



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

June 2024

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

*Members and Guests
are cordially invited to attend the*

2024 Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Presentation



Tuesday, June 18, 2024

6:00 PM

New Britain Event Center

430 Farmington Avenue

New Britain, Connecticut

- ◆ Handicapped Accessible Building
- * Convenient Parking

Five scholarships will be awarded (see page 2 for names of recipients).

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

There is no charge for this event. Light refreshments will be served.

For further information, please contact:

Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.

Gini Pudlo at 860.659.0356 or E-mail: ginipudlo@att.net

2024 Scholarship Essay Question:

Imagine you have been asked to design a trip called "The Magic of Poland." What particular regions, historical sites, and/or cultural experiences would you recommend. Please explain why your selections would provide a meaningful and memorable snapshot of this beautiful country.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Hello, all . . .

We are starting June off with a couple of great events. Our steadfast Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarships will be presented on Tuesday, June 18 at the New Britain Event Center. All members are invited to attend. It's a very nice occasion and offers a chance to meet some young, smart, and impressive Polish-American scholars.



A great opportunity also has come our way with co-hosting a presentation by author Donna Chmara on June 23 at 2:00 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Hartford. I had the pleasure of hearing Donna speak during the 2022 ACPC Convention in San Antonio, TX. She is a very talented author with a compelling story to share about her experiences, and that of twenty others, during World War II in Poland. She is a member of our national ACPC group, and we are lucky that Hartford is one of the stops on her lecture tour.

Stay cool as the summer season is upon us!

Lilia Kielytyka

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 Kielytyka
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MEET OUR 2024 JENNIE MARCONI-JAVORSKI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Karina Beatty, daughter of Brett and Bozena (Brzosłowska) Beatty of Wethersfield, who will attend Central Connecticut State University in New Britain to study Physical Therapy.

Victoria Maternowski, daughter of Steven and Izabela (Zagrajek) Maternowski of Wethersfield, who will attend the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania to study Occupational Therapy.

Christian Olak, son of Adam Olak of Cromwell and Jennifer (Baron) Olak of Rocky Hill, who will attend Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY to major in Political Science.

Sophia Thorne, daughter of John and Diane (Bielawiec) Thorne of South Windsor, who will attend the University of Connecticut, Storrs to major in Finance.

Addison Whiteside, daughter of Corey and Ewa (Wierzynski) Whiteside of East Berlin, who will attend Brown University to major in Political Science, English, or History.

All the recipients are excellent students, involved in extra-curricular and volunteer activities, extraordinary role models, and proud of their Polish culture.

Please refer to the cover page of this newsletter for information about the June 18 Scholarship Presentation at the New Britain Event Center. We hosted an event there last fall and we found it to be a very nice, comfortable, and accessible venue with a kitchenette area. Parking is also ample and convenient. The Hall is not far from Holy Cross Church on Farmington Avenue. Everyone is invited to attend.

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



DID YOU KNOW . . . POLISH APPLE PIE IS CROWNED BEST SWEET CAKE IN THE WORLD?



Poland's beloved apple pie, known as *Szarlotka*, has been recently named the best sweet cake in the world by the esteemed culinary guide [TasteAtlas](#). This accolade highlights the country's rich baking traditions and brings international attention to a dessert that has long been a staple in Polish households. *Szarlotka* topped the list, praised for its perfect balance of sweet and tart flavors, combined with a crumbly, buttery crust. The dessert edged out other famous confections such as Italy's *Tiramisu* and France's *Tarte Tatin*.

The roots of *szarlotka* can be traced back to the 18th century, where it was inspired by French charlottes—desserts made with fruit and bread or sponge cake. However, the Polish adaptation has evolved over the centuries, becoming a unique culinary delight that reflects the flavors and techniques of the region. Marta Wojciechowska, a spokesperson for the Polish Tourism Organization, said that “there has already been an increase in inquiries about food tours and culinary experiences centered around *szarlotka*. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to share more about Polish culture and traditions through our cuisine.” Here is a recipe if you would like to make it at home:

For the dough:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 2 1/2 cups of all-purpose flour | 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract |
| 1 cup of unsalted butter (cold) | 2 egg yolks |
| 1/2 cup of powdered sugar | 2 tablespoons of cold water (if needed) |
| 1 teaspoon of baking powder | |

In a large bowl, mix together the flour, powdered sugar, and baking powder. Cut the cold butter into small pieces and add to the flour mixture. Use your fingers or a pastry cutter to work the butter into the flour until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add the egg yolks and vanilla extract, and mix until the dough starts to come together. If the dough is too dry, add cold water, one tablespoon at a time, until the dough is smooth and cohesive. Divide the dough into two portions, with one slightly larger than the other. Wrap each portion in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.

