



## NEWSLETTER

# POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

[www.polishculturalclub.org](http://www.polishculturalclub.org)

November 2016

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, CT

#### ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016

6:30 p.m.

**Food Drive / Turkey Drawing**

On Tuesday, November 15, the PCCGH will hold its Annual Meeting at the Polish National Home beginning at 6:30 p.m. In addition to general business, including the election of Officers, there will be the annual Food Drive and Turkey Drawing. Tickets for the turkey raffle will be exchanged for a donation of up to three (3) boxed or canned non-perishable items. **Please review the expiration dates on all products.** As is customary, the food that is collected will be delivered to the Brother Albert Society at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church for holiday distribution.

Also, please bring any donations for Club-sponsored Szopka tables (Major Raffle, Unique Boutique, and Vintage Jewelry) to the Annual Meeting. Please see page 2 for suggestions.

*Szczęśliwego Dnia Dziękczynienia*



#### SZOPKA FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2016

9:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

**Free Admission / Public Event**

The Club's annual major fundraiser, the Szopka Festival and Competition, will be held on Sunday, November 27 in the Ballroom of the Polish National Home. The Country Kitchen will again offer delicious potato/cheese or sauerkraut pierogi, babki, kielbasa, and baked goods. A variety of vendors will be on hand to sell Polish items, jewelry, ornaments, honey, books, opłatki, and hand-made crafts for Christmas gift giving.

If you would like play a more active role in this event — such as volunteering to man tables on Sunday — please call Ed Farley at (860) 225-5204 or Fran Pudlo at (860) 659-0356.

We always look forward to having our scholarship recipients assist us with set up on Saturday, November 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. as well as with clean up on Sunday beginning at 2:30 p.m.

#### WIGILIA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2016

6:00 p.m.

**Cost: To be Announced**

Our holiday season culminates with the beautiful Wigilia (Vigil Supper) event on December 9. 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 or e-mailed shortly.

*Wesoly Świąt Bożego Narodzenia*



#### SZOPKA COMPETITION

Heartfelt thanks to **Marek Czarnecki**, who has visited several local schools this fall to educate students about the history of Szopka making and to inspire them to create their own Szopka for our competition and display on November 27. Deepest gratitude also to **Carol Oleasz**, Chair of the Szopka Competition, whose encouragement and hands-on approach with students has resulted in beautiful entries. Both individuals have devoted a great deal of time and energy to these endeavors over many years. Following judging on Saturday, November 26, cash prizes will be awarded to winning Szopki on Sunday, the 27th.

#### SZOPKA COLORING CONTEST

We invite the younger children (ages 3 to 9) who wish to participate in the beautiful tradition of szopka-making to color in the Szopka Coloring Page that is included in this newsletter or downloaded from our Club website: [www.polishculturalclub.org](http://www.polishculturalclub.org).

Please bring your completed creation to the Szopka Festival on Sunday, November 27 at the Polish National Home from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for judging and display. Cash prizes will be awarded.



#### OPŁATKI — A TIMELESS CHRISTMAS TRADITION

The tradition of sharing the Opłatek originated in 10th century Poland. The wafers, in pink and white, feature images of the Nativity. The purpose of sharing the Opłatek is to express unconditional love and forgiveness to friends and loved ones. Did you know that pink Opłatki have traditionally been shared with the animals of the household, since they were the first to greet the Christ Child? It is traditionally believed that animals speak with a human voice at midnight on Christmas Eve.



## CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

Our hosting of the Fall Board meeting of the American Council for Polish Culture on October 21 and 22 in Glastonbury was a very pleasant and memorable experience. Board members of both the ACPC and PCCGH came together at a reception on Friday night in which old ties were renewed and new friendships established.



