



# NEWSLETTER

## POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

Established 1976

[www.polishculturalclub.org](http://www.polishculturalclub.org)

November 2012

An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture

### UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING AND HOLIDAY EVENTS

to be held at the Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Food Drive / Turkey Drawing

On Thursday, November 15, the Annual Meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. In addition to the reporting of general business, there will be a discussion and vote regarding changes to the By-Laws. The Nominating Committee will also present a slate of candidates for Election of Officers. As is customary, the annual Food Drive and Turkey Drawing will close the evening. We ask that each member who attends bring boxed or canned non-perishable items. A maximum of three tickets per person is allowed. Most important, please review the expiration dates. Outdated items will be discarded. All food donations will be delivered to SS. Cyril and Methodius School to be shared with the less fortunate. Since this meeting is just a week prior to the Szopka Festival, we also request that you bring any donations for the various Club-sponsored tables. Please see page 2 for suggestions.

#### SZOPKA FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2012

9:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Free Admission / Public Welcome

The Club's annual major fundraiser, the Szopka Festival, will be held on Sunday November 25. The Country Kitchen will again offer delicious hand-made potato/cheese or sauerkraut pierogi, babki, and home-baked goods. Numerous vendors will be on hand to sell Polish items, honey, jewelry, ornaments, books, opłatki, and hand-made crafts for Christmas gift giving. Please keep in mind that while your attendance at Szopka is welcome, your volunteer help is critical. If you can spare some time, please call Ed Farley, Chair, at (860) 225-5204. We especially send an appeal to all scholarship recipients. Your help is urgently needed on Saturday, November 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and on Sunday, November 25 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. We look forward to seeing you! Remember, all proceeds from this event benefit the Scholarship Fund.

#### WIGILIA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$33.00 per person

The Holiday season culminates with the beautiful Wigilia (Vigil Supper) event on December 14 at 6:30 p.m. The swearing in of Officers will also take place this evening. Please invite family members and friends to enjoy this special Polish Christmas tradition. In keeping with the custom of setting an extra place at the table for a wayward traveler or lonely stranger, why not consider hosting someone you know who cannot afford the price of the admission ticket. The sharing of the opłatek, dining on a traditional meatless meal, and the singing of kolędy will no doubt add immeasurably to their as well as your own holiday spirit. Look for the separate flyer that will provide further details and reservation information.

Pat and Cliff Archie \*

Gen Bednarz

Maria Brodowicz

Hedy Bruks \*

Maria Bruks \*

Alice Dalenta

Irene Dylag \*

Krystyna and Ed Farley \*

Barbara Gancarz

Joan Godlewski

Jen Jaronczyk

Pattie Kaczynski

Jadwiga Kordowski

Bernice Lesinski

Louis Maglaty \*

John Majdan

Ann Oleasz \*

Christine and Sophia Panek \*

Maria Panek

Amy Pankowski

Cheryl Pietrycha

Fran and Gini Pudlo \*

Helen Rogalski

Phyllis Stawiarski \*

Gen Urban \*

Stan Wlodarczyk

#### THANK YOU TO ALL THE PIEROGI MAKERS WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME!



L to R: Jadwiga Kordowski, Phyllis Stawiarski, Krystyna Farley



L to R: Maria Brodowicz, Maria Panek, Maria Bruks, Irene Dylag, Patricia Archie, Joan Godlewski

(\* both sessions)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I mentioned last month how fast time is passing us by and how we need to prepare for important functions that will soon be upon us. It is very important that all members take part in the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting on November 15. Your voice needs to be heard. It is also important that you participate in and support the Club's efforts in our Szopka and Wigilia events. Please refer to the articles in this newsletter for detailed information. We hope to see all of you during the holiday season.

President Clifford G. Archie

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS OF THE PCCGH

Each member is requested to review the insert highlighting the proposed amendments to the By-Laws, which will be discussed and voted on at the November 15 Annual Meeting. Please make every effort to attend. Thank you in advance.

## WITH GRATITUDE

The Club wishes to thank Ewa Wołynska, Archival Coordinator of Polish American Archives at Central Connecticut State University, for her informative talk on Polish Americans in Connecticut and New England on September 16, 2012. It was rewarding to see materials donated to the University so well documented and preserved in special depositories. The public, scholars, and students are fortunate to have access to these services and are encouraged to take advantage of them.



Ewa Wołynska with Cliff Archie



Ewa Wołynska

## REQUESTED DONATIONS FOR SZOPKA TABLES

(You may bring to the Annual Meeting on November 15 or on Saturday, November 24 before noon.)

- Raffle Table: Gifts and Gift Certificates (minimum of \$20.00)
- Unique Boutique: Boxed gifts received but never used
- Vintage Jewelry: Jewelry
- Game Booth: "Everybody's a Winner!" Inexpensive items for children and adults.

### Donations Needed for SUNDAY—November 25, 2012

Country Kitchen and Coffee Bar /Kawiarnia: Homemade breads, cakes, pies, cookies, and Polish delicacies.

**All pastries must be delivered before 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. Please label any items that contain nuts or peanut butter, and do not use toothpicks.**

*Members who cannot contribute to any of the above may send a monetary donation to: PCCGH, P.O. Box 380699, East Hartford, CT 06138*

## MESSAGE FROM SZOPKA CHAIR, EDWARD FARLEY

Our Szopka Festival is just a few weeks away on Sunday, November 25. Once again, we are requesting that Club members volunteer to help us set up and cover the tables on Saturday morning, November 24, at 9:00 a.m. Please bring your scissors and scotch tape.

**Also, please contact the following Committee Chairs if you can assist them at their tables on Sunday:**

- Szopka Chair: Edward Farley: (860) 225-5204  
(assisted by Louis Maglaty)
- Vendors: Virginia Pudlo: (860) 659-0356  
(assisted by Mary Marek Hartz)
- Country Kitchen: Louis and Anna-Mae Maglaty: (860) 521-7621
- Vintage Jewelry: Hedy Bruks: (860) 563-4359  
Elizabeth Sikorsky: (860) 675-5313
- Raffle Table: Joan Godlewski: (860) 561-2839  
Helen Rogalsky: (860) 346-8320  
(assisted by John Majdan)
- Everybody's a Winner: Helen Olejarz: (860) 528-9854
- Unique Boutique: Florence Langridge: (860) 521-4034  
Ann Oleasz: (860) 563-9117
- Coffee Bar: Jen Jaronczyk: (860) 563-2718  
Maria Bruks: (860) 529-4875

### NEWSLETTER STAFF

- Editor:** Frances Pudlo (fpudlo@pdipaint.com)
- Assistant Editor:** Anna-Mae Maglaty
- Staff:** Carol Bogon Phelan, Nancy Yiznitsky



**DID YOU KNOW . . . That Kołędy are a Special Polish Tradition?**

Each year as the Christmas season approaches, the Polish people eagerly await the singing of a favorite carol (*kołęda*) pronounced *kolenda*. This word derives from the Latin word “calendae” meaning first day of the month. These songs are anonymously written but have been created over the centuries, some dating back to the 14th and 15th centuries. They began as hymns sung during Mass and eventually moved out into the populace. In them, one can feel the Polish spirit reflecting land, people, history, and faith. Most often the subject matter is the birth of Jesus, born in a humble stable surrounded by shepherds and animals. Many of the carols are regional. In Poland, the carolers known as *kołędnicy* move from house to house between Christmas and the Feast of Epiphany on January 6. They carry a pole with a star and a nativity scene and are often dressed in folk costumes or as angels, shepherds, kings, or sometimes the Grim Reaper. In return, the carolers are treated to food and drink and occasionally with a gift. The most beloved of all *kołędy* (pl.) are “Gdy się Chrystus Rodzi” — “When Christ is Born,” the lullaby “Lulajże Jezuniu,” and “Przybieżeli do Betlejem” — “Shepherds Arrive in Bethlehem.” During his first pilgrimage to Poland as Pope, Blessed John Paul II said, “A person does not need a good voice to sing, but needs to sing to have a good voice.” And so it is with us, dear members of the PCCGH, let us raise our voices at Wigilia and during the holy season and allow Poland’s beloved *kołędy* to be heard far and wide.



Lulajże Jezuniu

Lulajże Jezuniu, moja Perełko,  
Lulaj ulubione me Pieścidełko.  
Lulajże Jezuniu, lulaj, że lulaj  
A ty go matulu w płaczu utulaj

Zamknijże znużone płaczem powieczki,  
Utulże zemdlone łkaniem usteczki.  
(refren)

Hush Little Jesus

Hush little Jesus, my little pearl,  
Hush my favorite little delight.  
Hush little Jesus, hush, hush  
But you lovely mother, solace him in tears

Close your little eyelids, tired of weeping,  
Solace the little lips, fainted from sobbing.  
(Refrain)

*Wesoły Świąt Bożego Narodzenia*

**AN IMPORTANT EDITORIAL**

We, as the Chairs of the Nominating Committee, have found this period of seeking officers for 2013 -2014 extremely disappointing and most frustrating. Certainly everyone has commitments, however, if we truly espouse the mission of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, there should be someone within the Club who is willing to lead the Executive Committee and hence “to stay the course” of providing the best of Polish culture and history to the greater community. Convention 2009 was an electric experience. A phenomenal task led to the realization of a dream. Why? Each key player of a committee put forth the best efforts she/he possessed. It is also true that the Club’s programs over the past five years have been extremely well attended, e.g., “pisanki,” Chopin Concert, No. 4 Street of Our Lady, and Mario Enzler. The name of the Polish Cultural Club is respected as a group that gets things done with a spirit of camaraderie. Hospitality (gościność) is our trademark.

Unfortunately, all these accolades may be for naught. Serving as the president of the Club is an office that receives much support and guidance. This elected officer never stands alone because each member of the Executive Board is “ready” and available for whatever task is requested. In any given election year, if a president is not found, the proposed changes to the by-laws will speak to the dissolution of the Club. This is a serious issue but one which needs to be addressed. Therefore, dear members of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, are you willing to step up to the plate when asked to be an officer? Please remember that we eagerly await your response. Dr. James Pula, editor of the Polish American Encyclopedia, was asked in a recent interview in the Polish American Journal, how he saw Polonia going in 2035. His answer provides food for thought for us as he stated: “We will no longer be geographically based, but will consist of a group of people with similar interests and views who maintain contact irrespective of distance or location.” Let us be part of this group continuing to soar in spreading the good news of who, we the Poles, are.

Patricia Archie and Anna-Mae Maglaty  
Chairs, Nominating Committee

**MEMBER NEWS**



Birthday wishes are extended to our matriarch and founder, Lottie Pozniak, on the occasion of her 95th birthday on October 29, 2012. For those who are interested in visiting her or sending a card, kindly do so to:

Mrs. Eleanor Pozniak  
Jefferson House  
One John Stewart Drive  
Newington, CT 06111



The Club congratulates Genevieve Bednarz, who on Sunday, October 21, 2012, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the United Polish Societies. Although reserved and quiet, Gen does much to fulfill the mission of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford through actions rather than words. Her presence as a delegate at many of the conventions of the American Council for Polish Culture added much joy and camaraderie that will long be remembered. We applaud her!



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

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2012** 7:00 p.m.  
 "Piesn Ojczysta" (Native Songs) - Polish Independence Day  
 Torp Theater, Davidson Hall Building - Central CT State University  
 Sponsored by the S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair of Polish and Polish American Studies **FREE**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2012** 6:30 p.m.  
 PCCGH Event: Annual Meeting, Food Drive, Turkey Drawing, and Election of Officers  
 Polish National Home Dining Room - All Members Should Attend

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17 and SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2012**  
 Before and After All Masses — All are Invited  
 "Holiday Family Fun & Food Fair" sponsored by the Ladies Guild of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church—Lower Church Hall  
 Exhibit of art work by SS. Cyril and Methodius School Students  
 Free Events for Children (face painting and holiday craft making), fresh floral arrangements, handcrafted Christmas wreaths, delicious homemade baked goods, pierogi, vintage jewelry, attic treasures, and refreshments. **FREE**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2012** 9:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.  
 PCCGH Event: "Szopka Festival"  
 Main Ballroom of the Polish National Home  
 Bring your friends and family. Public invited. **FREE**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2012** 6:30 p.m.  
 PCCGH Event: "Wigilia" (Vigil Supper)  
 Polish National Home Dining Room Ticket: \$33.00 p.p.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2013 and** 3:00 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2013** 6:30 p.m.  
 Lecture: "Wojtek—the Bear that Went to War," the story of a bear who played a role in the Battle of Monte Cassino  
 The Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, 33 South Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

Visit the exhibit on Wojtek on the second floor of the Center.  
 Tel.: (413) 592-0001 or www.polishcenter.net

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2013** 2:30 p.m.  
 Duquesne University Tamburitzens  
 University of St. Joseph, 1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford  
 Reserved Seating—Tel.: (860) 231-5555 or on line www.usj.edu/arts  
 Tickets: \$20.00 Adult, \$15.00 Senior Citizen



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

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.polishculturalclub.org](http://www.polishculturalclub.org)

**POLES IN THE NEWS**



Maya Rhinehart, Miss Polonia Massachusetts 2013

Congratulations to Maya Rhinehart of Springfield, MA, who was crowned Miss Polonia Massachusetts 2013 at the Pageant held on August 12, 2012 at the Pilsudski Club in Holyoke. Maya is the daughter of member **Lisa Mrotek Rhinehart** and cousin to the **Brodowicz family**. As the winner of the title, Maya receives a cash prize as well as an opportunity to travel to Poland where she can experience a full immersion in the Polish culture. For the past ten years, Maya and her younger sister, dressed in beautiful Kraków folk costume vests, have assisted Ursula Brodowicz at the Club's Szopka Festival "book table." Maya is 19 years old and a sophomore at Worcester Polytechnic Institute studying civil and environmental engineering. She also competed in the Miss Polonia USA 2013 Pageant held in New York City in October.

**MEMBER HONORED AT STORE'S OPENING . . .**



Mildred Blaschinski in front of the new CVS store in E. Hartford

On September 16, 2012, **Mildred Blaschinski** was the guest of honor at the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new CVS Pharmacy on Silver Lane, East Hartford, CT. In addition to the many dignitaries present, owner and developer, Abraham Kaoud, spoke of future plans for this five acre property, which at one time was the location of the home of John and Anna Pietrycha and their nine children, including Mildred. Her dad, Mildred recalled, worked at Colt Manufacturing Company but also farmed the land behind the home where he raised

cows and chickens in the backyard, something quite common in those times. The new CVS sits on what was once the Pietrycha family's backyard. Mildred expressed her appreciation of being at the site "where she picked violets and lady slippers as a girl to give to her mother."