



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

February 2021

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture



JENNIE MARCONI-JAVORSKI SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.

2020 was a challenging year for students, which could explain why there were no submissions for our Club's annual scholarship. Please know that this opportunity continues to be available and that our Scholarship Chairs, Florence Langridge and Gini Pudlo, encourage you to reach out to candidates of Polish heritage. A PCCGH Scholarship application, with eligibility requirements, has been included as part of this Newsletter. **Applications must be postmarked no later than May 1, 2021.**

On the reverse side of the application is a list of additional scholarships offered by the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). These include "The Eye of the Eagle Władysław Memorial Journalism Scholarship," "Scholarship for Summer Study in Poland," "Pulaski Scholarship for Advanced Studies," and the "Leonard Skowronski Polish Studies Scholarship." Please visit the ACPC's website www.polishcultureacpc.org for further information and details and feel free to share this information with students of Polish heritage.

The 2021 JENNIE MARCONI-JAVORSKI SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION can also be downloaded from our Club's website: www.polishculturalclub.org

WINNERS OF THE 2020 ANNA-MAE MAGLATY LITERARY COMPETITION



Left to Right: Kasia Brodowicz, Anna Ramoya, Ala Grabarczyk, Maya Tomczyk, Sabina Urbanska, Lilia Kiełtyka



Award Ceremony—All student participants, HPSS faculty, PCCGH representatives

In spite of unsettling times, the 1st Annual Anna-Mae Maglaty Literary Competition did take place and culminated on December 19, 2020 with the presentation of three cash awards. President and Competition Chair, Lilia Kiełtyka, with Club representatives Fran and Gini Pudlo in attendance, congratulated the following winners: Ala Grabarczyk—1st Prize of \$250.00; Sabina Urbanska—2nd Prize of \$100.00; and Maya Tomczyk—3rd Prize of \$100.00. All three young ladies are students of the Hartford Polish Saturday School. Although circumstances prevented the Maglaty family from attending the ceremony, they are supportive and appreciative of this ongoing tribute to Anna-Mae, which perpetuates her love of education, the potential of young students, and Polish culture.

We thank Anna Ramoya, President of the Hartford Polish Saturday School; Kasia Brodowicz, Director of Curriculum; faculty members; and the nine students who participated in this inaugural competition. In keeping with the mission of the School, all of the essays were written in Polish. Ala's 1st prize essay was translated into English and is enclosed with this newsletter. To read the entry in the original Polish, please visit our Club's website: www.polishculturalclub.org. We also thank the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) for matching part of the 1st prize through its Wachtel Literary Award grant.

The Anna-Mae Maglaty Literary Competition is a new program of the PCCGH which endeavors to foster interest in the art of creative writing while increasing an awareness and appreciation of Polish culture. It has a dedicated fund for the award of prize money; donations are welcome and can be sent to P. O. Box 380699, East Hartford, CT 06138-0699.

The Hartford Polish Saturday School has served the Greater Hartford area for over 83 years and is in session from September to May. It offers a stress-free atmosphere for children ages 4 and up in which to learn the language, geography, history, and culture and traditions of Poland. Visit their website — www.polskaszkolahartford.com — for questions or further information.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Dear Friends,

As I write this approaching Lent, I see a Big Y bakery box of *pączki* sitting on my counter. What a wonderful job this supermarket is doing in promoting Polish culture, especially with the pretty Polish flower motif decoration on the box. Enjoy them while you can — prune is my go-to favorite.



In this issue, you will read about our successful 1st annual Anna-Mae Maglaty Literary Competition. We teamed up with the Hartford Polish Saturday School, and what a job they did. To announce the winners, they held a special assembly and that is where I saw firsthand the dedicated administrators and teachers in place. They really ran with the competition and made it their own. Many great entries came in from their talented pool of young Polish Americans. It's an extremely well-run language program that has adapted to the COVID restrictions. The Club is extremely grateful to have partnered with them for this competition.

We heard from our dear friend, Pattie Kaczynski, in that she has resigned from her Board position. I would like to personally thank her for her many years of service, generosity, and most especially her creative decorating flair that was just AMAZING.

The Club continues to think about what we can look forward to in the months ahead. So much disruption in our usual schedule of events. We will keep our eye on a COVID-free future that will, once again, allow us to meet regularly. Stay safe everyone!

Lilia Kielytyka

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

As Membership Chair, let me thank all who have sent in their membership dues for 2021. If you have not yet renewed, please try to do so by March 15. The Club is obligated to send in dues on your behalf to the ACPC in the spring, so that you may receive their *Polish Heritage* newsletter.

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

2021-2022 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Lilia Kielytyka

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.

