



Alliance News

Toledo-Poznań Alliance quarterly newsletter — Winter 2013

Dozynki 2012

Over 100 people were at the Franciscan Center in the afternoon on October 28th to celebrate the Harvest Dinner. The President of TPA and Chair, Sr. Ann Francis Klimkowski welcomed everyone and introduced Kathy Grabel who then took over announcing the program.

The program started with the procession of bread and salt and Fr. Paul Kwiatkowski blessing the people and the food.

A delicious buffet dinner catered by Malczewski's was served. The menu included kwas, klopsy, fresh and smoked kielbasa, mashed potatoes, sweet and sour cabbage, carrots, placek and the other usual accompaniments.

The Echoes of Poland Children's Ensemble performed several dance numbers. Pianist Sarah Gardner from Notre Dame Academy played a few selections from Chopin to entertain the audience.

There was the usual raffle and silent auction that was well received by all. We closed with the singing of *Jak Szybko Mijaja Chwile*. All the people there enjoyed the food and entertainment.

Our thanks to Chair, Sr. Ann Francis and the Committee for all of their work. The theme this year celebrated the ending of Polish American Heritage Month. It is celebrated in October.

We included the names of some notable Polish Americans, living and deceased, from the Toledo area in the program booklet to compliment our theme this year. Their accomplishments, past and present, remind us of what Polish Americans in the Toledo area have given to this community.

The success of the **Dozynki 2012** allowed the TPA Board to send a generous donation to the **Dom Dziecka Orphanage** in our Sister City in Poznan.

Recommended Reading

The Eagle Unbowed: Poland and the Poles in the Second World War, by Halik Kochanski. Harvard University Press. 784 pgs. 2012. \$35.00

The Second World War gripped Poland as it did no other country in Europe. Invaded by both Germany and the Soviet Union, it remained under occupation by foreign armies from the first day of the war to the last. The conflict was brutal, as Polish armies battled the enemy on four different fronts. It was on Polish soil that the architects of the Final Solution assembled their most elaborate network of extermination camps. Poland emerged from the war trapped behind the Iron Curtain, and it would be nearly a half-century until Poland gained the freedom that its partners had secured with the defeat of Hitler. Rescuing the stories of those who died and those who vanished, those who fought and those who escaped, Kochanski deftly reconstructs the world of wartime Poland in all its complexity—from collaboration to resistance, from expulsion to exile, from Warsaw to Treblinka.

This book is not an easy read, but anyone who has any interest in Poland should read it. Available on order at your local bookstore or try the Public Library.

Annual Membership Meeting

This year the annual general membership meeting for TPA members and guests will be on March 17, 2013 at 2 pm in the Board Rm at the Franciscan Center. Light refreshments will be served.

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending to learn what is going on with our organization, future plans, and we welcome your suggestions and thoughts about TPA. And we always welcome your proposals as to what would you like to see us doing. Any suggestions as to what would you like to see in our newsletter is also welcome.

A note and a couple of pictures that Walter Palicki received from the orphanage. As you can see, the director of the orphanage Sr. Morkowska, is well versed in the English language.

Dear Mr Palicki,

We thank you for the mail and greetings from you.

We are pleased that you remember about us and our children.

In this school year which began in September 2012 we have almost 100 children at our Centre. The majority from them is disabled intellectually and some of them physically too. The considerable part doesn't also have good relations with their parents which most of them have limited parental responsibility, so we have to take care of these children.

Now we are slowly starting preparations for Christmas. Next week we will have a meeting with St Nikolaus and our children are waiting impatiently for this day. Younger foster children are preparing the small nativity-play show on this occasion. We will send you a few photographs from those celebration. We thank you one more time for your memory and the support. Let the smile and joy of our foster children be compensation for your goodness. Children of course know about your goodness and thank you for it.

Our address:

Specjalny Ośrodek Szkolno-Wychowawczy

im. św. Wincentego a Paulo

ul. Mariacka 24/28, 60-960

Poznań, Polska

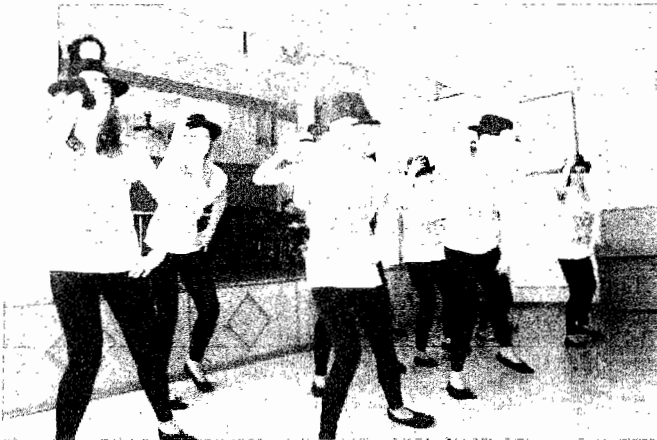
Pictures from orphanage;



One of the Sisters is playing with three girls, who might be sisters. It is not clear from their description of the picture.