Rear: ACPC Board: Robert Synakowski, 1st VP; Mary Ellen Tyszka, Past President.; Tom Payne, President

Gini Pudlo (PCCGH) with Richard Lapham (ACPC)

Marcia Lewandowski, ACPC Recording Secretary with Carol Bogon Phelan, PCCGH Publicity Chair



L to R: Judy Tomkins, ACPC Treasurer; Anna-Mae Maglaty (PCCGH); and Alice Laning, ACPC Auditor and Chair of ACPC Scholarship Committee



Rear: (PCCGH) Judy Kabilus; Lilia Kieltyka, Recording Secretary; Nancy Yiznitsky; Elizabeth Sikorsky; and Gini Pudlo

The weekend culminated in a gala celebration of our Club's 40th anniversary at the Riverfront Community Center in Glastonbury on Saturday, October 22. While drizzly with a chill in the air, the warmth and gaiety emanating from the 100 guests made for an event that will not soon be forgotten. Please see page 3 for additional details, and visit the Photo Gallery on our Club's website for a collection of photographs — "www.polishculturalclub.org."

November and December bring three long-standing Club holiday events — the Annual Meeting, Szopka, and Wigilia. Our Club needs to remain active and vibrant, so please, we ask all members to support us by attending these programs, volunteering, and inviting family and friends to enjoy these much anticipated events.

On behalf of all the members of the Executive Board, we wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Wszystkiego najlepszego!

*Pattie Kaczyński*      *Fran Pudło*  
Co-President                      Co-President

## SZOPKA FESTIVAL

**Edward Farley, Chair — (860) 225-5204**

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 26 and November 27. Here is a list of volunteer opportunities.

**Saturday, November 26 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 27—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 dismantling and clean up.

**Sunday, November 27 — Baked Goods Needed for Country Kitchen and "Kawiarnia" Coffee Bar**

Breads, cakes, pies, cookies, and Polish delicacies are requested.

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.

**Club Table Donations Requested**

***Please bring items to the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 15, if possible, or on Saturday, November 26 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***

♦ **Remember, all proceeds from this event benefit the Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Fund.**

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



**HAPPY 40TH ANNIVERSARY — POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.**



40th Anniversary Guests, including Directors of the American Council for Polish Culture visiting during their Fall Board Meeting in Glastonbury

Festivities that featured delicious food, a welcoming venue, and toe-tapping music, were celebrated at the PCCGH's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 22, 2016. The Riverfront Community Center in Glastonbury, CT was selected as the venue to enjoy succulent hors d'oeuvres and entrée choices prepared by Chef Russell Pryzbek of Russell's Creative Global Cuisine of West Hartford, CT. Following dinner, the Theatre of Imagination Novum provided music from "the old country," enhanced by song books, to allow attendees to "Let the Polish Music Flow." Keeping with tradition, the program began with "Sto Lat!" (May You Live 100 Years) and fittingly ended with "Uptywa szybko życie . . . "Life passes so quickly." During the ceremonies, Maestro Adrian Sylveen-Mackiewicz was recognized for having received the American Council for Polish Culture's 2016 "Cultural Achievement Award," and Krystyna Słowakowski Farley was honored with a bouquet of roses, having just returned from competing in the Ms. Senior America pageant in Atlantic City. The Club was honored to have Board Members from the American Council of Polish Culture headed by President Thomas Payne in attendance. The ACPC held their Fall Board Meeting on October 21 and 22 hosted by the PCCGH. The evening concluded with a group photo making October 22, 2016 an "Evening to Remember."

**THANK YOU to the 40th Anniversary Committee**

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|--|---|
| Ursula Brodowicz, Program Book Cover Art | Carol Bogon Phelan, Advertising Coordinator |
| Patricia Kaczynski, Co-President         | Frances T. Pudlo, Co-President              |
| Lilia Kietyka, Editor, Program Book      | Virginia M. Pudlo, Treasurer                |
| Anna-Mae Maglaty, Performers             | Nancy O. Yiznitsky, Advertising             |



**Co? What? Gdzie? Where? Kiedy?**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12 / SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2016**  
 3:00 p.m. —6:00 p.m. 7:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

**“Holiday Family Fun & Food Fair”**

Sponsored by the Ladies Guild - SS. Cyril and Methodius Church  
 Lower Church Hall **FREE**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2016** 3:00 p.m.

**“The Peszke Memorial Evening — Film 303,”** a documentary about the pilots of the famous Kościuszko Squadron, followed by a

Q & A session with Tomasz Magierski, cinematographer  
 CCSU, Torp Theatre, Davidson Building (parking in garage)

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

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016** 6:30 p.m.

