



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

March/April 2025

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

2024 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. was held on November 6, 2024 at the Raymond Library in East Hartford. President Lilia KIELTYKA introduced members of the Board who were present and highlighted the Club's activities over the past year. Gini Pudlo presented the Historian's Report. The following Officers were elected for a two-year term (2025—2026): President—Lilia KIELTYKA, Vice-President—Ursula Brodowicz, Treasurer—Caroline KIELTYKA, Secretary—Frances Pudlo, and Historian—Virginia Pudlo. Outgoing Treasurer Raymond Kowalski was acknowledged for his service over many decades which he performed with professionalism and dedication. He leaves this position with our great respect, admiration, and gratitude. Newly elected Treasurer, Caroline KIELTYKA, is a Hartford resident who works for the CT Department of Transportation, Office of the Rail, as a Strategic Initiatives Manager. Her duties include budgeting and operations. The evening ended with the traditional Turkey Drawing.

2024 POLISH HOLIDAY FAIR (SZOPKA)

Here are some scenes from the Polish Holiday Fair held on November 16 and 17 in the lower hall of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. Thanks to everyone who participated or attended, it was both successful and a lot of fun.



WIGILIA 2024

The Club year ended with another beautiful Wigilia event on December 14. Sharing of the opłatek, along with great food and good cheer, brought friends together to celebrate the holiday season.



THE POLISH LENTEN SEASON

Shrovetide festivities, "Zapusty," are a time of joyous celebration and carnivals. To use up all fats such as butter and oil before Lent, huge quantities of "pączki" (jelly doughnuts) are made and consumed in anticipation of the fasting season, when they will be forbidden. The carnival season officially ends at midnight on Shrove Tuesday with the traditional bringing in of the "śledź" — herring on a platter.

Ash Wednesday sees the exchange of colorful dress for more somber attire. Meat and all palatable dishes are replaced by herring and "żur" (gruel made from fermented rye meal and water). The day ends with the priest sprinkling ashes on the faithful. The entire season of Lent is a time for special evening devotions, the Stations of the Cross, and "Gorzkie Żale," which is the Passion of Christ set to music and sung by the congregation.

There are no parties or dances during Lent — with the exception of "Józefinki," St. Joseph's Day, on March 19 when a great number of people celebrate their name day.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

To all: It's the time of year when we look forward to warm spring temperatures and new life. In reading over this newsletter you will see that the Club's Christmas season was dynamic. We are already planning for a busy year and aligning some of our past focuses and structures in order to bring us up to 2025 standards. There is room to grow our membership base as we prepare to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2026. Please encourage your friends to join.



Our national ACPC will hold its Spring Board meeting at the end of the month hosted by a new Supporting organization in Port Washington, NY (Long Island). I always enjoy the opportunity to share and learn about what other organizations in Polonia have to offer. The 2025 ACPC Annual Convention will be held in Buffalo, NY. I will be sure to report back on all the exciting developments.

Please circulate the information about our Club scholarship to young Polonians, keep in touch, and share anything that you think would benefit us all. Have a blessed Lent and season of renewal.

Lilia Kieltyka

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATED POLISH ITEMS

The Club is still accepting Polish-related items, so if you know of anyone looking for a good home for Polish memorabilia we would be happy to receive them. They are sold at public events or used in displays showcasing Polish heritage. Items include carved wooden objects, craft pieces, textiles, ceramics, dolls, music, costumes, books, etc. Please call Fran at (860) 659-0356 with questions.

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.

2025-2026 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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

2025 JENNIE MARCONI-JAVORSKI SCHOLARSHIP

Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.



Florence Langridge, Scholarship Co-Chair, has retired from the post she has held for many years. An educator by background, she brought both experience and devotion to the task of assisting Polish youth in reaching their future goals. Thank you, Florence, for a job well done. Ursula Brodowicz has agreed to join Gini Pudlo as the new Scholarship Co-Chair.

Scholarship Co-Chairs, Gini Pudlo and Ursula Brodowicz, encourage members to reach out to candidates of Polish heritage who might apply for the Club's 2025 Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship. **A scholarship application can be downloaded from the Club's website: polishculturalclub.org, or for a print copy, call Gini at 860-659-0356. Applications must be postmarked no later than May 1, 2025.**

In addition to the Club's scholarship application, please check our Club website for "Additional Scholarship Opportunities" offered by the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) and Central CT State University.

2025 MEMBERSHIP DUES

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 or e-mail: francespudlo@att.net. The dues deadline is March 15, 2025, since annual Affiliate dues need to be forwarded to the ACPC by April 1.

