



# Polish American Council of Texas Annual Report for 2021

By Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz  
November 8, 2021

1. The PACT board addressed the issue of discrimination concerning the book “100 Dresses” by Eleanor Estes published in 1944
2. Krzysztof Gajda suggested supporting the PHC with the idea of hosting the ACPC annual meeting in San Antonio
3. January 2021: Dr. Piotr Przybylski coordinated a Texas visit of Piotr Orłowski from Polish Radio 1030 and TV Polonia to record a movie about Polonia in Texas. Several recordings were made: 1. New Polish Studies Program and St. John Paul II Studies programs at the University of St. Thomas in Houston by Dr. John Hittinger and Urszula Szuleta 2. Consulate General of the Republic of Poland by Consul Robert Rusiecki 3. Burzynski Clinic by Dr. Stanislaw Burzynski 4. Mikolaus Copernicus Polish Saturday School by Dir. Hanna Tomaszewicz 5. NASA and Galveston by Dr. Piotr Przybylski 6. Houston Polonia by Dr. Zbigniew Wojciechowski 7. Texas Polonia, Polish Kolędy celebrations (singing, playing) and other traditions by Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz
4. Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz provided a lecture about “Polish Texans – The History of Texas Polonia” for promotion of Polish Studies Program at the University of St. Thomas on October 4 – Organized by Dr. John Hittinger and Dr. Piotr Przybylski
5. On October 4 at the University of St. Thomas, a painting Lt. Feliks Wardziński was presented to St. Thomas University by Master Robert Kraszewski, music on the violin by Maestro Hubert Pralitz and a dramatic recitation of homily of Bl. Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko by famous Hollywood actor Marek Probosz. – Organized by Dr. John Hittinger and Dr. Piotr Przybylski
6. Met with prospective donor for lunch on July 19 in Houston
7. Polish Ambassador Piotr Wilczek was hosted virtually by the TAMU Bush School of Government on February 23, 2021, and the PACT helped promote the event.
8. In August of 2021, discussed a live broadcast to be held at the PHC “Condition of American Polonia”, to be held October 9 but this did not materialize
9. Extensive research has been undertaken by Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, Krzysztof Gajda and others concerning Lt. Andrzej Feliks Wardzinski and the “43 Freedom Fighters” for Texas Independence.
10. A sketch of Lt. Andrzej Feliks Wardzinski and a brief history was accepted by the Jacinto Museum from Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, and it is now available to the public.
11. Held the PACT Annual meeting with St. Joseph’s Catholic Parish in New Waverly, Texas on November 13, 2021.
12. Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz held a meeting on March 1, 2021, with Biran Patterson a successful developer in Poland concerning collaboration, business opportunities and hosting Texas Polonia in Warsaw.

13. On April 27, 2021, Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz did an interview discussing the history of the Brazos Valley immigration to the region for the documentary for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the city of Bryan.
14. On behalf of PACT, Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz submitted a letter on May 28, 2021, to Ambassador Piotr Wilczek concerning the Holocaust and the failure of human beings to understand the commonality of their fellow human species.
15. Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz furnished a list of potential speakers for both the Texas A&M Polish Association and the University of Texas Polish Club.
16. On April 27, 2021, Jola Mazewski-Dryden prepared a PACT donation receipt for all donors to have for the Income Tax Returns.
17. Elaine Mazurek Stephens chairs the PACT membership and prepares a detailed summary of the PACT Membership and contact information as well as administers the PACT Directory.
18. On January 21, 2021, Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz provided a 90-minute lecture virtually for the Polish Heritage Center in Panna Maria (PHC) virtually with guests from Texas, the United States and Poland online.
19. Eric Opiela made a presentation in October 2021 for the University of Texas Polish Club about the PACT and Texas Polonia.
20. The PACT supported HB 506 by Texas House of Representative James White, District 19. Eric Opiela was the PACT representative on this House Bill.
21. Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz furnished a letter of support for the Polish musicians that played for the 2018 PACT Annual Meeting in Chappell Hill, Texas.
22. Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz gave a program on Monday, November 8 about the “Polish Texans – The History of Texas Polonia” to the Huntsville Public Library.
23. Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz gave a program on Sunday, November 7 about the “Polish Texans – The History of Texas Polonia” to the St. Stanislaus Catholic Parish and public in Chappell Hill, Texas.
24. Eric Opiela and John Wojtasczyk completed and submitted the PACT 2020 Income Tax Returns.
25. Justyna Lopez translating the Andrzej Feliks Wardzinski book from Polish into English.
26. On June 15, 2021, Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz provided several historical edits and corrections of Dr. James Olsen’s scholarly work about the Polish Ethnoreligion of East Texas: The Case of St. Joseph’s Parish, 1866-1900, published in the East Texas Historical Journal.
27. On January 9, 2021, Dr. Jim and Kathy Mazurkiewicz hosted a Kolędy Party for TVP Polonia.
28. The St. John Paul II Institute, a PACT member at the University of St. Thomas, was hosted the Polish Independence Day Celebration in Houston on November 10, 2021, organized by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland.
29. Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz and the St. John Paul II Institute provided support to a new music festival in Texas – International Paderewski Music Festival. I am hoping that the inaugural edition will take place in November 2022, with 3 – 5 events including one on November 11 – The Polish Independence Day and American Veterans Day organized by Maestro Mariusz Smolij.

30. Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz provided a brief overview of PACT to Mitchel Panek, Mark Pienkos and the Polish American Association of Sarasota, Florida with the Polish Heritage Center presentation in the April and August of 2021.
31. Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz and Kathy visited the home and birthplace of Father Leopold Moczygamba in Pluznica Wielka, Poland representing PACT and Texas Polonia on September 25, 2021.
32. Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz provided suggestions for student internships for PACT youth members.
33. As PACT President Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz attended a virtual program hosted by the Polish Investment and Trade Agency in Houston “In November Bridge Event” between Texas and Poland held on April 4, 2021.
34. Dr. Mazurkiewicz help coordinate the birthday celebration for Bishop John Yanta held in San Antonio on October 2.
35. Dr. Mazurkiewicz organized the showing of an award-winning film about the Auschwitz Volunteer Witold Pilecki “the Death of Captain Pilecki” hosted by the Texas A&M University and co-hosted by PACT, PAofT in Dallas, Texas A&M Polish Association and UT Polish Club. The showing of the film was held on November 11, 2021, on Polish Independence Day. The event is financially sponsored by The Polish Consulate General in Houston and Dr. Jim & Kathy Mazurkiewicz and Dr. Malgorzata Gajda and Krzysztof Gajda.
36. Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz contacted the PHC and the priest at Our Lady of Czestochowa in Houston for Krzysztof Gajda about Paul Piekarczyk and his musicians playing in Houston on October 22 and in Panna Maria for the second day of the PHC opening on October 23.
37. The PACT sponsored 4 collegiate scholarships for students in 2021 from our 2020 earnings.
38. The PACT sponsored \$5,000 to the Polish Heritage Center in Panna Maria and two additional anonymous \$5,000 sponsorships were added to the PACT donation to make it a \$15,000 donation to the PHC. This gave the PACT recognition at the Kosciusko level and the PACT asked to have a mural of the map of Texas immigration hung in the Polish Heritage Center to highlight all four major Texas Polish immigrations to the present day.
39. Dr. Mazurkiewicz on behalf of PACT, has supported the grant to the Polish Government for the past three years in support of the Polish Heritage Center requesting financial support from the Polish government.
40. Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz did three interviews with Waldmar Biniecki, Editor of Kuryer Polski in 2021.
41. Dr. Mazurkiewicz did an interview with Witold Gadowski in Krakow, Poland about Texas and Texas Polonia on September 22, 2021, representing PACT and Texas A&M University.
42. On September 17, 2021, in Warsaw, Poland, Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, President of PACT was recognized by SGGW University in Warsaw for his work between Texas and Poland.
43. PACT was represented at a wide variety of events throughout the year with PACT directory being distributed via Polish Events & Happenings – Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden:

Taste of Poland Festival Houston (May), Sts Cyril and Methodius Slavic Festival – Houston (September), Dożynki Festival Houston (October), St. Stanislaus Catholic Church – 67<sup>th</sup> Homecoming Bazaar(October), Polish Heritage Center Grand Opening in Panna Maria (October)

44. Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden submitting quarterly articles on Texas Polonia in the Polish National Alliance Magazine Zgoda - <https://pna-znp.org/fraternal-benefits/zgoda-magazine-for-members-of-pna-and-more/>
45. *October - Mike Kurtin joins the Polish Club at the University of Texas to teach the Polonaise to the students.*
46. October 30<sup>th</sup> – Bryan, College Station, Texas – Meeting of the Universities Texas A & M Polish Association and the University of Texas Polish Club had a joint meeting at Dr. Jim & Kathy Mazurkiewicz’s home in Bryan. Homemade Polish Food was served and prepared by the club members. Dr. Jim discussed the upcoming events and Polish Texas History.
47. Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden working with Maureen Brown for a June 16<sup>th</sup>, Live Virtual Zoom Program on Traditional Polish Dancing in Texas  
Presented by Genny & Dr. Matthew Kraus of Mazurka Polish Dancers of San Antonio & Erica Dryden & Lukas Bielecki of Wawel Houston Dancer, PNA Polish Progressive members

