



# POLKA LOVERS CLUB OF TEXAS MUSEUM

275 W. Fairgrounds Rd.  
La Grange, TX 78956  
PLCTM.COM

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

Volume 25, Issue 4

4th Quarter

## OFFICERS

President|Coach—Gary Bucek  
Vice President—Jan Koehn  
Secretary|Treasurer—Carol Artz-Bucek  
Member Outreach Officer—Joyce Bohuslav

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## DIRECTORS

C. W. Benson  
Connie Rice Ames  
Doris Benson  
Jane Freis  
Larry Maresh  
Wellie K. Harris, Jr.



## “The Power of Polka”

It is so cool when a plan comes together. There have been many moving pieces in the 2025 Plan that I can't wait to see the 2026 picture.

“Not” part of the plan however, we lost 3 of our founding and original board members. Willie Bohuslav, Mildred Holas, and Evelyn Maresh whom we thank and remember for their leadership and support throughout the many years of service to the PLCTM. We are also grateful to the membership, friends, and loved ones who have made donations in their honor and memory!

Much of the 2025 Plan came to fruition paving the way for an even more exciting 2026. We entertained approximately 250 visitors, three group tours, added 10 new members, and 8 Lifetime Members. Organizers held three events in connection with TCHCC and a Donor Appreciation Dance.

Expansion plans have now been developed and approved by the board ready to move forward with construction in 2026; if you remember from our last quarter newsletter. Challenges now are with the permitting process and raising additional funds for construction costs.

Lastly but most importantly we have combined museums with the Texas Polka Music Museum in Schulenburg. The Texas Polka Music Museum (TPMM) vacated their facility on 712 Lyons Ave. by the end of 2025. We began relocating their outstanding exhibits to the PLCTM facility in La Grange. The additional space, mentioned in the previous paragraph, will house the TPMM exhibits. We will continue as the Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum including additional exhibits.

I am pleased to announce, a founding member of TPMM, Glen Chervenka and current Acting President Brian Svetlik (Czechoholics drummer) were elected to serve on the PLCTM Board of Directors. Also approved as a new board member was musician, John Hickl, from El Maton, accordion player for the Shiner Hobo' Band and is associated with various other bands. Their service begins January 1, 2026 and will be featured in the first quarter newsletter of 2026. Please welcome our New Board Members and thank them for their passion to continue Preserving, Promoting and Educating Polka Music and Dance!

*Til next time...*

ANNUAL SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS (ASM) @ \$20 PER PERSON/YEAR  
4TH QUARTER 2025

*Member Renewal*  
**Appreciation**



**OCTOBER**

**John Dujka  
Marvin & JoAnn Stasny**

**NOVEMBER**

**Louis Stewart, Jr.  
Paula Amsler  
Debra Stewart  
Gene Hackemack  
Carolyn Heinsohn  
Suzanne C. Wakeman**

**DECEMBER**

**Michael Ripper  
Jimmy Sturr  
Linda Puhl Maiorana**

*Our members are lifesavers!*



**New Members**

**Ben & Elizabeth Royce  
Chris Gurecky  
Hubert Bednar**

**Newest Lifetime Members—Roy G. Haag  
Theresa Bohac Haag  
Elizabeth “Betty” Patalik**

**“THANKS” to ALL who continue to Join and Renew Your Membership  
and, for all “Your Support” of the  
Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum  
May the Power of Polka Be With You!**



**TOTAL DONATIONS \$518**

**Cathleen & Kenneth Noska, Jane Freis, John Dujka,  
Joyce C. Bohuslav, Roy & Theresa Haag, Susan Harmeyer,  
Susan C. Wakeman & Wilbert J. Cernosek  
Cash Donation Jars**

**\$5,000 ENDOWMENT FUND DONATION – JAN KOEHN**

# POLKA LOVERS CLUB OF TEXAS MUSEUM

## 4TH QTR EVENTS

*Mladá Muzika Sardice and Dulcimer Band*  
Friday, September 26th

PLCTM Board members, hosted a dinner for the Mladá Muzika Sardice and Dulcimer Band from Kyjov, Czech Republic. (Mlada" means youth.) The dinner included band members, their sponsors; and staff, board members and volunteers of TCHCC.



Upon arriving, band members and their chaperones were led through the Czech Village, dinner was served at 5:30 pm and the concert began at 7:00 pm in the Sanford Schmid Amphitheater. Their concert provided a wonderful evening of traditional Czech music, singing and dance at 7 p.m. The event was a perfect date night and a fun evening with friends. An unforgettable experience!

