



Chairman's Column

By: Aloys Notzon, PHC Chairman and President

Bishop Yanta's vision of the Polish Heritage Center as a focal point for education in Polish Culture was realized by two different events at the Center last month. The first on July 3 was made possible through the initiative of Krzysztof Gajda with the Polish Association in Texas who supported the visit of a delegation of professors from the Patria Polonia Institute of the Scientific Society of the Catholic University of Lublin: Jacek Gołębiowski, Mieczysław Ryba, Przemysław Czarnek (current representative at the Polish Sejm, Prof. of Constitutional Law and former Secretary of Science and Education), Janusz Bień, Dr. Katarzyna Czarnek, Bartoszem Rybak and former Consul General Adrian Kubicki in New York.

What a great opportunity to hear from a delegation from Poland about Polish influence on international events and their view of Texas Polonia. The Board and staff eagerly accepted this unique opportunity and dived into planning, undaunted by the challenge of a weekday event the day before the July 4th holiday.

Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz served as Master of Ceremonies, and I gave the opening prayer and welcome. Dr. Przemysław Czarnek spoke on the "Position of Poland in the Contemporary World." It was wonderful to hear of the leadership role Poland has assumed in international affairs.

Polish historian Dr. Jacek Gołębiowski and Dr. Mieczysław Ryba, Professor at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, both spoke on "The Intermarium as an Effort to Empower the Nations of Central and Eastern Europe," - an alliance of countries connecting the Baltic, Black and Adriatic Seas. Waldemar Biniecki, President and Editor-In-Chief of Kurier Polski, spoke on the need for coordinated leadership for America's Polonia.

Alice and her team of Board members, staff and volunteers provided a wonderful reception and lunch for our visitors who got to see the PHC exhibits and movie. The theater was filled with 80-plus attendees who were eager to hear from the distinguished panelists and who were able to ask pertinent questions. We were also pleased to have the event available online. It was filmed and is now available on the PHC website.

The second set of events was for our young people and began with an idea from our Executive Director to have Polish cooking classes available at the Center. The initial effort included 4 classes which are covered by Alice in this newsletter.



POLISH COOKING SCHOOL

By: Alice Poore, Executive Director

WHAT FUN!!! The Polish Heritage Center held its first annual cooking school this summer, and the classes were a huge success. We were all amazed at the response, as enrollment for the four days filled up by the second day after posting on Facebook and our PHC website. A total of 84 students attended. Classes were held on Wednesday mornings in June and July. With only a breakroom at the Center, but thanks to a generous donation, we created our own “chef’s kitchen” with electric skillets, hot plates, fry daddies, food processors, cookware, bowls, rolling pins, and all the necessary cooking utensils needed to produce delicious dishes.



Our special guest was Chef Phillip from Apolonia Catering, who we asked to attend the last cooking class and guide the students through the process of making pierogis. He had as much fun as the children and remarked at the end of the day about what a wonderful group these students were, saying he would definitely come back next year. A very special thank you to the PHC staff who worked for weeks helping to plan this event: Lauren Robinson, Mirna Estrella, Christina Griffin, Isaac Benitez, and John Wojtasczyk.

An extra special thanks to the PHC docents Linda Griffith, Sandra Yanta, Becky Bexar and Joni Huwe; PHC Board members Susan Moczygemba-McKinsey and Susie Kotara; my husband Bobby Poore and dear friends Sandra Carter, Beverly Hedtke, Kathy Patton, Makayla Janysek, Claire Laskowski, and Rebekah Pawelek. Without this extraordinary group, we could not accomplish all that is happening at the Polish Heritage Center. It truly does take a village!!!

Day one of the Polish Cooking School kicked off with delightful energy, as students baked scrumptious Grandma’s Polish Cookies, “Khruchiki,” and Gingerbread Cookies, “Katarzynki”.



Polish Cooking School, day two was another delicious success! The students made tasty Cream Fudge, "Krówki," and Apple Croissants, "Rogaliki z Jabłkami".



Day three of the Polish Cooking School was delightful, as students crafted savory Pinwheels, "Paszteciki," and savored a homemade Polish Fruit Drink, "Kompot."



The Polish Cooking School wrapped up on a high note with an unforgettable finale. Students rolled delicious Pierogi, "Pieróg," and feasted at the end with traditional Polish Wedding Sausage, "Kiełbasa Polska."





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News from the Heritage Communities

Honoring Bishop



Please join us in celebrating our beloved Bishop John W. Yanta on this third anniversary celebrating his new life in the spirit. He helps guide our work every day. Bishop was a remarkable individual in so many ways. So that you will be able to learn more about his life and work, the PHC will be bringing you a special exhibit dedicated to Bishop Yanta, scheduled to open this October. We'll have more information about the Yanta exhibit in coming newsletters but make plans to see it and the Center that culminated his life's work.

Scholarship Winners

The Polish Heritage Center has awarded scholarships to four deserving students. The Bishop John W. Yanta Academic Scholarship is awarded to descendants of the 19th century immigrations to the Panna Maria area and the Brazos Valley.

The 2025 Bishop Yanta scholarship has been awarded to Lauren Dziuk of Falls City and Makayla Janysek of Panna Maria. Lauren currently attends Texas A&M. Makayla will be attending Palo Alto College in San Antonio.

The newly created Polish Heritage Center Academic Scholarship is available for students from the more recent Polish immigrations to Texas. It is made possible with funds from the estate of Bobby Moczygamba. The 2025 PHC scholarships have been awarded to Kacper Fafara and Adam Przybylski. Both live in Houston and both will attend Blinn College.