

ANNUAL REPORT **July 2017 – June 2018**

July 2017

On July 21, “Polish Night” was held at the Cora J. Belden Library in Rocky Hill co-chaired by Patricia and Clifford Archie with the support of several Club members. Nearly 125 guests enjoyed the exhibits of Polish artifacts, costumes, books, and related materials, as well as a travel film on Kraków. Carol Oleasz provided highlights on her visits to Poland and on the costumes that were on display.

August 2017

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. was honored to have its former President and active member, Florence Langridge, receive the ACPC’s Founders Award at the 2017 annual convention in Toronto, Canada.

October, 2017 – Polish Heritage Month

Club member, Maria Brodowicz, received the Cavalier Cross Order of Merit Republic of Poland on October 8 at a special ceremony held at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Hartford. This distinguished honor awarded to Polish residents abroad for merit rendered to the Republic of Poland, was presented by Maciej Gołubiewski, Consul General of Poland on behalf of the President of Poland.

On October 14, Club members Ed Farley, Fran Pudlo, Gini Pudlo, and Lilia Kieltyka hosted a Polish imports table at the Polish Genealogy Conference 2017 which was held in New Britain. This event is sponsored every two years by the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and Northeast, Inc. and the S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair of the Polish and Polish-American Studies Program at Central Connecticut State University. Participants came from around the country.

On October 22, Club member, Virginia Pudlo, received the 55th Annual Polonia Distinguished Service Award presented by the United Polish Societies (Centrala) in a ceremony held at the Polish National Home in Hartford. As an RN, Gerontologist, craft artist, and volunteer, Gini has devoted her life to serving others.

On October 26, Club member, Mark Milewski, presented a fascinating lecture and slide presentation for the Club and general public at the Raymond Library in East Hartford on his 50 day-long expedition to the 29,029-foot summit of Mount Everest completed on May 20, 2016. Mark also placed Mount Everest into the context of the golden age of Polish mountaineering during the 1980s and 1990s.

November, 2017

Members gathered for the Club’s Annual Meeting/Food Drive Collection/Turkey Drawing on November 15 at the Raymond Library in East Hartford. The Club’s By-Laws were revised.

The 37th Annual Szopka Competition and Festival was held at the Polish National Home in Hartford on November 26. A record number of guests enjoyed the beautiful wares offered by vendors, Polish foods, and the presence of Święty Mikołaj (Cliff Archie). Marek Czarnecki, assisted by Carol Oleasz,

organized and displayed the spectacular szopka entries submitted by students. All proceeds benefit the Club's Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Fund.

December, 2017

The annual Wigilia celebration was held at the Polish National Home in Hartford on December 15. A traditional meatless meal, followed by the singing of kolędy, was enjoyed by all.

February, 2018

The Club sponsored its fourth pre-Lenten "Pączki na Karnawał" on February 11 in the lower hall of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Hartford. Twenty-two dozen pączki, in a variety of flavors, were sold.

March, 2018

At a ceremony at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford, two PCCGH members were honored with the St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation – Stasia Hodyl and Lilia Kieltyka (along with husband Steven). This award is presented to worthy parishioners who share time and talent with their church.

On March 22, the Club held its annual spring garden program. Chrissie and John D'Esopo presented a lecture and slide show called "Wild and Wooly Conifer World – 4 Seasons of a Creative Botanical Wonderland," which featured the gardens at their home in Avon.

April, 2018

The Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven, CT announced that the theme of their 2018 annual Christmas exhibit will be "A Polish Christmas." A meeting was held on April 12 between members of the Museum and the PCCGH in which ideas and resources were discussed.

May, 2018

The first official meeting of the Cookbook Committee took place on May 7. "A New Treasury of Polish-American Recipes" will feature recipes from the Club cookbook published in 1988 and also include new and updated recipes. The cookbook will be ready for same in time for Christmas.

June, 2018

On June 20, five outstanding scholars of Polish descent received a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00 each: Adrian Gorczyca of Wallingford, CT, will begin his studies in Computer Science at Central Connecticut State University this fall. Sara E. Loniewski of Storrs, CT will be a Freshman at the University of Connecticut-Storrs seeking a Bachelor of Science degree in Allied Health Sciences with a special interest in Speech Pathology. Camdyn J. Pegg of Wallingford, CT will be a Freshman at the University of Hartford, West Hartford majoring in Architectural Engineering. Karolina M. Wlaz of Wethersfield, CT has been accepted into the Direct Entry Physician Assistant program at the University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford. After completing the six-year program, Karolina will have earned a Masters Degree. Sylwia Zambrzycka of Shelton, CT will enter the University of Connecticut as a Senior pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Allied Health Sciences and a minor in Psychology. After graduation, Sylwia plans to continue her education with a degree in Physical Therapy.

Submitted by Patricia A. Kaczynski, Historian