



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

October 2017

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.

Cordially invites members and guests to enjoy a lecture and slide presentation on

MOUNT EVEREST AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF POLISH MOUNTAINEERING

Presented by Club Member Mark Milewski

Mark will share the fascinating story of his 50 day-long expedition to the summit of 29,029-foot Mount Everest on May 20, 2016 and also place Mount Everest into the context of Polish Himalayan climbing during the 1980s and 1990s. It is an account of tales of adventures in high places that lift the human spirit.



Thursday, October 26, 2017

6:30 p.m. Brief Business Meeting

**7:00 p.m. Lecture and Slide Presentation
Refreshments**

East Hartford Public Library (Raymond Library)

840 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06108

(Enter parking lot from Central Avenue.

Meeting Room 1 is on the Lower Level Rear)

Mark is Assistant Professor at Tunxis Community College in Farmington and a Member of the Advisory Board to the Polish Studies program at Central CT State University.

Free Admission and Parking — Handicapped Accessible — Open to the General Public

For further information, please call (860) 659-0356



**TO THE POLISH SOCIAL CLUB OF
GREATER HARTFORD**

The Board of Directors of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. express their profound gratitude and appreciation to the Polish Social Club of Greater Hartford (former Polish-American Democratic Club) for their recent generous monetary donation. The funds will be used for general purposes of the Club in keeping with the requirements outlined in our Mission Statement.



**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE
CLUB'S BY-LAWS**

A mailing will be going out by October 15 providing you with a draft copy of the proposed 2017 By-Laws changes. Please review them carefully and write down any questions. **This draft will be discussed and voted on at the Annual Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2017 in the Community Room of the Raymond Library, 840 Main Street, East Hartford at 6:30 p.m.** Further details will be included in the mailing.



CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

Summer is once again a memory, but we hope it was one that brought everyone pleasure and relaxation. Fran and Gini took a trip to Poland sponsored by the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning in Chicopee and escorted by Staś Radosz. It was an incredible experience enjoying the history, culture, art, cuisine, and music of this very beautiful country.

The 2017 Scholarship Awards Presentation and Reception held on June 21 at the Polish National Home was wonderful. Scholarship Co-Chairs, Gini Pudlo and Florence Langridge should be commended for their diligence in assessing applications and candidates.

"Polish Night" at the Cora J. Belden Library in Rocky Hill on July 11, 2017, with its displays, lecture, and Polish travelogue on Kraków was enjoyed by over 100 guests. We offer a big thank you to Co-Chairs Pat and Cliff Archie, Carol Oleasz who lectured, and the many volunteers who assisted.

We encourage anyone who has not heard Mark Milewski's lecture/slide presentation on Mt. Everest and Polish Mountaineering to take advantage of this opportunity on October 26. It will be a fascinating and educational evening. (See page 1)

Reiterating: The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at the Raymond Library in East Hartford and will include, as usual, the Food Drive and Turkey Drawing. **More important, however, is a discussion and vote of proposed revisions to the Club's By-Laws.** Members will receive a letter and draft copy of the proposed By-Laws by October 15. The purpose for revising the By-Laws is to bring them up to date with current regulations and policies applicable to 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organizations.

The Szopka Committee has begun its planning for this year's 37th Annual Szopka Competition and Festival scheduled for Sunday, November 26. We hope we can count on you to help.

Pattie Kaczynski and Fran Pudlo, 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, Phyllis Stawiarski, Krystyna Wisło, and Nancy O. Yiznitsky.

THE 2017 JENNIE MARCONI-JAVORSKI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



L to R: Gini Pudlo—Scholarship Co-Chair, Christina Bolduc, Diana Sitnik, Justine Kieltyka, Ewelina Zambrzycka, and Florence Langridge—Scholarship Co-Chair.

Each of these outstanding young Polish women received a \$1,000 check at the Scholarship Presentation and Reception held at the Polish National Home on June 21, 2017.

Congratulations to **Florence Langridge** upon receiving the national 2017 Founders Award at the ACPC's Annual Convention held in Toronto this past August. On hand to witness this special achievement were Florence's daughter, Marianne MacDonald and two grandchildren, Hilary and Luke MacDonald of Hingham, MA. Also present were Club members and friends, Maria Bruks, Stasia Hodyl, and Ann Oleasz.



