well as registration forms, can be downloaded from the ACPC website:

<http://www.polishcultureacpc.org>

TWO FAVORITE RESTAURANTS REOPEN

THE POLISH NATIONAL HOME

60 Charter Oak Avenue
Hartford, CT



Hours: Saturday, 4:00-9:00 PM & Sunday 11:00 AM-3:00 PM

The Polish National Home welcomes Chef Bozena to their kitchen. Visit [facebook.com/HartfordPNH](https://www.facebook.com/HartfordPNH) for the summer menu. Several staff positions are still open, so if you know someone who might be interested, please contact the PNH at info@PolishHomeCT.org.

THE WETHERSFIELD DINER

718 Silas Deane Highway
Wethersfield, CT
860-969-0600



Hours: Monday—Friday 8:00 AM — 2:00 PM

Chef Stacey Pribyson incorporates many Polish touches into her dishes.

For a sample menu, please visit website: thewethersfelddiner.com

NEWSFLASH — CLUB MEMBERS

If you have any news to share about Club members or former scholarship recipients, please e-mail francespudlo@att.net or call 860.659.0356.

Sto Lat to our beloved **Krystyna Farley** who will celebrate her 96th birthday on August 19. Fran Pudlo, Gini Pudlo, and Ursula Brodowicz visited with her and Ed on July 12.



Ursula Brodowicz, Krystyna Farley, Gini, Pudlo, Ed Farley

Krystyna with Fran Pudlo



to **Helen Olejarsz** on the loss of her brother, Joseph Olejarsz, on July 15, 2021

ADDITIONAL ACCOLADES FOR ALA GRABARCZYK, 3RD PLACE WINNER IN THE 2021 POLISH POETRY RECITATION GLOBAL COMPETITION



GREAT NEWS from the Office of President Andrzej Duda of the Republic of Poland regarding the 2021 Polish Poetry Recitation Global Competition “*Slowem-Polska*” (The Polish Word) sponsored by First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda. **Ala Grabarczyk**, was announced as the 3rd Place Winner in the Ages 7-9 Category in this year’s competition, which included participants from 45 countries, 252 Polish Language

Schools, and 720 students. Ala is 9 years old and a student at the Hartford Polish Saturday School. The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford is especially proud of her amazing accomplishment since she was the winner of its first annual Anna-Mae Maglaty Literary Competition in 2020. On July 8, Ala was congratulated personally in a virtual meeting and conversation with Polish First Lady Mrs. Agata Kornhauser-Duda. Also present were Ala’s parents, her brother, Curriculum Director of the Hartford Polish Saturday School Kasia Brodowicz, and teacher and biggest fan Danuta Krajewska. Ala submitted three different poems, one for each level, as she advanced in the competition: “Moja piosnka” by Cyprian Kamil Norwid, “Elegia o chłopcu polskim” by Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński, and for the final round, Ala recited “Rymy” by Maria Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska. Polish Language School teachers Anna Magiery and Kinga Jastrzebski-Krzemien assisted Ala in preparing for the competition, as did Piotr and Beata Krajewski who helped with costumes and props. Ala’s recitation videos may be viewed on www.polskaszkolahartford.com. The Polish Word Competition is for students of Polish descent attending Polish Language Schools in countries outside of Poland. The goal is to inspire interest in Polish literature and appreciation for the richness of the Polish language while promoting national pride and unity among Polonia and Poles globally. Students were invited to submit videos of themselves reciting poetry by Polish authors in Polish, including use of props, costumes, and settings. 2021 Winners: Ages 7-9: 1st Place: Julia Skorski, United States, 2nd Place: Paulina Szymoniak, Ireland, and 3rd Place Ala Grabarczyk, United States. Ages 10-13: 1st Place: Anita Czirkowa, Ukraine, 2nd Place: Victoria Relska, Canada, and 3rd Place: Mikołaj Kobierecki, Spain. Ages 14-19 1st Place: Diana Savaneviciute, Lithuania, 2nd Place: Sophia Pieczara, Canada, and 3rd Place: Ewelina Mazur, Ukraine. (Submitted by Ursula Brodowicz)



Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.
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We're on the Web!

www.polishculturalclub.org