



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

Feb/March 2024

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

2023 POLISH HOLIDAY FAIR/SZOPKA

The annual Polish Holiday Fair/Szopka, sponsored jointly by the Ladies Guild of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church and the Polish Cultural Club was held on November 18, 2023 in the Lower Church Hall in Hartford. Vendor shopping was popular, as were the PCCGH tables with its large selection of Polish crafts and import items—thanks to members and friends who made these donations. Food, as always was a big draw, especially the frozen potato/cheese pierogi handmade by volunteers of the SSCM Ladies Guild. Kielbasa sandwiches, potato pancakes, and potato soup were also available. Special acknowledgment goes to Carol Bogon Phelan for her fantastic work on public relations. We thank all who attended and supported this event and are pleased to announce that the Club's profit of \$1,440.00 will be dedicated to the Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Fund.



WIGILIA 2023

With the closure of the Polish National Home in 2022, there was uncertainty about a new venue for the 2023 Wigilia celebration. We are very grateful to Rev. Adam Hurbanczuk who offered the use of the SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall for the event. Members of the Ladies Guild cooking team assisted by volunteering to prepare the menu of traditional meatless dishes. As a special touch, recipes were used from the Club's cookbook "Favorite Recipes" for the śledzie (Maria Brodowicz), kutia (Kasia Brodowicz), creamed mushrooms (Hedy Bruks), dried fruit kompot (Fran Pudlo), and fried fish (Joan Godlewski). Potato/cheese and sauerkraut pierogi were also handmade for the occasion. A million thanks to the talented cooks who did an outstanding job and received rave reviews: Regina Albera, Helen Olejarz, Czesia Szatkowska and Krystyna Wisło, as well as to the following pierogi making volunteers: Janina Chlus, Helena Chrostowska, Stasia Hodył, Janina Karnaś, Jadwiga Kieltyka, Lilia Kieltyka, Dr. Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, Jadwiga Kordowska, Carol Oleasz-Grondin, Christine Panek, Sophia Panek, Angela Perucki, Fran Pudlo, Gini Pudlo, and Maria Wlaz. It was an elegant and magical evening.





FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Dear Members:

Happy New Year to everyone! We are already beginning to gain momentum for 2024 Club events and programs. We also have ideas on building some new relationships that will keep us rooted in our mission to promote and celebrate Polish culture. I'm happy to report that the solid management of our Club was recently recognized by the Board of Directors of the Polish National Home in Hartford. A generous gift of \$5,000 was donated to the Club from the proceeds of the sale of the Home in 2022. We have placed this gift in our Scholarship account. We thank the PNH for its generosity and for putting their faith in us to continue our work on behalf of Greater Hartford Polonia.



In October, the PCCGH assisted in hosting members of the national American Council for Polish Culture during their Fall Board meeting held in New Britain. Our Club benefits when connections with other Polish organizations get stronger. We are all in this together and learn and share things with each other.

There are some great photos in this newsletter, especially from the last quarter which was extremely busy. Enjoy these highlights. In the meanwhile, we will continue with our e-mail blast system of keeping you informed of happenings in local Polonia, as well as our own events and programs.

Best wishes for a peaceful and meaningful Lent. *Lilia Kieltyka*

REMINDER: 2024 Membership Dues Deadline: March 15, 2024.

Thank you to those members who have already renewed. **If you would like to receive a membership card, please call Gini at 860-659-0356 and leave a message, or e-mail francespudlo@att.net.**

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

2023-2024 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, Michelle Maglaty, John Majdan, Carol Bogon Phelan, and Nancy Yiznitsky.

2024 JENNIE MARCONI-JAVORSKI SCHOLARSHIP

Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.



Scholarship Co-Chairs, Florence Langridge and Gini Pudlo, encourage members to reach out to candidates of Polish heritage who might apply for the Club's 2024 Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship. **A scholarship application can be downloaded from the Club's website: polishcultureclub.org, or for a print copy, call Gini at 860-659-0356.** Applicants sponsored by PCCGH members receive special consideration. **Applications must be postmarked no later than May 1, 2024.**

PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE ACPC FOR ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) has four scholarships available to students of Polish descent. These include "*The Eye of the Eagle Władysław Zachariasiewicz Memorial Journalism Scholarship*" (deadline June 30, 2024); "*Scholarship for Summer Study in Poland*" (deadline April 15, 2024); "*Pulaski Scholarship for Advanced Studies*" (deadline March 16, 2024); and the "*Leonard Skowronski Polish Studies Scholarship*" (deadline March 4, 2024). Visit www.polishcultureacpc.org for further information and applications.

