



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

Summer 2022

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND OUR

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION AND RECEPTION for the 2022 JENNIE MARCONI-JAVORSKI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Thursday, June 23, 2022

**Polish National Home Dining Room
60 Charter Oak Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut**

**6:30 p.m.
(Doors open at 6:00 p.m.)**



2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Matthew Gwara — a Sophomore at the University of CT – Storrs where he is considering a career in Social Work.

Oliver Klimas — a Freshman attending Emmanuel College in Boston, MA to major in the field of Biotechnology.

Jacob Kuczek — a Freshman entering Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN to study Actuarial Science.

Natalia Smiarowski — A Sophomore at the University of Massachusetts — Amherst majoring in Architecture.

2022 Essay Subject: Heroism is the act of doing something that takes bravery, integrity, patience, humility, selflessness, or determination. Select a “hero” of Polish heritage (historical or contemporary) and explain how that person inspires your admiration.

PLEASE NOTE: There is no charge for the event, but since the Polish National Home is not open for service on Thursdays, we kindly request that members and friends bring an appetizer or dessert for the refreshment table.

For further information, please call 860-841-3477 or 860-659-0356.

SCENES FROM THE 2022 LITTLE POLAND FESTIVAL

Sunday, June 5 brought thousands of Poles and Poles-at-heart to Broad Street in New Britain for the Little Poland Festival. Thanks to member volunteers Lilia Kieltyka, Fran and Gini Pudlo, Chris and Sophia Panek, Carol Phelan, Janit Romayko, and Julia Woron, our Club hosted a very successful booth offering cookbooks, “Pillows for Baby Jesus,” apple szarlotka, and a variety of Polish imports. It was a great day.



L to R: Gini Pudlo, Julia Woron, Fran Pudlo, Janet Romayko, Sophia Panek, Lilia Kieltyka, and Chris Panek



DONATIONS TO THE CLUB'S DEDICATED JENNIE MARCONI-JAVORSKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Please consider making an individual tax-deductible contribution to the Scholarship Fund, or perhaps designating a donation in memory of a loved one or friend. Assisting Polish youth in achieving their higher education goals is an important part of our Club's mission and something of which we can be proud. Over the years, scores of amazing young men and women, who exhibit high ideals, extensive community service, and a love of their Polish heritage, have benefited from our support. It is critical that this Fund continues to be available to deserving Polish scholars. Please help to make this possible.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Dear Members:

In the blink of an eye, summer is upon us. Record crowds (over 30 thousand) came out to celebrate in Polish style at the Little Poland Festival on June 5 in New Britain. Our Club tent had prime real estate and we were happy to be there. The day proved to be both profitable and enjoyable with lots of customers interested in our Polish items.



To keep our focus on partnering with the youth of Polonia, last month our Club once again collaborated with the Hartford Polish Saturday School to sponsor the Anna-Mae Maglaty Literary Award Competition. Each time we are invited to the School, we are in awe of the high level of instruction and the dedication of all the kids.

I will be attending the ACPC Convention in San Antonio and the new cultural center in Panna Maria, TX in July. It is my second year of involvement, and I continue to learn new things. Above all, it helps to make national connections that are important for our Club. I will certainly have lots to share with "y'all" when I return. We congratulate Ursula Brodowicz for designing the new ACPC lapel pin.

REMINDER: Please come to our scholarship event on June 23 so we can celebrate with Natalia, Jacob, Oliver, and Matthew, our scholarship recipients.

We are pleased to welcome Michelle Maglaty Mostello as a new member of our Board of Directors. Also, both Patricia Archie and Louis Maglaty have been made Directors Emeritus.

Happy Reading!

Lilia Kiełtyka

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual Dues: \$25 per member / \$40 dual or household / \$10 student
 Payable to: PCCGH
 Mail to: Virginia M. Pudlo
 33 Worthington Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033-1372
 Tel.: (860) 659-0356 E-mail: ginipudlo@att.net

Don't forget

... to update us when you have a change of name, address, phone number, or e-mail address. Please notify Carol Phelan by E-mail: hopscotch77@sbcglobal.net or by phone: (860) 646-3114. Thank you.

