



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD

Established 1976 www.polishculturalclub.org February/March 2010

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

THE ART OF *PISANKI* — POLISH EASTER EGG DECORATING

Sunday, March 14, 2010

1:30 p.m.

Polish National Home

60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

Information: (860) 521-0201

Public and Guests Welcome

FREE Admission



Pisanki are given in love. Young people would make one for their beloved, and family members and friends would exchange one with the traditional three kisses after the Easter Mass. New *pisanki* made each Lent would be taken to Church on Holy Saturday, along with the basket of Easter food, to be blessed.

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford will present a program on Polish Easter Traditions featuring the Art of *Pisanki* — Polish Easter Eggs as part of its "Artists 2010 Series." Alexander Zielinski, of Ludlow, MA, whose own works include exquisite *pisanki*, *wycinanki* (Polish paper cuts), and other Polish folk arts, will be the featured folk artist.

Mr. Zielinski has lectured extensively on the subject of Polish folk art, traditions, and artists. His presentation will include a description of the various types and techniques of Polish *pisanki* along with a discussion about the extensive array of designs and symbols particular to *pisanki* and their regions of origin. Mr. Zielinski will also demonstrate the molten wax technique of Polish egg decorating.

As part of this program, a typical Polish Easter Table will be displayed in conjunction with other Polish Easter traditions. Easter items, such as *babki* and pussy willow palms (nature permitting), created by the Polish Scouts of Hartford, will be available for purchase. Admission is free, so please bring your family and friends. This is an excellent opportunity to retrace and recapture the roots and meaning of the Easter traditions celebrated by your parents and grandparents . . . And what a wonderful way to introduce a new generation of young Poles to their rich and beautiful heritage.

ACPC NATIONAL RAFFLE

Once a year, the American Council for Polish Culture appeals for your financial support of our national fundraising effort. The annual dues from loyal affiliates, supporting organizations, and individual members barely cover the cost of production/distribution of the informative quarterly publication, the **Polish Heritage**, and other worthwhile Polish undertakings; namely, scholarships.

While it is true that we are inundated with requests for money in our daily mail, this raffle is noteworthy in that it benefits our programs with heavy emphasis on helping our own youth of Polish extraction. We ask that you give consideration to buying the enclosed book of tickets with the possibility of requesting more if you wish. Patricia Archie, (860) 289-8583, has kindly consented to be the contact person for this endeavor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

It was just a short while ago that we were exchanging best wishes as, in true Polish tradition, we shared the "oplatek." Time moves much too quickly. Now we are about to embark upon another of our customs that define us as Poles and that is the sharing of the blessed egg. Easter is looked upon as a rebirth, for this is the time of year when vestiges of winter dissipate and the earth takes on a new aura. Indeed, it is a time of Resurrection.

The Club begins its new year with planning of programs that will be inviting and of interest. Program Chair Ursula Brodowicz, in concert with Frances Pudlo, 1st Vice-President, has worked zealously to incorporate ideas into viable programs. Our March Meeting will emphasize the best of our Polish traditions. We have listened to those people who prefer meetings during the day. Therefore, we cordially invite all members and guests to attend the meeting on Sunday, March 14 at the Polish National Home featuring "The Art of *Pisanki*—Polish Easter Egg Decorating." You may wish to extend the invitation to friends who are not of our ethnic heritage because the topic may be of fascination for them. We look forward to seeing you.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, I extend best wishes with the honored greeting, "Wesolych Swiat Wielkanocnych!"

Anna-Mae Maglaty, President

WITAMY!

A Warm Welcome to New Members:

Maria Dabrowska of Wethersfield
Patricia Checko of Berlin

CONGRATULATIONS!

To all who submitted a *szopka* for our 2009 competition.

1st Prize: Daniel Boginski from Sacred Heart School in New Britain

2nd Prize: Harcerki (Polish Girl Scouts—Hartford)

Kasia Baliga, Kasia Gwara, Kamila Orzechowski, Suzana Orzechowski, Claudia Paszek, Jessica Witkowski, Natalia Zagila, and Maria Brodowicz.



Harcerki Szopka—2nd Prize



Adult Entry—Fran and Gini Pudlo

To Professor Andre Blaszczyński

On September 22, 2009, Club Member, Andre Blaszczyński, received the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland (Class III) from Lech Kaczynski, President of Poland, for his outstanding contribution in supporting the democratic changes in Poland. Professor Blaszczyński, an economist, activist, and politician, is currently Assistant Professor of Economics at Tunxis Community College in Farmington.



