

## A 2011 New Year's Update from Co-Chairs Taube and Kerosky

Dear Friends of the Sister Cities,

We would like to update you all on the activities and plans of the Sister City Association and invite you to join as a member at the link to our new website at the bottom of this message. You will also find attached a flyer with details about how to join or make a donation to our organization. Please help us by joining today.

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

Like many in the community, we are trying to do a lot with limited time and money. Unlike other cities, San Francisco provides no funding or city structure to the Sister City work. We had to start from scratch one year ago with nothing, so we believe we have made good progress.

The organization is now a non-profit California corporation. We have established bylaws, and corporate documents, and we have obtained state and federal tax exempt status. We filed both of these applications in early March. The state of California has approved our application. The IRS gave its approval in the early part of 2011.

We are also very proud to announce that we have a wonderful new website and listserve, to be found at [www.SFKrakow.org](http://www.SFKrakow.org).

With the help of John Henry Fullen and Ed Baker, we have created a sister city website for communication with committee members and the community at large. It will also serve as a tool for membership activities and for outside fundraising. It will inform members of future events, circulate photos from recent events and allow committees to post their own web pages and notices of their activities.

Using this new website, we are now inviting the community to become members of our non-profit organization formally. This will be a nonvoting membership that entitles members to various benefits, including advance notice and special invitations to organization activities, among others. This is the first of upcoming efforts to invite people in the community to join. We are hoping to have your help to get the word out.

### **Recent Events and Plans for 2011:**

Here is a quick summary of some of the recent events we have helped organize and some plans for 2011:

#### **Reception for Minister Balcerowicz**

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 Christopher Kerosky helped organize it. Participants were able to meet and converse with Minister Balcerowicz in a very intimate setting, and it's fair to say a wonderful evening was had by all.

#### **Poland-Silicon Valley Technology Symposium, December 4-7**

We helped organize a Silicon Valley-Poland Technology Symposium at Stanford, put together by our Advanced Technology Committee along with the US-Polish Trade Council and the Polish American Engineers Club. We had many VIPs in attendance including:

- Mr Kazimierz Bujakowski, deputy mayor of Krakow and representatives of the Krakow Strategy and Development Department,
- Mr. Olgierd Dziekonski, Secretary of State in the Chancellery of the President of Poland,
- Mr. Dariusz Bogdan, Deputy Minister of Economy, the Consul General of the Republic of Poland,

- Mrs. Joanna Kozinska-Frybes, Consul General of the Republic of Poland,
- Sławomir Kopec, President of the Kraków Technology Park,
- Regional officials from Poland, presidents and representatives of Polish technical universities, representatives of technology parks and incubators in Poland, leaders of Polish and US businesses,
- San Francisco Mayor's Commercial and Trade Representative Mark Chandler.

### **Visit of the Delegation of Kraków Vice Mayor in December**

Deputy Mayor Bujakowski, President Kopec, and their staff officials were guests of the Mayor at his annual Holiday Party at the City Hall. It was a magnificent event, with music, food, entertainment and a very impressive list of consular and public officials from San Francisco attending. Among others, our guests were able to meet and speak to former Secretary of State George Shultz, who was such a strong advocate for Poland during the Reagan Administration. (Secretary Shultz is on our Sister City Advisory Committee.)

Mayor Gavin Newsom and his chief of staff, Polish American Steve Kawa, also held a separate reception for the Vice Mayor and his staff on December 3rd in San Francisco City Hall in their honor. Mayor Newsom was there, and he gave our guests a private tour of his offices. At that time, they met with most of the Committee Chairs for the Sister Cities Association. The groups were also guided on a private tour of the City by Caria Tomczykowska, as well as one organized for symposium participants on a separate day.

### **First Anniversary of the Signing of the Sister City Agreement in Kraków**

This summer we celebrated the First Anniversary of the Signing of the Sister City Agreement in Kraków. This was in conjunction with the 20th anniversary celebration of the Jewish Culture Festival in Kraków, the largest festival of its kind in the world, spanning eight days and nights of music, art, theater, dance, lectures, workshops and seminars. Participants from the Sister City organization included Tad Taube, Koret CEO Jeffrey Farber, Caria Tomczykowska, Mary Kay Stuvland, and Bill Adasiewicz, among others. There were many other dignitaries from San Francisco including a representative from Mayor Newsom's office.

Among the events organized during this celebration was a reception with U.S. Secretary of State Clinton, at Kraków's new Oskar Schindler Museum.

