



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976 www.polishculturalclub.org November/December 2011

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 17, 2011

6:30 p.m.

Food Drive / Turkey Drawing

SZOPKA FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2011

9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Free Admission / Public Welcome

WIGILIA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011

6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$33.00 per person



As the year comes to a close, the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford looks forward to three festive events which will take place at the Polish National Home. On **Thursday November 17** at 6:30 p.m., the **Annual General Meeting** will be held. In addition to the business meeting, it is customary to have both a Food Drive and a Turkey Drawing. We ask that each member who attends bring boxed or canned non-perishable items. A maximum of three tickets per person is allowed. Most importantly, please review the expiration dates. *Outdated items will be discarded.* All food donations will be delivered to SS. Cyril and Methodius Church for sharing with the less fortunate.

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

The Club's annual major fundraiser, the **Szopka Festival**, will be held on **Sunday, November 25**. All proceeds from this event benefit the Club's Scholarship Fund. The Country Kitchen will again offer delicious hand-made potato/cheese and cabbage pierogi, babki, kielbasa, and home baked goods. Numerous vendors will be on hand to sell Polish items, honey, jewelry, ornaments, books, Oplátky, and hand-made crafts for Christmas giving. Please remember that while your attendance at Szopka is welcome, your volunteer help is critical. Call Ed Farley, Szopka Chair, at (860) 225-5204 if you can spare some time on Saturday morning to help with set up and also during the event on Sunday. There is a job for everyone. Home-made items are also needed for the Country Kitchen. The reputation of our PCCGH bakers is renowned among those who attend.

The Holiday season culminates with the beautiful **Wigilia** event, which will be held on **Friday, December 9** at 6:30 p.m. A separate flyer will be mailed providing further information. Do bring a friend — they will delight in the opportunity of experiencing true Polish holiday camaraderie, which includes taking part in the blessing, the sharing of the Oplátky, dining on a traditional meatless meal, and the singing of kolędy.

TO YOU POLAND!

A Celebration of Independence Day, November 11

Sponsored by The Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair of Polish and Polish-American Studies at CCSU and The Polish National Home

Friday, November 11, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Polish National Home

60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

Admission: \$15.00

Tickets available at the door

The restaurant will be open



Performers: **Monika Krajewska, Wojciech Bukalski, Bogusław Kolodziejczak, Renata Steve, Natasha Ulyanovsky, Ojciec Jerzy Auguscik, Anna Barone, and Eugeniusz Kozłowski**, accompanied by the Organum Choir and the Polish Scouting Group. Information: (860) 832-3010



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members:

It seems that October 2011 did not want to leave us without a good Halloween scare, a shocking Nor'easter. I send my good wishes to everyone and hope that all is going well for those who still might be having problems. It is hard to think of the upcoming holidays and all the necessary preparations at this time, but it is important for us to remember all the blessings that we have received in our lives over the past year. This being our last newsletter for 2011, I ask that we all come together to support our holiday Club events -- Annual General Meeting, Szopka, and Wigilia -- and enjoy the company of one another. It has been a wonderful and enjoyable year for the PCCGH and I thank you all for your past help.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!**

Cliff Archie, President



THANK YOU PIEROGI MAKERS

Once again, our members' support is very gratifying. The Polish Cultural Club deeply appreciates the efforts of the following members and friends who helped to make Szopka pierogi on October 22 and 29, 2011, many of whom came to both sessions.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Pat and Cliff Archie | Bernice Lesinski |
| Gen Bednarz | Louis Maglaty |
| Maria Brodowicz | Ann Oleasz |
| Hedy Bruks | Chris and Sophia Panek |
| Maria Bruks | Maria Panek |
| Krystyna and Ed Farley | Fran and Gini Pudlo |
| Barbara Gancarz | Alice Rogala |
| Jen Jaronczyk | Phyllis Stawiarski |
| Betty Kocol | Gen Urban |
| Ray Kryzak | |

Please know that our pierogi weathered the storm safely in the Club's freezer at Ed Farley's home, which miraculously never lost power.

Pat Archie, Chair of Pierogi Making

SZOPKA DONATIONS REQUESTED

(You may bring to Annual Meeting on November 17)

Raffle Table: Gifts and Gift Certificates (minimum of \$20.00)

Unique Boutique: Gifts received but never used

Donated Treasures: Jewelry and other small treasures

Game Booth: "Everybody's a Winner!" Inexpensive items for children and adults.

