



**POLKA LOVERS CLUB OF TEXAS MUSEUM
 PLCTM | 275 WEST FAIRGROUNDS ROAD
 P.O. BOX 72
 LA GRANGE, TEXAS 78945
 PLCTM.COM**



Mission: To provide a facility for Preserving, Promoting and Educating POLKA MUSIC and DANCE

The Hoelscher Haus Hoelscher Family Exhibit

FEATURING

Magr. Joseph M. Hybner Center

Po.L.K.of A. Exhibit

Volume 18, Issue 4

4th Quarter 2023

Board of Directors

Officers

Immediate Past President – Willie Bohuslav
 President/Coach – Gary Bucek
 Vice President – Charlie Hoelscher
 Carol Artz-Bucek - Secretary |Treasurer
 Joyce Bohuslav - Member Outreach Officer

Directors

Jane Freis
 Larry & Evelyn Maresh
 Mark McFarland
 Mildred Hollas
 Sheryl Pavlas-Harris
 Connie Rice-Ames
 Jan Koehn

NOTICE: TO ALL VISITORS

Admission is “free” and wheelchair accessible!
 Donations are Welcome

A message from 2023 President, “Coach”, Gary Bucek



**Howdy to all PLCTM Members!!!
 Welcome to the 4th Quarter of 2023!**

Wow! It was awesome to get to visit with many of you at the Donor Appreciation Event on Saturday, October 14th. The FIRST IN 3 YEARS!!!! It wasn't exactly like old times with a large crowd but we still entertained just under 100 people. Good Food, Good Prayer, and of course, Good Dancing. We're going into the hibernating months for bears and snakes but not for the PLCT Museum! We worked with TCHCC on the 2nd and the 9th of December for Christmas Open Houses and added more to the visibility of

the Museum. Your food contributions to the Amen Food Pantry and monetary|toy donations to the Deputy Sheriff's Santa Program allowed us to give back to the community.

We continue to develop our virtual tour at the PLCTM for all those who attend to see the variety of Historic Instruments and stories to accompany them. Our construction plans are not quite complete as we continue to work with TCHCC to get a couple of handicapped parking spaces at the corner of the parking lot with a “new” walkway to our front entrance. TCHCC is working with Texas A&M on designing the grounds for new roads, sidewalks, and lighting for the village.

The new “Lifetime Membership” Program originated out of the July 29th Board Meeting. I am excited to report, it has started off with a big bang. Some of you may have been confused previously about the different forms of “Giving”. Remember our Mission Statement is to provide a facility to Preserve, Promote and educate Polka Music and Dance. It takes money to operate the Museum. The Board of Directors concluded the Lifetime Member Program would be simpler to keep track of contributions. There have always been Donations, the Building Fund (called Charter Members) to construct the Museum we now enjoy. There will always be Memorials for those deceased, and lastly, an Endowment Fund to perpetuate the ongoing facility costs until the end of time! The Lifetime Membership program eliminates one's annual membership fees and includes entrance to any events hosted by the PLCTM, as well as provide future funding supporting the Endowment Fund. More Lifetime Membership details later in the Newsletter. (Cont'd on Page 2)



(Con't From Page 1)
 A message from 2023 President, "Coach", Gary Bucek

The last comment I wish to make is.... I hope you had an amazing 2023; the Museum did!
 My next wish is to see more of you in 2024. You are invited to audit Board Meetings. Each meeting is held in the museum and starts at 11 AM with lunch. Just RSVP that you are coming; and, we also need volunteers for the events listed below.

2024 EVENTS (Dates & Times Are Subject To Change)

- January 24-27th - TCHCC 4th Annual Texas Blacksmithing Conference & Texas Antique Gas Engine Reunion
- February 10th PLCTM Board Mtg.
- February 10th TCHCC Valentine's Dinner & Concert
- May 11th PLCTM Board Mtg.
- May 19th TCHCC Slavnost 'May Fest' & Tribute to the Czech Immigrants to Texas
- August 10th PLCTM Board Mtg.
- October 19-20th TCHCC Heritage Fest & Muziky
- November 9th PLCTM Board Mtg.
- December 14th Christmas Open House

ANNUAL SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS (ASM) @ \$20 PER PERSON/YEAR
4TH QUARTER 2023

Member Renewal
Appreciation

October:

- Marvin & JoAnn Stasny
- Willie & Josie Milberger
- Gene Hackemack
- Bernard J. & Earline Okruhlik
- James L. Slovak
- Rudy J. Antich
- Lucille Antich



November:

- Ben Bohuslav—2024
- Marie A. Tupa

December:

- Betty Patalik—2024
- John Dujka
- Adrian D. Schulze
- Christine L. Schulze

Our members are lifesavers!



