

# **Everything Polish in Texas!**

**Event Calendar** 

**Photos & More** 

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The PACT Annual Meeting began with a General Membership meeting in the parish hall at St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church in Anderson, Texas on Nov. 14, 2020.

# POLISH AMERICAN COUNCIL OF TEXAS

## BOARD OF <u>DIRECTORS</u>

Maureen Brown Jola Mazewski-Dryden Krzysztof Gajda Susie Kotara Genny Kraus Michael Kurtin Justyna Lopez Dr. Witold Lukaszewski Sue McCarthy Marta Morawska Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz Eric Opiela Dr. Waldemar Priebe Dr. Piotr Przybylski **Elaine Mazurek Stephens** John Wojtasczyk

#### OFFICERS 2020

President: Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz Vice President: Dr. Piotr Przybylski 2nd Vice President: Eric Opiela 3rd Vice President: Elaine Mazurek Stephens Youth Vice President: Gabe Podniesinski, President of the Texas A&M Polish Assn. Youth Vice President: Nathan Silverstein, President of the University of Texas Polish Club Secretary: Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden Treasurer: John Wojtasczyk Chairman Emeritus: Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta D.D., Amarillo Diocese Honorary Director: Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Houston, Robert Rusiecki Directory/Membership Chairman: Elaine Mazurek Stephens Silent Auction Chairman: Maureen Brown

n behalf of the Polish American Council of Texas (PACT), we want to thank our members and sponsors as we celebrate our 10th anniversary. The PACT was founded by Bishop John W. Yanta Emeritus and several key Polonia leaders. Through their vision, we continue our organization's mission of furthering the knowledge of Polish culture, traditions, history, language, arts, current affairs and statewide events in Texas by networking among Polonia in Texas, nationally and abroad. The PACT is proud of our achievements and we look forward to expanding our efforts working together as one Polonia.

- Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, President Polish American Council of Texas







Austin Polish Society visits with the adorable Austin Polish school students.

The Polish Heritage Center "Champions" in early 2020, planning for the new center.



Jagoda Dance Ensemble celebrating Polish National Independence Day, November 2020.



We appreciate the many people who have shared photos with us and welcome all photos of member events!

#### 4 Major Waves of Polish Immigration to Texas

I Silesia Region (Prussian partition) since 1854
II Wielkopolska / Kujawy (Prussian partition) and Malopolska / Galicia (Austrian partition) since 1867
III Marshall Law, Poles came from all over Poland since 1980 and 1945 after World War II
IV All of Poland and from California, the US Mid-West and East Coast since 2000-present

I – II waves "za chlebem" (for bread)
III wave "Solidarnościowa (solidarity)
IV wave "dla gospodarki" (for the economy)



# MEMBER EVENTS 2021~2022

Please check the Member website for details and up-to-date information. Check www.PACTX.org for more events.

January Kosciuszko Lodge 165/Council 182, Meeting, KC Hall, Houston

1 PACT membership renewals become due

10 Polish Progressive Lodge 2336 Meeting, Houston

17 Jasełka - Nativity Play, Polish School, Our Lady of Czestochowa. Houston

21 Polish Heritage Center, virtual event, "The History of Texas Polonia"

30 PACT Directory ad deadline

30 Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity event, Wielki Finale, Austin

31 Polish Home, Annual Meeting, Houston

February Ognisko, Bonfire, Wawel Dance Group, Houston

Polish Film Fest, Austin

Polish Heritage Center, via Facebook, "Share Your Polish-Texas Stories from the Heart"

Polish Karnawał, Jagoda Dance Ensemble, Dallas

6 Children's Karnawał. Polish School, Houston

13 Carnival Ball, Polish School, Our Lady of Czestochowa. Houston

13 Valentine's Day Dance Party, European in Texas Market Cafe. Southlake

17 Ash Wednesday, Środa Popielcowa

<u>March</u> Austin Polish Film Screening

Bigos Cook-off, Austin Polish Society

24 Polish Heritage Center, virtual event, "Mary Rzeppa Schulz: Pioneer Entrepreneur of South Texas"

28 Palm Sunday

<u>April</u> Polonia Restaurant Annual Crawfish Boil. Houston

2 Good Friday

3 Children's Easter event, Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, Houston

Holy Saturday - Blessing of the Food - Easter - święconka

4 Easter, święta wielkanocne

5 Śmigus Dyngus -Monday after Easter Day

3rd Sunday Spring Festival, Our Lady of Sorrows. San Antonio

6 Deadline, PACT Scholarship applications

15 Deadline, PNA Scholarship applications

18 Deadline, Fr. Leo Moczygemba Fdtn Scholarship applications

18 Deadline, Polish Progressive Lodge 2336/Kosciuszko Lodge 165 Scholarship applications

21 Polish Heritage Center, virtual event. "Ask an Archivist"

25 Picnic, Polish School, Houston

25 Dedication of Pope JPII statue, Annunciation of the BVM, St. Hedwig

Last Sunday Feast Day, Annunciation of the BVM. St. Hedwia

#### Mav

Annual Bazaar, St. Joseph church, Stoneham

Polish Picnic, St. Peter the Apostle church, Dallas

3 Houston Polish Festival

Polish Labor Day/May Day

1st Sunday Parish Festival, St. Stanislaus, Bandera

3 Polish Constitution Day

9 Mother's Day

19 Polish Heritage Center, virtual event, "Early Polish Texas Builders & Contributions to the Texas Landscape & Recent Preservation Project & Resources in Honor of Historic Preservation Month"

