

Update from Co-Chairs Kerosky and Taube

Dear Friends of the Sister Cities,

We would like to update you all on the activities of the Sister City Association and invite you and your committees to take part in these activities and to plan your own events for the coming year. Like everyone in the community, we are trying to do our best with limited time and no budget to start with. Unlike other cities, San Francisco provides no funding or City structure to Sister City work. We had to start from scratch one year ago with nothing, so I believe we have made good progress.

Administration of the non-profit organization, fundraising, outreach and community relations

The organization is a non-profit California corporation. We have established bylaws, and corporate documents, and applications have been filed to obtain state and federal tax exempt status. We filed both of these applications in early March. The IRS acknowledged receipt of our application, but they have a great backlog due to budgetary limitations in their office and they have not yet ruled on our submission. The state of California has approved our application.

We have been working with a very talented group we called the Community Relations and Media Committee on a number of very important aspects of the overall organization, including this website, email lists, listserves, a newsletter, calendar and fundraising/grant writing plans. We divided up much of these tasks and we are moving forward with these goals. We have put together an extensive master email list with over 2000 email addresses in the community.

Creating a plan for fundraising and grant-writing is one of our top priorities and we have several people working on these activities. I hope to undertake a modest fundraising campaign by the end of the year.

Through the efforts and generosity of John Henry Fullen, we have enrolled in this non-profit web service, a moderately-priced software and advisory service that aids nonprofits with fundraising, outreach and multi-media. With the use of Wild Apricot, we hope to have a website, a list-service and some fundraising mechanisms started by year end.

Along those lines we will be asking people to join our organization as members. This will not be a voting membership, but membership will allow various benefits and a chance to support our efforts financially. We will be sending this information soon, and I hope you all will join our association.

Recent and upcoming events

In October, we organized a reception for Minister Leszek Balcerowicz, one of the most historic figures in recent Polish history. Chair of the Commercial Committee Caroline Brownstone hosted the event, and Caria Tomczykowska, Shana Penn and Chris Kerosky helped organize it. We were able to raise our first actual money for the Association account.

The same month we sponsored a premiere showing, at the Delancey Street Screening Room, of a documentary film about 19th century Polish-American actress Helena Modjeska. Born in Kraków, Poland, Modjeska debuted as an actress in San Francisco in 1877 at the California Theater on Bush Street. The film was a perfect fit for our Sister City project. The event was organized by Cultural Committee member Maureen Mroczek Morris, who did a superb job putting it all together and who was the major sponsor. The film was one of a series, part of the Polish Club of San Francisco's "Polish Movie Nite" created by Joasia Szupinska and Maureen Mroczek Morris.

During December 4-7, we are organizing a Poland-Silicon Valley Technology Symposium, organized by the Advanced Technology Committee of the San Francisco Kraków Sister Cities Association, along with the US-Polish Trade Council and the Polish American Engineers' Club. We are pleased to announce that Mr. Kazimierz Bujakowski, deputy mayor of Kraków (with representatives of the City Strategy and Development Department) is planning to visit San Francisco in the beginning of December to participate in the Sister City Advanced Technology Conference. We hope to have the participation of the Mayor's Chief of Staff Steve Kawa, representing the City of San Francisco, as well as other City officials. There

will be many other notable governmental and industry leaders attending from the Kraków region and from other parts of Poland, as well as key players from Silicon Valley.

Next year, we would like to mobilize our committees and plan many more events. If you have any ideas of your own, please contact your committee chair and offer your suggestions. With your help, we hope to make this Sister City effort worthy of these two very special cities we love.

All the best,

Christopher A. Kerosky and Tad Taube