2021-2022 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Lilia Kiełtyka
 Vice President: Ursula Brodowicz
 Secretary: Frances Pudlo
 Treasurer: Raymond Kowalski
 Historian: Virginia Pudlo
 Board Members: Patricia Archie (Emeritus), Marek Czarnecki, Edward Farley, Florence Langridge, Louis Maglaty (Emeritus), John Majdan, Michelle Maglaty Mostello, Carol Bogon Phelan, and Nancy Yiznitsky.

2022 ANNA-MAE MAGLATY LITERARY AWARD COMPETITION WINNERS

On Saturday, May 21, Ursula Brodowicz, Fran Pudlo, and Gini Pudlo attended the end-of-year ceremony for students of the Hartford Polish Saturday School. Winners of the 2022 Anna-Mae Maglaty Literary Award Competition were announced: Grand Prize—Sabina Urbanska who received \$300.00, and Klaudia Beatty and Maja Sejdor who tied for 2nd Place and received \$100.00 each. This year's essay topic was, "Which of the Polish traditions is the most important and interesting to you?" It was written in Polish and will be translated into English. We are grateful to the Wachtel Literary Competition Fund of the American Council for Polish Culture for matching half of the Grand Prize.



L to R: Klaudia Beatty, Maja Sejdor, and Sabina Urbanska

AN EVENING WITH LECH WAŁĘSA

Former President of Poland and Nobel Peace Laureate, Lech Wałęsa was the guest of honor at an invitation-only event on May 9 at the New England Air Museum. He was in CT to help introduce the Kosciuszko Squadron exhibit at the Museum, which honors the heroism of Polish pilots during World War II, and also to promote the Ukraine relief campaign assisting the millions of refugees flooding into Poland. The visit was arranged by the Museum and Central CT State University. Several PCCGH members were in attendance.



Lilia Kiełtyka with Lech Wałęsa

Lech Wałęsa with Tadeusz Konski, Zyta Konska, Maya Wieckowska, and Beata Kanska

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Frances Pudlo (francespudlo@att.net)
 Staff: Carol Bogon Phelan, Nancy Yiznitsky



DID YOU KNOW . . . KRYSZYNA FARLEY HAD A HISTORY WITH THE SOVIETS?

Our beautiful and beloved Krystyna Słowikowska Farley passed away on November 19, 2021 at age 96. Her life took a unique turn in childhood due to events of World War II, but instead of leaving a negative impact, it empowered her to become a creative, artistic, feisty, charming, and engaging woman. She straddled two worlds, that of her native Poland and her adopted home in the United States. She worked tirelessly on behalf of both to keep alive all the best of Polish culture, traditions, and history. Beata Kaczmarczyk interviewed Krystyna on February 13, 2015 for [Polski Express](#). It reminds us that there are still ominous elements in our world today and that some things haven't changed. Here is Krystyna's story of Soviet brutality excerpted from that interview:



The night of February 10, 1940 in Ortopol was freezing cold. Suddenly, around 6:00 a.m. there was a terrifying thudding on the door; it was the Soviets. We were given a few moments to pack. Everyone — my mother, father, two sisters and two brothers — were terrified. Chaos, tears, and a strange emptiness followed. What to pack? I remember perfectly that I took a jar of a home-made alcoholic brew; a head for a Singer sewing machine; and a ceramic black cross with a pink image of Jesus which hung on the wall for years. I do not know why I put these things on the sled. I was 14 years old.

The trip to the railway station in Horynka was exceedingly difficult and exhausting with bitter cold and frost on the one hand and on the other, pain, sorrow, despair, and fear. Upon arrival we were put into cattle cars. The screams and curses of the Soviet soldiers overpowered the frightened, depressed, and weeping people. The atmosphere was terrible. We were told to use a hole in the floor to meet our sanitary needs, which was especially humiliating for the women. The only source of heat was a small stove in the center, which was of little help because of the lack of fuel. We kept our spirits up by singing. My mother was a teacher and musician by profession, so she understood the power of music. We sang religious hymns and folk songs every day, and although the Soviets did not like this, they never told us to stop. I don't know why. The journey by train lasted exactly 30 days and 30 nights. The Soviet torturers took us to Molotovskaya Oblast in the Ural Mountains, which became our haven. We arrived on March 14, 1940. We were placed in barracks. There was no human dignity in the prevailing conditions. There were makeshift beds without mattresses, and we covered ourselves with blankets that my mother took from Ortopol, or with our clothes.