After dinner two of the young band members Marian Mdnár and Šimon Riedl exclaimed, *"The food was excellent, it reminded us of how we miss our Czech food back home."*

Each band guest and their

sponsors received a Welcome Bag of Museum memorabilia and some yummy snacks for the next journey.

The hosted event was a collaborative effort between the Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum (PLCTM) and the Texas Czech Heritage Cultural Center TCHCC).

The band was on a USA tour and was sponsored by the Texas Folklife Institute. The 45+ young band members consisted of various groups of musicians, dancers and singers. All of the youth definitely put on a performance to remember. Members of the audience happily tapped their feet, clapped their hands, sang and even danced to many of the band's Czech songs.

When asked what it's like transporting 60+ people across Texas; Bus Driver, Jacoby Reynolds said *"I am soaking in all of this Czech Culture, not being from the Czech Republic, I am engulfing myself in the education, history and culture of their region. I am based in Austin; therefore, I am getting my four daughters to Houston tomorrow to witness this awesome group of kids who are the same age as my girls."*

La Grange, Texas was one of several touring stops through Southeast Texas ending in Houston. PLCTM also partnered with the Czech Center Museum Houston located at 4920 San Jacinto St, Houston, TX 77004 in Houston for their Saturday performance of the band and chaperones prior to their departure for The Czech Republic on Sunday.

Sardice is a village with a long tradition dating back by first writings to 1286. The village is located in the South Moravian Region, in the Hodonin District not far from Kyjov, in a picturesque region of Moravian Slovakia. The region is known for singing, wine, folklore and good people. Adding to the excitement was their band member, Madelyn Karstedt, recently crowned the United States Czech Slovak Queen. She welcomed guests and opened the concert. Madelyn's commitment to preserving and celebrating Czech and Slovak traditions inspires everyone in the region and far beyond, all making this occasion memorable for attendees and families.





# POLKA LOVERS CLUB OF TEXAS MUSEUM

Hosts  
Manchaca Baptist Church Senior Adults  
October 7, 2025

On October 7th, leaders of PLCTM hosted a group of 27 Senior's from the Manchaca Baptist Church. They began their tour experience at the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center. After the tour they enjoyed lunch and then made their way to PLCTM. Polka dancing prevailed and a lively time was had by all.

Manchaca is a rural community in the southern part of the Austin metropolitan area; offering a mix of suburban and rural living for many families and young professionals. The Manchaca Community, which the church is likely named after, was established when it received a post office in 1851. The area is known for its small-town charm and close proximity to the city's amenities and attractions.



C. W. & Doris Benson



Gary Bucek





## PLCTM Hosts HOSPITALITY HUDDLE October 14, 2025

Hospitality Huddle, an endeavor to improve The City's local tourism efforts by fostering collaboration and encouraging networking between local attractions and organizations. The meetings feature opportunities to discuss topics related to tourism, as well as provide attendees the opportunity to share upcoming events and programs. While the staff lends tourism expertise; huddle members are allowed the opportunity to learn from each other. Hospitality Huddle provides the means to work together in making La Grange a stronger tourism destination.

**City of La Grange – Tourism; Colorado Valley Quilt Guild; Faison Preservation Society; Fayette County Community Theatre; Kreische Brewery & Monument Hill State Historic Sites; Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum (PLCTM); Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center (TCHCC); La Grange Area Chamber of Commerce; Smith-McMillan Chapter NSDAR; Texas Heroes Museum; Texas Quilt Museum; The Bugle Boy**

# POLKA LOVERS CLUB OF TEXAS MUSEUM

Annual Fall Open House  
October 17 & 18

Museum leaders hosted the annual *Fall Open House* October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The open house is held annually in conjunction with the Texas Czech Heritage Culture Center (TCHCC) *Heritage Fest and Muzicky*. The Public was invited to attend and celebrate the fall season. The October events are based around Czech culture and provide many activities; dance opportunities, entertainment, exhibits, delicious food and drink both days; all taking place in the Czech Village located in the La Grange Fairgrounds.

As a tribute to...POLKA, the music that continues to rock our state, nation and world; there was plenty of polka music, dancing opportunities entertainment and refreshments.



