



Alliance News

Toledo-Poznan Alliance quarterly newsletter

Winter 2008-09

"Wieczor Koled"

On January 11, 2009 at 3:00 St. Hedwig Catholic Church hosted the 25th annual Wieczor Koled. Choirs participated from various parishes in and around Toledo. Participating this year were Immaculate Conception, St. Adalbert, St. Florian from Hamtramck, St. George Orthodox Cathedral from Rossford, St. Hedwig, St. Hyacinth and St. John the Baptist. After the concert, everyone was invited to a reception in the Club Rooms of St. Hedwig's Parish directly behind the church. Look for this again next year to be hosted by St. Hyacinth's Parish.

St. Hedwig Parish Concert

Chelsca Tipton, resident conductor and the Toledo Symphony presented a neighborhood concert on Sept. 21, 2008 at St. Hedwig's Church. Starting with the national anthems of the U.S. and Poland, the program featured Chopin's Military Polonaise and the Grand Valse from *Les Sylphides*. Symphony No. 3 - "Of Sorrowful Songs" written in 1976 by Gorecki encompasses traditional texts of a 15th century Polish prayer was also performed with Carol Dusdieker, soprano singing the text. Three Polish dances a Polonaise, a Krakowiak, and an Oberek composed by Stefani were included in the program. The audience enjoyed all selections. The Pennies for Pipes Committee is using the funds for the restoration of the church organ. TPA recently sent a donation to the fund for this worthy cause.

Poznan's Town Hall

Poznan's Renaissance town hall replaced an earlier Gothic building that burned down. It was constructed from 1550 to 1560 and designed by

has a high tower with a crowned eagle on top that adds to Polish symbolism. The main façade has a three-story arcade and above it is a painted frieze of the Jagiellonian dynasty kings. A clock is also there and every day at noon, two metal goats come through a pair of small doors and hutt horns twelve times. Legend states that the two goats intended for a banquet escaped and ended up clashing horns above the about-to-be installed clock. The gathering of dignitaries present for the unveiling were amused and ordered the clockmaker to add these figures to the piece. You too can still see the goats if you are in the Poznan town square at noon!

Toledo's Polonia

The much anticipated book on the Polish Americans in the Toledo area has been published and will be available in local bookstores and at St. Adalbert Parish Rectory early in February. Look for notices in parish bulletins and elsewhere. Other venues to sell the book are also being considered. Fr. Richard Philiposki, S.Ch. and The Toledo Polish Genealogical Society took on this monumental project. Word went out into the community and persons volunteered to bring in photographs for possible use. Many hours of writing, identifying and selecting photos, and composing copy went into the production of this book. It is an outstanding tribute to our ancestors. We are sure many of our readers will want to buy copies for themselves and as gifts. The cost is \$21.99.

There are two book signings on Feb. 21 at Barnes and Noble, Monroe St. 1-3 and Feb. 28 at Books a Million, Levis Commons from 1-3.

Adam Grant Honored by the Polish Ambassador in Saudi Arabia

The Polish Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Adam Kulach, is dedicating an embassy room in honor of Adam (Grochowski) Grant to commemorate the outbreak of WWII in Poland as well as an exhibit of his work. Adam was a survivor of two German concentration camps. Peggy Grant has graciously sent over a number of Adam's paintings for the exhibit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Dr. Alan and Ann Goodridge have donated a giclee of Adam's self-portrait for permanent installation in the embassy. Dr. Goodridge, former provost at the University of Toledo, is now in Saudi Arabia to establish a university in Riyadh. The ceremony is on February 21st and Peggy plans to be there along with some of her close friends. The Polish Ambassador has invited other embassy representatives as well as members of the Royal Family and other honored guests. Respected British and well known author Norman Davies, who has written several books on Poland, has also been invited to speak. This is an exciting and welcomed event for TPA member Peggy Grant. She has labored hard and long for her husband's art to receive international status in the art world.

Poznan Hosts the World in U.N. Conference on Earth's Future

This past December (December 1-12, 2008) Toledo's beautiful Polish Sister City Poznan hosted the United Nations talks on the global problem of climate change, reviewing progress at the halfway point of a two-year push to negotiate an international pact to succeed the Kyoto Protocol in which thirty-seven countries agreed to curb dangerous emissions of so-called "greenhouse" gases by about five percent below the 1990 levels by 2008-2012. The Bush administration had rejected the Kyoto Protocol, allowing emissions to keep rising until 2025. The new U.S. President Barack Obama has said that he wants to return to the 1990 levels by 2020, but Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, who headed the American delegation to Poznan as designated chairman of the Senate Foreign

Relations Committee, said that he personally felt the cuts should be deeper, following the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's conclusion that emissions worldwide need to be reduced to at least twenty-five or even forty percent below the 1990 levels by 2020 to avoid potentially disastrous consequences. Senator Kerry spent two days in Poznan meeting with officials of various countries, from Australia to China (which surpasses the USA as the chief emitter of the targeted gases).

On Friday, December 12th, former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, who shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for his work in advancing awareness of the Earth's plight, won cheers and ovations as he urged the conference to stay focused on the task of reducing carbon emissions which have already begun to affect conditions of life around the world, telling the delegates that this challenge "affects the survival of human civilization." He stated "We cannot negotiate with the facts, we cannot negotiate with the truth about our situation, we cannot negotiate with the consequences of unrestrained dumping of seventy million tons of global warming pollution into the thin shell of atmosphere surrounding our planet every twenty-four hours."

