



**POLKA LOVERS CLUB OF TEXAS MUSEUM**  
 P. O. Box 72  
 La Grange, Texas 78945  
 PLCTM.COM

Volume 19—Issue 2

2nd Quarter 2024

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**OFFICERS**

**DIRECTORS**

Immediate Past President – Willie Bohuslav  
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 Vice President –  
 Secretary |Treasurer—Carol Artz-Bucek  
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 Sheryl Pavlas-Harris

**A message from 2024 President & "Coach" - Gary Bucek  
 HOWDY (AHOJ) PLCTM Members!!!**



I'm excited to tell you that we had the first trial run at our "Virtual Docent" program. I received a call from a busload of Asian visitors asking if they could look inside. I provided the code to the gentleman and asked them to sign the register upon entry. I watched the video cameras, and to my surprise, there were 29 people that came in!

The "Virtual Docent" program is 80% complete with remote fans, A/C, and lights. We're still working on the music and completing the videos describing all the instruments, memorabilia, and exhibits to complete our "Program"!

For those of you who look at Facebook, the PLCTM is now active with pictures and Videos; and, we WELCOME "Likes" and "Comments" from you all once you review the site.

We spent much of May working to entertain and feed the Pardubicka Muzika, a group of 17 students ages 16 to 24 traveling from Prague to tour "Czechxas" performing in Seaton, Ennis, La Grange and Houston, Texas before heading back to Czech Republic. They are a brass band and extremely entertaining. We served some Texas comfort food, green beans, mashed potatoes, meatloaf, and beer bread prior to their performance at the Schmid Amphitheater on a steamy, Memorial Day. . . .Look more to see some of Carol's pictures.

The PLCTM has a new internal look as Virginia Leech asked us to take on her family's original "Frank's Place Bar" that was located in the La Grange town square. It was housed at the TCHCC but not showcased and in need of maintenance. Our board unanimously agreed to add it to the PLCTM. We worked with TCHCC to get approval to move it to our museum and include it as a new exhibit and keep it on loan for at least 10 years or longer if they cannot provide a facility for it. We completed the move, cleaned and decorated in only 3 days before the Czech President, First Lady and entourage came through! More on the Czech President's visit later in the Newsletter.

Sharing my last thoughts with you all, I wish to remind you of the passion Willie Bohuslav has exhibited over the past 30 years with the Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum, and just how strong that passion still exists. We worked with TCHCC to host Slavnost/Mayfest at the PLCTM on May 19th. We entertained over 100 visitors, tirelessly from 11AM to 5 PM without any breaks or lunch. I may be 70, but he is 92 and as he will tell you, "This. . .is what I love". Thank you, Uncle Billy! He is an impossible act to follow but I will continue to try! Til next time...Gary Bucek

Hope to see you at our next event— October 19 & 20, 2024

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**NOTICE: TO ALL VISITORS**  
Admission is "free" and wheelchair accessible!  
Donations are Welcome  
To schedule a visit in advance contact:  
Gary Bucek at 713/252-2162 or email info@plctm.com  
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**2024 EVENTS (Dates & Times Are Subject To Change)**

<b>August 10th</b>	<b>PLCTM Board Meeting</b>
<b>October 19-20th</b>	<b>Heritage Fest &amp; Muziky</b>
<b>November 9th</b>	<b>PLCTM Board Meeting</b>
<b>November 17th</b>	<b>PLCTM Donor Appreciation</b>
<b>December 14th</b>	<b>Christmas Open House</b>

**ANNUAL SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS (ASM) @ \$20 PER PERSON/YEAR**  
**2ND QUARTER 2024**

*Member Renewal*  
**Appreciation**



**APRIL**

**James L. Slovak**  
**Elaine M. Hickman**  
**James & Caroline Freytag**  
**Ernest Mensik**  
**John A. & Theresa Cernoch Parker**  
**Randall E. & Carol F. Gardner**  
**Lorine M. Christ**  
**Norman Smoot**  
**Michael & Karen Vrana**

**MAY**

**Lorine C. Michalsky**  
**Terry & Gary Braun**  
**Wesley J. & Julie A. Matus**  
**Erwin F. & Sandy Kouba**  
**Kent Huie**

**JUNE**

**Irene Janda**  
**Delphine "Del" Darling**  
**William A. & Michelle A. Pavlas**

*Our members are lifesavers!*



**Donations totaled \$50.00**  
**Thanks to Joyce & Willie Bohuslav and Jane Freis**

## **Lifetime Membership Program**

The enthusiasm of the 2023 Board of Directors, led to the development of one of the most prestigious and helpful programs in which any *Museum Member* or *Want To Be Member* may engage. This Membership Program began accepting applications October 1, 2023. The program is designed to provide funding for the continued development of The Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum (PLCTM) to provide a facility for preserving, promoting and educating polka music and dance. While serving as an honor to those who either choose to invest in a Lifetime Membership or for whom others wish to make an investment, out of respect and recognition for another person, this program will be significant to achieve that goal .

**Presented below are the 2024 Lifetime Members of the Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum!**



## **2024 Lifetime Members**

**Brent Douglas Wiltshire—2421**

**Brittany Wiltshire Jennings—2423**

**Bayley Alexis Wiltshire —2425**

**Bo Douglas Wiltshire —2427**

**Terri Bohuslav —2429**

**Jessica Christine McFarland —2431**

**Connie Rice Ames — 2433**

**C. W. “Chris” Benson —2435**

**Larry G. Maresh—2437**

**Wellie K. Harris, Jr.—2439**

**Stacy Bohuslav Wiltshire —2422**

**Jack Thomas Jennings —2424**

**Nicholas “Nick” Bennett —2426**

**Beck Douglas Wiltshire —2428**

**Stephen “Mark” McFarland—2430**

**Kevin McFarland —2432**

**Willie J. Kopecky, Jr. —2434**

**Doris Benson —2436**

**Evelyn A. Maresh—2438**

**Virginia Leech—2440**

### **LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

A **LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP** is entered in the name of an Individual, Organization or Business. The membership is "NOT" transferable.

