



Alliance News

Toledo-Poznań Alliance quarterly newsletter – Summer 2018

POLISH CULTURAL CENTER (PCC)

The PCC Advisory Board met and discussed plans to move forward with the construction of the Polish Cultural Center on the land that was donated for this purpose in the Maritime District. On the 12th of July, a final draft of the legal description for the property was finally received. The next step is to have the legal description certified by surveyor and recorded. All of this work has been donated. The Advisory Board continues to meet with prospective donors for the project and encourages all individuals of Polish ancestry to support this endeavor, both verbally and with any dollar amount would like to contribute. Donations can be sent to PCC, P.O.Box 192, Waterville, Ohio 43566.

Tom Sosoriak

TSCI GALA

Toledo Sister Cities International (TSCI), of which Toledo-Poznań Alliance is a member, will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a Gala at the Toledo Club in downtown Toledo on Saturday, September 15, 2018. Sister Ann Francis Klimkowski, OSF is the co-chair of the event, and TPA board member and TSCI board member Susie Novak is assisting. TPA member and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur is honorary chair.

While Sister Ann Francis has been involved with every aspect of planning the celebration from the menu to decoration, she and Ms. Novak have been working diligently to obtain sponsors from corporations, foundations, businesses and individuals in northwest Ohio.

TPA has contributed \$250 for a full page ad. TPA secretary Stan Machosky and Sister Ann Francis have designed a beautiful ad featuring photographs of Poznań. Board members are putting together Polish items for a Gift Basket for the TSCI raffle. Invitations will be sent later this summer.

Sister Ann Francis and the late Ann Galloway and other TPA members helped to found this organization, and TPA has always participated in its activities. Congratulations to the TSCI Board on its 25th anniversary, and best of luck with the Gala.

by Jackie Konwinski

JUNE BOARD MEETING UPDATE ON GALA

by Sr. Ann Francis.

****THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GALA COMMITTEE IS THURSDAY, JUNE 28, AT 5 P.M. AT THE SIDON RESTAURANT ON BANCROFT.**

MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE AN AGENDA AND DETAILS OF DECISIONS TO BE MADE.

A PRIORITY WILL BE THE CREATION OF THE FORMAT FOR THE INVITATIONS TO THE GALA; SCHEDULED FOR MAILING IN JULY.

1. The mailing list was completed and the cards were mailed by early June. (I received mine Wednesday, June 13.)
2. a. Thanks to Hans who arranged postage purchase, sorted the cards by zip code and facilitated mailing with the post office.
b. Thanks to Sara Clark and her crew of graduate assistants at U.T. who greatly assisted in refining and updating the mailing list
c. Thanks to Susie Nowak who helped Sr. Ann Francis check the names and addresses to assure maximum assurance of a clean list.

Tom Sosoriak has asked and received a letter of congratulations to TSCI from the Mayor of Poznan. More on this later.

UPDATE ON THE JEWELRY SALE

The weather determined the fortunes of the Toledo Poznań Alliance's Jewelry Sale on Saturday, May 12 at the Farmbrook Estates Annual Garage Sale in Sylvania. Volunteers Carol Cousino, Jackie Konwinski, Jim Konwinski, Pat Konwinski, Jim Koralewski, Ruth Koons and Nancy Puszczewicz sold bracelets, brooches, earrings, necklaces, men's items, jewelry sets and watches. Dziękuję Bardzo to Tom and Judy Blochowski for allowing TPA to use their garage for the sale and to the generous donors who gave up their treasures.

Over 50 women donated approximately 2,000 pieces of jewelry from classic to modern to vintage to fun designs. Members of the TPA and Toledo Polish Genealogical Society, women who live at Kingston Residence of Sylvania and Senior Star at West Park Place in Toledo together with relatives and friends contributed to promote TPA events. Stan and Marilyn Machosky reached out to the women of Kingston and Senior Star. All jewelry was sorted, put into bags and priced at \$2/bag.

That Saturday was a cold and rainy day for the springtime. Usually, hundreds of people come to the sale on Saturday morning. There are families with babies in stroller and kids on bikes, groups of friends and relatives and traffic jams on the neighborhood streets. The cold, rainy day discouraged people from shopping that Saturday.

The profit so far is \$628.25 from the Farmbrook Estates and another sale on another rainy Friday and Saturday. With jewelry pieces stored in Jackie Konwinski's closets, TPA is looking for other places to sell these treasures and advance the mission of TPA.

By Jackie Konwinski

Save the Date!

Dozynki 2018, Oct. 7, 2018

Franciscan Ctr.

Invitations in early September

From Pat's desk...

On Thursday June 29, a group of us from Toledo Polish Genealogy Society and Toledo Poznan Alliance took a bus trip to Hamtramck. Stopped at Orchard lake for lunch and took a tour of the Chapel. Stopped at the Grotto to say the Rosary.