For the apple filling:

- 6 to 8 medium-sized apples (preferably tart apples like Granny Smith)
- 1/2 cup of granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons of ground cinnamon
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1 tablespoon of all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract

Peel, core, and grate the apples. Set aside for 20 minutes to let the apples release some juice. By the handful, grab a portion of the grated apple and squeeze out the juice. You can also do it with a clean gauze or cotton cloth. In a large bowl, combine the grated apples with granulated sugar, cinnamon, lemon juice, flour, and vanilla extract. Toss until the apples are evenly coated. Set aside.

To assemble the *Szarlotka*:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Roll out the larger portion of dough on a floured surface to fit the bottom and sides of a 9-inch springform pan. Press the dough evenly into the pan. Pour the apple filling over the dough and spread it out evenly. Roll out the remaining dough and cut it into strips to create a lattice pattern on top of the apples, or simply place the rolled dough on top and cut a few slits for ventilation.

Another option for the topping: Instead of rolling out the remaining dough for the top, put it into the freezer until stiff, and grate over the apple filling—it makes it much easier to grate if it's frozen.

Bake the *szarlotka* in the preheated oven for 50-60 minutes, or until the top is golden brown and the apples are tender. Allow the pie to cool slightly before removing it from the pan. Serve warm, dusted with powdered sugar or with a scoop of vanilla ice cream on the side. *Smacznego!*

NEWSFLASH — CLUB MEMBERS

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024 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**

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 6:00 PM

“2024 Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Presentation”

New Britain Event Center, 430 Farmington Avenue, New Britain

All are Welcome to Attend **FREE**

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2024 2:00 P.M.

“Lecture / Book Signing with Donna Chmara”— Surviving Genocide: Personal Recollections

SS. Cyril & Methodius Church Hall, 63 Popieluszko Ct., Hartford

Open to General Public. Reception to follow. **FREE**

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024 9:00 a.m. to Noon

“Parish Pancake Breakfast”

Lower Church Hall — SS. Cyril and Methodius Church
63 Popieluszko Court, Hartford

Sponsored by the SSCM Ladies Guild

Cost: \$10.00



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7—SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2024

“76th Annual Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture”
— Chicago, IL

The Convention is being held at the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra and Music Academy with an exciting program being planned which includes tales of notable Poles, reminiscences of notable immigrants, and, of course, a lot of wonderful music.



Visit www.polishcultureacpc.org for information and application.

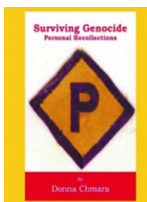
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2024 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM

“41st Dozynki Festival” — Falcon Field, New Britain, CT

Sponsored by the Polish American Foundation of CT **FREE**

COME MEET AUTHOR DONNA CHMARA

The PCCGH and SS. Cyril & Methodius Ladies Guild are sponsoring this event on Sunday, June 23 at 2:00 p.m. in the lower Church hall. Donna, who resides in New Jersey, is traveling throughout the U.S. promoting her acclaimed book, Surviving Genocide: Personal Recollections, to Polish audiences. There will be a book signing and reception following her talk. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information. The event is free and open to the general public. We hope to see you there. Please tell your friends.



If you have any news to share about Club members or former scholarship recipients, e-mail francespudlo@att.net or call 860-659-0356.

Deepest sympathy to Board member, **John Majdan**, on the passing of his mother, **Marianna Majdan**, on March 15, 2024.

A warm welcome to new member, **Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, Ph.D.**, Distinguished Professor of History and the CSU Professor Emerita in the Department of History, at Eastern CT State University in Willimantic, CT.

PCCGH CLUB MEMBER IS HONORED AT “POLISH DAY AT THE CAPITOL”

May 3, 2024 marked the 233rd anniversary of the Polish Constitution, as well as the 33rd commemoration of CT’s “Polish Day at the Capitol.” A contingent of Club members were on hand to celebrate the occasion and also to support Club member, **Anna Smerdel-Ramoya**, who was one of five honorees. Anna was acknowledged for her enthusiasm and passion in promoting the Polish language and heritage, in addition to building connections to Polish history, identity, and culture. Her involvement and leadership in the community extends to the Hartford Polish Saturday School, Hartford Polish Scouting Organization, Polish National Home, United Polish Societies in Hartford, and the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.

Born in Poland, Anna studied Immunology at the Maria Skłodowska-Curie University in Lublin and received her Ph.D. in Genetics at the University of Oslo, Norway. She worked as the Manager of the Research Department at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford before embarking on her passion of Interior Design forming her own company, ASR Interior Designs, LLC. She and her husband, Paul, have two daughters, Alexandra (a 2023 PCCGH Scholarship recipient), and Isabella.

Polish Day at the Capitol is sponsored annually by the CT Polish Legislative Caucus and celebrates the commemoration of the Polish Constitution established in 1791.



Anna Smerdel-Ramoya with
Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz



Members of the PCCGH at Polish Day at
the Capitol

YES, WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING POLISH ITEMS

The Club maintains a collection of new and gently used Polish import items which are offered for sale at events like the Polish Holiday Fair (Szopka) or used in public displays. 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 Polish culture that you would like to donate, 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