A Lifetime Membership is considered a full membership in the museum until no longer living or doing business. It is not to be confused with goodwill Donations, The Endowment Fund, Charter Member Status or Memorials honoring loved ones, associates or friends.

Any existing Museum Member, Person, Organization or Business may enroll as a Lifetime Member in the PLCTM. It may be purchased as an award or an honor for an individual or another museum member; it may also be purchased by a spouse or family as a gift.

Upon completion of the one time full payment of \$1,000.00, the registrant...

- Becomes a Lifetime Member, No Annual Dues
- Permanent recognition on The Museum's Lifetime Member Display
- Presented a Lifetime Membership Name Badge
- Presented with Lifetime Membership Certificate
- Presented a Magnetic Lifetime Membership Cling
- Recognized in each Quarterly Newsletter
- Complimentary Passes to All Member Events
- Recognized by Event Master of Ceremonies
- Recognition in Event Programs

**2023**

## **Inaugural Lifetime Members**

**Jane C. Freis—2301**

**Debbie Hoelscher Jennings—2302**

**Charles H. Hoelscher—2303**

**Christina Hoelscher—2304**

**Carl F. Freis—2305**

**E. J. Bayer—2306 †**

**Gary W. Bucek—2307**

**Carol Artz-Bucek—2308**

**Willie V. Bohuslav—2309**

**Joyce C. Bohuslav—2310**

**Derek Hoelscher—2311**

**Cynthia A. Hoelscher—2312**

**Patricia Hoelscher McKirahan—2313**

**Jan Koehn—2314**

**Father Jared Cooke—2315**

**Sheryl Pavlas-Harris—2316**

**Mildred Hollas—2317**

**Tim Koehn—2318**

**Mark Hoelscher—2319**

**Althea B. Hoelscher—2320**

Please  
REVIEW US!



As part of the new "Virtual Docent Program",  
we are upgrading technology to acquire  
more visibility.

Scan this QR Code with your camera to boost  
the museum's on line presence.

# LEST WE FORGET

## MEMORIALS HONORING LOVED ONES, FRIENDS, MEMBERS, LEADERS

A total of \$330.00 was received in the 2nd Quarter from those of you who honor and value the life your honoree who lived on this earth. Their love, their leadership, their community involvement made a difference and our world is better due to their loving care.

We treasure your generosity ensuring the preservation of polka dance & music to live on.

Rudy Antrich

Po. L. K. of A.

Molly Cernosek

Betty Lou Patalik

Erwin J. "E. J." Bayer

Po. L. K. of A.

Betty Lou Patalik

David & Catherine Kolek De Marco

Irene Janda

Kathy Bittle

Joyce & Willie Bohuslav

Mardi J. Kopecky

Betty Lou Patalik

Lillian Blinka

Betty Lou Patalik

Norbert Scotka

Po. L. K. of A.

Connie Cernosek

Joyce & Willie Bohuslav

Margaret & John Zalesak

Randall E. & Carol R. Gardner

**MEMORIALS IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

If you have someone you would like to honor, complete the form on Page 20 of this publication. You may complete it and mail to the PLCTM at P.O. Box 72, La Grange, TX 78945. You will receive a letter of acknowledgment and appreciation.

The family of the honoree will be gently notified.

**Your gift ensures Polka Music and Dance will live on!**



## Charles H. "Charlie" Hoelscher Steps Down as Vice-Chairman

Charlie Hoelscher, Director of the Museum since 2010 and Vice-Chairman since 2023, has respectfully stepped down from his Vice-Chair position. Charlie is dedicated to the preservation and history of the Hoelscher Haus and Museum.

We will keep Charlie as an Advisory Board Member.



**IN LOVING MEMORY:  
"FOREVER REMEMBERED - FOREVER MISSED"**



**Rudy J. Antrich**  
December 27, 1941 - March 22, 2024

Rudy J. Antrich, Jr., 82, passed away on March 22, 2024 surrounded by his family. He lived his entire life in Rosenberg, TX having been born there on December 27, 1941 to parents Rudy Antrich, Sr. and Rosalie (Hajdik) Antrich. He was their oldest child and had three younger sisters.

Rudy was a life-long member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church including his early schooling. A devout Catholic, Rudy took pride his entire life in attending church at least four times each week and always on Sunday. At Holy Rosary, he served as an usher for many decades. He was also a proud member of the Fort Bend Knights of Columbus participating in both the 3rd and 4th degree memberships for over 55 years. He especially enjoyed donning the regalia of the 4th degree Knights complete with his sword. He was a tireless worker at the church bazaar for decades barbequing and making his famous barbeque sauce there, and at numerous other charitable functions with his son Greg and their cooking crew. Other church activities included being a sponsor in the Catholic Youth Organization for nine years, serving on the Parish council, and serving as an assistant coach for various Holy Rosary School sports teams.

After graduating from Lamar Consolidated high school in 1960, Rudy served his country in the Army National Guard and Reserves from 1960 until 1967. He was an avid domino player, always willing to join a game of "straight" or "42" even in the last months of his life. He enjoyed camping with his favorite destination being Lake Somerville.

