



Alliance News

Toledo-Poznań Alliance quarterly newsletter – Summer 2013

TPA Board Meeting

The TPA Board met on May 31st at Lourdes University with Sr. Ann Francis presiding. The new officers were elected. Discussion on the Dożynki 2013 for Sunday, October 27th as scheduled and Kathy Grabel volunteered to be the chair with the assistance as co-chairs from Ann Galloway, and Sr. Ann Francis who offered to help. The venue was already chosen to be at the Franciscan Center. The Committee will soon meet to decide on the Polish menu and entertainment.

Walter Palicki volunteered to be the Membership Chair taking Irene's place. He reported on the total membership both new and renewal. We now have over 50 paid members.

Board member Stanley Machosky who is also the President of PACT, explained the scholarship that this group offers and would we like to contribute to it. After several questions and answers, the board voted to contribute \$750 for three scholarships. TPA will be mentioned as a donor to this scholarship. We also have the option to continue funding it as part of an outreach to the community.

Mr. Zoltanski's granddaughter traveled to Poznan, Poland just recently and visited the Dom Dziecka Orphanage there. She took a number of photographs of it and they were projected on the screen for all of us to see. This was a nice update on how the orphanage is doing. TPA has contributed to their ministry for many years. Our Dożynki

celebration helps to raise funds for this project.

Denny Kutylowski, a guest, a TPA member and the newsletter contributor, spoke about the possibility of a Sobótka Celebration in 2014 and how he would like to see it as an annual event in the Toledo area with the support from various Polish organizations.

Denny has numerous connections with the local radio stations who would promote this event on the air. The Board agreed it was an interesting idea and Denny volunteered to do further research and possible support from outside groups. We hope to get further information soon.

Board member Edward Zoltanski closed the meeting with the hymn *Czarna Madonna*.

The new Board members are listed on the last page of this newsletter

Dożynki 2013

Save the date: October 27, 2013 is this year's Dożynki celebration. It will be at the same location as last year, the Franciscan Center, on the campus of Lourdes University. Some people are asking if we could arrange for a Mass just before Dożynki dinner, and others are not in favor of it.

Please let us know if you would like to have a Mass on Sunday, October 27, just before

Dozynki, and we will ask Fr. Paul if he could do us the honor of being the celebrant. If we get enough people to say "yes," we will then have a Mass at Noon.

Polish Moonshine

by Denny Kutylowski

Unlike corn mash "White Lightning" made in homemade pot stills throughout Appalachia, the best bootleg hooch is plum based from the tiny village of Łącko on Poland's southern boarder. Śliwowica, the 140 proof plum brandy, has a long and proud history. Only about 4,000 gallons bottled per year because its manufacture and sale remain patently illegal.

Many people on the Continent enjoy plum brandy, and the variety produced in Łącko is the one that wins the international awards despite being illegal. Although it is frowned upon by the authorities, it is impossible to stamp out.

So legendary is the plum brandy and so short in supply, counterfeiters have been making a knock off version that is sold mostly to tourists that visit the mountain resort town of Zakopane in the snowcapped Tatras.

The forgery is made from cheap methanol spirit with added plum flavoring, which means it is potentially deadly. Trying to get your hands on genuine plum brandy requires time and effort since locals are reluctant to reveal their sources.

Śliwowica łącka (meaning Śliwowica from Łącko) has been distilled and barrel aged in small batches by hundreds of home producers for generations. But, only recently has Śliwowica łącka been registered as a trademark by a local association of fruit farmers.

Growers are now allowed to apply to a board for permission to use the name, however at this writing the commission has not been set up. A legal limbo persists, but Śliwowica distillers are carrying on as normal in secret locations.

Polish authorities and local producers disagree about the future legitimization of their famed bootleg brandy. The government wants production at a single distillery in the region. Local farmers oppose this – each one has their own secret recipe for Śliwowica and they want the government to approve individual homemade production.

There is only one man in the Łącko area that need not be afraid of making and selling the highlander tippie. Six months ago, local orchard owner Krzysztof Maurer was granted a permit to produce fruit distillates, including those from plums.

