



# Chairman's Column

By: Aloys Notzon, PHC Chairman and President

Texas Polonia Youth Day was successfully launched at the Polish Heritage Center in Panna Maria on April 12 with more than 250 participants - Elementary, High School, College and University students, faculty advisors, and accompanying parents and grandparents. This event was a true fulfillment of Bishop Yanta's vision of a vibrant center appealing to all ages and promoting the story of our immigrant ancestors. We thank Alice Poore, her talented, hardworking staff, and our volunteers for the planning and prework, event set-up, and their active involvement during the event. We especially thank Betty Burda for seeing firsthand the results of her support of the event.

My welcome to the crowd under the famous oak tree highlighted the site of the first Mass celebrated by Fr. Leopold Moczygemba for the immigrants over 170 years ago and recalled how this event was an opportunity for developing friendships and communications throughout Texas Polonia. Alice Poore outlined the day, and then the Wawel Dancers from Houston led the procession into the church for a Mass celebrated by Fr. Krzysztof Olejnik, Superior General of the Society of Christ Fathers, and Fr. Wieslaw Iwaniec, Pastor of the Immaculate Conception Parish. The beautiful singing of Polish hymns and the Mass in both English and Polish were inspirational. Eleanor Kline was the young girl with a beautiful voice we heard throughout Mass.

She is the Polish School absolvent and organist at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in Houston. Following Mass, the crowd sat under a large tent set up at the entrance of the Polish Heritage Center and enjoyed the Wawel young dancers followed by the Wawel teen dancers.

The PHC then provided a BBQ lunch at the Panna Maria Diner. After lunch, participants were able to choose 4 activities out of 7 available during the afternoon. These included a Pierogi demonstration by Apolonia Catering chefs; Polish crafts, including Polish Flag making and Polish National Symbols provided by the IPN, Institute for National Remembrance, who sent two representatives from Poland: Marta Golinska and Beata Kopcinska; tours of the Center, tours of the St. Joseph Museum and a tour of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church.

Our participants included students from the Austin Polish School, the UT Austin Polish Club, the Houston Polish School, parishioners from Our Lady of Czestochowa in Houston, Texas A&M Polish Association, and the Dallas Polish School. PHC Board members and staff were happily engaged as tour guides, responding to questions and facilitating the activities.

Texas Polonia Youth Day was a great day for learning, entertainment, fellowship and sharing. Thanks again to everyone who participated.



# Texas Polonia Youth Day



# Congratulations to our PHC Artists!

By: Alice Poore, PHC Executive Director

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us for the Awards Ceremony of the Polish Heritage Center's Polish History Art Contest on April 5, 2025. A special thanks goes out to the talented students from Karnes County schools and local homeschool programs who took the time to share their exceptional creativity through their stunning artwork. We are also deeply grateful to our partners at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Houston for their generous contribution of Polish Puzzles, which were awarded to our winners—adding an extra special touch to the celebration!

This year, we were thrilled to present 42 awards, including cash prizes. We also introduced a People's Choice Award, where attendees and visitors from around the world—including Poland—had the chance to vote for their favorite artwork. We can't wait to see even more entries and witness the incredible creativity and cultural expression in next year's competition. Thank you all for helping to make this event such a success!

## 1st Place Winners:

Colson Buratovick (Kinder), Brock Wells (1st Grade), Capri Camber (2nd Grade), Brooklyn Etzler (3rd Grade), Emma Mutz (4th Grade) Anastasia Miller (5th Grade), Corbin Janysek (6th Grade), Ainslee Buratovich (6th Grade), Katerina Miller (7th Grade), Troit Hosek (8th Grade), Joshua Barnes (10th Grade), Isabel Kowalik (11th Grade), Isabella Guerra (12th Grade)



## 2nd Place Winners:

Lane Labus (Kinder), Lolli Morgan (1st Grade), Kenedy Wiesman (2nd Grade), Piper Moy (3rd Grade), Paralee Rue (4th Grade), Mikayla Rapstine (5th Grade), Kyleigh Storm (6th Grade), Jayleigh Polasek (6th Grade), Bonnie Tielke (7th Grade), Makayla Janysek (12th Grade)



## 3rd Place Winners:

Jacob Lee (2nd Grade), Leda Deleon (3rd Grade), Travis Moy (4th Grade), Madelynne Davidson (5th Grade), Amy Castro (6th Grade), Adelynn Rapstine (6th Grade), Elizabeth Ruple (6th grade)



## People's Choice Winners:

Colson Buratovich (Kinder), Brock Wells (1st Grade), Capri Camber (2nd Grade), Isla Crawford (2nd Grade), Conrad Staudt (3rd Grade), Piper Moy (3rd Grade), Dickson Witte (3rd Grade), Travis Moy (4th Grade), Olivia Moy (4th Grade), Paralee Rue (4th Grade), Anastasia Miller (5th Grade), Ireland Witte (5th Grade), Mikayla Rapstine (5th Grade), Ainslee Buratovich (6th Grade), Kyleigh Sturm (6th Grade), Liam Tatsch (6th Grade), Amy Castro (6th Grade), Katerina Miller (7th Grade), Troit Hosek (8th Grade) Joshua Barnes (10th grade), Isabel Kowalik (11th Grade), MaKayla Janysek (12th Grade).



**THE  
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AT PANNA MARIA**

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PHC Hours: Wed. – Sat. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
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The Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria  
Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization.

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**News from the Heritage Communities**

**Youth Day was a Great Day! Thanks for joining us.**