Rudy spent a large portion of his life in route sales, starting by helping his dad deliver bread for Sunbeam bread company and culminating with spending over 40 years owning his Morton Foods distributorship. He could be seen all over Fort Bend county delivering snack foods and restaurant supplies in his white delivery truck always ready with a wave or honk of the horn to passersby. Later in his life he would brighten the days of bus riders requiring assistance on Lamar Consolidated buses and always treasured the interaction with the students and their parents. Work never seemed like work for Rudy when he got to laugh and joke with his many friends and customers.

After retiring, Rudy and his wife Lucille pursued their passion for polka dancing traveling all over southeast Texas to dances with friends. They even spent a few years as Polka royalty, rising to be Prince and Princess of the P.O.L.K. of A. chapter to which they belonged.

Rudy is survived by his former wife of more than 50 years and compassionate caregiver of the last five years, Lucille Antrich. He is also survived by his three children: Greg Antrich and his wife Kim, Darrell Antrich and his wife Julie, and Jennifer McSorley and her husband Mike. He is survived by his three sisters, Bernie Dyer, Joyce Felcman and her husband Cotton, and Debbie Mayes. He is also survived by seven grandchildren: Valyn Antrich, Abby Tacker and her husband Max, Sarah Antrich, Ellen Antrich, Colton Antrich, Connor McSorley, and Kaleigh McSorley. And finally, he is survived by numerous former brothers and sisters-in law and dozens of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In addition to his parents, Rudy is preceded in death by his brother-in-law Jerald Dyer.

The funeral mass was held at Holy Rosary Catholic Church on Saturday, April 6th. Burial followed at Greenlawn Memorial Park in Rosenberg. Father Vipin George to officiate the services. Arrangements were by Davis-Greenlawn Funeral Home in Rosenberg, Texas 77471.

**Erwin J. Bayer**  
**May 12, 1937 - February 22, 2024**



Full Obituary published in  
1st Quarter Newsletter



**Kathy Bittle**  
**October 2, 1954 - May 2, 2024**

Kathryn Jane “Kathy” (McFarland) Bittle, 69, of Lawton, passed away Thursday, May 2, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. Kathy was born in Lawton, October 2, 1954 to Allen & Shirley (Caldwell) McFarland. She was a graduate of Eisenhower High School, and in 2020 Kathy retired from a career of over 30 years at Allstate Insurance.

Funeral services were Thursday, May 9, 2024 in the Becker-Rabon Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Brad Billheimer of Redeemer Reformed Church, Oklahoma City officiating. Pastor Brad is also Kathy’s son-in-law. Burial followed in Fort Sill National Cemetery, Elgin.

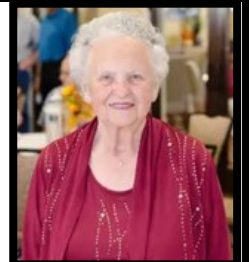
She was preceded in death by her father, Allen McFarland, and by her mother, Shirley Laine and stepfather, Joseph “Jay” Laine.

Kathy is survived by her beloved husband of over 35 years, Sam Bittle of Lawton; two children: Sarah (Brad) Billheimer of Oklahoma City, and Joshua Pulley of Lawton; two stepdaughters: Kimberly Bittle of Edmond, and Dawn (Eric) Barnes of Charlotte, North Carolina; three brothers: David (Susan) McFarland of Marlow, Mark (Terri) McFarland of Austin, Texas, and Robert (Terri) McFarland, of Duncan; and nine grandchildren, who were her absolute pride and joy: Natalie, Mollie, and Graham Billheimer, of Oklahoma City; Gavin Eimers and Zane Pulley of Lawton; Ethan Bellman, Connor and Gabriel Adames, and Ryker Barnes of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Throughout her entire life, Kathy was a faithful servant of her Lord. In Romans 12:10, the apostle Paul encourages his brethren to “Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.” Kathy was the most devoted daughter, wife, mother, sister, and grandmother “Nonny” that a person could ask for. She loved every member of her family fiercely, and she spent her life selflessly pouring herself out for others. She fought the good fight, she finished the race, and she kept the faith. After a four-year battle with Alzheimer’s Disease, she will be missed more than words can express, and we find immeasurable comfort in the knowledge that she is now freed from her disease and rejoicing with her Savior.

*(Mark McFarland is a Director for the PLTCM and his wife, Terri, is the daughter of Joyce and Willie Bohuslav.)*

**Lillian Sophie Blinka**  
**November 15, 1927 – January 27, 2024**



Full Obituary published in  
1st Quarter Newsletter



**Constance Marie “Connie” Cernosek**  
**Jan. 27, 1946 July 3, 2023**

Constance Marie Cernosek, 77, passed away on July 3, 2023 after an intense battle with cancer. She resided in Herrin, Illinois. A Celebration of Life was held for her on Saturday, June 15, 2024 at the home of Frank and Wanda Cernosek’s, Ammannsville, Texas.

Constance was born at home in Ammannsville on July 27, 1946. In 1964, she graduated from Bishop Forest High School in Schulenburg. In 1968, she graduated from The University of Texas in Galveston with a BSN/RN degree. In 1975, She graduated from UTH’s DPN Nurse Anesthesia Program. In high school, she worked as a nurse’s aide at the Youens Memorial Hospital, Weimar. Her professional career included being an operating room nurse for the world’s leading cardiovascular surgeons, such as DeBakey, Noon, Crawford and others. In 1976, She received a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), in 1976 and upgraded her career to provide anesthesia to patients undergoing major life-threatening operations.

In 1993, she initiated and developed a process/ procedure called the Cernosek Arm, patented under the name Cernosek-Medical Corporation to simplify how the anesthesiologist transferred a patient from the operating room to the recovery room.

