



Alliance News

Toledo-Poznań Alliance quarterly newsletter – Summer 2014

A CULTURAL VISIT FROM POZNAN, POLAND

In the fall of 2013, the Toledo Poznan Alliance was contacted by Agnieszka Sygula-Pienkowska and Andrzej Sobon, representatives of the Mayor's Office in Poznan, Poland, that the Dixie Company from that city, would participate in a week-long concert of Jazz music in Sacramento, CA during the month of May. They would also like to stop in Toledo to perform here if we can accommodate them.

Subsequent messages from Ania Pierzanowska of the Polish Cultural Institute in New York City and Piotr Soroka, a representative of the Dixie Company Band, confirmed that the group could stop over in Toledo on the way to California on May 13 to 16, 2014. The Toledo Poznan Alliance had numerous questions answered by Mr. Soroka, the details of a contract were clarified with some specific request by the band for equipment, and the contract was signed by Tom Sorosiak, co-chair of the welcoming committee by early May; Sister Ann Francis was the second co-chair for the visit.

The venue for the two performances for the Dixie Company was the Performing Arts Center at the University of Toledo. Professor Mossblad, Chair of the Music Department, helped facilitate the use of the Center. The Performing Arts Center was an appropriate venue and provided a beautiful setting for the toe-tapping, hand-clapping performances from the accomplished musicians of the Dixie Company band. Selections included American favorites of the Jazz repertoire and a few Polish tunes to add to the variety and showmanship of the band.

Members of the Toledo Poznan Alliance board aided in planning and executing the details of the visit which resulted in a wonderful expression of cultural warmth and drew high praises from the Dixie Band when they departed for California. One member summed it up by saying: "We may be leaving for California, but we will be carrying your welcome and hospitality in our hearts and memories always."

The details of the visit included: The band flew into Chicago and were transported to Toledo in a van hired for that purpose. Van drivers were Arnie Gates and Chuck Hinde, who kept all the time commitments so well as transporting the group from one venue to another. The late arrival in Chicago meant housing the band in the local hotel in Sylvania, rather than host families because of that and an early departure time back to Chicago on the last day.

The first official welcome was at Anna and Jim Hartung's home, a board member of the Toledo Sister Cities International, where a sumptuous brunch awaited the group. The band rewarded the invited guests with breaking out their instruments and serenading us with some selections as a preview of their performances. Chris and Dick Weisfelder, also of the TSCI board, assisted the Hartung's welcome. Members of the TPA board and the Executive Director of Toledo Sister Cities attended the brunch. After the brunch the guides, Jerzy Kamburowski and Kathy Grabel took the band downtown to the Mayor's office for an official welcome by D. Michael Collins. Mayor Collins spent time visiting with them. The group was thrilled to view the Maumee River and Lake Erie from the 22nd floor in the Mayor's Office. After a short walk around downtown and the Government Center, the group went shopping. The guitar player, Wojciech Warszawski was looking for an American electric guitar, and we found a place at Spring Meadows that had hundreds of guitars, and Mr. Warszawski tried one, loved it right away and bought it. The salesman, a young musician himself, just happened to be of Polish heritage, so we invited him to the concert.

The guides then took the group to Ferdo's for dinner, which was close to the University. The band then needed to get to the Recital Hall to get their instruments set up, adjust the facility as it was needed, lighting, sound, etc., do a rehearsal, change clothes for the concert and get ready for the 7:00 pm performance. They were very well received by the audience. You couldn't help but move to the music as they played many familiar

numbers well known in the U.S. in Dixie land circles and some Polish numbers as well.

The next day the group asked to get a closer look at the Lake Erie. They knew of the five Great Lakes and that Toledo sits on Lake Erie. So the two guides for the day were Beata and Staszek, who took the group to Maumee Bay State Park where they walked the beach and noted the nuclear plants in the distance along the Lake in Port Clinton. At noon another Polish family, Piotr and Beata Czernik were waiting to welcome the band with a fantastic lunch. Their warm welcome was felt throughout. Since we had a wet Spring and it rained lightly almost every day, the water level of the little creek that ran behind the Czernik's house was quite high, but it provided a picturesque setting.

The Polish American community came forward to assist in the welcoming of the band. The guides that volunteered to accompany the band in its visit included: Jerzy Kamburowski, Beata Mierzejewska, Staszek Stepkowski and Kathy Grabel all of whom are originally from Poland and who are connected to the University of Toledo either as a staff member, or as faculty members. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur who planned to attend, but at the end could not, sent her aide, Susan Rowe, who presented a certificate of welcome to the band members in Marcy's name.

