

**POLISH AMERICAN
COUNCIL OF
TEXAS**



Regional Reports

**2022 PACT Annual Meeting
Saturday, November 12, 2022
St Hedwig, Texas**

Annual Report on the Members in the Region of South Texas

San Antonio

San Antonio Parishes – John Cebrowski / Elaine Mazurek Stephens

Our Lady of Sorrows, 3107 N. St. Mary's St., San Antonio offers a Polish Mass every Sunday at 8:00am celebrated by Fr. Marian Piekarczyk, SDS, the Polish priest-in-residence, 210-730-1234. Since September 1986, Our Lady of Sorrows has been the base of operations for the spiritual care of Polish immigrants, known as the Polish Catholic Mission. – First Polish church in San Antonio, later razed for HemisFair'68 and re-built at a nearby location. Few Polish parishioners now. On November 6th John Cebrowski attended a Sausage Fest Polish American Center on Mission Road in San Antonio. He wanted to get a better understand of the current state-of-affairs of the Center. Newsletters stopped coming about a year ago, and my emails were not being returned. (There website is still up and current.)

However on Saturday, the traditional Polish hospitality was awesome, particularly from past president Allan Bogush and Zdzisław (Ziggy) Salwa, publisher of the newsletter, and several other folks. They were all very, very gracious. I had been there about three/four years ago presenting the PHC, so this was my second meeting with Allan. He has been to PHC. since it opened but several other folks, we met have not. One that stood out was a woman from Floresville, a descendant of the immigrants. Allan's wife, Anna, is the current president.- most all the Pol-Ams we met were pre or post Solidarity immigrants. There weren't that many folks in attendance. The Center is in the process of closing. This was probably their last event. The building will be sold. They were invited them to St. Hedwig – our annual meeting.

Please visit the **Seraphic Sisters Shrine to Our Lady of Częstochowa**, and Divine Mercy Chapel in San Antonio, 138 Beethoven St. The shrine is open seven days a week from 9 till' 5. It is a beautiful gathering place for families and small groups, with a museum, providing opportunities for adoration and retreats. Contact Sister Emilia at 210-337-8193 for more information.

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, This church offers regular Masses in Polish and highlights the exquisite stained-glass windows from the original St. Michael's Church! <https://olssa.org/polish-catholic-mission>

The Leopold Moczygemba Foundation by Eric Opiela & Elaine Mazurek Stephens

The Leopold Moczygemba Foundation has contributed over \$250,000 to the Ukraine relief effort to assist refugees in Silesia. The Foundation continues to offer thousands in scholarships to youth annually through its essay contest. This year, like in the past two years, due to the COVID pandemic, the Foundation has not been able to successfully schedule its educational heritage trips back to Silesia, or the annual banquet, but expects to be able to do so in the coming year. That said, your contributions to support our efforts to promote the heritage left to us by Fr. Leopold Moczygemba and

the pioneering Silesian settlers who came to Texas in 1854 are greatly appreciated; please visit <http://flmfoundation.org>.

Father Leopold Moczygamba Foundation, President – Msgr. Franciszek Kurzaj. Has published several books. A few are available at this PACT Annual meeting. The organization maintains TWO websites, FLMFoundation.org and a *vast website* – SilesianTexans.com. A MUST SEE!

Bandera by Elaine Mazurek Stephens

St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, Pastor – Msgr. Franciszek Kurzaj. Bandera was the 2019 Host for the exciting PACT Annual Meeting! Annual festival is the first Sunday in May.

Bandera County Sister City Partnership; with Strzelce Opolski in Poland. Contact Roy Dugosh, brother of the Founder, the late Elenora Dugosh Goodley, former PACT Director.

