



Chairman's Column

By: Aloys Notzon,
PHC Chairman and President

One of Bishop Yanta's consistent themes for the Polish Heritage Center has been the involvement and education of our younger generations. It was important to him that our young people learn about, understand and cherish their remarkable heritage and culture. Toward that end, he established and funded scholarships for descendants of the first Polish immigration to Texas, known as the Bishop John W. Yanta Scholarships. Details for qualifications and deadlines for applications are covered later in this newsletter, as are details of the Polish Heritage Center Scholarships, which are available for descendants of subsequent Polish immigrations to Texas. These are funded by the Estate of Bobby Moczygamba, who was a longtime friend and advocate of the PHC. Time is running short, so please encourage your students to apply.

This year's White and Red Gala is just around the corner and promises to be a fun time. The Gala is such a wonderful event with our donors, supporters and our fine staff enjoying great food and fellowship while hearing all the Center has accomplished in 2025. Last year's auction was entertainment in itself. The fun continues as the ever-popular All Dęte Polish band will be back as the major entertainment. Please make plans to join us on Saturday, March 7. The event begins at 5:30 but most of us will begin at 4:30 with Mass at the Immaculate Conception of the BVM in Panna Maria and then go to the event at the Panna Maria Hall.

On January 14th, Dr. James Pula, a noted author and professor of history, gave an outstanding virtual presentation on the role that North America Polonia played in the fight for freedom in the First World War, particularly the fight for a free Poland. These virtual programs, followed by questions and answers, are excellent opportunities to learn more about our Polish roots and history and are then available on our website. We look forward to seeing you in the audience for upcoming presentations.

Thank you again for your participation in the Polish Heritage Center. And please let us know your thoughts about the Center and this newsletter. God Bless You.

PHC at PAHA ...Turn the Page...



Attention Students!

Scholarship Opportunities now available

Details and forms for the Bishop John Yanta Academic Scholarship and the Polish Heritage Center Academic Scholarship can be found on the PHC website at polishheritagecentertx.org. Take advantage of these excellent opportunities. The deadline is coming up fast.



The Polish Heritage Center's



BISHOP JOHN W. YANTA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

Students with direct connection to the Polish immigrants to Texas
Recently accepted to or actively enrolled at any Texas university or college

APPLICATION AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:
[HTTPS://POLISHHERITAGECENTERTX.ORG/](https://polishheritagecentertx.org/)

**Application Due
February 26, 2026**

SEND TO ALICE POORE AT
DIRECTOR@POLISHHERITAGECENTERTX.ORG



POLISH HERITAGE CENTER ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

Students with connection to the Polish immigrants to Texas
Recently accepted to or actively enrolled at any Texas university or college

APPLICATION AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:
[HTTPS://POLISHHERITAGECENTERTX.ORG/](https://polishheritagecentertx.org/)

**Application Due
February 26, 2026**

SEND TO ALICE POORE AT
DIRECTOR@POLISHHERITAGECENTERTX.ORG

*We had a wonderful time at White and Red Gala 2025.
Don't miss out on 2026!*



| Discovering Polish History and Culture in Chicago

By Susan Moczygamba-McKinsey, PHC Board Member

Chicago in January????? What were we thinking? Frankly, it wasn't that bad and we've survived to tell you about it.

PHC Executive Director Alice Poore, Librarian/Archivist Lauren Robinson, Board Member Susie Kotara and yours truly journeyed to the Windy City in early January for the American Historical Association Conference. It's a huge annual event that attracts thousands of people interested in all sorts of American history and culture. There were dozens of affiliate tracks, but we spent most of our time with the Polish American Historical Association – PAHA.

Over three days, we listened to a number of presentations and got to meet Polish historians and scholars, several of whom you'll meet on upcoming PHC virtual presentations. We also ventured beyond the Chicago Hilton and spent quality time at the Polish Museum of America for tours and the PAHA banquet. The Museum is housed in the building of the Polish Roman Catholic Union, which was founded by Father Leopold Moczygamba and Peter Kiolbassa in the years

following the Civil War when both were in Chicago. The Museum, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year, is now home to the historic Panna Maria Stations of the Cross which have been beautifully restored and are on display.

In future newsletters, we will show you much more of the Polish Museum of America which is well worth a visit. We will also take you to St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, which is just a short walk from the Museum and which was also founded by Father Leopold and his buddy Peter. Kiolbassa came to Panna Maria in 1855, but after the Civil War, moved to Chicago where he would serve as the City Treasurer.

The PAHA scholars and Museum staff were so very gracious. They were well aware of Panna Maria and all have either been here or want to visit. They treated us with great affection and respect. It was a wonderful trip, and even in January, it felt like home.





**THE
POLISH HERITAGE CENTER
AT PANNA MARIA**

13909 N FM 81
PO Box 25
Panna Maria, Texas 78144



PHC Hours: Tues. – Sat. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
www.polishheritagecentertx.org
(830) 310-8612

The Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria
Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization.

TAX ID: #46-0561240

South Texas Ladies Can't Resist Chicago Snow

