



## NEWSLETTER

# POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

[www.polishculturalclub.org](http://www.polishculturalclub.org)

November 2010

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

### Join us for Three Upcoming Events to be Held at the Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2010

6:30 p.m.

Food Drive / Turkey Drawing / Elections

#### 30TH SZOPKA FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2010

9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

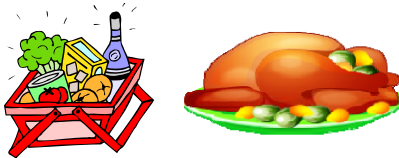
Free Admission / Public Welcome

#### WIGILIA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2010

6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30.00 per person



The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford looks forward to three events which bring the year to a close. On November 18 at 6:30 p.m., we will once again hold the Annual General Meeting. In addition to elections, it is customary to have a Food Drive and a Turkey Drawing. We ask that each member bring non-perishable items, either boxed or canned. Although one may donate as many items as one wishes, only a maximum of three tickets per person is allowed. Most importantly, we ask that dates of the items are reviewed. **Outdated items are simply discarded.** All food items will be delivered to SS. Cyril and Methodius Church for distribution to needy families.

Since this meeting is just a week prior to the Szopka Festival, we request donations for the various Club-sponsored tables. Please see the box on page 2 for suggestions.

All of these requests lead to the “big day” — November 28 — the annual Szopka Festival whose proceeds benefit the Club’s Scholarship Fund. Let us not forget how many dozens of pierogi and how many cakes one must sell to realize \$1,000.00, the usual scholarship award. Manual help is needed on both Saturday and Sunday morning as well as throughout the day. Please call Ed Farley, Szopka Chair, at (860) 225-5204 if you can spare some time.

The Szopka Festival, our own unique event, defines the Club. We need you to invite family, friends, and neighbors to join us in enjoying the creativity of the Szopka designers and artists. We need all the support that we can muster. The cause is worthwhile, and your help invaluable. We look forward to seeing you.

The year’s program schedule culminates with the beautiful Wigilia, which will be held on Friday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Polish National Home. A separate flyer will be mailed providing further information on the Polish Christmas Vigil meal and the installation of Officers. Do bring a friend — they will be happy to have been with us in taking part in the blessing, the sharing of the Oplątek, the traditional meatless meal, the kolędy, the raffle, but most of all, the opportunity to partake of true Polish holiday camaraderie.

#### PIEROGI “THANK YOU”

Pat Archie, Chair of Pierogi Making, extends her deepest gratitude to the 38 members who gave up their Saturday morning to help make pierogi for Szopka. She also offers a special big THANK YOU to the 8 people who participated in all three Saturdays. In special recognition, our renowned “Dough Boys,” Cliff Archie, Ed Farley, and Lou Maglaty, have become the backbone of these pierogi sessions. The Club appreciates the dedication and loyalty of all the volunteers who participate on an annual basis. Join in the fun next year!



Cliff Archie and Lou Maglaty



Ed Farley



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Friends,

As I begin to write this letter, it is difficult to believe that my two years of Presidency, as promised, have come to an end. The time has been exhilarating. More than ever, I recognize the extraordinary members who comprise the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford.

Although Convention 2009 is now a memory, the planning, preparing, executing, and follow through will forever be embedded among my favorite thoughts. From that Tuesday evening of true Polish welcome with accordion and song, to Mass celebrated at our beautiful SS. Cyril and Methodius Church with 65 enjoying breakfast, the week was surreal. The Polish spirit began to soar and reached its zenith as we expressed "Do zobaczenia" to our guests as they set off for varying parts of the United States. Yes, you made this event happen, and I thank you.

Programs, too, were of distinction and enjoyment. The background history on Crazy Horse, important cultural topics such as "pisanki," oral history, Polish artists, the Katyń tragedy, and the visit to the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning aided in fostering our mission. Celebrating Chopin's 200th birthday with pianist Melody Fader and the gala reception that followed was certainly a highlight of 2010. It was an exciting two years.

Now, it is with sincere appreciation that I say farewell as the eleventh President of the Club. It has been a "great run" thanks to those of you who are true members. The Club is most fortunate to have a nucleus of workers who commit to taking on a task, giving it their best, and thus, bringing pride to the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford,

You have truly done much to raise my Polish spirit. It is my hope and prayer that we do all that we can to enable our new President and Executive Committee to continue soaring like our symbolic Polish eagle.

Z całego serca, dziękuję Państwu. Anna-Mae Maglaty

And to you, Anna-Mae, the entire membership of the Club expresses a debt of gratitude for the tireless dedication in which you led our organization for the past two years, for the high standard of excellence you exhibited at all times by example, and most of all, for demonstrating what it means to be Polish in spirit and action. Your Polish pride shines through in all that you do, and, as a result, all of Polonia has benefited. Thank you!