Descendants of Bandera Mazurek Settlers – a private Facebook group who recently met in Bandera to be updated on new genealogical findings, including birth location in Silesia. Contact Elaine Mazurek Stephens at PACT: office@pactx.org

Panna Maria

Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria by Angelica Docog

October 23, 2022, marked the one-year anniversary of the Polish Heritage Center in Panna Maria, Texas opening its doors to the public. Within the year, the center has welcomed a myriad of guests ranging across all ages, ethnicities, and locations. The center was the vision of Bishop Emeritus John Walter Yanta as a place to honor Polish ancestry and further educate visitors of the rich traditions and culture the Polish community built and continue to maintain: “I ask your daily prayer for our center to be a place of pilgrimage for ancestry and education, asking the Blessed Virgin to intercede for us with her Divine Son Jesus under the title of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Patroness of Poland.” -Bishop John Yanta

The center presents a state-of-the-art immersive experience for visitors. An award winning twenty-six-minute film in the theatre provides visitors with an overview of the information and artifacts they will encounter throughout the galleries. Visitors can also enjoy an audio option that provides additional information to the label texts in the form of a hand wand that can be programmed in English, Polish, Spanish, and a children’s version. Part of Bishop Yanta’s vision was for the center to be accessible to all groups and communities. Regardless of ancestry, there is something for everyone at the center. Visitors can spend hours in the main gallery reading and listening to the sounds of Polish history from its origin to contemporary times. The PHC also contains a library containing a wide range of books focusing on all aspects of Poland including history, literature, language, and culture. The archives house those special objects that may be too fragile for everyday public use but can be researched and viewed upon appointment. The center also provides families and researchers resources to track their family genealogy. The computer station in the library is equipped with tools such as Ancestry, and the center is proud to be in collaboration with the Silesian Profiles Committee where they have generously donated the digital and physical research and databases.

We graciously thank all our generous donors and supporters, and look forward to more years to come, and we remember the visionary behind the Polish Heritage Center, Bishop John Yanta. For more information about the Polish Heritage Center please visit our website at <http://www.polishheritagecentertx.org/> or visit us on Facebook.

Panna Maria Historical Society – Elaine Mazurek Stephens

Operates the Visitor Center and has been open for many years, recording PM history. Maintains the outstanding museum. Visit their pretty website PannaMariaTexas.com.

Immaculate Conception of the BVM Catholic Church – Elaine Mazurek Stephens

Father Iwanec Wieslawa, pastor. Christmas is especially beautiful and features Polish Christmas carols by the choir. Has a large number of descendants of the original 1850s Polish settlers.

St. Hedwig – by Elaine Mazurek Stephens

Annunciation of the BVM, Pastor, Rev. Boleslaw Zadora SDS; the parish holds Masses for the Polish American Priests Association annually. A beautiful church in a rural farming and ranching setting. November 2022 Hosting the Annual PACT annual Meeting.

Kosciusko – by Elaine Mazurek Stephens

St. Ann Catholic Church, built-in 1898 following the establishment of a Polish school in 1892. Named for Polish General Thaddeus Kosciusko. Spelling is accepted in several ways. Annual Picnic is 1st Sunday in August. Parishioners include many descendants of original 1850s Polish/Silesian settlers.

Czestochowa – by Elaine Mazurek Stephens

Nativity of the BVM, many parishioners are descendants of original 1850s Polish/Silesian settlers. Spelling adopted by parishioners. Watch for more info on the upcoming new PACT website.