Donors who helped defray the costs of the visit were:

Marcy and Stephen Kaptur of the Anastasia Foundation
PACT (Polish American Community of Toledo)
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Dorcas
Ann Galloway
Carole & Joseph Dymczyk
Yvonne & Arnold Gates
Chuck & Rosalie Hinde
Justice Judith Ann Lanzinger
Linda & Joseph Lentz
Malczewski Catering LLC
Dr. Nancy C. & Marvin Robon
Walter Palicki
Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, OH
Marilyn & John Zielinski
St. Adalbert / St. Hedwig Parish
Stanley's Market /Joe Zychowicz
Stephen V. Sterling

Pat Konwinski

Cake Walkin' Jazz Band/Ray Heitger

Betty & Dave Schupp

Valeria Welber

Jolanta Collins

Carol A. Cousino

The band members included:

Krzysztof Zaremba, Trombone & band leader

Bogdan Ciesielski, Piano

Jacob Marszalek, Trumpet and kazoo

Piotr Soroka, Drums, washboard

Rafal Kubale, Clarinet

Mariusz Gajdziel, Bass

Wojciech Warszawski, Banjo, guitar & vocalist

Special thanks to Lisa Ward, who assisted us in scheduling a visit with the Mayor.

by Sr. Ann Francis, Tom Sorosiak & Kathy Grabel

**Kielbasa Klassic Golf Scramble supports
PACT / TPA Scholarships!**

Submitted by Stan Machosky

PACT and Stanley's Market are once again teaming up for the annual Kielbasa Klassic Golf Scramble. This year, it will be held on Sunday, August 3rd, 2014 at Giant Oak Golf Course on Lewis Avenue in Temperance, Michigan with a shotgun start at 10:00 am. Price for the scramble will be the same as in years past: \$75 per person or \$300 per team. Price includes greens fee, golf cart, food, beer and pop, team skins, door prizes, challenge holes and the famous "Kielbasa Klassic" t-shirt! To register, go to the PACT website www.polishcommunity.org where you can either sign up and pay online or download a sign-up sheet and send with your check to PACT, P.O. Box 1033, Sylvania, OH 43560. **The Deadline to enter is July 28th, 2014.** Proceeds from this event go to the PACT/TPA Scholarship fund. Please direct your questions to Tim Paluszak at 419-410-6167.

Walter's reviews ...

Ignaz Friedman, *Celebrated Polish Pianist*

While sorting through some donated paper items where I volunteer at the public library, I came across this program for a piano concert by Ignaz Friedman. It was performed at Scott High School Auditorium on January 13, 1926 and sponsored by the Toledo Piano Teachers Association. Who was Ignaz Friedman?

This child prodigy was born to Jewish parents in Podgorze, Poland near Krakow in 1882. He took his first lessons from Madame Grzywinska and later studied for a long time with masters Theodor Leschetizky and Hugh Riemann in Vienna. Friedman quickly won fame as a brilliant Chopin player in Europe where he gave many recital tours. He first visited the U.S. in 1921. His great technique, poetic pianissimos and marvelous virtuosity caused a veritable sensation in America. So here he was in Toledo, Ohio giving a concert. Friedman's Chopin interpretations are considered by many to be unsurpassed though a few pianists claimed that he played too much to the gallery.

When WWII started, Friedman was in Europe and was able to escape when a concert tour in Australia was offered at the last moment. His last concert was in 1943. Neuritis in his left hand forced his retirement. He settled there in Sydney until his death in 1948. Now we know who Ignaz Friedman was and hope the audience on January 13th truly enjoyed the concert!

Source: Wikipedia and the Concert Program.

Testing Self-Washing T-Shirt in Poland

Tide wants to lend a helping hand to the world's laziest launderers, particularly college students who have to regularly clean their own clothes for the first time. Rather than taking bags of dirty duds home, now they can try out a handy new t-shirt developed by Tide that is infused with detergent and aims to make laundry a lot simpler.

The t-shirt, designed with a "tearful mom" infused with detergent ink, merely requires its owner to pop it into the washer and press start. The shirt emerges fresh and minus mom's tears. It teaches college kids just how easy it is to do laundry. The shirts are not yet available in the U.S. Tide only distributed the trial shirts to parents in Poland.

One word of caution: The shirt's self-cleaning ink disappears after one wash, so unless you intend to buy a t-shirt for every day of the week, it's only a temporary solution at best.

Source: Courtney Subramanian@cmsub

Kevlar Inventor Kwolek

Stephanie Kwolek the inventor of Kevlar died at the age of 90 on June 18th. She was the daughter of working-class Polish immigrants in Pennsylvania. Wanting to become a physician but not able to afford the tuition, she opted for an undergraduate degree in chemistry.

Ms. Kwolek was hired by DuPont as a chemist and worked 15 years without a promotion until her research led her to Kevlar. It is a bulletproof fiber that has saved many lives. She did not benefit financially because she signed over the patent royalties to Dupont.

Honors were bestowed on her for this discovery. The National Medal of Technology was given to her in 1996. She was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame and also into the National Women's Hall of Fame. In retirement, she tutored high school students in chemistry and encouraged young women to work in sciences. Ms. Kwolek is another Polish-American whom we can be proud of for her achievements. This concludes the article on Stephanie that Denny Kutylowski originally wrote last year.

PRCUA, The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, is a fraternal benefit society that promotes service, benefits, protection and fraternalism. They are celebrating the 125th anniversary and their 61st national quadrennial convention in Toledo from August 10-13, 2014.

Dozynki 2014

How time flies when we're having great summer weather. And before we know it, it will be October and that means Dozynki time. So, save the date, October 19th at the Franciscan Center, and it will be the 24th anniversary of TPA's existence. More information on Dozynki will be forthcoming.