23 Children's Day, Mothers/ Father Day Picnic, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Houston

June 20 Father's Day

25-26 Polski Dzien - Polish Pickle Run. Bremond

August

Annual Homecoming Bazaar. St. Stanislaus, Chappell Hill

Annual Homecoming Bazaar, St. Mary, Plantersville Homecoming Bazaar, St. Stanislaus, Anderson

1st Sunday Annual Picnic. St. Ann. Kosciuszko

#### More events on page 6.

COVER PHOTO: Nov. 14, 2020, PACT Annual Meeting in Anderson, Texas. Following Mass, the attendees gathered for a group photo in front of the St. Stanislaus Kostka church and then walked a short way to the parish hall on the beautiful parish grounds. In the center, Msgr. Adam Mc-Closky and Msgr. Chester Borski, who are native sons of St. Stanislaus Kostka. with Father Jozef Musiol SDS, JDC on the right.

# MEMBER EVENTS 2021~2022

#### Please check the Member website for details and up-to-date information. Check www.PACTX.org for more events.

#### September

St. Joseph Annual Bazaar, New Waverly

Polish Harvest Festival, Houston

Heritage Festival, Sts. Cyril & Methodius Slavic, Houston

1st Sunday Annual Homecoming Bazaar, Chappell Hill

5 Dożynki Mass & Homecoming Festival, Chappell Hill

6 Labor Day

October Polish Heritage Month

2nd Sunday Turkey Dinner & Homecoming, Panna Maria

Oct./Nov. Annual Dożynki,

Chappell Hill Oct. 9 Nov. 28 Ren Fest, Polonia Restaurant & Polish Activities, Magnolia

<u>November</u> Small Big Hearts Gala

Polish Film Festival, Houston

1 All Saints Day / All Souls Day

7 Fall Back - Change time

11 Polish Independence Day

13 PACT Annual Meeting, St. Joseph Church, New Waverly

25 Thanksgiving Day

December Polish Home Christmas Party, Houston Kolędy Events, Chappell Hill & Bremond

24 Christmas Eve - Wigilia, Annunciation of the BVM, St. Hedwig

25 Christmas Day - Boże Narodzenie

31 New Year's Eve / Sylwester/ Nowy Rok

January 2022 Polskie Kolędy, St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, Chappell Hill

1 PACT Membership renewals become due

30 PACT Directory ad deadline

# <text>

# 2020 Polish Texan Lifetime Adhievement Awards



Congratulations to the 2020 Polish Texan Lifetime Achievement Award recipients: L-R: Msgr. Ches-ter Borski, Father Joseph Szymaczak (awarded posthumously: accepted by his brother), Elaine Mazurék Stephens, and Msgr. Adam McClosky (Mikołajczyk). In background, Susie Kotara. PACT Director.



We are proud to announce the winners of our 2020 Scholarship Essay Contest. Each student received a \$1000 scholarship, payable to their university.

Jacob Campbell - attends La Vernia High School, will attend Texas A&M University

Andrew Christy - attends Kingwood High School, will attend Texas A&M University

James Mismash - attends University of Texas at Austin

Madison Dziuk - attends Texas A&M University



Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz meeting one of our 2020 PACT Scholarship winners, Andrew Christy (second from right), and his family.

Once again, we wish to say Gratulacje! to the students who have won a scholarship from PACT! 2020 Jacob Campbell Andrew Christy James Mismash Madison Dziuk 2019 Alycia Caban-Johnson Jacob Alexander Kristin Króżel Kasia Króżel 2018 David Luke Cheuvront Patryk Tomaszkiewicz Kasia Króżel 2017 Patrick Zajac

Visit our website for details about our Scholarship Program. We welcome donations to this fund, www.PACTX.org

# 2020 PACT Activities

Encouraged Texas Polonia to complete the 2020 US Census to include their Polish heritage: Feb. 5, 2020

Taping/Recording of the Wielkopolska Polish dialect in Chappell Hill on Oct. 27, 2019 and the Silesian Polish Dialect of Panna Maria on August 22, 2020

"Polish Texan -The History of Texas Polonia" presentation for the Texas A&M Polish Association and the Penn State University Polish Club on October 13, 2020. Available at PACTx.org.

Hosted the St. John Paul II 100th Anniversary 2020 World Concert Series on October 25, 2020 sponsored by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Houston. Available at PACTx.org.

Co-sponsored a letter of invitation to Mr. Dariusz Bonisławski, President Stowarzyszenie Wspólnota Polska on Feb. 11, 2020 with John W. Yanta, Bishop Emeritus, Chairman of the Board, Polish Heritage in Panna Maria, Texas to visit Texas and the PHC.

Organized and planned an eight day "Polish Texas History Visit" from March 28 to April 5 for Professors from Lublin University (KUL) and University of Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski (UKSW) in Warsaw to study "The History of Texas Polonia." Cancelled due to COVID-19.

