



Chairman's Column

By: Aloys Notzon, PHC Chairman and President

As I reflect on the recent past, I continue to see the wisdom of Bishop John W. Yanta and his guiding hand in all we accomplish. I would like to highlight some examples.

In Education, we are following Bishop Yanta's vision of reaching future generations. We had tours and workshops for 28 UTSA Geography students, along with groups from the Texas A&M Polish Association in College Station (10), and the Polish Club at UT in Austin (8), plus the virtual presentation by Emily Glowski and Jenie Szefer from A&M and Nathan Silverstein of UT. Add to this the number of elementary school classes that are touring and learning about the Center.

In our Library, we are grateful for contributions of material from Bishop Yanta, the Silesian Profiles Committee, Dr. T. Lindsay Baker, Joe Jaworski, Msgr. Frank Kurzaj, Anna Knap, George Bobinski, the Austin Polish Society and Jay Orbik that have added resources for our visitors and researchers.

In our virtual presentations, we enjoyed Donna Chmara's virtual presentation on her book, *Surviving Genocide*; a delightful presentation by Genny Kraus and her son, Matthew, in Polish garb, sharing a personal perspective on Polish culture and customs; and an outstanding historical

perspective by Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz on why he plays Polish folk music, among many others. These sessions are now on our website which has added to our visitors' options and experience.

In our newsletter, we give thanks to authors who contribute material, including John Cebrowski, Susan Moczygemba-McKinsey, Dr. Piotr Przybylski, Alice Poore and Lauren Robinson.

Among numerous events, we celebrated the opening of the Cestohowa 150th Anniversary exhibit, the dedication of the Bishop John W. Yanta Room, and the Donor Appreciation Dinner.

We can never recognize our donors enough as they have recognized the value of the Polish Heritage Center and have helped us meet the challenges of the current inflationary cycle. Also, the PHC Endowment now stands at \$429,395.

Finally, our hearty congratulations to PHC Board Member and President of the Polish American Council of Texas, Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, on being honored by the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) with the Skalny Civic Achievement Award.

We invite each of you to come to the Center and explore the wonderful stories of our history and the cultural experiences of our hard-working immigrant ancestors.



PHC delegation at PAHA in San Francisco: Sam and Susie Kotara, Kathy Mazurkiewicz, Alice Poore, Lauren Robinson and Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz.



Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz accepts Skalny Civic Achievement Award from PAHA vice president Ewa Barczyk.

A Perfect Solution

By Alice Poore, PHC Executive Director

Are you looking for a unique venue for an upcoming event? The Bishop John W. Yanta Room at the Polish Heritage Center is a beautiful ballroom perfect for a wedding rehearsal dinner, birthday party, baby shower, family reunion, christening celebration, or your organization/company meeting. For additional information about the rental opportunity, contact Alice Poore, Executive Director, at 830-310-8612.

PHC recently hosted Kendall Kelley, bride elect of Collin Dziuk, and her bridal party in the Board room of the Center, one hour prior to her wedding ceremony. What a perfect place to share memories and take care of those last-minute preparations. So convenient to simply walk across to the church and your ever after! For information about the rental opportunity, contact Alice Poore, Executive Director, at 830-310-8612.



Above and left:
The wedding rehearsal dinner for the Andrew Woodchick and Taylor Dziuk nuptials was held at the PHC in the Bishop Yanta Room in late December. Photos courtesy of photographer Mark Thomas.



Set up for a recent wedding rehearsal dinner in the Yanta Room.



Kelley bridal party in the PHC Board Room.



Sam Kotara shares facts about the painted ceiling in Panna Maria's Immaculate Conception Church with Falls City fifth-graders.



Falls City sixth graders gather with Cyril and Methodius, Apostles to the Slavs.

Literature: A Primary Element of Polish Culture

By John Cebrowski, PHC Board Member

Part One

Poland acquired a literary language in Latin when it became a Christian land in the 10th century. Mieszko I, prince of Poland, accepted Christianity in 966.

The earliest pieces of literature in the Polish language emerged later. Of these early works – which developed a literary tradition outside the works written in Latin – the most significant is Bogurodzica, composed between the 10th and 13th centuries, which is a hymn invoking the Mother of God. As the first poem composed in Polish, Bogurodzica has a firm place in Polish cultural history. The hymn is an instance of the most archaic form of the Polish language and is an example of medieval religious ‘high art’ music.

Polish national literature holds an exceptional position in Poland. Over the centuries it has mirrored the turbulent events of Polish history and many times has sustained the nation’s cultural and political identity.