We are most grateful to the following members for their additional donations:

Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Fund:

Bill Otfinoski and Jean Anderson in memory of Larry Shiembob; Julia and Felicia Woron in memory of Peter and Frances Wonsewicz; Felicia Gajda in memory of Joan Godlewski and Regina Rudewicz; Virginia Pudlo in memory of Alexander and Eve Antoinette Pudlo; Maureen Sylvester in memory of Anthony and Jean Reznick; Zyta Konska; and David and Julianna Story in memory of Julie Ann Story.

Anna-Mae Maglaty Literary Fund:

Bill Otfinoski and Jean Anderson in memory of Larry Shiembob; Kenneth and Michelle Mostello in memory of Anna-Mae and Louis Maglaty; Henry and Sophie Bieniek in memory of the Budnick family; Frances Pudlo in memory of Anna-Mae and Louis Maglaty; Rev. William Przybyło; Josephine Dalenta; Donna Zarwanski; Helen Olejarz; Marilyn Gardner; and Stella Heyl in memory of Cecilia Brzozowa.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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



DID YOU KNOW . . . Polish Posters are a Unique Art Form?

As part of its 40th Anniversary celebration in 2006, the Polish Cultural Club hosted a Polish Poster Art Exhibit and Reception at the Wampanoag Country Club in West Hartford which consisted of representative posters from the 1980s and early 1990s collected for the 1996 annual convention of the ACPC. It proved so popular that it toured the U.S. under the sponsorship of ACPC affiliate groups.

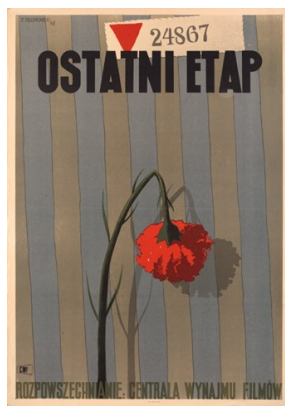
Polish posters are renowned throughout the world and have become highly prized by collectors as a unique art form. Spanning the range from the humorous and clever, to the grotesque and shocking, these works impress even the casual viewer with their uncanny ability to present an idea in a creative, innovative, dramatic, and even satirical way. This is in stark contrast with what we are accustomed to seeing in posters, which are usually very economical in design and to the point—namely—who, what, where, and when.

Historically, at the turn of the century Polish artists were strongly influenced by the ideals of Art Nouveau, and following in the footsteps of Toulouse-Lautrec, gave posters a depth then unseen in the graphic arts. Stanisław Wyspiański (1887-1963) was an early artist who set the standard for the innovative art form which came into its own after Polish independence in 1918. After World War II, the medium was pressed into the service of the new socialist state, but artists soon discovered that they could use it to convey veiled protest and views out of line with official policy. Tadeusz Trepkowski (1914-1954) became one of the most influential poster artists. He favored simple, poignant symbolism such as a broken carnation (the flower of remembrance in Poland) and prison stripes in his poster for a 1948 film about the horrors of a concentration camp: “Last Stage” (Ostatni Etap). The Polish communist government left its own imprint on the art form, favoring bland paeans to communism and social realism. This trend exhausted itself rather quickly and by the 1960s a new generation of artists came to the forefront who were not satisfied with the status quo.

Henryk Tomaszewski defined what later became known as the Polish Poster School by basing his work on artistic statement and graphic interpretation of film. In 1968 the first Polish Poster Art Museum opened in Warsaw and in 1970 the First International Poster Biennale exhibition was held propelling the Polish art form to an international audience and renown. The artists in Poland were in high demand by every group, organization, and event that wanted their own poster. Contests were held for the best poster of the week, exhibitions were held, galleries opened, and people began to collect posters. The individuality of the artist became identifying markers of their posters, like pop art, color, surrealism, and abstraction.

Even though Polish poster art exhibits many different styles and forms, the object is to convey information quickly and to the point—artfully. The artist always includes a personal element, as well as some commentary on society other than the event being advertised. Posters appeal to both the emotions and the intellect since the viewer knows that interpretation is necessary to understand and appreciate the message. This requires some “reading between the lines.” Polish Poster School designers used allusion, symbolism, and metaphor to engage the viewer in interpreting the imagery on their posters. The messages can vary from calling a group to support or reject a concept or idea, alerting the public to some imminent danger or concern, or announcing the opening of an artistic performance or exhibit.

Ironically, the arrival of democracy and privatization in the 1980s dealt a blow to poster art in Poland. The state industries, institutions, and performing groups who traditionally commissioned posters cut back or eliminated their budgets for poster promotion, preferring instead print and television media. This caused many artists to concentrate on less exuberant commercial art of the growing magazine industry.