Under NKVD orders, school children were entitled to a 200 gram portion of bread each day, workers received 500 grams, and those working harder than normal were allocated 800 grams of bread plus an inferior quality of soup. With a shortage of food, a barter trade existed. My mother provided tailoring services to the inhabitants of the surrounding villages using the Singer sewing machine. She also told fortunes but made sure to kneel in front of the cross hanging on the wall apologizing to God first.

One day I got sick. I had no feeling in my legs. It was most likely the effect of sleeping on a cold floor. So, while I was left alone at home, the Soviet of our barracks paid a visit. A few minutes after crossing the threshold he looked at the cross with Jesus hanging on the wall and mocked, "Does HE give you bread?" I replied, "If you don't give me bread, and I live, it means that HE does it." "Take it off the wall immediately!" he shouted. I said, "I cannot because, as you can see, I cannot walk. If this cross bothers you, YOU take it off." I still remember the fear in his eyes. He spat and left. Between 30 minutes and an hour later, the cross slid to the floor by itself, breaking into small pieces. Only the nail on the wall and the hook were left. My mother returning from work asked me what I had done. When I told her the whole story, she said in a whisper that "Jesus also does not want to be here." A few days after that event and her statement, a so-called amnesty was announced and we were free. But where to go . . .

My father joined the ZSRS Polish Army, which was being formed under General Władysław Anders. The rest of our family, however, went by ship over the waters of the Caspian Sea to Uzbekistan, which was supposed to be one of the stages on the way back to Poland. It is true that it was warm and sunny and we lived in houses made of clay and sticks, but we also suffered from hunger and terrible diseases. One day my mother received information that orphanages were being created for children at the Anders' Army camps in Iran, where there was no shortage of care, shelter, and food. Although it was a hurtful and painful decision, she sent her four youngest children there. Unfortunately, my eldest sister, Alicja, was considered an adult and was not eligible for departure. As it turned out, my mother remained forever in Uzbekistan dying of malaria, and my sister Alicja disappeared without a trace. We looked for her for many years but have never found any answers.

I managed as best I could in Iran, especially concerned about the fate of my younger siblings. My sister found herself under good care in an orphanage in Africa and my two brothers in a junior cadet school. I used a little trick of adding one year to my age and became a soldier with the Auxiliary Women's Security Service under General Anders where, with appropriate training, I assisted in military hospitals. After the war, I married and lived in England. I came to the U.S and New Britain in 1955 as a widow with four children and worked hard to provide for my family. Using my love of myth and Polish folklore, I eventually became involved with many Polish organizations. There are two Polish worlds for me — the lost one — and the one I regained and want to enjoy until the end of my days.

For a complete account of Krystyna's story, please read her memoir "[So Far From Home](#)," written with Ann Knope and published in October of 2013.

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022

6:30 PM

PCCGH Scholarship Presentation and Reception

Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

Members and Guests Welcome

No Charge but would appreciate an appetizer or dessert item



TUESDAY, JULY 26— FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2022

"American Council for Polish Culture Annual Convention" in San Antonio and Panna Maria, Texas

Convention registration fee of \$475.00 includes:

- ◆ Tuesday Happy Hour on Terrace Rooftop
- ◆ Wednesday Lunch
- ◆ Wednesday Sembrich Concert
- ◆ Thursday Excursion to Panna Maria
- ◆ Friday Awards Banquet



Accommodations: Saint Anthony Hotel (special ACPC rate)

TEN REASONS TO ATTEND THE CONVENTION:

