



Alliance News

Toledo-Poznań Alliance quarterly newsletter – Winter 2020

Dear Toledo-Poznań Alliance Members,

This year, Toledo-Poznań Alliance celebrated its 30th anniversary. To commemorate and celebrate that organizational meeting at Saint Hedwig School, we have a Christmas gift for you - "Polish Christmas Customs, Carols and Cuisine," a booklet produced by the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. TPA member Tom Jesionowski, PRCUA District Five National Representative, requested these booklets and generously donated them to TPA. We hope you enjoy the traditions of the Feasts of Saint Nicholas, Wigilia and Christmas together with carols and kolędy and traditional recipes.

The Board of Trustees sent a memorial donation to Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur in memory of her brother Stephen who recently passed away. Marcy has done so much for TPA over the years, and we appreciate her continued support for our organization. Another donation was sent to Specjalny Ośrodek Wychowawczy im. Sw. Ludwika w. Poznaniu (Saint Louise Special Education Center of Poznań) to help the sisters care for the children. Lastly, Susie Nowak and Jackie Konwinski gathered crafts and Brieschke's Bakery Halloween sugar cookies into a basket, and Susie delivered it to the Sisters of Saint Francis at Our Lady of Grace Hall, an assisted living home. The gifts were in honor of Sister Ann Francis Klimkowski for her years of service to TPA; a Christmas basket will be delivered.

The Trustees thank those members who paid their dues for 2020. If you paid dues in 2020, you will not have to pay in 2021. If you did not pay this year, please see the back page to send in dues.

We have missed seeing you and talking with you this year at our Annual Meeting and especially at Dożynki. Many of you have become our good friends. With the development of a vaccine for Covid 19, we hope to celebrate with you at the meeting, Dożynki and Wigilia in 2021.

Ursula Zulka Cauffiel

Sr, Ann Francis Klimkowski

Stan Machosky Susan Nowak

David Chelminski

Jackie Konwinski

Walter Palicki

Kathy Grabel

Pat Konwinski

Tom Sorosiak

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WESOŁYCH ŚWIĄT BOŻEGO NARODZENIA

Polish Hamburgers

In my volunteering of sorting book donations for possible resale, I always look at certain books and check the index under Poland or Polish. I came across this recipe and thought it might be of interest to our readers. Enjoy!

Ingredients:

½ pound ground lean beef
½ pound ground veal
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon instant minced onion
¼ teaspoon celery salt
¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
1/16 teaspoon ground nutmeg
¾ teaspoon fresh lemon juice
1 large egg, beaten
1 tablespoon soft butter or margarine
1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper

Directions:

Combine the first 9 ingredients. Mix well. Shape into 4 patties. Mix butter or margarine with remaining black pepper. Spread an equal amount over each patty. Oven broil or pan fry until meat is done, turning to brown both sides. Serve in warmed hamburger buns, or as the meat course with potatoes and other vegetables.

Source: *The spice cookbook*, by Avanelle Day and Lillie Stuckey. David White Co., c1964.

Walter Palicki

Stan Machosky recommends listening to Mazowsze, Poland's best song and dance folk group, at this address on YouTube for kolędy.

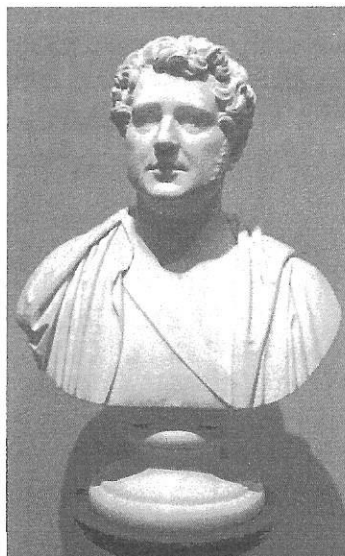
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQeMAGFYHuo>



Count Artur Potocki

Artur Stanislaw Potocki (1787-1832), a Polish nobleman, was the son of Julia Lubormirska and Jan Potocki. His father owned vast estates across Poland, was very wealthy, and traveled extensively about Europe, the Mediterranean, and elsewhere. Jan and his family spent some time in France where Artur was born in Paris on May 27, 1787.

