



## NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

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

June 2023

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

*Members and Guests are cordially invited to attend the*  
**2023 Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Presentation**



Monday—June 12, 2023

6:00 PM

6:30 PM Ceremony

“Connecticut Room” — Memorial Hall Building

Central Connecticut State University

1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050

(Parking in the Vance Parking Garage, 150 Paul Manafort Sr. Dr.)



We are very grateful to the Polish Studies Program at CCSU for hosting this event and for providing light refreshments.

Four scholarships will be awarded.

Please join us in celebrating the success of these extraordinary Polish youth!

There is no charge for this event.

*For further information, please contact:*

*Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.*

*Gini Pudlo at 860.659.0356 or E-mail: [ginipudlo@att.net](mailto:ginipudlo@att.net)*

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

**2023 Scholarship Essay Question:** The Polish Sejm (Legislature) has honored seven notable Poles as “Patrons of 2023.” They are: poet and playwright **Aleksander Fredro**; Silesian political leader **Wojciech Korfanty**; arts critic & political activist **Maurycy Mochnacki**; painter **Jerzy Nowosielski**; freedom fighter and second wife of Marshal Josef Pilsudski, **Aleksandra Pilsudska**; explorer **Pawel Edmund Strzelecki**; and founder of the School for Women’s Domestic Work **Jadwiga Zamoyska**. Choose one, explain why, and describe how their accomplishments impacted Poland’s history or culture.



**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN**

Dear Friends:

(Lilia is currently in Poland, so this message is being written by the editor.)



The PCCGH was honored to participate in two events this spring – the award ceremony for Mr. and Mrs. Tadeusz Koski at the New England Air Museum and Polish Day at the Capitol. We also held several committee meetings to help prepare for the 2023 calendar year.

Everyone is invited to attend the Annual Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Presentation on Monday, June 12 at Central CT State College. Club Vice President, Ursula Brodowicz, made arrangements with the Polish Studies Program at CCSU to host this event, and we are grateful to both.

Unfortunately, the PCCGH will not have a presence at the Little Poland Festival on June 4 because of schedule conflicts, but we are hoping to have a booth at the 40<sup>th</sup> Dożynki Festival in New Britain on Saturday, August 19. We are also working to host a special fall lecture, in addition to our usual end-of-year events -- an Annual Meeting, the Polish Holiday Bazaar in collaboration with the Ladies Guild at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in November, and Wigilia in December. We feel the loss of our Polish National Home venue, but things are moving forward and in new directions.

For those who might be considering attending the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention of the ACPC in Troy, MI, deadlines are approaching. Please visit the ACPC website: [www.polishcultureacpc.org](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org).

We wish you all a relaxing and refreshing summer!

**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](mailto: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: [hopscotch77@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hopscotch77@sbcglobal.net) or by phone: (860) 646-3114. Thank you.

**2023-2024 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.

**MEET OUR 2023 JENNIE MARCONI-JAVORSKI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

**Thomas Brodowicz**, son of Jacek and Katarzyna Brodowicz of Wethersfield, who will be attending Central Connecticut State University in New Britain as a Freshman to major in the field of Geographical Information Systems.

**Natalia Mocarski**, daughter of Cezary and Marzena Mocarski of New Britain, who will be attending the University of Connecticut as a Freshman to major in the Pharmacy (0-06 PharmD Program).

**Alexandra Ramoya**, daughter of Paul and Anna Smerdel-Ramoya of Glastonbury, who will be attending Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania as a Freshman to major in the field of Accounting.

**Victoria Stepień**, daughter of Bogdan and Marta Stepień of Bristol, who will be attending Western New England University in Springfield, MA as a Freshman to major in Business.

All the recipients are excellent students, involved in extra-curricular and volunteer activities, extraordinary role models, passionate about their culture, and fluent in the Polish language. We congratulate them.

