



Alliance News

Toledo-Poznań Alliance quarterly newsletter – Winter 2013

Dozynki 2013

We had a fabulous Dozynki this year. With attendance of 124 guests, a performance by the Echoes of Poland Youth Group, entertainment by Millies's Polka Band, and a marvelous Polish style dinner, it was a huge success. Sing-a-long led by two guests from the Franciscan Center had many of us singing *Black Madonna*, *My Chcemy Boga*, and *Serdeczna Matko*, favorite Polish hymns. But the real winner was the first course of our meal, the mushroom soup, Ann Galloway's family recipe. Upon a few requests from our guests, I am publishing the recipe for the mushroom soup on the next page. Ann Galloway gave us her permission to print her family recipe. Thank you, Ann!

A heartfelt thank you to Katie Macaro, who works with us every year on the Dozynki booklet for our program, and every year the program looks wonderful, full of art, and other little interesting things to make the booklet very appealing and makes you want to read it from cover to cover. THANK YOU, KATIE and Bóg Zapłać! Also a huge thank you goes to Ursula Cauffiel, who tirelessly solicits the many advertisements you see in our program from local businesses, primarily of Polish heritage. Those businesses pay a fee to have their advertisements in the program and this helps us offset our expenses to put the Dozynki on year after year. THANK YOU, URSULA! The Silent Auction headed this year by Jackie Konwinski is also a very popular segment of this event, because almost all items that are auctioned are made in Poland. THANK YOU JACKIE, and WALTER PALICKI for your expert assistance, and for a very successful silent auction this year. Thanks also goes to all the board members who contributed in one way or another to

the success of this event. Without you we couldn't possibly do this year after year.

This year we honored several guests, one was Sharon Zablocki for the 40 years of continuing the Polka Party, a radio program. We also honored Mrs. Elizabeth Frankowska for her unbelievable survival in Siberia and other countries affected by the Second World War. She and her family were forced to keep moving from country to country under harsh conditions and hunger. Her father as well as several of her siblings died because of hunger and disease. Her written account of her and the family survival was made available to the Dozynki guests. Another guest that was honored, Emily Howard, the winner of this year's scholarship recipient in the amount of \$750. The participating students were asked to write an essay on what a Polish heritage means to them. Emily is a current student at Lourdes University. The scholarship money was made available by funds from PACT and TPA. Here are some pictures from Dozynki



Sandra Drabik, Kathy Grabel Mrs. Lasek



Beautiful dancers



Sharon Zablocki

Jazz Group

Our Board member, Walter Palicki, was contacted by the Office of the Mayor of Poznan, Poland, that Poznan has a Jazz group called the Dixie Company, who would like to come to Toledo to perform. We are looking into this possibility and also for venues for them to perform. If you know of any Jazz groups in Toledo or the surrounding areas, please let us know. We would like to link any Toledo jazz group with the group from Poland and have them perform in Toledo. This is exactly the kind of activity we want to support, as it is stated in our mission statement. The group from Poznan apparently were the organizers of a fall jazz festival in Poznan that was hugely successful. They are already booked to perform in Sacramento, California in late May, 2014. We could have them come to Toledo either before they go to California, or after. At this point we are in the early stages of planning. We welcome your suggestions.

Mushroom soup

1.5 to 2 lbs. mushrooms, at least ¼ lb. being the white or regular type, the rest use the exotic ones, such as portabella or other exotic type, all should be cleaned and chopped,

6-7 Tbs. melted butter, sauté all mushrooms, except save some for garnish. (you should have 8 cups of mushrooms)

Add 2 3 cup finely chopped celery,

Add 1- ¼ cup finely diced white part of leeks, cook till softened, stir occasionally,

Add ½ cup of flour, cook about 4 min. stir constantly,

Add 5 cups chicken broth,

1 sprig fresh thyme or ½ to ¾ tsp. dried, cook 5 min.

If using fresh thyme, discard at this point,

Puree soup by using immersible mixer,

Return to medium heat, but do not boil,

Add 1-1/2 slightly heated heavy cream,

Add squirt of fresh lemon juice,

Add salt and white pepper to taste,

When fully heated, serve with garnish

(8 servings)

Honor student

Our members, Alicja and Piotr Jakimczuk, are so very proud of their son, Piotr. He graduated summa cum laude last spring with a bachelor of science in pharmacy degree from the University of Toledo College of Pharmacy, and has already started graduate school last summer pursuing a doctor of pharmacy degree. You might remember the younger Piotr who performed with the Echoes of Poland dance group at our Dozynki in the past, when he was just a teenager. Another time he performed a piano recital where he focused on the music of Chopin, a Polish composer. CONGRATULATIONS TO PIOTR and much success in your career.

often when pieces of unmarked silver appeared, it was impossible to distinguish the country of origin.

