

COMMUNITY • FAITH • FAMILY



**POLISH  
HERITAGE  
CENTER USA**  
PANNA MARIA, TEXAS

## **Visitor Experience #62**

**American Council for Polish Culture  
2022 Lifetime Achievement Award  
Bishop John W. Yanta**



# ACPC Honors Bishop Yanta for Lifetime Achievement

The Board of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) has selected Bishop Yanta to receive their 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award. This Award is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to the Council's goal of promoting an awareness and appreciation of Polish history, as well as its cultural contributions and achievements across the nation.

This prestigious award will be presented at the banquet following ACPC's 74th Annual convention, which will be held Tuesday through Friday, July 26-29, 2022, in San Antonio at the St. Anthony Hotel downtown. Activities will include an all-day excursion to historic Panna Maria and the recently completed Polish Heritage Center, which explores Polish roots in Silesia and the establishment of Polish settlements in Texas. Please visit ACPC's website at [polishcultureacpc.org](http://polishcultureacpc.org) for more information about their upcoming convention.



# Announcing our Annual Membership Program

*Angelica Docog, Executive Director*

With the Center up and running, there are many recurring expenses, such as electricity, water, internet, building maintenance, the production and dissemination of the newsletter, and on and on. We must utilize every resource available to ensure we have the funds needed to support operations. One of the sustainability initiatives that was approved by the PHC board is our newly developed membership program. For just \$75.00 annually members will receive the monthly printed newsletter and four free admissions to the center. All memberships purchased this year will not renew until January 1, 2024; therefore, creating an opportunity for extending the membership for more than 12 months at the annual price. Donors who are in the Heritage Circle and in the newly developed "Sustaining Our Mission Gallery" who have donated \$100,000 or more will be lifetime members receiving the newsletter, unlimited free admissions for two annually and invitations to all events.

We want to give everyone the opportunity to become a member; therefore, we will not produce a newsletter for July or August. All paid memberships as of August 1, 2022, will receive the printed newsletter starting September 2022. We hope to have many, many members showing support of the vision for celebrating our heritage.

The newly revamped newsletter will be developed by PHC staff, and I may be contacting you for ideas and articles. Please know that we are grateful for your support and participation, and we will acknowledge all paid memberships in the annual report each year.

For your convenience, this newsletter includes a self-addressed envelope that you can use to submit your membership payment of \$75.00. Please be sure to include your name, address, phone number and email address.

Thank you, and should you have any questions or article suggestions, please contact me at (830) 310-8612 or Angelica Docog at [angelicad@polishheritagecentertx.org](mailto:angelicad@polishheritagecentertx.org).



# Keeping Bishop Yanta's Mission and Dream Alive!

Congratulations to our donors!!! You supported the Polish Heritage Center's Capital Campaign making Bishop Yanta's dream of building a first class facility to honor Polish immigrants at this first and oldest Polish settlement in the nation a reality. We have much to celebrate because of you! The building project is complete, it is blessed, we had a successful grand opening, and we have held many successful educational events. Visitors are amazed and in awe of the center, the exhibits, the presentations, and the stories of those first settlers who endured so many hardships to carve out a life in the Texas wilderness.

We were reminded at the blessing by Consul General, Robert Rusiecki that we have only begun this journey. The construction is complete, the dust has cleared and now we must work to sustain the operation for years to come.

Bishop Yanta addressed the Grand Opening of the Polish Heritage Center with the following message:

“I pray that the project always remains faithful to its goal of being a first-class operation and place in every way. Our immigrant ancestors gave us a distinctive first-class beginning and I, as one of the descendants, realize the debt I owe to them. We must pass on their history of faith, of taming their new land and overcoming hardships for future generations.

There is not a day I don't thank God for what we receive. This Heritage Center has been, and is, a tremendous blessing. I think it's very important for everyone, for future generations, to be able to put all of this to good use, to be good stewards. To me, what we are doing with the Polish Heritage Center is one of the very best uses that you can make out of dollars from heaven.

