



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

March 2018

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

UPCOMING EVENTS

PCCGH GARDEN PROGRAM

“Wild and Woolly Conifer World”

with Chrissie and John D’Esopo

*Showcasing Four Seasons of a Creative
Botanical Wonderland*



Thursday, March 22, 2018

6:00 p.m.

(please note time change)

Refreshments will follow

**Location: East Hartford (Raymond) Library
840 Main Street, East Hartford**

See Enclosed Flyer for Additional Information

Chrissie and John have been gardening at their Avon home for over thirty years, which has been an evolution from perennials and annuals to the extraordinary new look of conifers, topiaries, rare shrubs, and enormous annuals. Music will accompany the lively photo display, which is sure to enchant and educate. The program will conclude with a Q & A session on gardening issues.

JENNIE MARCONI-JAVORSKI SCHOLARSHIP



An application for the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.’s “Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship” is enclosed with this newsletter. It can also be downloaded on-line at www.polishculturalclub.org. Candidates must be of Polish ancestry, a resident of CT, and currently enrolled or accepted for admission in an accredited college or university located in the U.S. in pursuit of an initial undergraduate degree. \$1,000 scholarships are awarded. Application deadline is May 1, 2018. Please also visit www.polishcultureacpc.org for additional scholarship opportunities.

CHOPIN INTERNATIONAL

PIANO COMPETITION

Presented by the

Hartford Chopin Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Krystian Tkaczewski, Artistic Director



TWO CONCERTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Asylum Hill Congregational Church

814 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

**“Top Winners of the II Future Stars
International Piano Competition”**

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

7:00 p.m.

Luigi Borzillo, Italy

Ivan Gusev, Russia/Kazakhstan

Suggested Donation: \$10

“Winners Concert and Award Ceremony”

Sunday, March 11, 2018

3:00 p.m.

Admission: General: \$25, Students: \$20

Children Under 12: Free

Information: www.chopincompetition.org

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR RECIPES



Our major Club project for 2018 is to update and reprint the Club’s popular 1988 Cookbook “A Book of Favorite Recipes.” Although we expect to keep many of the original submissions, this is also a perfect opportunity to add new favorites from members and friends. If you have tried-and-true recipes that you are willing to share with us, especially those with a Polish flair, please send them in by mail or e-mail. The insert in this newsletter entitled “A New Treasury of Polish-American Recipes” gives further information. We look forward to receiving your submissions!



CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

With another successful holiday season behind us, we gratefully acknowledge the help and support of all the volunteers, members, and guests who made the 2017 Szopka Festival and Competition and our December Wigilia celebration both successful and memorable. Photos from both events have been posted to the Picture Gallery on our Club's website: www.polishculturalclub.org. When you get a chance, please visit and enjoy a look back.

Spring is literally just around the corner, and it will soon be time to "drown Marzanna." In case you don't know the background of this old Polish tradition, see the article to the right.

A lot is happening over the next month. The front cover (and inserts) give further information about our spring garden presentation "Wild and Woolly Conifer World" by John and Chrissie D'Esopo and two public concerts of young musicians sponsored by the International Chopin Competition (their talent and poise is awesome). It is time to consider and complete applications for the Club scholarship and also the two scholarships offered by the ACPC (www.polishcultureacpc.org). And, of course, we will all soon begin the preparations for the joyous Easter season.

As mentioned on the front page and in the enclosed solicitation letter, please look through your favorite recipes and submit one or more entries for the updating of our Club cookbook "A New Treasury of Polish-American Recipes," which will be published sometime this year. The Club is blessed with so many fantastic cooks and bakers that we are proud to feature their selections. Many Polish-Americans are looking back to their roots, and this is an opportunity to provide them with a taste of delicious foods that have been favorites of yours. Please help us. Tell your family and friends as well.

With best wishes to all our members and friends from our Board.