POLISH TRADITIONS — Swieconka — Blessing of Easter Food

Swieconka is one of the most enduring and beloved Polish traditions. On Holy Saturday people take decorated baskets containing a sampling of traditional food to church to receive a communal blessing (*swiecenie pokarmow*) — or the priest may be invited to come to the house. The basket (*swieconka*) is often decorated with green parsley, flowers, and sprigs of pussy willows or boxwood (*bukszpan*). It is lined with a linen napkin whose ends should extend beyond the basket's rim, so the Easter food can be covered as the basket is carried to and from church. A typical *swieconka* contains:



Easter Lamb (*baranek wielkanocny*) - which is usually made of butter or sugar (also of other materials, e.g., dough, wood, plastic) and has a red banner of Resurrection emblazoned with a gold cross. It symbolizes the sacrificial Paschal Lamb (Jesus Himself) whose banner proclaims the victory of life over death.

Eggs (*jaja, pisanki*) - Eggs symbolize new life. Just as a chick breaks open its shell, so, too, Christ emerges from His entombment to bring forth the promise of eternal life.

Bread (*chleb*) - Bread is the staff of life. Together with round loaves, ham and kielbasa are added. Meats are symbolic of Christ resurrected, His victory over death, and the promise of eternal life. Meat also signifies prosperity.

Horseradish (*chrzan*) - This is one of the bitter herbs of Passover which foretold the suffering of Christ on the cross. It is a symbol of life in which one must accept the bitter with the sweet.

Vinegar (*ocet*) - Vinegar symbolizes the sour wine which was given to Jesus on a sponge to drink while hanging on the cross.

Salt (*sol*) - Salt is the symbol of welcome and hospitality. It keeps food from spoilage and adds flavor to food. It is symbolic also in that it preserves us from corruption and adds zest to our daily lives.

Easter cakes (*babka, mazurek, sernik*) - After a 40 day period of Lenten self-denial, cakes symbolize the sweetness of eternal life. — Robert Strybel



Attention Young Adults (ages 18-25)

Please consider participating
in the **Washington DC
Youth Leadership Conference.**

Sponsored by the American Council for Polish Culture, you will have an opportunity to visit and learn from Washington's dignitaries, professors, and reporters. **Mark your calendars for the week of June 20-26, 2010.** For additional information, visit ACPC website: www.polishcultureacpc.org.

Enjoying Polish Hospitality

Members and guests always enjoy the dessert and coffee social that concludes each general meeting. It has been a tradition throughout these past 33 years that all members, when called upon, donate either a baked item or provide a monetary contribution. As President, I encourage all to continue this custom. The Club holds eight meetings each year. From a roster of 150+ members, this is a fair and equitable way to foster support. We take great pride in hosting our Polish table. Please participate by attending our programs and most especially, do agree to bring a favorite dessert to share when you are asked.

Co? What? Gdzie? Where? Kiedy? When?	
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2010	7:30 p.m.
Connecticut Virtuosi/CCSU Polish Studies Program <i>Chopin's Bicentennial Concert, Neal Larrabee, Pianist</i> CCSU, Welte Hall, New Britain Fee Charged	
SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2010	4:00 p.m.
S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies (CCSU) and the Embassy of Poland, Washington, D.C. <i>Ewa Poblocka — Pianist (Fryderyk Chopin's Bicentennial)</i> CCSU -Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall, New Britain FREE	
SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2010	1:30 p.m.
PCCGH Program (Public Invited) <i>"The Art of Pisanki—Polish Easter Eggs"</i> Polish National Home, Hartford FREE	
FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2010	8:00 p.m.
Connecticut Virtuosi <i>Chopin's Bicentennial</i> Trinity-on-Main Church, New Britain Fee Charged	
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010	7:00—9:00 p.m.
Polish Reading Group Meets Wesoly Sloper House, New Britain Book: "Solidarity's Secret: The Women Who Defeated Communism in Poland," Shana Penn, 2006, Univ. of Michigan Press All interested readers are welcome!	
THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2010	Evening
PCCGH Program (Public Invited) <i>"Workshop on Oral Histories"</i> Mary P. Erdmans, Ph.D., Sociology Department, CCSU	



Polish Cultural Club of
Greater Hartford
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We're on the Web!
www.polishculturalclub.org

