



## NEWSLETTER

# POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

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

April/May 2020

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

### SUSPENSION OF SPRING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

*It will come as no surprise that the programs and events of the PCCGH scheduled for this spring have been suspended during these troubling times. We look forward to resuming our work as soon as it is feasible. In the meantime, please stay safe and well and keep in touch. (Editor)*

NEW!

### ANNA-MAE MAGLATY LITERARY COMPETITION



One of the Club's planning goals has been to promote the involvement of Polish youth in our Club mission. A particular focus, brought up by President Lilia Kieltyka, is to partner with our national ACPC and sponsor a literary contest to inspire young writers. A Board vote was conducted and it was enthusiastically endorsed.

It seemed appropriate and fitting to name this competition in honor of our late esteemed and beloved member, Anna-Mae Maglaty. The written word has always been Anna-Mae's passion.

The Anna-Mae Maglaty Literary Competition is a dedicated fund and donations are gratefully accepted.



### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

We welcome new members at any time. Please share this information with family and friends who wish to support our mission:

Annual Dues:      \$25 per member  
                        \$40 dual or household  
                        \$10 student

Mail to: Virginia Pudlo, Acting Membership Chair  
33 Worthington Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033-1372

**PLEASE NOTE: Membership cards for 2020 are included with this mailing. This card allows entrance to the Wadsworth Atheneum during regular hours of operation.**

Don't  
Forget

to update us when you have a change of name, address, phone number, or e-mail address by notifying Carol Phelan by E-mail: [hopscotch77@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hopscotch77@sbcglobal.net) or phone: 860.646.3114.

### ACPC PULASKI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED



The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. was recently informed that two of our members have been named recipients of the American Council for Polish Culture's 2020 PULASKI SCHOLARSHIP. This \$5,000.00 scholarship is awarded to graduate students of Polish descent enrolled at an accredited university in the U.S. who have completed at least one year of studies at the graduate level. It is with immense pride that we congratulate:

**Beata Kaminska-Kordowska** who is finishing her Doctoral dissertation at UMass, Amherst as a Ph.D. candidate in the Neuroscience and Behavior Program and who will graduate in September 2020. Beata is the wife of Michael Kordowski and daughter-in-law of Jadwiga Kordowska.



Jadwiga Kordowska, Michael Kordowski, and Beata Kaminska-Kordowska



**Kamila Orzechowska**, who is pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Saint Joseph School of Pharmacy in Hartford, CT. She will graduate in 2021. Kamila is a long-time Student member and 2014 recipient of our Club scholarship.

Both young ladies are an inspiration!



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Dear Members,

Since our last issue, the world has changed. I would never have thought that such a scary virus could take over our everyday lives and yet things continue to unfold and change every day. The Club will continue to do as much as we can during these times, and this newsletter is proof positive.



Celebrating Easter was strange without a physical presence in our respective churches, but praise and thanks for the online Masses that were available to the faithful, some even in Polish.

Kudos to the **Polish American Journal** on their special Easter Edition. For those of you who don't have a subscription to this newspaper, I highly recommend it. There are ten editions per year, and it is inexpensive (\$22.00-digital and \$25.00-print). Published in English, the newspaper features great articles on Polish-American news, history, sports, Polka, and pop culture. To request a free April 2020 sample, please send an email to [editor@polamjournal.com](mailto:editor@polamjournal.com) noting "Easter 2020 edition" in the subject line. This offer is for digital versions only. Sample print editions can be obtained by sending \$1.50 to cover postage and handling to: Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 271, North Boston, NY 14110—0271. To learn more about the PAJ, visit [www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com).

Our national ACPC organization notified me that two members of our Club have been selected to receive its 2020 Pulaski Scholarship award for graduate studies. What a great honor and boost to our Club! Please read more about these amazing young women on page 1.

The Board has overwhelmingly voted to develop the Anna-Mae Maglaty Literary Competition. This is in honor of our dear Board Member who died this past January. We had hoped to hold the competition this Spring, but have postponed it to the end of 2020.

We promise to keep you informed of any changes in our events or any adjustment in our planning. My best wishes for healthy days ahead.