**SZOPKA DONATIONS REQUESTED**  
**(You may bring to Annual Meeting on November 18)**

Raffle Table (Chairs: Joan Godlewski, Helen Rogalsky)  
 Gifts and Gift Certificates — minimum of \$20.00

Unique Boutique (Chairs: Florence Langridge, Ann Oleasz)  
 Gifts received but never used

Donated Treasures (Chair: Hedy Bruks)  
 Jewelry and other small treasures

Game Booth (Chairs: Mary Bogon, Carol Bogon Phelan)  
 Everyone is a winner for a dollar! Small donated items for adults and children.

Mrs. Jingles (Alice Rogala)  
 Candy, lollipops, peppermint sticks

**SUNDAY—November 28, 2010**

Coffee Bar /Kawarnia (Chair: Jen Jaronczyk)  
 Homemade cakes and pastries

Country Kitchen (Chair: Fran Pudlo)  
 Homemade cakes, pies, cookies, chrusciki, pączki, and other Polish delicacies

**All pastries must be delivered before 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. Please label any items that contain nuts or peanut butter and do not use toothpicks.**

Other Committee Chairs:

Vendors: Virginia Pudlo and Mary Marek Hartz  
 Books: Ursula Brodowicz  
 50/50: Krystyna Słowikowska Farley  
 Św. Mikołaj: Cliff Archie assisted by Pat Archie  
 Publicity: Mary Mazurek Heslin and Janice LaPenna  
 Szopka Chair: Edward Farley assisted by Louis Maglaty

ERRATUM—October Newsletter

To correct spelling error: Wisława Szymborska, winner of on the Nobel Prize for Literature.

**NEWSLETTER STAFF**

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



## ŚWIĘTY MIKOŁAJ — THE POLISH SAINT NICHOLAS

The feast day of Święty Mikołaj is celebrated on December 6. Although there are numerous legends identified with this popular saint in Poland, the one that associates him with the season of Christmas and gift giving is the legend of the three daughters.



An impoverished nobleman had three daughters who were unmarried because he could not provide them with a dowry. Upon hearing this, Św. Mikołaj, who at that time was a young man, took gold pieces from his own coffers, and on the night of December 5, threw them into the window of the house. Shortly thereafter, the eldest daughter was wed to a man of noble birth. He did this again twice, with the result that all of the daughters were wed. This legend was the basis for the foundation in Poland called the *skrzynka Świętego Mikołaja*, or the coffer of St. Nicholas. It was founded by a rich lady in Kraków named Magdalena Wonzamowa, who in 1588 donated 700 złoty to the Brothers of Mercy, which she designated as a dowry for poor girls who wished to marry. An official of Kraków named Mikołaj Zebrzydowski strengthened this foundation when he donated 3,000 złoty for the “coffer of St. Nicholas” as a perpetual fund “for those young girls, who, being well brought up but because of indigent and insufficient funds come by some misfortune to lose their virtue and innocence.” In 1786, the name was changed to the “dowry fund,” which was dispensed by a religious group living near the church of St. Barbara in Kraków up until 1932.

In Poland, St. Nicholas is revered as the patron saint of cattle, horses, and sheep. His feast day falls during a time when wolves gathered together, attacking villages and generating great fear among those living in isolated areas. In the Kurpie region, the men fasted in order to beg St. Nicholas for protection against the wolves. People in the surrounding area brought linen, hemp, and poultry, and placed them on the altars as offerings.

In the Kraków area, the eve of the feast of St. Nicholas is awaited expectantly by the children. On this evening, a man dressed as a bishop in a mitre, a long coat, and holding a tall stick resembling a crozier, goes from house to house listening to the children recite their catechism and prayers. He praises obedient children, reminds the disobedient of their offenses and threatens them with a stick, but in the end, he distributes holy pictures, apples, and *pierniki*, cookies made from honey and spices.

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford has its very own Św. Mikołaj who makes a special appearance at our annual Szopka Festival. Cliff Archie, in the beautiful raiment of the saint (made by his mother), brings alive the spirit and tradition of the Polish Christmas season.

### ***Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia!***

Source: Sophia Hodorowicz Knab, *Polish Customs, Traditions, and Folklore*, Rev. Edition, 1996. Hippocrene Books, Inc., New York, NY,

#### **2011 SUMMER STUDY IN POLAND ACPC Scholarship Award (\$2,000.00)**

Purpose: Enables American students of Polish descent to participate in SUMMER STUDY programs offered at Poland's fine universities, thereby enabling collegians to become more familiar with their culture, heritage, history, and language.

Criteria: Applicant must

1. Be an American citizen of Polish descent.
2. Attend an accredited school of higher learning.
3. Be entering junior or senior year at a college/university.
4. Have ACPC affiliation by:
  - a. Belonging to an ACPC affiliate or supporting org.
  - b. Be an individual member
  - c. Be **RECOMMENDED** by a member, affiliate, or supporting organization.

