



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

November 2015

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING AND HOLIDAY EVENTS

to be held at the Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015

6:30 p.m.

Food Drive / Turkey Drawing

On Thursday, November 19, the PCCGH will hold its Annual Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. In addition to general business, the annual Food Drive and Turkey Drawing will take place. If you plan to attend, please bring boxed or canned non-perishable items in exchange for turkey raffle tickets. A maximum of three tickets per person for the drawing is allowed. Most important, please review the expiration dates. All food donations will be delivered to the Brother Albert Society at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church for holiday distribution.

Since this meeting is just a week prior to the Szopka Festival, we also request that you bring any donations for the various Club-sponsored tables (Major Raffle, Unique Boutique, and Vintage Jewelry) to the meeting.

Szczęśliwego Dnia Dziękczynienia

SZOPKA FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2015

9:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Free Admission / Public Welcome

The Club's annual major fundraiser, the Szopka Festival and Competition, will be held on Sunday, November 29. The Country Kitchen will again offer delicious hand-made potato/cheese or sauerkraut pierogi, babki, kielbasa, and home-baked goods. Over 20 vendors will be on hand to sell Polish items, jewelry, ornaments, honey, books, opłatki, and hand-made crafts for Christmas gift giving. Please keep in mind that while your attendance at Szopka is welcome, your volunteer help is critical. If you can spare some time, please call Ed Farley, Chair, at (860) 225-5204. We always look forward to having our scholarship recipients assist us on Saturday, November 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and on Sunday, November 29 at 2:30 p.m. with clean up. Remember, all proceeds from this event benefit the Jenie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Fund.

WIGILIA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2015

6:30 p.m.

Cost: To be Announced

Our holiday season culminates with the beautiful Wigilia (Vigil Supper) event on December 11 at 6:30 p.m. Please invite family members and friends to join us in celebrating this very special Polish Christmas tradition. In keeping with the custom of setting an extra place at the table for a wayward traveler or lonely stranger, why not consider hosting someone who would not ordinarily attend. The sharing of the opłatek, dining on a traditional meatless meal, and the singing of kolędy will no doubt add immeasurably to their, as well as your own, holiday spirit. A separate flyer providing further details and reservation information will be mailed in early December.

*Wesoły Świąt Bożego
Narodzenia*

THANK YOU TO ALL THE PIEROGI MAKERS WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME!

Dziękuję! Many thanks to the 28 wonderful people who participated in the making of pierogi for our Szopka Festival. Special thanks to the 16 people who were able to help at both sessions—potato/cheese and sauerkraut. And, of course, our three “dough boys” (Cliff Archie, Ed Farley, and Lou Maglaty) were at the heart of the operation. The cooperation and harmony among the group was wonderful and reflected a genuine camaraderie. Sincere appreciation also to the six ladies who provided delicious goodies for our coffee break.

Pat Archie

Cliff & Pat Archie
Felicia & Lisa Archie
Sophie Bieniek
Maria Brodowicz
Hedy Bruks
Maria Bruks
Barbara Cecere
Helena Chrzanowska
Anna Cwikła
Ed Farley
Stasia Hodyl
Irene Hryniewicz

Jen Jaronczyk
Pattie Kaczynski
Jadzia Kieltyka
Lilia Kieltyka
Louis Maglaty
Ann Oleasz
Chris & Sophia Panek
Fran & Gini Pudlo
Helen Rogalsky
Phyllis Stawiarski
Krystyna Wisło
Stanley Włodarczyk



L to R: Anna Cwikła and Irene Hryniewicz



CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SZOPKA FESTIVAL

Dear Members:

Edward Farley, Chair — (860) 225-5204

We are glad to say that we survived the onslaught of activities that filled our calendar in September and October, and now we are preparing to gear up for a super finish to the year with our Annual Szopka Festival and Competition and Wigilia celebration. Our commitments during these past two month included a lecture by Marek Czarnecki on the Polish Folk Art of the Nativity Scene "Krakowska Szopka;" the Pulaski /Kosciuszko Commemoration; the 85th Anniversary of the Polish National Home; the United Polish Societies' "Distinguished Service Award" Banquet; a lecture by Nicholas Pettinico, Jr. on the 40th anniversary of CCSU's Polish Studies Program; and three pierogi-making sessions (including one to assist the Ladies Guild of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church).

