

## POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

### ANNUAL REPORT September 2014 – June 2015

#### September, 2014

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. hosted a fall program for adults and children of all ages with Staś Radosz, Executive Director of the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning in Chicopee, MA, who narrated “Introduction to the Legends and Tales of Poland.” This program of well-known Polish legends and tales endeavors to introduce people to the history and culture of the Polish people. A coloring contest featuring the “Wawel Dragon” was held for the children, and prizes were awarded.

#### October, 2014 – Polish Heritage Month

On October 12, 2014, a Mass was celebrated at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Hartford commemorating Pulaski/Kosciuszko Day, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the Pulaski Monument on Main Street in Hartford. Dignitaries, as well as representatives from various Polish organizations, were in attendance.

On October 26, 2014, member and former Club President, Ursula Brodowicz, was presented with the “Distinguished Service Award” from the United Polish Societies of Connecticut.

#### November, 2014

Patricia Archie, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of Officers for 2015-2016 at the Annual General Meeting held on November 20. A vote was taken by the members present, and the following individuals were elected: Co-Presidents: Patricia Kaczynski and Frances Pudlo, Vice President: Edward Farley, Recording Secretary: Lilia Kieltyka, Treasurer: Raymond Kowalski, and Assistant to the Treasurer: Clifford Archie. Also at this meeting, the customary annual Food Drive and Turkey Drawing were held.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Szopka Festival took place at the Polish National Home in Hartford on November 30. Chair, Edward Farley, and his committee were responsible for the coordination of this successful event, but it was the numerous volunteers who made this special day possible with their hard work, dedication, and generous spirit. Proceeds from the Szopka Festival benefit the Club’s Jenny Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Fund.

#### December, 2014

The annual Wigilia celebration was held at the Polish National Home in Hartford on December 12. Everyone shared in the “opłatek,” enjoyed a traditional meatless dinner, and sang kolędy. The swearing-in of Officers for 2015-2016 took place. In a surprise ceremony, Mary Mazurek Heslin and Krystyna Słowikowska Farley were honored by the American Council for Polish

Culture for their many past and ongoing efforts in promoting Polish culture and political involvement. Marion Winters presented the “Polish American Achievement Award” to both deserving women on behalf of the ACPC.

#### January, 2015

Co-Presidents Patricia Kaczynski and Frances Pudlo began working on programs and projects for 2015.

#### February, 2015

The Club sponsored its first pre-Lenten “Pączki na Karnawał” on February 15, 2015 in the lower hall at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Hartford. Despite blizzard conditions, all of the Pączki sold out. Polish Easter items were also available for purchase.

#### March, 2015

The first program of the year was held on March 26, 2015 featuring Prof. Richard Benfield, Professor of Geography at Central Connecticut State University. His lecture/slide program covered “Gardens of the World” and in particular Madame Ganna Walska and her creation, Lotusland, in California.

#### April, 2015

On April 19, 2015, member Maria Brodowicz was one of three individuals recognized for their many years of service to the Hartford Polish Scouting Organization (Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego Chorągiew Harcerzy I Harcerek w Stanach Zjednoczonych).

#### June, 2015

A “Tag and Treasure Sale,” open to the general public, was held on June 13, 2015 to benefit the Club. Thanks in large measure to the contributions of members and friends and the extraordinary support and assistance of our volunteers, this venture was a huge success.

The highlight of Club year is the awarding of scholarships to deserving students of Polish descent. This year, on June 18, three outstanding scholars received a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 each: Jeffrey DePinto, Jr., who will be attending the University of Connecticut, Matthew Gumniak, who will be attending the University of Rhode Island, and Kara Sitnik, who is attending Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island.

Submitted by Patricia A. Kaczynski, Co-President and Historian