



Alliance News

Toledo-Poznań Alliance quarterly newsletter – Summer 2015

Polish Culture Center

Saturday the 25th of April, a meeting of the Advisory Board for the creation and construction of a Polish culture Center in the Toledo area was held at the Sanger Branch Library. The meeting was attended by Tom Waniewski, Matt Zalewski, Stan Machosky, Tom Sorosiak, Ruth Koons, and a representative from the Toledo Polka Society. Discussion was concerned with obtaining an Ohio Cultural Facilities Grant, Marketing, and “seed money” to put together a presentation to local businesses, major corporations, and individual sponsors. The essence of the meeting focused on bringing together all the Polish organizations in the Toledo area to become a part of this project. It was stressed that this Cultural Center will be to preserve the history of Polish in Toledo and the contributions many of our own family members made. When completed the Culture Center will have rooms to use by the Polish organizations that helped with its development, a cultural Genealogical room, meetings, dinners, wedding receptions and much more. We hope that everyone will continue to follow this closely and support this endeavor.

Melodies of Poland Radio Program

This program has been running for many years with a number of different hosts that kept up with the tradition of informing the Polish community of news, events, Polish culture, music, history, stories, etc. Melodies of Poland airs on WCWA 1230 AM radio at 8:00 to 9:00 am every Sunday morning. Currently it is hosted by Tom Sorosiak and Matt Zalewski, the program provides cultural and historical information about Poland, along with weekly announcements about Polish events in the area. Lastly, some very good music is played, music that reflects the Polish culture and

Tom Sorosiak will explain the significance to our Polish Heritage. In order to sustain this program, the radio station charges a fee and this fee comes from Polish organizations, advertisement from local businesses as well as donations by individuals. Recently a contribution was made by the Toledo-Poznan Alliance to support the program which is broadcast through the volunteer efforts of the hosts. Donations from listeners are always welcome and appreciated. We must support this endeavor now more than ever since the Polish community lost The Lagrange News, an only publication that was our voice of Poland.

By Tom Sorosiak

Kroger donations to TPA

Sign up at any Kroger’s for a Kroger donation to TPA when you purchase any item at the store. To register go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com click on ‘sign in’, put in your email address and password (or create a new password) which is used when you enroll your Kroger’s card. Put in the name of the organization (Toledo-Poznan Alliance), click to “Enroll.” If you have any problems call Kroger’s at 1-800-Krogers and press 5 for customer service representative and they should be able to help you. Kroger’s donates a percentage of your every purchase to the designated organization. The TPA can certainly use the extra money that we will get from your shopping at Kroger’s with your Kroger card.

By Tom Sorosiak



TPA Board Member Celebrates Diamond Jubilee

Sister Ann Francis Klimkowski entered the Sylvania Franciscan community from St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Wyandotte, Michigan. She made her first profession in the religious congregation in 1955 and final profession of vows in 1958. She earned a BSE and MSE in education from Bowling Green State University and a Ph.D. in higher education and administration from the University of Toledo in 1983.

Sister's ministries over the past 60 years were in education and administration, from elementary to high school and college. She taught in Detroit



elementary schools, spent 10 years at St. Ladislaus High School in Hamtramck, Michigan and served for four years in administration in a newly-consolidated Catholic school in Northeast Minneapolis.

She then served as an associate principal at Cardinal Stritch High School in Oregon before beginning doctoral studies in high education. Sister served at Lourdes College for 21 years, 17 of them as President. Since leaving that position, Sister Ann Francis has been involved in and taught in the Masters of Organizational Leadership at Lourdes University.

Sister's expertise in group process, communication and listening skills has been used by groups from the elementary to the university level. She still serves as facilitator-trainer for the Sisters of her community as well as in the civic community, where she serves on the boards of Toledo Sister Cities International and Toledo-Poznan Alliance. She had served as president of TPA for many years.

As a servant leader and dedicated Franciscan Sister, she continues to work for world peace through education, cultural appreciation and mutual respect. TPA congratulates Sister Ann Francis! Sto Lat!

Source: Dale Thomas/Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, Ohio

Local Pol-Am War Hero Honored

By Denny Kutylowski PolishToledo.com

World War II hero Sgt. Alexander Drabik was inducted posthumously into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor on April 24, 2015 in the Ohio State House Atrium. He was a life long resident of Lucas County.

