



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

March/April 2017

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

PCCGH SPRING GARDEN PROGRAM

“America’s Best Idea, National Parks —
100 years and counting . . . “



Slide Presentation by Dr. Richard Benfield
Professor of Geography at Central Connecticut State University

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017

6:30 p.m. Brief Meeting

7:00 p.m. Lecture/Slide Presentation

8:00 p.m. 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.)

Free Admission and Parking. Handicapped Accessible.

Open to the General Public.

For additional information, please call (860) 568-2044

The National Park Service celebrated its 100 year anniversary in August 2016 with a history that can be described as varied, tumultuous, and, in some ways, controversial. From parks having to be guarded by the army, to the extermination of apex predators like wolves and cougars, . . . to roads cutting through 80 miles of pristine wilderness and road cuttings seven feet wide through trees over 3,000 years old . . . to where today the 420 parks administered by the National Park Service are loved by 292 million visitors (some might say loved to death and facing a crowded and uncertain future).

This lively one hour presentation will look at the history of America’s national parks, how they changed over the century, what they have become today, and what lies ahead in the 21st century. We will meet characters like John Muir: “Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike.”; Ebenezer Bryce who called his Canyon a “helluva place to lose a cow;” and Adolph Murie, who described the visitor center in Denali as a “Dairy Queen!” Be prepared to be educated and entertained by Dr. Benfield!

PCCGH TO HOST AN EXCLUSIVE AFTERNOON AT THE POLISH CENTER OF DISCOVERY AND LEARNING

Premiere Opening of New Exhibits: *Costumes, Amber, Folk Art*

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017

1:00 p.m.

**The Polish Center of Discovery
and Learning**

33 South Street, Chicopee, MA

Fee: \$15.00



Bernard Pajewski



Krystyna Slowikowska Farley

Program:

**1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Lectures on Krystyna Slowikowska Farley’s
Polish Costumes by Staś Radosz**

**All Afternoon Commentary on Bernard Pajewski and his Folk
Art Collection by Marek Czarnecki**

Finale: An Elegant Wine, Hors D’oeuvres, and Dessert Reception

**Honorees: Krystyna Slowikowska Farley, Donor of 32 Traditional
Polish Costumes and a Collection of Amber**

and

**Staś Radosz, Executive Director of the Polish Center, who
will receive the PCCGH’s “Distinguished Service Award” for
his long-standing and tireless service to the Polish Center and
to Polonia.**



Staś Radosz

Staś Radosz says of Mrs. Farley: “Krystyna is an energetic woman with a warm heart and personality that is larger than life . . . Her ever present thoughts of past persecution and struggle for survival have made her a determined advocate of her cherished heritage. . . . The Polish Center considers itself fortunate to be the recipient of Krystyna Farley’s impressive collection — visitors are met with an enthusiastic burst of vivid colors.”

Marek Czarnecki says of Mr. Pajewski: “Bernard Pajewski was a very private person who passed away in January of 2017 at age 87. Inside his modest Cape Cod house in New Britain, he amassed the largest collection of Polish folk art in the United States. I knew Bernie while he was alive and over 200 carved wood folk sculptures, kilim tapestries, icons, maps, books, and many other items. It took three trucks to carry his life’s work to the Polish Center.”

Please see the enclosed flyer for further information.





CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

2016 ended on a high note with a successful 40th Anniversary Celebration, annual Szopka Competition and Festival, and Wigilia. Thanks to all who helped to make these events possible. Club events for the first six months of 2017 are well in hand . . .

The Third Annual "Pączki na Karnawał" was held on Sunday, February 26 at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. Thirty dozen pączki of various flavors were available and enjoyed. There were two winners of the Jelly Bean Count: Genevieve Urban and Genowefa Laudate. Thanks to Nancy Yiznitsky for donating the \$20 gift certificate to the Polish National Home and to Stacey Pribyson, owner of The Wethersfield Diner, for donating the second \$20 gift certificate to her restaurant. The Easter raffle prizes were won by Irena Mojsa, Jadwiga Kordowska, and Gini Pudlo.



