



NEWSLETTER

POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

www.polishculturalclub.org

June 2011

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

Celebrating our 35th Anniversary Year

PCCGH PROGRAM

35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Featuring

“Gary Sredzienski, Accordionist”

who will discuss the history of Polish-American Music
using a number of accordions



Sunday, September 18, 2011

12:30 p.m.

Ballroom—Polish National Home

Luncheon and Program

Cost: \$25.00 per person

(Tables of 10 can be reserved)

Tickets: Nancy Yiznitsky (860) 568-2044

Reservations must be received by September 10.

No tickets will be sold at the door.

SCHOLARSHIP AND STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2011

POLISH NATIONAL HOME

6:30 P.M.



OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ARE . . .

Thomas Cwikla, son of Zbigniew and Anna Cwikla of Manchester. His PCCGH sponsor is Virginia Pudlo. Tom is a Dean's List student at UConn in the field of Business Management. He started and manages a small business and will test his product and business model across the country this summer. He attended Polish classes throughout his childhood and speaks and writes the language fluently. He and his family visit Poland annually. He is a member of the Polish Cultural Society at UConn.

Klaudia Kawka, daughter of Jacek and Marzena Kawka of Middletown. Her PCCGH sponsor is Catherine Raczkla Bernstein. Klaudia is currently a senior at Middletown High School and the Greater Hartford Academy of Performing Arts. She plans to attend Berklee College of Music in the fall seeking a degree in Music Composition. She has maintained consistent scholastic honors, composes music, studies piano, is active in the Tri-M Music Honor Society, Middletown Marching Band, and is a teacher's assistant at Lawrence Elementary School. She has studied the Polish language for eight years.

Caroline Rose KIELTYKA, daughter of Steven and Lilia Kieltyka of New Britain. Her PCCGH sponsor is Felicia Gajda. Caroline is currently a freshman at St. Lawrence University studying Political Science with scholastic honors but will go into Pre-Law in the fall. She has been involved in Polish Scouting since the age of 4 and has studied the Polish language. She has been actively involved with Sacred Heart Parish in New Britain and, while at St. Lawrence, volunteers as a youth mentor and in special education. She has worked at Food Share, New Britain Rock Cats, and the CT State Legislature as a 2009 Summer Intern.

Natalia Zagula, daughter of Tadeusz and Emilia Zagula of Newington. Her PCCGH sponsor is Joy Chlus. Natalia is a senior at Newington High School, with scholastic honors, and plans to attend UConn in the fall. She has been involved in Polish Scouting and is currently a troop leader. She assists at Polish Saturday School and teaches religion to first graders at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Saturday School. Her athletic and extra-curricular activities include swimming, tap dancing, track and field, Drama Club, Newington High School Literary Magazine, and being a tutor for elementary level reading and writing of English and Mathematics.

We look forward to seeing you on this special occasion as we celebrate the accomplishments of four outstanding Polish-American young people and enjoy our traditional strawberry shortcake social.

At the turn of the century, accordionist Gary Sredzienski's grandparents came to the United States as part of the great immigration from Eastern Europe. They settled in New England to work in the Connecticut tobacco fields during the summer and in the mills for the rest of the year. On weekends, friends would gather for house parties with music provided by an accordion and fiddle. This style of early Polish-American folk music is referred to as “Po starem kraju” meaning “from the Old Country.” Gary grew up in one of the Polish enclaves in northern Connecticut taking in the culture and history of the region that he expresses in his performances. Much of the music he plays was written during hard times in his ancestral country. As the various conquerors of Poland attempted to eradicate the heritage of the vanquished Poles, the peasant class held to its traditional music, expressing their feelings about the tragedy and separation they were experiencing. Many of the pieces were, in contrast, also joyous, graceful, and emotional. The music Gary will play is a marriage of old country Polish village music with rural New England musical traditions. The merging of folk elements of two separate worlds is a result of the journey from Poland to America.

Please join us in our special celebration of 35 years of service to the Polish-American community of Greater Hartford as we reminisce about our achievements, salute our members, and enjoy a congenial afternoon with Polish friends and neighbors.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

I am still coming down from a "cloud nine" high that took place on May 18, 2011 at the East Hartford Community Cultural Center where we presented the DVD "No. 4 Street of Our Lady." If you did not attend, you missed not only a great film, but a remarkable team effort of the Polish Cultural Club members who worked together to present this well-attended evening of approximately 150 people. This was simply a superb program enjoyed by all.



Jolanta Staron, Cliff Archie, Grazyna Kucharczyk

It was a special honor to have Grazyna Kucharczyk and Jolanta Staron with us that evening. They are the granddaughters of Franciszka Halamajowa, the woman who saved the lives of 16 Jewish neighbors in Sokal, Poland.