Our annual Szopka Festival at the Polish National Home is just a few weeks away. This is a large undertaking for the Club, and once again we are requesting that members and friends kindly devote some time to help us prepare during the weekend of November 28 and November 29. The following is a list of volunteer opportunities.



Marek Czarnecki, Distinguished Service Award Honoree (center) with his parents, Jadwiga and Bernard Czarnecki, long-time Club members

Saturday, November 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Help with covering and decorating the tables, transporting materials to the Ballroom, setting up individual Club tables, and general decorating. Please bring scissors and scotch tape.

Sunday, November 29—Early Morning/Late Afternoon
8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m. Help vendors transport their merchandise.
2:30 p.m.—4:00 p.m. Help with "take down" and clean up.

Sunday, November 29 — Baked Goods Needed for Country Kitchen and "Kawiarnia" Coffee Bar
Homemade breads, cakes, pies, cookies, and Polish delicacies.

Pastries must be delivered before 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. Please indicate on the label whether an item contains nuts or peanut butter, and do not use toothpicks.



L to R: Marek Czarnecki, Genevieve Bednarz, Maria Brodowicz, Fran Pudlo (holding Gini Pudlo's icon of St. Nicholas), and Ursula Brodowicz

Club Table Donations Requested

Please bring items to the Annual Meeting on Thursday, November 19, if possible, or on Saturday, November 28 before noon.

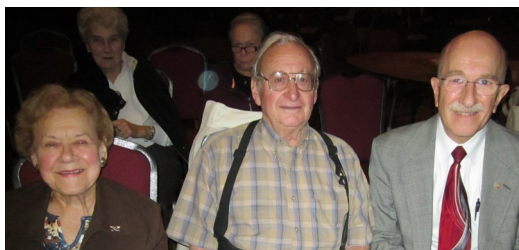
Raffle Table: Gifts and Gift Certificates (minimum value of \$20.00). Please put your name on the item along with any relevant information.

Unique Boutique: Gifts received but never used

Vintage Jewelry: Jewelry of all varieties

Members who cannot contribute to any of the above are invited to send a monetary donation to:

PCCGH, P.O. Box 380699, East Hartford, CT 06138



L to R: Anna-Mae Maglaty, Louis Maglaty, and Nicholas Pettinico, Jr. (CCSU Foundation Assistant Treasurer) who spoke on the 40th Anniversary of the Polish American Studies Program at CCSU. Ann Oleasz and Jen Jaronczyk are in the background.



NEWSLETTER STAFF

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

We wish you every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.
Wszystkiego najlepszego z okazji Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Nowego Roku.
Pattie Kaczynski and Fran Pudlo, Co-Presidents



DID YOU KNOW . . . Polish Cryptographers helped to break the Nazi Enigma Code?

This year audiences have flocked to see the Oscar-winning film, “The Imitation Game” in which actor Benedict Cumberbatch plays the cryptologist Alan Turing, the man who broke the Nazi Enigma Code.

As background, the Nazi German military used Enigma machines to encode their orders and top-secret information. The code would change daily and was widely considered to be unbreakable. Turing and his team at the top-secret site of Bletchley Park in England, however, cracked the code and were instrumental in bringing about the ultimate defeat of the Germans.

Few people are aware that Turing’s work was based on crucial breakthroughs made by Polish cryptologists who had broken an early version of the Enigma Code years before. In September 1932, the Polish Cipher Bureau invited three mathematics students from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań — Marian Rejewski, Henryk Zygalski, and Jerzy Różycki — to train as cryptographers in Warsaw. Using manuals captured by French spies, Rejewski had figured out the basics of the Enigma machines by December 1932 and constructed replicas to read the German military’s encrypted messages. As the Germans updated the Enigma technology, the Poles had to race to keep up, using newly-developed technology, such as Rejewski’s famous “cryptologic bomb,” a machine able to test all the possible permutations of the Enigma codes in a few hours.

