



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

May / June 2013

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

PCCGH PROGRAM

“Polish Embroidery Display and Presentation ”



Guest Speakers: Beata and Zyta Kónska

Thursday, May 16, 2013

6:30 p.m.

Polish National Home

60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford, CT

The public is cordially invited to this event.

FREE Admission

Handicapped Accessible

Information: Cliff Archie (860) 289-8583

Zyta and her daughter, Beata, will speak about the history of their Polish-themed linen embroidered heirloom collection and exhibit an assortment of pieces, all of which were designed by Roman Rehfus and colorfully embroidered in silk by his wife, Irena (Zyta's parents and Beata's grandparents). These unique creations depict diverse regions in Poland and are so perfectly executed that they look like photographs. Please join us for what will be a fascinating evening.

POLISH DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Connecticut State Capitol

Hall of Flags and North Lobby

11:00 a.m.

FREE Admission

Followed by Luncheon (fee charged)

at the Polish National Home

60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford, CT



Our Club has been honored once again by having a member, **Patricia Kaczynski**, selected for recognition. Pattie grew up in New Britain and has had a long career with the State of CT at the Department of Mental Retardation, Department of Public Health, and Department of Consumer Protection in the Frauds Division as an Administrative Assistant. She has held Officer positions in various professional Women's Clubs and presently serves as Editor of the Northeast Food and Drug Officials Newsletter and Historian for the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.

On May 17, Pattie will assume the position of Executive Director of the Northeast Food and Drug Officials Association. She received the "Eaton E. Smith" Award from this organization, which is presented to an individual for their outstanding contribution and service to the Association in the field of Consumer Protection.

Whenever there is a need for assistance or a contribution, Pattie is always there to extend a hand. She does not easily accept the expression, "It can't be done." Congratulations, Pattie!

Janusz Kocur, a well-known individual in Hartford Polonia, will also be honored at this ceremony.



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

We began this Co-Presidential year with two beautiful cultural events, and it is especially gratifying to note that our Club members responded with their attendance and cooperation. We thank those members who came forward in answer to our need of support, most especially Nancy Yiznitsky, who obtained the guest speaker for the March evening and who also handled the ticket sales for our April event along with Maria Bruks and Stacia Hodyl. The latter two ladies were most helpful in escorting guests to their tables for the very successful Rovatti Family luncheon program. We also cannot go without thanking those members of the Board of Directors for their help in preparing the newsletter, flyers, and publicity. This is teamwork and togetherness and is an omen of good things to come.

We are now preparing for the May 9 “Polish Day at the Capitol,” where our own Patricia Kaczynski will receive special recognition along with Janusz Kocur. Please try to attend the ceremony and special-priced luncheon following to be held at the Polish National Home. This is our day to celebrate Polish culture and to display our Polish pride.

Information on the May 16 General Meeting with the presentation of embroidery can be found in the enclosed flyer. We next look forward to our annual Scholarship Presentation and Strawberry Shortcake Social on June 20. We hope to see everyone at both of these Club events. We wish you all a happy and healthy summer.

Clifford Archie and Anna-Mae Maglaty, Co-Presidents

ACPC 50/50 FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

Many thanks to the members who have promptly returned their raffle tickets thus far. We have heard from approximately 25% of our membership; wouldn't it be nice to hear from at least 50%? The deadline is Saturday, June 29, so there is still time to participate. Make your check payable to: Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford and send it to: Pat Archie, 219 Arnold Drive, East Hartford, CT 06108.

Remember that our Club receives 10% of all sales and we have had a winner almost every year. This is the only fundraiser the National ACPC holds to raise needed funds for their scholarships, Polish Heritage newsletter, and other relevant cultural projects. We, as well as the Board of the ACPC, thank you for your continued support.

Pat Archie

**CELEBRATE MAY 3 —
“POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY”**

Did you know . . . that the Polish Constitution is the second-oldest Constitution in the world and the first Constitution in Europe? It was ratified on May 3, 1791, only four years after the American Constitution was adopted by the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787.

Did you know . . . that the Polish Constitution so enraged Poland’s super power neighbors that they partitioned the country in an attempt to prevent democracy from spreading beyond Poland’s borders? Russia, Prussia, and Austria divided Poland into three sections and ruled the nation for 123 years.