Preceded then to Hamtramck for some shopping. Shopped at the Polish Art Center, Srodek's and of course, the New Palace Bakery. My oh my, what an array of pastries, like you have not seen before. No other like it.

Later stopped to eat dinner at the Polish Village Cafe for a delicious meal.

Another trip is being talked about for October to take a bus trip to Cleveland.

Pat Konwinski

TPA Activities

Polish Festival. In May of this year we were a part of the Festival that was held at Club 16 in Holland, Ohio. In place of the Lagrange Street Festival, this Festival was moved to its new location, as it was a more safe and secure location, with more than adequate parking. TPA served potato pancakes, which were a huge hit with most guests who stopped by to purchase some. Some guests thoughts that they were too vinegary. Did you try them, what do you think? Should we do this again next year?

Polish Picnic. Then, later that month there was the Polish Picnic which was held on the grounds of the Oak Shade Grove, Oregon, Ohio, where the annual German-American Festival has it's festival. This event was very well attended, with plenty of Polish food and accompanied by Polish bands, Echoes of Poland as well as other entertainment.

Orphanage. As you well know, for many years we felt honored that we were in a position to sponsor the Orphanage in Poznan, our sister city. However, a couple of years ago the orphanage went through many changes. The management

has changed, their name has changed, and because of these changes we lost contact with them and were not able to contribute at Christmas time like we did in the past. When we finally were able to reconnect with them a few months ago, we took action, and through a contact of one of our former Board members, Ewa Jankun, originally from Poznan, we gave her \$750 in cash along with a letter addressed to the new director, Sr. Stanislaw Skurzok, to be delivered to the orphanage in June. Mission was accomplished. We have received a thank you letter from Sr. Skurzok, along with a certificate of appreciation with gratitude and support of their organization, along with several pictures of the children. We will share those pictures with you at the next get-together, which will be the Dozynki. The orphanage has a new name, it's now called a Special Behavioral Institute, in the name of Saint Ludwika. We are told that the facility is not just for orphans, but also for those with disabilities. Also, they now have a Facebook where we can view their facilities, the children, as well as their activities. Here is their Facebook address, www.facebook.com/SOW-Mariacka. And their internet address is: www.sow-mariacka-poznan.pl

Activities Coming Up

The 6th annual St. Hyacinth, St. Charles Polish Picnic, 720 Parkside Blvd., Toledo, Ohio, will take place on Saturday, August 11, and Sunday, August 12. It's free admission and there will be plenty of Polish food on both days. On Saturday there will be Czelusta Park-All-Stars performing, and on Sunday, Badinov will perform. So, there will be plenty of food as well as music for your dancing pleasure along with raffles, kids' games and more.

Maybe Yes, Maybe No...

by Denny Kutylowski

This fall Poland will be celebrating 100 years of independence as the Second Polish Republic noting that 123 years of partitions ended November 11, 1918. Wanting to preserve national sovereignty and freedoms especially in the face of growing worries about perceived Russian threats, Poland's government

has created an official proposal seeking permanent U.S. military troops in Poland.

The Polish defense minister Mariusz Blaszczak said there is a "clear and present need for a permanent U.S. armored division deployed in Poland," and is willing to provide financial backing to host the soldiers that could reach \$2 billion. "Establishing such a force is necessary to present an unequivocal challenge and deterrence to Russia's increasingly emboldened and dangerous posture that threatens Europe," according to the defense ministry.

The document also references the Trump administration's 2017 National Security Strategy, which identified Russian aggression in Georgia in 2008 and in Ukraine in 2014 as a key threat to the United States and global stability. Poland's position is, "An increased U.S. permanent presence in Poland will give America the strategic flexibility it needs to confront and deter these threats."

Currently, the U.S. Army has two combat brigades in Germany and Italy. In Central and Eastern Europe, the U.S. Army maintains a brigade-size element through a costly rotational presence based in the United States but sent abroad on nine-month deployments.

Further supporting Poland's request is the fact NATO's Joint Force Training Center is already headquartered in Bydgoszcz. This means that integration of U.S. personnel into the existing NATO command and control structure should be seamless.

The proposal's public disclosure by Poland's Onet news agency comes roughly a month before NATO leaders will gather in Brussels for a joint summit. Concurrently, the overture towards the United States may spark a reaction from Russia, according to Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

"In general, when we see gradual expansion of NATO military structure towards our borders ... this certainly does not contribute to security and stability on the continent in any way," Peskov told a Moscow-controlled news agency.

Pentagon officials were tight-lipped concerning whether the offer would eventually be accepted. "No decision has been made, and the content of these discussions will remain private," according to Eric Pahon, a Pentagon spokesman.