Prepared and submitted a letter to President Andrzej Duda for support of Project ACP on May 2020.
 Prepared and submitted a letter on behalf of PACT to all 36 Texas US House of Representatives and 2 Texas US Senators concerning the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 141/S.521) on September 14, 2020.

Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, President of PACT was interviewed and an article was written about "Texas Strategy for Polonia" on January 3, 2020 and published in Tygodnik Solidarność by Waldemar Biniecki.

Sent a letter of congratulations to Polish President Andrzej Duda for his re-election to a second term as President of Poland on July 14, 2020 on behalf of PACT.

Provided an interview with Kimberly Fox with KAMU-TV for the "Around the world in 10 days" series on July 23, 2020 about Poland.

Interview with Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz titled "Poles from all over the world should get together" premiered on May 19, 2020 conducted by Polonia wRealu24 with 16,284 views. https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=5SBbkK10ZzY&t=16s

Prepared and submitted a letter of support on behalf of PACT on May 27, 2020 for the resolution commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Katyn Massacre introduced to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee by US Senators Menendez, Risch and Durbin on May 7, 2020. This letter of support was submitted to Senators Menendez, Risch, Durbin, Cruz, Cornyn as well as President Trump and President Duda.

Research information was collected from December 2019 to February 2020 and presented to Ewa Barczyk on February 13, 2020 with the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) for a document Ewa was preparing for "Guide to Polish Historical Sites in North America. Texas Polish history included parishes, Texas Independence battles, San Jacinto, music, Polish Home in Houston and the narrative about the four Polish immigrations to Texas by Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz.

PACT Proclamation for the late Elenora Dugosh Goodley presented to her family for her many contributions to Texas Polonia and the City of Bandera.

Initiated and established a "Sister City" between Bryan/College Station, Texas and Toruń, Poland confirmed on June 3, 2020 from the Mayor of Toruń, Michal Zaleski.

Dr. Piotr Przybylski explained the current status of Texas Polonia and the reason why Poles and people of Polish descent are moving to Texas in an interview with the Polvision Polish TV from Chicago – Houston, January 2020.

Dr. Piotr Przybylski prepared and conducted three virtual lectures about the Polish History for the students of the St. John Paul II Institute at the University of St. Thomas – April-June 2020.

New PACT website was created (August-November 2020) – group effort led by Elaine Mazurek Stephens.

PACT sponsored the virtual symphonic concert and recitation of some of Karol Wojtyła's poems during the 100th birth anniversary of St. John Paul II – effort organized by Krzysztof Gajda – October 25 2020

PACT Annual Meeting in Anderson, Chairman Michael Kurtin – November 14, 2020

Coordinated with Polish Consulate a help for a sick child and its parents to come back to Poland after successful therapy in Houston – June 2020 Prepared, published, and distributed 2,000 PACT directories throughout Texas, U.S. and Poland.

Added Floyd Daigle – an experienced web designer – to the PACT team.

Added Justyna Lopez as new PACT Board Member – extended PACT to El Paso region.

Added Elaine Mazurek-Stephens as 3rd VP of PACT – September 2020.

Developed a strong Polish volleyball team "The White Eagles" in Houston league, with a high chance of winning the group; the finals were postponed due to Covid-19 – January-March 2020.

Advertised and helped to find students for the first online Polish language course organized by Urszula Szuleta from Houston Polish Academy – June-August 2020.

Ădded St. John Paul II Institute, Houston Polish Academy, and New Waverly Polish community to PACT – January 2020.

Invited Dr. John Hittinger as a guest speaker about the St. John Paul II for Texas Polonia at the PACT annual meeting in Anderson – November 14 2020.

Awarded \$4000 in scholarship to Texas students.
Presented Polish-Texan Lifetime Achievement Awards to Msgr. Chester Borski, Father Joseph Szymaczak (awarded posthumously; accepted by his brother), Elaine Mazurek Stephens, and Msgr. Adam McClosky (Mikołajczyk).







Harvey and Helen Wise, members of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bryan, Texas, attending the PACT Annual Meeting. Helen has Polish roots from Bremond, Texas. Our condolences to their family on the passing of Mr. Wise in February 2021.



Following Mass, the attendees gathered for a group photo in front of the church and then walked a short way to the parish hall on the beautiful parish grounds. The blessing of the meal was said by Fr. Jozef Musiol, Pastor of St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Chappell Hill, Texas.

Once again, we say *Dziekuje bardzo!* to Anderson and St. Stanislaus Catholic Parish for making our annual meetings fun and outstanding! Visit our NEW website for MORE photos of the 2020 Annual Meeting - PACTx.org.



Left: Ted Zawistowski, Bill Orodowicz. Right: John Zientek, Gerome Bielamowicz.

Celebrate PACT's 10 year anniversay with a recap of past annual meetings on pages 10-11.



L-R: Dr. Jim and Kathy Mazurkiewicz with Michael Kurtin, Annual Meeting Chairman, right. COVID precautions were in place as participants donned masks, had their temperature taken at the entrance, and used many bottles of hand sanitizer throughout the meeting.