Falls City – by Elaine Mazurek Stephens

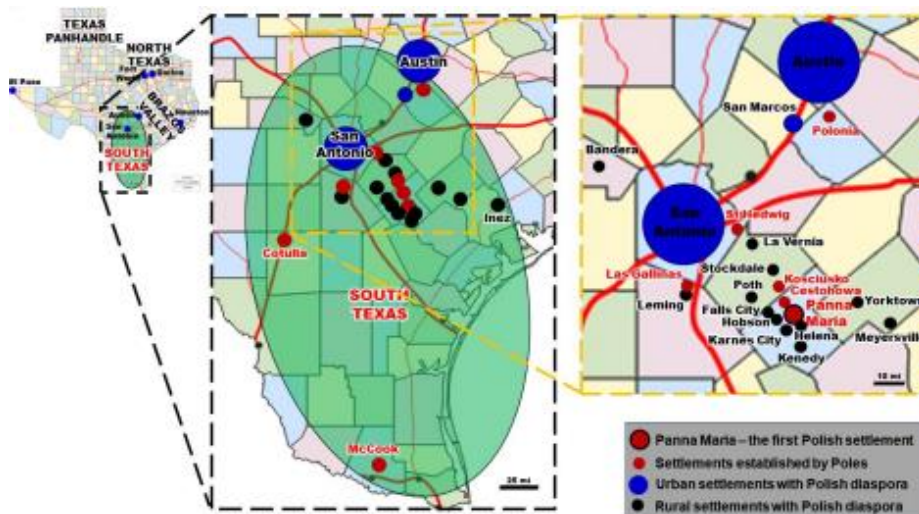
Holy Trinity Catholic Church. former members of PACT, a large number of parishioners are descendants of original 1850s Polish/Silesian settlers.

More South Texas communities with Polish diaspora:

McCook, Meyersville, Inez, Las Gallinas, Karnes City, Leming, Kenedy, Yorktown, Cotulla, Hobson, La Vernia (my home!).

If you wish to add information to this list, please contact: ElaineMStephens99@gmail.com or Office@PACTx.org.

Map created by Dr. Piotr Przybylski.



Brazos Valley Regional Report

- **Established:** Sister City between Bryan/College Station and Toruń, Poland

Bremond and St. Mary's Catholic Church – Denis Kubiak/Hector Davila

Events : Polski Dzień in Bremond (June), Christmas Celebration in December, Koledy.

St. Joseph in New Waverly by Clara Malak

November 2022, for the PACT Annual Meeting, New Waverly, Texas

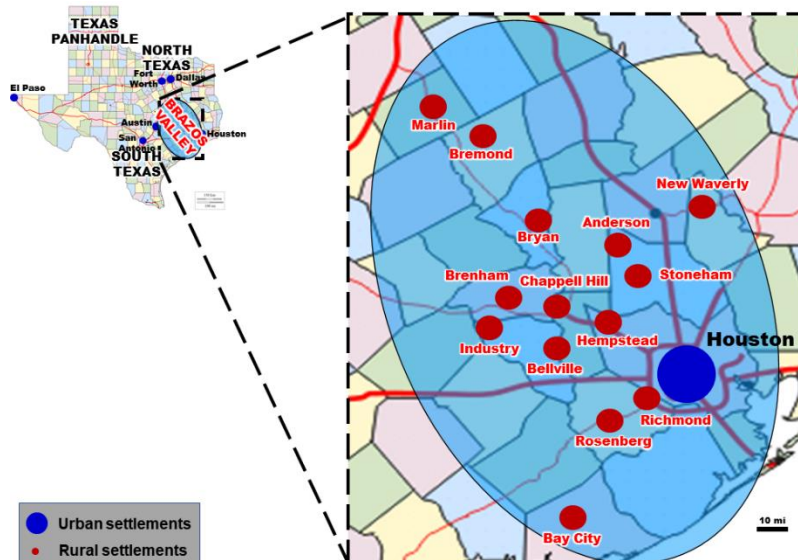
We of St. Joseph's still relish the joy of PACT's meeting here last November. It will long be remembered, and we appreciate all the work of so many PACT members to contribute to its success. Special recognition and gratitude are due to Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz and Dr. Witold Lukaszewski who have taken us under their wings to encourage the revival of the traditions of our Polish ancestors.