Going through a complicated, three-year legalization procedure a bottle of his plum brandy costs 70 zloty (about \$25) because it is subject to 100 percent excise tax unlike major distilleries.

Maurer's product is called 'Brandy from Łącko Plums,' since the trademark name 'Śliwowica Łącka' cannot be granted for use until the commission is a set up.

There is an imported 80 proof Polish plum brandy available in the U.S. Alas, it's not anything close to Śliwowica Łącka. Like they say in Kentucky, "Ain't the real McCoy."

Visit PolishToledo.com for other interesting Polish topics and stop by the TPA section of the website as well.

www.polshtoledo.com

A new feature called *Walter's reviews*, will be added to our newsletter where Walter Palicki will share with us his reviews of Polish books, movies, etc.

DOŻYNKI SILENT AUCTION

It's time to think about donating an item to the Silent Auction, a vital part of TPA's fundraising at Dożynki. Guests like to bid on books about Poland; Polish glassware, linens, and music; Bolesławiec pottery and other treasures as well as gift cards from area stores and restaurants. The value of a donation should be approximately \$15 to \$20 or more. If you would like to donate an item, please contact Jackie Konwinski by October 1 at (419) 882-5045 or jmkk43@bex.net

If you have something interesting to publish that you would like to share with the rest of the Polish community, please get in touch with the Editor, phone number on back of last page, and we will print it in the next newsletter.

Or email it to:

kolan@buckeye-express.com

Martin Blaszczyk (1953-2013)

Marty Blaszczyk, editor and jack-of-all-trades of the *Lagrange Street News*, died April 29, 2013. That monthly newspaper reported all of the news of interest to the Polish American community in the Toledo area. He was very supportive of the Toledo Poznan Alliance and is remembered for the many contributions he made to all of us. Rest in peace.

TPGS SPECIAL GUEST

Toledo City Councilman Tom Waniewski will be a special guest at the September meeting of the Toledo Polish Genealogical Society. TPGS will present the councilman and family members with the Genealogy of the Waniewski-Manuszak Family and the Genealogy of the Jagodzinski-Dzienny Family in appreciation for his service to the people of Toledo and for his pride in his Polish American heritage. These two family histories are wonderful examples of current genealogical research in Poland. Guests are always welcome at the Saturday, September 21, 2013 meeting at 10:00 a.m. at Saint Michael School, 420 Sandusky Street at Chase. Sandusky Street is off North Summit Street, only 3 minutes from the Veterans Memorial Skyway Bridge.

The Lagrange Street Polish Festival

This year's festival is scheduled for July 12, 13, and 14. Pierogi, kielbasa, kapusta will be available for sure, as well as many delicious Polish pastries. Polish souvenirs and other miscellaneous items will be available for purchase also. On Saturday Polka dance competition will take place, and you don't want to miss that. It's a lot of fun to watch. TPGS will have a booth so if you are interested in genealogy, stop by and see them. They have much information about ancestry, and they can help you find your roots, so stop by and see them as well.

Read the news release from the president of PACT, Stan Machosky, an insert in this newsletter.

Executive Board:

President Sr. Ann Francis
Vice President (vacancy)
Treasurer Charles Hinde
Secretary Pat Konwinski

Board of Trustees:

Ursula Zulka Cauffiel
David Chelminski
Ann Galloway
Kathy Grabel
Rosalie Hinde
Jackie Konwinski
Walter Kosydar
Stan Machosky
Walter Palicki
Ed Zoltanski

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	\$ 5.00
Single adult	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Small Bus./Non-profit org.	\$50.00
Corporate	\$100.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone number _____

TPA Committees:

Publication Committee (Alliance News)

Kathy Grabel, Editor 419-385-8516

Denny Kutylowski, contributing writer
Walter Palicki, contributing writer

Membership Committee –

Walter Palicki, chair

Dozynki 2013 Committee –

Kathy Grabel, chair
Sr. Ann Francis, co-chair
Ann Galloway, co-chair

Hospitality Committee: (vacancy)

Toledo-Poznan Alliance

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