Constance enjoyed international travel, concerts and excelled in modeling and competitive ballroom dancing. She lived life to its fullest. Yet she acknowledged openly that her life only began once she met, received and openly proclaimed Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. “It is those of us left behind who miss our beloved sister, family member and friend who have hopes of spending all eternity together,” her family writes. Constance had a deep love for Israel and actively supported many organizations honoring the land of Zion.

She is survived by her five brothers, Frank Cernosek and wife Wanda of Ammannsville, Harvey Cernosek and wife Carol of Tomball, John Cernosek and wife Billie of Katy, Richard Cernosek and wife Sherri of Richmond, and Chris Cernosek and wife Jennifer of Kingsville; and her sister, Mary Nordlof of Sweden.

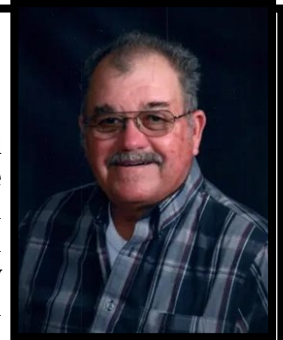
Constance was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Vlasta Cernosek of La Grange.



**Molly Cernosek**  
**July 15, 1932 to January 28, 2024**

**Full Obituary published in  
1st Quarter Newsletter**

**David James De Marco**  
**December 9th, 1943 - April 15, 2024**



David James DeMarco of La Grange Texas passed away on Monday, April 15th, at the age of 80 years old. David was born in Plum, TX on December 9th, 1943, the son of Michael & Bessie DeMarco. Bessie later married Edwin Zbranek and David then had the father he so loved and who made him the man he was, until Edwin's death in 1980. He married the love of his life, Catherine (Cathy) Kolek on October 24, 1964. They spent close to 60 years living, loving and laughing together. They had so much fun together. The best times they had were bickering with each other over everything.

He was a truck driver for La Grange Concrete for over 30 years and retired at the age of 62. He was a loving husband, Dad, Popo, brother and friend to many. David enjoyed spending time with his wife and family, barbecuing for family holidays and get togethers, raising cattle, riding around his pasture on his 4-wheeler with his best boy Chico, and last but definitely not least, enjoying many a cold beer with good friends at Post Oak Inn.

He was a simple man who enjoyed simple pleasures, took life in stride and always found a reason to smile. Even in his last hours, he was smiling and talking about his cool helicopter ride at 80 after telling people his entire life that if God wanted him to fly, He would have put feathers on him!

David is survived by his wife Cathy, daughters Kim Sanders & husband Ron of Houston, Belinda Richter & husband Wayne of LaGrange, his sister Betty Regan of Buda, grandchildren Lauren Sanders of Houston, Landon Sanders of Austin, Crystal Graeter and her husband Chris of Fayetteville and great grandchildren Aubree & Witten Graeter. He was preceded in death by his parents Edwin and Bessie Zbranek. A Celebration of Life was held at Post Oak Bar & Grill, 1114 FM 155, La Grange, Texas.



**Catherine Ann Kolek DeMarco**  
**April 19, 1946 - May 14, 2024**

Catherine Ann Kolek DeMarco, affectionately known as Cathy to her friends and family, passed away peacefully on May 14, 2024, in Bastrop, Texas, at the age of 78. Cathy was born on April 19, 1946, in Schulenburg, Texas, and married the love of her life, David James DeMarco on October 24, 1964. During their almost 60 years together they raised 2 daughters, built a home on the family land they both loved and worked together for many years at La Grange Concrete, where she functioned as a dispatcher and office administrator until she left the company in 2003.

Cathy is survived by her daughters, Kimberly Sanders and her husband, Ron, of Houston, Belinda Richter and her husband, Wayne, of La Grange; her brother, Theodore (Ted) Kolek and his wife, Gloria, of Schulenburg, and sister-in-law, Betty Regan of Buda. Cathy's legacy continues through her grandchildren, Lauren Sanders of Houston, Landon Sanders of Austin, Crystal Richter and her fiancé, Chris Graeter, of La Grange, and great-grandchildren, Aubree and Witten Graeter.

She was preceded in death by her husband, David DeMarco, her parents, Agnes and Anton Kolek and one brother Felix Kolek.

A visitation was held on Saturday, June 1, 2024, from 10:00 am. to 12:00 p.m. at Koenig-Belvill Funeral Home & Cremations, in La Grange. A private family service will be held at a later date.

A life so beautifully lived deserves to be beautifully remembered. Cathy DeMarco will be greatly missed by her family. She may have lost the battle, but she won the war and is now basking in God's glory with her husband and countless family members that have gone before her.





**Mardi Jean Kopecky**  
March 15, 1934 ~ January 29, 2024

Full Obituary published in  
1st Quarter Newsletter

**Norbert Jerome Scotka**  
June 6, 1935 - October 31, 2023



Norbert Jerome Scotka, 88, of Rosenberg, Texas passed away on October 31, 2023. He was born on June 6, 1935 in East Bernard, Texas to Louis and Clara (Jasek) Scotka. He honorably served our country in the U.S. Army. Norbert retired from Schlumberger in 2000 after 38 years. Throughout his career, Norbert was able to travel all over the United States, Canada, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela, auditing and telling jokes. His jokes were expected at every audit. With hard work and long hours, Norbert earned his Associated Degree in Accounting from Wharton County Junior College.

Norbert participated in the Knights of Columbus, Council 2801 and served as an Usher for many years. He truly loved greeting folks and visiting with them. Other organizations he belonged to include the American Legion, Young At Hearts, and the Czech Heritage Society. He enjoyed going to dances with his wife, Dot and was even the President of the Dance Club at the American Legion Hall.

This loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend will truly be missed. In addition to his parents, Norbert is preceded in death by his brothers, Ray and Mark Scotka, nephew, Andre Scotka, mother and father-in-law, Anne and John Bienski, Sr.; and brothers-in-law, George and John Bienski, Jr.

Survivors include his loving wife of 64 years, Dorothy Scotka; son, Anthony Scotka and wife, Shelley; daughters, Teresa Freund and Donna Scotka; grandchildren, Kelsey and Nathan Scotka, Kirsten Dell and her husband, Alan and grand-dog, Duke; sister, Cathy Scotka (Michael Cromeans); along with numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Funeral Mass on November 6, 2023 was held at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Rosenberg, Texas. Burial, with military honors, were held at Greenlawn Memorial Park in Rosenberg with Father Vipin George officiating.



**John Joseph Zalesak**  
February 26, 1922 - July 19, 2011

**Margaret Marie Zalesak**  
March 3, 1927 - January 9, 2019



**John Joseph Zalesak**, 89 of Crosby, Texas passed away at his home on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 with his family by his side. John was born on February 26, 1922 in Frydek, Texas to Charles and Frances (Pavlicek) Zalesak.

John worked as a machinist by trade, he was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Crosby American Legion Post 658. When he wasn't busy working he enjoyed Polka Dancing, Gardening, raising cattle, hunting and most of all Spending time with his family and friends. John was a very kind and caring man who never met a stranger and will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He is preceded in death by his parents and great granddaughter, Amanda Clanton.

John was survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Margaret Marie Mozisek Zalesak. Burial was held on Friday, July 22, 2011 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Crosby with Monsignor Fred O'Connor officiating and buria

**Margaret Marie Zalesak**, 91, of Crosby, Texas, passed away surrounded by her family on Wednesday, January 9, 2019. She was born on March 3, 1927 in Crosby, Texas to Anton Mozisek and

(Cont'd on Next Page)

(Margaret Zalesak Cont'd)

Justine Prasek Mozisek. Margaret was married to the love of her life, John, for 65 years, and together they raised their seven children. Over the years, she enjoyed traveling to Polka dances with him. She enjoyed sewing, cooking, canning, and being surrounded by her family. Margaret was a life-long parishioner of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. She was a member of KJZT, SPJST, and also a 30 year member of Po.L.K. of A of America, Texas Chapter. Margaret will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, John Zalesak; parents, Anton and Justine Mozisek; daughter-in-law, Mary Kay Zalesak; son-in-law, Tommy Clanton; and great granddaughter, Amanda Clanton.

Margaret was survived by her children, Marlene Clanton, Christene Jacobson (Mike), Dennis Zalesak (Gail), Janet Polka (Joe), Carol Gardner (Randy), Peggy Marote (Tony), and John Zalesak (Melissa). Grandchildren, Alicia Affeld (Otto), John Clanton (Veronica), Kim Minze (Gary), Michelle Clanton, Michael Jacobson, Jr. (Karen), Anna Schoch (Mike), Chris Jacobson (Robin), Matthew Jacobson (Jennifer), Mark Jacobson (Katie), Jennifer Cope (Kyle), Alecia Gaston (Anthony), Brandon Gardner (Cameron), Blake Gardner, Chelsea Thomas (Danny), Lindsey Hulquist, Daryll Zalesak (Courtney), John-Erik Zalesak (Erin), Brody Zalesak, Mika Brown, and James Eddleman (Glenda). Great-grandchildren, Taryn Affeld, Shelby Clanton, Katilyn Underwood (Derrin), Brooke Schoch, Olivia Schoch, Justin Schoch, Jacob Schoch, Chrissa Jacobson, Cassie Jacobson, Colt Jacobson, Ally Jacobson, Asher Jacobson, Emma Cope, Evan Cope, Ace Gaston, Cayden Gaston, Trace Thomas, Peyton Zalesak, Blaire Zalesak, Amanda Brown, Zachary Brown, Kaylynn Eddleman, and Caden Eddleman; and a host of extended family and friends.

Burial was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 915 Runneburg, Crosby, TX. Interment is Sterling-White Cemetery.

**IN OUR PRAYERS FOR CONTINUED SPEEDY RECOVERIES**

**Lorine Christ, Lorine Michalsky, Loretta Freytag, Mary Ann Fishbeck,  
Sheryl Pavlas-Harris, Jan Koehn, Charlie Hoelscher, Weldon & Delores Schulte,  
Carolyn & Bob Heinsohn, Ben Bohuslav and Woody Halpin**

**Positive energy going your way !!!**

**ENDOWMENT FUND DONATION—THANK YOU!!**

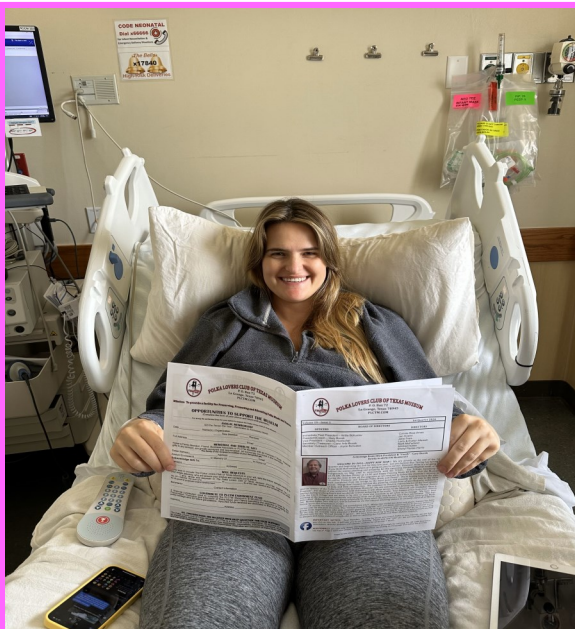
**\$5,000 Endowment Donation Received From Wellie K. Harris, Jr.**