Welcome New Members

Carolyn Heinsohn
 Terri Ellison
 Suzanne Wakeman

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 2023 Inaugural Lifetime Members of the Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum!



2023 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 Hoelscher—2320

POLKA LOVERS CLUB OF TEXAS MUSEUM

PLCTM



2023

DONOR APPRECIATION EVENT

October 14, 2023

PLCTM.COM

The Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum (PLCTM) hosted a "Donor Appreciation Event" on Saturday, October 14th from 11 AM to 4 PM; an event for Polka Enthusiasts of all ages to join in with happy music and happy people.

The event was a re-invention of a past annual memorial event, the last one being held in 2019, honoring polka lovers who had passed away in the previous year. Many renovations and upgrades have been made to the museum since March of 2022. The event enabled organizers to showcase the present and future possibilities of the museum. The event was in honor of individuals, families, businesses, organizations, grant providers, and publicized as a celebration of accomplishments.

The event took place at The Fairgrounds Pavillion beginning at 11 AM with a gathering of long time friends re-uniting after four years of a COVID hyetus. The first main attraction was a Mass by Father Jared Cooke at 11:30 AM followed by a buffet lunch catered by Makeska's Barbecue of Columbus. The Ennis Czech Boys Band entertained with happy music for happy people until 4 PM.

That is not all though!!!

The program included a Silent Auction and a Raffle for a \$1,000 Lifetime Membership to the Museum.

87 pounds of non-parishable food items was collected for The Amen Food Pantry for the holiday season.

Gary Bucek (L), President of the Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum, located in the Czech Village within the LaGrange Fairgrounds, is shown donating 87 pounds of non-parishable food items to Louis Girard (Middle) and Susan Schultz (R) volunteers for the Amen Food Pantry located in the City of La Grange. Donations of food items were collected at a recent Donor Appreciation event held at the Fairgrounds Pavillion from attendees. Gary reminds all individuals, families and organization to share the wealth and blessings for those less fortunate this holiday season. Amen Food Pantry is open Monday from 8:30 to 11:45 AM to receive donations as well as provide services and again from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Thursdays for donations. The Amen Food Pantry is supported financially and volunteers by various churches in La Grange.



Donation made to Fayette County Sheriff's Santa Program

Pictured (L-R) Kenn Kretz, Deputy Investigator; Gary Bucek, President - PLCTM; Keith Korenek, Fayette County Sheriff; Carol Artz-Bucek, Secretary|Treasurer - PLCTM; Jeremy Castleberry, Deputy Investigator; and, Angela La La, Deputy Sergeant.

Representatives of The Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum (PLCTM), are shown making a contribution to the Fayette County Deputy Santa Program. Fayette County Sheriff Keith Korenek and Deputies of the Fayette County Sheriff's Office conducted the Deputy Santa Program Drive through December 20th.

Winner of the Lifetime Membership was the Willie Bohuslav family who in turn presented the Lifetime Membership to Father Jared Cooke. Father Cooke's Grandparents, Melroy and Valeria Cooke Brandt were Charter Members of the PLCTM; his parents John and Kari Cooke are current members .



Pictured L-R: Gary Bucek, President; Carol Artz-Bucek, Secretary|Treasurer & Father Jared Cooke

An Open House took place from 4 to 6 PM in the museum with an array of snacks and a variety of Whistling Duck Winery wines were served. Cheryl Rognerud, Weimar, Texas was the winner of an \$80 Gift Certificate donated by by PLCTM members, John and Kari Cooke, co-owners and operators of the Whistling Duck Winery located south of Weimar, Texas.

Evelyn Maresh, Jan Koehn, Jim Slovak, Pat McKirahan & Willie Bohuslav were each winners of a book of poetry, "PUZZLES of MY LIFE in POETRY" by Author Sheryl Pavlas-Harris.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR DONOR APPRECIATION SPONSORS

\$500—Charlie & Christine Hoelscher

\$250—Po.L.K. of A.

The event was complimentary to the PLCTM Membership.





