



## NEWSLETTER

**POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.**

Established 1976

[www.polishculturalclub.org](http://www.polishculturalclub.org)

Fall 2023

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

**CELEBRATE POLISH HERITAGE MONTH — (FLYERS ATTACHED)**

**WORKSHOP: “Wycinanki” (Paper Cutouts)  
AND “Kwiaty” (Paper Flowers)**



**With Renowned Polish Kurpie Folk Artist  
Wiesława Bogdańska**



**Wednesday, October 4, 2023**

**6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Lower Church Hall of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church  
55 Popieluszko Court, Hartford, CT**

**Tickets:  
\$15.00**

Bogdańska's wycinanki adorn museum collections in Berlin, Białystok, Łomża, Kraków, Płock, Toruń, and Ostrołęka. She has designed and made cutouts for opłatek wafer decorations for Pope John Paul II, and her wycinanki was presented by the Mazovian Voivode to the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet. Her passion for Kurpie Folk Art began as a child—her grandmother, mother, and aunt were all masters of this tradition. She works in Zagroda Kurpiowska as a museum guide and folk-art instructor. She cooperates with SRLiA “Kurpianka,” is a member of the Assn. of Folk Artists, and is on the register of Folk Artists “Cepelia.”

**“What’s Cooking: Polish American Cookbooks and  
What They Tell Us About Polonia.”**

**Lecture and Slide Presentation by  
Dr. Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann**



**Tickets:  
\$10.00**

**Saturday, October 21, 2023**

**2:00 p.m.**

**New Britain Event Center, 430 Farmington Avenue, New Britain, CT**

Dr. Kirchmann is a Distinguished Professor of History and the CSU Professor Emerita in the Department of History, at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, CT. Her publications include: *The Exile Mission: Polish Political Diaspora and Polish Americans, 1939-1956* (Ohio University Press, 2004); *Letters from Readers in the Polish American Press, 1902-1969: A Corner for Everybody* (Lexington Books, 2014); *The Polish Hearts: Ameryka-Echo and the Public Role of the Immigrant Press* (University of Illinois Press, 2015), as well as numerous articles on various aspects of the Polish-American experience.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Dear Friends:

Although tomatoes have not been plentiful and the summer has come to a screeching halt, good memories remain. Two highlights for our Club were participating in the ACPC Convention in Troy, MI and the Dożynki Festival in New Britain.



I enjoyed getting to the Detroit area to attend the three-day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ACPC Convention in July. The highlight of the trip for me was visiting the Orchard Lake Mission. What a gem we have out there. Our Club is very well respected at the national level, and we hope to improve our Club's programming by putting into practice a lot of what was presented.

A last minute decision to host a table at the New Britain Dożynki Festival in August was a perfect way to end the season. Our booth was very well received and the vibe of the event was friendly and cheerful. We all had a nice time, and we even gained two new members: Andrew and Paulina Ziembra of Canton.

We are teaming up with the Polonaise Club to sponsor a lecture for Polish Heritage Month on what else — "Polish Cooking" — everyone's favorite. Take a look at the enclosed flyer; we hope to have a good turnout. We are diligently trying to keep our Club active and engaged both locally and nationally.

*Lilia Kieltyka, PCCGH President and ACPC 2nd VP*

### 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



... to update us when you have a change of name, address, phone number, or e-mail address. Please notify Carol Phelan by E-mail: hopscoth77@sbcglobal.net or by phone: (860) 646-3114. Thank you.

### 2021-2022 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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

## HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO LEARN POLISH



### Beginner Class part 1 On ZOOM:

Two class times available.  
Class is once a week for 10 weeks.  
Each 10-week session is \$99.

Tuesday 6-7:15 PM ET  
starting **September 12, 2023**

Thursday 6-7:15 PM ET  
starting **September 14, 2023**

### Year two class part 1 On ZOOM:

Class is once a week for 10 weeks.  
Each 10-week session is \$160.  
Tuesday 6-7:15 PM ET  
starting **September 12, 2023**

### Use What You Learned on ZOOM:

Join us for our new conversational class.  
Practice what you learned in class.  
Class meets once a week for 5 weeks.  
Each 5-week session is \$69.

Basia's class Monday, 5:30-6:45 PM ET.  
Starting **November 20, 2023**

Gosia's class Tuesday, 6:00-7:15 PM ET.  
Starting **November 28, 2023**

### Year three class part 1 On ZOOM:

Class is once a week for 10 weeks.  
Each 10-week session is \$200.  
Monday 6:00-7:15 PM ET  
starting **September 11, 2023.**



To register: [www.paf-welcomehome.org](http://www.paf-welcomehome.org)  
For more information contact: [dorenaw@paf-ct.org](mailto:dorenaw@paf-ct.org)  
Polish American Foundation of Connecticut

### NEWLY ELECTED ACPC OFFICERS 2023-2025

President: Celia Larkin  
 1st VP: Jaroslaw Golembiowski  
 2nd VP: Lilia Kieltyka  
 Treasurer: Thomas Payne



### NEWSLETTER STAFF

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





**DID YOU KNOW . . . That the “Dożynki Harvest Festival” Can be Compared to Thanksgiving?**

In Poland, people in farming communities began the exhausting work of harvesting their crops at the beginning of August. When finally completed, it was appropriate to offer thanks to God for a successful season and also to celebrate the rich harvest, the prospect of wealth, and the power of new life vested in the grain gathered during the summer. The nobility and landowners who depended on hired farm labor from all around the countryside rewarded their workers with a popular and colorful *Dożynki* event to celebrate.