Drabik was the first soldier to cross the Remagen Bridge in Germany on March 7, 1945, which gave the Allies access to cross the Rhine River, then Germany's largest defense barrier. He led 10 riflemen across the bridge, surprising the Germans that they forgot to blow up the bridge. He received the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroism.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, said the capture of the bridge shortened the war by six months possibly saved as many as 50,000 Allied lives.

When Eisenhower became President of the United States, he invited Drabik and the 10 riflemen to the White House and told them he was forming the Society of the Remagen Bridgehead.

Before he was sent overseas, Drabik led a rescue group of 120 men who were lost in the California brush during maneuvers.

Drabik received a tribute in the Congressional Record in 1993 and was a commander of the now-defunct Turanski-Van Glahn VFW Post 7372. There is an Ohio Historical Marker that was installed in 2011 located on Wolfinger Road in Sylvania Township where he was born.

Polish-Americans served with great distinction during World War II including Lt. Colonel Matt Urban who has been recognized as the "most decorated American combat soldier of World War II". He was awarded 29 decorations, virtually every combat medal possible plus the Congressional Medal of Honor. Another worth mentioning is the top American Flying Ace during WWII Colonel Francis S. Gabreski, with 28 enemy fighters destroyed in aerial combat plus three on

the ground. He was also an Ace in the Korean War flying the Sabre jet fighter in aerial combat.

Here is the information from our treasurer, Chuck Hinde on how TPA can earn a little money just by shopping at Amazon.com and at Kroger's. You must register. When you register, Amazon.com and Kroger's will donate a percentage of your order to TPA. It's a way for TPA to earn a little extra money. Below is the information on how to sign up.

For Amazon - what our members or supporters need to do is sign in to:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1707646> when you place an order, TPA will be credited a percentage of your purchase to our account.

For Kroger I have sent the required information to The Kroger Co. and am awaiting their response. Upon receipt of our organization's exclusive Kroger Community Rewards identification number, members and supporters can enroll using the exclusive number Kroger website www.krogercommunityrewards.com.

By Chuck Hinde

St. Hyacinth Polka Party Picnic

St. Hyacinth Polka Party picnic will take place on August 2, Noon to 7:00 p.m. The church is located on the corner of Parkside and Victory. There will be dancing under the tent with Randy Krajewski and Badinov. You can take delight in pierogi, kielbasa, sweet/sour kapusta, placek and beer too! Also children's activities and 50/50 raffle, and \$1,000 raffle. Come and enjoy.

By Walter Palicki



Just a reminder, renew your TPA membership and don't miss the Alliance News.

Gratulacje!

Congratulations to our son, Piotr Jakub Jakimczuk for graduating with his Doctor of Pharmacy degree, at the University of Toledo, and finishing in the top 10% of his class. He also had his original research published in the November 2014 issue of the American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy. Piotr currently is a pharmacist for Rite-Aid Pharmacy, serving the community of Sandusky, Michigan, a town located in the heart of the thumb of Michigan near Lake Huron. Congratulations Piotr, much success in your career and we are very proud of you.

*By Piotr & Alicja Jakimczuk,
parents*

P.S. From the editor: You might recall the younger Piotr who in the past performed with the Echoes of Poland dance group at our Dozynki when he was just a teenager. Another time he performed a piano recital where he focused on the music of Chopin, a famous Polish composer. A very talented young man.

Toledo Polka Society Event

The Toledo Polka Society is announcing their next event, a Polish Summer picnic that will be held at the Oak Shade Grove in Oregon, Ohio on Saturday, June 20, 2015 from 3:00 – 11:00 pm. Music will be provided by John Gora and The Gorale along with Toledo's own Randy Krajewski and Badinov. There will be 3 Polish food vendors, Polish Pride will be selling Polish gifts and goods. Several of the organizations plan to have informational booths there, such as TPGS, TPA and PACT. There will be a bar with domestic and Polish beer. Admission is as follows: under 16 years of age are free. 16-59 - \$8.00; 60 and over - \$6.00.

Contact information is 419-276-1600.

Excerpts from PolishToledo.com