St. Stanislaus Catholic Church (est. 1889) in Chappell Hill, Texas (Washington County) “The Birthplace of Texas”

- Pasterka “Midnight Mass” – December 24, 2021
- Annual Kolędownie “Christmas Caroling” – January 1, 2022
- 85th Annual Homecoming Festival and Dozynki “Harvest” Mass – September 4, 2022
<https://www.facebook.com/kasia.klessa.3/videos/1294731521357673>
- Washington County Commissioners Court proclaimed the month of October as Polish Heritage Month on October 3, 2022
- Mass Schedule: Saturday Vigil – 6:00 p.m.; Sunday – 8:00 a.m. Wednesday – 6:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday – 8:00 a.m.
- Parish Website: <https://www.ststanislauschappellhill.com/gallery>
- Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tabak, SDS; Bishop: Diocesan Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin

St. Stanislaus in Anderson & St. Joseph in Stoneham – by Mike Kurtin

- Spring Festival, April 17, 2022
- Fall Homecoming and Bazaar , October 9, 2022
- St. Joseph Church in Stoneham, Annual Bazaar May 29, 2022



Map created by Dr. Piotr Przybylski

Houston Regional Report

by Piotr Przybylski and Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden

Polish Consulate General:

- Consul General: Robert Rusiecki
- Support Polish organizations and local Polish diaspora with grants (e.g., \$4,180 for Pact and \$3,700 UST in 2022)
- Polish Passport renewal program
- Organize events, e.g., annual Polish Independence Day celebration

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church:

- Sunday Masses:
 - 9am English Mass
 - **11am Polish Mass**

- Pastor: Fr. Tadeusz Rusnak
- OLOC Activities:
 - **Polish Festivals** - twice a year:
 - May Festival (1st weekend of May to commemorate the May 3rd Polish Constitution of 1791) –
 - Polish Harvest Festival / Dożynki - September
 - **January:**
 - Oplatek
 - Sylvester (New Year's Eve Gala)
 - § Jasełka (Christmas Caroling by Polish school children and parish musicians)
 - **February:** Karnawał (Mardi Gras Ball) organized by the Polish School
 - **Lent:** Lenten Fish Fry
 - **Easter:** Świąconka (food blessing)
 - November
 - Garage Sale organized by the Knights of Columbus
 - **December:**
 - Św. Mikołaj (St. Nicholas) organized by the Polish School
 - Polish National Alliance annual gala
 - Wigilia (Christmas Eve supper)

Nicolaus Copernicus Polish School Houston Saturday School:

- This school year enrollment is 95 students and 11 teachers. Principal- Hanna Tomasziewicz. Regular classes every Saturday from 10 am – 2 pm from August until May
- School Principal: Hanna Tomasziewicz
- <https://szkolapolskahouston.com/en/main-page/>
- Polish school in Houston is highly active. Every month school parents are preparing picnics to raise money for the school
- The most important events are:
 - October - Teachers Day plus students reunion
 - Pasowanie na ucznia
 - Polish Bilingual Day
 - Polish Heritage Day
 - November - Polish Independence Day
 - December- Mikolajki
 - School's Wigilia
 - January- Jaselka
 - February- Carnival Ball for adults which is the biggest fundraiser for the school Carnival Ball for students
 - April - Easter Egg Hunt
 - May- Mother's, Father's and Children's Day
 - June/ July- Polish summer camp
 - This year our school was celebrating 40th anniversary and we received the sztandar/ banner



St. John Paul II Institute (University of St. Thomas):

Offers classes of Polish history, language, and culture, and on philosophy and encyclicals of St. John Paul II, on campus and online, for the UST students and for non-students as audit.

Academic scholar exchange with KUL (Lublin), Papal University (Krakow).

- November 2021 – Lecture about Henryk Sienkiewicz by Dr. Piotr Przybylski
- December 2021 – Lecture on St. John Paul II Philosophy by Fr. Dr. Grzegorz Holub
- December 2021 – Lecture about the 1920 Battle of Warsaw by Dr. John Radzilowski