Count Potocki was a much admired member of international society and belonged to this great Polish aristocratic family. Artur was owner of the Krzeszowice and Lancut estates. He married Zofia Branicka in 1816. Artur became an officer in the Polish Army and aide de-camp of Prince Jozef Poniatowski. He was awarded the Virtuti Militari. It is Poland's highest military decoration for heroism and courage. Another award he received was the Legion of Honour, the highest French order of merit for military and civil conduct. He died in Vienna on January 30, 1832 and was buried in the Potocki Chapel in the Wawel Cathedral, Krakow.



The marble bust pictured was executed by Bertel Thorvaldsen (Danish, 1770-1844). He was the most famous living artist of his day and was a leading exponent of Neoclassicism. The portrait bust shows the tousled hair and sideburns that reflect the current fashion.

The finely textured finish of the marble "catches the light". The family commissioned it as a memorial for their estate.

Sources: Toledo Museum of Art and Wikipedia.

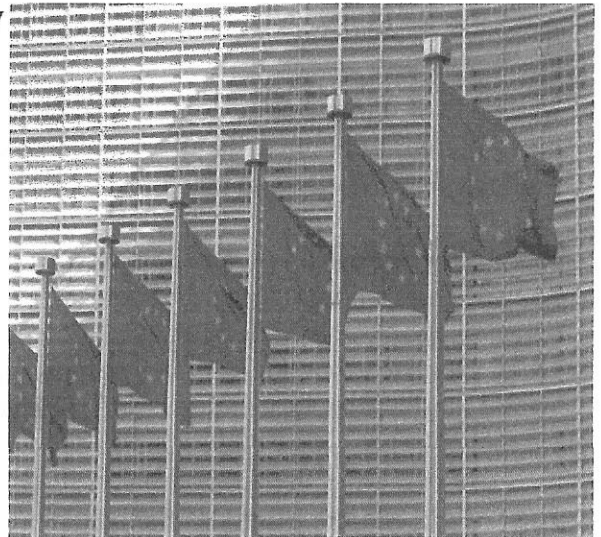
The marble portrait bust is owned by the Toledo Museum of Art. Stop by someday and admire it!

Walter Palicki

European Union decides about Poland and the rule of law

The European Union decided that any funds from the European Union budget and funds from the coronavirus relief reserve would only be allocated to members that observed the rule of law. This has implications for Poland because President Andrzej Duda and Law and Justice Party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski packed the Supreme Court of Poland with judges loyal to the Law and Justice Party and limited the freedom of the press.

Polish leaders met with Hungarian counterparts to form a society to fight against the “suppression of opinions by liberal ideology.” Hungarian President Viktor Orban used emergency powers so that he can rule by decree during the coronavirus pandemic. He also reduced the independence of the judiciary branch and the freedom of the press.



European Union flags by Guillaume Périgois

Aleksandra Shelton switches to the United States for fencing in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

Aleksandra Shelton fenced in four Olympic Games representing Poland. Now 38, she won a case in the Court of Arbitration for Sport to switch to the United States fencing team for 2021 games.



This is the background. Shelton has dual citizenship; she was born in Poland, but she married an American serviceman. When she returned to Poland after the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Polish fencing authorities cut back their support of Shelton because she was too old and she should stay home and take care of her baby. The officials denied such claims. Shelton decided to compete as an American in 2021.

Olympic rules state that an athlete must wait three years to compete in an Olympics after changing countries, unless the athlete gets a waiver. The Polish fencing federation granted such a waiver in January of 2019, but the Polish Olympic Committee did not. In March of 2019, Shelton told Polish reporters the Polish federation did not support her and the federation asked for \$50,000 worth of sporting equipment for the waiver. The federation warned of a lawsuit unless Shelton apologized. Shelton appealed in January 2020, and, in September, the court said that her remarks to reporters were irrelevant and the Polish Olympic Committee had agreed to the change and had granted the waiver.

