



# Polish Heritage

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SPECIAL EDITION - APRIL 2022

## From the President



Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure to introduce this American Council for Polish Culture 2022 Convention Special Edition of our *Polish Heritage* newsletter.

The Convention will be from July 26 to July 29, 2022 and it will be held in San Antonio and Panna Maria, Texas. Please review this newsletter for more detail of the events.

We will celebrate the ACPC's seventy-fourth anniversary of our founding with events in San Antonio and we will visit the new fourteen million dollar Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria. This Center presents, in a state-of-the-art facility, Polish Catholic history and tells the story of how Polish settlers arrived in Panna Maria, Texas in 1854 and established THE OLDEST PERMANENT POLISH SETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.

Those of us from the Eastern United States know of the Polish craftsmen who arrived in 1608 at the Virginia Jamestown Colony. They established profitable industries and won the right to vote by causing America's First Civil Rights Action for the Right To Vote in 1619. When the king revoked the Jamestown charter most of the Polish Craftsmen gradually returned to Europe. Although the Panna Maria settlement began over two hundred years later, persons of Polish descent have lived in the settlement since its beginning thus providing Panna Maria the title of THE OLDEST PERMANENT POLISH SETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.

Today we honor those Poles from Upper Silesia, in what was then the Kingdom of Prussia, who traveled to Panna Maria Texas. In Prussia, German language, culture, and the Protestant religion maintained a place of privilege. At the same time, most Catholics were ethnic Poles, who were marginalized and from isolated by their native language and culture.

We also acknowledge the extraordinary generosity of the people of Poland, which is recognized worldwide, as they help the people of Ukraine who escaped, like the Panna Maria Poles, from potential repression of the invading forces. Once again Poles embody the slogan and are assisting other nation's freedom struggles in addition to fighting for Polish causes – FOR YOUR FREEDOM AND OURS.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and we hope to see you in Texas.

Sincerely,  
*Ray Glembocki*

## An Invitation....

The ACPC will be holding its 74th Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas on July 26-29. San Antonio is a city with many cultural attractions such as the Alamo, the famous River Walk with its many restaurants, various art museums, and the nearby historic missions. Many convention attendees may wish to extend their visit pre- or post- Convention to see the sights around this southwestern metropolis.

The theme of our Convention is *Illuminating Our Past, Energizing Our Future*. The roots of immigration from Poland to Texas will be highlighted in special presentations highlighted by a full day excursion to the recently built Polish Heritage Center at historical Panna Maria, the first Polish settlement in America! Every Polish American should visit this Center to understand the grit and determination exhibited by early Poles to survive and eventually thrive in a new environment.

Convention attendees and interested parties will be accommodated at the elegant St. Anthony Hotel. Opened in 1909, the St. Anthony is a Marriott Luxury Collection Hotel, has been designated as a national historic site. It has been recently renovated and upgraded into one of San Antonio's showcase hotels. We are offering a special daily rate of \$169 per night to those who register by **June 26**.

The Convention rate, which covers the cost of all activities listed on page 2 is \$450. We understand that there may be interested persons who do not want to attend the business meetings but want to socialize and enjoy the concert, join the excursion to Panna Maria, and attend the Banquet. As noted on page 11, we are providing a special package rate for non-delegates. So please consider inviting your friends and family members to join you on this great trip.

This special issue of the *Polish Heritage* is exclusively dedicated to promoting attendance at our Convention. But the best promoter for this Convention is YOU! Encourage your club members, friends and relatives to attend. You do not have to be an ACPC member to partake in these activities! We hope to see all of you in San Antonio.



## CONVENTION AGENDA

### Tuesday - July 26

- 4:00 pm Registration
- 6:00 – 8:00 pm Reception on Rooftop Terrace with panoramic views of the city

### Wednesday - July 27

- 9:00 am – 2:30 pm Opening Ceremony, Keynote Address, Business Meeting, Lunch with Guest Speaker
- 5:00 pm Marcella Kochańska Sembrich Award Concert followed by reception.

### Thursday - July 28

- 8:00 am – 3:00 pm Excursion to historic Panna Maria
  - Activities include touring the Panna Maria Polish Heritage Center which explores Polish roots in Silesia and the establishment of Polish settlements in Texas.
  - Presentation by a Special Guest speaker
  - Visit to the Center Gift shop with Polish and Texas handmade crafts and souvenirs.
  - Texas barbecue lunch.
  - Visit to a local working cattle ranch featuring Texas longhorn steers.
- 7:00 - 9:00 pm Enjoy the Las Alenas Mariachi Band on the veranda of the St. Anthony Hotel.