Two older girls teaching the little one to roller blade.



Looks like young girls participating in a hip hop dance routine.

International Festival

Toledo Sister Cities is again sponsoring the International Festival. It will be on Saturday, April 13, 2013 at The University of Toledo Student Union Auditorium. We urge TPA members and friends to attend this event as TPA is a part of this organization. It will be an enjoyable day for all. There is ample parking. Approximately 15 dance and music group will be performing. Ethnic foods will be available as well as vendors selling crafts. You will also have a chance to buy raffle tickets or take part in the silent auction of various items. More news will be in the local newspapers. Please plan on attending this fun event.

Trip to Europe

The three most exciting cities in Europe - London, Paris and Rome, should be your next vacation destination in 2013. London, Paris and Rome will be a trip of a lifetime, so go ahead and enrich your life and sign up now. Dates: May 13 – May 23, 2013. Deadline to register: January 31. Call me at 419-385-8516 for a day-to-day itinerary.

Kathy Gabel

"The World is a book, and those who do not travel, read only one page."

quote by St. Augustine

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Membership information

Please renew your membership for 2013, so you don't miss any news about the Toledo-Poznan Alliance. Membership renewal application is attached and also on the back of this newsletter, so please fill it out and send it with your membership contribution to:

Toledo-Poznan Alliance

P.O. Box 2555

Toledo, Ohio 43606

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Welcome new members and returning members!

Alicja & Piotr Jakimczuk
Jacqueline Konwinski
Sandra Drabik
John Henry Fullen
Nancy Norman

Welcome new Board members!

Jackie Konwinski
Stan Machosky

Poles: No appetite for debt

by Denny Kutylowski

The unique circumstances in Poland imply the whole bloody mess was easy to avoid.

Poland remains the only EU country not to have even one down year during the economic meltdown.

The reason Poland stands head and shoulders above its neighbors and the U.S. for that matter is due to three basic things: Disciplined banking principles, a sound government fiscal policy and perhaps most importantly a way more cautious approach to personal debt. Essentially, Poland's economy profited from risk moderation on every level including how individual households conducted their financial affairs.

When the bubble burst in 2008 Poland's household debt averaged only 16 percent of GDP. Contrast that figure with 109% for Great Britain and 95% here in America.

While property prices continue to be at the heart of the world's economic catastrophe, the Polish real estate market did fairly well to protect wealth instead of destroying it.

With out a doubt Polish housing stock and quality of life accelerated at break neck speed after the fall of Communism and state controlled economy, but mortgages were only a fraction of the economy.

The individual fiscal discipline demonstrated by Poles was matched by Polish banks, which maintained firm lending standards and rejected subprime loans. And, what a unie situation: Politicians kept their noses out of the lending arena.

While families even in the USA were struggling with household finances, Poles actually increased their bank savings accounts by double digits.

Those increased deposits kept the Polish banks strong on their own merits while bailouts were as common as perch in Lake Erie in other countries.

Poles comprise a lean, mean economic machine. Taking a lesson from Poland and trimming the taste for debt is a good thing for all nations to consider.

Smaczne certainly should not apply to a plate full of debt.



Another Recommended Polish Cookbook

From *A Polish Country House Kitchen*, by Anne Applebaum & Danielle Crittenden. Chronicle Books, c2012. 287 p. \$40.00

After buying a Polish manor house, the Applebaum family set about rebuilding it. While doing this, Anne had to cook with ingredients that were local, fresh, and available. She learned how to make food that was, if not traditional, in the Polish spirit.

What follows are 90 recipes for simplified Polish classics, some familiar—pierogi and cabbage rolls—and perhaps some less so—wild mushroom soup or venison stew. The national rebirth of Poland in the last two decades has meant the rebirth of its cuisine. Anne and fellow journalist Crittenden have modernized many of its dishes without losing any of the centuries-old flavors.

Try these recipes are for the ultimate comfort food. The author is married to a Polish diplomat with whom she has two sons. The family lives in Poland, London, and Washington, D.C.

From the Bookjacket