



**THE POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC. (PCCGH)
ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021**

July 2020 – November 2020

Deterred by the restrictions of the COVID 19 pandemic, no Club activities were scheduled. However, thanks to the efforts of Public Relations Chair, Carol Bogon Phelan, members were notified of numerous virtual events sponsored by various local and national organizations throughout the year.

October 2020

Club member and Iconographer, Marek Czarnecki, presented a virtual lecture on “Our Lady of Częstochowa” on Wednesday, October 7, 2020.

December 2020

The first annual Anna-Mae Maglaty Literary Competition was launched under the chairmanship of President, Lilia Kieltyka. Nine students from the Hartford Polish Saturday School submitted essays on the theme “Why I am Proud to Say I am Polish,” all written in the Polish language. Ala Grabarczyk, Grade 4, took top honors with the first prize award of \$250, while Sabina Urbanska (2nd prize), and Maya Tomczyk (3rd prize) each received \$100. The awards were presented by President Kieltyka, with Hartford Polish Saturday School President, Anna Smerdel-Ramoya, and Kasia Brodowicz, Director of Curriculum, in attendance. A portion of the 1st prize was matched by the ACPC’s Wachtel Literary Award grant. The Competition honors the memory of Anna-Mae Maglaty, a devoted and beloved educator who believed in the power of the written word as well as in the abilities of the children she taught. She was a long-time member of both the PCCGH and ACPC Boards.

March 2021

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford held its first ever virtual ZOOM Board Meeting on March 4.

May 2021

Several members of the PCCGH attended a preview of the new permanent exhibit at the New England Air Museum in Suffield, CT on May 2. Sponsored in collaboration with the Polish

Studies Program at Central Connecticut State University, the exhibit “The Kosciuszko Squadron: Defenders of Freedom,” will honor the heroism of the Kosciuszko Squadron and Polish 303 Squadron RAF. A newly renovated space will house the artifacts, display cases, and touchscreen kiosks, each presenting elements of the Squadron’s story in different ways and through different periods of time. Eager to help the Allies gain an aerial advantage, the Squadron agreed to fly and fight under British command. Piloting British Supermarine Spitfires and Hawker Hurricanes, they valiantly defended Great Britain against German aerial assault in the decisive 1940 Battle of Britain, with feats that were truly legendary. The exhibit, which will be completed by the end of this year, represents an effort over many years by numerous organizations of CT Polonia.

June 2021

On June 17, five youth of Polonia were awarded the 2021 Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship at a presentation ceremony and reception held at the Polish National Home in Hartford. The recipients were: Damian Kret, who will continue his studies in Business at the University of CT – Hartford Branch as a sophomore; Julia Nowak, who will pursue a degree in Biomedical Engineering at Boston University; Victoria Pietrucha, entering the Nursing program at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT; Jessica Szaro, who will enter the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in the field of Animal Science with the goal of becoming a Veterinarian; and Maya Wieckowska, who will study Biology at the University of CT, Storrs. Each received a check for \$1,000.