

# POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

## HISTORIAN'S REPORT

For Period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022

Sadly, the year began with the loss of a beautiful and fiercely proud Polish PCCGH member of long standing—Jo Louise Winters (February 2022). She, along with her late husband, Marion, made extraordinary and invaluable contributions to Polonia, the ACPC, and PCCGH over many years.

Mark Dillon, ACPC 1st Vice President, ended his historic multi-state tour in Connecticut in April with a truckload of file boxes being delivered to the Polish Archives at Central CT State University. Lilia Kieltyka and several members of the PCCGH offered hospitality during his three-day visit.

At the April 3, 2022 PCCGH Board Meeting, it was voted to make a donation of \$1,000.00 to assist Ukraine.

In May, Lilia Kieltyka and members of the Konski family attended a special invitation-only event at the New England Air Museum to honor former President of Poland and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Lech Wałęsa. The visit was scheduled through a partnership between the Museum and Central CT State University. Mr. Wałęsa was in Hartford to help introduce the Museum's Kosciuszko Squadron exhibit and to promote his Ukraine relief campaign to assist the millions of refugees flooding into Poland.

The Hartford Polish Saturday School was invited to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anna-Mae Maglaty Literary Award Competition. Three prizes were awarded on May 21, 2022, with half of the Grand Prize to be matched by a grant from the ACPC's Wachtel Literary Competition Fund. The essay topic written in Polish was "What Polish Tradition Means the Most to You and Why" and will be translated into English. The winners were: Sabina Urbanska – Grand Prize and Klaudia Beatty and Maja Sejdor who tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize.

The PCCGH hosted a booth at the Little Poland Festival on Sunday, June 5 in New Britain. Many thanks to Lilia Kieltyka, Chris Panek, Sophia Panek, Fran Pudlo, Gini Pudlo, Janit Romayko, and Julia Woron for volunteering their time. This event attracted thousands of Poles and Poles-at-heart.

Four Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarships were awarded on June 23, 2022. The recipients were Matthew Gwara, who will attend the University of CT (Storrs) as a sophomore in the field of Social Work; Oliver Klimas who will attend Emmanuel College in Boston, MA majoring in Biotechnology; Jacob Kuczek who will attend Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN majoring in Actuarial Science; and Natalia Smiarowski who will be a sophomore at the University of Massachusetts—Amherst studying Architecture.

Club Member and Iconographer, Marek Czarnecki, was interviewed for the PBS program "Where-Art-Thou" hosted by Ray Hardman. Marek demonstrated how he creates his stunning religious

icons using gold leaf and ground natural earth pigments and stones. The program aired on CPTV stations on July 3, July 4, and July 9.

In late July, President Lilia Kieltyka, represented the PCCGH at the 2022 ACPC Convention in San Antonio and Panna Maria, TX. She was also responsible for producing a new ACPC lapel pin, which, with the design work of member Ursula Brodowicz, was a great success.

On November 12, Club member, Zosia Bieniek, will receive a Community Leadership and Service award from The Polish American Foundation of CT for her long-time involvement with the Polish Scouts of Hartford.

In lieu of an in-person Annual Meeting, the election of Officers is being conducted through the Fall 2022 newsletter. Because of the interruption of the pandemic, it has been proposed that the current slate of officers be re-elected for an additional 2-year term (2023 – 2024). The Officers are:

#### OFFICERS

Lilia Kieltyka – President  
Ursula Brodowicz – Vice President  
Frances Pudlo – Secretary  
Raymond Kowalski – Treasurer  
Virginia Pudlo – Historian

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Holiday Bazaar with a Polish Flair” will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2022 for the general public and on Sunday, November 20 for parishioners of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. Once again, the PCCGH is collaborating with the Ladies Guild of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church and will be offering elements of past Szopka Festivals.

On Saturday, December 10, a Wigilia celebration will be held at the Polish National Home featuring a traditional meatless feast, sharing of the Opłatek, music, and kolędy. It is always a night of good cheer and holiday spirit.

Submitted on October 25, 2022

Virginia M. Pudlo  
Historian