Jan 27, 2011, in San Antonio, Bishop John Y. Yanta, right, invited several people to attend a meeting; with the vision of creating an organization to represent Polish-Texans. In the same year, the name, Polish American Council of Texas was adopted. L-R: Janet Dawson Ebrom, Joseph Cicherski, Dorothy Pawelek, and Bishop Yanta. Also in attendance were Fr. Frank Kurzaj, Fr. Bill Zadora SDS, Fr. Stanislaus Pieczara SDS, Fr. Stan Fiuk, Fr. Mariusz Lazarek, Sr. Mary Martha Janysek, Genny Kraus, Ed and Sue McCarthy, Elenora Dugosh Goodley, Elaine Mazurek Stephens, Rosalie and Lambert Titzman, Allen and Regina Kosub, and the Seraphic Sisters who prepared lunch for us, at The Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in San Antonio.



On June 16, 2012, we met in San Antonio, where we approved By-Laws and elected the first slate

of Officers; Art Gmurowski, President; Elenora Dugosh Goodley, Vice President; Marian Kruzel, 1st Vice President; Elaine Mazurek Stephens, Secretary; Beata Zadrozna, Treasurer.



On March 19, 2011, another meeting was held to continue discussing Bishop Yanta's vision of establishing the Polish American Council of Texas. In attendance were Dr. Zbigniew Wojciechowski, Laura Felusiak, Darek Ostatek, Art Gmurowski, Fr. Frank Kurzaj, Ed and Sue McCarthy, Dorothy Pawelek, Bob Malina, Dr. Marian Kruzel, Joseph Cicherski, Beata Burgeson, and Elaine Mazurek Stephens. Once again, the Seraphic Sisters at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa kindly prepared refreshments for us.



November 23, 2013 - The first annual meeting of PACT was held on a cold day in Bremond at the Texas Slav and German Warehouse and was hosted by owners, Jason and Denise Gouge.





On November 15, 2014, PACT officers met at the Texas Cattle Company in Austin for a small but fruitful Annual Meeting. L-R: Elaine Mazurek Stephens, Art Gmurowski, Bishop John W. Yanta, DDS, Sue McCarthy, Elenora Dugosh Goodley, and John Goodley.

In 2015, the PACT Annual Meeting was held at St. John Catholic Church in San Marcos. The meal was catered by Apolonia Catering. In attendance were Bishop John W. Yanta DDS, Fr. Stanislaus Pieczara SDS, Beata Burgeson, Sue McCarthy, Sam and Susie Kotara, James Mazurkiewicz, Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, Elenora Dugosh Goodley, Maureen Brown, Bob Malina, Art Gmurowski, John Wojtasczyk, Angelica Firlej, and Elaine Mazurek Stephens.







On November 18, 2017, our PACT Annual Meeting returned to Bremond where the community again welcomed us with open arms. The day included meetings, Mass, a welcome by local officials, awards, dance performances, a procession, and a great meal.



On November 16, 2019, we held our Annual Meeting in the Cowboy Capital of the World, Bandera, Texas. The locals had a real hoe-down for us! Beginning with a big breakfast meeting hosted by the St. Stanislaus Knights of Columbus and parishioners, followed by a Texas-sized greeting on the Courthouse lawn, our procession led to Holy Mass at St. Stanislaus. We then went to The Farm Country Club for great entertainment, a silent auction, awards, and a great meal.



On Nov. 17, 2018, Chappell Hill was the venue for our Annual Meeting, hosted by St. Stanislaus Catholic Church. On that beautiful day, we celebrated with a big welcoming ceremony, a procession to Mass followed by a delicious meal, entertainment, awards, a silent auction, and lots of fun. Photo courtesy of James Smock

SEE A FLIP-BOOK OF THIS DIRECTORY ON WWW.PACTX.ORG!



#### In memory of my great-greatgrandparents, John Kush and Josephine Opiela Kush.

They both came to Texas from the region of Silesia, in Poland. John arrived on the first ship in 1854 and was a stonemason who settled in downtown San Antonio and helped build many churches and buildings, including St. Michael's Church that stood in the footprint of the Tower of Americas, and where the couple wed in 1868. Josephine had come to Texas with her parents, Nicolaus and Josephine Opiela (buried in Panna Maria) and seven siblings in 1856. Their family home John Kush built remains in its original location in Hemisfair Park. I hope to honor them by serving as Director for the PACT and Marketing Director for the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria. I only learned of my Polish ancestors after working with the PHC, Bishop Yanta, and the communities and now I am blessed and will treasure this heritage and will pass on to my family. - Maureen "Mo" Brown



#### John & Amanda Cebrowski

In Memory of...

Wacław Siekierski and Jozefa Rząsińska Siekierski



3040 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 525 Houston TX, 77056, USA www.gov.pl/web/usa @PLinHouston

# Zuzanna Kobrzynski

Director of the Texas Foreign Trade Office Polish Investment and Trade Agency



Genny Kraus

Mazurka Polish Dancer

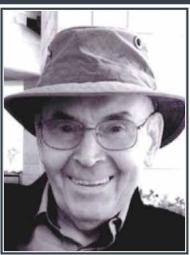
PACT Member

Proudly helping Grimes County and beyond with genealogy and translations!