Central CT State University in New Britain offers scholarship opportunities for Engineering undergraduates of Polish descent attending CCSU. Contact the University to inquire about the "*John Eismont and Anna Sielawko Engineering Scholarship Fund*."

**Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych!
 Happy Easter Holidays!**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATED POLISH ITEMS

The Club continues to be grateful for the Polish-related items it has received from generous donors who are cleaning out estates or looking for a good home for Polish memorabilia. The Club is happy to accept such items. They will be sold at public events or used in displays showcasing Polish heritage. If you have carved wooden objects, craft pieces, textiles, ceramics, dolls, music, costumes, books, etc. and would like to donate them, please call Fran at (860) 659-0356.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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



DID YOU KNOW

TWO CT WOMEN WERE THE FIRST TO RUN THE MANCHESTER ROAD RACE FOR 50 STRAIGHT YEARS

Janit Romayko, a longtime runner and triathlete from East Hartford and member of the PCCGH, along with Beth Schluger, the former Eversource Hartford Marathon director and head of the Hartford Marathon Foundation from Waterford, became the first women to run the Manchester Road Race (officially) for 50 straight years. The 87th edition of the race took place on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2023, with over 10,000 runners and walkers taking part.



Janit Romayko and Beth Schluger (Photo by Chloe Poisson/Special to the Courant)

Janit’s family was always in motion. Her mother golfed and was a competitive swimmer, achieving All-American status at age 85, and her aunt was also a competitive swimmer at age 90. Her father was a talented baseball player drafted by the Chicago White Sox when the World War II interrupted his professional baseball aspirations. Her younger sister, too, was a very competitive golfer. As Janit recalls, growing up female in the late ‘50s and ‘60s offered little for girls to participate in except cheerleading. Things began to change in 1973 after Title IX was passed. Running clubs started up, Janit joined one, and went on to run her first race in Hartford sponsored by Dannon Yogurt. As a reward, all the race participants received a cup of Dannon yogurt which had a long past due expiration date.

Janit met her husband, Jim Hodges, that same year. He had been a collegiate squash player and took up running to stay in shape. They ran together, and she talked constantly about the Manchester Road Race, something she remembered watching as a four year old growing up in Manchester. He finally convinced her to jump on the course and take part in 1973 (the race banned females until 1974). “I knew the course so well that it was easy for me,” explains Romayko. “No one really noticed me. People of both genders were always jumping into the race.” Her husband and uncle, another great supporter of hers, scouted different sections of the course to see where she should jump in. She wore men’s clothing to disguise herself and her husband ran with her to the Hungry Tiger location (Mile One). Then her uncle ran with her until Mile 4. After that she was on her own. She completed the course without any interference. “No one seemed to care that there was a female on the course, she recalls.” “Besides, with my male disguise, I looked like a big paper bag.”

Romayko’s streak of 50 consecutive Manchester Road Races was almost in jeopardy when, one month before the race in 2012, she broke her kneecap after slipping on a marble floor. For the average 70 year old this would have meant the end of running, but for someone as fit as Janit (who runs and bikes and swims 40 miles a week as part of her routine), there was hope of recovering. She told her orthopedic surgeon, who knew she was a runner, that she needed to keep her streak going. Deciding against surgery, he put her into a soft cast from ankle to hip with the warning not to move. She was a model patient. When the cast was removed three days before the race, she headed to the pool and used a kick board to loosen the muscles in her leg. On race day she surrounded herself with friends whose job it was to keep her from falling and to keep other runners away from her. She mostly walked but completed the course.

“I will continue running Manchester as long as I can. My aunt walked the course on Thanksgiving at age 93. I’d like to beat her record. It was a thrill for me when the Race Committee added 5-year age-group awards, and I was able to win the 65-69 division. My mother told me that ‘ninety percent of success is showing up,’ and she was right. I am so thankful for the way this race paved the way for women runners, and has continued to recognize them.” Knowing Janit, she has the grit and stamina to make her goal; we’re rooting for her.

Source: 1) [Starting Line 1928](#), Gail Waesche Kislevitz, an award winning journalist and the author of 6 books on running and sports; columnist for *Runner’s World*; and freelancer for [Shape](#), [Marathon and Beyond](#), and [New York Runner](#). 2) [Amby Burfoot Blog](#)

WINNERS OF 2023 ANNA-MAE MAGLATY LITERARY AWARD COMPETITION



The Hartford Polish Saturday School, Inc. participated once again in the Club’s literary competition for youth. Thirteen entries were received. The essay question, written in Polish, was: “If you were given the opportunity to promote Poland, what would you write?” The top three prizes were funded by the PCCGH, along with a grant from the ACPC funding the top prize. The 1st place winner will have their essay translated into English and posted on the ACPC website.