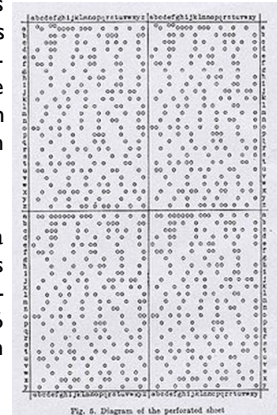


Fig. 4. Diagram of the perforated sheet

Zygalski Sheets, developed by the Polish cryptologist Henryk Zygalski, were another method of decoding the Enigma Code. By laying specially perforated sheets on top of one another, it was possible to determine the Enigma machine’s daily encryption “key.” The perforations (hand-cut holes measuring 5 x 5 mm) corresponded to letters of the alphabet as well as to possible starting positions on an Enigma machine. The decoding equipment consisted of sheets of 26 x 26 holes and a light table. More than a thousand holes were cut in each sheet. Placing combinations of sheets on the light table aided in finding the encryption key and, as a result, deciphering the entire message.

When war came in 1939, the Polish General Staff passed their code-breaking technology, and some replica Enigma machines, to their allies in the United Kingdom and France. Meanwhile, the Polish Cipher Bureau team fled to France. They continued their research outside Paris, communicating with Bletchley Park by telegraph and even hosting Alan Turing in 1940. On January 17, 1940, the Poles cracked the first wartime Enigma communique. By 1940, German changes to the Enigma machines had made the Poles’ technology obsolete, but the team had identified a series of operators’ errors that could still be used to crack the codes. This information was greatly expanded on by British and American cryptologists and was critical in ongoing efforts to break the codes.

Różycki was killed in a shipwreck in 1942. In 1943, Rejewski and Zygalski made their way to the UK, but for security reasons were banned from working in Bletchley Park. They enlisted in the Polish Army and continued their work there. Zygalski remained in the UK after the war and lived there until his death in 1978. Rejewski returned to Poland and spent years raising awareness about the Polish cryptographers’ work. He died in 1980.

The Polish team’s contribution to the Enigma code-breaking effort was long unacknowledged, but today their work is increasingly receiving attention and respect. In 2000, Polish President Aleksander Kwaśniewski posthumously awarded Poland’s highest civilian decoration, the Grand Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, to Rejewski and Zygalski. Rejewski has also received posthumous awards from the United States and United Kingdom. Today, a monument to the three men stands outside the castle in Poznań, the city where their journey began. We can only hope that awareness of the accomplishments of these three Polish code-breakers and their important work in supporting the Allied war effort will continue to receive the recognition it deserves.

Source: Polish Cultural Institute—New York, Fall/Winter 2015, a diplomatic mission to the United States serving under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland established in 2000.

CONDOLENCES

Sympathy and prayers go out to the following members who have recently suffered losses.



Christine Kaplita on the loss of her husband,
Edward Kaplita.

Henry Fedina on the loss of his wife, Carole Ann Fedina. Carole was also the sister-in-law of **Anna-Mae and Lou Maglaty.**

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to **Sophia LaPenna** and Thomas Heslin, grandson of **Mary Heslin**, who celebrated their marriage on September 5, 2015. Sophia is the daughter of **Janice and Lou LaPenna.**



STO LAT to Vi Bladek who celebrated her 90th birthday on October 10, 2015.