### Friday - July 29

- 9:00 am -12:00 pm Conclusion of Business Meeting with Elections
- 12:00- 1:30 pm Post-Convention Board Meeting and Lunch
- 6:00-7:00 pm Awards Banquet Cocktail Hour
- 7:00-10:00 pm Awards Banquet



### Beautiful San Antonio



Dear Members, Delegates and Friends,  
"Yeehaw"!

Under the banner, "Illuminating Our Past, Energizing Our Future," we return to San Antonio, Texas, for our 74th annual convention and to Panna Maria in particular, to reconnect with our Polish-American heritage. It is fitting that we gather at the first permanent Polish settlement in the United States and give thanks to our hardy Polish ancestors who followed Father Moczygamba to settle in this historic area in 1854. More than a century later, you will be inspired by the Polish Heritage Center, an enduring memorial to our shared heritage our ancestors have created.

We wish to thank all who have contributed to the success of this 74th annual convention and supported our endeavors, particularly our hard-working, dedicated committee: John Cebrowski, Mark Dillon, Celia Larkin, Marcia Lewandowska, Dave Motak and Peter Obst.

We thank you for your participation in this convention and for all you do to further the ACPC mission. We wish you an enjoyable and memorable stay in Texas with your fellow delegates and friends, and as you reconnect with your Polish-American roots.

Sincerely,

Thomas Payne  
Convention Co-Chair

Debbie M. Majka  
Convention Co-Chair

*There are many great things to do and see in beautiful San Antonio! So plan on extending your stay! Check these out at:*



<https://meeting.visitsanantonio.com/acpc/>



## THE POLISH HERITAGE CENTER AT PANNA MARIA

### Witamy Was! We welcome you to Panna Maria!

It was a perilous journey for the approximate 100 Polish families who came to the south Texas plains in 1854-1856, an inhospitable environment dramatically different from their native Upper Silesia. They came at the invitation of Fr. Leopold Moczygmba and established the first and oldest permanent Polish community in America, naming it Panna Maria.

The Polish Heritage Center, a jewel in Polonia's crown, which joyfully opened in October 2021, is intended to honor them and is for the benefit and enjoyment of all Americans of Polish descent and our brethren in Poland. Panna Maria is truly our very own "Plymouth Rock," a national monument envisioned to instill pride in our Polish heritage by sharing the traditions, trials and tribulations of those early settlers. The Center's founder, retired Bishop John W. Yanta, a great-grandson of the initial immigrants says: "We have to preserve our inherited values, we must share them with new generations of our families and with pride and thanksgiving share them with the whole world." Polish Nobel laureate Czesław Miłosz says it best, "The living owe it to those who no longer can speak to tell their story for them."

Not only is the Center itself inspirational, but it sits opposite Immaculate Conception parish, the oldest Polish Catholic church in the United States, the scene of countless sacramental celebrations since 1855. Adjacent to the church is St. Joseph School, the oldest Polish Catholic school in America, which now houses the Panna Maria Historical Society Museum where artifacts used by those early farming and ranching families are on display.

Together, it is easy to characterize Panna Maria as holy ground of American Polonia history.

Visit the Center web site at: <https://polishheritagecentertx.org>

*Top right: The historic Immaculate Conception Parish Church in Panna Maria, Texas. Second on right: Part of a mural at the Panna Maria Polish Heritage Center commemorating the landing of the first Polish settlers from Silesia in Texas. Third on right: The newly opened Polish Heritage Center in Panna Maria.*



*Bottom photos: An example of the numerous state-of-the-art exhibits in the Heritage Center.*





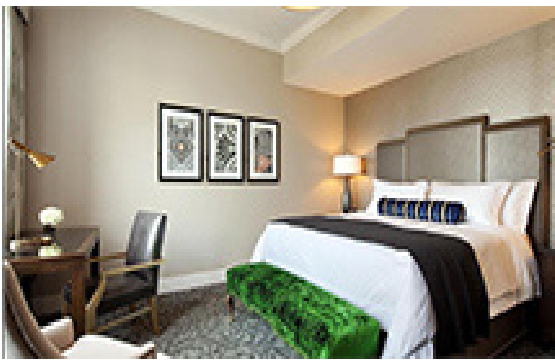
# ACPC 2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION

## The Luxurious Saint Anthony Hotel

Picture yourself in the heart of downtown San Antonio, overlooking Travis Park, at a luxury hotel that has been designated as an historical landmark. The St. Anthony Hotel will be the host facility for the ACPC 2022 Convention. Only blocks away from the Alamo and the idyllic waterfront promenade of the Riverwalk, the St. Anthony embodies old-world splendor with touches like Italian marble and Corinthian columns. Built in 1909, the hotel combines the splendor of antiquity with recent modern upgrades. You will be pleased with the comfort of the rooms.

Five high quality restaurants and a rooftop bar with swimming pool make this a great retreat for your Convention stay and perhaps a tempting extension of your stay. For casual lounging, Peacock Alley is the most recognized of all St. Anthony spaces complete with pops of green, antique furnishings, and a spectacular 1924 Steinway piano. As one reviewer wrote, "Where else can you see pictures of Princess Grace, WWII hero Audie Murphy, and movie stars Mickey Rooney & Judy Garland in the lobby area?"

This is a hotel that charges up to \$300 per night during peak times. We have negotiated a special rate for Convention attendees of \$169 per night for a king room or room with 2 queens. The last day to book this special rate is **June 26**. To assist you in booking your room online a clickable link for the hotel can be found at the ACPC web site at [http://www.polishcultureacpc.org/Conv\\_2022/](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org/Conv_2022/) Or call the reservation desk at (210) 227-4392.



*The historic St. Anthony Hotel offers exquisite decor, sumptuous rooms an outdoor pool and panoramic views of San Antonio from its rooftop veranda and cocktail lounge.*



# VIVA ST. ANTHONY

Featuring  
MARIACHI  
LAS ALTEÑAS



MUSIC, FOOD, AND TEQUILA!  
EVERY THURSDAY 7-10PM

ST. ANTHONY HOTEL LOBBY | NO COVER | COMPED VALET WITH FOOD/DRINK PURCHASE

## ¡SALUD!

After our trip to Panna Maria, join us in the evening on the veranda of the St. Anthony Hotel to enjoy a tequila cocktail and the colorful local ambience of the much acclaimed and very popular **Las Altenas Mariachi Band!**



# Welcome to San Antonio!



*San Antonio's famous Riverwalk*



*Pearl Dining and Entertainment Center*

## Visit San Antonio's Pearl

Located just north of downtown San Antonio and reachable on the Riverwalk, **Pearl** is an imminently explorable district, encapsulated in 16 square blocks filled with distinct restaurants, relaxing green spaces, architectural and design novelties to relish, and unique shops. As a former brewery operating from 1883 to 2001, Pearl reflects a vivid past while embracing the future. A fan favorite, Pearl is bursting with food and drink options, boutique shopping, festive seasonal events and loads of local flavor.

Find out more at [www.atpearl.com](http://www.atpearl.com)

*The St. Anthony Hotel provides an elegant atmosphere in which to enjoy some of the finest food in San Antonio. In addition, dozens of fine restaurants and eateries are located in the downtown area within walking distance of the hotel, or a short ride on the nearby Riverwalk.*



*The Alamo*



Much of the city's unforgettable landscape has grown along the banks of the River Walk where stone paths run aside the San Antonio River connecting hotels, restaurants, and shops in the downtown core. The 15-mile River Walk also links Spanish Colonial Missions (a World Heritage Site, along with the Alamo), museums, public art and the Pearl, a former brewery reborn into an eclectic mix of shops, restaurants and entertainment.

San Antonio has five 18th century missions (Alamo, Concepción, San José, San Juan, Espada). The Alamo is famous for its pivotal battle site. Concepción is arguably the best-preserved Spanish Colonial structure in the United States. San Jose is a lavish example of Spanish ornamentation. San Juan was a renowned farming location. Espada features a blacksmith shop, working kiln, spinning wheel and colonial irrigation system to reveal early Spanish colonial agrarian life.

San Antonio museums include Brisco Western Art Museum for cowboy arts. McNay Museum contains modernist art. San Antonio Museum of the Arts boasts extensive artwork from Asia and Latin America. The US Army Medical Museum educates visitors on the evolution of battlefield medicine, medical equipment and patient treatment since 1776. And there are many more museums, theatre and exhibits to explore. Extend your stay beyond the Convention days to explore San Antonio!

