



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

March 2012

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

Members' Meeting

“SPRING GARDENING”

**Guest Speaker: Randel Agrella of
Comstock, Ferre and Co.**

Thursday, March 15, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Polish National Home

60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

Information: Pat - (860) 289-8583

Guests are welcome.

FREE Admission

As spring is just around the corner, noted Horticulturist Randel Agrella will be on hand to offer helpful gardening tips on controlling invasive plants/weeds, as well as techniques for seed-saving. Be sure to bring your own list of gardening questions.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, April 29, 2012

2:00 p.m.

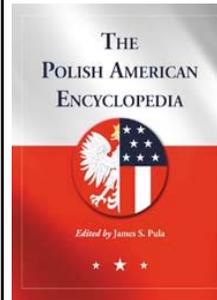
Polish National Home Ballroom

60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

Lecture: “I Served a Saint”

**Featuring Mr. Mario Enzler
former Swiss Guard under
Blessed Pope John Paul II**

More Information to Follow



FOR DISCUSSION AT THE MARCH MEETING

An Invitation to Members

The Polish American Encyclopedia, edited by Dr. James S. Pula of Purdue University and published in 2011 by McFarland & Company, has received accolades from many professional associations. In fact, the American Library Association has selected this new Encyclopedia as one of the outstanding reference books of 2011.

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford is proud to be a part of this important endeavor. We first learned about it when Dr. Pula and member Dr. Mary Erdmans hosted a booth at the 2009 ACPC Convention at the Hartford Hilton Hotel. The Club made a \$100.00 donation and is acknowledged in the prestigious list of donors. Also listed among the source materials is our own Lottie Pozniak. Lastly, this reference book is dedicated to Dr. Stanislaus Blejwas, the initiator of the Endowed Chair of Polish and Polish-American Studies at Central Connecticut State University and one of our past presidents.

Now we are inviting you, dear members, to come to the March meeting to learn more about this book and a possible Club project. Since a prime mission of the PCCGH is to promote and preserve our ethnic heritage, the Board is exploring the idea of donating a copy of the Encyclopedia to a library in the towns and cities in which most of our members reside. We need to hear your input regarding this idea. Please come to the March meeting for further information and discussion.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

We are about to embark on our 36th year of exciting and informative programs and activities. Our first event on Spring Gardening will be held on March 15. Please refer to the flyer for further information. All members and friends are encouraged to take part in our upcoming schedule of events, and we would love to see some new volunteers as well. There is no doubt that our Club provides an ideal opportunity to be a part of something special and worthwhile. Once you get involved with a committee or event, you will reap unexpected benefits. Please do not hesitate to approach any of our Board Members or Committee Chairs and ask to be included. We need you and would welcome your contribution of time, talent, and energy. Our efforts are diverse and there is something for everyone.

As President, I am always grateful for the support I receive throughout the year. This is especially true during the holiday season when many beautiful activities take place. Sincere thanks are extended to all who made these events possible. Again, each volunteer makes a difference.



Szopka Kawarnia Volunteers: — Left to Right: Jadwiga Kordowska, Barbara Gancarz, Stasia Hodyl, Jen Jaronczyk, and Maria Bruks.

There are several members who could use some cheer. Please keep the following in mind:

Jennie Olejniczak, Hughes Health & Rehab, 29 Highland Street, West Hartford, CT 06119

Lottie Pozniak, Jefferson House, 1 J.H. Stewart Drive, Newington, CT 06111

Alex Szerejko, The Atrium @ Rocky Hill, 1160 Elm St. Ext., Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Chester Zasada, Kimberly Hall, 1 Emerson Drive, Windsor, CT 06095-3204

Cliff Archie, President

SZOPKA THANK YOU —

Chair Edward Farley wishes to thank the Committee Chairs and volunteers who helped to make the 31st Szopka Festival a great success. All proceeds are designated toward the Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship. The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford is proud to have sponsored this Scholarship since 1986. Deserving students who receive their awards at the June General Meeting are issued a special invitation. Since the Szopka Festival, held on the Sunday following Thanksgiving Day, is the primary source of money for scholarships, assistance is requested from the awardees either for the Saturday of that weekend, or on Sunday, to aid in a myriad of tasks. We applaud the following scholarship recipients of past years who shared their time and effort during the Szopka Festival of 2011. They are: **Lisa Kociubinski**, **Sophia LaPenna**, **Kenneth Waszynski**, and **Beata and Edyta Hryniewicz**. The latter sisters will graduate from the University of Connecticut on May 5, 2012. Beata will receive a doctorate in physical therapy and Edyta will receive a bachelor's degree and attend Veterinary school in the fall. We thank these young people for their commitment.



