



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

May 2010

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

LEARN ABOUT

LT. JANINA LEWANDOWSKA

(the sole female victim at Katyń)

Thursday, May 20, 2010

6:30 p.m.

Polish National Home

60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

Information: (860) 521-0201

Public and Guests Welcome

FREE Admission



Second Lieutenant Janina Lewandowska

Early in Life, Janina developed three major passions: flying, parachuting, and singing. She excelled at each.

Who was Lt. Janina Lewandowska?

With the recent tragic events decimating the political elite of Poland, including President Lech Kaczynski and First Lady Maria Kaczynski, the infamous "Katyń Massacre" is again at the forefront. Seventy years ago, 20,000+ Polish officers, teachers, professors, and others were killed by the Soviets. Among them was Janina Lewandowska, an officer in the Polish Air Force and the daughter of General Jozef Dowbór-Musnicki, Commander of the Polish Army First Corps.

Kendall Merriam, a writer and researcher from Rockland, Maine, became interested in her story after reading Night Never Ending, a book about Katyń by E. Komorowski and Joseph Gilmore. This book served as an inspiration for him to begin a quest to learn more about Katyń and ultimately to gain further insight into Lt. Lewandowska.

The evening's program will feature background on Kendall Merriam, highlights of his interview with Edwin Kulawiec, in which Mr. Merriam explains why he, an American, with no ties to Poland, and living in Maine, where there are few Poles, developed such a deep interest in Katyń. Some of his poems from Hymns to Janina Lewandowska will be recited both in English and in Polish.

The presentation will conclude with the discovery of Lt. Lewandowska's skull, the scientific and forensic research, and the return of her remains to a final resting place. After sixty-five years, Janina Lewandowska is home in Lusin, a town near Poznań

NEWS OF NOTE



LOSSES

We mourn the loss of the 96 Poles who perished on April 10, 2010 while on their way to pay tribute to the 20,000+ individuals whose lives were sacrificed in 1940 in the Katyń catastrophe.

We also mourn the loss of:

Philip Noetzel, Felicia Gajda's husband
Judith A. Quigg, Nancy Yiznitsky's daughter

(please see page 4)

WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

Patricia Archie
Mary Marek Hartz
Raymond Kryzak
Mary Sitnik



WELCOME (WITAMY) TO NEW MEMBER

Natalie Rak of New Britain

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

IN MEMORIAM

96 Victims of Air Crash, April 10, 2010

20,000+ Victims of Katyń Massacre, Spring 1940

The tragedy that is Katyń, Poland's agony, is no longer hidden from the world but instead has garnered its attention. Although Prime Minister Vladimir Putin of Russia, at a joint commemoration with Prime Minister Donald Tusk of Poland, acknowledged on April 7 that the massacre was a crime of the Stalin regime, he fell short of issuing an apology. Thus, a group of eighty-eight of Poland's elite, perhaps feeling that Mr. Putin had not gone far enough regarding this "genocide," flew to Russia to attend the Katyń commemoration on April 10, 2010. Accompanying President Lech Kaczynski and his economist wife, Maria, were major representatives of the foreign-policy leadership of his party: commanders of the army, navy, air force, special forces, senior intelligence people, and top historians. Their focus was to honor the officers, reservists, lawyers, doctors, teachers, and intellectuals who perished seventy years ago and to privately pay their respects.

Unfortunately, disaster struck as the aging presidential plane, Tupolev Tu 154, approached its landing at the Smolensk airport in the fog. The aircraft made three abortive attempts before hitting tree tops on the fourth try and killing all ninety-six passengers on board.

Among the dead were two historic figures in Poland's recent history: Ryszard Kaczorowski, the last president of Poland's wartime government in exile, which was based in London, and Anna Walentynowicz, a prominent Solidarity member. Anna was dismissed from the Lenin Shipyards in Gdańsk in August, 1980, thus igniting the strike that led to the creation of the Solidarity Movement and ultimately to the collapse of Communism.

Niech odpoczywają w pokoju wiecznym.

May they rest in peace forever.

A NOTE OF THANKS

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM (APRIL 22, 2010)

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to **Dr. Mary Erdmans**, Professor of Sociology at CCSU, for the informative and stimulating presentation on conducting oral histories. The fact that an interaction between the interviewer and the interviewee allows us to preserve the history of our living and serves as an eyewitness account, energized many members to want to go out to record the stories of everyday happenings.

Herein lies the charge for members of the PCCGH. Decide on an oral history project that will produce a record of "how it used to be" in the Polish Community of Hartford. There are still many people among us whose memories are important and need to be

documented. Not only will this project serve as a "Living Textbook," but it will be an excellent addition to the archives and repositories at CCSU and UCONN.