PRE-LENTEN "KARNAWAŁ" SEASON

In Poland, the Shrovetide festivities, "Zapusty" or "Karnawał" are a time of joyous celebration before the start of the somber Lenten season. One special festivity of this time is the "Kulig" (Polish sleighing party originated by the gentry in the 18th century). A group of people, young and old, set out through the snow in bell-festooned sleighs drawn by their fastest horses for a pre-arranged destination. After a suitable period of feasting and drinking, the party would be joined by their hosts and proceed to the next location where the celebration continued. These "kuligs" sometimes went on for days increasing in size. The children also enjoyed costume parties, "Przebieranie" — similar to our Halloween.



As the carnival approached its climax, the whole village would come together in scenes of gay parades in which animal and human masks appeared. One of the most commonly represented figures is the ancient pagan goddess of Death, "Marzanna." On the first day of spring, the death of winter is dramatized with great ceremony by the entire village with the symbolic drowning of the straw image of "Marzanna."



Drowning of Marzanna

Shrove Tuesday (*Ostatki*) is the final day of Karnawał, a celebration at which good food, drink, music, dancing, and entertainment abound until the stroke of midnight — marking the start of Lent. The music falls silent, the libations are put away, and herring and meatless "zur" (ryemeal soup) may be served before the party breaks up. It is even said that the devil lurks somewhere in the shadows making a list of those who continued to party after the appointed hour. In order to use up all the fat such as butter and oil, huge quantities of "pączki" are made and consumed on this day in anticipation of Lent, when they will be forbidden.

Ash Wednesday brings about the exchange of colorful dress for more somber attire as the faithful go to church to have their heads sprinkled with ashes and to pray and repent during the next 40 days. Lent is also a time for special evening devotions—Stations of the Cross, and "Gorzkie Żale" (the Passion of Christ set to music and sung by the congregation). Following six weeks of self-reflection and sacrifice, the joyous season of Easter awaits.



... 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 by phone: (860) 646-3114. Thank you.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor:

Frances Pudlo (francespudlo@att.net)

Assistant Editor:

Position Open — Please inquire if interested

Staff:

Carol Bogon Phelan, Nancy Yiznitsky



DID YOU KNOW . . .

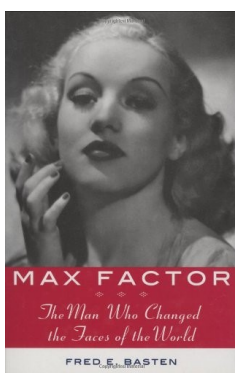
That a Polish astronomer published the earliest known exact map of the Moon?

Jan Heweliusz (1611-1687), a member of a noble family of Gdańsk, was a city councilor and a brewer by trade, but it was as an astronomer that he gained a respected reputation and national renown. After studying at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, he returned to Gdańsk and built an observatory atop his house in 1641. With a keen understanding of engineering, he built complex and precise telescopes that were far better than what was then available. He preferred, however, to measure celestial positions without the aid of lenses. In 1679 the English astronomer Edmond Halley visited Heweliusz and compared the use of a sextant having telescopic sights with Heweliusz's sextant with open sights. Heweliusz showed that he could determine stellar positions about as accurately without a telescope as Halley could using one.

Heweliusz compiled an atlas of the moon (*Selenographia*, published in 1647) containing one of the earliest detailed maps of its surface, as well as names for many of its features. This earned him the moniker "the founder of lunar topography." A few of his names for lunar mountains (e.g., the Alps) are still in use, and a lunar crater is named for him. Heweliusz also made a catalog of 1,564 stars, the most comprehensive of its time, as well as a celestial atlas in which he described ten new constellations, seven of which are visible from mid-northern latitudes and are still recognized by astronomers today. One of these is Sextans (the sextant), named for one of his own astronomical instruments. During his years of solar observation, Heweliusz theorized that twelve astral bodies revolved around the sun in parabolic paths (routes of projectiles affected by gravity). He named stars, comets, and constellations and, as a master engraver, Heweliusz also detailed and illustrated his heavenly findings in a self-published guide, "*Firmamentum Sociescianum*," which is still considered to be an invaluable resource in the study of the skies. After his death, the catalog and the atlas were published together (*Prodromus Astronomiae*, 1690) by his wife, Elisabetha, who had collaborated with him in his observations and became a very adept astronomer in her own right. Royalty from all over Poland visited his projects and gave him the financial means to continue in his cutting edge work.



Source: Britannica.com (Chelsey Parrott-Sheffer); Wikipedia

That Max Factor was founded by a Pole?

