



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976 www.polishculturalclub.org November/December 2020

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

EDITOR'S NOTE

First and foremost, we hope that all our members are well and have not been affected too adversely by the corona virus. The past few months have definitely proved to be disruptive, as well as difficult. We did not publish a June newsletter because there was little news, particularly since there were no applicants for our Club scholarship. This is the time of year when we would be in full operational mode preparing for our year-end Annual Meeting, Szopka, and Wigilia events. Since that is not meant to be, and although we may not be able to gather physically, we can still come together in spirit. Let us celebrate the upcoming holidays in true Polish fashion, if only in small numbers, and look to 2021 with optimism and hope. ftp

THE 2020 ANNA-MAE MAGLATY LITERARY COMPETITION



The Club's newly initiated Literary Competition named in honor of Anna-Mae Maglaty, will take place this winter. Students of the Hartford Polish Saturday School have been invited to be the first group to participate. There are monetary rewards for the top three winners, along with matching funds designated for this purpose from the ACPC. It has long been President Lilia Kieltyka's goal to promote the involvement of Polish youth in our Club's activities. The results of the competition will be announced in the next newsletter. The Anna-Mae Maglaty Literary Competition will be an annual Club project which will broaden its reach into the Polish youth community at large.



PCCGH JENNIE MARCONI-JAVORSKI SCHOLARSHIP

Disappointingly, there were no applicants for our 2020 annual scholarship and, therefore, no recipients. It is assumed that the unexpected turmoil of this past spring might have played a major factor. Moving forward, however, a 2021 scholarship application will be uploaded to our Club's website: www.polishculturalclub.org in January, and a copy will also be available in the next newsletter. Please spread the word.

Also, please keep in mind that the ACPC offers four scholarships (undergraduate and post-graduate) which are available to students of Polish descent. Go to www.polishcultureacpc.org in early 2021 for further information and deadlines. Two of our Club members were awarded the 2020 Pulaski Scholarship for Advanced Studies — Beata Kaminska-Kordowska and Kamila Orzechowska — as was noted in the Fall edition of the ACPC Polish Heritage newsletter. We congratulate them both once again.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND 2021 DUES RENEWAL

Although our Club could not be active this past year, it is important that the PCCGH continues to exist and thrive, especially when so many other Polish institutions and organizations seem to be in jeopardy. We hope that our members will continue their support of our mission. Please know that we have every intention of picking up where we left off, and even returning stronger, as soon as it is safe. A 2021 membership renewal letter will be sent after the 1st of the year, as usual. Free admission to the Wadsworth Atheneum is still included. We look forward to hearing from you. Also, please let us know what programs/events are important to you and what new areas of interest we might consider. Your ideas are critical and would be a great help to us in our future planning.

We welcome new members at any time. Please share this information with family and friends:

Annual Dues: \$25 per member
 \$40 dual or household
 \$10 student

Mail to: Virginia Pudlo, Membership Chair
 33 Worthington Road
 Glastonbury, CT 06033-1372



Please update us when you have a change of name, address, phone number, or e-mail address by notifying Carol Phelan by E-mail: hopscoth77@sbcglobal.net or phone: 860.646.3114.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Dear Members:

Just when you need a Polish fix, here it appears, your next Club newsletter! Most things have not gone as planned this year, but our newsletter is steady. Our calendar continues to be postponed, especially our signature events, the Szopka Festival and Wigilia at the Polish National Home. The PNH is currently going through transition as it tries to land on its feet after a long-standing financial struggle. The PNH is our "Dom Polonii" and we need it to remain open for many more years to come. We hope things settle well soon.



Because we were not able to hold an Annual Meeting this year, at which time nominations would have been presented for all Officer positions and a vote taken, the best approach seemed to be to ask the current Officers (all of whom were eligible) to remain for a second two-year term. All the candidates agreed and we thank them for their continued service. Here is the list of officers for 2021-2022:

President	Lilia Kieltyka
Vice President	Ursula Brodowicz
Secretary	Frances Pudlo
Treasurer	Raymond Kowalski
Historian	Virginia Pudlo

As this turbulent year comes to a close, let's reflect on being thankful for the Polish traditions we have and turn to them for comfort.