Anna-Mae Maglaty

CHOPIN CELEBRATION CONCERT

Sunday, September 12, 2010

2:00 p.m.

Polish National Home

Admission: \$20.00

Co-Sponsored by:

Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. and

The Polish National Home, Inc.

featuring

MELODY FADER, PIANIST



"Stirring"

"Plays with
Elegance"

"Sumptuous"

Ms. Fader, whose West Hartford roots have served as a steppingstone to the world stage, will present an all-Chopin program. She enjoys a busy career as a soloist, chamber musician, vocal accompanist, and interdisciplinary collaborative artist in New York City. She has performed throughout the U.S. and abroad, notably Chile, Italy, Belgium, England, Spain, Canada, Korea, and Israel. Melody is a prize winner of the Coleman Chamber Ensemble and the Aspen Concerto competitions. She earned her BM in piano performance from the Eastman School of Music and her MM in Collaborative Piano at the Juilliard School, where she studied with Margo Garrett.

A Gala Reception will follow the concert. Information: Ursula Brodowicz (860) 521-0201 or Fran Pudlo (860) 659-0356.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Frances Pudlo
 President/Consultant: Anna-Mae Maglaty
 Staff: Carol Bogon Phelan, Genevieve Jaronczyk, Nancy Yiznitsky

FRANK N. PIASECKI

The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, together with the Pennsylvania Museum Commission, honored Frank N. Piasecki on Saturday, April 17, 2010 at the dedication of an official state highway marker commemorating this pioneer of vertical aviation aeronautical engineering.

The only son of Polish immigrants, Piasecki studied mechanical engineering at the University of Pennsylvania and went on to earn his BS degree from New York University. Together with other young engineers from UPenn, he founded PV Engineering, which eventually evolved into what is today the Rotorcraft Division of Boeing Corporation.

In 1943 Piasecki developed and flew this country's second successful helicopter, the PV2. (The first helicopter was designed by Igor Sikorsky.) Then in 1945, he invented the world's first tandem rotor helicopter, the PV-3 Dogship, which was capable of carrying three times the payload of any helicopter flying at that time. It was called "the flying banana" because of the bend in its fuselage which ensured that the front and back rotors did not collide. Piasecki's innovative tandem rotor design is largely credited with transforming the helicopter from a small aerial observation aircraft to one with broad military, commercial, and humanitarian applications.

Throughout his lifetime, Piasecki was awarded 25 patents in aerospace development. Other honors bestowed on him were the National Medal of Technology, the highest American technology honor, awarded by President Ronald Reagan in 1986; the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's Lifetime Achievement Award; and the Polish Cross of Merit presented by the President of Poland, Lech Wałęsa.



Rotorcraft pioneer Frank Piasecki, dressed in a leather flight suit, after he flew the PV-2 in 1943.

ERRATUM—APRIL 2010 NEWSLETTER

Paderewski's remains were placed in a crypt at St. John's Church in Warsaw in 1992, not in 1922.

Polish Proverbs:

God rewards those who rise early—Kto rano wstaje, temu Pan Bóg daje.

Man is the maker of his own destiny — Człowiek jest kowalem swego zycia.

**AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR POLISH CULTURE
FOUNDER'S AWARD**

The American Council for Polish Culture annually bestows the prestigious Founder's Award to a member of the Council who ardently strives to foster and to share Polish culture, history, and traditions with fellow Americans. This year the Board has selected **Mary Mazurek Heslin** as one of the two recipients. She will receive this honor at a dinner to be held at the culmination of the 62nd Annual Convention in Rapid City, SD on July 17, 2010.

The Board of Directors and the members of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford applaud Mary as she receives this most deserving honor. They also congratulate Jacqueline Droleski of Elmira, NY, who is the other Founder's Award recipient.

**JENNIE MARCONI-JAVORSKI SCHOLARSHIP
POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD**

Members and guests agree that one of the highlights of the year is the General Meeting and Strawberry Social at which the Annual Scholarships are awarded. **Florence Langridge** and **Virginia Pudlo, Co-chairs**, cordially invite members and friends to join them on Thursday, June 10 as they introduce the 2010 recipients. This ceremony is a fitting tribute to the efforts and commitment of the many volunteers who help to stage each annual Szopka Festival. Please know that every dollar earned from the Festival is designated solely toward the Club's Scholarship Fund. We hope to see all members at the Scholarship Awards meeting and also ask everyone to reserve the date of Sunday, November 28 in their calendars for this year's Szopka Festival. Every volunteer is critical to making this a successful event.