Mrs. Jingles: Candy, lollipops, peppermint sticks

SUNDAY—November 27, 2010

Coffee Bar /Kawarnia: Homemade cakes and pastries

Country Kitchen: 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.

Members who cannot contribute to any of the above may send a monetary donation to: PCCGH, P.O. Box 380699, East Hartford, CT 06138

SZOPKA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Szopka Chair: Edward Farley assisted by Louis Maglaty

Vendors: Virginia Pudlo, Mary Marek Hartz

Country Kitchen: Janice LaPenna, Fran Pudlo

Publicity: Mary Heslin, Janice LaPenna, Carol Phelan

Treasure Table: Hedy Bruks

Raffle Table: Joan Godlewski, Mary Joan Herbst,
Helen Rogalsky

Everybody's a Winner: Helen Olejarz

Unique Boutique: Florence Langridge, Ann Oleasz

Books: Ursula Brodowicz

50/50 Raffle: Krystyna Farley, Phyllis Stawiarski

Coffee Bar: Jen Jaronczyk

Św. Mikołaj: Cliff Archie assisted by Pat Archie

If you can spare a little time on Saturday or Sunday, we can use your help. Please contact me at (860) 225-5204, or any of the Chairs. Thank you.

Edward Farley, Szopka Chair

NEWSLETTER STAFF

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Editor: | Frances Pudlo |
| Assistant Editor: | Anna-Mae Maglaty |
| Staff: | Carol Bogon Phelan, Nancy Yiznitsky |



THE HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING DAY (DZIEŃ DZIĘKCZYNIENIA)

Thanksgiving Day (Dzień Dziękczynienia) is celebrated in the U.S. on the fourth Thursday of November. While certainly not a traditional Polish-rooted holiday, it has been eagerly observed by Polonians and Americans of other ethnic backgrounds as far back as anyone can remember. There is a universal appeal in the notion of gathering with one's family and friends, thanking God for our numerous blessings, and sharing a festive holiday meal. Most people associate Thanksgiving Day with the American colonists who came to the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies. While it is true that they did have a day of thanks for a bountiful harvest or when a ship came in with much needed supplies, it was not a specific date. The first declaration of a national Thanksgiving Day was issued by the Continental Congress during the Revolutionary War. Every year from 1777 to 1783, Congress designated a day in December as a national day of thanksgiving. It was President George Washington who designated November 25, 1789 as the official date. However this was not to continue. President James Madison chose April 1 as the day to celebrate peace with England in 1815. Thomas Jefferson thought a proclamation for days of thanksgiving were counter to the ideas of separation of church and state. Thus, the celebration ceased for fifty years until a champion, Sara Joseph Hale, came to the rescue.

Sarah Hale was born and raised in New England and became known with the 1827 publication of her book, *Northwood: Life North and South*, which included two chapters on the thanksgiving tradition in New England. She later went on to be the first woman editor of *The Ladies Magazine* in 1828. Financial issues forced its sale to Louis Godey, the Philadelphia publisher of *Godey's Ladies Book* merging both magazines. Hale became the editor. Hale committed herself to the establishment of a national day of thanksgiving, and for over forty years, she waged a one woman campaign to set aside the last Thursday in November "to offer to God our tribute of joy and gratitude for the blessings of the year." By 1858, governors of 25 of the 31 states endorsed such a proclamation. It took the Battle of Gettysburg in July, 1863, however, to make her vision a reality. The North had won, but the country was bitterly divided. Hale wrote to President Abraham Lincoln urging him to declare an annual national day of thanksgiving which would become an American custom and institution. Finally, on October 3, 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation naming the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day. Sara Joseph Hale's dream had been realized.

Andrzej Hetnal, a Polish-American columnist for Chicago's Polish language daily newspaper *Dziennik Zwiqzkowy* wrote the following: "Thanksgiving is above all the holiday of the 'wayward traveler' who made it over to this safe haven known as the United States. It reaffirms America's immigrant heritage and inclines every inhabitant of this country to briefly reflect upon not only the uniqueness of that first Thanksgiving, but also upon all the other such feasts that followed with the participation of newcomers from alien and distant climes." It should be remembered that the Mayflower Pilgrims, whose legend became the basis of the Thanksgiving holiday, had come to America to seek religious freedom. However they denied it to Protestants, Quakers, Anglicans, Catholics, and others who worshipped God differently than they did. The message of the Jamestown Poles, who had arrived in America twelve years before the Mayflower, was quite different. They believed that all people should enjoy the right to vote regardless of their nationality or creed, and they staged America's first civil-rights protest to prove their point.



