



Alliance News

Toledo-Poznań Alliance quarterly newsletter — Fall 2012

Dear Toledo-Poznań Alliance Members,

It is my pleasure to serve as President of the TPA board again. I welcome you to participate in the activities of TPA this year and join us in furthering and celebrating our Polish culture.

Last year we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the founding of TPA and its participation in the Toledo Sister Cities. We reviewed all the ways in which we hosted visitors, after the signing of the agreement between our two cities, Toledo and Poznan, and encouraged activities that reached out to others in many ways. This past July, TPA sponsored a bus tour to a museum in Elk Hart, Indiana, which featured the art of Adam Grant, a survivor who came to the United States and provided us with his special approach to master figure painting. His widow, Peggy Grant, an artist in her own right, has continued to spread the good news of his contributions to the culture of the area and to spread the enjoyment of the talent of Polish descent.

As we continue to be true to our mission to share and preserve Polish culture on this area, we invite you to the annual Dożynki, the harvest meal, on Sunday, October 28 at the Franciscan Center in Sylvania. As in the past our efforts again will benefit the orphans in Poznan. But more important we invite you to come celebrate the food, the music, the art, and friendship of the Polish community.

Hope to see you there,

Respectfully, Sister Ann Francis, President of TPA,
President Emerita,
Lourdes College

Remembering Irene

Irene Ann Szydłowski, the TPA membership chairperson, passed away April 12, 2012. She was in charge of membership and renewals for many years and always active in our annual Dożynki. Our membership records were very accurate because of her continuous diligence. Irene enjoyed traveling to many countries, especially to Poland, classical music, nature and walking in Wildwood Park. A donation in her memory was sent to Central Catholic High School. She will be missed.

Wilczyński Donation

Melvin Wilczynski, a former TPA member died January 16, 2012. He was a pharmacist by profession and a long time active member of St. Hyacinth Church serving there as a lector and Eucharistic minister. In his will, Melvin left a bequest to the Toledo Poznan Alliance. We are thankful for this remembrance and Melvin's belief in promoting the Polish American Heritage here in Toledo.

Adam Grant Exhibition

The Midwest Museum of American Art in Elkhart, Indiana presented a retrospective exhibition of 40 art works by the Polish born painter Adam (Grochowski) Grant from April 6 thru July 8. Grant, a self-taught artist, came to the U.S. in 1950, worked in Detroit and eventually moved to Toledo with his wife Peggy. He was the first designer of "Paint-by-Number" sets, but was most famous in the Midwest as an important figurative painter.

Approximately 50 people went to Elkhart on July 1st to view the exhibit that was sponsored by Lourdes University Life Long Learning and the

Toledo Poznan Alliance. Peggy Grant gave an informative talk to the visitors. David Chelminski, PhD, also gave a brief talk at the Polish luncheon buffet that was part of the trip. This journey was enjoyed by all!

Dozynki 2012

After some discussion, TPA Board Members decided to have the Dozynki Dinner again this year. Lack of volunteers did make it somewhat questionable. With the determination of Sr. Ann Francis serving as chairperson, it will become a reality for all to enjoy.

The Franciscan Center at Lourdes University will be the place for it on October 28th. It will again include a Polish themed dinner, silent auction, raffle, and entertainment. Please try to attend and continue supporting the TPA.

The Dom Dziecka Orphanage in Poznan will receive a monetary donation from the TPA in time for Christmas. This is one reason why we continue the Dozynki Celebration.

TPA Membership

Because of the untimely death of Irene, our membership chairperson, no renewal notices were mailed to members. The TPA Board has decided to forego a renewal campaign this year. If you want to continue your membership in 2013, please notify us by the end of the year at P.O. Box 2555, Toledo, OH 43606. You can also attend the Dozynki 2012 on October 28th and pick up a membership form. Thank you for your past support of TPA.

Volunteer TPA Board Members for 2012:

Ursula Zulka Cauffiel

David Chelminski

Ann Galloway

Rosalie Hinde

Sr. Ann Francis Klimkowski

Patricia Konwinski

Walter Palicki

Volunteers:
Carol Cousino
Kathy Grabel
Jackie Konwinski

More volunteers are always needed and welcomed, so please contact us.