L to R: Lou Maglaty, Anna-Mae Maglaty and Fran Pudlo

On March 23, 2017, Dr. Richard Benfield returns to engage us with another of his educational and entertaining slide presentations: "100 Years of America's National Parks." The event will be held at the Raymond Library in East Hartford, is free, and open to the general public. We look forward to a delightful evening!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU at the exclusive event scheduled for Sunday, April 30, 2017 at the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning in Chicopee, MA. Normally closed on Sundays, Executive Director Staś Radosz has invited the PCCGH to host a special premiere of two new exhibits donated by two Club members: Krystyna Farley and the Estate of Bernard Pajewski. The Polish Center of Discovery and Learning is a surprising jewel of Polish-American artifacts that anyone of Polish heritage should visit at least once. We are fortunate to have such an institution only 30 minutes from Hartford. We also wish to honor Krystyna Farley for her strong passion and deep devotion to her Polish heritage and Staś Radosz, for what he has accomplished with the Polish Center in what only can be described as a labor of love. Please use the flyer enclosed with this newsletter to sign up. It will definitely be a memorable event.

Now is the time to pass along the enclosed Scholarship Application to students of Polish heritage pursuing higher education. Completed information must be received on or before May 1. A scholarship award ceremony and reception will be held in June.

Please visit our website: www.polishculturalclub.org. Annual reports of the Historian were recently added, as were photos from the 2016 Szopka Competition and Festival and 2016 Wigilia.

Happy Easter! Wesolych Świąt Wielkanocnych!

Pattie Kaczynski and Fran Pudlo, Co-Presidents

2017-2018 CLUB OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

The Club's Officers, elected at the November 2016 Annual Meeting for a two year term, as well as members of the Executive Board, are listed below. We look forward to serving our members, as well as Hartford Polonia, in the coming year. Please feel free to contact any of us at any time.

- Co-Presidents: Patricia Kaczynski and Frances Pudlo
- Vice President: John Majdan
- Secretary: Lilia Kieltyka
- Treasurer: Raymond Kowalski
- Historian: Patricia Kaczynski
- Executive Board: 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 Wiśło, and Nancy O. Yiznitsky.

Welcome TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

- Gail and Reid O'Connell of Glastonbury
- Jean Barnum and John Niedzwiecki of Newington
- Daniel Niedzwiecki of Farmington
- Jeffrey and Maureen Krauss of Cromwell
- Joan Egbertson of Barkhamsted

Please note that 2017 membership cards are included with this mailing. If you have not received your card, please contact Anna-Mae Maglaty, Membership Chair, at (860) 521-7621.

We always look forward to welcoming new members, so please share Club information with your family and friends. Membership applications can be downloaded from our website: www.polishculturalclub.org.

JENNIE MARCONI-JAVORSKI SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.



Scholarship applications, along with all requested materials, **must be received and postmarked no later than May 1, 2017.** An application has been inserted as part of this Newsletter. It can also be downloaded from the Club's website: www.polishculturalclub.org.

Florence Langridge and Virginia Pudlo, Scholarship Co-Chairs

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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



DO YOU KNOW . . . THE ORIGINS OF CELEBRATING POLISH EASTER TRADITIONS



Wesołego Alleluja! This is the greeting by Poles as they complete the six week period prior to Easter known as Lent or *Wielki Post*. Although fasting is most important, everyone enjoys the last week of merrymaking and good food just before Ash Wednesday. This week is called Fat Week or *Thusty Tydzien* which starts on the Thursday before Ash Wednesday when parties are held and famous jelly donuts called *pączki* are baked and consumed. In the United States *pączki* are eaten on Fat Tuesday, also known as Mardi Gras, rather than the week-long period as it is in Poland.

On Ash Wednesday, people go to church for ashes. They also cut pussy willows, called *bazie* or *kotki* and place them in water in the hope that they will bloom by Palm Sunday. This period of six weeks leading to Easter Sunday is a time of fasting and prayer. Stations of the Cross and *Gorzkie Żale* (Bitter Sorrows) are religious traditions. *Gorzkie Żale* are beautiful hymns or lamentations sung on Friday evening and Sunday afternoons. These ancient chants, retracing the Passion and Crucifixion, ring out in churches throughout the land.

Palm Sunday, *Niedziela Palmowa*, begins Holy Week, when preparations for Easter begin wholeheartedly. Since palms do not grow in Poland, people take pussy willow branches or sprigs of colored straw to church to be blessed by the priest. The branches are usually hung in the house, often tucked behind a holy picture to bring health and prosperity during the coming year.