Did you know . . . that Poland has two national holidays — May 3 Constitution Day and November 11 Independence Day? November 11 was the day in 1917 when Poland’s independence was reinstated by the Regency Council after more than 100 years of occupation.

Głos Polek, Spring/Summer 2009

**SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION AND
STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE SOCIAL**



**Thursday, June 20, 2013
6:30 p.m.**

Polish National Home — Dining Room

Please join us for this annual tribute to outstanding and deserving young Polish scholars.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Frances Pudlo (fpudlo@pdipaint.com)
Assistant Editor: Anna-Mae Maglaty
Staff: Carol Bogon Phelan, Nancy Yiznitsky
Photographers: Frances Pudlo, Virginia Pudlo



DID YOU KNOW . . . That the Polka is NOT a national dance of Poland?

While Americans tend to associate the Polka with Polish culture, it is not a dance that is performed in Poland. Much of the misinterpretation may be due to the fact that the word *polka* in the Polish language means a female Pole. The Polka dance is actually of Czechoslovakian origin. Native Polish dance and music had its origins before Christianity became the official religion of Poland in 966. Court life in Kraków and the influence of the Renaissance brought secular music to prominence, but it was the interaction with neighboring countries, specifically the Czechs, Russians, Germans, Swedes, Bohemians, Ukrainians and Turks which helped to produce a rich variety of uniquely Polish dances. Poland has **five** national dances: the **Polonaise, Kujawiak, Mazur, Oberek, and Krakowiak**.

The Polonaise, or *Polonez*, a dance of the 18th century royalty and nobility, has its roots in the 17th century walking dance called the *Chodzone*. This processional dance of striding steps traditionally opened up balls and weddings in country villages throughout Poland. Danced to a slow $\frac{3}{4}$ tempo, the partners do not face each other but rather walk to the music around the ballroom . . . forward, back, side, often bowing, but always maintaining a formal stately posture. While the *Polonez* may be danced wearing a folk costume from any of Poland's ethnographic regions, it is usually performed with the dancers dressed in *Kontusze*, the costume of the Polish nobility of the 17th century.

The Kujawiak originated in the Kujawy region of north-central Poland in the 19th century and was quickly embraced by the gentry because of its dignified simplicity. With a $\frac{1}{4}$ tempo that alternates between very slow and fast, the Kujawiak went through many incarnations as it passed back and forth between the peasants and nobility, with each group adding to the style of the dance. It is a beautiful, romantic dance that features spinning turns and elaborate gestures, and is usually danced in a circle.

The Mazur, originated in the Mazowsze region of central Poland in the 16th century and by the 17th century was danced in villages throughout Poland. With its quick $\frac{3}{4}$ tempo accented on the 2nd or 3rd beat, and intricate steps—heel clicking, slides, and running steps—it soon found its way to the Polish Court. As a result, the Mazur will be danced in different ways to different types of music – from the delicate Mazur of the peasants (in regional folk costumes) to the military style Mazur of the Uhlans (soldiers in uniform, ladies in ball gowns). Its rhythm was used by Chopin to create some of his most memorable masterpieces. The Mazur was embellished into an intricate, swift moving elegant dance cherished by the social elite. Most of Poland's patriotic songs have a Mazur tempo, including the National Anthem (known as *Mazurek Dąbrowskiego*).

The Oberek came from the Mazowsze region of central Poland in the 17th century and was played by small village bands with an accordion or bass, and a drum, but dominated by the violin. Its name comes from the Polish verb *obracać się*, which means to spin. It is the fastest of the Polish folk dances. With its quick tempo, $\frac{3}{4}$ timing, the Oberek is a group dance that involves stamping feet, shouts, and fast whirling. Occasionally couples will break from the group to perform lifts, kicks, or cartwheels in the air. Folk costumes from many regions of Poland are associated with the Oberek, although the *Łowicki* costume is favored by many dance troupes.