L to R: Florence receiving ACPC Founders Award from Alicia Dutka (photo by Celia Larkin)



TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS . . .

Unfortunately, we did not have the pleasure of welcoming any new members this period, but we encourage our entire membership to share Club information with family and friends. There are also many volunteer opportunities for those who have time and wish to help us further our mission. Membership applications can be downloaded from our website: www.polishculturalclub.org.

If you have any questions regarding your membership, please contact Anna-Mae Maglaty, Membership Chair, at (860) 521-7621.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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



DID YOU KNOW . . . POLAND — THE LAND OF THE WHITE EAGLE.

According to legend, there lived three brothers, Lech, Czech, and Rus. For many years they had been content in their villages, but, as their families grew larger, they needed more room. The brothers decided to look to new lands in search of new homes. Lech, Czech, and Rus traveled with their troops for many days. They rode their horses over mountains, rivers, forests, and wild country. On the crest of a mountaintop, they separated, each going in a different direction. Czech went to the left and set up Bohemia (today's Czech Republic) while Rus went to the right and founded Ruthenia (now Belarus and Ukraine). Lech, however, rode straight ahead, down the mountain and across vast plains.



Decoration on a Ceramic Stove—Royal Castle, Warsaw

One day Lech and his troops reached the edge of a small lake surrounded by a meadow and watched as a great eagle flew over their heads in great swooping circles, finally perching on its nest, high on a craggy rock. Lech stared in awe at the beautiful sight. As the eagle spread its wings and soared into the heavens again, a ray of sunshine from the red setting sun fell on the eagle's wings so that they appeared tipped with gold; the rest of the bird was pure white. "Here is where we will stay!" declared Lech. "Here is our new home, and we will call this place Gniezno ... (the eagle's nest)" and it became the center of his territory. Calling themselves Polonians, which means "People of the Field," they adopted a banner which displayed a white eagle on a red field. Gniezno, became the first ancestral capital of Poland.

Poland's national emblem was patterned on the mostly brown-feathered "orzeł bielik" or "White-tailed Sea Eagle" (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), which is a close relative of America's Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Did the legendary Lech see the eagle in bright sunlight which made the bird seem white? Or was it a rare albino specimen? The answer is buried in the mists of lore and legend. The fact remains, however, that for centuries it has been the white eagle that has posed prominently on heraldic shields, medieval banners, and various emblems. The oldest surviving portrayal of the Polish eagle emblem appeared on a denarius coin from the reign of Bolesław Chrobry (Boleslaus the Brave), Poland's first monarch, crowned in 1025. The crude etching on the coin has led to a debate among scholars as to whether it truly depicted an eagle, or perhaps a peacock, rooster, or dove. The eagle was subsequently discovered on the seals of several Dukes of Poland founding the Piast dynasty in the years 1222-1236. But it was Przemysł II, Duke of Wielkopolska, who first placed a golden crown on the eagle's head. Przemysł II served as Polish king for only one year (1295-1296). All the Polish kings who came after him followed suit, although the designs varied depending on a given century's dominant heraldic style.

When Poland was partitioned in the late 18th century by its three aggressive neighbors — Russia, Prussia, and Austria — the white eagle was replaced by the emblems of the occupying powers. But it was still seen on the banners of Polish insurrectionists fighting to regain their country's independence throughout the 19th century and on into the 20th century. When Poland finally re-emerged as an independent state in 1918, the crowned white eagle became, and remains, the official emblem of the Rzeczpospolita Polska (Republic of Poland).

The eagle went underground following the fourth partition of Poland by Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia in 1939. The country emerged from World War II as a Soviet puppet state with its size reduced by a fifth compared to before the war. The communist regime stripped the eagle of its crown as if to proclaim that Poland was no longer a fully sovereign state. But the pre-war Crowned Eagle was upheld by Polish communities world-wide and it officially reappeared in Poland in 1989, when Poles finally threw off the Soviet yoke. Today, there is no shortage of the nation's white eagle emblem on public buildings, monuments, and war memorials, on Polish ships at sea, on coins and paper money, as well as numerous souvenirs. The connection of Poland and the white eagle is a strong and lasting one.