Negotiators at the conference broke through red tape and freed up millions of dollars to aid poorer countries in adapting to increasingly severe droughts, floods and other results of global warming. The Poznan talks also agreed on the timetable for this year's agenda, including three preparatory meetings before the next agreement is to be concluded at Copenhagen, Denmark in December.

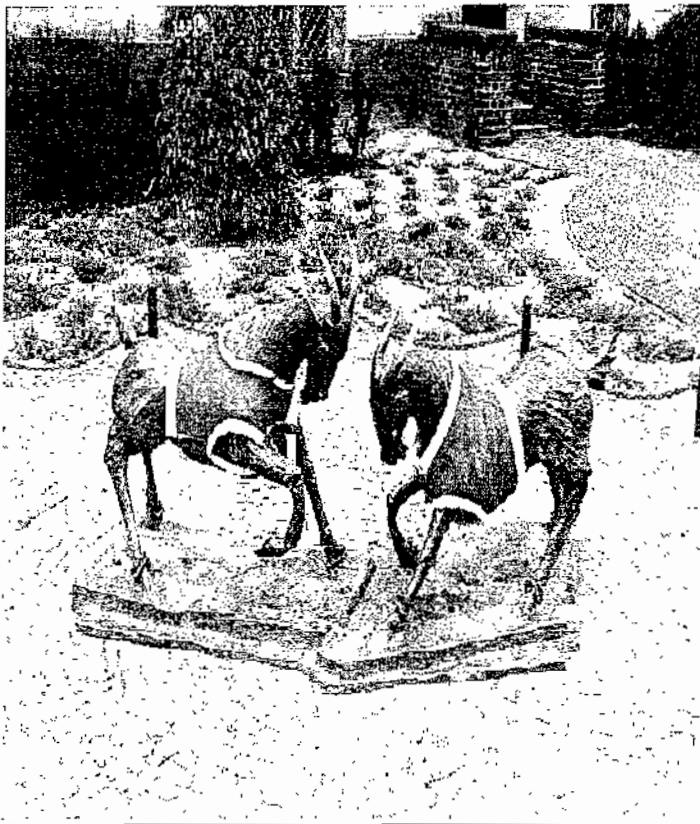
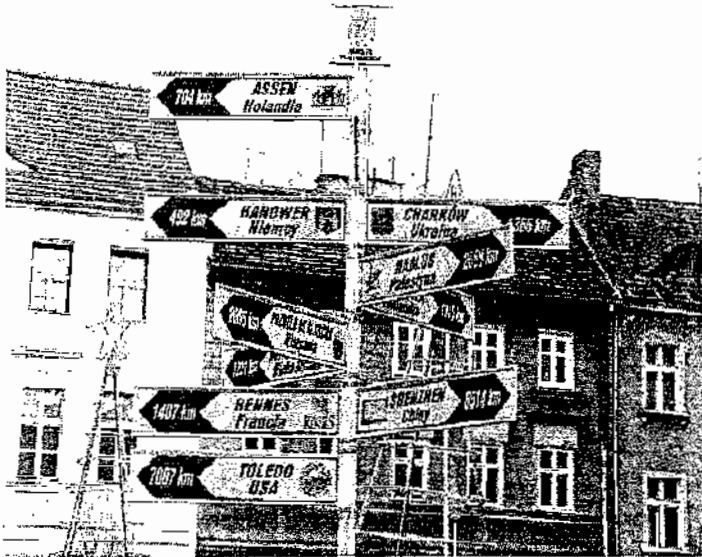
Pierogi Dinner

Echoes of Poland will have a Pierogi Dinner February 27th 4-8:00 pm at PRCUA Hall. The dinners are \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. Call (419) 531-8658 or (419) 475-6262 for advanced orders \$8.00/doz – cheese, potato, and kraut.

Annual Paczki Days

Don't forget Paczki sales on Lagrange Street. Paczki will be on sale Sunday, Feb. 22 to Feb. 24 "Fat" Tuesday. Call Lagrange Village Council at (419) 255-8406, ext. 306 for further details.

Trip to Poznan



These pictures were taken during a visit to our Sister City, Poznan, in December 2008 by Jerzy and Ewa Skrzypczak-Jankun. "Koziolki" are the mascot and a symbol of the city. The legend says that two goats have chased one another to the tower of the Old Town Hall in the Old Market. To commemorate this event each day two goats show up on this tower (below the clock) at 12:00 noon and it is a known tourist attraction. But recently two goats have found their place at pl. Kolegiacki in front of the City Hall - during winter they wear the red warm 'jackets' and 'socks' above their hooves. Near them there is a post with the names and distances (in kilometers) to the sister cities of Poznan and so we took this picture to show the members of TPA that we are remembered there. The city is always more beautiful with every next visit. When I grew up there any visit to a Western Country was a trip to a different World. I am glad to say that there is no more difference between East and West. Poland is now just another "Western" country and Poznan has very pretty shopping malls, the entertainment facilities and IMAX cinema. The growing campus of the A. Mickiewicz University at Rozany Potok is worth visiting as well. In contrast to Toledo Poznan has a very efficient and inexpensive public transportation system and one does not need a car to move around. Similar to Toledo it has some pretty bronze sculptures that look like the real people and I have noticed more of them at the new little park at ul. Zielona. We have also visited a famous nativity (since it was Christmas time) at pl. Bernardynski. were Dominican brothers always built a beautiful "szopka". This year it was two-story high, with stars at the 'sky' and many figurines that were moving (camels, shepherds) to the great amusement of the children and the adults as well.