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

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2010 6:30 p.m.

PCCGH Program

"Katyń's Only Female Victim, Lt. Janina Lewandowska"

Polish National Home, Hartford

FREE

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2010 6:30 p.m.

PCCGH Program

"Scholarship Awards and Strawberry Social"

Polish National Home, Hartford

FREE

MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2010 7:00—9:00 p.m.

Polish Reading Group Meets

Wesoły Sloper House, New Britain

Book: *"White Raven"* by Andrzej Stasiuk. 2001. Serpents Tail. All interested readers are welcome!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2010 2:00 p.m.

PCCGH / PNH Program

"Chopin Celebration Concert with Melody Fader"

Ballroom of the Polish National Home

Gala Reception Following

Admission: \$20.00

**ARE YOUR YOUNG ONES LOOKING
FOR A FUN SUMMER PROJECT?**

What about making a szopka for our annual Szopka Festival to be held on Sunday, November 28. This year marks the _____ anniversary of this Festival, and we are hoping to make it an especially memorable occasion. Not only is this a wonderful way to learn about a beautiful Polish Christmas custom, but it also produces a one-of-a-kind piece of art for future family holidays. Adult entries are also encouraged. The instructions for szopka making can be found on the Club's website: www.polishculturalclub.org. The supplies can be found in ordinary household goods. We are looking forward to receiving many outstanding entries!



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

We're on the Web!

www.polishculturalclub.org

DEPORTATION SURVIVORS RECOGNIZED

February 10, 2010 marked the 70th anniversary of one of two deportations of over a million Poles from the eastern regions of Poland to Siberia by the invading, occupying forces of the Russian army at the beginning of World War II. Men, women, and children were forced onto transport trains, many to die, many to be dispersed throughout the world. Each of their tragic stories is a testament to faith and the human spirit. It is also a reminder of the atrocity and horror of war and obligates those of Polish descent to know this history and to share it.

An event to commemorate this anniversary was held in Bridgeport, CT and attended by over 100 survivors, primarily from the Northeast, along with the Polish Scouts of Bridgeport and the Polish Veterans. Rev. Lucjan Krolikowski of Springfield, MA, who was responsible for the rescue of hundreds of orphaned Polish children and is the author of *Stolen Childhood* and *Memoirs of a Siberian and Homeless Wanderer*, concelebrated the Mass. A program followed with testimonials, poetry, essays, and a film which commemorated this tragic history. The highlight was a special ceremony to honor the individual survivors present. The following Club members were recognized: **Maria Brodowicz, Jadwiga Czarnecki, Dr. Stanislaw Milewski, and Helen and Chester Zasada.**

IN MEMORIAM—Judith A. (Yiznitsky) Quigg

Judith A. (Yiznitsky) Quigg, 47, of Vernon and formerly of East Hartford, wife of Paul Quigg, passed away peacefully on April 23, 2010 at Rockville Memorial Hospital after a brief illness. She was the daughter of Board Member **Nancy Yiznitsky** and the late Vincent Yiznitsky.

Judith graduated from East Catholic High School, attended Russell Sage College in Troy, NY, and graduated from Albertus Magnus College with a Master's Degree in Business Administration.

Memorial donations in her name can be made to the **Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Fund of the PCCGH, c/o Raymond Kowalski, 209 Woodland Street, Bristol, CT 06010.**

Services will be private and held at the convenience of the family.



POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL

May 3, 2010

We Salute Three Club Members who were Recognized



The PCCGH has the privilege of introducing three Club members who were recognized at a ceremony in the Hall of Flags at the State Capitol on Monday, May 3, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. Each of them is also a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award presented by the United Polish Societies.



Clifford Archie

CLIFFORD ARCHIE: Each year the Szopka Festival is the defining event for the PCCGH. However, it is a beautifully garbed Święty Mikołaj whose delightful smile enchants members and guests alike. It is he who gives a unique presence to this celebration and this is just one of the "hats" that Cliff Archie wears within the Club.

Historically, his outreach within Polish/Polish-American affairs dates back to the International Festivals where Polish culture and foods were featured at ethnic events and were to be the precursors to the Club's events today. He was the chief assistant to wife, Patricia, at the Polish Booth prominently showcased at Mayor George Athanson's All-American Council Food Festival held at the Hartford Civic Center. Cliff was responsible for the splendid reception at the Bushnell Memorial after the Warsaw Sinfonia Concert conducted by Krzysztof Penderecki.