To the Polonia in America and around the world, I invite you to please come see what God has enabled us to do. We want to share our part of the national story that began with our ancestors. We want you to see the beauty of our story as we see it. God's working through Divine Providence over these many years brought us this story to share with you.

I thank God for being with us, step by step, along the way. For me, it's my call to stewardship. I knew God wanted me to do something: to memorialize our Polish ancestors and preserve the past for the future generations.”

Many of you have asked when fundraising would begin to generate the funds needed to sustain operations. We are excited to introduce our “Visionary Support Campaign: Sustaining our Mission”. The sustaining member gallery was designed in appreciation and in recognition of those who help us keep the Bishop's mission and vision moving forward. It will be located in a very special and prominent place on the walls flanking Our Lady Czestochowa.



Donors and their memorialization will be displayed in a beautiful gold frame similar to the example below:



Recognition for the Sustaining our Mission Gallery crosses multiple years. Donations received January 1, 2022 and forward will be cumulative for this gallery. For example, a donor desiring to enter the gallery with \$25,000 could donate \$10,000 in 2022 with recognition in the annual report. The same donor could donate \$15,000 in 2023 for a cumulative donation over two years of \$25,000. The donor would be recognized in the annual report for 2023 with a gift of \$15,000 and would move to the donor gallery with the accumulated gifts of \$25,000. Recognition for donors will be updated after December 31 of each year. Just as in the Capital Campaign Society recognition, the size of the font and number of lines for recognition increase when moving to a higher-level allowing memorialization of ancestors and loved ones. The levels for recognition are:

1,000,000.00+  
500,000-999,999  
200,000-499,999  
100,000-199,999  
50,000-99,999  
25,000-49,999

Donors can work their finances to achieve the desired level of recognition over several years. All donations received by the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria, no matter the size, are greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged in the annual report and the book of donors. Once again, thank you for your support.

Please send donations to Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria, P.O. Box 25, Panna Maria, Texas 78144.

***Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria Foundation is a fully tax-exempt public charity under sections 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts to Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.***

***Tax ID Number: 46-0561240***

# Polish Community Grant Award



*This photograph was taken when the Ambassador visited the University of Saint Thomas in Houston, Texas*

Left: **Robert Rusiecki**, Consul General, Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Houston; **Angelica Docog**, Executive Director, Polish Heritage Center; **Marek Magierowski**, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United States of America and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas; **Aloys Notzon**, Vice Chair of the Polish Heritage Center Board of Directors.

The Polish Heritage Center is pleased to announce a Polish Community Grant from the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland! The Center is very grateful for their support.

The community grant will highlight the important role Polish women had and continue to have in preserving Polish cultural traditions through work, faith, and family and will help to educate the public on the significant contributions Polish women have made to the history of Texas.

The community grant will have three main components. The first is a virtual

lecture series which will feature renowned Polish scholars who have helped to highlight the extraordinary contributions Polish women have made to American history. In March 2022, **Dr. Anna D. Jaroszynska-Kirchmann** shared her research on Early Polish American cookbooks and what they tell us about Polonia. Her presentation provided a fascinating insight to how early Polish American women used their cookbooks to document not only recipes but also the current social issues and perceptions of the time. The next virtual lecture will be on June 22nd, at 6:00 p.m. (CST) and the featured speaker will be **Dr. Grażyna J. Kozaczka**, a professor at Cazenovia College in upstate New York.