Historically, the symbol of *Dożynki* is the *Wieniec*, (harvest wreath), which was presented to the landowner by the field workers. This large wreath consisted of sheaves of a mixture of the most important grains — wheat and rye — which were bundled in creative ways to form large wreaths, crowns, crosses, and communion cups. Adorning the wreath were flowers and ribbons with additional decorations of hazelnuts, fruit of the mountain ash tree, apples, rowanberries, and gingerbread figures.



It was common practice to have the wreath and bread blessed at Mass in the local church followed by a procession to the Manor House. Traditional costumes of the region are worn, and in the old days, the best girl harvester (in Polish called "*przodownica*") wore a smaller version of the harvest wreath as a head piece. Upon arrival at the lord's estate, the harvest wreath was presented to the nobleman. It was also common practice to offer the lord and lady, on whose property the event takes place, a freshly baked *babka* or other loaf form of bread (the second important element) and salt, which are the traditional offerings of hospitality. Then the squire poured a measure of vodka for himself and the eldest male peasant to toast the entire congregation, and the pastor of the local church blessed the food to be consumed. Although the squire's family and staff participated in the feast - the typical menu consisted of peasant-style dishes rather than the more elaborate culinary fare customarily served in the manor house.

Source: Poland — A Portrait of the Country Through Its Festivals and Traditions (The Polish American Arts Association of Washington, DC); [polishtoledo.com](http://polishtoledo.com)

**The PCCGH participated in the 40th Dożynki Festival in New Britain on Saturday, August 19, 2023. Here are some highlights:**



Club members: Christine Panek, Sophia Panek, Fran Pudlo, Gini Pudlo, Ursula Brodowicz, and Lilia Kieltyka

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

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023 6 PM—8 PM**  
**Workshop with Wiesława Bogdańska — MAKING “WYCINANKI” (PAPER CUTOUTS) AND “KWIATY” (PAPER FLOWERS)**  
 Sponsored by the SS. Cyril and Methodius Ladies Guild and the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.  
 (see attached flyer for details and registration) \$15.00

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2023**  
**PULASKI DAY PARADE — Northampton, MA**  
 10:00 a.m. - Mass at St. Valentine PNC Church  
 127 King Street, Northampton, MA  
 11:30 a.m. - Parade Kickoff (runs through downtown Northampton)

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023 2:00 PM**  
**Lecture and Slide Presentation: “WHAT’S COOKING: POLISH AMERICAN COOKBOOKS AND WHAT THEY TELL US ABOUT POLONIA” — Presenter: Dr. Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann**  
 Sponsored by the PCCGH and The Polonaise Club, Inc.  
 (see attached flyer for details) \$10.00

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023 7:45 — 11:30 AM**  
**“FALL PANCAKE BREAKFAST” — LADIES GUILD**  
 Lower Hall of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church  
 55 Popieluszko Court, Hartford  
 Everyone invited — great meal and camaraderie — all for \$10.00

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023 9 AM—3 PM**  
**“POLISH HOLIDAY FAIR” FREE**  
 Sponsored jointly by the Ladies Guild of SS. Cyril & Methodius Church and The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.  
 Location: Lower Hall of SS. Cyril & Methodius Church  
 Enjoy the spirit of the season— homemade pierogi sold by the dozen, delicious food, vendors, and Polish imports

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023 (SAVE THE DATE)**  
**“WIGILIA” (Traditional Polish Christmas Eve Dinner)**  
 Plans are being formulated to hold Wigilia in a new venue.

**SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION ON JUNE 12, 2023**

This year’s Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Presentation and Reception was held at Central CT State University’s Memorial Hall on Monday, June 12. Four recipients were awarded checks of \$1,000.00 each. All are excellent scholars, active in their communities, and fluent in Polish. They are: Thomas Brodowicz (CCSU—Geographical Information Systems); Natalia Mocarski (UCONN-Storrs—Pharmacy Program); Alexandra Ramoya (Bucknell University — Accounting & Finance); and Victoria Stepień (Western New England University—Business). We wish them all great success. Many thanks to Scholarship Co-Chairs Florence Langridge and Gini Pudlo for their many years of service.



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

**We’re on the Web!**

[www.polishculturalclub.org](http://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](mailto:francespudlo@att.net) or call 860.659.0356.

**We mourn the passing of two Club Founders:**



Ann Oleasz  
 June 24, 2023

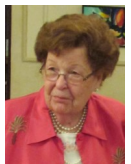


Mary Marek Hartz  
 August 9, 2023

From the very inception of the PCCGH, Ann and her family were enthusiastic supporters of, and participants in, a variety of activities. It was she who had the idea of starting a Szopka Competition and Festival, which became a tradition for over 40 years at the Polish National Home on the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend. She attended ACPC national Conventions and Chaired the Hartford Convention in 1988 and Co-Chaired the second Hartford Convention in 2009. She cherished her Polish heritage deeply and will be remembered for her beautiful smile, warm personality, and love of pierogi making.

Mary loved her Polish heritage passionately, in addition to the many close friendships she formed while volunteering with the Club and other Church and Polish organizations. She served as Vendor Chair for the Szopka Festival for close to 20 years and performed her duties with professionalism, finesse, and kindness. She loved nothing better than to reminisce about the many events she was involved in and how they benefited the Club, the SS. Cyril and Methodius Ladies Guild and Parish, and Polonia at large.

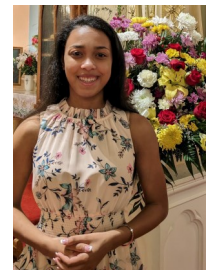
Sadly, we also mourn the loss of another long-time member, Mary Sitnik, who died on August 3, 2023.



**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**



Gini Pudlo and Thomas Brodowicz



Alexandra Ramoya



Florence Langridge & Victoria Stepień



F. Langridge & Natalia Mocarski