



# Alliance News

Toledo-Poznan Alliance quarterly newsletter

**FALL 2009**

## Taste of Diversity – Sept. 20, 2009

A beautiful Sunday at Toledo Botanical Gardens presented itself to a day of different cultures in both dress, entertainment and cuisine. The Toledo Poznan Alliance had the pleasure of serving Polish Pierogi. The event started at 1:00 with the food being served at 2:00 p.m. Well that didn't work very well as the crowds developed shortly after 1:00. We quickly went through 12 dozen Pierogi, and had to send quickly for 12 dozen more. There were a number of restaurants and organizations that took part: Byblos, El Camino Real, Ferdos, Nigerian Association of Greater Toledo, Rosie's Italian Grille and Toledo Poznan Alliance to name a few. See below a few of the pictures showing those who had the pleasure of being there.



## Sister on the Go

Our own Sister Ann Francis Klimkowski has a lot on her plate as was noted in an article in *Mature Living*, August 2009. She is a 21-year veteran at Lourdes College in Sylvania and has served there as President from 1983 – 2000. At present Sister is teaching a course in Foundations of Leadership and another called Leadership and Strategic Thinking. Along with teaching she is highly involved in the participation of two events here in Toledo, The Toledo Sister Cities Program honoring volunteers, host families and founders and the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Toledo-Poznan Alliance Dozynki dinner held in Toledo. Sister Ann Francis has participated in the growth of Lourdes from a two-year college for women to a four-year college for both men and women. She has also viewed the growth of Sister Cities International which started in 1931 with Toledo Spain, to include the following "sisters", Delmenhorst, Germany; Londrina, Brazil; Szeged, Hungary; Tanga, Tanzania; Toyohashi, Japan; Qinhuangdao, China, and Poznan, Poland.

## Japanese Cuisine

The Toledo Toyohashi Sister Cities Committee members invite anyone interested to join them for a Japanese dinner at Kotobuki Restaurant on 5577 Monroe St., Sylvania, on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Guests will select their own entrees from the menu and be responsible for their own charges. Dinner ranges between \$15 to \$25 or up depending on what you order.

If you wish to join us for this dinner, please contact Pat Konwinski (419-726-0116) or Walt Palicki (419-475-6688) no later than Monday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> by 7 pm for a reservation.

This is a great opportunity for TPA members to meet other Sister City members and have a taste of Japanese food. Join us!

## Wieczor Koled

The annual Wieczor Koled will be held at St. Hyacinth Church on January 3, 2010 at 2 pm. It is free to the public and a reception will be held in the school hall after the music program. Choirs from St. Adalbert, St. Hedwig, St. Charles, and St. Hyacinth will be performing favorite Polish, English, and instrumental Christmas songs. St. Hyacinth Church is on Parkside Blvd. near Nebraska. Security is provided on the church parking lot.

## Dozynki 2009



*Dozynki*, the Polish custom of celebrating harvest, was observed in Toledo on Sunday, September 27th, 2009. Toledo Poznan Alliance founding member Lucy Szafarowicz began the Toledo tradition in 1990, and this year marked the 19th year that *Dozynki* has been presented by TPA. Sunny warm autumn skies graced the day which began with a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Adalbert Church, concelebrated by Fr. Rich Philiposki and Fr. Paul Kwiatkowski, and coordinated by TPA founding member Kathy Gabel. Members of The Echoes of Poland Folk Song and Dance Ensemble, dressed in authentic costumes and flanked by the Polish and American flags, led the procession into church carrying the *wieniec* (harvest wreath) created by TPA Board member Norman Beczynski. Songs and prayers in both Polish and English were offered in thanks to God for the blessings of this season's harvest and good weather. This

year TPA also observed the 70th anniversary of the invasion of Poland (and start of WWII) by honoring and thanking the men and women who courageously fought for Poland and the US, especially veterans native to Poland and vets of Polish descent. We recognized Mr. Tadeusz Nitkiewicz, a decorated Polish soldier and the last surviving local veteran of the Battle of Monte Casino.

After Mass, the *Dozynki* 2009 celebration continued at Central Park West banquet hall, where guests were greeted by Polish folk music played on the accordion by Randy Krajewski. Baskets of Autumn-colored silk florals or fresh harvest fruits, assembled by the talented Norman Beczynski, adorned the tables and later became a prize for one lucky person at each table. Other Autumnal decorations, graciously loaned by TPA member Lorraine Kwiatkowski, along with pumpkins and fresh chrysanthemums completed the decorations.