Historically, women's eligibility and concerns have been limited. The Shelton ruling is a great example of a woman standing up for her rights and freedoms in the Olympic games.

Young people demonstrate against government and total abortion ban

ZYCIE - LIFE Abortion has become a controversial topic in Poland as it is in many countries.

Poland's law permits abortion for fetal abnormalities, threats to a woman's health and incest or rape. In 2019, there were 1,100 abortions performed in the country with 1,074 for fetal abnormalities. That number does not include Polish women who have an abortion abroad or who choose an illegal abortion.

WYBÓR - CHOICE

On October 22, the Constitutional Tribunal ruled for an almost total ban on abortions. In response, hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated peacefully in the streets of Warsaw and other major cities including Poznań. They carried signs saying, "This is war" and "I wish I could abort my government." They were also upset by the threats to democracy and the managing of the pandemic.

According to Polish law, the government had to publish the ruling for it to be legal, but the government has not done so because of the protests. Party leader and Deputy Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski asked supporters to 'defend Poland, defend patriotism and defend Polish churches.' President Andrzej Duda proposed that the law only permit abortions for "lethal" abnormalities. Analysts stated the idea would not pass because neither side is satisfied. Meanwhile, the demonstrations continue.

Last of all, it's the plight of the minks

Kaszewska Wola, Poland

The Polish Parliament is considering a bill that would ban mink farming and enact protections for many animals, including no wild animals in circuses, limiting dogs on chains and limiting the ritual slaughter of animals for meat. The bill is in response to a public outcry over a television documentary co-produced by Open Cages, an animal rights group, on mink farming. It showed terrible conditions for the minks – filthy cages and minks fighting each other.

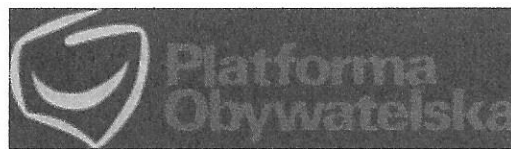
European Mink



Poland is the third largest mink producer in the world with 6.5 million furs a year, behind China and Denmark. Polls display strong support for the ban. Deputy Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski is an animal lover. It was national news when his cat, Alik, died. With a poor environmental record, Kaczynski also supports the measure to appeal to younger voters. His party, Law and Justice and the chief opposition party, Civic Platform, back this bill.



Law and Justice Party



Civic Platform Party



Agreement Party



United Poland Party

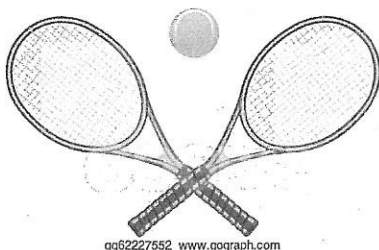
However, there is opposition from Polish far-right conservative parties, i.e., the Agreement and United Poland parties and, of course, from mink farmers. This means Kaczynski, President Andrzej Duda and Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki must deal with opposition within the governing conservative coalition. Jacek Zarzycki, president of the Association of Beef Cattle Breeders and producers, stated the bill means his members would lose 30 per cent of their income. He commented further, "We will lose the best export markets for Polish beef, which is the export star of Polish agriculture." Szczepan Wojcik and his four brother have the majority of mink farms. Wojcik believes this difference of opinion is part of the cultural war in Poland.

NEWS from POLAND



Paris, France – Iga Świątek Wins French Open

Iga Świątek is the first Polish tennis player to win a Grand Slam title anywhere. She did this by defeating number 4 seed and Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin, 6-4, 6-1 at the Philippe Chatrier Court during the French Open in early October. She won with a game characterized by a strong forehand and angled ground strokes.



gg62227552 www.gograph.com

Świątek wasn't expecting to win the French Open. She is the youngest French Open women's single winner since 18-year-old Monica Seles won in 1992. Two years ago, she won the Wimbledon junior singles and the French Open junior doubles. She was number 54 seed at the start of the tournament, she had just graduated from high school and she was taking a "gap year" to see how she would do on the Women's Tennis Association tour. This win means she will delay her university education.