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 The Hoelches Haus Hoelches Family Exhibit **FEATURING** Mgr. Joseph M. Hynes Center Po. E.K. of A. Exhibit

Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum
Invites You To An Open House
In conjunction with
The Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center
Saturday December 2 and 9, 2023
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Saturday, December 2nd
10:00 AM—12:00 Noon—Polka Music, Coffee & Snacks
12:00 — Live Entertainment by Gene Hackemack
Polka Demo by Willie & Joyce Bohuslav
Christmas Punch & Snacks

Saturday, December 9th
10:00 AM—12:00 Noon—Polka Music, Coffee & Snacks
11:00 AM— "The Texas Toad" A Book Signing for All Ages
& Music by, Author, Lawrence Rominger
Polka Dancing—Optional
Christmas Punch & Snacks



LEST WE FORGET

MEMORIALS HONORING LOVED ONES, FRIENDS, MEMBERS, LEADERS

A total of \$540.00 was received, this quarter, from those of you who honor and value the life your honoree lived on this earth, their love, their leadership... the difference they made. We treasure your generosity ensuring the preservation of polka dance & music to live on.

They would be honored to know you remembered them in this way.

Bernice Stolarski

Po.L.K. of A.

Leona Herzik

Joyce & Willie Bohuslav

Gladys Kouba

Erwin Kouba

Melba Lou Bohuslav

Joyce & Willie Bohuslav

Harold Kosel

Joyce & Willie Bohuslav

Vaclav J. "Jim" Jasek

Elizabeth C. "Betty" Patalik

Iosie Milberger

Joyce & Willie Bohuslav

Po. L. K. of A.

Msgr. Joseph M. Hybner

Joyce & Willie Bohuslav



IN LOVING MEMORY:

"FOREVER REMEMBERED - FOREVER MISSED"



Bernice Stolarski

September 17, 1939—November 17, 2023

Bernice passed away Friday, November 17, 2023, at the age of 84. She was born in Sealy, Texas, on September 17, 1939, to parents Frank and Annie Anderle Bures. She married her high school sweetheart, Benjamin (Bennie) Stolarski, on November 20, 1960, at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Sealy.

Polka dancing was Bernice & Bennie's favorite pastime. They loved to dance. If there was a dance anywhere in the surrounding communities, they were there. They were members of the Po.L.K. of A and proudly wore their red and white to dances

Bernice is survived by her husband of almost 63 years, Benjamin Stolarski. Her 3 daughters, Patrice and Paul Vacek of East Bernard, Sharon Stolarski and Aimee Hoffman of Katy, and Lanette and Scott Earnest of Pearland. Her 4 grandchildren, Meagan Vacek of Kansas City, Missouri, Jacob Vacek of Spring, Nicole Earnest, and Zachary Earnest of Pearland. She is also survived by several brothers and sisters-in-law, Ralph and Pat Stolarski of Sugar Land, Richard and Pam Stolarski of Flatonia, and Betty Stolarski of Schulenburg, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Gladys Marie Brosch Kouba
October 15, 1930—August 13, 2010

Gladys passed away Friday, August 13, 2010, at the age of 79. She was born October 16, 1930 in Praha, Texas to Fred and Lillie (Migl) Brosch. She dedicated her life to being a loving wife to her husband, Erwin Kouba, mother to three daughters, and grandmother of five grandchildren.



HAROLD KOSEL
August 20, 1927 - September 2023
Charter Member of the PLCTM

Full Obituary printed in 3rd Quarter Newsletter

Josephine "Josie" Ann Milberger
March 6, 1942 - October 5, 2023

Josephine "Josie", 81, of Bryan, Texas passed away Thursday, October 5, 2023 in the comfort of her home. Funeral service were held at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 1:30 PM. She was born March 6, 1942, in Bryan, Texas, to parents Martin and Annie (Ruffino) Camarata.

After many years of working in the local community, Josephine retired to spend time doing what she loved most; watching football, planning activities for the Polka Club, gardening and selling fresh fruits and vegetables at the local Farmers Market. Josephine also has a love of Polka Dancing; a traditional Polish dance, where her and husband of 30 years; Willie Milberger would travel city to city with their local Polka Club enjoying days of dancing. Josephine was honored when they won King and Queen of Polka.

Josephine deeply loved her family, friends and church and was always willing to lean a helping hand. She was preceded in death by parents; Martin and Annie (Ruffino) Camarata, sister; Nena Louise Camarata, brother; Tannie Martin Camarata, and sister-in-law; Dorothy Camarata.