Parachin, Victor, "The Woman Who Gave Us Thanksgiving," *Elks Magazine*, November 2010.

Strybel, Robert, "A Polish Thanksgiving," September 20, 2009.

Plaque celebrating the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Poles in Jamestown, VA (2008)

2012 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. **Deadline: April 1, 2012.**

SZOPKA FESTIVAL -"UNIQUE BOUTIQUE" IS SEEKING ITEMS



L to R: Alice Rogala (Mrs. Jingles),
Ann Oleasz, Flo Langridge

The "Unique Boutique" Committee needs your help. We all have items that we have received and put away for one reason or another. This is an opportunity to donate new, never used items for someone else to buy for gift giving — Christmas shopping at a

discount. Please bring your items to the Annual Meeting on November 17, 2011 marked "Boutique," or call Flo Langridge at (860) 521-4034 or Ann Oleasz at (860) 679-2846. Thank you for your support.

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2011	7:00 p.m.
<i>"To You Poland—A Celebration of Independence Day"</i>	
Stanislaus Blejwas Endowed Chair of Polish & Polish American Studies/ Polish National Home (Restaurant will be open) Cost: \$15.00	
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011	7:00 p.m.
Polish Reading Group Meets — All Interested readers welcome. Wesoły Sloper House, 27 Grove Hill, New Britain Book: "Ashes and Diamonds" by Jerzy Andrejewski	
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2011	6:30 p.m.
<i>"PCCGH Annual General Meeting" — Food Drive and Turkey Drawing!</i>	
Polish National Home	FREE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2010	9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
<i>"Szopka Festival"</i>	
Ballroom of the Polish National Home, Hartford Public Invited — Bring a Friend FREE	
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011	6:30 p.m.
<i>"PCCGH Event — Wigilia"</i>	
Dining Room of the Polish National Home	\$33.00 p.p.
(Flyer to be sent separately)	
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011	6:00 p.m.
<i>"SS. Cyril & Methodius Ladies Guild Christmas Party"</i>	
Dining Room of the Polish National Home, Hartford For information: Call Cheryl Pietrycha (860) 523-4878 Admission Fee	

NEW MEMBER — Witamy!

We are happy to welcome the following new Club member:

Mariusz Kurzyna of New Britain



**Polish Cultural Club of Greater
Hartford, Inc.
P.O. Box 380699
East Hartford, CT 06138
Established 1976**

We're on the Web!

www.polishculturalclub.org

A FEW TIDBITS ABOUT THE PCCGH – DID YOU KNOW THAT

The first newsletter appeared in 1982 with editor Joan Godlewski?

The "Polish Room" in the Polish National Home became a reality in 1984 when a room on the third floor was redecorated and furnished?

In August, 1984 an oil painting of the *Troika* was donated by Walter Olender in memory of his wife Rosemary?

In 1984, Governor William O'Neill proclaimed May 3 "Polish Day" with the Polish flag flying over the Capitol?

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed October as Polish Heritage Month?

35th Anniversary Celebration of PCCGH September 18, 2011

Belated thanks are extended to the following members without whom the festivities would not have been as grand. They are:

Frances Pudlo – Co-Chair
Patricia and Clifford Archie – Mementos
Krystyna and Edward Farley – Songbook, 50/50 Raffle
Patricia Kaczynski – Memorabilia and Anniversary Trifold
Louis Maglaty – Right-Hand Man
Helen Olejarz – Flowers

Committee: Genevieve Bednarz, Irene Dylag,
Genevieve Jaronczyk, Ann Oleasz,
Carol Phelan, Phyllis Stawiarski

Carol Phelan – Souvenir Book
Virginia Pudlo – Memorabilia
Nancy Yiznitsky – Reservations, Treasurer, Trifold-Club Functions Over 35 Years

You made things happen! What a memorable day for the Founders, their families and friends, and for members and guests who attended.

With deep appreciation,

Anna-Mae Maglaty, Co-Chair