While enjoying her victory, Świątek remembered Agnieszka Radwanska who won 20 singles titles and the final championship on the tour five years ago. She believes she has to be consistent, and she has a lot of work to do before she is the best Polish tennis player.

Paris, France – President Duda Gets Coronavirus

President Andrzej Duda of Poland went into quarantine after a positive test for Covid-19 in late October. Blazej Spychalski, a government spokesman, said the President was feeling well and a list of the president's contacts would be compiled. Jaroslaw Kaczynski also went into quarantine after being in contact with an infected person. The Polish de facto leader and head of the ruling Law and Justice Party was feeling well and continued to work from home.

President Duda had visited the national stadium in Warsaw, which is being converted into a field hospital with 500 beds, to consult with site managers. Wearing a mask and gloves, he also met Iga Świątek, the first Polish winner of the French Open. Mr Kaczynski did not wear a mask during the visit, and he had removed his mask while being sworn in as deputy prime minister on October 6.

As of December 1, Poland has 999,924 cases, 597,589 recoveries and 17,599 deaths according to Corona Tracker. Poland avoided the first wave of this virus by mandating a lockdown in March. Poland has an underfunded health care system. The stadium conversion and temporary virus hospitals are being built in major cities. Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki announced the following restrictions:

- cafes, bars, restaurants, gyms and swimming pools are closed
- masks are required for everyone outside the home
- remote teaching for older primary school children, high schools and universities is required
- people over 70 should stay home
- children up to 16 are not allowed outside from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. without adult supervision.
- socializing in groups is limited to 4 or less.

(NEWS from POLAND continued on insert.)

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Mission Statement

The purpose of the Toledo-Poznań Alliance is to foster the links of friendship and knowledge between people of the greater Toledo, Ohio area and Poznan, Poland area; to foster as a consequence of such friendship and knowledge a continuing relationship of mutual concern; to carry out an exchange in such fields as education, technology sports, health and other areas of interest; to provide appropriate aid and comfort, education and mutual understanding.

Membership

To be directly involved, we invite you to become a member by sending in the information below along with your contribution.

Single adult \$10 Family \$15

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone/Email _____

Toledo-Poznań Alliance P. O. Box 2555

Toledo, Ohio 43606

TPA Committees

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Walter Palicki and Tom Sorosiak

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POLISH CULTURAL CENTER NEWS

The November meeting of the Polish Cultural Center Advisory Board was held using ZOOM because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Progress on a ground breaking for the PCC building has slowed drastically because of the Board's inability to meet with individuals that are crucial to starting. The PCC is conscious of the commitment that it is making once construction begins as to being able to meet monthly expenses without having income from events at the PCC.

Donations continue to come in and it wants to stress that the matching money from a donor has been extended until the end of the year. It is very close to having income of \$50,000 for the matching and encourages TPA members and their family and friends to make a donation of any amount. The account is very close to having \$200,000 in it and that would be enough to feel confident to start building.

The Board has had meetings with several corporate entities, and it is their hope that they will donate a major portion of the money for the construction. We are very pleased to report that Sister Jane Mary Sorosiak has completed the mural for the entrance of the PCC building. It highlights the Polonia in Toledo in every aspect. It is absolutely beautiful and measures 12' x 6' to cover an entire wall. The mural costing \$12,000 was paid for by a donor. Please continue to talk about this project so that we can celebrate two major events in 2021 - the end of COVID and the PCC ground breaking.

Donations can be sent to PCC, P. O. Box 291,
Waterville, Ohio, 43566. Any questions can be
directed to Tom Sorosiak at 419-832-4333.

Tom Sorosiak