Holy Week, or *Wielki Tydzien*, includes spiritual and other preparations for Easter. Housekeeping, cooking, and baking begin. In olden times, ham and sausages were made and prepared at home. Bread and other pastries, baked from scratch, included bread (*babki*), shortbread cakes (*mazurka*), and rich creamy cheesecakes (*serniki*). Easter eggs, called *pisanki*, were also created during this week. There are many different names for these eggs depending on the method used to make them.

On Holy Thursday, people go to church for a service that commemorates the Last Supper. The priest washes the feet of twelve parishioners and repeats the actions and words of Jesus Christ starting the celebration of the Passion which will take place over the next two days. On Good Friday, after 3:00 p.m., which is the time that Jesus died on the cross, each church sets up a tomb where the Holy Eucharist is placed, as well as a statue of Jesus taken down from the cross. Often parishioners stand guard at the tomb all night as people come and pray.

On Holy Saturday, people prepare a Polish Easter basket which includes eggs, a symbol of life, spring, and the Resurrection; bread representing Christ, the bread of life; sausage and ham representing abundance and God's generosity; horseradish representing the passion of Christ; salt indicative of prosperity; butter representing good will; and basket decorations of sprigs, pussy willows, and daffodils depicting joy. With baskets in hand, people go to church where the baskets are blessed by the priest.



On Easter Sunday, Mass is rich in procession, incense, and ritual. Under a canopy, a priest in gold and white robes carries the monstrance. Following Mass, the Easter breakfast/brunch takes place. It begins with the sharing of the blessed egg. Everyone takes a piece of the egg from the head of the household as they exchange best wishes with one another. Then all enjoy the food that has been blessed. Indeed, it is *Wesołego Alleluja i smacznego jajka* (Happy Easter and delicious egg). Once again, Polish Easter traditions have brought joy to one and all.

Source: [Głos Polek](#), Winter, 2013

DID YOU KNOW . . . THAT MARK MILEWSKI — ONE OF OUR MEMBERS — CLIMBED MOUNT EVEREST AND WILL SPEAK ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE?

On May 20, 2016, Mark Milewski, son of the late Dr. Stanisław and Rita Milewski, reached the summit of 29,029 foot Mount Everest. He will share the story of his 50 day long expedition in a lecture on Thursday, April 6, at CCSU and also place Mount Everest into the context of the Golden Age of Polish Himalayan Climbing of the 1980s and 1990s. In the last two decades of the twentieth century, Poles dominated the 8000-meter peaks located in the Himalayas with numerous winter and first ascents. Climbers such as Jerzy Kukuczka, Wanda Rutkiewicz, Krzysztof Wielicki, and many others, were respected internationally and celebrated within Poland for their feats. In addition to his own personal account, Mr. Milewski will tell their stories — tales of adventure in high places that lift the human spirit and are a chapter of Polish history that is little known outside of international climbing circles.



The S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies Presents

The Milewski Lecture — “Mount Everest and the Golden Age of Polish Mountaineering”

Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Central Connecticut State University — Vance Academic Center, Room 105

The Event is FREE, and the public is cordially invited. Refreshments will be served.

Mark Milewski is Assistant Professor of Business Administration at Tunxis Community College in Farmington, CT and a member of the advisory board to the Polish Studies Program at Central Connecticut State University. He incorporates his mountain climbing experience — teamwork and goal attainment — in his courses.

For further information, please contact the Polish Studies at 860-832-3010 or jacquesm@ccsu.edu. Driving/parking directions: www.ccsu.edu/visit.

(Editor's Note: Prior to the lecture, please consider watching the movie, *Everest*, a 2015 biographical film adapted from Beck Weathers' memoir *Left for Dead: My Journey Home from Everest* (2000). It is based on the real events of the 1996 Mount Everest disaster, and focuses on the survival attempts of two expedition groups, one led by Rob Hall and the other by Scott Fischer. It stars an ensemble cast including Jason Clarke, Josh Brolin, John Hawkes, Robin Wright, Michael Kelly, Sam Worthington, Keira Knightley, Emily Watson, and Jake Gyllenhaal. It provides an realistic and moving depiction of what an expedition to Mt. Everest entails.)

Co? What? Gdzie? Where? Kiedy?