**This exceptional gift was given to The Museum in honor of Wellie's wife, Sheryl Pavlas-Harris. Sheryl and Wellie are Charter Members of the organization. For Sheryl, who is walking in the footsteps of Willie Pavlas, her Father, an advocate of The Museum, is continuing his legacy and has served on the board since 2018 as a tribute to her father. She, like her Dad, fully intends to keep passionately involved and engaged to promote, preserve and educate Polka Music and Dance.**



**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Dear Members, in order for those who search Polka on the internet, we ask that you click on this link. It will take you to our Website. Please visit, and "Like" us! We will soon be adding the newsletters, director pictures and calendar updates for all to stay in touch.

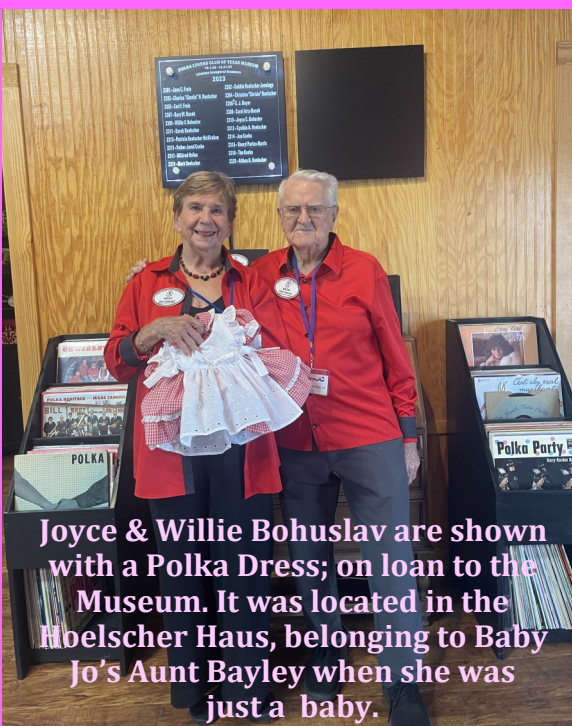
**ADDITIONALLY,** you can help boost the museum's presence on Google by scanning the QR Code located at the top of page 5 with your phone. Follow the directions by clicking on the g.page and follow prompts.



Brittany Wiltshire Jennings in hospital waiting on new baby Josephine to come meet us. In her boredom, she is reading the 1st Quarter Newsletter.



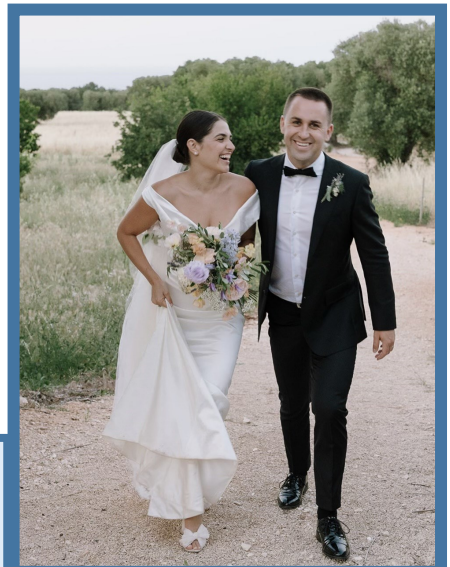
Meet Josephine Marie Jennings, Born May 2, 2024. Immediate family calls her "Jo". This writer calls her "Queen Josephine". She is the daughter of Brittany and Jack Thomas Jennings; Maternal Grandparents are Stacy and Brent Wiltshire & Great Grand Parents, Joyce & Willie Bohuslav.



Joyce & Willie Bohuslav are shown with a Polka Dress; on loan to the Museum. It was located in the Hoelscher Haus, belonging to Baby Jo's Aunt Bayley when she was just a baby.



Nicholas Bennett and Bayley Wiltshire tied the knot on May 23, 2024.



They wed in an intimate ceremony surrounded by family in Monopoli, Italy. Their special day exceeded their expectations in every way, and they look forward to sharing a happy life together. Bayley is the daughter of Brent & Stacy Wiltshire and Granddaughter of Joyce & Willie Bohuslav

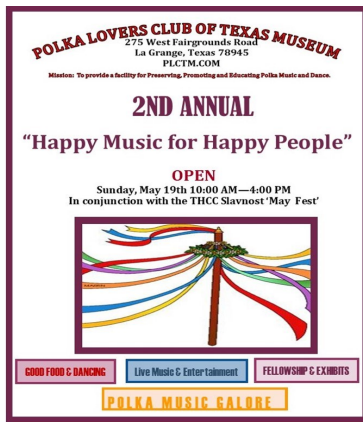
Polka Lovers Club represented at Czech Museum Houston Czech Republic Reception



Board Members, Larry & Evelyn Maresh, look through 2003 Scrapbook when President of the Po.L.K.of A.



Reminiscing about the Vrazel Band Exhibit is Band Leader, Alfred Vrazel, with his wife Bernice, along with additional family members after the Czech Republic President Event.



## SECOND ANNUAL “HAPPY MUSIC FOR HAPPY PEOPLE” Sunday, May 19<sup>TH</sup> BIG SUCCESS

The Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum, located at 275 W. Fairgrounds Rd., La Grange, Texas within the Czech Village, experienced a successful second annual “*Happy Music for Happy People*” Open House and Event. Over one hundred area residents and visitors from as far as Nebraska toured the museum

The event was held in conjunction with the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center’s (TCHCC) Slavnost “May Fest” celebration which was also a big success.