Sources: Robert Strybel, [Biały Orzeł—White Eagle](#), April 30, 2017; krykietcom; and Wikipedia.



Throne in the Royal Castle in Warsaw



Detail of King's Throne



War Memorial—Church of St. Martin, Warsaw



Framed banner — Open Air Museum, Markowa

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2017

"Pulaski-Kosciuszko Celebration Day" (United Polish Societies)

10:00 a.m. Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Hartford

11:30 a.m. Gathering at the Pulaski Monument on Main Street

Lunch available at the Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Ave.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 and SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017

"Polish Genealogy Conference 2017"

Sponsor: Polish Genealogical Society of CT & the Northeast, Inc.

Institute of Technology, Business & Development

185 Main Street, New Britain, CT (downtown CCSU campus)

Information Contact: Diane Szepanski: Szepanski3@cox.net

(The PCCGH will have a display table all day on Saturday)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017 7:30 p.m.

Concert—Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra Donation

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2017 1:00 p.m.

"Distinguished Service Award Banquet" (United Polish Societies)

Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

Four recipients: Zofia Karwowska, Halina Kopacz, Bogusława

Kucharczyk, and Virginia Pudlo

Table reservations: Gen Bednarz (860) 593-3499

Tickets: Natalie Hank (860) 956-7044 Price: \$40.00 pp

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017 6:30 p.m.

PCCGH Lecture and Slide Presentation: *"Mount Everest and the Golden Age of Polish Mountaineering"* presented by Mark Milewski

East Hartford Library (Raymond), 840 Main Street, East Hartford

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2017 (During All Masses)

Pancake Breakfast — SS. Cyril & Methodius Ladies Guild \$5.00

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2017

Exhibition: *"Polish Paper Cutting and Painting"*

By Susan Urban, M. Ed., Polish Art and Culture Specialist

Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013

Hours: Mon—Thurs: 9 to 9, Fri: 9 to 5, Sat: 9 to 4, Sun: 12 to 4

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2017 6:30 p.m.

"PCCGH Annual Meeting/Food Drive/Turkey Drawing"

MAY 7, 2018 TO MAY 20, 2018 — TRIP TO POLAND/UKRAINE

The Polish American Foundation of CT is sponsoring a genealogy trip to Poland and Ukraine escorted by genealogists Prof. Jonathan Shea and Aleksandra Kacprzak. Contact dorena726@yahoo.com

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.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Virginia Pudlo**, who is one of four recipients of this year's United Polish Societies' "Distinguished Service Award." Following the 11:30 a.m. Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church on Sunday, October 22, a banquet will be held at the Polish National Home at 1:00 p.m. Please see calendar for ticket information.



STO LAT! to **Marion and Jo-Louise Winters**, who recently celebrated their 75th Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Not only are they a lovely and inspiring couple, they have devoted their lives to actively promoting their Polish heritage to the benefit of all. We wish them many more years of happiness.

David Jaronczyk, son of Paul and Jen Jaronczyk, has recently been promoted to District Manager, Eli Lilly Pharmaceuticals, New England Region. We are proud to note that David is one of our former scholarship recipients.



The Club has reprinted a beautiful Christmas card painted by member and artist, **Ursula Brodowicz** featuring Polish shepherds on the cover and a Polish/English greeting inside. These will be available for sale at our upcoming events and, of course, at Szopka.

LOOKING FOR SZOPKA

UNIQUE BOUTIQUE AND RAFFLE ITEMS



As you are shopping this fall or go through your closets, cabinets, and attics, please set aside those gifts "never" or "barely used" and consider donating them to the "Unique Boutique" table. Call Flo Langridge at (860) 521-4034 or Ann Oleasz at (860) 563-9117, both of whom are collecting the items, or bring them to the Annual Meeting. Also, we would appreciate donated gifts worth \$20.00 or more for the Major Raffle table. Remember, all proceeds benefit the Club's Scholarship Fund.



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

We're on the Web!

www.polishculturalclub.org

CONDOLENCES



Heartfelt sympathy is extended to **Cynthia McCall** on the loss of her brother, Norman Shiembob.