For a clickable link to San Antonio tourist information, visit the ACPC web site at [http://www.polishcultureacpc.org/Conv\\_2022/](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org/Conv_2022/)



*Savor Student Restaurant*

## San Antonio - A City of Culinary Delights

From the excellent food at the St. Anthony Hotel, to outstanding restaurants throughout the city, San Antonio offers some of the best dining experiences in the United States. It is also home to one of only three American campuses of the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) the world's premier culinary college. The CIA offers a special experience to visitors to San Antonio with **SAVOR**, its restaurant staffed and run by advanced CIA students under the guidance of culinary experts. Nestled in the Pearl complex, Savor Restaurant showcases the extraordinary talents of the CIA student-chefs as a culmination of two years of rigorous study. The students gain hands-on experience working in Savor's professional kitchen under the guidance of the CIA's professional faculty. When dining at Savor, guests not only get a unique and memorable meal, they are part of the education experience of the country's next star chefs. **SAVOR** is a not-to-be-missed San Antonio dining experience.

So, if you are arriving early or staying for a few more days, check their web site for further information or phone for reservations: 210-554-6400 - <https://www.savorcia.com>

## The C in ACPC: Culture and the People Who Make It

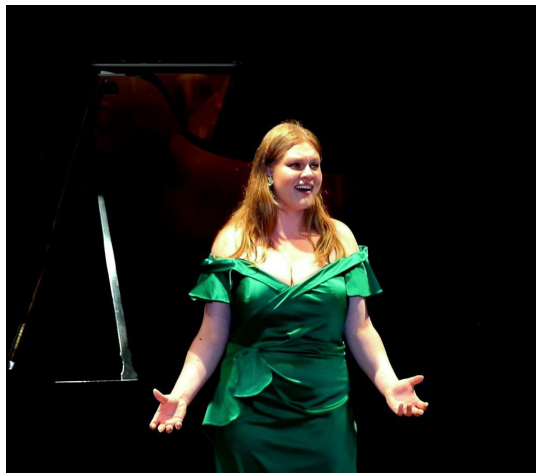
Culture is a serious business. To be alive, it needs to be seen, heard and experienced. And someone has to arrange for its visibility, its sound and ways in which it can enter the consciousness of those who receive it. So business is always a major part of any convention dealing with culture. Conversely, the business part would not be effective if it didn't include first-hand cultural experiences. That's why they always go hand in hand at ACPC Conventions. In addition to guest lectures on cultural topics, exhibits and visits to local cultural attractions, two events focusing on people who contribute to our cultural heritage highlight each annual gathering: the Sembrich Concert and the Awards Banquet.



2021 ACPC  
Awardees



*The winner of last year's Sembrich Award, Soprano Magdalena Kuźma.*



*The 2021 Awards Banquet.*



### **The Sembrich Award Concert - Wednesday, July 27, 2022**

The ACPC Sembrich Award was established in 1971 to support the career development of a young singer of Polish descent. It honors Marcella Kochańska Sembrich (1858-1935) a Polish born coloratura soprano with a long career at the Metropolitan Opera, after which she taught at the Curtis Institute and the Juilliard School of Music. Each year, the ACPC Music Committee conducts a nationwide competition in which it selects one winner with the participation of a panel of distinguished judges from the world of music. The winner of this year's competition will be announced in June and will appear in concert during the ACPC Convention in San Antonio, Texas, on Wednesday, July 27.

### **Awards Banquet - Friday, July 29, 2022**

Black ties may no longer be required but gentlemen do put on their best suits and you can spot a long gown here and there among the fancy dresses worn by the ladies. From an elegant room setting to dressy attire and lively entertainment, the ACPC Awards Banquet has all the signs of a celebration. Indeed, as the convention is wrapped up, there are things to celebrate, mostly the fact that we are together, moved by the mission of highlighting our Polish culture and heritage. During the banquet the ACPC Awards for Distinguished Service, the Cultural Achievement and Founders Award are presented to individuals who made a significant contribution to the organization's mission and to Polish culture. There is a brief swearing in ceremony of the newly elected officers and board members after which the local and out of town guests enjoy each other's company and maybe even take a turn on the dance floor.