Lilia Kieltyka, PCCGH President

## 2019-2020 CLUB OFFICERS AND BOARD

President: Lilia Kieltyka

Vice President: Ursula Brodowicz

Secretary: Frances Pudlo

Treasurer: Raymond Kowalski

Historian: Virginia Pudlo

Board Members: Patricia Archie, Marek Czarnecki, Edward Farley, Krystyna Farley, Patricia Kaczynski, Florence Langridge, Louis Maglaty, John Majdan, Carol Bogon Phelan, and Nancy Yiznitsky.

Feel free to contact any of us at any time.

## MAY 3 — POLAND'S CONSTITUTION DAY

Two hundred and twenty-nine years ago the independent, free, and sovereign Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was threatened with partition and extinction by the absolute governments of Russia, Prussia, and Austria. Acting for the general welfare, the establishment of liberty, and the preservation of the country and its borders, Poland adopted the modern world's second constitution after the U.S. Constitution.

The Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791 was a political revolution brought about by non-violent means for the rights of man and for the authority of the nation to govern itself. While the Constitution was very short lived (one year), it took on special importance over time, symbolizing the country's once great liberal tradition and the desire of Poles to be free and self-determining. Indeed, after the Communist take-over at the conclusion of World War II, May 3 was always considered one of the most decidedly anti-government days.

The Commonwealth's neighbors reacted with hostility to the adoption of the Constitution. King Frederick William II broke Prussia's alliance with the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and joined with Catherine the Great's Imperial Russia and the Targowicz Confederation of anti-reform Polish magnates to defeat the Commonwealth in the Polish-Russian War of 1792 and end the rights of the Polish Constitution.

Poland is once again free from the shackles of tyranny and oppression because of its people's undying devotion to freedom and peace, as embodied in the 1791 Constitution. It also remains as a visible example to the world to practice vigilance in protecting the rights of man.



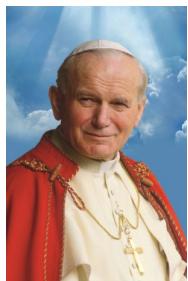
"3 May Constitution" by renowned Polish artist Jan Matejko—King Stanisław II Augustus (left) enters St. John's Cathedral where deputies will swear to uphold the Constitution.

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Frances Pudlo ([francespudlo@att.net](mailto:francespudlo@att.net))  
Assistant Editor: (open — if anyone is interested, contact Fran)  
Staff: Carol Bogon Phelan, Nancy Yiznitsky



**DID YOU KNOW . . . May 18, 2020 is the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of St. John Paul II?**



As in life, in death St. John Paul II remains incredibly influential. His intelligence, warmth, and empathy made him one of the most beloved popes of all times. He was a traveler, a writer, and an athlete. Through his 26 years as head of the Roman Catholic Church, he remained humble. He was proud of his Polish roots, and like all great men, realized that, to understand the future, one must value the past, be it good, bad, or indifferent.

Polish Prime Minister Marek Belka, a reformed ex-communist, remarked: "All of us probably still do not fully realize what an exceptional period we have had the good fortune to live in. The pontificate of John Paul II basically changed Poland's history, its position in the world, and the situation in the country. The more-than-20 year heroic struggle for full freedom and independence, of which John Paul was a participant and symbol, has ended, and it is time to consolidate and strengthen that which we received from him."

Here are some interesting facts about St. John Paul II:

His birth name was Karol Józef Wojtyła. He was born in Wadowice, Poland on May 18, 1920. His father was a former officer in the Polish army and his mother a former school teacher. He studied literature and philosophy and was a poet and playwright who spoke eight languages. He was a great student-athlete who liked to play soccer and enjoyed backpacking, skiing, and kayaking. His aspiration was to have a career as an actor in theater, but in 1942, early in World War II, he joined the Church's underground seminary in Kraków and in 1946, was ordained a priest. Eight years later, in 1954, he was appointed professor of Ethics at Catholic University of Lublin, Poland. Ten years after that, in 1964, he was appointed as resident Archbishop of Kraków. In 1967 he was made a Cardinal by Pope Paul VI and on October 16, 1978, at the age of 58, was elected to be Pope of the Roman Catholic Church by the College of Cardinals — the first Pope from Poland, the first non-Italian pope since Pope Adrian VI in 1522, and the youngest man to become Pope in over 130 years.