**Dr. Kozaczka's** presentation will be on the "Life, Family, and Home Economics: **Monica Krawczyk** in Women's Magazines." **Monica Krawczyk** (1888-1954), a daughter of Polish immigrants from Wielkopolska who settled in Minnesota in the second half of the 19th century, was the first Polish American short story writer who broke into the American mass-circulation magazine market. Her English language stories about Polish immigrants appeared in major magazines such as Good Housekeeping, Woman's Day, Canadian Home Journal, and The Country Home Magazine from the late 1920s through the 1940s. Before ethnicity became fashionable, **Krawczyk** aimed at introducing her American readers to Polish culture, traditions, and customs. Please join us on Wednesday, June 22nd! To the virtual zoom presentation, please copy and paste the link into your browser:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88545348851?  
pwd=cENQdzVQcVd4MzYrb2pLRWtYZXpxQT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88545348851?pwd=cENQdzVQcVd4MzYrb2pLRWtYZXpxQT09)

The second component of the community grant will be at exhibit at the Polish Heritage Center which open in late June or early July. Please check the Center's website for more information. And the final component will be the digital component on Polish women which will be added to the Center's website.

This project will help support the history of the Polish community in several ways: 1. the project will provide a social platform that will help educate and preserve for Polish community members and the general public the important contributions of a segment of society that is often marginalize and underrepresented-women. 2. Because this project includes a digital component, this project will continue to educate people on the Polish history as well as help to sustain Polish cultural traditions. And lastly, this project supports the mission and vision of the Polish Heritage Center-"to keep the history, values, beliefs, and customs and traditions of the Polish settlers and descendants, and to inspire, engage, and educate our visitors." The Center is grateful and thankful for **Robert Rusiecki's** Consul General, Consulate General of the Republic, support of the Center's programmatic initiatives.

Everyone is invited to participate in the upcoming Polish Heritage Center's Virtual (Zoom) program and presentation :

**Wednesday, June 22, 2022, 6:00—7:15PM (CST)**

**“Life, Family, and Home Economics:  
Monica Krawczyk in Women’s Magazines”**

Presented by Dr. Grażyna J. Kozaczka



**Monica Krawczyk (1888-1954), a daughter of Polish immigrants from Wielkopolska who settled in Minnesota in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, was the first Polish American short story writer who broke into the American mass-circulation magazine market. Her English language stories about Polish immigrants appeared in major magazines such as *Good Housekeeping*, *Woman’s Day*, *Canadian Home Journal*, and *The Country Home Magazine* from the late 1920s through the 1940s. Before ethnicity became fashionable, Krawczyk aimed at introducing her American readers to Polish culture, traditions, and customs.**

Dr. Grażyna Kozaczka joined the faculty at Cazenovia College, located in Cazenovia, New York, in 1984. Her research interests include ethnic American literature, women's literature, literature of the Holocaust as well as traditional Polish folk dress and adornment. She has published scholarly essays, short fiction and popular articles in both English and Polish. She is currently working on a monograph devoted to the representation of immigrant and ethnic women in Polish American literature after World War II. She is the Past President of the Polish American Historical Association, an organization devoted to the study of Polish American history and culture as a part of the greater Polish Diaspora. She currently serves as the Book Review Editor for "The Polish Review." For more information on Dr. Kozaczka's extensive biography and publications please visit her website: <https://www.cazenovia.edu/directory/grazyna-kozaczka>

**To join the virtual (Zoom) event the day of click or copy and paste in your browser:**

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88545348851?pwd=cENQdzVQcVd4MzYrb2pLRWtYZXpxQT09>**

*Please SHARE widely with your friends, family, and community organizations!*

*Many thanks to the Office of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Houston and the Polish American Council of Texas (PACT) for their generous support of the educational program!*

Visit: <https://polishheritagecentertx.org>



Consulate General  
of the Republic of Poland  
in Houston



**POLISH AMERICAN  
COUNCIL OF  
TEXAS**

# Calendar of Events

June 24 - 25: Polski Dzień in Bremond, Texas

July 26 - 29: American Council for Polish Culture 2022 Annual Convention,  
Saint Anthony Hotel, San Antonio, Texas

September 5: Falls City Picnic, Falls City, Texas

October 9: Homecoming Turkey Dinner, Panna Maria, Texas

October 16: Cestohowa Parish Celebration, Cestohowa, Texas

November 12: 2022 PACT ANNUAL MEETING,  
Annunciation of the BVM Catholic Parish, St. Hedwig, Texas

## *Historical Highlights*

June 2, 1979 - First pilgrimage of **Pope John Paul II** to Poland, through June 10

June 7, 1982 - President **Ronald Reagan** and **Pope John Paul II** meet in the Vatican.