Virginia Leech & Gary Bucek

Upon celebrating the first anniversary of the "Frank's Bar Exhibit", Virginia Leech, daughter of Frank Mika, owner of a local venue back in the early days, presented the true story behind the bar now located in the museum on Friday evening. The bar has



L-R: Gary McKee, Wilbert Cernosek, Virginia Leech & James Slovak

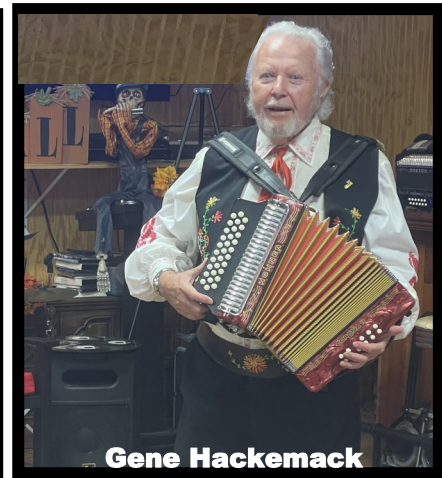
become a very popular exhibit in the museum.

Saturday, provided many opportunities to dance Polka and Waltz for young and old alike. Music provided by Gene Hackemack, Brenham Texas; also known as "Squeeze Man",

well known accordion player across the country; and famous for putting Polka music into space.



L-R: Chris Gurecky, Hubert Bednar, Debra Stewart, Louis Stewart, Jr., Paula Amsler & Gene Hackemack



Gene Hackemack



L-R Gene Hackemack, C.W. & Doris Benson & Richard D. Conley-Brinfield, MA who looked just like Santa Claus



L-R: Rita Kovar, Brian Artz & Jane Freis



Competitive Dancers

# POLKA LOVERS CLUB OF TEXAS MUSEUM

NOVEMBER 9, 2025  
3rd ANNUAL DONOR APPRECIATION DANCE

## PROGRAM FOR POLKA DANCE ENTHUSIASTS AND "WANNA-BE'S"

The Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum (PLCTM) brought music, movement, and memories together at its annual Donor Appreciation Dance on Sunday, November 9, at the Fairgrounds Pavilion. The afternoon celebration welcomed polka dance enthusiasts and "wannabe's" of all ages and experience levels for a joyful gathering filled with laughter, friendship, and what many fondly call "happy music for happy people." From the first notes played, the dance floor came alive. Couples glided and twirled across the pavilion floor, hands linked, smiles wide, and steps confident, capturing the spirit of polka at its best. Whether dancing with longtime partners or new friends, attendees embraced the rhythm with ease and enthusiasm, as seen in the joyful scenes throughout the afternoon.



The event began at 2 p.m. with dance instruction led by Louis Stewart of the Mollie B Polka Party and Debra Stewart, both officers of the Po.L.K. of A. dance organization. While lessons are typically a highlight of PLCTM dances, this gathering was unique—most everyone arrived already knowing the steps and eager to dance. Louis Stewart remarked with good humor, *"I hate it that there are so few people here, but what fun this is and what a great band. This is great!"*

Providing the soundtrack for the afternoon was **Kenneth Krystinik & The Lavaca County Line**, whose lively performance kept dancers on their feet and listeners entertained throughout the event. Although attendance was lower than usual due to multiple local bands performing at the opening of Wurstfest in New Braunfels, the band delivered high energy and top-notch music from start to finish.



The atmosphere—from the decorations and hall setup to the refreshments and friendly volunteers—reflected the care and dedication of the PLCTM Board and supporters who work tirelessly for the Museum.

One attendee even asked when the next Fairgrounds dance would be held, eager to return after such an enjoyable experience.

During a mid-afternoon break at 4:20 p.m., a short program was held. PLCTM President Gary Bucek shared updates on the Museum's progress over the past year and distributed the 2025 Program and Annual Report. Guests also enjoyed raffle drawings, a popular tradition that added excitement and anticipation to the day.

The atmosphere, decorations, hall setup, raffle prizes, and refreshments all contributed to a well-planned and enjoyable event.

In the spirit of community support, Museum organizers also collected non-perishable food items, toiletries, and children's toys for distribution to locally sponsored holiday programs.