REFLECTION AND REVIEW

SZOPKA FESTIVAL 2009: The Scholarship Program is enhanced each year due to the tireless and committed members who make the Festival "happen" and to the guests who look forward to attending and supporting it. This year was no exception. Each of the Club's booths was aesthetically pleasing and financially successful. Swiety Mikolaj, aka Cliff Archie, graciously greeted youngsters and oldsters alike. Jadwiga Kordowska and Genevieve Jaronczyk welcomed guests to coffee and pastries at the popular "Kawiarnia." The beautifully attired Krystyna Farley and Phyllis Stawiarski enticed people to the 50/50 Fundraiser. Joan Godlewski and Helen Rogalsky appreciated the fabulous donations at their raffle table. Lovely jewelry was offered for purchase by Hedy Bruks at Donated Treasures. The Game Booth, chaired by Joy Chlus, presented attractive prizes for the lucky winners. Florence Langridge and Ann Oleasz had a myriad collection of fine items available in their Unique Boutique. Members and guests, seeking books and calendars with a Polish theme, had an opportunity to purchase them from Ursula Brodowicz. The country Kitchen, "tastefully" decorated by Virginia Pudlo, was fortunate to have the quartet of Janice LaPenna, Frances Pudlo, Julie Story, and Nancy Yiznitsky manning the tables, which contained succulent and attractive baked goods, most especially the "chrusciki" donated annually by Jadwiga and Bernard Czarnecki. Special thanks are extended to Patricia Archie, who is the prime planner in the annual preparation of "pierogi" sessions. This sought after Polish delicacy is a most popular item in the food both. Additional thanks go out to those artists who provided the "szopki" for the admiration of all.

Sincerest appreciation is extended to Mary Marek Hartz and Virginia Pudlo who reach out to and arrange for the various vendors who find the friendly atmosphere and serious shoppers a good reason to return each year.

Lastly, but most importantly, a resounding "Thank You" to the men without whose presence the Szopka Festival could not succeed: Marek Czarnecki, the director and artist who is responsible for sharing his talents in teaching the art of "szopki making," Edward Farley Chairman extraordinaire, and his assistant, Louis Maglaty.

Thank you to all Chairs and Members who volunteered in all aspects of the Festival over November 28 and 29, 2009.
Z calego serca, dziekujemy.

WIGILIA 2009: December 11, 2009 will remain an evening to remember. The highlight of this traditional affair was sharing of the "oplatek,," the Bread of Life, the Bread of Love. Approximately sixty members and guests enjoyed the camaraderie, the meal, the *koledy*, and most especially, the opportunity to follow a true Polish tradition. A bouquet of thanks is presented to the Chairs, Monica and Raymond Kowalski, and to Ursula Brodowicz, whose invitational flyer was truly beautiful.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

College or university-level students have the opportunity to apply for scholarships from both the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford and the American Council for Polish Culture. Requirements are described below. Application forms for the Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship (PCCGH) and the Scholarship for Study in Poland (ACPC) are attached. Please pass this information along to any family members and friends of Polish ancestry who may be interested and would qualify, and encourage them to apply.

JENNIE MARCONI-JAVORSKI SCHOLARSHIP Sponsored by the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford

Since 1987, the Club has had the pleasure of awarding scholarships to deserving undergraduate and graduate students. For many of these years, Jennie Marconi-Javorski served as a Chair of this Committee. Upon her death last year, her children Janice, Louise, and Robert decided to have money donated to the Club's Scholarship Fund in lieu of flowers. The response was gratifying. Therefore, the Board voted that this annual award be named in Jennie's honor. Thus, beginning in 2010, students will be applying for the "Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship" sponsored by the PCCGH.

The Chairs of this Committee, Florence Langridge and Virginia Pudlo, invite students to consider the 2010 scholarship. Eligibility requirements can be found on the enclosed application form or on the Club's website: www.polishculturalclub.org. The deadline for submissions is May 1, 2010.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY IN POLAND Sponsored by the American Council for Polish Culture

Students who are entering their junior or senior year at college or university level are invited to consider applying for summer study at a university of his/her choice in Poland. Winners receive \$2,000.00 toward this study. A list of requirements and the application form are attached. Applications can also be downloaded from the ACPC website: www.polishcultureacpc.org. Deadline for submission to Camille Kopielski, ACPC Scholarship Chair, is on or before April 1, 2010.

PULASKI SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ADVANCED STUDIES Sponsored by the American Council for Polish Culture

A graduate student who is a citizen of the United States, is of Polish ancestry, and enrolled at an accredited university in the United States where he/she must have completed at least one year of studies at the graduate level, may apply for this scholarship. At least one \$5,000.00 scholarship will be awarded. Prior winners of this award are ineligible. For information, application procedures, and deadlines, please visit: www.polishcultureacpc.org.