Please refer to the cover page of this newsletter for information about the June 12 Scholarship Presentation at Central CT State University. This is a new venue for us due to the closing of the Polish National Home in Hartford. We thank the Polish Studies Program at CCSU for their hospitality and welcome all members and friends to attend. Please use CCSU's website [www.ccsu.edu](http://www.ccsu.edu) to refer to the campus map for the exact location of Memorial Hall and the Vance parking garage.

**NEWSLETTER STAFF**

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



## DO YOU KNOW THE HISTORY OF HALLER'S "BLUE ARMY"?



General Józef Haller

As part of this year's 75th Anniversary Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture, (which is being held July 26 to 29 in Troy, Michigan), there will be a visit to the newly dedicated monuments erected at the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield, Michigan honoring 59 members of the "Hallerzczy," the brave men who fought in World War I as part of General Józef Haller's "Blue Army."

As background, the emergence of the Blue Army was closely associated with the American entry into World War I in April 1917. A month earlier, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, world renowned pianist and future Prime Minister of the Polish Republic, submitted a proposal to the U.S. House of Representatives to accept Polish-American volunteers for service on the Western Front in the name of Poland's independence. Some 24,000 Poles were accepted (out of 38,000 who applied) and after brief military training in Canada, they, as well as many women volunteers (PSK), were sent to France to join General Józef Haller and his forces.



Polish-Americans were eager to fight for freedom and American-style democracy because they themselves had escaped persecution a century earlier by the empires who partitioned Poland. Equipped by the French with "horizon blue" uniforms (a shade of blue-grey which refers to the indefinable color which separates the sky from the earth), this contingent became known as the *Hallerzczy of the Blue Army* (*Biękitna Armia*). They fought under the command of General Józef Haller and served alongside U.S. and French forces in 1918, repelling a major German offensive that summer. In 1919, they were transported to Poland by train where they helped defend the newly independent Poland against its foes, including the Bolshevik Red Army, intent on overrunning Poland to spread communism across Europe.

In all, some 2,100 soldiers of the Blue Army who enlisted in France from the Polish diasporas died in the fighting, including over 50 officers serving with Haller. Over 1,600 men were wounded. Haller's army also included 25,000 ethnic Poles drafted against their will by the German and Austrian armies, out of 50,000 conscripts from across partitioned Poland. They joined Haller from the POW camps in Italy in 1919.



When their service ended, the Polish-Americans volunteers who served within Haller's Army were not recognized as veterans by either the American or Polish governments. This led to friction between the Polish community in the United States and the Polish government, and resulted in the subsequent refusal by Polish-Americans to help militarily with the Polish cause again. Some suffered from illness and injuries due to their service and had to depend on charity. The Polish Ladies Auxiliary No. 5 of the local Polish Army Veterans Association in America (known by its Polish initials as SWAP), helped care for their destitute comrades and purchased a plot of land at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield, Michigan to provide them with a dignified resting place when they passed away. Due to circumstances, however, many of the veterans' families were unable to afford grave markers of any kind.

Enter Henrietta Nowakowski of Dearborn Heights, Michigan and a long-time Board member of the ACPC who undertook a project to identify the veterans buried in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Her father, Ignacy Zapytowski, was a Blue Army veteran and her mother, Aniela, had also worked as a recruiter for the Army. Both of her parents were active for decades in veteran's groups and in assisting Polish soldiers and veterans from both the First and Second World Wars. Henrietta researched the names and stories of the veterans, beginning with the records of her mother, who played an important role in the Women's Auxiliary Corps that purchased the site. She was assisted by the Polish Museum of America in Chicago, which holds many of the records of the Blue Army.

Henrietta's research proved invaluable to the Institute for National Remembrance, allowing them to create individual gravestones provided by the Polish government for each of the 59 forgotten heroes in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. An official dedication of a monument and tombstones will take place on June 17, 2023.

A permanent display of Haller's Blue Army can be found at the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning in Chicopee, MA, a new Supporting organization of the ACPC. It houses a number of primary source materials pertaining to Haller's Blue Army, including uniforms, and it continues to search for any and all materials that are relevant to this incredibly important but relatively little remembered chapter of Polish-American history. (The Museum also houses the Polish costume collection of our own Krystyna Słowikowska Farley, as well as the extraordinary collection of Polish Folk Art of Bernard Pajewski, a former PCCGH member.)