St. John Paul II learned Spanish in the mid-1940s, for his Ph.D research, because he wanted to be able to read St. John of the Cross (about whom he wrote his doctoral dissertation) in the original. One of his most important encyclicals, *Laborem Exercens*, was all about the importance of respecting human labor. His guidance inspired the Solidarity free trade union labor movement in Poland in the 1980s, which led to the eventual non-violent downfall of Soviet Communism in Poland first, and later the rest of Europe. He was an advocate for human rights and worked actively to promote world peace and understanding among nations and religions. John Paul II had audiences with five U.S. Presidents. In 1979, he was the first-ever pope to visit the White House, where he was received by President Jimmy Carter, who surprised him with a greeting in Polish. He went on to meet Ronald Reagan in June 1982 and June 1987, George H.W. Bush in November 1991, Bill Clinton in June 1994, and George W. Bush in June 2004. *Time* magazine named Pope John Paul II its Man of the Year in 1994. He was canonized a Saint of the Church on April 27, 2014 along with Pope John XXIII.

Sources: Robert Strybel, [Polish American Journal](#), May 2011 and "Interesting Facts About St. John Paul II" by Jessica Steinmetz from [Catholicism.About.com](#), 2005

**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF POLISH TRIVIA (answers are on page 4)**

1. The Yalta and Potsdam Agreements after World War II, gave control of Poland to:  
a) the Russians b) the United Nations c) East Germany
2. Drowning herself in the Wisła River rather than marrying a German nobleman she did not love was:  
a) Princess Wanda b) Stephanie c) Queen Jadwiga
3. Legend says that on Candlemas Day, candles were blessed in church and prayers to the Blessed Mother were made to ward off: a) sin b) the devil c) wolves
4. Usually days are windier and warmer starting on: a) St. John's Feast b) St. Dorothy's Day c) Feast of St. Mark
5. Polish custom says that Christ, when crowned with thorns, had a mock scepter that resembled:  
a) cattails b) leeks c) bamboo
6. *Kati are*: a) fall vegetables b) pussy willows c) kittens
7. *Grajczek* is a festival that welcomes: a) the Easter season b) spring c) summer
8. *Marzanna*, pagan goddess of death, symbolizes a farewell to: a) life b) bad luck c) winter
9. The Parade of the Rooster symbolizes: a) fertility b) good health c) riches
10. A humorous children's greeting is "Smacznych Świąt I wesołego jaka," which translates to:  
a) tasty holidays and happy egg b) jellies and chocolate eggs c) blessed egg

Source: Elle Slusarczyk, Polish American Journal, May 2010

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

All events, programs, and trips throughout the State have been cancelled through May 31, 2020 while everyone is asked to shelter at home. In lieu of a calendar, here are a few interesting pieces of news that you might have missed:

The National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame is pleased to announce that former All-Star baseball catcher, **A.J. Pierzynski**; Olympic medalist speedskater, **J.R. Celski**; All-Time football great **Bronko Nagurski**; and All-Star pitcher now broadcaster **Mike Krukow** have been elected into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame located in Troy, MI for 2020.

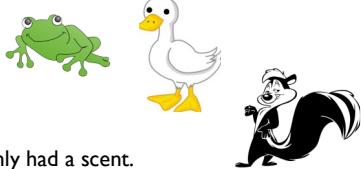


**Alexandra Nowakowski**, winner of the ACPC's Sembrich Vocal Competition in 2014, and currently completing her stint in the Caffritz Young Artists Program at the Washington National Opera, has been offered a contract with N.Y.'s Metropolitan Opera to cover (substitute if necessary) the role of Olympia in Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffmann* this fall.

There is a 13-episode series on Poland that has been airing on CPTV "SPIRIT" this month called "**FLAVOR OF POLAND**," hosted by a lovely, and well-spoken Polish/American actress named **Aleksandra August**. During the first half of the program she travels to a selected city or region of Poland sharing its history and sights while delving into its local culinary specialties. The second half of the program features Aleksandra preparing some of these traditional regional dishes in her kitchen. The program will probably be re-aired by CPTV so look for it in your TV guide. If you cannot access the show, go to <https://www.flavorofpoland.com> where you can download all the recipes featured on the program. Aleksandra makes the recipes look so easy and delicious that it leaves one wishing for a taste right then and there.