Wigilia: Sharing of Oplatek: Krystyna Farley and Rev. Adam Hurbanczuk, Pastor, SS. Cyril & Methodius Church



Wigilia: The Polish Scouts enact a special Polish holiday tradition.



SZOPKA CONTEST WINNERS

1st Place: Fuxi Worcester and David Mathieu, Jr.—Grade 8, St. James School

2nd Place: Jenna Kelly and Anamaria Sousa—Grade 7, St. James School

3rd Place (tie): Caroline Gwara and Olivia Zagula, Polish Saturday School and Erin Nasuta, Grade 6, St. James School

CONGRATULATIONS!

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor:	Frances Pudlo (fpudlo@pdpaint.com)
Assistant Editor:	Anna-Mae Maglaty
Staff:	Carol Bogon Phelan, Nancy Yiznitsky



DID YOU KNOW

Wisława Szymborska—Nobel Laureate, Poet, Essayist, Translator—was dubbed the “Mozart of Poetry!”

Wisława Szymborska died at her home in Kraków on February 1, 2012 after a long illness at the age of 88. She is the author of more than fifteen books of poetry, but published fewer than 400 poems during her lifetime. These merited the coveted Nobel Prize for Literature in 1996, as well as other prestigious awards and prizes. Called both deeply political and playful, her verse is seemingly simple, subtle, deep, and often hauntingly beautiful. She used simple objects and detailed observations to reflect on larger truths, often using everyday images as inspiration. Writing in the *New York Review of Books*, Stanislaw Barańczak said: “Wit, wisdom and warmth are equally important ingredients in the mixture of qualities that makes her so unusual and every poem of hers so unforgettable.” A sample of Miss Szymborska’s work follows:

STILL

Across the country’s plains
sealed boxcars are carrying names:
how long will they travel, how far,
Will they ever leave the boxcar—
don’t ask, I can’t say, I don’t know.

The name Nathan beats the wall with his fist,
the name Isaac sings a mad hymn,
the name Aaron is dying of thirst,
the name Sarah begs water for him.

Don’t jump from the boxcar, name David.
In these lands you’re a name to avoid,
you’re bound for defeat, you’re a sign
pointing out those who must be destroyed.

At least give your son a Slavic name:
he’ll need it. Here people count hairs
and examine the shape of your eyelids
to tell right from wrong, “ours” from “theirs.”

Don’t jump yet. Your son’s name will be Lech.
Don’t jump yet. The time’s still not right.
Don’t jump yet. The clattering wheels
are mocked by the echoes of night.

Clouds of people passed over this plain.
Vast clouds, but they held little rain—
just one tear, that’s a fact, just one tear.
A dark forest. The tracks disappear.

That’s-a-fact. The rail and the wheels.
That’s-a-fact. A forest, no fields.
That’s-a-fact. And their silence once more.
That’s a fact, drums on my silent door.

From: “*Calling Out to Yeti*,” 1957

THE THREE ODDEST WORDS

When I pronounce the word Future,
the first syllable already belongs to the past.

When I pronounce the word Silence,
I destroy it.

When I pronounce the word Nothing,
I make something no nonbeing can hold.

From “*New Poems*,” 1993-97

EPITAPH

Here lies, old-fashioned as parentheses,
the authoress of verse. Eternal rest
was granted her by earth, although the corpse
had failed to join the avant-garde, of course.
The plain grave? There’s poetic justice in it,
this ditty-dirge, the owl, the burdock. Passerby,
take out your compact Compu-Brain and try
to weigh Szymborska’s fate for half a minute.

From: “*Salt*,” 1962

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



A GENTLE REMINDER . . .

Scholarship Applications, along with all requested materials, must be **received and postmarked no later than May 1, 2012.**

Applications can be downloaded from Club website:
www.polishculturalclub.org.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome (witamy) to new member:

Donna Zarwanski of West Hartford

Members should have received invoices for 2012 dues. You are urged to pay by March 15, as the ACPC national dues are expected by this date. If payment is not received by March 15, it will be assumed that you are no longer interested in membership and your name will be removed from the roster. Send your check payable to PCCGH to: Raymond Kowalski, 209 Woodland Street, Bristol, CT 06010.

