



THE POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC. (PCCGH)

ANNUAL REPORT for the Period July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. was established in 1976 to celebrate Polish heritage and promote cultural awareness. Now in its 46th year, it continues to thrive and serve Connecticut Polonia and is represented nationally through our membership in the ACPC.

Its objectives include scholarship and education; support of Polish youth; promotion of Polish traditions (customs, crafts, cuisine) along with history, literature, and art. The Club strives to be a resource and partner to local Polish organizations.

In September 2021, five delegates from the PCCGH attended the 2021 ACPC Convention in Washington, DC where President Lilia Kieltyka was elected to a two-year term as 2nd Vice President.

A “Holiday Bazaar with a Polish Flair” was held in November in collaboration with the Ladies Guild of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Hartford. The PCCGH, in the spirit of its former annual Szopka Festival, offered a display of Szopkas, vendor tables, and the sale of a variety of Polish imports. Those who attended were excited and enthusiastic to once again enjoy a Polish-themed holiday fair centered around the tradition of the Szopkas.

The Club’s signature event, Wigilia, was held in December. Celebrating this most beautiful Christmas Eve tradition in-person brought joy to those who attended and offered hope that the New Year would provide better times.

The New England Air Museum in Windsor Locks, CT, in partnership with the Polish Studies Program at Central CT State University, held a grand opening ceremony in November for the newly renovated permanent exhibit: “The Kosciuszko Squadron: Freedom’s Defenders.” This exhibit honors the heroic efforts of Polish airmen during World War II. The PCCGH assisted in major fund-raising to install the original exhibit and continues to support its ongoing efforts.

Sadly, the loss of two beautiful and fiercely proud Polish members is noted: Krystyna Słowikowska Farley (November 2021) and Jo-Louise Winters (February 2022). Both made extraordinary and invaluable contributions to Polonia and will be missed greatly.

Mark Dillon, ACPC 1st Vice President, ended his historic multi-state tour in Connecticut with a truck full of archive file boxes being delivered to the Polish Archives at Central CT State University. Several members of the PCCGH offered hospitality during his visit.

The Hartford Polish Saturday School was invited to participate in the 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 Wachtel Literary Competition Fund. The essay topic written in

Polish was “What Polish Tradition Means the Most to You and Why.” The winners were: Sabina Urbanska – Grand Prize and Klaudia Beatty and Maja Sejdor who tied for 2nd Prize. The translation of Sabina’s essay will be made available to the ACPC.

The PCCGH will host a booth at the Little Poland Festival on Sunday, June 5 in New Britain. This event attracts thousands of Poles and Poles-at-heart and is eagerly anticipated after a hiatus of three years.

Four Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarships will be awarded on June 23, 2022. The recipients are 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.

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.



Lilia Kieltyka with Lech Wałęsa



Lech Wałęsa with Tadeusz Konski, Zyta Kanska, Maya Wieckowski, and Beata Kanska

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Submitted by Lilia Kieltyka, President and Frances Pudlo, Secretary