We hope that this "groaner" shared by Rik Lapham, President of the Friends of Polish Art in Detroit, will bring a smile:

A frog, a duck, and a skunk went the movies. Tickets cost a dollar. How did each get in?



The frog got in with his green back.

The duck got in with his bill.

The skunk didn't get in because he only had a scent.

## STRONA MYŚLI — THOUGHTS PAGE

Kwiecien—plecien, oprzeplata: Troche zimy, troche lata.

April the twister, because it twists:

A little of winter, a little of summer.

Wszędzie dobrze, ale w domu najlepiej!

There's no place like home!



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

We're on the Web!

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

## NEWSFLASH — CLUB MEMBERS

If you have any "Newsy Tidbits" about family or friends that you would like to share with the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, all you need to do is e-mail or mail a few lines to Fran Pudlo at [francespudlo@att.net](mailto:francespudlo@att.net) or 33 Worthington Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033. We look forward to hearing from you.

### LOVE ALWAYS FINDS A WAY! Tyler

**Whitesell**, a 2013 Club scholarship winner and the grandson of **Pat and Cliff Archie**, decided the time had come for him to propose marriage to his long-time girlfriend, Jordan. Since her family



made plans to take a cruise in March, along with Tyler's parents, Christina and David Whitesell and his twin brother, Matthew, it seemed the perfect time and setting for Tyler to propose. Members of both families knew of the impending event — everyone except Morgan. Unfortunately, the cruise was cancelled, and Tyler had to come up with an alternate plan. With the help of the Internet, he reserved an ocean-front house in Myrtle Beach, SC big enough to accommodate both families. This beach house, owned by world travelers, turned out to be a mansion with 5 bedrooms, each decorated with a different theme: Egypt, Disney World, the Orient, nautical, and Gone With the Wind. It was like living in a museum.

On Saturday evening, just before the sun was about to set over the ocean, everyone went down to the beach for photos. Tyler and Morgan led the way. As they began to pose for their picture, Tyler dropped down on one knee and asked Morgan to marry him. Surprised and very happy, she of course said YES! While this was transpiring in SC, back in East Hartford, Grammy Pat and her two daughters, Lisa and Felicia (Tyler's aunts), were watching the whole event live on their Tablet — a beautiful moment in these troubled times. Well done, Tyler. Hollywood could not have produced a better story line! Tyler and Morgan live in Arlington, VA where Tyler is an actuary for GEICO Insurance and Morgan is a NICU nurse at George Washington Hospital. The wedding will take place next year.

### Stanisław (Staś) Radosz

was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the People's Republic of Poland for his contributions to Polish culture and language, and for founding the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning in Chicopee, MA. Although the award was decreed in September of 2018, it was not until November 13, 2019, Staś's birthday, that it was presented to him at the Polish Consulate in New York City. As a Polish historian and educator of Polish language and culture, his impact on visitors to the museum as well as his excitement of sharing his knowledge and stories, is unrivaled by anyone. Staś taught Polish language and culture at the University of Massachusetts prior to his founding of the Polish Center in Chicopee, MA. The well-deserved honor is in recognition of his service to the people of Poland and the U.S.



Congratulations to **Ken and Michelle Mottello** on the birth of their 4th grandchild, Daniel Louis Congreve on March 28, 2020. Daniel's great-grandparents are **Lou and Anna-Mae Maglaty**. P.S. Lou is doing well in MA and sends his regards to everyone.

LtoR: Eleanor Marie, Elise, Daniel Louis, and Daniel Congreve

ANSWERS: to Polish Trivia: 1 a) Russians; 2 a) Princess Wanda; 3 c) wolves; 4 b) St. Dorothy's Day; 5 b) leeks; 6 b) pussy willows; 7 b) spring; 8 c) winter; 9 a) fertility; 10 a) tasty holidays and happy egg