- January 2022 – Lecture about St. John Paul II Philosophy by Dr. Russell Hittinger
- February 2022 – visit of Polish Ambassador in the US, Marek Magierowski
- April 2022 – Lecture about Polish Saints of XXc by Fr. Dr. Witold Kania
- May 2022 – Reading the poetry of Karol Wojtyla
- May 2022 – Art Exhibit “In the Stream of Time” of Dr. Romuald Oramus, a painter and professor from the Pedagogical University, Krakow, Poland
- June 2022 – annual students fieldtrip to Poland following the footsteps of St. John Paul II
- October 2022:
 - Arrival and installation of a copy of the Gutenberg Bible from Pelplin, Poland
 - Lecture about Polish and American striving for independence for PHC by Dr. Piotr Przybylski
 - Lecture about St. Jadwiga and St. John Paul II by Dr. John Hittinger
 - Lecture about Polish Saints for Chappell Hill Historical Society by Dr. John Hittinger
- November 2022 – Polish Independence Day Celebration

Other Polish organizations and events in Houston:

- **Wawel Dance Group (Director: *Yessica Krozel, Director Emeritus: Elzbieta Winiarska*):**
 - Over 50 members
 - 3 subgroups: Adults, Mini Wawel (children and teenagers), and Babcia Wawel (elderly)
 - Performing at a wide variety of events throughout Texas
 - Performing for many International Festivals throughout the major cities of Texas (Houston, Galveston, Katy, Sealy, and Austin)
 - Performers for the annual PACT Meeting
 - Supporting and performing the annual Bremond, TX Polish Days Festival
 - Polish Heritage Day performers at John Paul 2 Landing Park
 - Annual Houston Slavic Festival members and performers
 - Representatives of Poland for the Texas Independence Day Celebration in Washington-On-The-Brazos
 - Supporting and promoting Polish culture throughout Texas
 - Part of the Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas (Yessica Krozel is a board member and secretary for the association)
 - Honorary members, performers, and organizers of the annual Houston Polish Festivals
 - Supported by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Houston as well as Wspólnota Polska in Warsaw, Poland Mini Wawel will be representing USA and Polish-Texans in the 31st Annual ŚWIĘTO DZIECI GÓR Festival, which will take place in Nowy Sącz, Poland in July 2023!
 - <https://wawelhouston.com/index.html>
- **Polish Theatre Groups:**
 - **Associated with OLOC, Director: *Michal Szpak***
 - **Associated with Holy Name Retreat Center, Director: *Fr. Nicholas Divine***
- **Kosciuszko Foundation Texas Chapter - *Dr. Waldemar Priebe***
- **Classical Music Group: *Duo Dramatique – Dominika Dancwicz***
- **Polish National Alliance Texas Chapter – *Region H***, exhibits or displays at a majority of the events in the region Co-sponsors or supports all events.



- **Dom Polski (Polish Home)** – Annual Christmas Party, Quarterly meetings, Sponsoring Polish Events and groups
- **Polish Progressive Lodge 2336 – PNA**, Meetings, supporting and sponsoring Polish Events and Groups and Sponsorships
- **Kosciuszko Lodge 165 – PNA** - PNA, Meetings, supporting and sponsoring Polish Events and Groups and Sponsorships - PNA, Meetings, supporting and sponsoring Polish Events and Groups and Sponsorships
- **Council 182 - PNA**
- **Polish Genealogical Society (President: Denis Kubiak, James LeBlanc)**
- **Houston Slavic Heritage Festival** (September) – yearly festival celebrating its 59th year! Polish-Ukrainian-Czech-Croatian
- **Polish Film Festival** (October-November) Houston: Dr. Zbigniew Wojciechowski, Adam Siuk
- **Polish Volleyball Team “White Eagles”:** **Piotr Przybylski** – team captain – SportsMonkey
- Coed Volleyball League in Houston
- **Polish Bridge Club** – 40 members
- **Polonia Restaurant** - Catering and Deli: (Houston/Bremond) Polish Pavilion at Renaissance Festival
- **Polki w Houston**
- **Polish American Chamber of Commerce in Texas**

Polish Media in Texas:

- Forum Polonia Houston
 - Zgoda newspaper by PNA
 - PNA Region H
 - Polish Events and Happening in Texas
 - Various Polish Groups Facebook
 - WEBR Radio hosted by Andrew Gołębiowski, The Polish American Radio in Buffalo, New York about Polskie Kolędowanie in Chappell Hill, Texas January 1, 2022.
 - Piotr Orłowski, CEO at Ellocco Production in Florida and who also represents Telewizja Polska (Polish Television) to do a documentary about the Polish people involved in the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo March 16 & 17.
 - Polish TV Interview in Warsaw discussing “US Beef Promotion” by the National Cattleman’s Beef Council promoting US Beef on June 2.
 - Polish TV Interview in outside of Warsaw at an agricultural conference discussing Texas/Poland bi-lateral visits on June 6, 2022.
 - Polish TV Interview in Warsaw discussing the “Our Futures Forum” on June 3, 2022
 - Brazos Valley Insite Magazine - A Polskie Kolędy Celebration: Caroling tradition in Chappell Hill takes place on New Year’s Day 2022 – November 2021
 - Brenham Banner Press Newspaper: Kolędowanie December 2021 and Dozynki August 2021
 - “Good Morning America” Zapytanie z TVN Warner Bros Discovery Poland in Warsaw featuring Poles living in the United States – October 11, 2022
 - June 2021 – Futures Forum, Young Farmers Annual meeting, NCBA Beef Promotion in Warsaw, Meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister - TVN News: Prime time
 - A written tribute about Bishop John W. Yanta for the Wilson County News about the life and impact of Bishop Yanta on August 11, 2022.
 - *Texas Monthly* contacted Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz to conduct an interview concerning the Texas Silesians in Panna Maria and the history of Polish Texas more broadly on September 15, 2022.
 - Tomasz S. Wicherkiewicz, Professor from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan who visited Chappell Hill, Texas and prepared a paper on the Wielkopolska immigrants “The Second Wave to Texas” New Wavery/Brazos Valley September 16, 2022.
- hosted “Dzien Dobry” TVN Poland Discovery Channel to document the Mazurkiewicz family, Texas A&M University, and the Polish immigrants to the Brazos Valley October 8 & 9, 2022.

DFW Metroplex Regional Report

Polish Events and Happenings in Dallas/Fort Worth 2021/2022

- February 12 - Valentine's Day party at European Texas Market Café
 - February 19 - Meeting and snacks with Polish folk-dance assembly Jagoda at European Texas Market Café
 - March 19 - Fund-raising event for Ukraine organized by Small big hearts at European Texas market Café
 - July 4 - Fourth of July celebrations with Polish food, beer and live music at European Texas Market Café
 - November 75th annual Small Big Hearts Foundation gala
 - November 13 - Polish patriotic song and music evening
 - November 14 - Celebrating Poland, Independence Day mass at St Peter the Apostle Church
 - November 18 - Polish Independence Day celebration by Jan Karasiński Polish School of Dallas
 - November 27 - Saint Andrews night Zabawa Andrzejkowa At European Texas Market Cafe
 - December 4 - Mikołajki- Saint Nicholas day at European Texas Market Café
 - December 5 - Christmas Market and visit from Święty Mikołaj organized by Jan Karasiński Polish School of Dallas and St Peter the Apostle Church
 - December 11 - Evening with Polish Christmas carols -kolędowanie at European Texas Market Café
 - December 24 - Polish Christmas Eve dinner - Wigilia At European Texas Market Café
 - December 31 - Polish New Year's Eve party at European Texas Market Café
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- 2022 January 23- St. Peter the Apostle Church: Jasełka by Jan Karasiński Polish School of Dallas
 - January 30 - Wielkiej Orkiestry Świątecznej pomocy At Jan Karasiński Polish School of Dallas
 - March 30 - A night for Ukraine benefit concert with Jagoda Dance published folk dance assembly And music by Hubert Pralitz
 - April 9 - Easter crafts workshop at European Texas Market Café
 - April 3 Easter picnic at Jan Karasiński Polish School of Dallas
 - April 12 - Fundraising and bake goods sale, benefiting children of Ukraine at St Peter the Apostle Church
 - April 15 - Spring picnic and Topienie Marzanny by Jan Karasiński Polish School of Dallas
 - May 7 - Majówka - May celebrations grill, live music, dance and crafts with Jagoda Polish folk-dance assembly at European Texas Market Café
 - May 7/8 - Spring camping with Jan Karasiński Polish School of Dallas
 - May 14 - Stand with Ukraine benefit at Saint Rita Catholic community, school and Jagoda Polish folk-dance assembly
 - May 21 - Evening of music from Poland, at the center of visual performing arts with Hubert Pralitz and Konrad Binienda
 - May 15 - Communion Celebrations at St Peter the Apostle Church
 - May 22 - End of school year 2021-2022 at Jan Karasiński Polish School of Dallas
 - May 29 - Confirmation celebration at St Peter the Apostle Church Dallas June 23 Musical Concert by Rafał Adamski at European Texas Market Café
 - July 4 - Fourth of July celebrations with Polish food, beer and live music at European Texas Market Café
 - July 26 - FC Barcelona soccer match with Robert Lewandowski
 - August 21 - Start of the Polish school year 2022-2023 Jan Karasiński Polish School of Dallas
 - October 1 - Oktoberfest live music, sausage tasting and beer at European Texas Market Café
 - October 15 - 18th annual Plano international Festival with Jagoda Polish folk-dance assembly