His journey through the Club has led him in different directions. Cliff participated in the handling and shipping of approximately ten tons of "English Books for Poland." His service on the Board of Directors promoted him to serving as Vice President and then on to Presidency for two years. During this time period, the Club completed the final installment of the \$10,000.00 donation to the Stanislaus Blejwas Chair of Polish and Polish-American Studies at CCSU.

Working in concert with Patricia, Cliff served as Editor of the Club's Newsletter for fifteen years. In addition, they chaired the Program Book Committee for the 61st National Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture held in Hartford, CT in August, 2009. Their teamwork in the "pierogi-making sessions" for the Szopka Festival is equal to none.

Cliff is a shareholder in the Polish National Home, is a member of the SS. Cyril and Methodius Men's Club, and the Polish University Club. On the national level, he has served on the Board of Directors of the American Council for Polish Culture as Chairman of Credentials and Grievances Committee, the Nominations Committee, and the Awards Committee.

With great pride, we salute Clifford Archie!



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Maria Brodowicz

MARIA BRODOWICZ: Maria has distinguished herself among the many facets within the Polish/Polish-American Community. However, it is her passionate advocacy among young people, most especially among the female Polish Scouts that we wish to call her renowned. From the Scout oath which she took at age eleven in Iraq after being driven from her home in Poland, until today, where Maria is the highest ranking Scout leader in Connecticut, her devotion to young women is unsurpassed. Through example, she installs in them to be the best that they can be, to honor their scouting oaths and laws, to cherish their faith in God, and to evidence their patriotism to the United States and to the Poland, the land of their ancestors.

As a founding member of the Polish Scouting Organization in Hartford in 1957, Maria has participated in annual Polonian events commemorating Veteran's Day, Polish Independence Day, May 3 – Polish Constitution Day, Pulaski/Kosciuszko Day, and Parade, as well as at other ceremonies. She has traveled as a chaperone and a leader throughout the United States and Europe, including Monte Cassino and Rome, where an audience with Pope John Paul II was the highlight as he sang and clapped his hands to their songs.

Maria has been a member of the PCCGH for thirty-three years. Her areas of expertise within the Club are many. She designed and crafted exhibits featuring Polish art, culture, and history, including planning and creating the Club's donated Christmas tree for the Festival of Trees at the Wadsworth Atheneum. Her attention to detail in true Polish fashion is noted as she provides the necessary information and sets the table for Wigilia and Easter dinners for exhibit purposes.

Maria promotes education and sponsors students for the scholarships offered by the Club and by the American Council for Polish Culture. It is a boon to her and to the club that six of her Scouts were awarded grants for study at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, the highest number ever awarded to an affiliated club.

Kudos to Maria Brodowicz!



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Krystyna Słowikowska Farley

KRYSTYNA SŁOWIKOWSKA-FARLEY: Krystyna has proven to be an invaluable asset to the PCCGH in her many roles as poet, teacher, actress, choreographer, and counsel.

Her early years, after being driven out of their home in Poland by the Russians, found her family facing many hardships in labor camps and journeys through places such as Kazakstan and Persia (Iran). As her brothers joined the junior cadets, Krystyna joined the army nursing corps under British command, where she traveled with the armies through Palestine and Egypt. She met and married her first husband in Italy in 1945. Eventually they settled in Great Britain where her three daughters and son were born.

With the untimely death of her husband, she came to the United States as a young widow, where she became immersed within the Polish and Polish-American community. Krystyna was a member of the Paderewski Choir. She then served as choreographer and President of the Gwiazda Dance Club, the highlight of which was participating in the International Folk Dance Festival in Rzeszów, Poland. Because of her special gift in teaching folk dancing to children, she traveled for many years to work with small groups, even moving into a multi-cultural school where she received plaudits for working with a diverse population of students.

Her talent in choreography is further enhanced by the myriad of folk costumes that she owns representing different regions of Poland. Krystyna was the commentator for a PBS program which featured this collection. Also, at the 61st National Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture in 2009, Krystyna delighted guests and members with her mini-fashion show, as well as designing a colorful display to add more information on Polish costumes. Together with husband, Edward Farley, who serves as Second Vice President of the Club, they contribute time, energy, dedication, and commitment to any project involving the PCCGH. When called upon to do so, Krystyna is able to write a poem in which the words touch one's heart. Her acting and directorial abilities are held to high standards because she never asks of others that which she herself will not give one hundred percent.

The Club is proud to acknowledge Krystyna Słowikowska-Farley as one of its Founders. We are fortunate to have her on the Board as the Cultural Counsel, for she is our "go to" person with questions regarding tradition, culture, and history.

Wiwat Pani Krysiu!