1. Visit Panna Maria, site of first Polish settlement, first Polish Church, and first Polish school in America. 2. Relax at the luxurious St. Anthony Hotel. 3. Be entertained by informative presentations on Texas Polonia history. 4. Mingle with Polish Americans from various states who are committed to the promotion and preservation of Polish culture. 5. Explore the sites of interest in San Antonio such as the Alamo, the River Walk, and the Missions. 6. Learn about the cultural projects being produced nationally that may be promoted in your local area. 7. Learn the benefits of ACPC membership. 8. Participate in the elegant Awards Banquet. 9. Enjoy a vocal concert presented by the recipient of the Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Award. 10. Relax with a tequila cocktail while enjoying the sounds of the Las Alenas Mariachi Band on the hotel veranda overlooking the city.

Information about the Convention, as well as registration forms, can be downloaded from website: <http://www.polishcultureacpc.org>

Closed for the Month of July

THE POLISH NATIONAL HOME

60 Charter Oak Avenue

Hartford, CT

Hours: Saturday 4:00—9:00 PM

Sunday 11:00 AM—3:30 PM



It has almost been a year since the Polish National Home welcomed Chef Bozena Pogorzelska and her wonderful traditional Polish cuisine to its kitchen. Kudos to the dedicated team of volunteers who prepare food on Friday nights and help in the kitchen and serve customers on Saturdays and Sundays. Please contact the PNH at info@PolishHomeCT.org for additional information and to arrange for special events — or call 860-247-1784



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

We're on the Web!

www.polishculturalclub.org

NEWSFLASH — CLUB MEMBERS

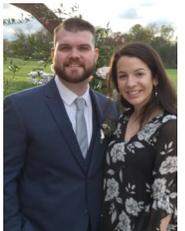
If you have any news to share about Club members or former scholarship recipients, please e-mail francespudlo@att.net or call 860.659.0356.

Sadly, we mark the passing of **Jo-Louise Winters** at age 100 on February 11, 2022. She and her late husband, Marion, were major contributors to Polonia, both locally and nationally, and a truly inspirational couple.



Check your local listings for Season 2 of CPTV's "WHERE ART THOU?" series hosted by Ray Hardman, which premieres on Sunday, June 26 at 7:30 p.m. Iconographer **Marek Czarnecki** was recently interviewed for the program at his Seraphic Restorations studio in Meriden. Each episode will spotlight two Connecticut artists in the process of creating their craft and introduce the viewer to their history, influences, and motivations. Marek's interview may be broadcast sometime in July. The series also streams at ctpublic.org.

Steven and Lilia Kieltyka are proud to announce the engagement of their son, Edward, to Victoria Germano of New Britain. A November wedding is planned. Edward serves as a Judicial Marshall within the CT Judicial Court system and is a former PCCGH scholarship recipient. Victoria is the Retail Operations Manager at Rogers Orchards in Southington.



WE CONTINUE TO SEEK POLISH ITEMS



The Club maintains a collection of new and gently used Polish import items which are offered for sale at events like the Szopka Festival/Holiday Bazaar and Little Poland Festival, or used in public displays such as library programs. These include books, carved wooden objects, craft pieces, textiles, ceramics, dolls, music, costumes, etc. If you or your family are cleaning house and have items relating to Poland or Polish culture that you no longer are interested in keeping and would like to donate to the Club, we would be most appreciative. Proceeds from these sales helps to generate income for the Club. Please call Fran at (860) 659-0356 for assistance.

IF YOU ARE A TOMATO GARDENER . . .



You might want to visit Foster Hill Farm and Garden located at 21 Stafford Street, Stafford Springs, CT. Owners/Managers, Kim and Carl Milikowski, grow more than 140 varieties of heirloom tomatoes. These include "Marianna's Peace" whose seeds were smuggled into the U.S. by a farming family from the Czech Republic, Polish tomato plants, as well as Russian, German, Amish and other hard-to-find and unusual selections.

But, the farm offers another special surprise — they are a breeder of miniature donkeys. It is hard not to become entranced while watching these beautiful and engaging animals romp and play. Children will especially love the experience. You can get additional information about the farm and garden by visiting their website: www.fosterhillfarmandgarden.com.