Sources: [Polish American Journal](#), May-June 2023, Vol. 112, No. 5; [Wikipedia](#); and the [Polish Center of Discovery and Learning](#)

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

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM**

**“Little Poland Festival,”** Broad Street, New Britain  
 Two Performance Stages, Vendors, Polish Food, Beer Garden, Games for Children, etc. **FREE**



**FRIDAY, JUNE 9 and SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023**

Annual Conference — Polish Studies Program at CCSU and the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in New York (live & virtual)

Registration: jacquesm@ccsu.edu or 860-832-3010 **FREE**

**MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023 6:00 PM**

**“PCCGH Scholarship Presentation and Reception”**

“Connecticut Room” — Memorial Hall Building  
 Central CT State University, New Britain, CT



Members and Guests **FREE**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 26— SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023**

**“75th Anniversary Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture”** in Troy, Michigan



Some of the planned activities include:

- A visit to the Polish Institute of Culture and Research at Orchard Lake*
- An evening performance by the winner of the Sembrich Vocal Competition*
- A visit to the newly dedicated monuments erected for the “Hallerczycy,” the brave men who fought in World War I as part of General Józef Haller’s Blue Army*
- A visit to the American Polish Cultural Center to view the only Polish American National Sports Hall of Fame Museum in the country*
- Annual Awards Banquet at the American Polish Cultural Center*
- And more . . .*

Visit [www.polishcultureacpc.org](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org) for information and application.

Hotel: The Somerset Inn Hotel, Troy, MI (special discount)

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM**

**“40th Dozynki Festival,”** New Britain, CT **FREE**

Sponsored by the Polish American Council of Greater New Britain

**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 help to generate income for the Club. Information: (860) 659-0356 (Fran).

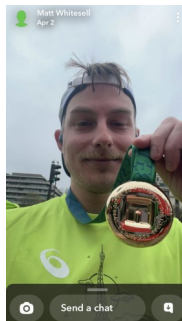


Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 380699  
 East Hartford, CT 06138

**We’re on the Web!**

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

**NEWSFLASH — CLUB MEMBERS**



In April 2023, **Matthew Whitesell**, grandson of Pat and the late Cliff Archie, successfully completed a 26 mile Marathon race in Paris, France. His fiancée photographed him running the course with the Eiffel Tower in the background. Using “Snapshot” social media, Pat and daughter, Lisa, were able to watch Matthew’s progress while they sat comfortably in their living room in East Hartford. Matthew even waved to them along the route — a magical moment! Following the race, Matthew and his fiancée continued their first trip to Europe by visiting Versailles, Rome and the Vatican, London, and then finally home to Denver, Colorado. Matthew is a 2013 recipient of the PCCGH Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship.

**Nancy Yiznitsky** celebrated a milestone birthday on May 31. **Phyllis Stawiarski** also celebrated a birthday on this same date. Sto Lat!

**CLUB MEMBERS RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS AWARD**

On March 10, 2023, Tadeusz L. Konski and Zyta K. Konska were presented with the “Knight’s Cross of the Order of Merit” of the Republic of Poland by Adrian Kubicki, Consul General of the Republic of Poland, on behalf of the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda. The ceremony took place at the New England Air Museum in Windsor Locks, in collaboration with Central CT State University. The Konskis were recognized for their extraordinary and distinguished service in furthering relations between Poland and the United States, their support of the Kosciuszko Squadron exhibit at the Air Museum, and their contributions in advancing Polish culture, heritage, and history. Family, friends and representatives of several Polish organizations attended.



(L to R): Gini Pudlo, Anna Sielawko, Fran Pudlo, Lilia Kieltyka, Tadeusz Konski, Zyta Konska, Thomas Brodowicz, and Ursula Brodowicz)



Konski family members include granddaughter Maya Wiczekowska, grandson Bruno Wiczekowski, (2nd & 3rd from L) and daughter Beata Konska (far right)