Michael Kurtin 13300 FM 362 Navasota, TX 77868 713-446-7813 mktexwh@yahoo.com







Then & Now

# John and Frances Lewandowski - Chappell Hill



John Lewandowski (1875 - 1957)

John and Frances Jensurski Lewandowski arrived in Chappell Hill in 1899.



Frances Lewandowski (1879 - 1960)

We are the second and third generation of their offspring, Pete and Theresa Kapchinski Lewandowski.







Norman and Evelyn Lewandowski Mushinski and F.B. "Ski" Lewandowski



F. B. "Ski" Lewandowski



Johnnie and Evelyn Mushinski Lewandowski, Brenda Lewandowski, James Mushinski family

Congratulations to PACT and much success for all endeavors in 2021!

Jolanta A. Mazewski- Dryden



- Secretary Polish American Council of Texas
- Fraternal Advisor Region H, Polish National Alliance (Texas, Colorado, Florida, Missouri & Nebraska)
- Sales Representative Polish National Alliance Fraternal Insurance
- President, Polish Progressive Lodge 2336 & Council 182 Representative
- Polish Events and Happenings in Texas & Beyond

Immigrated from Poland in the early 60's to Texas. Actively involved in the Polish community and organizations since the age of S, performed with the Polish Eagle dancers for over 30 years. Held a variety of positions in the Polish community for five decades. Active promoter of the Polish culture, history, language, arts, and heritage via Polish displays throughout Texas. Involved in festivals, consumer events, bazaars, and private events. Does speaking engagements and TV promos. Check out Polish Events and Happening in Texas and Beyond on FB for up-to-date info in the Polish community. Owns a consulting, PR, marketing, and event production firm – Dryden Event Productions. Contact: jola@drydeneventproductions. Descendant of Wielkopolska and Kujawsko-Pomorskie whose ancestors settled in Chappell Hill, Texas Washington County "The birthplace of Texas" in the 1880's

#### **James Mazurkiewicz**

Equine Field Service Equine Dentistry Technician Texas A&M University Large Animal Hospital

Cell: (979) 229-0780 jmazurkiewicz@cvm.tamu.edu jamesmaz4m@hotmail.com



Happy to be part of the PACT as it fosters continued interest in the wonderful Polish Heritage. — Sue McCarthy Blessings from

Susan Moczygemba-McKinsey

Panna Maria, TX

"Best wishes to the Polish American Council of Texas throughout 2021!"



Dr. Mark Pienkos National Vice President for Public Relations Polish American Congress markpienkos2012@gmail.com 262-325-8039 • pac1944.org



Mary Ann Kotara Schirmer 5th Generation

in Panna Maria Best Wishes to All!

# Congratulations to PACT on the Celebration of our 10 Year Anniversary!



#### In memory of



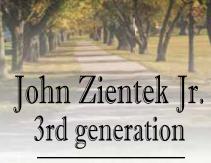
**Jerzy-Piotr Walicki** who arrived in the United States from the region of Bialystock in Poland on October 27, 1949. Born: June 28, 1920 Deceased: June 2, 2007 — Mark G. Walicki, son Richard Walicki, son Kristina Cashin, daughter



A true story of a young family that is separated by the Cold War, when a man deceives the communist authorities and manages to escape from Soviet Poland.

## **Zbigniew Wojcik** Slaying the Soviet Beast: The True Story about How the Cold War was Won. What Next?

www.SlayingSoviet.com www.facebook.com/zbigniew.wojcik.5074



In Memory of John and Stella Zientek

## Founder & Chairman Emeritus of the Polish American Council of Texas:





Above: President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Duda, presenting the highest award to a non-citizen of Poland, the **Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit** during his Presidential visit to Our Lady of Częstochowa Church, Houston, Texas, June 13, 2019. This award was presented for Bishop Yanta's long history of promoting, supporting, and preserving Polonia not only here in Texas, but throughout America.

On right: the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit award with certificate of authenticity.



# John & Debbie Brzezinski



# Paul & Laura Dylla

In Memory of Engelbert & Elenora Krawietz and Lawrence & Alice Dylla

Malgorzata (Margaret) T. Gajda, MD, FAAP & Krzysztof (Christopher) J. Gajda, CPA 903-957-0050

## Gabe & Bertha Dworaczyk Korzekwa



In Memory Of

Hagan Dworaczyk & Pelagia (Wiatrek) Dworaczyk Benedict Korzekwa & Hattie (Hoffmann) Korzekwa

# Sam & Susie Kotara Honoring the Polish heritage of the Broll, Kotara, and Wojtasczyk families while being actively involved in the development of the Polish Heritage Center USA at Panna Maria and the PACT.

## The Kuciemba Family



Rebel Ian, Rusty, Liberty Rose, Wuisayo, Katarzyna Victoria



We pay Tribute to our ancestors and honor their sacrifices.

# George & Betty Kowalik

Supporting the Polish Heritage Center to instill pride and knowledge of our ancestors' Polish heritage, faith, family and community and working to keep their history from being lost.



