

# Alliance News

Toledo-Poznań Alliance quarterly newsletter - Fall 2016

# Polish Cultural Center Fundraiser September 23<sup>rd</sup>

Efforts are underway to raise money for a Polish Cultural Center in northwest Ohio. "This is a three to five year plan," said Tom Waniewski, who is working with various local Polish organizations to raise the money. "Our goal is to raise as much as we can, but in order to do our heritage proud, I believe realistically it will take several million dollars."

The first fundraiser toward that end will be September 23, 2016 at the Premier on Heatherdowns starting at 6 p.m. Please mark your calendars. The night will feature a great dinner and entertainment.

Toledo's Polish communities represented hardworking families with strong religious and business ties. On Lagrange Street alone, two Catholic churches (St. Adalbert and St. Hedwig) mixed with small businesses to create wonderful neighborhoods to raise a family. The goal of the Polish Cultural Center will be to commemorate our families, neighborhoods, businesses, and spirituality for generations to come.

"We've secured a four foot crucifix from St.
Hedwig School, and every time I run into
someone from the old neighborhoods, they're
offering me some of the artifacts from their
family businesses," Waniewski said. The center
will enshrine many of the memorabilia that
identified Polish culture in northwest Ohio. A
location has not been selected. Organizers would
like to find a place with enough land to host a
Polish festival annually. For more information on
the Polish Cultural Center, contact Waniewski at

419-754-3633. And you can visit the web site at PolishCulturalCenter.com

by Tom Waniewski

### **NATO Summit in Warsaw**

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) held its biannual summit on July 8-9, 2016 in Warsaw. The world is a more dangerous place in recent years with Russia's annexation of Crimea, destabilization in eastern Ukraine; terrorist attacks, migrant crisis and cyber-attacks.

NATO held military exercises in Poland earlier this year, and, at the summit, it resolved to strengthen its military presence with four battalions in Poland, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania on a rotational basis in 2017. This response answered the security concerns of the Polish government.

Polish President Andrzej Duda and United States President Barack Obama met privately. Afterwards, President Obama, while respectful of Poland's sovereignty and history, urged the Polish government and its people to nurture democratic values and institutions.

Obama expressed concern over past and proposed laws regarding Poland's Supreme Court (Sad Najwyższy). The conservative Law and Justice Party passed a law in Parliament (Sejm) which would make it almost impossible for its high court to overturn new legislation. The court declared the law unconstitutional, but the government refused to recognize the court's decision.

A new bill would reduce the number of judges necessary to hear cases, order that the court hear cases in the order received (and not allow fast track for timely cases), and permit four judges to delay a ruling for months. In addition, the Duda government did not act upon the nomination of three judges from the previous government.

The United States and many members of the European Union worry about this constitutional crisis. "As your friend and ally, we've urged all parties to work together to sustain Poland's democratic institutions," President Obama said. "That's what makes us democracies, not just by the words written in constitutions or in the fact that we vote in elections, but the institutions we depend on every day, such as rule of law, independent judiciaries and a free press."

By Jackie Konwinski

#### **Ursula Has Moved**

Ursula Zulka Cauffiel, one of the founding members of the Toledo Poznan Alliance, has recently moved. She is now living temporarily with her daughter in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Ursula was a co-founder of the Bedford Polish Culture Club that was very active for many years. She helped raise funds for the orphanage in Poznan and was on the committee for the Dozynki (Harvest Dinner) many years. Ursula was able to procure many ads for the program. She held membership in many local organizations and also the Kosciuszko Foundation.

Ursula probably took many of her favorite Polish items/souvenirs that have a special remembrance to Arizona. But, a large estate sale took place at her former home in Lambertville. We were able to purchase a few items of Polish interest that will be for sale at the Dozynki.

TPA wishes the best for Ursula as she settles in her new residence. Dziekuję Bardzo for everything you have done for us.

by Walter Palicki

#### Centennial Picture IDs

The insert in the last newsletter on the anniversary of the Sisters of St. Francis in Sylvania showed two photos, but the ID was two small to read. The picture with the group of students is Sisters Adeline, Felice, and Bernadette with students in grades 1 through 3 at Little Flower School in Toledo in 1948. The other picture is of Sister Alma Zigment with five sets of twins in her first grade class at SS. Peter and Paul School also in Toledo.

## Polish calendar of events

You have an event that you want the Polonia to know about? Post your events here: http://www.polishtoledo.com/calendar/index.htm

Co emeryt powinien robić przez cały tydzień?

Od poniedziałku do soboty - nic. A w niedziele - odpoczywa.

(find the translation to this in this newsletter.)

# Dożynki 2016

Save the day, the next Dožynki will be on Sunday October 2, 2016. By now you should have received the invitation. Please remember to send your reservation in and bring your family and friends.

## Pope Francis and World Youth Day in Krakow

World Youth Day, an initiative of Saint John Paul II, was held in Krakow, Poland from July 25-31, 2016. Its theme was "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." There were many events for young people who came from 187 countries.

Poles welcomed Pope Francis with warmth and enthusiasm. Ninety-two percent of Poles are Catholic, and forty percent attend church weekly. The pope celebrated Mass in observance of 1,050 years of Polish Christianity at the Jasna Gora Monastery, site of the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

The next day, Pope Francis visited Auschwitz-Birkenau. After touring barracks, the pope sat alone by a tree in quiet reflection. He prayed in the death cell of Father Maksymilian Maria Kolbe who died in place of Franciszek Grajowniczek. He visited with survivors and their families. At Birkenau, he blessed dozens of Poles who had helped the Jews.

Pope Francis visited with many small and large groups of young people. He said Mass at Brzegi, 7 miles east of Krakow for the last two days of the conference. The crowd estimate was 1.6 million pilgrims. He challenged the young pilgrims to love everyone, even enemies, and to lead an activist life. He reminded them that "our real stature" is that "we are God's beloved children, always!"

by Jackie Konwinski

Co emeryt powinien robić caly tydzien? Od poniedziałku do soboty - nic. A w niedzielę – odpoczywa.

Translation: What does a retiree do Monday through Saturday? Nothing, and on Sunday - he rests.

## **Melodies of Poland**

Melodies of Poland is a radio show for your listening pleasure of Polish music and learning about Polish traditions and current news. You can listen to Melodies of Poland each Sunday morning from 8:00 am to 9:00 am on WCWA 1230 on the radio dial. The show is hosted by Tom Sorosiak and Matt Zaleski.

Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson of Toledo recently received an invitation from Mayor Jacek Jaskowiak of Poznan to attend the 60th Anniversary of the Poznan 1956 Protests. Since no one was able to attend this event, Mayor Hicks-Hudson sent a letter and a proclamation. Toledo Poznan Alliance is grateful to Councilman Tom Waniewski for a copy of the Proclamation. On the back of the Proclamation is a copy of a letter from the Mayor of Poznan to the City of Toledo. See the insert.

Our best wishes and prayers to Tom Sorosiak, TPA president, as he regains his health in days to come.

