

NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

April 2010

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture



Workshop on Conducting Oral Histories

Mary Erdmans, Ph.D.

Thursday, April 22, 2010

6:30 p.m.

Polish National Home

60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

Information: (860) 521-0201

Public and Guests Welcome **FREE Admission**



Mary Patrice Erdmans, Ph.D.

What is Oral History? All of us have memories and experiences that are unique. Some individuals, however, have witnessed notable events during their lifetime relating to family, history, and culture that give insight to society and life. Memories and experiences are generally organized into stories. Oral History listens to these stories, systematically collects them as living testimony, and then preserves them.

Prof. Erdman's Oral History Workshop will cover the value of oral histories as a way of documenting and preserving the histories of local communities. She will also discuss how to start an oral history project, conduct oral history interviews, and how to place the oral histories in a public repository for future reference (for example, the Polish Archives at CCSU or the Oral History Archives at UCONN). Professor Erdmans wishes to propose that the Club explore doing an oral history project on Polish-Americans and Polish immigrants in Connecticut and she would like to solicit suggestions, contacts, and volunteers for such a project.

Mary Patrice Erdmans is Professor of Sociology at Central CT State University. Her work has appeared in the *North American Review*, *Notre Dame Magazine*, *Journal of American Ethnic History*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Polish American Studies*, and *2B Quarterly*. She is the author of two award-winning books, *Opposite Poles: Immigrants and Ethnics in Polish Chicago, 1976-1990* (Penn State Press 1998) and *The Grasin-ski Girls: The Choices They Had and the Choices They Made* (Ohio University Press 2005). She is currently working on a manuscript about adolescent mothers based on the life

stories of 108 black, white, and Puerto Rican teens in Connecticut.

BREAKING NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL!

Each year Club members look forward to celebrating Polish Constitution Day at the State Capitol. The event sponsored by the Office of Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz will be held:

Monday, May 3, 2010

at 11:00 a.m.

in the Hall of Flags of the State Capitol

Free Admission

This year the program has a special significance in that three Club members will be honored for their work within the Polish/Polish-American community. With great pride, we applaud **Maria Brodowicz**, **Krystyna Slowikowska Farley**, and **Clifford Archie**. We invite you to reserve the date and to attend, if possible. There is no charge. More information on the honorees will be forthcoming in the May Newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

Approximately one hundred members and guests attended the Pisanki program held on Sunday, March 14, 2010 in the elegant ballroom of the Polish National Home. From greeters, Mary Bogon and Carol Bogon Phelan, who invited guests to "sign-in" and receive a door prize ticket, to Edward Farley and Helen, Ted, and Richard Lorenc, who encouraged interested visitors to participate in the fundraisers, the afternoon took on the resemblance of a family gathering. A beautiful Easter table covered with a pristine lace cloth held the foods so eagerly anticipated on Resurrection morning. Maria Brodowicz and Krystyna Farley prepared the table and also explained the significance of the specialty delicacies.

Available for purchase were Polish Easter butter molds, lambs, pisanki, and babki. The Polish Scouts prepared festive palm bouquets to grace one's holiday table.

Guest artist and lecturer Alexander Zielinski of Ludlow, MA, presented a most informative talk on various egg decorations: pisanki, sitowie, skrobanki, kraszanki, and malowanki. He showed examples of each of these eggs to aid in visualizing the final product.

Polish hospitality was at the forefront as hostesses Genevieve Jaronczyk and Phyllis Stawiarski tempted guests to savor the variety of pastries prepared by Genevieve Bednarz, Maria Bruks, Jadzia Bruks, Mary Marek Hartz, Jadzia Kordowski, Helen Lorenc, Monica Oleasz, Fran Pudlo, Virginia Pudlo, and Alice Rogala. Many non-members remarked on how charming and delightful this afternoon experience was for them.

I would also like to extend my sincerest thanks to Program Chair Ursula Brodowicz and to all members who made this another memorable event sponsored by the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford. Z całego serca, dziękuje.

Our next general meeting will be held on Thursday, April 22, 2010, at the Polish National Home. Dr. Mary Erdmans will speak on the importance of oral histories and how to conduct interviews. We all have an obligation to preserve the memorable experiences of significant people whose lives are a testimony to the history, culture, and traditions, that we all hold so dear.

Once again, thank you for your participation. We look forward to seeing you on April 22 and please, do bring a friend for us to welcome.

Do zobaczenia,

Anna-Mae Maglaty



Anna-Mae Maglaty (President)
with Ursula Brodowicz
(Program Chair)



Mary Bogon and Carol Bogon
Phelan (Welcome Table)



Krystyna Farley and Maria Brodowicz
(Easter Table Chairs) with Natalia Rak



Alexander Zielinski
(Guest Speaker)



Phyllis Stawiarski and
Gen Jaronczyk
(Hospitality Chairs)

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor:	Frances Pudlo
President/Consultant:	Anna-Mae Maglaty
Staff:	Carol Bogon Phelan, Genevieve Jaronczyk, Nancy Yiznitsky


TRIBUTE TO IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI (1860—1941) — 150th Anniversary of Birth
Composer, Pianist, Philanthropist, Statesman, Prime Minister of Poland

The artistic career of Ignacy Jan Paderewski spanned over five decades. In this period, he wrote two operas, a symphony, a violin and piano sonata, and his most well known work, "Minuet in G." Who was this man who President Franklin Delano Roosevelt called a "modern immortal?"

Paderewski was born in Kurylowka, Podolia in what is now the Soviet Union. His musical studies were at the Institute in Warsaw and also in Berlin. Paderewski made his American debut in 1891 when he was the first artist to perform solo in the newly opened Carnegie Hall in New York. This was followed by 108 appearances in 112 days as he was greeted with great acclaim throughout the United States. Of interest is the fact that at this time he traveled with five pianos in his personal railway car.