Lilia Kieltyka – President



2021-2022 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President:	Lilia Kieltyka
Vice President:	Ursula Brodowicz
Secretary:	Frances Pudlo
Treasurer:	Raymond Kowalski
Historian:	Virginia Pudlo
Board Members:	Patricia Archie, Marek Czarnecki, Edward Farley, Krystyna Farley, Patricia Kaczynski, Florence Langridge, Louis Maglaty, John Majdan, Carol Bogon Phelan, and Nancy Yiznitsky.

Feel free to contact any of us at any time.

A POLISH CHILD'S FAIRY TALE FANTASY FOR THE CHRISTMAS TREE

In 1996, Ursula Brodowicz, Maria Brodowicz, Helen Olejarz, and Teresa Szylobryt collaborated to decorate and donate a Christmas tree for the Wadsworth Atheneum's annual *Festival of Trees* on behalf of the PCCGH. They chose to use elves/gnomes and mushrooms as the theme of the tree inspired by a classic story familiar to generations of Polish children, "O krasnoludkach i sierotce Marysi" (Little Orphan Maria and the Elves). Written in 1895 by the renowned author and poet Maria Konopnicka, it features Orphan Maria and the elves who helped her find happiness and joy in her lonely life. It is a story of overcoming hardships and setbacks with a little magic and a little help from one's friends, something to which both children and adults can relate. The fairy tale, presented in the form of a long poem, has been translated into over 50 languages and begins . . .

Czy to bajka, czy nie bajka,
Myślcie sobie, jak tam chcecie.
A ja przecież wam powiadam:
Krasnoludki są na świecie!

Whether you believe it or not,
That's entirely up to you.
But let me tell you what I know:
Elves do exist on this earth!

Elves are believed to live under the fat stylized mushrooms, which in Poland are most commonly portrayed as the easily recognizable red and white *amanita* and which also reflect the colors of the Polish flag. Mushrooms and elves/gnomes are archetypes not unique just to Polish folklore. Images of helpful and/or mischievous "little people" appear in legends and folk tales worldwide and their universal appeal among children persists to the present day. Perhaps our young ones might wish to make some magical decorations for their Christmas tree.



NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor:	Frances Pudlo (francespudlo@att.net)
Assistant Editor:	(open — if anyone is interested, contact Fran)
Staff:	Carol Bogon Phelan, Nancy Yiznitsky



DO YOU KNOW . . . POLISH CHRISTMAS WORDS AND PHRASES

Our Polish Christmas heritage is exceptionally rich in lore, tradition, folkways, and food. The following listing is offered to highlight some of those major components along with a pronunciation guide that has been provided for those whose Polish over time might have grown rusty. Don't forget that recipes for many of the traditional foods mentioned below can be found in our Club cookbook under the Christmas Eve (Wigilia) section.

ADVENT "AHDvent:" the nearly four-week period of spiritual preparation for Christmas. It is the time to build a Christmas crib (szopka), welcome Święty Mikołaj, prepare home-made tree ornaments, light successive candles of the Advent Wreath, pray and meditate, and think of the needy.



ANIOL "AHnyo:" the Polish word for angel, a figure who recurs throughout the season in Christmas carols, nativity plays, and holiday decorations.

BARSZCZ "barshch:" a clear beetroot soup made with vegetable and mushroom stock usually including "uszka" (bite-sized mushroom-filled dumplings shaped like "ears"), traditionally served at the Wigilia supper.

BOŻE NARODZENIE "BAW-zeh nah-raw-DZEH-nyeh:" literally God's birth or divine birth. This is the standard Polish word for Christmas.

CHOINKA "haw-EEN-kah:" this can be any evergreen in general or a Christmas tree. Fir and spruce are preferred and are set up and trimmed on December 24 and kept in place until at least January 6 (Feast of the Three Kings) or even February 2 (Candlemas).

GWIAZDA BETLEJEMSKA "GVYAHZ-dah bet-lay-EM-skah:" the Star of Bethlehem, a name also given to the poinsettia.

GWIAZDA KOLEDNICZA "GVYAHZ-dah kaw-lend-NEE-chah:" literally caroler's star, a large paper star, mounted on a pole, often with internal illumination, and carried by traditional caroling parties.