Appetizers of *pierogi*, made by the Echoes of Poland, and *placek*, baked by TPA Board member and *Dozynki* 2009 Chairperson, Rob Szczublewski, were enjoyed during the gathering time. Guests were able to bid on the many Polish items in the Silent Auction, purchase raffle tickets for Polish baked goods, made by Berry's Goods - Marlene Danko and Fran Perlaky, view a display of information about and folk art items from the *Kaszuby* region of Poland (courtesy of Paulina Ortyl), and shop for Polish pride and heritage items stocked by The Polish Pride Shop - all while chatting with long-time friends and making new acquaintances. Several guests also purchased the *Polish Pride Recipe Book* produced and sold by the Toledo Polish Genealogical Society, as well as the *Toledo's Polonia* book published earlier this year.

An indoor procession was led by Fr. Paul followed by members of the Echoes of Poland, who presented the *wieniec* and the traditional bread and salt to TPA's "Lord and Lady of the Manor," (Rob Szczublewski and TPA Board member Rose Sniogowski), marking the "official" start of the *Dozynki* 2009 program. After Fr. Paul invoked a blessing, and generously sprinkled Holy Water! upon all gathered, The Echoes of Poland performed a suite of folk dances from *Kaszuby* and also wore

authentic costumes from this region. Traditional and Folk music from Poland played in the background, under the guidance of DJ Greg Forbes of Absolute Music Party, while guests savored an authentic Polish meal, planned by Dozynki Committee member Marysia Skudlarek. She also prepared a digital display of images from Poland, along with pictures from Dozynki 2008, for guests to view during the afternoon.

Following dinner, Randy Krajewski entertained again with a few toe-tapping selections on the accordion, encouraging guests to get up and dance. Music and dancing continued throughout the rest of the afternoon while guests enjoyed desserts of *chrusciki*, *ciasto*, *ciasteczki* and *babka*, along with a gourmet coffee or tea from CPW's coffee bar, before raffle tickets were called and final bids accepted on the Silent Auction items.

Thanks to all who supported this year's event - the program advertisers, event Sponsors and all who attended the activities of Dozynki 2009 - helping to continue the mission of Toledo Poznan Alliance. Thanks also to the following volunteers and committee members whose efforts made this year's event another "success," especially Walter Palicki and Pat Konwinski (Silent Auction); Rita Biegala, Edyth Lykowski, Rosalie Hinde, and Jennifer Szczublewski (Raffle); Janice Kowalski and Irene Szydowski (reservation greeters); Ursula Zulka-Cauffiel (Program Ads and Sponsors); Rose Sniogowski (Table assignments and Polish Pride Sales); Norm Beczynski (church florals, decorations, Table and Raffle prizes); Katie Macaro (Flyer and Program booklet); John Michalak, Jr. and TPA President David Chelminski; and *Dozynki* 2009 Chairperson, Rob Szczublewski. The Toledo Poznan Alliance has already begun planning *Dozynki* 2010 - our 20th celebration - and needs your help! Please contact any TPA Board member if you'd like be part of the Committee.

### TSCI Host Family Event

Sunday, November 22, 2009 at the Ward Pavilion, Wildwood Metropark was the third in a

series of events sponsored this year for volunteers. April 28, 2009 was for the founding members, August 19, for volunteers of respective committees of TSCI and November 22 for host families. Dr. William D. Hoover spoke to the group thanking them for their service and asking that they continue to be host families and urge others to do so. A total of 120 host families were honored with a certificate for their service. Refreshments were served and a Silent Auction and raffle was held.

### Toledo Polish Genealogical Society

The new officers were elected for 2010 and they are: President, Sarah Pluciniczak, Vice President, Dave Zawodny, Secretary, Kathy Brown and Treasurer, Paulette Kwiatkowski. The TPGS meets every third Saturday of the month at St. Hedwig Parish in the school basement.

#### Trip to Poland

Kathy Grabel is planning a trip to Poland from August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 10, 2010. This trip is being planned with the intent to help TPGS members and others locate their family origins in Poland. If you have an interest, please contact Kathy Grabel at 419-385-8516.

*Wesołych Świąt  
Wesołego Nowego Roku*

