



Chairman's Column

By: Aloys Notzon,
PHC Chairman and President

Welcome to this summer edition of the PHC newsletter. We hope you will find the time to enjoy the next couple of months ... and make the time to visit our wonderful Center. The past month has been busy.

The Polish Heritage Center was full of the wonderful artistry from our annual spring art appreciation contest. We list all of the winners in this newsletter. In addition, we were proud to award \$20,000 for scholarships in Bishop Yanta's name for four awardees through a donation from the Yanta Pollock Memorial Trust and \$17,500 in Polish Heritage Center scholarships for three awardees from the estate of Bobby Moczygamba. What a wonderful way to keep alive the Polish family traditions in these young students and fulfill Bishop Yanta's wishes of involving the younger generation in Polish heritage.

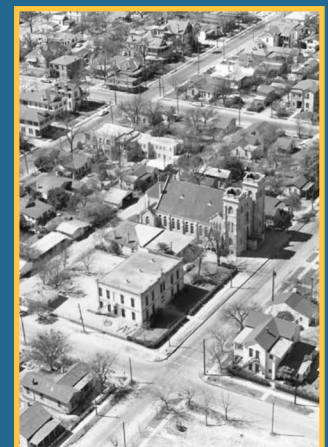
May 20th was a remarkably beautiful day to dedicate the Polish Quarter Historic Plaque and the St. Michael's Church Historic Plaque in Hemisfair Plaza in San Antonio. Thanks to Ronnie and Terry Urbanczyk, owners of Urban Concrete, for sponsoring the event and covering the project cost. Their son-in-law, Josh Aljoe, Urban Concrete Project manager, designed the plinth with the engineers at Urban Concrete and worked closely with the Bexar County Historical Commission, Hemisfair Plaza and PHC Executive Director Alice Poore on this project. Belinda Gavallos, Director of the Bexar County Historical Commission, coordinated with the Center on event plans and publicity.

Bishop Yanta wanted all 13 Polish communities that are featured in the Center to be remembered, and he initiated this historical recognition with the efforts of Maureen Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Kosub, Lynn Highley, Janet Ebrom, Claude Stanush, the Texas Historical Commission, the Bexar County Historical Commission, City of San Antonio office of Historic Preservation, St. Michael's parish and Hemisfair. The effort resulted in a Texas Historical Commission Undertold Marker for the Polish Quarter. On the St. Michael's Church plaque, Maureen Brown did the research at the Institute of Texan Cultures archives and the San Antonio Public Library Texana Department to pinpoint on the Sanborne Maps the former location of St. Michael's Church and School located on South Street. The church and surrounding neighborhoods were demolished to make way for Hemisfair in the mid-1960s.

The event began with accordion music and singing by PHC board member Dr. Jim Mazurkewicz. I gave a welcome and short history and extended our gratitude to the people mentioned above. Dr. Jim gave a salutation from the Republic of Poland and the Polish Consulate in Houston as his first official act since he was appointed Honorary Consul General for the State of Texas.

Father Kevin Faust, Pastor of St. Michael's Church, delivered the invocation. Brenda Gavallos, Director of the Bexar County Historical Commission, gave the history of the area. Bexar County Judge Peter Sakai recognized the work that Ronnie and Terry Urbanczyk have done for people in Bexar County and praised them for their community support. He gave a presentation on the role the Polish community has had in Bexar County. The Plinth was covered with a red drape flanked by the flags of the United States, Poland and Texas. Ronnie and Terry Urbanczyk, Belinda Gavallos and Alice Poore unveiled the historic markers followed by perogies and refreshments by Apolonia catering. You'll find pictures of the event in this newsletter.

We're looking forward to Polish Cooking School! Again, have a wonderful, restful summer.



Historic Photos courtesy of UTSA Archives Digital Library

2026 PHC Art Contest

Kindergarten

1st Ehzyly Gonzales, Karnes City
2nd Camila Barraza, Karnes City
3rd Josiah Rosales, Karnes City
People's Choice: Josiah Rosales

First Grade

1st Santiago Uribe, Karnes City
2nd Ava Torres, Karnes City
3rd Seth Arila, Karnes City
People's Choice: Santiago Uribe,
Melissa Sanchez, KC

Second Grade

1st Lucas Witte, Falls City
2nd Brock Wells, Falls City
3rd Audra Miller, Falls City
People's Choice: Lucas Witte

Third Grade

1st Emma Pollard, Falls City
2nd Charlotte Pawelek, Karnes City
3rd Capri Camber, Falls City
People's Choice: Emily Sekula, FC

Fourth Grade

1st Karter Beck, Falls City
2nd Dickson Witte, Falls City
3rd Mason Schmidt, Karnes City
People's Choice: Layken Warner, FC

Fifth Grade

1st Paralee Rue, Falls City
2nd Katherine Bordovsky, Falls City
3rd Cy Moy, Falls City
People's Choice: Paralee Rue

Sixth Grade

1st Anastasia Miller, Falls City
2nd Terik Hosek, Falls City
3rd Mikayla Rapstine, Falls City
People's Choice: Anastasia Miller

Seventh Grade

1st Kyleigh Sturm, Falls City
People's Choice: Kyleigh Sturm

Eighth Grade

1st Katerina Miller, Falls City
2nd Lainey Lemke, Yorktown
3rd Carsen Schorlemer, Yorktown
People's Choice: Lainey Lemke,
Katerina Miller, Carson Schlorlemer

Ninth Grade

1st Eli Arenas, Falls City
2nd Drew Chesser, Falls City
3rd Braxton Lake, Falls City
People's Choice: Eli Arenas,
Drew Chesser

Tenth Grade, No Entries

Eleventh Grade

1st Cecilia Rosales, Karnes City
2nd Lilia Brown, Karnes City
3rd John Barnes, Falls City
People's Choice: Lilia Brown

Twelfth Grade

1st Gloria Graham, Falls City
2nd Halo Sanchez, Karnes City
3rd Owen Friesen, Falls City
People's Choice: Gloria Graham



More from the Marker Dedication at Hemisfair



2026 Scholarship Winners

Bishop John W. Yanta Academic Scholarship

Alyssa Pawelek

\$10,000 - University of Texas at Austin
Falls City High School

Ty Kopecki

\$5,000 - Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi
Poth High School

Claire Laskowski

\$2,500 - Texas A&M University
Falls City High School

Makayla Janysek

\$2,500 - Palo Alto College
Graduate of Falls City High School

Polish Heritage Center Academic Scholarship

Julia Rogowska

\$10,000 - University of Texas at Austin
Grand Oaks High School, Spring, TX

Keely Mikolajchak

\$5,000 - Texas A&M University
Chappell Hill, TX

Brooklyn Albert

\$2,500 - Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
Poth High School



**THE
POLISH HERITAGE CENTER
AT PANNA MARIA**

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

TAX ID: #46-0561240

News from the Heritage Communities

Congratulations to our Scholarship Graduates!



Claire Laskowski, Alice Poore,
Alyssa Pawelek



Poth HS Principal Rick Contreras,
Ty Kopecki, Alice Poore



Principal Rick Contreras,
Brooklyn Albert, Alice Poore