June 12, 1887 - Founding of the Polish Falcons of America, fraternal insurance benefit society headquartered in Pittsburgh

June 16, 1943 - Death of Medal of Honor winner **2nd Lt. Joseph Sarnoski** in Solomon Islands

June 17, 1696 - Death of **Jan III Sobieski**, who defeated the Turks at the Battle of Chocom near Vienna

June 28, 1956 - Poznań Protests begin, the first demonstration against the Soviet-imposed communist government that was established after the end of World War II

June 29, 1941 - Death of pianist, composer, and statesman **Ignacy Jan Paderewski**, 80, in New York City

# Polish Traditions of the Spring

## The Drowning of Marzanna

On the first day of spring, Polish locals celebrate the departure (or demise) of winter by the ‘Drowning (and sometimes burning) of Marzanna’. This tradition is rooted in the pre-Christian sacrificial rites of Slavic Pagans. Because of its origin, many over the years have tried to put an end to this tradition, unsuccessfully.

Marzanna was the goddess who personified winter. On this day, locals create her likeness using straw, old clothing and even accessories like a headscarf. They then literally throw ‘winter’ into a lake or a river to drown. The practice is symbolic for sending the winter away and preparing nature for spring and its rebirth. Often, singing or the reciting of old verses accompany the procession: “Marzanna, Marzanna, swim across the seas. Let flowers bloom, and fields turn green.”



Photograph from: [https://emilysguide-tokracow.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/mg\\_0327.jpg](https://emilysguide-tokracow.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/mg_0327.jpg)

## Śmigus Dyngus, Wet Monday

If staying dry is your preferred state of self, don’t visit Poland on Wet Monday. The whole country follows an age-old tradition which resembles one big water fight. This is one of the Polish traditions linked to Christianity, whereby splashing water is considered a blessing. Moreover, Wet Monday celebrates the arrival of spring and the future of a relationship. The Poles believe the girl who gets the most soaked in the celebration will be the first to marry.



Both articles and the above photograph from: <https://www.trafalgar.com/real-word/7-unique-polish-traditions>

# Famous Americans with Polish Heritage



Photograph from: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan\\_Tudyk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Tudyk)

## Alan Tudyk

**Alan Tudyk** was born on March 16, 1971, in El Paso, Texas. **Alan's** roots stretch back to the community of Saint Hedwig in Bexar County, which is the third oldest Polish settlement in Texas. This well-known actor's debut was in 1997 in a film titled *35 Miles from Normal*. His big screen career took off with the 1998 movie, *Patch Adams*. **Alan** even landed a role in the Broadway production of *Epic Proportions*. In 2002, in his most memorable and beloved role, **Alan** starred in the television series, *Firefly*. Over nearly 25 years, this prolific actor has appeared in person or in voice, in numerous films, television episodes, video games, theater productions, and web projects, numbering over 100 occurrences!



Photograph from: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martha\\_Stewart](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martha_Stewart)

## Martha Helen Kostyra Stewart

Born August 3, 1941, in Jersey City, New Jersey, **Martha** used her practical household talents to build both an economic and social media empire. At the age of 10, **Martha** would occasionally babysit for the children of some of baseball's greats: **Yogi Berra**, **Mickey Mantle**, and **Gil McDougald** of the New York Yankees. **Martha** became a model, and at the age of 15, even appeared on television. Throughout her life, **Martha** cultivated her many talents. She learned to cook, sew, can/preserve, and graduated with a double major in history and architectural history. She became a stock broker, and developed her ability to restore and decorate, which would finally become her trademark and the creation of her own marketing empire.