# Na cześć naszych polskich rodzin



Mikolaj Kubiak & Katherina Kuzniarek Parents of Marcin Kublak - standing We Remember and Honor Our Beloved Bremond Ancestors

> Denis Kubiak Bremond

Nicholas Kubiak & Family Rockwall



Jan Slawkow & Marisa Filip On Wedding Day [date unknown]



Mother of Mercy Messengers - Center Point, TX An apostolate of the Marian Fathers at the National Shrine of Divine Mercy, Stockbridge, MA Descendant of Wielkopolska and Kujawsko-Pomorskie whose ancestors settled in Chappell Hill, Texas Washington County "The birthplace of Texas" in the 1880's

Dr. Jim & Kathy Mazurkiewicz

President & PACT Board Member Director, Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria Board Member, Polish American Chamber of Commerce in Texas Professor, Regents Fellow & Leadership Program Director Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication Texas A&M University

1470 William D. Fitch Parkway, Ste. 121 A College Station, Texas 77843-2137 Cell: 979-229-8855 • j-mazurkiewicz@tamu.edu http://tall.tamu.edu

# Al & Angela Notzon

I have been working with Bishop John Yanta and have been involved in the Polish Heritage Center from its inception. I am



so thankful that my Polish ancestors risked so much to come to America and am humbled by the sacrifices they made for their future generations. I have sponsored the St. Michael's Cemetery window representation since my greatgrandfather and great-grandmother Notzon are buried there, and I want to honor their memories as well as all my Polish ancestors through my gifts to the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria.

# Dr. Piotr Przybylski

- 1st Vice President of PACT and PACT Board Member
- •Born and raised in Kraków, Poland
- University of St. Thomas
   Polish Studies Development Advisor



# John & Denise SKROBARCZYK

5th generation descendants of immigrants Josef & Joanna Skrobarczyk who arrived in Panna Maria in 1855



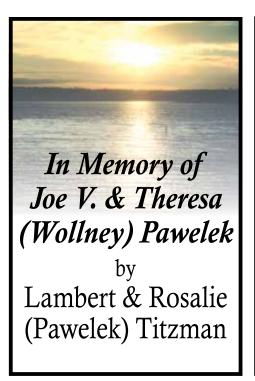
Rising Hope, a YA historical fiction novel by Marie Sontag, Ph.D., tells the story of six teens who, through loss, find hope as their Boy Scout and Girl Guide troops join forces with the Polish Underground to figh



Underground to fight against the German occupation of Warsaw during WWII.

"Rising Hope is an homage to all Polish teenagers who fought the German evil so bravely during WWII. A must read." Julian Kulski, author of The Color of Courage, and a teen Polish insurgent in Warsaw, WWII

Amazon, Barnes & Noble





John (Treasurer for PACT) & Christie Wojtasczyk;

Descendants of Morawiecz, Schlesia, Pawlik, Hagel, Migura, Bednorz, Brzezina, Skrobarczyk, Grabon, Kowalik, Respondek, Czerner, & Ibrom The Church was founded in 1855.

# Annunciation BVM Church



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The Mission of the Bandera County Sister Partnership (BCSPA) is to advance peace through lasting relationships and international understanding, friendships, and diplomatic relations.

We take the United States of America, Texas, and Bandera County with us when we go abroad. Our goal is to spread peace and goodwill through sister partnerships with international cities, counties, schools, citizens, and diplomatic exchanges; to promote Bandera as the USA's best western cowboy culture vacation attraction helping to expand economic development in the city and county of Bandera.

The BCSPA promotes tourism, culture, and the cowboy traditions of Bandera County, Texas since first established in 2004.



Capital of the World."



The Center for European Studies (CES) at University of Texas at Austin promotes the study of Europe in the form of: language study; providing courses on European culture, history, economics, business, and politics; creating opportunities for study abroad and internships abroad; and assisting students in pursuing work opportunities connected to Europe.

CES also serves civic, nonprofit, and business associations with activities in Europe; academic leaders and institutions from Europe with collaborative agreements with UT; governmental and multilateral agencies dedicated to social and economic betterment in Europe; and the general public in Texas and the U.S. whose world outlook includes Europe.

For inquiries, please contact CES at ces@austin.utexas.edu.

# Polish Studies at UT!

#### N B B B

Photo by Mihaela Holhos



Please consider giving to the Polish Studies Endowment.

Funds from this endowment shall be used to support study and/or research in Poland by UT students, talks or events related to promoting Polish Studies, scholarly research related to Poland, or instruction of the Polish language, history, or culture by faculty at the University.

Visit our department site for ways to help. The Department of Slavic & Eurasian Studies offers first through third year Polish language classes in addition to coursework on Central Europe that features Polish history, literature, film and culture!

In partnership with UT's Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies (CREEES) and Center for European Studies, we also offer prestigious Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship awards for studying Polish at UT and abroad.

The **Polish Studies Endowment** currently funds student scholarships for Polish language learning or research during the summer and we're hoping to build the endowment to additionally support a full-time lecturer position in Polish Studies.