In addition to his artistic career, Paderewski became a renowned Polish statesman. At the outbreak of World War I, he organized the General Committee for Aid to Polish victims of the war. In 1915, he issued appeals to Polish American communities for assistance for Poland. In 1916, concerts at the White House enabled him to meet with President Woodrow Wilson where he was appointed a representative in the U.S. of the Polish National Committee. His many activities brought about President Wilson's speech on a New Poland in which he stated, "Take it for granted that statesmen everywhere are agreed that there should be a united, independent, autonomous Poland." This became Point 13 of Wilson's 14 Point Plan which ensured an independent Poland after 123 years of partitions.

Shortly thereafter, Paderewski became Poland's first premier and foreign minister. In January, 1919, he signed the Versailles Peace Treaty. Deciding to resign from his position as Prime Minister, he became Poland's first delegate to the League of Nations. Soon after, he retired from politics to resume his musical career.

When the Germans and Soviets invaded Poland in 1939, Paderewski, although older and in ill health, joined the Polish government in exile in France and was president of its parliament in 1940. He returned to the United States later that year and worked for the Allied cause until his death in 1941.

By special decree of President Roosevelt, Paderewski was buried at Arlington National Cemetery, even though he was not an American citizen, and he remained there until Poland finally became free. In 1922, Paderewski's remains were placed in a crypt of St. John's Church in Warsaw. However, his heart remains in America forever and is enclosed in an urn at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA.

Credits: Brymora, Mariusz M. and Pula, James S., 400 Years of Polish Immigrants in America, 1608-2008, Washington, 2008. Polish American Ways, edited by Jacek Nowakowski

**JENNIE MARCONI-JAVORSKI
SCHOLARSHIP**

Sponsored by the Polish Cultural
Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.

A GENTLE REMINDER . . .



Scholarship Applications, along with all requested materials, must be **received and postmarked no later than May 1, 2010.**

Applications can be downloaded from Club website:
www.polishculturalclub.org

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome (witamy) to new members:

Doreen LeBel of Moodus

Edward Strycharz of Wethersfield

Membership cards are included in this Newsletter mailing for those who paid their dues for 2010. Please share a Club membership form, which can be found on our website, with anyone who is interested in celebrating Polish culture and heritage.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2010 4:00 p.m.
 New Britain Chorale
 "Sacred Cantatas by J.S. Bach" No. 9, 37, 50, 61, 185, 193
 First Lutheran Church of Reformation
 Franklin Square, New Britain Sugg. Donation: \$10.00

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2010 6:30 p.m.
 PCCGH Program (Public Invited)
 "Workshop on Conducting Oral Histories"
 Mary P. Erdmans, Ph.D., Sociology Department, CCSU
 Polish National Home, Hartford **FREE**

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2010 3:00 p.m.
 "Karski" A Play About Polish Resistance Hero Jan Karski
 Elms College, Chicopee, MA **FREE**

FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2010 7:00 p.m.
 "Monte Carlo Whist"
 Ladies Guild of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church
 Lower Church Hall, Popieluszko Square, Hartford
 Public Welcome **\$5.00 Admission**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2010 11:00 a.m.
 "Polish Constitution Day at the Capitol"
 Hall of Flags—State Capitol
 Come and Support our Three Club Honorees **FREE**

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2010 6:30 p.m.
 PCCGH Program (Public Invited)
 Katyn's Only Female Victim, Lt. Janina Lewandowska
 "Polish National Home, Hartford **FREE**

MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2010 7:00—9:00 p.m.
 Polish Reading Group Meets
 Wesoly Sloper House, New Britain
 Book: "White Raven" by Andrzej Stasiuk. 2001. Serpents Tail. All interested readers are welcome!



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

We're on the Web!
www.polishculturalclub.org

**CHOPIN CELEBRATION
 CONCERT**



Save the Date

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 12, 2010. The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc., in collaboration with the Polish National Home, is sponsoring a **CHOPIN CELEBRATION CONCERT.** The event will include a formal piano concert with **guest artist, Melody Fader,** followed by a gala reception and surprises. Ms. Fader, who has roots in our local community, currently resides in New York.

Did You Know

At one time there were over 72 flavored vodkas in Poland. The one that is recognized in the United States is the Żubrówka Vodka, which originated in the Białowieża Forest since it took its name from the grass, żubrówka, favored by the European bison, the żubr. This sweet smelling grass retains its aromatic flavor long after it is cut and resists all attempts at cultivation. Unlike the custom of slamming back shots of vodka, the sweet and mellow Żubrówka is sipped and savored in Poland and oftentimes mixed with unsweetened apple juice.

(Credit: Steven Ukasick, *Pol Am Newsletter*, April 2006)



Discovered 13 years ago, Element 112 has officially been added to the Periodic Table. Called "copernicium" in honor of the Polish astronomer, Nicolaus Copernicus, it is identified by the symbol Cp. Copernicus was born in 1473 in Torun, Poland. His finding that the planets circle around the sun finally refuted the belief that the Earth is the center of the Universe. (Credit: BBC)

**ACPC 50/50 FUNDRAISER RAFFLE
 YOU COULD BE A WINNER!**

Please fill out and return the stubs from the tickets that were included with our last newsletter. Chances are \$2.00 each or six for \$10.00. The raffle benefits both the American Council for Polish culture as well as our own Club. Checks should be made out to: **The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. (PCCGH)** and mailed to **Mrs. Patricia Archie, 219 Arnold Drive, East Hartford, CT 06108.**