My gratitude to Fran Pudlo, Chair, and her committee: Gini Pudlo, Pat Archie, and Anna-Mae Maglaty. Thanks also to Carol Phelan and Janice LaPenna for the fabulous publicity, and to Hospitality Chair, Maria Bruks, assisted by Phyllis Stawiariski, and Ed Farley. Also, a big thank you to the twenty volunteers who provided a gorgeous and mouth watering array of desserts for the refreshment table.

The PCCGH also thanks Fr. Rohan, Pastor of Saint Isaac Jogues Church for the loan of the projection equipment for the DVD. I would also like to acknowledge the East Hartford Community Cultural Center for allowing us to rent the Auditorium and for the warm and courteous assistance we received before, during, and after the program.

A special highlight of the evening was the presence of the 7th and 8th grade students from Saint Christopher School in East Hartford. They were orderly, attentive, and polite and will receive extra credit for attending this event. It was great to have them.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of the National ACPC Casimir Pulaski Scholarship Award to one of our local scholarship recipients, Beata Hrynkiewicz. The presentation was made by Anna-Mae Maglaty in the absence of Mr. Marion Winters, Scholarship Chairman.

This is only one program of many that shows the heart of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford. Next month we shall reflect our warmth again with the Scholarship Program to be held at the Polish National Home. I expect to see many of you there to honor the award recipients and to wish them well in their future undertakings.

This will be the last meeting for the summer, but we will be back in September to celebrate our 35th Anniversary. Details can be found in this newsletter. Be sure also to visit our website www.polishculturalclub.org and to mark important event dates in your calendar.

Cliff Archie, President, Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Frances Pudlo
Assistant Editor: Anna-Mae Maglaty
Staff: Carol Bogon Phelan, Nancy Yiznitsky

POLISH DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL

Congratulations to the following award recipients at Polish Day at the State Capitol held on May 3, 2011:

Anna-Mae Maglaty, Prof. Jonathan Shea, Mother Mary Jennifer Carroll, Atty. Richard Kosinski, Dr. Anna Jaroszynska-Kirchmann, Andrew Bogaski, Marilyn Piurek, Edward Pawlowski (in memoriam).

To share some highlights of the day . . .



Andrew Bogaski and Anna-Mae Maglaty.



Gov. Dannel Malloy



Mary Mazurek Heslin



Front: Gen Urban and Gen Bednarz, Rear: Nancy Yiznitsky and Judy Kabilis



Krystyna Slowikowska Farley with Susan Bysiewicz



Michelle Maglaty Mostello and Lou Maglaty



Polish Scouts and Polish Veterans



Jonathan Shea, Deborah Krawiec, Barbara Gancarz



Hedy Bruks, Maria Bruks, Freda Zytka



Jo-Louise and Marion Winters



Pat and Cliff Archie

Photo Credit: Virginia Pudlo



THE EVE OF ST. JOHN'S NOC SWIĘTOJAŃSKA

Poland is rich in its traditions. One of them is the celebration of the summer solstice, the shortest night of the year. In Catholic Poland, the celebration was moved to coincide with the eve of the feast of St. John the Baptist on June 24. Therefore, the night that is celebrated with festivities is called the Eve of St. John or Noc Świętojańska.

Traditions of this summer solstice focus on two of nature's elements: fire and water. These elements symbolize male and female characteristics. In Poland, the celebrations included the burning of huge fires by men and boys, who danced around and then jumped through them, while girls made wreaths from flowers and herbs and floated them down the rivers and streams, sometimes adding burning candles to the wreaths.

Men and women were known to celebrate separately, the only communication between them being the floating of the wreaths (rzucanie wianków). Girls hoped that the young man of their dreams would find their wreath and then fall in love with them.

Today, the Eve of St. John festivals and parties continue with music, dancing, fireworks, boat floats, and bonfires with men and women celebrating together. This tradition is alive in Warsaw, Kraków, and other smaller towns along the Vistula River. In the United States, some affiliated clubs of the American Council for Polish Culture hold candle-lit wreath ceremonies along waterways on the night of June 23.

From: Knab, Sophie Hodorowicz, [Polish Customs, Traditions and Folklore](#)

[Glos Polek](#), May/June 2008

THE POLISH CREDO — I AM A POLE

In my veins flows the blood of
Patriots, Scholars, Scientists and Kings.
I am a Descendant of Copernicus
who would reach for the stars,
a Madame Curie unraveling
the mysteries of nature,
and Jan Paderewski uplifting
the soul of man.
Yes, I am a Pole.

My heart beats with love for
my Ancestral Homeland and for
my adopted Country, this young America.
When tyranny or despotism
have threatened, I have always
been first to resist.

I was with Sobieski lifting the siege of Vienna,
Thaddeus Kosciuszko at Valley Forge
and the R A F over Channel skies
in the Battle of Britain.

I am a Poet like Adam Mickiewicz,
an Artist like Jan Matejko,
an Author like Josef Conrad,
and a Musician like Frederic Chopin.

I believe in the dignity of the Human
Spirit and oppose Godlessness.

If any man would choose to be my friend,
Welcome, as he will know
what I stand for.

If not, then let him know that enduring here
in Piety and Hope,
I wait and watch . . .
For I AM A POLE!

— Anonymous

POLISH DAY AT THE CORA BELDEN LIBRARY

33 CHURCH STREET, ROCKY HILL

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2011

6:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

The Club will be represented at this event. Please stop in and visit. It is an ideal opportunity to share our Polish culture.

ACPC 50/50 FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

The deadline for raffle returns is June 18, 2011. This national raffle was designed to help sponsor various national scholarships which have benefited some of our own local students. Also, we have been very lucky to have had a winner of this 50/50 over the past three years. The raffle books were included in the April newsletter and will be available at the June meeting. Checks should be made out to "PCCGH" and mailed to Pat Archie, 219 Arnold Drive, East Hartford, CT 06108. Please do whatever you can to help. Our Club will also receive 10% of total sales. We thank the 30% of members who have already sent in their returns.

Pat Archie

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

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011 7:00—9:00 p.m.

Polish Reading Group Meets — All interested readers welcome.

Wesoły Sloper House, 27 Grove Hill, New Britain

Book: "To Begin Where I Am: Selected Essays" by
Czesław Miłosz. 2001. Published by: Farrar, Straus,
and Giroux, N.Y.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2011 6:30 p.m.

PCCGH Program at the Polish National Home

"Scholarship Presentation and Strawberry Social"

Members and Guests **FREE**

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2011 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Polish Day at the Cora Belden Library, Rocky Hill **FREE**

FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2011 (tentative date)

"Polish American Heritage Night"

New Britain Rock Cats Baseball (860) 224-8383 Admission

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011 7:00 —9:00 p.m.

Polish Reading Group Meets — All interested readers welcome.

Wesoły Sloper House, 27 Grove Hill, New Britain

Book: "Ashes and Diamonds" by Jerzy Andrejewski

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2011 12:30 p.m.

PCCGH Program: "35th Anniversary Celebration"

Polish National Home—Ballroom \$25.00 pp

Luncheon and Program: Gary Sredzienski, Accordionist

(Please see page 1 and flyer enclosed with this newsletter.)

MEMBERS — NEWS OF NOTE

Christine Waszynski, RN, MSN, GNP-C, daughter of member, **Mary Marek Hartz**, is one of thirty New England regional finalists in the *Nursing Spectrum* 2011 Nursing Excellence Awards. Christine is a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner & Clinical Nurse Specialist at Hartford Hospital. Music influences her career and methods of care. She is a guest speaker for the Alzheimer's Association, founded Geriatric Nursing Services, Inc., and helped Hartford Hospital to become a NICHE hospital. She is also the mother of Kenneth Waszynski, a 2010 PCCGH Scholarship recipient. Congratulations, Christine!



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

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

BEATA HRYNKIEWICZ

RECIPIENT OF THE 2011

ACPC CASIMIR PULASKI SCHOLARSHIP



The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford congratulates Beata Hryniewicz, the daughter of member **Irena Hryniewicz**, as the winner of the prestigious \$5,000.00 Pulaski Scholarship for Advanced Studies. She is pursuing a Doctorate of Physical Therapy at the University of Connecticut (UConn) with an anticipated graduation date in May, 2012.

Beata's academics are well known to the Club. She received the Club's scholarship as an undergraduate at UConn from which she received a Bachelor of Science degree *magna cum laude* in Allied Health Science with a concentration in Diagnostic Sciences, Nutrition for Exercise, and a Sport and Psychology Minor. In addition, Beata gained further honors by being chosen as the American Council for Polish Culture's Study in Poland recipient in 2007 and attended the Jagiellonian University in Krakow.

Club members may remember Beata and her sister Edyta as the young ladies who appear each year to help in the preparation of the Szopka Festival. Her pride in her heritage evidences itself in her leadership in the Polish Scouting Organization, serving as the president of the Polish Cultural Society at UConn, in teaching English in Poland in 2008, and serving as a court-certified Polish-English interpreter.

In the absence of Scholarship Chair, Marion Winters, this Scholarship was presented to Beata by President Cliff Archie and Anna-Mae Maglaty of the Pulaski Scholarship Committee at the Club's general program at the East Hartford Community Center on May 18, 2011.

Congratulations, Beata!

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

To **Felicia Gajda Noetzel** on the loss of her
brother, Henry Anthony Gajda.