Center for Russian, East European, and Eurosian Studies The University of Trace et Autor



www.liberalarts.utexas.edu/slavic/



# Father Leopold Moczygemba Foundation



In the early 1850s, Father Leopold Moczygemba, from Pluznica, Silesia, a region in Europe, now southwest Poland, came to south Texas. To help his suffering friends and families in Poland the new priest encouraged them to move to Texas, settling in Panna Maria and many other Texas communities. Their descendants continue to call South Texas home.

The Foundation sponsors an annual essay scholarship contest, and maintains two websites, resulting in the building of bridges and relationships between Poland and Texas.

www.FLMFoundation.org www.silesiantexans.com



These books are available free with a \$5 donation (each) for shipping and handling.

Both books are available in limited supplies.

•The Father Leopold Moczygemba Foundation book prepared in 2019 answers the questions, "What is the purpose of the Foundation?" "How did it get started?" "Who is involved in this organization?"

•Silesia for Silesian Texans, prepared by Rev. Msgr. Franciszek Kurzaj in 2019, was edited by Sue Mason and researched by the Silesian Profiles Committee. ISBN 978-83-7342-687-0.

Please send your mailing address and a check payable to FLMF, P. O. Box 23568, San Antonio, Texas, 78223. The FLMF is a 501-C-3 nonprofit organization.

# **General Casimir Pulaski Society**



GCPS is located in El Paso, Texas and serves people in West Texas, southern New Mexico and Juarez (Mexico).



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*Rev. Roger Hawes* 1214 Zorn Road Yorktown, TX 78164 361-564-2893 HolyCrossYorktown.net

> Mass: Sat. 5 pm; Sun. 9:30 am

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Saint John Paul II quote September 13, 1987: "In Poland, Panna Maria, Texas is very famous. Everyone knows of Panna Maria and those first Polish immigrants who responded to the call of their pastor and spiritual leader, Father Leopold Moczygemba. All of our great American Polonia credits its origin to you. Panna Maria, as the first nest built on American soil by Polish immigrants inspiring others to follow in your footsteps."

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**Trip Itinerary:** Warsaw, Malbork Castle, Gdansk, Sopot, Torun, Wroclaw, Czestochowa, Krakow, Auschwitz

**Cost:** Double \$3,699 – Single \$4,499 Departure from Lubbock, TX

#### Theresa Hardin, Trip Coordinator 806-761-7003

theresa.hardin@lubbockbiz.org

PANNA MARIA



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- Day 1 Overnight Flight
- Days 2-3 Mercure Grand Warszawa Hotel, Warsaw
- Days 4-5 Radisson Blu Hotel Gdansk, Gdansk
- Day 6 Hotel Bulwar, Torun
- Days 7-8 The Bridge Wroclaw MGallery, Wroclaw
- Days 9-11 Holiday Inn City Center Krakow, Krakow On some dates, alternate hotels may be used.

For bookings made after Oct 24, 2021, call for rates. Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Lubbock Intl. Airport, Air Taxes, Fees, Hotels, 10 Breakfasts, 4 Dinners.

**CONTACT THERESA FOR MORE INFORMATION!** 

# PANNA MARIA Visitors' Center & Historical Society

Located in the Panna Maria Historic District on FM 81 in the historic Pilarczyk's Store building

Call for tours and information 830-780-4471 or email: pmhs.vstrctr@gmail.com.

13780 FM 81, P.O. BOX 52, Panna Maria, TX 78144 www.pannamariatexas.org Founded in Houston in 2017, the Polish American Chamber of Commerce in Texas is a non-profit organization serving to connect and facilitate business interests between Poland and Texas: and in a broader sense between Poland and the USA.

*We aspire to collaborate with businesses* regardless of industry and ranging from the smallest businesses to the largest *multi-nationals on both sides of the* Atlantic as well as with all relevant governmental, academic and non-profit organizations.

POLISH AMERICAN CHAMBEROFCOMMERCE IN TEXAS

www.polchamtx.org • Email: office@polchamtx.org • Twitter: @PolchamTx

Greg Kusinski, Ph.D., EMBA - President • Email: gkusinski@polchamtx.org • Twitter: @kusinski\_greg

# Polish **American Priests** Association

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"The Polish American Council of Texas honors and prays for all priests from Poland or of Polish descent now serving in Texas."

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Interested in joining PACT? Join online at www.PACTX.org

# **CELEBRATING OUR PAST**



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www.pna-znp.org

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# **Polish Genealogical**





The goals of **PGST** are to unite Polish researchers, share information, publish Texas research for previously undocumented and unexplored areas, educate others on Polish-Texas history, sponsor trips to Polish settlements, and host historical and genealogical workshops.

# JOIN PGST

Help perpetuate and instill the values of our Polish Ancestors for future generations of Polonia.

Annual dues of \$25 (USD) includes two issues of *Polish Footprints*" and access to our online Surname Index.

Mail your check with contact information to:

Robert Bugaj—PGST Treasurer 7461 Hidden Pond, Bryan, TX 77808-2311 Or

Apply online at: www.pgst.org/membership.htm PGST is a 501(c)(3) Organization

We have a limited amount of copies of <u>"Travel Notes" written by Stefan Nesterowicz</u> Contains lots of information regarding Polish Texans in the 1900's.

# Come & Learn



About Polish immigrant ancestry and be a part of the new 16,500 square foot state-of-the-art Heritage Center!