Josephine leaves behind to cherish her memories loving husband; Willie Milberger, two sons; Pete Budzisz (Janice) and Jimmy Budzisz, along with two daughters; Priscilla Gordon (Steve Jr.) and Regina Budzisz, brother; Preston Camarata, sister-in-law; Julie Camarata, grand-children; Tripp Gordon (Rebecca), Kayla Martinez (Angel), Tyler Gordon and Ashley Browder, along with nine precious great grand-children, nieces, nephews and a host of family and friends.

Josephine's beautiful smile and personality will be greatly missed by all.

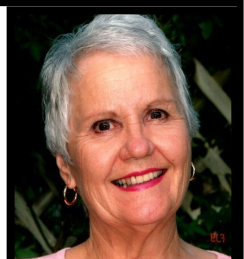


LEONA HERZIK
May 29, 1926—September 15, 2023

Full Obituary printed in 3rd Quarter Newsletter

MELBA LOU (JOHNSON) BOHUSLAV
February 4, 1937- June 23, 2023

Full Obituary printed in 3rd Quarter Newsletter



Vaclav "Jim" Joseph Jasek
November 18, 2023



Jim Jasek, a resident in the Novohrad community located east of Moulton, Texas, died on November 18, 2023, at the age of 89. He graduated from Moulton High School, in the class of 1951. He was an army veteran. In 1964, Jim received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Houston.

He resided with his family in Baton Rouge, LA, for 50 plus years. Jim and wife, Virginia Shelly moved back to Texas in 2019 to his maternal great-grandparents Frantisek/Johana Migl, homestead property.

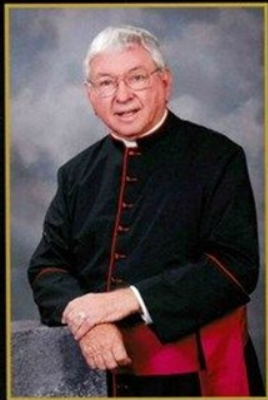
Jim was most proud of being one of the descendants that restored and donated the house from the property built in 1890 to the "Texas Czech Heritage Culture Center" (TCHCC) where it is known as the "Migl House".

Mr. Jasek is survived by his wife of 36 years; daughter Kimberly Ann Beavers and husband Andres; stepson Brian M. Kinney and wife Christina and their children, Clara Anne and Lillian Marie; grandson Marvin Guest IV and wife Yolie and their children, Manny Guest IV, Elias and Jamie; grandson Joseph Hunter Guest and wife Erin and their children, Wyatt, Emmett and Colleen Guest; sister-in-law Marlies Jasek.

Burial will be in the Praha cemetery where his son Brian, brother Ben, parents, maternal and paternal grandparents and all eight great-grandparents are buried.

In Memory

Of...



REV. MSGR. JOSEPH HYBNER
November 11, 1936 to November 23, 2019

Reverend Monsignor Joseph Hybner, 83, passed away Saturday, November 23, 2019. He was born November 11, 1936 in Shiner, one of the 9 children born to Leo and Josephine (Kurtz) Hybner.

At the time of his death he was survived by his sister Rita Janak of Shiner; sisters-in-laws, Henrietta Hybner and Florene Hybner, numerous nieces, nephews and extended family. Preceded in death by his parents; sisters and spouses, Bernadette Valis (Frank Valis) and Agnes Pustka (Bobby Pustka); brothers and spouses, Bennie Hybner (Georgia Hybner), Theodore Hybner, Johnny Hybner, Alois Hybner and George Hybner; brother-in-law, Leo Janak.

He is buried in the Saints Cyril and Methodias Catholic Cemetery in Shiner, Texas, Lavaca County, Texas, Plot 2-B-19-1.

Father Joe served our Lord as a priest for 56 years and retired to his beloved Shiner, Texas in 2012; although his involvement in polka music and his generous contributions to the Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum continued. When he pastored a church in Victoria, he became a member of the Polka Lovers Klub of America (Po. L.K. of A.) - Texas Chapter III—Dance Klub. He was very active and would participate in the Klub's float program in all the town parades wearing a red vest to match the Klub's red and white uniforms.

When he moved to Flatonina to pastor the Sacred Heart Parish, he would always ride the float in the Czhillspiel Parade and everyone loved him!