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2017 4:00 p.m.
"VIII Chopin International Piano Competition—Finalists' Concert"
 Theatre of the Performing Arts, 359 Washington Street, Hartford
 Fee: \$25.00 (adults), \$20.00 (students), Free (children under 12)
 Information: www.chopincompetition.org

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017 6:30 p.m.
PCCGH EVENT: Slide Presentation by Dr. Richard Benfield
"America's Best Idea: National Parks — 100 Years and Counting"
 Raymond Library, 840 Main Street, East Hartford
 Information: (860) 568-2044. Public Welcome. **FREE**

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017 7:30 p.m.
Music of J.S. Bach — Cantata BWV 32 "Liebster Jesu, mein Verlangen"
"Harpsichord Concerto No. 1 in D Minor BWV 1052"
 Connecticut Virtuosi performs at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church
 55 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford Suggested Donation: \$25.00

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017 10:00 a.m. Mass / 11:00 a.m. Breakfast
Ladies Guild Event: "Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church followed by a Communion Breakfast" (details to be announced)
 Contact: Irene Underwood, President: (860) 561-2336.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017 7:00 p.m.
Lecture: "Mt. Everest and the Golden Age of Polish Mountaineering"
 Central CT State University—Vance Academic Center, Room 105
 (See Article on Page 3) **FREE**
 Contact: Polish Studies at (860) 832-3010 or jacquesm@ccsu.edu

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017 1:00 p.m.
PCCGH Event — Grand Premiere of Two Folk Art Exhibits
"An Exclusive Sunday at the Museum" — A Reception To Honor:
Krystyna Słowikowska Farley, Bernard Pajewski, and Staś Radosz"
 The Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, Chicopee, MA
 (Please see page 1 and flyer insert for further information.)
 Contacts: (860) 568-2044 or (860) 521-7621 Cost: \$15.00 pp

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2017 11:00 a.m.
"Polish Day at the Capitol" — 226th Anniv. of Polish Constitution Use West (Main Entrance of Legislative Office Building). Proceed to North Lobby of the Capitol Building.
 Information: (860) 240-8387 **FREE**
 Note: Lunch will be available at a minimal cost at the Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford following the ceremonies.

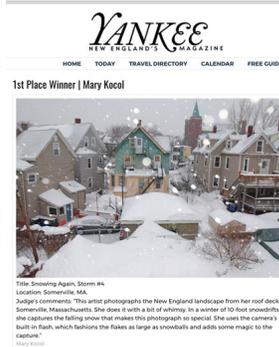
NEWSFLASH — CLUB MEMBERS

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.

On Thanksgiving Day, while most PCCGH members were sitting down to a traditional turkey dinner, our own member, **Janit Romayko**, was participating in the prestigious 80th Manchester Road Race held annually in Manchester, CT. Janit ran 4.748 miles in 44.10 minutes. In the category of female runners between the age group of 70 to 74, she came in third. Well done, Janit!



Kudos to member, **Marek Czarnecki**, who represented our Club during a 30 minute internet radio interview on December 16, 2016 (<http://icvradio>). Marek spoke on Polish Christmas customs, including Szopka making and Wigilia, as well as other related topics relating to Polish heritage and culture. He will also be making future appearances.



Mary Kocol, daughter of deceased member, **Betty Kocol**, is the first place winner of Yankee Magazine's annual "My New England Photo Competition" (March 2017 issue.) Her photograph: "Snowing Again, Storm #4," shot from a roof deck, depicts her neighborhood in Somerville, MA. She adds a bit of whimsy by using the camera's built-in flash, which fashions the snowflakes as large snowballs, thus adding a little magic to the image.

See Page 3 for details of the lecture by Member **Mark Milewski**, who reached the summit of Mount Everest in May of 2016. This expedition was Professor Milewski's fifth of seven summit climbs (the highest peaks on each of the seven continents). He previously climbed to the summits of Mount Elbrus, Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount Denali, and Mount Aconcagua.

Do you recognize this familiar face which has been appearing on local television (WFSB Channel 3 and News 8 WTNH) in interviews concerning animal health? It is none other than **Dr. Edyta Hrynkiwicz**, who completed undergraduate work at the University of Connecticut in 2012 and did further study at Kansas University College of Veterinary Medicine, graduating in 2016. Dr. Hrynkiwicz is on the staff of the Animal Hospital of Rocky Hill, CT, and although she practices in general veterinary medicine, her special interests are internal medicine and surgery. The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford takes great pride in Edyta's success as a former recipient of the Club's scholarship in 2009.



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

We're on the Web!

www.polishculturalclub.org

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy and prayers go out to member, **Mary Marek Hartz** on the recent loss of her husband, Rudy Hartz (February 4, 2017).