## **Opening Soon!**



The Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria is currently being established on location of the oldest permanent Polish settlement in the U.S. It will soon be a destination for families, educational groups, scholars, researchers, and tourists and will include the following:



#### •Permanent & Temporary Exhibits — interactive & immersive experiences from early Polish history to the present. Highlights to focus on early Polish immigrant settlements & lifeways in Texas.

•Archives & Collections – will house & preserve photographs, documents & artifacts

•Library & Reading Room — will have a variety of books in Polish & English

•Genealogy Room & Oral History with computer stations for visitors to access family research and photographs

•Visitor tours, educational programs & workshops

•Theater, concessions, conference meeting rooms and event center

#### Please join us in celebrating & preserving our Polish heritage!

The Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria is currently under construction & the PHCPM 501c (3) Foundation is well underway in raising funds for its Capital Campaign! Every dollar counts & your support is appreciated & crucial to the building of the new facility!



## Visit https://polishheritagecentertx.org



# SACRED HEART HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"Thankful for our Polish ancestors"

Window from the original church, moved to the present church built in 1961

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Please go to smallbighearts.org to learn more.

# ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH



ANNUAL PICNIC 1st Sunday in August

830-745-2541 • stannskos.com Corner of FM 541 & 1347, Kosciusko, TX 78160

Kosciusko, or more properly spelled Kosciuszko, was named for the Polish General Thaddeus Kosciusko when it was established March 12, 1880 by sixty-five Polish families. In 1892 a Polish Catholic school was built. The first Church was built in 1898. The people gathered together and with \$2,000 built the first Church and named it St. Ann. The wooden church measured 80ft x 40ft.

#### MASS: SAT. 5:30 PM SUN. 8:00 AM

# St. Michael Catholic Church



The original St. Michael Catholic Church was the center of the third oldest parish in San Antonio, Texas, and a nucleus for the Polish people of the city. It began with the arrival of Father Vincent Barzynski of the Resurrectionist Order who was the earliest resident pastor. On November 18, 1866, the first Mass of the newly organized parish was celebrated in the San Fernando Cathedral. St. Michael's divine services were initially held in a rented one-story, rock building owned by Emanuel Rzeppa.

In 1922, the original church was torn down and a larger edifice of white brick was erected. The cornerstone of this majestic church was laid on July 4, 1922, followed by the dedication on October 25, 1922. The blessing of the beautiful stained glass windows took place on December 2, 1923.

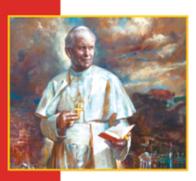
This historic church, with St. Michael the Archangel as its standard bearer, was demolished to make room for the 1968 HemisFair. Info courtesy of SilesianTexans.com.

Please see SilesianTexans.com for beautiful images and more information about this historic church.

The modern St. Michael Catholic Church is located at 418 Indiana St., San Antonio, Texas 78210. For information please call 210-263-7270.

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## POLISH STUDIES

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- Additional courses on **Polish Art, Film,** Literature and Politics will be added.



Contact: Dr. Piotr Przybylski Polish Studies Development Advisor

Dr. John Hittinger - Director Saint John Paul II Institute hittinger@stthom.edu 713-525-2112

# **ENROLL NOW!**

#### www.StThom.edu/SJPII



# St. Stanislaus Catholic Church



Pastor: Reverend Jozef Musiol, SDS, JCD 9175 FM 1371, Chappell Hill, TX 77426 979-836-3030 • www.ststanislauschappellhill.org

EVENTS Check the website for event dates.

Annual Homecoming Bazaar & Dożynki (Harvest) Mass & Celebration

1st Sunday in September Food, Games, Live Auction, Polish Music

Polskie Kolędy (Christmas Caroling) December Polish Traditions, Polish Food,

Polish Singing, Polish Music

Texas A&M University

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We are the UT Polish Club, students dedicated to all things POLISH! Wednesdays 7pm 45-minutes via Zoom

We discuss Polish politics, food, history, and more! We also have esteemed guest speakers, participate in Polish community events, cook Polish food together, offer Polish movie nights, and host social events. Join the UT Polish Club, meet like-minded Longhorns, and indulge in Poland's rich culture.

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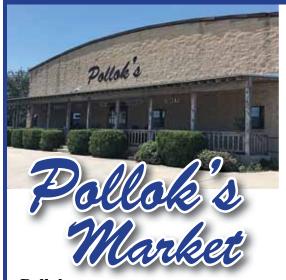


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## POLISH AMERICAN COUNCIL OF TEXAS

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

PACT is a 501-C-3 non-profit organization established with the following mission: To further knowledge of Polish culture, traditions, history, language, arts, current affairs, and statewide events in Texas. To facilitate networking among Polish American groups in Texas.

## WHO WE ARE

Our members include Polish American individuals, clubs, organizations, churches, professionals, societies, artists, genealogists, teachers, cultural events, businesses and more. We welcome you!

## CONTACT US

Email: Office@PACTx.org Web: www.PACTX.org Phone: 830-779-2636 Facebook: PACTx Twitter: @PolishAmerTX PO Box 1357, La Vernia, Texas 78121