**PCCGH Event: Annual Meeting! Food Drive! Turkey Drawing!**

Polish National Home — Dining Room **FREE**

Information: Fran Pudlo: (860) 659-0356

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2016** 9:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

**PCCGH Event: “Szopka Festival and Competition”**

Polish National Home — Chopin Ballroom

Szopki display, Polish delicacies, vendors, Sw. Mikołaj, and more.

Public welcome. Parking. Handicapped accessible.

Information: Ed Farley: (860) 225-5204 **FREE**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2016** 6:30 p.m.

**PCCGH Event: “Wigilia” (Meatless Vigil Supper)**

Polish National Home Dining Room

Information: Fran Pudlo: (860) 659-0356 Cost: to be announced

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016** 7:30 p.m.

**Concert — “Italian Masterworks” (Corelli and Respighi)**

CT Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra

SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 55 Charter Oak Ave., Hartford

Suggested donation: \$25.00

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, One State Street, New Haven**

**“Creches of Germany: Tradition & Faith”—Nov. 19—Jan. 29, 2017**

**“Annual Christmas Tree Festival” — Dec. 3, 2016 — Jan. 29, 2017**

Information: (203) 865-0400 Free admission and parking

**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 annamael1@comcast.net or 35 Fernridge Road, West Hartford, CT 06107. We look forward to hearing from you.



A recent article in the Hartford Courant featured Grace Academy, a tuition-free private school that opened six years ago in a church on the south side of Main Street in Hartford, CT. This school enrolls 58 girls in grades 5—8 with a goal of preparing these middle school students for enrollment in fine private high schools, e.g., Loomis-Chafee, Miss Porter’s, and Northwest Catholic High School, and eventually to prestigious colleges. The principal of the Academy is **Joy Chlus**, who also doubles as a teacher of Religion.

Changes have come about to the third floor room at the Polish National Home through the efforts of a team of workers, among whom is **Helen Olejarz**. The room will be designated for use in conferences and as a dressing room. Helen, together with Elijah and Sonja Mumford, also worked diligently to decorate the tables in the downstairs Dining Room. Other volunteers at the Home are **Krystyna Wisło** and Bruno Prusaczyk, the father of member **Dorothy Mehta**.



Congratulations are extended to Andrew R. Zlotnick, the son-in-law of Nancy O. Yiznitsky and father of scholarship recipients Nathan and Rachel Zlotnick. On September 21, 2016, Andy was named an “Eastern Fellow” at Eastern Connecticut State University. This program was established in the 2008-2009 academic year to recognize and engage distinguished Eastern alumni in the life of

the University. It serves as a means of enriching the educational experiences of current Eastern undergraduates by exposing them to alumni who are able to share their work experiences with students. Presently, Andy is a Senior VP with Fuss and O’Neill, a civil and environmental engineering and consulting firm with seven offices. During the three decades in his profession, Andrew has worked on a long range of investigation and remediation projects, with an expertise in brownfield site investigations and remediation for developers, municipalities, and public utility companies.

**CLUB’S KRAKOWSKA SZOPKA DONATED TO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MUSEUM IN NEW HAVEN, CT**



L to R: Fran Pudlo, Gini Pudlo, Carol Oleasz, Ann Oleasz, Peter Sonski (Knights of Columbus — in rear), Pattie Kaczynski, and Bethany Sheffer, (Curator/Registrar—Knights of Columbus)

This past summer, the Club-owned Szopka, constructed by a 13 year old boy and a prize winner at the annual Szopka Krakowska Festival in Kraków, Poland, was donated to the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven. Purchased some time before 1985 by member, Zofia Sklepinska, and brought to the United States on a LOT Polish Airlines flight, where it took up two passenger seats, the Szopka will be featured as part of the Museum’s annual Christmas creche collection.

**CONDOLENCES**

Our sympathy and prayers go out to member, **Rev. William P. Przybyło**, on the loss of his mother, Katherine, who died on October 19 at the age of 100. May she rest in peace.



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

**We’re on the Web!**

[www.polishculturalclub.org](http://www.polishculturalclub.org)