Koleśnik

JASEŁKA "yah-SEW-kah:" nativity play, usually staged by children who re-enact the story of shepherds going to Bethlehem to honor Baby Jesus.

KAPUSTA Z GROCHEM "kah-POOSS-tah z GRAW-hem:" stewed, meatless sauerkraut with whole yellow peas, or other dried, cooked legumes, usually including some mushrooms — a typical Wigilia dish.

KOLEDA "kaw-LEN-dah:" Christmas carol, honoring the nativity, populated by angels, shepherds and their flocks, the Three Kings, and the Holy Family.

KOLEDNIAK "kaw-LEND-neek:" caroler, traditionally a caroler-masquerader dressed as a Shepherd, King Herod, Death, Devil, Angel, Gypsy, Soldier, etc., forming part of a caroling party making house-to-house rounds.

KRUPNIK: This culinary term has two different meanings, 1) vegetable-barley soup, and 2) (at Christmas time) a honey-spice cordial served hot in shot glasses.

KULIG "KOO-leek:" sleighing party with torch-lit horse-drawn sleighs and musicians for entertainment.

KUTIA, KUCJA "KOOT-yah, KOOTS-yah:" a traditional sweet Wigilia dish made of cooked wheat or grain, poppyseeds, honey, nuts, etc. from Eastern Poland.

MAKOWIEC "mah-KAW-vyets:" poppyseed roll cake, a typical Polish Christmas cake; also known as "makownik" and "strucla z makiem."

MATKA BOSKIEJ GROMNICZNEJ "MAHT-kee BUSS-kay grum-NEEC-nay:" Candlemas celebrated on February 2, the day candles are blessed in church marking the official end of the Polish Christmas season.

OPŁATEK "aw-PWAH-tek:" a white unleavened wafer, imprinted with nativity motifs (sometimes referred to as "angel bread" or "the bread of love"), which is the single most important artifact of a Polish-style Christmas. It is traditionally broken and shared at the start of the Wigilia supper.

PAJĄK "PAH-yunk:" literally "spider," but in Christmas usage a mobile-type folk decoration made of opłatek, paper, straw, feathers, etc. suspended from the ceiling; also strings of dried white peas, draped to resemble strings of pearls.



Wigilia Table

PASTERKA "pah-STAIR-kah:" Shepherd's Mass celebrated at midnight on Christmas Eve.

PIERNIK "pierre-neek:" honey-spice cake, Polish gingerbread, one of Poland's typical Christmas cakes.

RYBA "RIB-ah:" fish, a Wigilia culinary mainstay, including herring, fresh-water, and sea species which can be fried, baked, or poached and garnished in aspic.

SIANO "SHAH-naw:" hay, a symbol of Christ's humble birth in a stable, is strewn on the table beneath the tablecloth and forms a bed on the plate or tray containing the opłatek at Wigilia.

ŚWIĘTO TRZECH KRÓLI "SHFYEN-taw TCHEKH KROO-lee:" Feast of the Three Kings (Jan. 6) when chalk is blessed at church, brought home, and the formula **K+M+B 2021** inscribed over doorways in honor of the Magi (signifying Kaspar, Melchior, Balthazar and the current year).

SZOPKA KRAKOWSKA "SHAWP-kah krah-KUSS-kah:" Kraków-style Christmas crib fashioned from thin strips of wood, cardboard, and shimmering colored foil.

WIGILIA "vee-GHEEL-yah:" Christmas Eve, literally the Vigil, to Poles the single most important day of the year.

ŻŁÓBEK "ZH-WAW-bek:" Christmas crib or Nativity set.

(Source: Robert Strybel, Polish American Journal, December 2007)

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

Almost all in-person events, programs, and trips have been cancelled through the end of the year, except for those that are being held virtually. Here are some items of possible interest:

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020

7:30 p.m. EST

“Sharing of the Opłatek” (Virtual via Zoom) sponsored by the **Polish Falcons** is FREE and open to all. Please e-mail cgaughey@polishfalcons.org to register and for questions. Additional information: 1-800-535-2071.