### **Top 10 Reasons to Attend the ACPC Convention**

1. Visit Panna Maria, site of first Polish settlement in America, first Polish Church in America, and first Polish school in America.
2. Relax at the luxurious St. Anthony Hotel.
3. Be entertained by informative presentations on Texas Polonia history.
4. Mingle with Polish Americans from various states who are committed to the promotion and preservation of Polish culture.
5. Explore the sites of interest in San Antonio such as the Alamo, the River Walk and the Missions.
6. Learn about the cultural projects being produced nationally that may be promoted in your local area.
7. Learn the benefits of ACPC Membership.
8. Participate in the Elegant Awards Banquet.
9. Enjoy a vocal concert presented by the recipient of the Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Award.
10. Relax with a tequila cocktail while enjoying the sounds of the Las Altenas Mariachi Band on the hotel veranda overlooking the city.



*"Illuminating Our Past,  
Energizing Our Future"*

**American Council for Polish Culture  
74th Annual Convention  
July 26 - 29, 2022**

**St. Anthony Hotel - San Antonio, Texas**

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS:**

- Make room reservations directly with the hotel.
- Convention room rate is **\$ 169.00 per night** plus tax, single or double.  
We are offering this special daily rate to those who register by **June 26**.
- Hotel reservation contact line is 210-354-9243
- For a clickable link for registration, visit the ACPC web site at [http://www.polishcultureacpc.org/Conv\\_2022/](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org/Conv_2022/)

**REGISTRATION FORM**

*clip and return with payment*

**CONVENTION FEES:**

Full Convention Registration Fee: \$ 475 per person No. of people: \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(inclusive of all activities and meetings) (\$200 deposit per person due in advance)*

**A La Carte Event Fees:**

*Non-delegate / Part-time Event Fees (in lieu of full registration)*

	<i>per person</i>	<i>number attending</i>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Happy Hour on Terrace Rooftop	\$ 20	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday Lunch	\$ 35	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday Sembrich Concert	\$ 25	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Excursion to Panna Maria	\$ 65	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Awards Banquet (if paid before 5/31)	\$ 125	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Awards Banquet (if paid after 5/31)	\$ 150	_____	_____

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

- **Payment by check only**
- **Total deposit must be received by July 1, 2022**
- **All checks to be made out to American Council for Polish Culture**

Mail to: Debbie Majka 812 Lombard St #12 Philadelphia PA 19147-1308

**Questions:** phone: 301-717-0662 or email: [thomaspayne52@verizon.net](mailto:thomaspayne52@verizon.net)

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/ Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Come to the national Convention and help influence the ACPC's goal of promoting an awareness of Polish cultural contributions nation-wide.

The ACPC annual convention provides an opportunity to travel to new and exciting places; to form new friendships and renew past acquaintances; and to learn about and help influence the programs and projects ACPC sponsors.

These include:

• **Polish Perspectives Project at the National Conference on the Social Studies (NCSS)**

- For the past 20 years, through this educational program, the ACPC has annually been engaged in sharing and distributing free-of-charge to 3,000-4,000 Social Studies teachers all manner of teaching aids on Polish history, culture and accomplishments of Poles and Polish-Americans.

*Polish Heritage* is the official publication of the American Council for Polish Culture, a confederation of affiliated Polish American organizations and individuals in the continental United States, propagating the knowledge and appreciation of the culture and civilization of Poland, and the contributions of Americans of Polish descent to the history and culture of the United States of America.

<http://www.polishcultureacpc.org>

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**Address Service Requested**

• **Siege of Savannah Commemoration**

- The ACPC annually participates in the re-enactment on the Battlefield where Brigadier General Kazimierz Pułaski was mortally wounded on October 9, 1779, and is now engaged in dedicating stone tablets on the Battlefield to commemorate all those who fought there.

• **Poles in Jamestown Project**

- The ACPC continues to advocate for the recognition of the Polish contributions to the Jamestown settlement in colonial Virginia. We dedicated an Historical Marker in Jamestown Virginia to commemorate the arrival of the first Poles there in 1608 and the first industry in the New World—glassmaking. We continue to promote the historic accomplishment of the first successful work stoppage in the New World in 1619 led by the Poles for the right to vote.



*Through the Polish Perspectives Program, young American educators such as these receive important materials on Poland and Polish cultural and historic achievements.*