



Chairman's Column

By: Aloys Notzon, PHC Chairman and President

Thanks to the efforts of our Executive Director and former educator Alice Poore, the Polish Heritage Center has hosted over 750 students from local schools since last November. This educational initiative is funded in large part by the districts and their educational foundations, and we greatly appreciate their support.

When school funding is not available, the PHC provides an educational scholarship that was the wish of one of our biggest champions. We are so grateful to the late Bobby Moczygamba for setting up an entry scholarship program for students touring the Center.

This support of student tours began through his sister and Board Secretary Susan Moczygamba McKinsey, and it is so reminiscent of Bobby as he was always looking out for the Center. He always believed in sharing his blessings with the Polish Heritage Center and his family Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Panna Maria. How wonderful that his influence continues at the PHC, fulfilling Bishop Yanta's vision of educating the next generations.

The first annual Red and White Gala, raising funds for maintaining and expanding the Center's programs, is covered in this newsletter with many pictures from the February 15 event. Many thanks to Alice Poore for envisioning the Gala, and to Bishop Yanta, Joe Yanta, Randy Pawelek, Zach Yanta, Alice and her team, and the PHC Board for their contributions toward its success. The event was held in the Panna Maria Hall and nearly 250 people attended. We look forward to next year's event and will expand our outreach to all the Center's supporters.





The coolest thing I saw was the movie at the beginning because it showed all the history about the Polish people.
 – Leah Sekula

The coolest thing I saw was the gallery and all the photos while using the wands.
 – Gabriel Liska

752 students have studied with us since Nov. 30!



The coolest thing I saw was the hanging painting that was in the sky.
 – Aynslie Chessner

The coolest thing I saw was everything in the scavenger hunt. It was all interesting and the bonuses were cool.
 – Gus Wadsworth



The coolest thing I saw was the inside of the church and all of the history about it.
 – Weston Felux

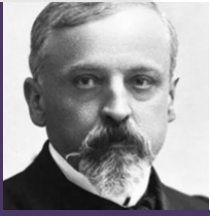
The coolest thing I saw was the old school, because kids probably actually used the tools in there.
 – Cameron Laskowski

Two scholarship opportunities are available for up to eight winners @ \$1000 each. Sponsored by the Fr. Leopold Moczygemba Foundation and Polish American Council of Texas. Visit FLMFoundation.org and PACTx.org for details.

| Polish Literature: Six Nobel Prize Winners

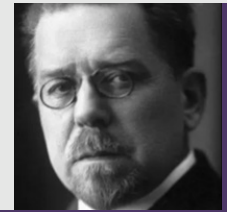
By John Cebrowski, PHC Board Member

Literature is a primary element of Polish culture as evidenced by these authors.

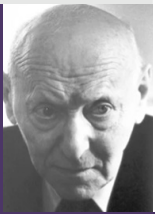


Henryk Sienkiewicz (1846-1916) was the most outstanding and prolific Polish writer and master storyteller of the second half of the nineteenth century, best remembered in Poland for his exceptionally descriptive “Trilogy” of historical novels – *With Fire and Sword*, *The Deluge*, and *Sir Michael* (*Fire in the Steppe*), set in the 17th-century Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, written to “uplift the hearts” of his countrymen during the harsh Partitions. His fame grew for his internationally known best-seller *Quo Vadis*, a novel about Christian persecutions at the time of Nero. Sienkiewicz won the Nobel Prize in 1905 “because of his outstanding merits as an epic writer”.

Władysław Reymont (1867-1925) received the Nobel prize in 1924 “for his great national epic, *The Peasants*”, one of Poland’s most engrossing twentieth-century masterpieces. Reymont’s other best-known novel, *The Promised Land*, portrays a social panorama set in the city of Łódź, Poland during the Industrial Revolution. The novel is a dark vision of man, where ethics, noble ideas, and spiritual feelings turn against those who believe in them. His last work, *Revolt* (1924), describes a revolt by animals that take over their farm to introduce equality, but this quickly degenerates into abuse and terror. The novel was banned in communist Poland between 1945 and 1989.



Isaac Bashevis Singer (1904 -1991) grew up in a Jewish neighborhood in Warsaw, and was awarded the Noble Prize in 1978 “for his impassioned narrative art which, with roots in a Polish-Jewish cultural tradition, brings universal human conditions to life.” Singer’s writings evoke the vanished world of Polish Jewry as it existed before the Holocaust. His most ambitious novels, *The Family Moskat*, and the continuous narrative spun out in *The Manor* and *The Estate*, have large casts of characters and extend over several generations. These books chronicle the changes in, and eventual breakup of, large Jewish families during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



Czesław Miłosz (1911-2004) was a Polish-American poet, prose writer, translator, and diplomat. He wrote primarily in Polish and was regarded as one of the great poets of the 20th century. Miłosz, “who with uncompromising clear-sightedness voices man’s exposed condition in a world of severe conflicts,” was awarded the 1980 Nobel Prize. Though Miłosz was primarily a poet, his best-known work became his collection of essays, *Zniewolony umysł* (1953: *The Captive Mind*), in which he condemned the accommodation of many Polish intellectuals to communism. This theme is also present in his novel *Zdobycie władzy* (1955: *The Seizure of Power*). His poetic works are noted for their classical style and their preoccupation with philosophical and political issues. One of his most famous quotations resonates loudly regarding our Polish Heritage Center: “The living owe it to those who no longer can speak to tell their story for them.”



Wisława Szymborska (1923-2012) was a Polish poet, essayist, and translator. Well-known in her native Poland, Szymborska received international recognition when she won the Nobel Prize in 1996. In awarding the prize, the Academy praised her “poetry that with ironic precision allows the historical and biological context to come to light in fragments of human reality.” Her poetry is noted for its insightfulness, wit, irony, and deceptive simplicity. She authored more than fifteen books of poetry. Collections of her poems that have been translated into English include *People on a Bridge* (1990), *View with a Grain of Sand: Selected Poems* (1995), and *Miracle Fair* (2001). We highly recommend acquiring *Poems New and Collected, 1957-1997* to those reading this article.



Olga Tokarczuk (born in 1962) is one of the most critically acclaimed and successful authors of her generation in Poland. She was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2018 as the first Polish female prose writer for “a narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life.” She is noted for the mythical tone of her writing, which may result from the fact that she is a clinical psychologist. Her works have been translated into almost 40 languages, making her one of the most translated contemporary Polish writers. *The Books of Jacob*, regarded as her magnum opus, was released in America in February 2022.





**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

Red & White Gala 2024