The Stwasz family in Poland exerted great influence on the decoration of ecclesiastical and secular plate, and their ability as masters of their art was finally recognized when they were appointed as goldsmiths to the Polish court. Krakow, the old capital of Poland, attracted many rich merchants and it became widely known as an important gem center. This naturally caused great prosperity among those displaying artistic talents, and it was in this city that Polish silversmithing reached its greatest heights. Nearly all the plate remaining from these times is ecclesiastical as only those pieces stored in churches escaped destruction in the horrible siege of the city of Krakow in 1655 by the Swedes. Lemberg and Vilna are also known as towns where silver was produced, but neither attained the fame of Krakow. Throughout the political history of Poland and its ever changing government, the influence of foreign artists on the designs in silversmithing is recognized.

Source: *The Book of old silver*, by Seymour B. Wyler. c2013. Skyhorse Publishing.

Trip to Poland

A few people have inquired about the next trip to Poland. It has been almost two years since our last tour of Poland, so it's time for another trip. If there are more people out there who are interested in a tour of Poland in Summer of 2014, please let me know. Also, tell me what part of Poland you would like to visit. Once we have a group and tentative sights you want to see, we can then organize a tour. Don't delay, let's go while you can still travel. For more information, contact Kathy Grabel at 419-385-8516 or email: bokat@buckeye-express.com

Membership renewal application is attached to this newsletter. Please renew your TPA membership promptly. Thank you.

"German Chancellor Angela Merkel's Polish Roots Traced—to POZNAŃ!"

By David Chelminski

As has been widely acknowledged, modern genetics shows that every human on planet Earth is a member of a single human race or family, so that each of us is at least one-fiftieth cousin of anyone else, anywhere from South African "Bush" people to the most isolated (in-bred) islanders such as the Nordic Icelanders. This means that it can be proven statistically that anyone anywhere on the planet who lived at least one thousand years (roughly twenty generations) ago who survived to have children whose line has not died out is a direct ancestor of each of us—so obviously this means that anyone you will ever meet is already a descendant of the mid-ninth century Polish wheelwright and beekeeper Piast who was chosen to succeed Popiel at Kruszwica in Wielkopolska (Great Poland), establishing Poland's first historic national dynasty and thus can claim the proud heritage which is celebrated in song as the "królewski szczepek piastowy" (royal clan of Piast).

For a closer and much more recent connection, journalist Stefan Kornelius has reportedly revealed in a new biography *Angela Merkel—The Chancellor and Her World* that Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany since November 22, 2005, is the granddaughter of Ludwig Kazmierczak (properly pronounced "KAHZ-MYEHRR'-CHAHK"), an illegitimate child of Anna Kazmierczak and Ludwig Wojciechowski born in 1896 in Toledo's Polish Sister City of Poznań (the historical capital of the Wielkopolska region) and raised in the care of his mother and her later husband Ludwig Rychlicki. According to Wikipedia, Mrs. Merkel, born Angela Dorothea Kasner in Hamburg, West Germany on July 17, 1954 (she has kept the surname of her first husband, whom she divorced in 1982) is the daughter of Berlin native Horst Kasner (whose parents had reportedly Germanized their surname by the time he was four, around 1930) and Herlind Jentzsch, born in 1928 in the famous historic

Polish town of Gdańsk (then officially the Free City of Danzig).

Mrs. Merkel, Germany's first female Chancellor, has traveled to Poland several times since the 1970s, when she was a citizen of Communist East Germany. *New Statesman* named her among "The World's 50 Most Influential Figures" in 2010, and U.S. President Barack Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom on February 15, 2011.

Many Thanks to Russell Pawlowski, former President of the Toledo Polish Genealogical Society, for alerting us to this story.

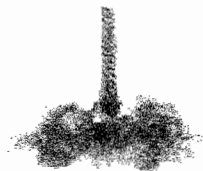
Polish American Concert Band

By Pat Konwinski

I recently had the privilege of volunteering at the Ohio (Historic) Theatre on Lagrange St. This building has been renovated in many ways and has the state of the art media equipment. Many other things have been redone such as the stage, but there are still some things to update.

The Polish American Concert Band decided to have their 27th Annual Fall Concert at this historic theatre. They played a variety of music from classical, Christmas, Jazz and contemporary. Some of our Toledo Poznan Alliance members were in attendance such as Sister Ann Francis, Walter Palicki, Jackie Konwinski and her family to name a few. This day brought a lot of nostalgia for me, for as a small girl whose dad grew up in the Lagrange area, many times on holidays I would go with my cousins to the Ohio Theatre to watch a Holiday movie.