- October 22 - Autumn camping with Karasiński Polish School of Dallas
- September 20 - fundraising event and bake goods sales benefiting children's Center in Ukraine
- October 31 - November 7 WTA Finals in Fort Worth with Iga Świątek

Jan Karski Polish School of Dallas- *Katarzyna Włodek*, Polish School of Dallas, Director
Regular classes including a celebration of the first and last day of school.

<https://polishschooldallas.org/?lang=en>



Special events:

November:

- All Saints Memorial and meeting on the Calvary Hills cemetery
- Celebration of the Independence Day

December:

- Meeting with Santa and Christmas fest
- Virtual class lead by educators from The Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin
- Christmas party for students and their families at Polish restaurant European in Texas

January:

- Performance of Jaselka at St. Peter Polish Church in Dallas

April:

- Egg hunt
- Spring performance and traditional drowning a straw Marzanna doll

May:

- Spring family campout

September:

- Fall family campout, Grapevine Lake

Austin Regional Report

By Margaret Meub, AUSTIN POLISH SOCIETY

ABOUT APS

Austin Polish Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in 2005 by a group of passionate people who wanted to keep the Polish culture, language, and heritage alive in the Austin area. The mission of APS is to establish a society open to the general public:

- To encourage, and further knowledge of Polish culture, traditions, history, language, arts, current affairs, and local events.
- To foster friendly relations between the American and Polish people.

APS is a membership organization governed by its board of directors (consisting of twelve seats). At the end of each year, six seats on the board are up for election for two-year terms. Directors may be elected by members or appointed by the board to fill vacancies. Members interested in serving on the board are encouraged to apply (Application for Board of Directors Position).

Regular board meetings are held on the first Monday of each month. If you are interested in attending and learning more about our events and projects, email us at 9for details.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Margaret Meub

Vise President: Joanna Joanna Sokolowska-Gwizdka

Secretary: Furio Ciacci

Treasurer: Magda Boudni

Members: Art Gmurowski, Angelika Firley, Anna Hand, Leszek Krupa, Zbigniew Wójcik

2021/2022 INITIATIVES:

- Polish language school for children and adults – 12 years in operations
- Austin Polish Film Festival - the annual flagship event (Oct/Nov)
- Polish History Club – 09/24
- Polish Book Library - We created a library, and we host bi-monthly Mobile Library picnics
- Annual Christmas Party – December
- Annual Bigos Cook-off – March 16th
- Pisanki/Easter Egg decorating – April 9th
- Bond fire – February
- Polish Austin Meetup – May 19th
- APS Member Reception and Annual Meeting – December

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- APS participates in events hosted by Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Houston
- We collaborate with the Polish Club at UT Austin and Center For Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at UT Austin
- We stay connected with Polish group in San Antonio, Arlington, Houston, Dallas, and other local polish groups and collaborate in many ways.