In 1909, Maksylian Faktorowicz (1877-1938), a Polish-Jewish cosmetician from Zduńska Wola, Congress Poland, started a movie make-up company he named Max Factor. His breakthrough techniques to enhance a starlet's features and hair, and make them look wonderful on film, became the standards of how make-up (a phrase he popularized based on the verb phrase "to make up (one's face)") should be applied. He gave many of his famous clients a signature look that was copied by women throughout the world, such as Clara Bow's heart-shaped lips and Jean Harlow's platinum blonde hair. Other notable clients included Gloria Swanson, Pola Negri, Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, Lucille Ball, and Judy Garland. By 1935, he turned his years of experience and expertise into an international retail cosmetic industry that became hugely successful and is still booming today. Max Factor & Company was owned by several generations of the family until it was sold in 1973 for \$500 million, and following various mergers and sales, was purchased by Procter & Gamble in 1991. In 2015, Max Factor was one of a number of beauty brands that Procter & Gamble sold to Coty for \$1.5 billion. Coty relaunched Max Factor in 2018.

DO YOU HAVE ANY POLISH ITEMS THAT NEED A NEW HOME?

The Club has a collection of 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. At some point in the future, when outdoor public gatherings are considered safe, we are contemplating having a "Polish Market" event. If you have questions, please call Fran at (860) 659-0356. We would also be happy to pick up donations at your home. Dziękuję.



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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021 — FREE WEBINAR 3:00 p.m.

"The Ghost of Shakespeare — A Conversation: Ross Ufberg & Anna Frajlich (award winning writer)" Her book considers the work of major Polish writers of the 20th century, including Zbigniew Herbert, Czesław Miłosz, and Bruno Schulz.

Sponsor: The Kosciuszko Foundation / Registration: www.thekf.org

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021 — FREE WEBINAR 12:00—1:45 p.m.

"Lex Est Rex? The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth" — lecture by distinguished academic, Prof. Robert Frost, who will analyze the governing systems of the vast multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and multi-cultural Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Sponsor: The Kosciuszko Foundation / Registration: www.thekf.org

Check Out: "Polish-American Program" with Andy Gołębiowski

On WebrRadio.com Saturdays: 11:00 am -12:30 pm EST

Sundays: 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm EST

PHOTO BLASTS FROM THE PAST

Pączki is Not Just for Karnawał!



Maria Kostek and Jadwiga Kordowska selling everyone's favorite Polish treat at the 2004 Szopka Festival's Kawiarnia (Coffee Bar).

Recognize Everyone?



This photo is from Cliff Archie's collection. We believe it was taken at an event in CCSU's Polish Archives circa 2000. L to R: Anna-Mae Maglaty, Jennie Javorski, Lottie Pozniak, Ann Oleasz, and Jo-Louise Winters.

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 **Anthony and Lisa Monterulo** on their July 10, 2020 wedding. Lisa is the daughter of members, **Richard and Sophia Kociubinski**, a former Club scholarship recipient, and accomplished flautist.

Congratulations to **Janit Romayko** who once again ran the 2020 Manchester Road Race (in virtual form) and placed 1st in her age category.

NATIONAL POLISH AMERICAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME (NPASHF) ANNOUNCES NAMES OF 2020 INDUCTEES

As the NPASHF was unable to hold its traditional induction ceremony last year, it will induct instead five well-deserving individuals in its "Greats of the Past" category. These are Polish-American athletes whose accomplishments in sports were in an earlier era and merit recognition. The awardees are: Green Bay Packers President: **Dominic Olejniczak** (1908-1989); track and field champion: **Frances Sobchak Kaszubski** (1916-2010); Notre Dame football All-American: **Emil Sitko** (1923-1973); World Champion billiards pro: **Frank Tabereski** (1889-1941); and All-American Girls professional Baseball League star: **Connie Wisniewski** (1922-1995). Detailed information: www.polishsportshof.com.

FOR TRADITIONAL POLISH EASTER RECIPES . . .



Please consider our Club cookbook.

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

Shipping/Handling: \$4.00 per book

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

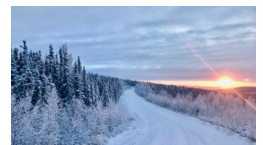
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P.O. Box 380699 — East Hartford, CT 06138-0699

POLISH WEATHER ALMANAC

Gdy słońce świeci jasno na Gromnice, to przyjdą większe mrozy i śnieżyce.

If Candlemas Day is sunny, there will be more frost and snow. (February 2)



Św. Maciej zimę traci, albo ją bogaci.

St. Matthew will either rid us of winter or will enrich it. (Feb. 24)

Św. Józef kiwnie brodą, idzie zima nadół z wodą.

St. Joseph nods his beard, and the winter goes down to the sea. (March 19)

Marzec, kwiecień wciąż przełata, trochę zimy, trochę lata.

March and April are a mixture of winter and summer.

Deszcz ranny, płacz panny

Morning rain is like a maiden's tears. (neither lasts long)



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We're on the Web!

www.polishculturalclub.org