Wesołego Alleluja!
Happy Easter

Fran Pudlo and Pattie Kaczynski, Co-Presidents

2017-2018 CLUB OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Co-Presidents: Patricia Kaczynski and Frances Pudlo
- Vice President: John Majdan
- Secretary: Lilia Kieltyka
- Treasurer: Raymond Kowalski
- Historian: Patricia Kaczynski

Board Members: Clifford Archie, Patricia Archie, Ursula Brodowicz, Marek Czarnecki, Edward Farley, Krystyna Farley, Mary Heslin, Florence Langridge, Anna-Mae Maglaty, Louis Maglaty, Carol Bogon Phelan, Virginia Pudlo, Elizabeth Sikorsky, Krystyna Wisło, and Nancy O. Yiznitsky.

DROWING MARZANNA



On the fourth Sunday of Lent, or around March 21, crowds of people, some of them in traditional costume, gather on the riverbanks of Poland. They bring with them large stuffed dolls mounted atop a tall stick. These are the Marzannas. Some may be straw scarecrows, some may be rag dolls. Groups of people form a circle around a doll, and they sing songs about the departure of the cold winter weather that will allow spring to arrive. Drowning Marzanna in a river, lake, or pond is accompanied by the following words: "Marzanna, Marzanna, swim across the seas. Let flowers bloom, and fields turn green." The Marzanna is then thrown into the water, an act that symbolizes the death of winter. Sometimes they set the straw doll afire before throwing it into the water. Drowning Marzanna is a very old tradition whose roots are found in the fears of early farmers who dreaded the long dark winters experienced in northern Europe. They were very happy when the sun reappeared in the spring. While this ritual still takes place in small towns and remote villages of Poland, today drowning Marzanna is a light-hearted event, often celebrated as part of school activities.

PĄCZKI NA KARNAWAŁ — 2018



Thanks to our Pączki team, L to R standing: Fran Pudlo, Elizabeth Sikorsky, Lilia Kieltyka, Gini Pudlo, Lou Maglaty and Anna-Mae Maglaty (seated), along with Carol Phelan (not pictured), 22 dozen pączki of varying flavors were sold and enjoyed by the parishioners of SS. Cyril & Methodius Church on Sunday, February 11 to celebrate Tłusty Czwartek (Fat Thursday) in preparation for the beginning of Lent.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

- Editor: Frances Pudlo (francespudlo@att.net)
- Assistant Editor: Anna-Mae Maglaty
- Staff: Carol Bogon Phelan, Nancy Yiznitsky



DID YOU KNOW . . . THE BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY HAS A POLISH CONNECTION?



Countess Julia von Hauke, Princess of Battenberg

The family name of the current British royal family is not actually Windsor, but Hanover, and Prince Philip's family name is not Mountbatten, but Battenberg. Both of these illustrious families changed their German names during the World War I because anything that sounded German was unwelcome. As it turns out, the latter name, Battenberg, has a rich and interesting Polish connection through a young woman named Julia Therese Salomea Hauke, who was born in Warsaw, Congress Poland on November 24, 1825 and died on September 19, 1895. Through her marriage to Prince Alexander of Hesse and by Rhine, she became the ancestress of the current generations of British and Spanish royal families.

Julia's father, Maurycy, had fought in Napoleon's Polish Legions in Austria, Italy, Germany, and the Peninsular War. After his service in the Polish army since 1790 and the army of the Duchy of Warsaw from 1809 to 1814, he entered the ranks of the army of Congress Poland, became a full-fledged general in 1828, and was awarded a Polish title of nobility. Recognizing his abilities, Tsar Nicholas I appointed him Deputy Minister of War of Congress Poland and elevated him and his family in 1829 to the rank of counts, thereby automatically making Julia a countess. In the November Uprising of 1820 led by rebelling army cadets, Grand Duke Constantine, Poland's *de facto* viceroy, managed to escape, but Julia's father was shot dead by the cadets on a Warsaw Street. Her mother, Zofia, died of shock shortly afterwards, and their children

were made wards of the Tsar. Thus, Julia is sometimes referred to as "the poor little Polish orphan."