**A highlight of the event was a series of raffle drawings.**

**The full list of winners:**

**\$50 Majek Winery Gift Certificate - Kenneth Kristynik**  
**10 Texas Women's League Dinners-Randy & Carol Gardner**  
**Liquor Basket - Susan Weyand**  
**Margarita Pitcher & Two Glasses - Barbara Kalina**  
**Jumbo Porta Puzzle - Chris Gurecky**  
**Butternut Squash - Chris Gurecky**  
**Seite Basket (Chips, Salsa & Seasoning) - Lucille Lancaster**

**Winners of the 50/25/25 Cash Raffle**  
**Wilbert Cernosek & Jeanette Goodson**

Ted LaPesh of Houston summed it up well:

*"This is an excellent polka band. Plenty of good food, friendly people, and lots of space for dancers. Well organized, with people coming from all over Texas and even Clovis, New Mexico. An enthusiastic group kept dancing until the last polka was played."*

Founded in 2006 in La Grange, the Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum exhibits include the Hoelscher Haus, the Hoelscher Family, Po.L.K. of A., Msgr. Father Hybner, Frank's Place Bar, historic bands, donor recognitions, photographs, videos, musical instruments, and an extensive music library dating back to the early 1900s.

Those who attended the Donor Appreciation Dance left with happy hearts, tired feet, and cherished memories—and those who missed it truly missed out.

**"Music is life itself." Louis Armstrong**

**Jane Freis and her niece, Stacy Wiltshire dancing just like the old days.**

**Bayley & Nicholas Bennett-Austin, TX**



PLCTM Director, Jane Fries, reflected on the deeper meaning of the day, saying, *“The energy of the music, the precision of the polka step-step-step, and the arm movements spinning into twirls reminded me of the dances I attended as a child in the '40s. As a teenager in the '50s, I danced those same moves in many country halls popular at the time.”* Now I get to enjoy my niece and her daughter enjoy dancing as I continue to do.



**Ken**  
**Jan Koehn Gary Bucek**  
**\$50 Majek Winery**  
**Gift Certificate –**  
**Kenneth Kristynik**



**Doris Benson**  
**Picking up**  
**for**  
**Gardners**  
**10 TWL Drive-Thru Dinners**  
**Randy & Carol Gardner**



**Lucille Lancaster**



**Wilbert Cernosek**



**Chris Gurecky**



**Susan Weyand**



# POLKA LOVERS CLUB OF TEXAS MUSEUM

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

*“RING IN THE HOLIDAYS...POLKA STYLE”*

Museum leaders kicked off the holiday season at PLCTM by hosting the annual Christmas Open House on Saturday, December 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All museum members and the public were invited to join Board Members and volunteers to welcome in the holiday season—polka style—with lively music, a little dancing, and refreshments served throughout the day.



**Front Row L-R: Joyce Bohusav, Jane Freis, Jan Koehn, C. W. & Doris Benson.**  
**Left Back L-R: Carol Artz-Bucek & John Hickl**



**John Hickl**



**Guests love sitting at the bar**



**Doris Benson**

**“Where words fail, music speaks.” - Hans Christian**

# A STORY OF RE-ENACTMENT



**John Hickl**

**L-R Back Row: Joyce Bohuslav, C. W. Benson, Doris Benson, Jan Koehn, Jane Freis, Gary Bucek**



**Patrick Veit**

**STORY ON PAGE 12**



One of the  
PLCTM newest Board  
Members and Directors  
is twenty-five-year-old  
John Hickl. He has  
already made an  
impression.

John first surprised us at the Mayfest event when he was asked if he played the accordion. He casually said yes and immediately agreed to join entertainers Jason Keepers and Gene Hackemack, borrowing one of their accordions. To everyone's delight, John proved to be an exceptionally skilled musician in this impromptu performance.

As it turned out, John is the accordion player for the Shiner Hobo Band. Later, when he arrived at the Museum's Christmas Open House he was asked if he had brought his accordion. Thankfully, he said yes. He was immediately volunteered to perform. After unloading his instrument, John began entertaining guests throughout the event. Being a newcomer to the museum, he even took time during his breaks to explore the exhibits.

While viewing the P.O.L.K. of A. Exhibit, John noticed a photograph placed inside a red photo album. He immediately recognized the accordion being held in the picture. John brought the album to Museum President, Gary Bucek, and explained the accordion shown in the photo was the very same one he was playing at the museum that day and told the following story.