The main attraction of the day were presentations regarding *The Msgr. Joseph M. Hybner and his Exhibit in the Museum’s Center* by Past President, Willie V. Bohuslav and Mark Hybner, nephew of the Monsignor. The exhibit features his path of ministry from a young man to his priesthood until his retirement as a Monsignor. Both gentlemen reflected, with much humor and reverence, the antics and forgiveness this gentle giant gave to everyone with whom he came in contact.



Everyone loved him!



Father Joe served as a priest for 56 years and was a generous contributor in all fundraising campaigns for the museum. His involvement in polka music and his generous contributions to the Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum continued. He was a member of the Polka Lovers Klub of America Po.L.K. of A. Texas Chapter III-Dance Klub, and an active participant in the Klub’s float program. He always wore his red vest to match the Klub’s red and white uniforms.

Father Hybner retired in 2012, died November 23, 2019 at the age of 83. He is buried in the Saints Cyril and Methodist Catholic Cemetery in Shiner, Texas, Lavaca County, Texas, Plot 2-B-19-1.

A big Thank you to the Czech Center Museum Houston who was represented by staff members Johanna Dickerson, Karlin Logo, and Sheree Wagner. They were cheerfully and creatively making Mayfest Headbands in an exterior exhibit tent for their museum. These colorful and festive headbands are made of flowers, leaves, branches and ribbon streamers. Perfect for this ceremonial event.



The Czech Center Museum Houston provides unique educational experiences based on authentic objects, art, music, stories, and lives of Czechs, Slovaks and people of all cultures who left their country to seek liberty and democracy in America. The CCMH shares Czech culture and experiences to create connections, generate dialogue, and inspire new perspectives. The Czech Center Museum Houston is located at 4920 San Jacinto St, Houston, Texas 77004.

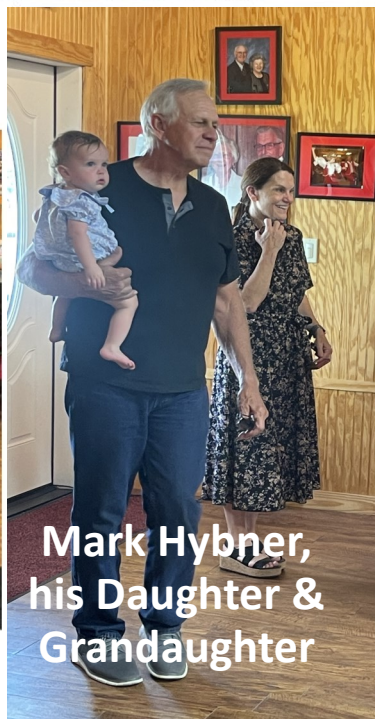


Angelina Kretzschmar

Thanks to Kathy Cernosek for helping host the event.



An additional delight was the attendance of the King and Queen of The Polka Lovers Klub of America Texas Division, C. W. "Chris" and Doris Benson.



Mark Hybner, his Daughter & Granddaughter





**POLKA LOVERS CLUB OF TEXAS MUSEUM**  
P. O. Box 72  
La Grange, Texas 78945  
PLCTM.COM

***“PLCT MUSEUM HOSTS PARDUBICKA MUZIKA BAND”***  
**Monday, May 27th**

Board members of The Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum, located at 275 W. Fairgrounds Rd., La Grange, Texas and within the Czech Village, hosted dinner for members of the Pardubicka Muzika Band, their sponsors, Staff and Board Members of TCHCC. Dinner was served at 5:00 pm prior to the Czech Brass Band’s concert held in the Schmid Ampitheatre on Labor Day, Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Attendees experienced the timeless elegance of a traditional Czech brass band concert as Pardubicka Muzika waltzes across Texas from the renowned Pardubice Conservatory of Music in the Czech Republic. This event was perfect for a date night and a fun evening with friends. It was an unforgettable experience!

La Grange, Texas was one of several touring stops through Southeast Texas including Temple and Ennis, ending in Houston for this group. This group experienced not only storms, but also playing with no electricity, tornado warnings and in extreme heat.

It was an honor to host these young, respectful musicians ranging from ages 16 to 24 and their sponsors prior to their final stop at The Czech Center Museum Houston on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> after a dip in the beach in Galveston, they will head back to Prague in the Czech Republic.

Wind music has a very long tradition at the Pardubice Conservatory. Since the school was founded there has been wind music in different forms and represented the school at many events in the region. In 2022 a band called, Pardubicka Muzika,“ under the leadership of Michal Chmelar, a trumpet player of the Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice, was founded.

Even though the weather was hot and humid, the concert was full of energizing and cheerful music from this all brass band. Members of the audience happily tapped their feet, clapped their hands and sang along with many of the band’s Czech songs.

The Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum is located at 275 W. Fairgrounds Rd., La Grange, Texas with a mission to preserve, promote and educate polka music and dance. For more information go to [plctm.com](http://plctm.com).





**PLCTM Representatives At The Concert—Pictured L-R  
 First Row: Jan Koehn, Jane Freis—Directors; Joyce & Willie Bohuslav- Officers with Louie  
 Top Row: Gary and Carol Bucek—Officers**

POLKA LOVERS CLUB OF TEXAS MUSEUM



# HAS NEW EXHIBIT

Changing hands three times in one week in 2008, then finding a permanent home at the Texas Czech Heritage Cultural Center (TCHCC) to sixteen years later The Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum now houses the iconic Frank's Place Bar once located in the La Grange City Square.