Julia served as lady-in-waiting to Tsarina Marie Alexandrovna, wife of the future Tsar Alexander II and sister of prince Alexander of Hesse and by Rhine. She met Prince Alexander while performing her duties at court in St. Petersburg. The Tsar did not approve of any liaison between his son's brother-in-law and so the two arranged to leave the St. Petersburg court. They were married on October 28, 1851 in Breslau in Prussian Silesia (present-day Wrocław, Republic of Poland). Since Julia was considered to be of insufficient rank to have any of her children qualify for the succession to the throne of Hesse and by Rhine, the marriage was considered "morganatic." According to the law, this meant that any children would bear only their mother's maiden name, Hauke. The Grand Duke of Hesse refused to have his nephew's children be known as Hauke and suggested instead the name of a good extinct family, the von Battenbergs. Thus Julia was elevated to the rank, dignity, and title of the Countess of Battenberg.

Although small in stature, just five feet two inches, Julia had a good mind and a will to succeed. She won the respect not only of her husband's family but of the royal households in Europe. The Battenbergs had five children, all princes and princesses of Battenberg: Marie, Ludwig (Louis), Alexander, Heinrich (Henry), and Franz Joseph. Her eldest son, Ludwig (Louis) of Battenberg, became a British subject, and during World War I, due to anti-German sentiment prevalent at the time, anglicized his name to Mountbatten (a literal translation of the German Battenberg), as did his nephews, the sons of Prince Henry and his wife Princess Beatrice. The members of this branch of the family also renounced all German titles and were granted peerages by their Cousin King George V of the United Kingdom. Louis married into the British royal family and became an Admiral in the British Navy. His son, Julia's grandson, Louis, became the 1st Earl Mountbatten (formerly Battenberg) of Burma and Viceroy of India, uncle of the current Prince Philip.

A daughter of the "Polish Orphan" married into the Greek royal family and from that line comes Prince Philip (Julia's great grandson) husband to Queen Elizabeth II. And, of course, Prince Charles, Princess Anne, Prince Edward, and Prince Andrew are Julia Hauke's great great grandchildren, with the newest generations of royals being represented by Prince William (and his children) and Prince Harry.

Source: [Polish Profiles and Other Stories](#), by Kaya Mirecka Ploss, published by ACPC, 2005 and Wikipedia.org.

HAVE YOU TRIED KABANOSY?

The *kabanos* (plural: *kabanosy*) is a firm, long, finger-thick dry pork sausage, whose name was derived from the Tartar word for wild boar — *kaban*. That seemingly exotic derivation harks back to the sprawling medieval Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth which stretched all the way to the Black Sea and bordered Turkey. The fact that this sausage's popularity has withstood the test of time is attributed to both its hearty, meaty flavor and prolonged longevity. Because it keeps indefinitely without refrigeration, over the centuries it was the preferred food of travelers, hunters, and soldiers marching off to war, who could literally tuck the stick-like kabanosy under their belts.



Kabanosy are made from a combination of diced lean and fatty pork, seasoned with salt, pepper, garlic, caraway, and possibly a pinch of ground allspice. A bit of saltpeter is added to cure the mixture and help it retain its nice reddish-brown hue. After a night of flavor-blending in a cool place, the mixture is tightly stuffed into thin sheep casing and hung up in the breezy outdoors to air dry. Next, they are slowly smoked to a nice reddish-brown. They are again air-dried for several days until they weigh about one-half of what they did before processing. Kabanosy owe their longevity to smoking and drying, as it is the moisture in sausage that causes it to spoil. The finished product ranges from firm but supple to dry and brittle, and hearty. Their meaty texture nicely blends a discernibly peppery, garlicky, and smoky flavor with a touch of caraway. Today, kabanosy are favorites with Polish campers, hikers, picnickers, anglers, and hunters, but they have also been increasingly catching on across Polonia, being available Polish delis, groceries, or markets. If you have not yet had a kabanos, perhaps you will give it a try.

Source: Robert Strybel, The Polish American Journal, August 2017.

Co? What? Gdzie? Where? Kiedy? When?

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2018 7:00 p.m.