In 2005 the Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum (PLCTM) moved the Hoelscher Haus, a donation from Esther & Henry Hoelscher, to the TCHCC complex to serve as the museum for the Po.L.K of A. Texas Chapter. Father Joe gave donations of \$500 each in memory of his parents and grandparents from both sides. Every year since 2006 PLCTM hosted a memorial celebration remembering the deceased members of the museum and the Po.L.K. of A. Texas Chapter. The event included a slide show presentation of all deceased members. Afterwards, Father Joe would conduct a Polka Mass accompanied by a polka band, a catered meal for members and a polka dance. He stayed very active and involved in all the annual activities.

Father Joe was a generous contributor in all fundraising campaigns; therefore, the Museum Board, at that time, felt it very appropriate to name the new annex "*The Msgr. Joseph M. Hybner Center*". The dedication, held on Sunday, February 28, 2016 included a ribbon cutting and reception.

Father Hybner concluded the event by cutting the ribbon and blessing The Center.

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 10 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 acknowledgement and appreciation.
The family of the honoree will be gently notified.

Your gift ensures Polka Music and Dance will live on!

IN OUR PRAYERS FOR CONTINUED SPEEDY RECOVERIES

Joyce & Willie Bohuslav, Lorine Crist, Loretta Freytag, Sheryl Pavlas-Harris, Suzanne C. Wakeman
Positive energy going your way !!!

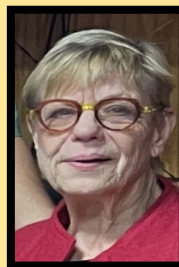
ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS—THANK YOU!!

**A total of \$10,000 was received by the following Lifetime Member.
Jan Koehn in Memory of Wilbert & Lorene Cernocek Koehn**



Two New Members were added to The Board of Directors at the November 11, 2023 Board Meeting.

Meet:
Connie Rice-Ames
Houston Texas



Jan Koehn
Houston, Texas



Connie's Mom, Mickey Bucek Rice Hagens and Jan's Parents, Wilbert & Lorene Cernocek Koehn were Po. L. K. of A. and PLCTM active members.

November 11, 2024



Bayley Wiltshire and Nicholas Bennett visited the New Braunfels Wurstfest. Wiltshire grew up going to the fest as a kid with her Czech grandparents, Joyce and Willie Bohuslav. It had been years since her last visit and even though the grounds had been redone since the fire, the Dance Hall, where she spent most of her time polka dancing, seemed just as she remembered. Bennett, who is Australian but has German ancestry, had "never experienced anything like it before." His favorite parts were the pork chops on a stick and listening to the Jimmy Sturr Band. Pictured is Wiltshire and family friend and fellow Polka Member, Sturr, during intermission. "That was awesome," said Bennett, recounting the experience.

"I can't wait until next year."

Every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information in this newsletter is correct. Should there be inaccuracies, please share any omissions or errors to Gary Bucek by calling him @713.252.2162 or Carol Artz-Bucek @ 832.202.5845; or, email your documentation to info@plctm.com with full details.

PLCTM is a section 501 (c) (3) organization.

Gifts are eligible for a tax deduction to the extent provided by law for federal income tax purposes.



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The Hoelscher Haus Hoelscher Family Exhibit

FEATURING

Magr. Joseph M. Hybner Center

Polka Lovers Club of Texas Exhibit

**Lifetime Membership
 Application**

**A LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP
 is entered in the name of an individual,
 organization or business and is
 "NOT" transferable.**

Lifetime Membership Application in the Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum

If this membership is confidential, indicate to whom all correspondence should be directed.
 To enroll, complete the following information, make payment and return.

Date: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Province: _____ ZIP/Postal Code: _____ email: _____

Telephone No.: (_____) _____ Mobile No.: (_____) _____ Preferred Text Email

Make check to: PLCTM, P. O. Box 72, LaGrange, TX 78945
 Full payment enclosed \$1,000.00 Check # _____

-----Cut & Enclose With Payment -----Benefits Listed On Back Of This Page-----

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. The Lifetime Membership Program begins October 1, 2023. At its inception, 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.

When one becomes a Lifetime Member, it is both an investment in the future of the PLCTM and an honor and privilege; the contribution for growth and development is clear. The privilege and honor to the Lifetime Member is found in recognition as a contributing member and is quite often presented in recognition of service to one's community and culture.

Any member or person may become a Lifetime Member, either by self-enrollment or by enrollment as a gift from or to a loved one, friend, organization or business. The above form may be used to enroll. Being a Lifetime Member demonstrates faith in preserving, promoting and educating polka music and dance.

Questions relating to the Lifetime Membership Program may be directed to Gary Bucek, President.