Virginia Leech, a local resident and Lifetime Member of the museum contacted President, Gary Bucek, to determine if there was any chance the museum would agree to make a new comfortable home for the bar. Upon contacting TCHCC officials, it was agreed upon to allow the museum to have it on loan not only to help preserve it, but have a place for the public to enjoy and reminisce in comfort.

President Bucek was determined to have the bar in place for the Czech Republic President and First Lady's visit to the Czech Village on July 13th. It was not easy, but it happened. All of the directors are ecstatic about this historical exhibit for the public and visitors to enjoy.

The bar was located in one of the structures on the Czech Village with no air conditioning, it had no air to breathe properly, nor was it accessible to view in its entirety; and, it only had to cross the street to find a new more spacious home.

Contractors constructed a method to move the bar safely to the museum and its new environment. A press release with full history will be published shortly.

We wanted our members to know about it first.

A full array of moving photos will be viewable on [plctm.com](http://plctm.com).







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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CZECH REPUBLIC PRESIDENT AND ENTOURAGE TOUR  
POLKA LOVERS CLUB OF TEXAS MUSEUM**

The Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum, located at 275 W. Fairgrounds Rd., La Grange, Texas located within the Czech Village of the La Grange Fairgrounds, experienced a once in a lifetime event on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Czech Republic President, Petr Pavel and his wife, Eva Pavlová along with their Presidential Brigade, Secret Service, DPS, Local Law Enforcement, the U.S. Czech Ambassador, his staff and representatives of the Czech Center Museum Houston were hosted by the Texas Czech Heritage Cultural Center (TCHCC) located at 250 W. Fairgrounds Rd., La Grange, Texas.

Saturday morning began in Dubina, Texas where the entourage stopped at Dubina's St. Cyril Methodius Church for the President to straddle a Harley motorcycle to encounter a beautiful morning country ride to the La Grange Fairgrounds.



President Pavel in the lead.



Unloading from Dubina ride to Fairgrounds



After a quick change, President Pavel and The First Lady were escorted through a Czech Clad welcoming group to the Opening Ceremony located on the front patio of TCHCC. The ceremony included a large audience of Public Viewers, Center Members, Invited Guests and Public Officials.

The ceremony began with a welcome from the Center's Staff, followed by the Presidential Address followed by presentations and resolutions from public officials.

After the ceremony and prior to delicious Texas barbecue dining, the entourage toured various highlights of the Czech village including The Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum.



President Pavel, his wife Eva and a large delegation walked the campus to view highlights of the Czech Village.



Here they are entering the back door of the museum.

President Pavel and his entourage were delighted with the energizing polka music playing as they toured the museum.

The President's wife, Eva Pavlová, danced a Polka with the Gary Bucek, PLCTM President.



Attendees along with the President enjoyed ice cold Shiner Beer made right here in South Texas. The President hoisted his beer in front of the museum's newest exhibit, Frank's Bar.

(L-R) Willie Bohuslav, PLCTM Immediate Past President; Czech Presidential Representative; Mark Hermes, TCHCC; President Pavel, Eva Pavlová; and Miloslav Stašek, Czech Ambassador to the United States located in Houston



As the delegation left, President Pavel signed the Museum's Register.

President and The First Lady were very congenial and took time before lunch to talk with the public.

Here they are speaking to Chris and Doris Benson, King and Queen of the Texas Chapter of the Po. L. K. of A.



President Petr Pavel (2nd Row 3rd to the Right) was in the United States for the highly stressful political 2024 NATO Summit in Washington DC. NATO summit meetings provide periodic opportunities for the Heads of State and Government of NATO member countries to discuss important issues facing the Alliance and provide strategic direction for its activities. The recent NATO Summit marked 75 years of historic achievements, demonstrated the strength and unity of our transatlantic bond, advanced the implementation of the most robust deterrence and defense plans since the end of the Cold War, and showcased NATO's vital role in defending our future for generations to come.

**He chose to spend some relaxing time in Texas before returning to The Czech Republic.**

The mission of The Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum is to preserve, promote and educate polka music and dance. For more information go to [plctm.com](http://plctm.com).



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**Mission: To provide a facility for Preserving, Promoting and Educating Polka Music and Dance.**

**OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT THE MUSEUM**

(Complete the form of your choice and return with payment.)

----- Cut along the perforated lines for your option to support the Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum -----

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

\$20 Per Person Per Year - Renewable on Anniversary Month

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s) | Organization \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

Full Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE GIFT**

Honor a Family Member, Friend, Business Associate or PLCTM Member with an Honorary Tribute. Financial gifts in any amount, are greatly accepted and appreciated! All memorials are listed in the newsletter. The family of the recipient is notified of your thoughtful gift.

Donor Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_ In Honor Of \_\_\_\_\_

**Acknowledge Gift To:**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address) \_\_\_\_\_

**WILL BEQUESTS**

If you wish to include The Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum in your will, take the below sample wording to your estate attorney, who will ensure your wishes are correctly put in place.

*"I give, devise and bequeath to The Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum (PLCTM), Federal Tax I.D. No. 37-1544544, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ % of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate for its general purposes and/or endowment."*

Benefactor \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTRIBUTE TO PLCTM ENDOWMENT FUND**

A financial contribution used to complete the PLCTM Museum's \$100,000.00 Endowment Goal for the Preservation, Promotion and Education of Polka Music and Dance benefiting the objective of keeping our polka heritage alive for future generations. Specified funds received are dedicated to that purpose.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE RECEIVED WITH DEEP GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

The Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum (PLCTM) is a Non-Profit (c)(3) Corporation. Its success is dependent on contributions, donations, gifts and grants from businesses, corporations, individuals, members, municipalities and non-profit organizations interested in the Preservation, Promotion and Education of Polka Music and Dance.

**All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law.**