Ancestor Hunting?

The Bedford Branch Library Genealogy Group in Temperance, Michigan is sponsoring a trip to the Ft. Wayne, Indiana Public Library November 10th to explore and use their famous genealogy collection. The cost is \$18.00 per person payable by October 14th. The bus leaves at 7am from the Bedford Library and stays until 5pm at the Ft. Wayne Library. You can pack a lunch or eat in a nearby restaurant. For further info and to place a reservation, please contact Heidi Neill at the Bedford Branch Library, 734-847-6747. This is a great opportunity to research your past relatives and use the many resources there.

Dozynki 2012

Dear Friends:

The Polish Dozynki Harvest Dinner is an annual custom presented by the Toledo Poznan Alliance, a Toledo Sister Cities International affiliate, to friends of Polonia who appreciate and value Polish traditions. This year we are celebrating **Polish American Heritage Month**. Since 1608, when the first Polish settlers arrived at Jamestown, VA, Polish people have been an important part of America's history and culture. In 2012, Polish Americans will mark the 31st Anniversary of the founding of Polish American Heritage Month. It has become a national celebration of Polish history, culture and pride. Please mark your calendars now for Sunday, October 28, 2012 for the Dozynki Harvest Dinner. It will be held at the Franciscan Center at Lourdes University, 6852 Convent Blvd., Sylvania, OH.

**Dozynki gathering begins at 12 noon.
The program begins at 1 p.m.**

We invite you and your friends or family to participate in this annual event and enjoy an authentic Polish-American dinner and festive activities that include music, dancing, a silent auction and raffle. As you make your reservation for a great afternoon, please consider being a **Special Sponsor**. For \$100.00 you will receive two dinner reservations and recognition in the printed program. Your sponsorship helps support the mission of the Toledo-Poznan Alliance in helping the **Dom Dziecka** Orphanage in our sister city Poznan, Poland. Please complete the reservation form in the enclosed insert and return it by October 20th along with a check or money order payable to the Toledo-Poznan Alliance. Mail the reservation and sponsorship to:

Rosalie Hinde,
2909 Springwater Dr.
Toledo, OH 43617

Your reservation will be on file with us.
Thank you for your support and may God bless!

Sister Ann Francis Klimkowski, Chair

Recommended Reading

The Auschwitz Volunteer: Beyond Bravery,
by Captain Witold Pilecki, 401 pgs. c2012

Cpt. Pilecki is the only man known to have volunteered to get himself arrested and sent to Auschwitz as a prisoner. He had a secret mission for the Polish Underground. Smuggle out intelligence about this new German concentration camp, and build a resistance organization among the inmates with the ultimate goal of liberating the camp. Barely surviving nearly three years of hunger, disease and brutality, Pilecki accomplished his mission before escaping in April 1943. He also fought in the Warsaw Uprising.

After the war, Pilecki worked with the anticommunist resistance organization in Poland. He was captured by the postwar Polish communist regime, tortured and executed in 1948 and his

name was erased from Polish history until the collapse of communism in 1989. Pilecki was fully exonerated posthumously in the 1990s and is now regarded as one of Poland's heroes. This true story included an introduction by the renowned historian and author Norman Davies.

Poland honors Peggy Grant



Photo courtesy of The Blade.

TPA member Peggy Grant was honored June 2nd by Poland's minister of foreign affairs for Africa and the Middle East, Adam Kulach, at the Toledo Club. She was presented with the Bene Merito Decoration of Honor that recognizes Polish or foreign citizens for the work they do to promote Poland internationally. Ambassador Kulach, while assigned to Saudi Arabia, had arranged an exhibit of Adam Grant's paintings in the Polish Embassy a few years ago. Dr. Alan Goodridge, who was employed there by the government, and his wife Ann, informed Ambassador Kulach of the background and work of Adam Grant. This met with Peggy's approval and cooperation in shipping a selection of them to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. A room in the Polish Embassy was named the Adam Grochowski-Grant Hall. Mr. Grant's works are in private and public collections in the U.S. This was a great honor for Peggy Grant in memory of her husband's talent and life.