



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

November 2014

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 20, 2014

6:30 p.m.

Food Drive / Turkey Drawing

On Thursday, November 20, the PCCGH will hold its Annual Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. In addition to general business, the nomination and election of officers for 2014—2016 will take place. As is customary, the annual Food Drive and Turkey Drawing will close the evening. We ask that each member who attends 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 a local food bank 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 (Raffle, Unique Boutique, Vintage Jewelry, "Everybody's a Winner" Table—children's games). Please see page 2 for suggestions.

Szcześliwego Dnia Dziękczynienia

SZOPKA FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2014

9:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Free Admission / Public Welcome

The Club's annual major fundraiser, the Szopka Festival, will be held on Sunday, November 30. The Country Kitchen will again offer delicious hand-made potato/cheese or sauerkraut pierogi, babki, kielbasa, and home-baked goods. Numerous 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 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and on Sunday, November 30 at 2:30 p.m. with clean up. Remember, all proceeds from this event benefit the Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Fund.

WIGILIA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2014

6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$35.00 per person

Our Holiday season culminates with the beautiful Wigilia (Vigil Supper) event on December 12 at 6:30 p.m. Please invite family members and friends to enjoy this 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 you know as a guest. 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 many thanks to the 27 wonderful people who participated in making the pierogi for our Szopka Festival. Special thanks to the six people who were able to help at all the sessions—October 4 and 11 and November 1. How about those three "dough boys" who keep the dough machine rolling! The cooperation and harmony was wonderful and really reflected our continuing "soaring Polish spirit." Sincere appreciation also to the five ladies who baked for our coffee break.

Pat Archie

Cliff & Pat Archie
Sophie Bieniek
Hedy Bruks
Maria Bruks
Anna Cwikla
Alice Dalenta
Ed and Krystyna Farley
Irene Hryniewicz
Jen Jaronczyk
Pattie Kaczynski
Zyta Konska

Louis Maglaty
John Majdan
Ann Oleasz
Chris & Sophia Panek
Maria Panek
Fran & Gini Pudlo
Alice Rogala
Helen Rogalski
Stanley Rys
Elizabeth Sikorsky
Phyllis Stawiarski
Catie Talariski



L to R: Sophia Panek, Chris Panek, Gini Pudlo, Phyllis Stawiarski, and Alice Rogala



CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

Sadly, this is our last message as Co-Presidents. We begin by expressing our gratitude to Staś Radosz, Executive Director and Founder of the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at Elms College in Chicopee, MA who educated and entertained his audience during a program featuring the legends and tales of Poland on September 27. The decorations and reception were exceptional, and everyone enjoyed themselves.



Staś Radosz (rear) and L to R: Isabella Ramoya, Alexandra Ramoya, and Milena Brodowicz with their coloring contest prizes.



L to R: Fran Pudlo and Pattie Kaczynski, Reception Co-Chairs, ready to start serving the custom made "dragon cake."

As we look forward to the upcoming holiday season and the election of new officers, we are reminded of what has been accomplished during our term, and the support and camaraderie of members and friends who made it possible. There can be no Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford without people who care about our mission and who work side by side to share their Polish culture and heritage. We invite you to continue this spirit by helping us celebrate the three upcoming programs — Annual Meeting, Szopka Festival, and Wigilia — and by staying involved in the future. Please volunteer, please participate, and please include your friends.

Our next major milestone will take place in 2016—the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Club. Although life and society are vastly different today than they were in 1976, our love of heritage has not changed. We must keep our Polish spirit soaring for many years to come. We thank you for your confidence in us, as well as your unwavering support. It has been a heartfelt honor and privilege to have served the Club as Co-Presidents.

Clifford Archie and Anna-Mae Maglaty

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 29 and November 30. Here is a list of volunteer opportunities.

Saturday, November 29 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 30—Early Morning/Late Afternoon

8:30 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 30 — 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.

Club Table Donations Requested

Please bring items to the Annual Meeting on Thursday, November 20, if possible, or on Saturday, November 29 before noon.

Raffle Table: Gifts and Gift Certificates (minimum value of \$20.00). Please indicate your name on item.

