



Alliance News

Toledo-Poznań Alliance quarterly newsletter – Winter 2018

-Jackie's book review...

Caroline, Kasia and Herta

In her first novel, *Lilac Girls*, Martha Hall Kelly relates the stories of three different women whose lives intersect during World War II in Europe. Caroline Ferriday volunteers at the French embassy in New York City arranging visas and sending clothing, toys and school supplies to French orphans, but her work is never-ending and dangerous with the Nazi invasion of France in 1940. Kasia Kuzmerick works in Lublin, Poland and dreams of her teenage boyfriend, but her first assignment as a courier for the Polish resistance ends in disaster. Herta Oberheuser looks for a job after completing medical school in Düsseldorf, Germany, but the only available position is at a reeducation camp for women in Ravensbruck.

The three women are based on real people. Kelly meticulously researched them in New York, Connecticut and Washington, D.C. plus their native countries to create believable and well-developed characters in this *New York Times* bestseller. Caroline Ferriday was a debutante and actress in New York City who strove to always make moral decisions in her work and personal life. Kasia and her sister Zuzanna are based on Nina and Krystyna Iwanska who were operated on at Ravensbruck and on the experiences and qualities of the seventy-four Polish women at the camp. Dr. Oberheuser, the only female doctor at Ravensbruck, operated on the women's legs and feet to simulate battlefield wounds and treatments.

Kelly traces these lives over twenty years with the Ravensbruck atrocities as the unifying event. This is a novel; Kelly's characters and research take a second look at the Good War from a

feminine viewpoint and reveal stories of love, moral dilemmas, freedom, redemption and second chances.

FILL THE BAG

Toledo Poznań Alliance is taking a new approach to fundraising with a **USED JEWELRY SALE**. Here's how it works. You and your family and friends **FILL THE BAG** with old jewelry – earrings, bracelets, necklaces, brooches, rings and watches. TPA wants costume jewelry and jewelry you no longer wear. Save your diamonds, pearls and other valuable gems for your family.

Give the bag to any board member or call Jackie Konwinski for pickup at 419.882.5045. The deadline is April 15, 2018. The sale – at \$2 per item – will be held on Friday, May 11 from 5 to 8 p.m. and on Saturday, May 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 3748 Hampstead Drive in Sylvania. Hampstead is off of Sylvania Avenue near the Sylvania Senior Center. The sale will be part of the Farmbrook Estates Annual Garage Sale, which attracts hundreds of people.

All proceeds from **FILL THE BAG** benefit the PACT/TPA Scholarship Fund and the Saint Louis Special Needs Center in Poznań, Poland. Dziękuję bardzo for contributing and attending.

Board of Trustee Members Needed

The TPA Board of Trustee's meets almost every month. As the current Treasurer and past-president, I am aware of the fact that many of the Board members and membership is beginning to reach an age that makes participation more difficult. I am asking that all members reach out to their children and grandchildren (that are adults) to become active members and also consider being applying to serve on the Board of

Trustees. With the anticipation of a Polish Cultural Center being built, it would be a great time to become active and help with decision making for the TPA and its involvement with the PCC. It would be tragic to see the TPA cease to exist because of lack of youthful participation from members children and grandchildren.

Polish Festival Volunteers Needed

The Toledo-Poznan Alliance will be represented at the Polish Festival in Holland, Ohio in May. The Board of Trustees have tentatively agreed to have a tent to sell authentic Polish potato pancakes. This is a 3 day festival and will require volunteers to do various jobs in selling the potato pancakes. Please feel free to contact Tom Sorosiak (419-832-4333) to offer your service for a few hours on any one day or all three days. Free Admission for all workers. Also, it would be very nice if our membership would bring their children or grandchildren (over the age of 18) to help with this endeavor. Remember, all profits from the sale of the potato pancakes goes to the TPA for funding their scholarships and donation to the Polish orphanage.

PCC UP-DATE

The Polish Cultural Center continues to move closer to becoming a reality! The Advisory Board for the Polish Cultural Center meets each month. Representatives from the Toledo-Poznan Alliance, Toledo Area Polka Society, Toledo Polish Genealogy Society, P.A.C.T., Echos of Poland, and PCC met and agreed to pursue the acquisition of a parcel of property in the Marina District of Toledo. A written proposal was drafted by Tom Waniewski and Tom Sorosiak and presented to the attorney representing the owner of the property. The property would allow easy access from the suburbs of Toledo, provide ample land to have a Polish Festival, with parking availability. It is the PCC Advisory Board's hopes that a formal media announcement can be made in the next month with the specific location.

From that point it will be a matter of getting everyone of Polish ancestry and local businesses and corporations behind this endeavor with financial donations. Please consider making donations to the PCC at P.O. Box 291, Waterville, Ohio 43566. Your financial support is needed and very much appreciated.

Attention TPA members

Our annual meeting for all members will take place on Sunday, March 18, 2018 from 2 to 4 p.m., in the Board Room of the Franciscan Center. On the agenda will be the Election of Officers, 2018 events, and it will be a catered lunch. Would you like to run for an office? How about serving on the Board of Trustees and with your voice help shape our organization?

Wesołego Alleluja!

With Easter just a few weeks away, we must remember our beloved Polish tradition on Holy Saturday and that is Świąconka, or the blessing of Easter baskets. Below is not the typical Easter dinner, but it definitely looks quite perfect.



A perfect Easter dinner