The Krakowiak originated in the southern Polish city of Kraków, Poland's capital in the 16th century. Known as the "Polish dance," the Krakowiak has a syncopated $\frac{2}{4}$ rhythm and is danced in groups, often forming intricate formations, like stars. Exuberant and energetic, it involves stamping, kicks, cries, and leaps, and usually is accompanied by song. While the Krakowiak was a popular ballroom dance in Austria and France in the mid-19th century, it is not danced socially today. American Polka bands, however, often take Krakowiaks and turn them into Polkas. The costume of Kraków is the one that is most identified with Poland, and the Krakowiak is considered to be Poland's true national dance.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS CIAC WINNER

The Connecticut Scholar-Athlete Award (CIAC) for 2013 has been awarded to East Hartford High senior, Matthew Whitesell, grandson of Pat and Cliff Archie. This annual program recognizes one male and one female senior from each member high school whose academic and athletic careers have been exemplary, whose personal standards and achievements are a model to others, and who possesses high levels of integrity, self-discipline, and courage. Well done Matthew!

GET WELL WISHES ARE EXTENDED TO:



Irene Dyląg
Irene Kryzak
Anna-Mae Maglaty

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Membership cards are being sent as part of this newsletter mailing. If you paid dues and do not receive a card, please contact Anna-Mae Maglaty at (860) 521-7621.

MILESTONES

Member, **Mary Wilkos Bogon** of Wethersfield, will celebrate her 90th birthday on May 12. With a flower in her hair and a warm smile, Mary has always been a welcome and reliable volunteer at many PCCGH events. May the coming year be filled with many blessings and continued good health. STO LAT!



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

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2013

11:00 a.m.

"Polish Day at the Capitol," State Capitol Hall of Flags, Hartford
(Lunch can be purchased at the Polish National Home following the program at the Capitol)

Awardees are: Patricia Kaczynski and Janusz Kocur

Information: (860) 523-4778

SATURDAY, MAY 11 AND SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2013

"Mother's Day Plant Sale"

Sponsored by SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Ladies Guild

SS. Cyril and Methodius Church after all Masses (Saturday and Sunday)

Plants: \$20.00 Bouquets: \$6.00

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2013

11:30 a.m.

"Mother's Day Buffet"

Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

Cost: Adults: \$25.95 (includes Mimosas and Tip) Children: \$12.95

(Information: Manager Mike at (860) 247-1784

Najlepsze życzenia z okazji Dnia Matki!

Happy Mother's Day to all of our members!

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2013

6:30 p.m.

PCCGH Event: "Polish Embroidery Display and Presentation"

Polish National Home, Hartford — Dining Room

Members and Guests Welcome

FREE

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2013

Happy Hour Event

"Fundraiser for the Benefit of John Rice"

Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

Information: Manager Mike at (860) 247-1784

This is a wonderful way to show support for John, who is struggling with a very serious medical issue. Please try to attend.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2013

6:30 p.m.

PCCGH Event: "Scholarship Presentation and Strawberry Shortcake Social"

Polish National Home — Dining Room

Members and Guests Welcome

FREE

PATRIOTIC SONG

The milestones of a nation's history have often been documented by music and song. The Third of May Constitution is no exception. The Third of May Mazurka, written especially to commemorate this joyous occasion, represents the spirit of this significant event in Polish history.

Witaj Majowa Jutrzenko

Witaj, Majowa jutrzeńko,

świeć naszej polskiej krainie,

Uczcimy ciebie piosenką,

Która w całej Polsce słynie;

Witaj Maj, piękny Maj,

U Polaków błogi raj!

Witaj dniu Trzeciego Maja,

Który wolność nam zwiastujesz,

Pierzchła już ciemiężców zgraja,

Polsko, dzisiaj triumfujesz!

Witaj Maj, piękny Maj

U Pola ków błogi raj!

Glorry to the Dawn of May

We welcome May at daybreak,

Let its sun shine upon the Polish land.

We honor you with this song,

Which is known in all of Poland.

Welcome May, beautiful May,

For Poland, you are like heaven.

Welcome to the Third of May,

Which finally brought us freedom.

Our oppressors have been vanquished.

Poland, today you are triumphant!

Welcome May, beautiful May,

For Poland, you are like heaven.



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

Established 1976

We're on the Web!

www.polishculturalclub.org

Scenes from the Rovatti Family Event