El Paso Regional Report

By General Casimir Pulaski Polish American Society of El Paso

Adam Bagiński, President, Joanna Sikorski, Director for Arts and Culture

Hello from El Paso TX GCPPA Society. Being a PACT member, we would like to share with you our most significant accomplishments YTD.

- On March 8th General Casimir Pulaski Polish American Society organized a fundraiser dinner for the Ukrainian women, and refugees in Poland. GCPP-AS collected approx. \$7.5 K and transferred it to Polska Akcja Humanitarna (The Polish Humanitarian Action)
- On March members of GCPPAS, Adam Bagiński and Joanna Sikorski were interviewed by Mexican tv Telemundo regarding Poland's great help to Ukrainian Refugees and Nation. The footage ran twice, the same day, on Telemundo's national channel.
- On March 29th, the Casimir Pulaski Polish American Society sponsored a concert of an outstanding artist, Matt Herskowitz. The pianist and composer performed Chopin's works in jazz arrangements.
- On July 28 during the 15th Annual Plaza Classic Film Festival the General Casimir Pulaski Polish American Society sponsored the screening of "Europa Europa"- a historical WW2 drama directed by Agnieszka Holland.
- In September GCPPAS helped to organize a 20-day Plein Air trip to Poland for a group of 6 Texan artists. They painted historical sites such as the Granary in Gdansk at Motława River, the Malbork Castle, in Toruń the church of Saints Johns,' in Warsaw the Palace on the Water, and in Kraków the Cloth Market. The group was hosted by the Mayor of Torun. The footage of their Plein Air run on local and national tv. An exhibit of the works of 6 artists under the leadership of Krystyna Renata Robbins is expected to run sometime next year in El Paso.
- Before Xmas GCPPAS wants to organize a fundraiser 'Paczka dla Bohatera' for a charity organization in Poland which supports WW2 veterans. Last year GCPPAS collected \$942.
- The GCPPAS is actively working with Dr. Oscar Macchioni, UTEP music professor and distinguished pianist to organize a Chopin Festival and bring in Polish pianists. **(Schedule for March 3-5, 2023). This is going to be a Big event.**

Texas A & M Polish Association Report

By Emily Glowski TAMPA President and Jennie Szefer

TAMPA has been having a great semester so far. We have meetings about every 2-3 weeks where we discuss events going on in Poland and around the world, Polish history, and learn about each other's backgrounds. This semester we have started including small language lessons at each meeting to help people learn or just practice their Polish. We host a lot of events throughout the semester including cooking nights and parties. We also attend events together such as volunteering for the Brazos County Rodeo and attending the various cultural events around Texas. This semester our club has grown drastically and every meeting increased people are coming! We are so excited to continue to bring more people into the club and help share Polish culture.

Polish Club at the University of Texas at Austin

*By Nathan Silverstein, Founder and President
Polish Club at UT*

The Polish Club at UT Austin has quickly become one of the leading Polish youth organizations. We routinely host high-profile Polish officials to speak about various matters. We have hundreds of members who routinely attend our events.

We also host Polish conversation hours on campus where students can practice their Polish in a fun and peer-led way.

We travel to Polish festivals (like those President Mazurkiewicz so graciously hosts), put on Polish cooking events (this year it was baking pierniczki—Polish gingerbread cookies), and promote Texas-Polish events with our members.

Finally, we want to thank President Mazurkiewicz, Vice President Opiela, and the PACT BOD for their leadership, dedication, and devotion to Texas Polonia. Many PACT BOD members are some of the largest donors and greatest resources to the Club. We greatly appreciate their generosity and help.

The Polish Club is honored to be an official organizational member of the PACT. We wish everyone a happy New Year. Życzymy wszystkim szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!