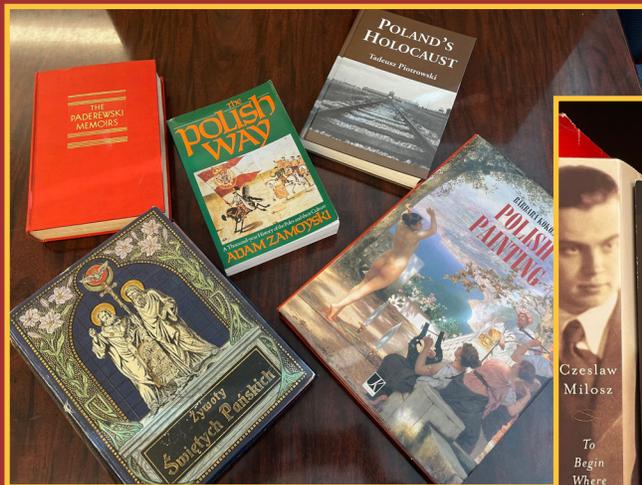
The periods of Polish literature start with the Middle Ages and its focus on religious writings, but with early secular

literature emerging. The Renaissance period, reaching Poland comparatively late, ushered in the golden age of Polish literature. It was led by Jan Kochanowski and his followers which highlighted early achievements in prose writing. Following were the Baroque period, where poetry and other literary forms emerged; the Enlightenment which saw the rise of Polish drama; 19th century Romanticism led by Henryk Sienkiewicz, and then the early 20th century Young Poland movement.

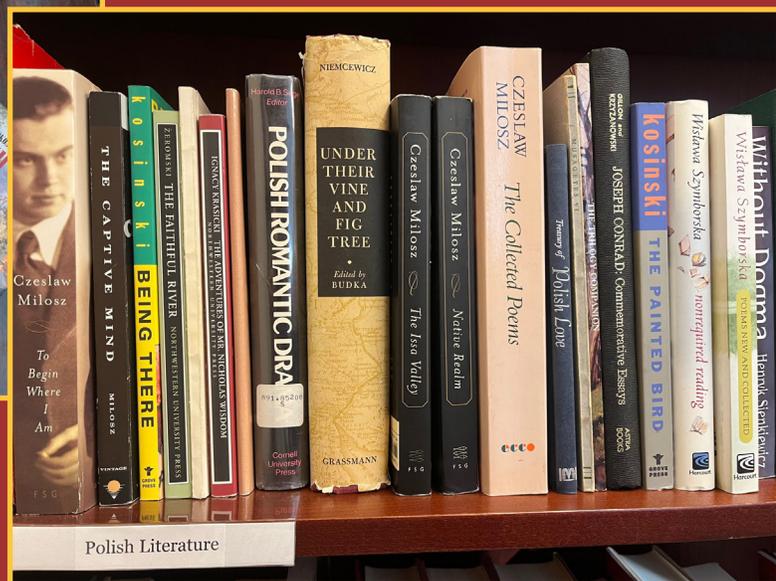
Mikołaj Rej (1505-1569), a poet and prose writer, is recognized as the father of Polish literature, notable for combining medieval religious interests with Renaissance humanism. Self-educated, he was the first idiomatically Polish talent and was widely read. His most famous work was A Brief Discourse among Three Persons: a Lord, a Commune Chief, and a Priest, in 1543.

Adam Mickiewicz was a Polish poet, dramatist, essayist, and political activist. A principal figure in Polish Romanticism, he is one of Poland’s “Three Bards,” which include Juliusz Słowacki (1809–1849) and Zygmunt Krasiński (1812–1859). We recognize all three in the Polish Heritage Center. Mickiewicz is widely regarded as Poland’s greatest poet. His masterpiece, the great epic Pan Tadeusz, 1834, describes the life of the Polish gentry in the early 19th century through a fictional account of the feud between two families of Polish nobles.

Six Poles have won the Nobel Prize for Literature. We will chronicle them all in the March newsletter.



Polish literature books in the PHC Library.



Shelf filled with literature in the PHC Library.



**THE
POLISH HERITAGE CENTER
AT PANNA MARIA**

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



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

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News from the Heritage Communities

Polish Caroling in Chappell Hill

By Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, PHC Board Member

The 16th annual “Polskie kolędowanie” Polish Caroling was a huge success with over 125 participants and 8 scheduled stops. The entire St. Stanislaus Parish in Chappell Hill participated by bringing food to the parish hall, hosting at their homes, helping at the Chappell Hill Museum, attending the special kolędy Mass and cemetery vigil and supporting at each stop.

Thank you to all the hosts, participants, musicians, carolers, Father Thaddeus Tabak, our parish priest, and WEBR Radio out of Buffalo, New York for interviewing our carolers and promoting Texas Polonia! Caroling outside the home begins on Dec. 26, St. Stephen’s Day, and continues through Feb. 2, which is Candlemass.



Chappell Hill Caroling with photo of carolers in front of St. Stanislaus Church in Chappell Hill