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2015	7:00 p.m.
Lecture: <i>"Poland's Generals and the Pact with the Russians, 1941"</i> By Jaroslaw Garlinski, a well-known analyst of the Polish question during World War II CCSU, Founders Hall located in Davidson Hall Building Information: 860-832-3010 or jacquesm@ccsu.edu FREE	
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 and SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2015	3:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. 7:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.
<i>"Holiday Family Fun & Food Fair"</i> (pierogi, kielbasa, raffle, and more) Sponsored by the Ladies Guild of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Held in the Lower Church Hall FREE	
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015	6:30 p.m.
PCCGH Member Event: <i>Annual Meeting/ Food Drive/ Turkey Drawing</i> Polish National Home—Dining Room FREE	
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2015	9:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
PCCGH Event: <i>"Szopka Festival and Competition"</i> Polish National Home — Chopin Ballroom Display of szopki, Polish delicacies, over 20 vendors, Sw. Mikołaj, face painting, and more. Public welcome. Parking. Handicapped accessible. Information: Ed Farley: (860) 225-5204 FREE	
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015	6:30 p.m.
Lecture: <i>"Crises, Systems and Economic Growth"</i> By Prof. Leszek Balcerowicz, the man credited with the successful transition of Poland from communism to capitalism. Quinnipiac University, Mount Carmel Auditorium, Center for Communications and Engineering, 275 Mount Carmel, Hamden Information: Hanna.Hejmowski@quinnipiac.edu FREE	
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2015	6:30 p.m.
PCCGH Event: <i>"Wigilia"</i> (Vigil Supper) Polish National Home Dining Room Information: Fran Pudlo: (860) 659-0356 Cost: to be announced	
SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2016	2:00 p.m.
Presentation by Marek Czarnecki, CT Iconographer and Artist <i>"The Polish Nativity: A Beautiful Palace for the King of Kings"</i> Knights of Columbus Museum, 1 State Street, New Haven Information: 203-865-0400 or kofcmuseum.org FREE	



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We're on the Web!

www.polishculturalclub.org

POLISH ADVENT TRADITIONS

In Poland, Advent is a time of fasting and prayer and spiritual preparation for Christmas. The four weeks of waiting for the Nativity are not a time for parties, decorating, and shopping. In Poland, people stay indoors and the long evenings are spent making handmade decorations for the Christmas tree out of straw, paper, and foodstuffs like nuts and grains. It is also a time for making handmade gifts, baking Christmas cookies, and preparing other delicacies for the upcoming holidays. Special early-morning Masses called "roraty" are celebrated while it is still dark, with churchgoers lighting candles at different times during the Mass and gradually bringing light to the day symbolizing the upcoming Nativity of Christ, a miracle that brought light and salvation to the world.

December 6, St. Nicholas Day — Dzień Świętego Mikołaja — brings a slight reprieve to the gray winter days, especially to children, who feel that Christmas is still so far away. Someone in the family is selected to represent St. Nicholas and he is often driven in a sleigh to various homes in a Polish village. He is dressed in a long white or red robe, wearing a tall headpiece much like a bishop's miter, a long white flowing beard, and in his hand he holds a shepherd's staff. He rebukes the naughty children and praises the nice ones, listening to them as they recite their catechism and prayers. Then he passes around heart-shaped pierniki (gingerbread cookies), holy pictures, and big red apples, which he produces magically from under his cloak. When St. Nicholas cannot make the visit personally, his gifts are placed under the children's pillows during the night. This tradition continues today, and so Polish children receive gifts twice, on December 6 as well as on December 24.

Source: Polish Women's Alliance of America

SZOPKA COLORING CONTEST

We invite the younger children who wish to participate in the beautiful tradition of szopka-making to color in the Szopka Coloring Page that is attached to this newsletter or downloaded from our Club website: www.polishculturalclub.org.

Please bring your finished creation to the Szopka Festival on Sunday, November 29 at the Polish National Home from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for display. All artists will receive a token of appreciation.



FREE ADMISSION TO THE WADSWORTH ATHENEUM

As you might have read in the Hartford Courant, the Wadsworth Atheneum of Art in Hartford unveiled the final stage of its multi-year renovation in mid-September. For the first time in 50 years, every gallery in the Museum is in use, and its exhibit space is larger than it has ever been. Visitors are now able to view over 10,000 reinstalled works.

The PCCGH is an Institutional Member of the Atheneum, and, as such, its members receive free admission. Just mention that you are a member of the Club at the Ticket Desk.