The Ostatni Etap—Last Stage poster by Tadeusz Trepkowski was a small hand-printed advertisement for one of Poland’s first films of the post-war years (1948), a stirring drama of survival and tragedy in the concentration camps. A quiet, eloquent note is observed in the bent carnation, the traditional flower of remembrance in Poland, as it casts a shadow on the striped garb.



The rigidity of the bureaucratic communist system irritated Henryk Tomaszewski. In 1983, after the suppression of Solidarity, when martial law imposed severe restrictions on the population and prohibited making the victory sign in public, Tomaszewski circumvented the censor with a poster in which a large green foot saluted the viewer with a victory sign.

Sources: “Polish Poster Art,” POLAM, February 2007 and Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.’s brochure, “Polish Poster Art Exhibit & Reception” with commentary by Peter J. Obst.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025 7:00 PM
"Piano Recital by Krystian Tkaczewski"
Event by Chopin International Piano Competition, Hartford, CT
Asylum Hill Congregational Church
814 Asylum Avenue, Hartford **FREE**

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025 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, with special activities for the children. Bring your family and friends.
Adults: \$10.00 Children Under 10 years of age: \$5.00

MONDAY, AUGUST 25 TO FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2025
"2025 'School Vacation' TOUR OF POLAND"
Sponsored by the Polish American Foundation of CT
Tour includes a Polish language lesson each day along with tours of Warsaw, Poznań, Gniezno, Chwarszczany, Międzyrzecz, Ochla, Zielona Góra, Wrocław, and Częstochowa.
For detailed information contact DORENA@PAF-CT.org.

POLISH ASTRONAUT TO TAKE PIEROGI INTO SPACE!

A Polish astronaut set to travel to the International Space Station (ISS) this year will take some pierogi into space with him—a first for the humble Polish dumpling. Spaceman Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski said that he'd been cooperating with a small Polish family business that developed a special freeze-drying technique that will allow him to bring the traditional dish into orbit. He said "he hoped the pierogi in space will be just as delicious as they are on Earth."



At a recent press conference, the astronaut said that thanks to his mission, he hopes that Poland would "find its place in space permanently...and grow as an international player, shaping the technological future of Europe. He spoke at the Copernicus Science Centre in Warsaw, where Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk met with the crew of the Ax-4 mission, which NASA says will be launched from Florida "no earlier than spring of 2025." In addition to pierogi, Uznański-Wiśniewski will take 13 Polish experiments to the International Space Station to help further research in medicine, biology, and engineering.

OTHER FUN FACTS

Poland set a new record for chocolate production in 2024, solidifying its position as a global leader in the industry. Since 2019, Poland's chocolate export value has increased by more than 50%, and in 2023, the country accounted for 7% of the global €35 billion chocolate export market. This ranks Poland just behind the Netherlands and Germany in global chocolate exports.

Exports of Polish spirits—including vodka—have increased by some 7% year on year, with the country overtaking Russia, its chief competitor in the trade.

Source: TVPworld.com and The Rzeczpospolita Daily



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.

On December 1, **Raymond Kryzak, Sr.** was recognized by the University of CT for his military service during the Korean War. He is a 1957 graduate of UConn in the field of Industrial Administration and worked in the NASA space program at Hamilton Standard.



Congratulations to **Helen Olejarsz (Chair), Ursula Brodowicz, Krystyna Wiśło, Carol Oleasz-Grondin, Fran Pudlo, and Gini Pudlo** (all PCCGH members) who collaborated to create a beautiful display showcasing Polish Christmas customs on behalf of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. It was displayed in a side chapel at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford from early December to late January. Five other regional ethnic parishes also participated in this holiday exhibit.



POLISH WISDOM

Editor's Note: While going through some of Anna-Mae Maglaty's papers recently, I came across a hand-written sheet of Polish proverbs with English translations. She had saved these to be used in a future edition of our newsletter and so here they are:

From a good nest, good children.

Z dobrego gniazda dobre dzieci.

A good wife is the husband's crown.

Dobra żona mężowi korona.

It's fine everywhere, but best at home.

Wszędzie dobrze lecz w domu najlepiej.

Who digs pits under others, falls into them himself.

Kto podkimi dołki kopie ten sam w nie wpada.

The man has not yet been born who can please everyone.

Jeszcze się ten nie urodził żeby wszystkim dogodził.

More luck than brains.

Więcej szczęścia niż rozumu.

Mother's voice is God's voice.

Głos matki głos Boga.

What is to be will be.

Co ma być to będzie.