1st Place:	Amelia Kazimierczak, Grade 4	\$250.00
2nd Place:	Ola Maksymiuk, Grade 7	\$100.00
3rd Place:	Isabella Korzeniowski, Grade 6	\$100.00

The school community gathered in assembly on December 16 where PCCGH representatives Lilia Kieltyka and Ursula Brodowicz presented the awards. Thank you to Katarzyna Brodowicz, Director of Education for the School, who developed the guidelines for, and administered, the competition. We also thank the Hartford Polish Saturday School for their continued collaboration in making this competition possible to perpetuate the memory and high standards of our former member, Anna-Mae Maglaty, for whom this competition is named. As a lover of both the English and Polish languages, she would be very proud of all the participants.

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
“2024 Lecture Series — In Search of Kaszubia” via ZOOM
 Sponsored by the Polish American Foundation of New Britain
 Register: www.paf-welcomehome.org
 Questions: dorenaw@paf-ct.org Cost: \$25.00 for all 8 lectures

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024 6:00 p.m.
The Michael Peszke Memorial Lecture— “Polish Spies: An Unknown Story of World War II” by John Stanley Micgiel
 Sponsored by the S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies
 Central CT State University
 Vance Academic Center, Room 105 **FREE**

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024 9:00 a.m. to Noon
“Special Pancake Breakfast with the Easter Bunny”
 Lower Church Hall — SS. Cyril & Methodius Church
 63 Popieluszko Court, Hartford
 Sponsored by the SSCM Ladies Guild
 Same generous and delicious menu, as always, with special activities for the children.
 Adults: \$10.00 Children Under 10: \$5.00
 Public welcome.

KURPIE-STYLE WORKSHOP — OCTOBER 4, 2023

Fifteen people attended the workshop conducted by folk artist, Wiesława Bogdańska from Kadzielo, Poland on October 4 in the lower hall of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. In the two hour session, participants had a hands-on experience making both Kurpie-style Wycinanki (Paper Cutouts) and Kwiaty (Paper Flowers). It was an enjoyable evening with everyone proudly displaying their handiwork. The event was sponsored jointly by the Polish Cultural Club and Ladies Guild of SSCM Church.



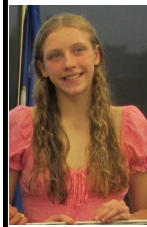
Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.
 P.O. Box 380699
 East Hartford, CT 06138

We're on the Web!

www.polishculturalclub.org

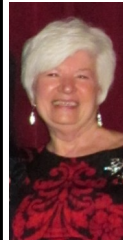
NEWSFLASH — CLUB MEMBERS

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.



Congratulations to Milena Brodowicz, daughter of Kasia and Jacek Brodowicz, whose Wethersfield High School Swim & Dive Team foursome broke the State record for the 200 Freestyle Relay Swim. The previous record was held by New Canaan since 2009. Milena also competed in Boston and qualified in the YMCA Nationals for the 50 Breaststroke.

Deepest sympathy is offered to the families of the following members who passed away recently. May they rest in peace.



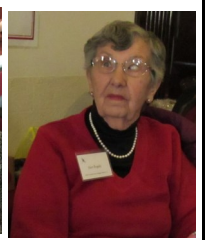
Hedy Bruks
 (Founder)
 10/21/2023



Richard Thurz
 11/22/2023



Jadwiga Czarnecka
 12/30/2023



Alice Rogala
 1/23/2024

CELEBRATING POLISH HERITAGE MONTH

On October 21, 2023 the Polish Cultural Club hosted a lecture at a new and very nice venue, the New Britain Event Center on Farmington Avenue in New Britain. The presenter was Dr. Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, Distinguished Professor of History and the CSU Professor Emerita in the Department of History, at Eastern CT State University. She spoke on the interesting topic of “What’s Cooking: Polish American Cookbooks and What They Tell Us About Polonia,” and even cited our own PCCGH cookbook in the presentation, which brought cheers from the audience. The guests then feasted on a sampling of delicious Polish delicacies. Dr. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann is currently writing a book on this subject, and we eagerly await its publication. As part of her research, and because she loves to cook, she volunteered to help make the pierogi for our Wigilia event. We thank her for that; it was fun.



Dr. Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann,