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## **Hartford Public Library Receives Gift from the Polish Community**

*Encyclopedia chronicles Polish history and culture in America*



Hartford CT – July 2, 2012 – Hartford Public Library announced today that the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford gave the Library a copy of *The Polish American Encyclopedia*, written By James S. Pula, professor of history at Purdue University. The encyclopedia was recently published by the Polish American Historical Association in cooperation with McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers.

At least nine million Americans trace their roots to Poland, and Polish Americans have contributed greatly to American history and society. During the largest period of immigration to the United States, between 1870 and 1920, more Poles came to the United States than any other national group except Italians. Additional large-scale Polish migration occurred in the wake of World War II and during the period of Solidarity’s rise to prominence.

This encyclopedia features three types of entries: thematic essays, topical entries, and biographical profiles. The essays synthesize existing work to provide interpretations of, and insight into, important aspects of the Polish American experience. The topical entries discuss in detail specific places, events or organizations such as the Polish National Alliance, Polish American Saturday Schools, and the Latimer Massacre, among others. The biographical entries identify Polish Americans who have made significant contributions at the regional or national level either to the history and culture of the United States, or to the development of American Polonia.

“We are delighted to present the encyclopedia to Hartford Public Library,” said Clifford Archie, president of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford. “The Polish community has played a significant role in Hartford’s history and continues to do so.”

The non-circulating, reference encyclopedia is available for research at the Downtown Library, 500 Main Street.

### **About the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford**

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc., Inc. was established in 1976 to preserve and promote the history, culture and customs of Poland with fellow Americans.

### **About Hartford Public Library**

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Please visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org) and the library’s new blog at [blogs.hplct.org](http://blogs.hplct.org). For other programs in the Center for Contemporary Culture please visit <http://center.hplct.org>.