“Top Winners of the II Future Stars International Piano Competition”
 Asylum Hill Congregational Church, 814 Asylum Avenue, Hartford
 Suggested Donation: \$10.00

Information: www.chopincompetition.org

SATURDAY, March 10, 2018 7:00 p.m.

“Maximilian, Saint of Auschwitz” Performed by Leonardo DeFillipis
 Sponsored by: The S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies
 CCSU, Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall Building

Information: (860) 832-3010 or jacquesm@ccsu.edu **FREE**

SUNDAY, March 11, 2018 3:00 p.m.

“Winners Concert and Award Ceremony”
 Chopin International Piano Competition
 Asylum Hill Congregational Church, 814 Asylum Avenue, Hartford
 Tickets: General—\$25, Students—\$20, Children Under 12 **FREE**

Information: www.chopincompetition.org

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018 6:00 p.m.

PCCGH Garden Program: “Wild and Woolly Conifer World”
 Presented by Chrissie and John D’Esopo
 East Hartford (Raymond) Library, 840 Main Street, E. Hartford
 Information: (860) 568-2044 Public Invited **FREE**

SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2018

“Ladies Guild Communion Brunch Buffet”
 10:00 a.m. Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Hartford
 11:30 a.m. Brunch Buffet at The Nutmeg Restaurant,
 297 South Main Street, East Windsor, CT
 Tickets **MUST** be purchased in advance by March 30.
 Cost: LG Members: \$29. Guests: \$32. Children under 10: \$15.

Information: Call Lori Zasky at (860) 563-4124

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018 7:00 p.m.

“Monte Carlo Whist” Sponsored by Ladies Guild
 SS. Cyril and Methodius Church held in Lower Church Hall
 Public Invited — Bring your friends Entrance Fee: \$5.00

Opera **“Aida”** by Giuseppe Verdi presented by the
 Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, Adrian Sylveen, Conductor

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2018 7:30 p.m.

Trinity-On-Main, 69 Main Street, New Britain

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2018 2:00 p.m.

Wadsworth Atheneum, 600 Main Street, Hartford

NEWSFLASH — CLUB MEMBERS

If you have any “Newsy Tidbits” about family or friends that you would like to share with the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, all you need to do is e-mail or mail a few lines to Anna-Mae Maglaty at either annamae11@comcast.net or 35 Fernridge Road, West Hartford, CT 06107. We look forward to hearing from you.

Janit Romayko once again excelled at the annual Manchester’s 81st Road Race held on November 23, 2017 by placing 2nd in her age group with a time of 46 minutes, 15 seconds. You are an inspiration, Janit!

Ken and Michelle Mostello (grandparents) and **Lou and Anna-Mae Maglaty** (great-grandparents) welcomed a new member of the family, Rowan Andrew Mostello, on February 20, 2018.

Mary Sitnik shares news of her grandson, Jacob Walsh, shown at his graduation ceremony from the Memphis, TN Police Academy. Pictured with Jacob are his mom and dad, John and Michael Walsh, and sisters, Alexandra and Micaela.



Mary Sitnik also proudly submits a graduation photo of her eldest granddaughter, Alexandra Walsh upon receiving her white coat and Master’s Degree as a Physician’s Assistant from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. Pictured are her mom and dad, sister Micaela, paternal grandmother Lois Walsh, her maternal aunt and uncle Louis and Mary Sitnik, and boyfriend, Ben Nguyen.



Witamy!

A WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

- Mr. & Mrs. Peter Borkoski, Weatogue**
- Marilyn Sobolak Gardner, Unionville**
- Diane and David Kumnick, Bloomfield**
- Annette Silverman, Middletown**
- Janet Spasiano, Unionville**



to update us when you have a change of name, address, phone number, or e-mail address by notifying Carol Phelan by E-mail: hopsotch77@sbcglobal.net or phone: (860) 646-3114.

Your membership card is included in this mailing.

OUR SINCEREST SYMPATHY TO . . .

Henry and Sophie Bieniek, on the loss of Sophie’s mother Emilia Budnik on December 1, 2017.



Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.
 P.O. Box 380699
 East Hartford, CT 06138

We’re on the Web!

www.polishculturalclub.org