



Alliance News

Toledo-Poznan Alliance quarterly newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2011

DOZYNKI 2011

Another wonderful Dozynki Harvest Dinner was celebrated this year by the Toledo-Poznan Alliance at the Franciscan Center at Lourdes University on Sunday, October 16, 2011.

We were celebrating the organizing of the Toledo Poznan Alliance, which also marked the 20th year celebration of the signing of the Sister City agreement between Toledo, Ohio and Poznan, Poland.

Some of the committee are pictured below:



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur was there to help Toledo-Poznan celebrate. She was instrumental in getting representatives from Poland to come to Toledo for discussions on establishing a relationship between Toledo and Poznan, Poland.

Marcy Kaptur seemed to enjoy herself dancing to the music of Millie's Polka Band.



Festivities began with Mass at Queen of Peace Chapel by Father Paul Kwiatkowski. He blessed the food, as well as, those that were in attendance for the dinner and the rest of the program..



The Toledo-Poznan Alliance was established in 1990 with the signing of the agreement between Toledo and Poznan taking place in 1991. Some of the accomplishments over the past 20 years were:

Poznan Boys Choir brought to Toledo

Supported the reception for the Polish Ambassador to Saudi Arabia in Toledo

Promoted the Adam Grant Art Exhibit to Krakow

Housed Polish students attending the International Youth Academy

Sent annual donations to the Dom Dziecka Orphanage in Poznan.

Purchased the Polish eagle mural in the Lagrange Branch Library in Toledo

Honored the Society of Christ's ministry in Toledo

The above are just a few.

We invited the mayor or a representative from the Poznan City Hall to our Dozynki. In return we did receive a congratulatory letter from the deputy director in the Mayor's Cabinet, Andrzej Sobon. It was printed in our Dozynki program and we include it here for all TPA members:

“On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of partnership between the city of Toledo and Poznan, I wish to thank everyone who contributed to friendly cooperation and good relations that we managed to establish throughout time. The anniversary is also a convenient moment to review our cooperation and plan its further extension. I am convinced that our partnership is founded on a strong basis and will continue to develop as a result of numerous persons commitment and enthusiasm. I would like to express my recognition to them and I wish all of us many more years of fruitful cooperation. Looking forward to meeting you in Poznan!”

Dinner was catered by Carolyn’s Catering and Entertainment was by the Echoes of Poland and Millie’s Polka Band. Each table was decorated with a colorful pot of mums. A silent auction and raffle were also part of the festivities. All dinner guests received a refrigerator magnet featuring the goats of Poznan as a memento of the signing agreement. We hope that all guests had an enjoyable afternoon supporting the TPA.

Kielbasa Cook-Off

Kielbasa, kielbasa and yes more kielbasa.

The second Kielbasa Cook-Off was held Saturday, November 19 at Blessed Sacrament Hall. Over 1,000 kielbasa lovers raised over \$6,000 for PACT. Voting was close for the three top positions but the prize went to Polish Village Kielbasa by three votes.



The winner received \$300 and a trophy for winning.

The money earned at this event will help fund scholarships and other educational opportunities, as well as, helping needy families during the Holiday Season.

TPGS Trip to Hamtramck and Orchard Lake

On Oct. 22nd and at 8:05 am, a bus load of friends and members of the Toledo Polish Genealogical Society left for a trip to Hamtramck from the Home Depot. Our first stop there was the Polish Art Center where we were welcomed by owners Joan and Ray Bittner. We were also welcomed by Mayor Dr. Karen Majewski and Dr. Thaddeus C. Radzilowski of the Piast Institute. Our group spent time there shopping and went on to Srodek’s Meat Market, a bakery and other grocery stores. All of us ate a lunch at several Polish restaurants. Enjoyable!

Back on the bus to Orchard Lake Schools, which include St. Mary’s College, St. Mary’s Prep, and SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary. We visited the art gallery and walked around the beautiful campus. Ceil Jensen, a Certified Genealogist, gave a superb talk on the two famous cemeteries in Detroit. She also informed us of the large collection of materials for genealogy research they house. We were also able to see the mechanical moving exhibit of about 3 foot high figurines of peasants, royalty, saints, and other important Poles. They were clothed in native and or professional dress. It was fascinating to see them move by our audience and trying to identify them by name or region of their folk dress.

An invigorating and informative trip was had by all as we returned to Toledo. Many of us were loaded with packages from our shopping excursion and the knowledge of what Orchard Lake has to offer to us.

Dom Dziecka Orphanage

We had not heard from the Don Dziecka in over a year and were concerned that our communication with them was broken. TPA has continued to wire a donation to them annually with a request for a response. New management at the orphanage has changed. On a hunch, Kathy Grabel emailed them. She received a response in English from Sister Czeslawa Morkowska, the new director. She was thrilled to hear from us and wants to continue our association with them. We are sending them a nice donation for Christmas.

Poland Trip Update

This trip is a tour of the castles and palaces in Poland and is similar to one I organized 10 years ago. The new tour is upgraded from the 2001 trip. It will take place in June 2012 from the 6th to the 19th. This tour is generating a lot of interest because we will not only tour the castles and palaces, but will be staying overnight in some of them. How many people can say they stayed in a castle or a palace? The new group is excited about this trip and, if anyone else is interested, please call Kathy Grabel at 419-385-8516. She will give you a day-to-day itinerary. There will be a meeting for all those who are interested in the tour. I will distribute itineraries for the trip and a Poland map marking all the places we will be visiting. We will discuss many details of the trip. The meeting will take place on Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 pm at Ski's Restaurant on Monroe in Sylvania. If you don't know where it is, please call me at 419-385-8516. See you at Ski's. If this newsletter is received too late to attend the meeting and, if still interested in the trip, please give Kathy Grabel a call for further information about the trip.

Submitted by Kathy Grabel

Future Poznan Trip

We hope and suggest to Kathy Grabel to organize a future trip to Poznan. It was featured in our last issue of the Newsletter. Since this is our Sister City, it would be appropriate to spend some time there. There is much to see in Poznan and surely we will get a royal welcome as we reconnect with our Sister City.

Wigilia Celebration

The Polish American Community of Toledo (PACT) will be celebrating Wigilia this year at the Olivet Lutheran Church Christian Life Center, 5840 Monroe St., Sylvania, Ohio on December 11th at 6 p.m.

Price is \$15.00 for PACT members and \$20.00 for non-members.

The Wigilia Celebration will include:
Lighting of the First Candle
Sharing Oplatek

An eleven course meatless meal of traditional Polish foods
Singing Christmas Carols
Reading the Bible passage of the Birth of Christ

For reservations call 419-356-1811



*Wesolych
Swiat
Bozego
Narodzenia!*