Unique Boutique: Gifts received but never used

Vintage Jewelry: Jewelry of all varieties

Game Booth: "Everybody's a Winner!" Inexpensive items for children and adults.

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

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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



DID YOU KNOW . . . That the face of the Warsaw Mermaid depicts a real person?

A Mermaid (Syrena), a beautiful woman above the waist and a fish below, facing right, with a sword raised in her right hand and a shield in the left, is the symbol of Warsaw. According to a legend, Warsaw was founded when a Mermaid ordered a fisherman WARS and his wife SAWA to form a city. From their names derives the name of the city "Warszawa." There are many mermaid statues in Warsaw most notably the one located in the center of Old Town Square.



Krystyna Kraheleska



Krystyna Kraheleska, a 23 year old student at the University of Warsaw, posed for the five-times-greater-than-life size "Syrena" mermaid monument on the bank of the river Vistula. Born 100 years ago on March 24, 1914, Krystyna Kraheleska was a poet, a scout, and a soldier of the Polish Underground Home Army (Armia Krajowa). In 1935, she moved to Warsaw where she began to study at the Department of Ethnography. Shortly thereafter she received a proposal from sculptress Louise Nitschowa to pose for the statue of the Warsaw Mermaid. The photo shown at right, was taken two months before the Warsaw Uprising. Krystyna Kraheleska was mortally wounded in the Field Mokotowskie on the first day of the Uprising and died on August 2, 1944. It is said that she fell not on the pavement, which would have been terrible for her, but on the earthy fields among the sunflowers, potatoes, beets, which for her was everything. She endures as the author of a famous song, "Hey, Boys, Bayonet Weapon," which she wrote in January 1943. It became the most popular song of fighting and of Polish soldiers of the Warsaw Uprising. Just before the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, Nitschowa's Syrena was unveiled along the Vistula River (next to the Świętokrzyski Bridge). The Germans destroyed almost all the monuments in Warsaw, but the mermaid was left untouched (no one knows why) even though for four months in 1944 and 1945 it stood just on the front line. After the war, it was only necessary to patch the 35 holes made by bullets.

According to another legend, there were two mermaid sisters who swam from the Atlantic into the Baltic Sea. The first sister headed up to the Danish straits, where she sits today at the entrance to the port of Copenhagen, and the other sister swam to Gdansk and then up the Vistula River as far as Warsaw's Old Town. She found the place so admirable that she decided to stay. Local fishermen living nearby noticed that something was creating waves, tangling nets, and releasing their fish. Although their original intention was to trap the offender, they fell in love with the mermaid upon hearing her sing. Later, a rich merchant trapped the siren and imprisoned her in a wooden hut. A young fisherman heard the mermaid's cry and with the help of his mates, released her, whereupon she declared her readiness to offer fishermen her help whenever it would be needed. Ever since the mermaid, armed with sword and shield, has been ready to help protect the city and residents of Warsaw.

Excerpted from: Poland and Warsaw by Tadeusz Jędrzyak, published in Poland in 2007, and miscellaneous internet sites.



CONGRATULATIONS and WARMEST WISHES to:

Louis and Anna-Mae Maglaty

who will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on November 25, 2014.

GET WELL WISHES are sent to:

- Maria Brodowicz
- Joan Godlewski
- Florence Langridge
- Chester Zasada

WINNERS OF THE WAWEL DRAGON COLORING CONTEST

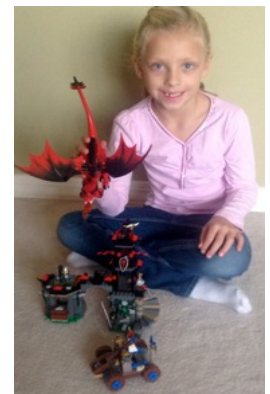
1st Prize for Overall Presentation: Milena Brodowicz

2nd Prize for Creative Color: Alyssa Puskorz

Other Prizewinners:

Olivia Zbikowski, Thomas Brodowicz

Alexandra Ramoya, Isabella Ramoya



Milena Brodowicz displaying her 1st Prize Lego set

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2014 3:30 p.m.
 "Independence Day Lecture" by Dr. Michael A. Peszke
 Dr. Peszke will speak on the heroic efforts of the Polish Special Duties Flight 1586—Defenders of Warsaw
 Sponsored by S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies, CCSU
 New England Air Museum, 36 Perimeter Road, Windsor Locks, CT
 Information: (860) 832-3010 E-mail: jacquesm@ccsu.edu **FREE**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 and SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2014
 3:00 p.m. —6:00 p.m. 7:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

"Holiday Family Fun & Food Fair" (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 20, 2014 6:30 p.m.
 PCCGH Event: Annual Meeting, Food Drive, Turkey Drawing, Election
 Polish National Home—Dining Room **FREE**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2014 7:00 p.m.
 "Chopin International Piano Competition" Benefit Concert with
 Maestro Dr. Krystian Tkaczewski
 Sponsored by the Connecticut Chopin Foundation
 Polish National Home — Chopin Ballroom
 Admission: General: \$15.00 Students: \$10.00
 Information: (860) 247-1784

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2014 4:00 p.m. Dinner/6:30 p.m. Show
 "Dinner at the Polish National Home / "Wicked" at the Bushnell"
 Call Wiesia Kennedy: 860-257-7624—E-mail: wswk1953@aol.com
 RSVP by November 14, 2014 \$99.00 p.p.—Dinner and Show

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2014 9:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
 PCCGH Event: "Szopka Festival"
 Polish National Home — Chopin Ballroom
 Szopki on display, Polish delicacies, vendors, Sw. Mikołaj, and more
 Public welcome **FREE**
 Information: Ed Farley: (860) 225-5204

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2014 6:30 p.m.
 PCCGH Event: "Wigilia" (Vigil Supper)
 Polish National Home Dining Room
 Information: Cliff Archie: (860) 289-8583 Ticket: \$35.00 p.p.

MEMBER NEWS



Congratulations to our own **Ursula Brodowicz** on being honored with the United Polish Societies' (Centrala) "2014 Distinguished Service Award" on October 26, 2014. Ursula has served the Polish Cultural Club in many roles, all with distinction: four years as past President, former Program Chair, Wigilia

Chair (in collaboration with her mother, Maria Brodowicz), assisting in the crafting of numerous Polish Christmas trees for the Wadsworth Atheneum's Festival of Trees & Traditions, and illustrating cookbook covers, posters, and a Christmas card for the Club. She also continues her active involvement on the Board of the American Council for Polish Culture where she served as Chair of the committee awarding Skalny Scholarships for Polish Studies to students nationally from 2007 to 2013. In May 2012, Ursula was recognized by the State of Connecticut at "Polish Day at the Capitol" for her service to the Polish American community.

Ursula has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Paier College of Art and a Masters degree in Arts Education from Central CT State University. As a Credentialed Art Therapist, she works with special needs children in the New Britain school system. Also a talented artist, her works have been displayed in many venues, most currently in the Dining Room of the Polish National Home.

One cannot know Ursula and not be impressed by her knowledge, promotion, and love of all things Polish. Hers is a voice of strength and influence whether it be keeping everyone apprised of Polish current events, historical anniversaries, or newly published articles or books. She is a perfect example of a proud Polish-American who cherishes and exemplifies her heritage on a daily basis.

Congratulations are extended to the Danuta Krajewska and Genowefa Laudate, also Distinguished Award recipients.



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

We're on the Web!

www.polishculturalclub.org

Seven Polish Heroes the World Should be Aware of on the 75th Anniversary of World War II

Jan Karski, who undertook a daring mission to try and stop the Holocaust by informing Western powers; **Witold Pilecki**, who was willingly captured by the Nazis and formed an underground resistance network within Auschwitz; **Marian Rejewski**, **Jerzy Rozycki**, and **Henryk Zygalski**, the Enigma cypher code breakers; **Henryk Slawik**, who rescued thousands of Polish refugees, both Jews and gentiles from Nazi oppression; and **Irene Sendler**, a nurse and aid worker who helped over 2,500 Jewish children escape the ghetto and be placed in hiding.