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

FEBRUARY 9 THROUGH APRIL 12, 2012

EXHIBIT: "The Practice of Iconography"

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2012 5:30—7:30 p.m.

Reception/Lecture w/ Artists, led by member, Marek Czarnecki

Franciscan Center, 235 Church Street, Hartford

Information: (860) 756-4034

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2012 7:00—9:00 p.m.

Polish Reading Group Meets

Wesoły Sloper House, Grove Street, New Britain

Book: "The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution" by Alex Storozynski

All interested readers are welcome

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012 6:30 p.m.

PCCGH Program—Speaker: Randel Agrella—Comstock Ferre

Polish National Home, Hartford FREE

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2012 12:00—4:00 p.m.

4TH ANNUAL POLISH FESTIVAL

"Witanie Wiosny" (Welcoming Spring)

Sponsored by: University of CT Polish Cultural Society and held at University of Connecticut, Bishop Center, Storrs Campus

Includes musical performances, skits, poem readings, traditional Polish dancing by the UConn Polish language students, members of the Polish Cultural Society, members of the Polish Scouting Organization, and other Polacy from CT. There will be free Polish food and admission is FREE.

Contact: Edyta Hryniewicz, Polish Cultural Society President

Edyta.hryniewicz@uconn.edu

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2012 2:00 p.m.

PCCGH Program "I Served A Saint"

Guest Speaker: Mario Enzler, former Swiss Guard

Polish National Home, Hartford—Main Ballroom FREE

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2012 :30 p.m.

PCCGH Program—Speaker: Krysia Jopek author of "Maps and Shadows"

Polish National Home, Hartford FREE



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

**We're on the Web!
www.polishculturalclub.org**

PCCGH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS



Congratulations to Virginia Pudlo and Frances Pudlo, recipients of the PCCGH "Distinguished Service Award," shown above with President Cliff Archie,

Historically, the Founders and the Board of Directors make a decision to honor those members who over the years have gone beyond what is expected in fulfilling the mission and goals of the PCCGH. Thus, at the Wigilia Supper on December 9, 2011, the Distinguished Service Award was bestowed upon two women whose work is legendary from the onset of their joining the Club in 2001.

Frances Pudlo (Fran) has always risen admirably to any task asked of her. Her business acumen, organizational skills, and foresight were of great value for Convention 2009. It was her suggested theme, "The Soaring Polish Spirit" which gave impetus to the week's activities. Her analyses and budget preparation were simply phenomenal for a group of novices embarking on a new venture.

Our honoree's writing and communication skills took on a presence of their own as in November 2009, Fran undertook a Herculean task—the redesign of the Club's newsletter. Writing, editing, and arranging of it are done well after her regular work hours, as she has a very responsible position as an Office Manager, Human Resources Coordinator, and Information Specialist for a commercial painting contracting firm. Fran may have been nominated to "Who's Who in the East," but there is no doubt that she is among the "Who's Who in the PCCGH."

Virginia Pudlo (Gini), our second recipient, gives of herself unstintingly, and always with a smile on her face and joy in her heart. Her service to SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, as Parish Nurse Coordinator and banner creator is unparalleled. Her artistic works continue to be admired long after the Jubilee celebrations for which they were created.

Gini is a major contributor to the Annual Szopka Festival. She, with Fran's help, makes the Country Kitchen Corner aesthetically pleasing with her special decorations. Mentored by Mary Marek Hartz, she assumed the role of Chair of Vendors in 2009 and has since handled the selection, invitations, correspondence, deposits, follow up, hospitality, and final report to the Szopka Chair. Her keen attention to detail makes all of this seem effortless. Realizing that the proceeds of the Festival fund the Scholarship Program, Gini, together with her Scholarship Co-Chair Florence Langridge, revises the application annually to ensure that students research some aspect of Polish culture in order to gain knowledge and pride in their heritage. One might add that Gini works in the Nursing field and also holds a Master's Degree in Human Development/Gerontology.

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford proudly salutes Frances and Virginia Pudlo, the 2011 recipients of the Club's Distinguished Service Award.