The application form is available on the ACPC website:  
[www.polishcultureacpc.org](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org). **Deadline: April 1, 2011.**

Contact: Camille Kopielski, ACPC Scholarship Chair  
1015 Cypress Drive, Arlington Heights, IL 6005  
Tel.: (847) 394-2520

#### **A POLISH “MUST SEE” TREASURE**

Who are we? What is our story? PCCGH members and friends addressed these questions during a recent trip to the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at Elms College in Chicopee, MA. After many years of major renovations, upgrades, and additions, the Center has been transformed into a gem of a Polish-American museum and cultural center. Staś Radosz, Executive Director, led the group through various historic and cultural exhibits, memorabilia, and collections which document the spectrum of the Polish and Polish-American experience. There is something for everyone. The “Journey to America Gallery” exhibits documents, photos, trunks, and clothing depicting the arrival of Polish immigrants in America. There are “Folk Art,” “Made in America,” and “Music Theater and Sports” galleries; “Modern Polish History” and “Genealogy” reading rooms; and, currently under construction, a “Polish Cottage” exhibit which will replicate an early 20th century rural Polish home, and the “Children’s Room” which will include paintings of castles and villages and host a Polish dragon. The Center, located on 33 South Street, is open Monday-Friday, 1 p.m.-5p.m. and by appointment. Telephone: (413) 592-0001. A visit is highly recommended.

Submitted by Stan Włodarczyk and Nancy Yiznitsky



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

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2010** 7:00 p.m.

*"Concert of Patriotic Songs"*

Stanislaus Blejwas Endowed Chair of Polish & Polish American Studies

Polish National Home (Refreshments will be served) Cost: \$20.00

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2010** 6:30 p.m.

*"PCCGH Annual General Meeting" — Food Drive/Turkey Drawing/Elections"*

Polish National Home

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2010** 9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

*"Szopka Festival"*

Ballroom of the Polish National Home, Hartford **FREE**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2010** 6:30 p.m.

*"SS. Cyril & Methodius Ladies Guild Christmas Party"*

Dining Room of the Polish National Home, Hartford **Admission**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2010** 6:30 p.m.

*"PCCGH Event — Wigilia"*

Dining Room of the Polish National Home, Hartford **Cost: \$30.00**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2010** 8:00 p.m.

*"Melody Fader, Piano, Performs Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5"*

Farmington Valley Symphony Orchestra

Saint Joseph College, West Hartford **Admission**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2010**

*"Christmas Concert"*

Polish National Home, Hartford **Admission**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2010**

*"Annual Kolędy Sing"*

Polish National Home, Hartford

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2010** 4:00 P.M.

CT Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra's *"Annual Christmas Concert"*

Featuring Jolanta Reszelska—Piano (Poland) and Christmas Carols with the "Polonia Paderewski" Choir

CCSU, Welte Hall, New Britain **Admission**

### NEW MEMBERS — Witamy!

We are happy to welcome the following as new Club members:

Henry M. Fedina of Niantic, CT

Anna Gutswa of Hamden, CT

Rosalind and John Zagaja of East Windsor, CT



**Polish Cultural Club of Greater  
Hartford, Inc.**

**We're on the Web!**

**www.polishculturalclub.**

## PULASKI-KOSCIUSZKO

### COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

On October 10, 2010, the United Polish Societies held a beautiful and touching ceremony at the Pulaski Monument on Main Street in Hartford to remember and recognize two Polish heroes: Count Casimir Pulaski, who trained cavalry units in the American Army and lost his life at the Battle of Savannah, and Thaddeus Kosciuszko, who distinguished himself at the Battle of Saratoga and was responsible for the defense planning at West Point, NY.

This annual event began with Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church and continued at the Pulaski Monument. Various Polish-American organizations were represented, including the Polish-American Veterans, the Polish Ladies Auxiliary, and the Polish-American Girl and Boy Scouts, who placed a wreath at the base of the Pulaski Monument. A contingent from the Connecticut National Guard fired an opening rifle salute which was followed by a trumpeter playing Taps.

John Kocur, President of the United Polish Societies, opened the official program, followed by a greeting in Polish by Anna-Mae Maglaty, President of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford. Mistress of Ceremonies, Mary Mazurek Heslin, along with Mr. Kocur, proceeded to introduce the outstanding program guests and speakers. Among them were Congressman John Larson, CT Senator John Fonfara, Hartford Councilman Larry Deutsch, former State Commissioner Edward Kozlowski, CT Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz, State Representative Peggy Sayers, Commandant Knapczyk of the Polish Veterans, and Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka of New York, NY.

M.B. Biskupski, Ph.D., current holder of the Blejwas Endowed Chair for Polish Studies at Central CT State University, was guest speaker. He spoke on his latest book, Hollywood's War with Poland, 1939-1945.

Of special significance, Consul General Junczyk-Ziomecka recognized and presented the Cross of Sibericus to Maria Brodowicz and Alexandra Helena Mashlanka Krach, both of whom suffered internment in Siberia as refugees during World War II.

A luncheon and reception at the Polish National Home in Hartford followed the proceedings.



Submitted by Mary Mazurek Heslin