There was also a gala banquet organized with the City of Kraków, attended by the Mayor of Kraków, the Vice Mayor, the Consul General of the United States Consulate in Kraków, and many other dignitaries.

### **Chopin Concert**

Caria Tomczykowska, Chair of our Sister City Tourism Committee and President of the Polish Arts and Culture Foundation, organized a Piano Concert and Reception, celebrating the 200th Birthday of Frederick Chopin on December 12, 2010 at the residence of the Consul General of France in San Francisco. The event was a joint project with of the French and Polish communities, to honor the music of the composer who belonged to both.

### **Film Premieres**

In October, we sponsored the SF premiere 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. It was a perfect film for our Sister City project. The event was organized and largely under-written by Cultural Committee member Maureen Mroczek Morris, who did a superb job putting it all together. The film was part of the SF Polish Club's "Polish Movie Nite."

With the help of the Taube Foundation and Maureen Mroczek Morris, we also sponsored and debuted Mary Skinner's amazing documentary film about Irena Sendler ("In The Name of Their Mothers") at the Jewish Community Center in SF, and subsequently at the Polish Club in SF. The Taube Foundation has made it possible for this remarkable film to be broadcast nationwide in prime time on Public Broadcasting Stations (PBS) in May of 2011.

### **Art and Culture Committee Activities**

Our Arts and Culture Committee Chairs, David Katznelson and Wiesław Pogorzelski, have been working on a number of projects:

The American Conservatory Theatre (ACT), assisted by the Polish Cultural Institute (PCI) in NY, will do a teacher exchange with the Kraków Drama Academy in June 2011. ACT staff are now in Kraków attending the International Theater Festival, with the help of the PCI. ACT will return to Poland in the spring, at the invitation of the PCI, to attend the Warsaw International Theater Festival and also to go to Kraków to continue building their relationship with the Kraków Drama Academy.

There will be a cross-pollination of cultures in 2011 honoring Czesław Miłosz's life and poetry. Robert Hass, former American Poet Laureate and close friend and translator of Miłosz, is the key person. A venue and date will be announced soon.

December 4, 2010 -- March 27, 2011 the Palace of the Legion of Honor in SF will host an exhibit of the fine art works of Artur (Arthur) Szyk, Jewish-Polish artist and illustrator who immigrated to the US during WWII.

The Kitchen Sisters who have won a Peabody award on NPR radio want to make a series of short programs to introduce the cities of SF and Kraków.

Warren Hellman, who organizes the annual Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival at Golden Gate Park and has a bluegrass band, will be participating at next summer's Kraków Jewish Culture Festival and will be part of our PR and cultural exchange.

### **Traditional Arts**, under the leadership of Mary Kay Stuvland

We held the annual Slavic Christmas Choral Concert December 9 at the Berkeley Hillside Club, this year entitled "Christmas in Kraków: Slavic Choral Concert".

The event had a Kraków theme with a traditional Christmas procession. It featured new carol compositions composed in honor of Kraków. There was a focus on the Slavic tradition and over 75 Central and East European musicians were brought together to participate in the event. In addition to traditional Christmas songs, three Chanukah songs from Eastern Europe were performed.

The Traditional Arts Committee is also planning to take 24 dancers to perform in Kraków next summer to represent San Francisco.

### **Membership**

As mentioned above, we are now inviting you and others in the community to formally become members of our organization. Membership will confer various benefits, including advance notice and invitations to organization activities, special discounts on organization events, the opportunity to meet VIPs from Poland, and receipt of our organization newsletter.

Membership fees are modest. By joining our organization formally, you will provide important financial support to our organization. This will help inform San Franciscans and other Americans of the beauty and culture of Kraków and Poland, and also share our City with our special friends abroad.

Below is a link to the website where you can join as a member. Please join or make a donation today!

Link to membership page: <http://sfkrakow.org/Default.aspx?pagelid=835169>

You can use the same page to make donations online, or simply send a check to the address below.

The San Francisco - Kraków Sister Cities Association is now officially a 501(c)3 Not-for-Profit Organization, as recognized by the IRS.

To assist in our organization's development, we have appointed John Henry Fullen as President, He has volunteered to share his Sister Cities programming experience with our Association.

Please join our efforts and support this special relationship between two cities we love, Kraków and San Francisco.

We hope you had a happy holiday season and a wonderful new year.

All the best,

Tad Taube and Christopher Kerosky  
Co-Chairs of the SF-Kraków Sister Cities Association  
And Co-Honorary Consuls, Republic of Poland

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