Recording of Virtual Lecture: “For Your Freedom and Ours: The Kosciuszko Squadron in World War II” presented by Dr. James S. Pula, nationally known scholar and Professor of History Emeritus at Purdue University Northwest. On November 11, 2020, Dr. Pula gave a comprehensive and fascinating virtual lecture and slide presentation on the 303 Kosciuszko Squadron. Of all the units that fought with the Royal Air Force during the Battle of Britain in WWII, the most successful was the 303 Kosciuszko Squadron comprised of Polish airmen who escaped from their homeland after the 1939 Nazi invasion. If you missed this lecture, or would like to see it again, it was recorded and available at the following link:



<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/7492384903882673415>

Please feel free to share this information with anyone who may be interested in viewing this lecture. The event was sponsored collaboratively by the **New England Air Museum and the Polish Studies Program at CCSU**.

Two flyers are enclosed from the **Polish American Foundation of CT**, one for a **Polish Genealogy Lecture Series** starting on 1/9/2021 (**PCCGH is an Affiliated Society**), and the other for **Polish Language Classes** starting on 1/12/2021. Both are virtual. There are fees.

The Kosciuszko Foundation also offers many interesting virtual cultural programs. Please check them out at info@thekf.org or www.thekf.org.

STRONA MYŚLI — THOUGHTS PAGE

This column was originally conceived and compiled by the late Maria Brodowicz (with the help of daughter Ursula) and appeared over many years of newsletter publications. We thought we would reminisce and revisit some of the entries.

listopad — November	kukurydza—corn
indyk—turkey	kabaczki—squash
skrzydło—wing	żurawiny—cranberries
noga—leg (drumstick)	nadzianie—stuffing
piers—breast	kość szczęścia—wishbone

Przysłowie — Proverb:

Nauka i praca, ludzi wzbogaca.

Knowledge and hard work enriches all people.

Jeśli nie wiesz dokąd idziesz, pewnie tam nie dojdiesz.

If you don't know where you're going, you'll surely never get there.

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 Fran Pudlo at francespudlo@att.net or 33 Worthington Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033. We look forward to hearing from you.

In order to keep the tradition of the annual Manchester Road Race on Thanksgiving Day alive and safe in spite of the ongoing pandemic, it will be held virtually. Our own **Janit Romayko**, a loyal race participant, will once again be hitting the course but in a different way. Runners will download a phone app with GPS capabilities to their smart phones. They can then run the 4.748-mile distance at any location of their choice. The app will measure their distance, signal when they have completed the full course, and upload their times to race officials. Runners will be able to view their progress on an event map of the actual MRR course, even if they are running on a rail trail. The virtual race must be completed between 8 a.m. EST on Thursday, November 19 and 5 p.m. EST and Wednesday, November 25. Good luck, Janit!

WE EXTEND DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Phyllis Stawiarski and family on the passing of her beloved husband, **Mitch Stawiarski**, on 7/16/2020.

Florence Langridge on the loss of her beautiful 19 year old granddaughter, **Hilary MacDonald**, who fought courageously, but lost a serious health battle on 8/1/2020.

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

This Christmas season is like no other we have experienced. There will be no Szopka Festival or Wigilia celebration, but more important, no opportunity to greet and hug one another and offer expressions of *Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku* (Merry Christmas & Happy New Year). In keeping with the spirit of the season, however, we are able to offer the following:

Opłatki — package of 4 opłatki:

\$4.00 per package (pick up only)



Christmas Cards by artist, Ursula Brodowicz:

\$10.00 for a package of 6 cards and envelopes (additional \$3.00 to mail)



Club Cookbook “FAVORITE RECIPES”:

\$16.00 each or 2 for \$30.00.

(additional \$4.00 per book to mail)

If anyone is interested in making a purchase, please contact Fran Pudlo at (860) 659-0356 or francespudlo@att.net. All items may be picked up at Fran's Glastonbury home or mailed as noted above. Also, Lilia has offered to help with drop-offs if they can be arranged.

HAVE FUN! Two inserts are included in this newsletter: a Szopka for adults (or children) to color in, and a page of Polish Christmas tree ornaments for children to cut out and make or color.



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

We're on the Web!
www.polishculturalclub.org