By the way, they will have a showing of Holiday movies every Saturday in December. Take yourself and your family and enjoy.



Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia!

By Stan Machosky

That is the way to say "Merry Christmas" in Polish. Among Poles, wherever they are, the most beloved and beautiful of all traditional festivities is that of Christmas Eve. It is then that the Wigilia (vee-GHEEL-yah), or Christmas Eve Dinner is served. Wigilia is a solemnly celebrated occasion and arouses deep feelings of kinship among family members and friends.

The Polish American Community of Toledo (PACT) presents the 2013 Wigilia Celebration to be held on Sunday, December 22, 2013 at 5:30 P.M. in Olivet Lutheran Church's Christian Life Center in Sylvania.

The Wigilia celebration includes:

Lighting of the First Candle,

Reading Bible Passage of the Birth of Christ,

Sharing Oplatek,

An eleven (11) course Meatless Meal of traditional Polish foods,

Explanation of Wigilia traditions,

Singing traditional Polish Christmas Carols (Kolędy).

Reserve your seat today by calling Tim Paluszak at 419-410-6167 or Stan Machosky 419-882-6625 by December 15th! PRICE: PACT members: \$15.00, non-members: \$20.00, children 12 and under: \$10.00.

Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia to all our TPA members and their families



A young man with so many talents is sure to succeed in life and we are very proud of him that he is Polish and a TPA member.



Alicja, Piotr and Piotr Sr.

Christmas in Poland

By Walter Palicki

St. Nicholas Day on December 6th actually begins the festivities for Christmas. An adult would dress up like a bishop and distribute presents and sweets to the good children and sticks to the naughty ones. **Wigilia** (Christmas Eve) is the most important day for the Polish people. Many Poles take the day off from work or leave early to observe this traditional dinner. Once the first star is seen, the children usually are on the lookout for it, the family can then sit down to the dinner. The meal consists of eleven courses and none with meat. Marinated herring, carp, and pierogi stuffed with mushrooms and sauerkraut, as well as soup and poppy seed cakes are popular dishes.

An extra place is set at the table for an unexpected guest (Jesus) or ancestral spirits who some claim to be present at this dinner. Hay is placed under a white table cloth to represent the stable where Jesus was born. Pieces of hay pulled from under the table cloth are said to predict one's longevity, a forthcoming marriage or the size of the harvest. Presents from St. Nicholas are also exchanged and after the meal, the faithful are off to Midnight Mass. Meat can be eaten the next day.

There is a popular belief that the animals can speak at midnight, but who knows? Everyone should be at Mass.

Christmas Day is usually spent quietly with the family and it is the first of twelve days of Christmas. A baked goose is usually the main course. Also Bigos (Hunter's stew) is a very popular dish served on the second day of Christmas.

December 26th (St. Stephen's Day) the second day of Christmas and an official holiday, is when many Poles visit friends or family. They may also visit churches to see the Nativity scenes and other displays such as colorful castles made of tin paper. New Year's Eve is party time especially in the larger cities. Formal balls are held in Warsaw, but there is also entertaining at home with a huge feast and plenty of vodka and champagne.

Source: Poland by Greg Allen (Culture Smart series)

Silversmithing in Poland

By Walter Palicki

The general destruction of art in Poland was deplorable, particularly after the invasions of the Mongols in 1241, 1259, and again in 1287. They effected the wholesale slaughter of the efforts of the earliest Polish artists, to the extent that practically no pieces remain. Poland was producing beautiful silver as early as the year 1000 but, unfortunately, all that has been left to posterity are two silver chalices. One of these bears the date 1166, and is considered to be the finest example of early silver known today. For many years after the Mongolian invasions, art suffered a great depression and very few efforts in any artistic direction were attempted. However, under Casimir the Great, the country again evinced a new interest in silver smithing and many unusual statues and reliquaries were made. The forms on monstrosities during the fifteenth century were dominated by the styles of the Gothic architecture, and this lack of originality is found throughout Polish smithing. Until the middle of the fifteenth century, bohemian influences are noted, but from that time on the characteristics of the Nuremberg craftsmen were predominant. The dynastic connection between Hungary and Poland may be quickly detected in the similarity of their art, and

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Mission Statement: The purpose of the Toledo-Poznan 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 others and provide to one another the appropriate aid and comfort, education and mutual understanding.

Membership information:

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

Senior Citizen / Student - \$ 5
Single adult - \$ 10
Family - \$ 15
Small Bus./Non-profit Org.-\$ 50
Corporate -\$100

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TPA Committees:

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(Alliance News)**

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Contributing writers: Walter Palicki, Pat Konwinski, Stan Machosky, David Chelminski

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Dozynki 2014 Committee –

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