#### **Past Events:**

- Annual Houston Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slavic Heritage Festival (Sept 26), Houston – Display with PACT information available
- Polish Harvest Festival - Dozynki (October 1-3), Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, Houston- PACT information was distributed in Booth
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> : Feast of St. John Paul II Mass & reception – in collaboration with the UST Campus Ministry featuring select poetry readings of SJP2 poetry – University of St. Thomas, Houston – Organized by Dr. John Hittinger
- October 23<sup>rd</sup> : Concert of Pawel Piekarczyk – Polish patriotic songs – Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, Houston – Organized by Krzysztof Gajda
- October 24<sup>th</sup> : Concert of Pawel Piekarczyk – Polish patriotic songs – Polish Heritage Center, Panna Maria - Organized by Krzysztof Gajda
- October 24-25: Grand Opening of the Polish Heritage Center, Panna Maria – PACT information was distributed via Polish Events and Happenings
- October 26<sup>th</sup> : Promotion of Polish and JP II Study programs at the University of St. Thomas: Lecture by Dr. Piotr Przybylski – Chappell Hill Historical Museum, Chappell Hill
- November 7<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Austin Polish Film Festival
- November 11<sup>th</sup>: Film show of “Smierc Rotmistrza Pileckiego” (“The Death of Captain Pilecki”) by the Hollywood Actor Marek Proboasz – Texas A&M University, College Station – Organized by Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz

## Upcoming Events (Near Term):

- November 10-15: Fr. Grzegorz Holub, a well-known Catholic philosopher from The Pontifical University of JPII in Krakow, Poland, visits the USA where he will give guest lectures to:
  - Grad Students on Karol Wojtyla - University of St. Thomas, Houston,
  - Philosophy Dept Colloquium - University of St. Thomas, Houston,
  - Visit Our Lady Czestochowa Parish, Houston
- November 13<sup>th</sup> : PACT Annual Meeting, New Waverly
- November 14<sup>th</sup> : 5:30 pm: Chruściki cooking event, Polish Club at UT
- November 14<sup>th</sup>: Independence Day of Poland event at Our Lady of Czestochowa Polish Church in Houston, Texas performed by the Polish School Children of Nicolaus Copernicus Polish
- November 15<sup>th</sup> : Lecture Series — "JPII Heritage in Krakow" 7-9pm, virtual or in person. By the JPII Institute Lecture Series. RSVP by November. 14 to [sjpiiprograms@stthom.edu](mailto:sjpiiprograms@stthom.edu); at Jones Hall, [Univ. of St. Thomas](http://www.univstthomas.edu), 3910 Yoakum Blvd., Houston. Speaker: Fr. Grzegorz Holub. University of St. Thomas, Houston – Organized by Dr. John Hittinger and Dr. Piotr Przybylski
- November 16<sup>th</sup> : 6:00pm: Polish folk dancing, Polish Club at UT
- November 20<sup>th</sup> : Polish Club at UT traveling to Panna Maria The Polish Heritage Center
- November 20<sup>th</sup>, Annual Bonfire Ognisko, Austin Polish Society
- November 20<sup>th</sup> - Polish Heritage Center, "Remembering Our Polish Independence Day and Honoring Our Veterans" 10am to 4pm [polishheritagecentertx.org](http://polishheritagecentertx.org)
- November 30<sup>th</sup>: Last meeting for the semester at 6 pm , guest speaker Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, Polish Club at UT
- December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7pm - Promotion of [St. John Paul II Studies Program](http://www.univstthomas.edu) at [Univ. of St. Thomas](http://www.univstthomas.edu) - lecture on Karol Wojtyla/St. John Paul II by Dr. F. Russel Hittinger (in-person and online).
- December 3-5. Blanco, Texas Festival of Texas Fiddling
- December 4<sup>th</sup> – Annual Christmas party Texas A & M Polish Club
- December 5<sup>th</sup> – Austin Polish Society Membership Meeting, Austin, Texas
- December 5<sup>th</sup>, PNA/ Polish Home Annual Christmas Party – Polonia Restaurant
- December 7<sup>th</sup> : in collaboration with Fundacia IM. Janusza Kurtyki presents an online international lecture on the WWI and the Battle of Lviv, 1918. By Professor Andrzej Chwalba and Damian K. Markowski, PH.D. (Presented by the University of St. Thomas Polish Studies Program)
- December 11<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, December 11th, "Celebrating Polish Christmas Traditions" Family Day at the Polish Heritage Center
- December 11<sup>th</sup> : Polish Austin Society – Polish Christmas Party & Market
- December 16<sup>th</sup> : Luminary Lecture feature Dr. Hittinger - St. Maximilian Kolbe and JPII's Poland - (Presented by the University of St. Thomas Polish Studies Program)
- December 18<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve Joint Dinner for parents and students at Our Lady of Czestochowa Polish Church in Houston, Texas by the Polish School Children of Nicolaus Copernicus Polish

- December 24<sup>th</sup>, Polish Christmas Midnight Mass, Our Lady of Czestochowa Catholic Church
- **2022 January 1<sup>st</sup>, Koledy** – St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Chappell Hill at 12 noon w guests
- **2022 PACT Annual Meeting – November 12, 2022 – St. Hedwig, Texas – Annunciation BVM Catholic Parish**
- **2023 PACT Annual Meeting – November 11, 2023 – Bryan, Texas – St. Joseph Catholic Parish**
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