*"The gentleman in the photo is Mr. Patrick Veit of Victoria, Texas. The accordion he is holding is a Zupan Alpe V EA, 42 key, 120 bass piano accordion. He bought this accordion brand new in 1994. The accordion has 5 sets of treble reeds and 5 sets of bass reeds and produces a very powerful sound. It is also equipped with a MIDI system that, when connected to a MIDI sound module, allows the user to assign different sounds to the keys/buttons of the accordion adding to its versatility.*

*I first met Pat when he was performing at the Victoria County Czech Heritage Festival in 2019. At that time, the festival hosted accordion lessons. I just started playing the accordion that previous December, so I brought my accordion with me to the festival to take part in the lessons and see what I could learn. On my way into the building with my accordion, I stopped and listened to Pat who was playing in front of the main entrance. He noticed my accordion and we started talking about my interest in playing the accordion. After learning my small Hohner accordion had a few broken reeds, he said that he had an accordion he was thinking about selling and offered me a chance to buy it. A few days later I met him at his home in Victoria and walked away the proud new owner of this beautiful Zupan accordion.*

*Ever since I started listening to polka music, I grew to really appreciate Pat's style of playing after hearing several of his recordings on the radio. He has greatly influenced my style of playing. I have had the opportunity to play alongside him many times and he has become a great friend to me. He has taught me a lot about the accordion, and I am very grateful for all he has done for me over the years. He is a good friend and I consider it a great honor and privilege to share my love of polka music with him."*

We are proud of John and his up-and-coming success in the accordion world, and we are grateful to have him as part of our organization.



### 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—231 †**

**Tim Koehn—2318**

**Mark Hoelscher—2319**

**Althea B. Hoelscher—2320**



<b>Brent Douglas Wiltshire—2421</b>	<b>Stacy Bohuslav Wiltshire —2422</b>
<b>Brittany Wiltshire Jennings—2423</b>	<b>Jack Thomas Jennings —2424</b>
<b>Bayley Alexis Wiltshire —2425</b>	<b>Nicholas “Nick” Bennett —2426</b>
<b>Bo Douglas Wiltshire —2427</b>	<b>Beck Douglas Wiltshire —2428</b>
<b>Terri Bohuslav —2429</b>	<b>Stephen “Mark” McFarland—2430</b>
<b>Jessica Christine McFarland —2431</b>	<b>Kevin McFarland —2432 †</b>
<b>Connie Rice Ames — 2433</b>	<b>Willie J. Kopecky, Jr. —2434</b>
<b>C. W. “Chris” Benson —2435</b>	<b>Doris Benson —2436</b>
<b>Larry G. Maresh—2437</b>	<b>Evelyn A. Maresh—2438 †</b>
<b>Wellie K. Harris, Jr.—2439</b>	<b>Virginia Leech—2440</b>
<b>Josephine Marie “Jo” Jennings—2441</b>	<b>Wilbert J. Cernosek—2442</b>



<b>Rodney C. Koenig—2543</b>	<b>Roger Neil Bohuslav—2544</b>
<b>Marcela Kourkova—2545</b>	<b>Katherine Hanslik Svatek—2546</b>
<b>Kent Huie—2547</b>	<b>Roy G. Haag—2548</b>
<b>Theresa Bohac Haag—2549</b>	<b>Elizabeth “Betty” Patalik— 2550</b>

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



**LEST  
WE  
FORGET**

This quarter, a total of \$3,580.00 was received from those of you who honor and cherish the life your honoree lived—their love, their leadership, and the difference they made in this world. We deeply treasure your generosity, which helps ensure that polka dance and music continue to live on.

*They would be truly honored to know they were remembered in such a meaningful way.*

**Evelyn Marie Maresh**

Anthony & Shirley Maresh  
Bob G. Liska/Larry Maresh  
Borden Wilson  
C. W. & Doris Benson  
Charlie & Chrisie Hoelscher  
Cynthia & Derek Hoelscher  
Debbie Hoelscher Jennings  
Erwin Kouba  
Gary & Carol Bucek  
Gary & Deniese Baker Family  
James & Caroline Freytag  
John A. & Lillian Kozel  
John A. & Theresa Seegers Parker  
Joyce C. Bohuslav  
Kenny W. & Jackie G. Machalec

**Maresh—Con'd**

Loretta G. Freytag  
Mark & Althea Hoelscher  
Marvin & Jo Ann Stasny  
Michael P. & Carol M. Ross  
Mr. & Mrs. David Stryk  
Patricia A. Hoepfl  
Patricia Hoelscher McKirahan  
Wagner & Saenz Family

**Irene Banse**

Joyce Muras & Karen Golsch

**Willie V. Bohuslav**

Gene Hackemack

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

If you have someone you wish to honor, mail your remittance along with their name and who to acknowledge to PLCTM % Gary Bucek, 1400 McKinney St., Unit 3604, Houston, TX 77010.

You will receive a letter of acknowledgment and appreciation.

The family of the honoree will be gently notified.

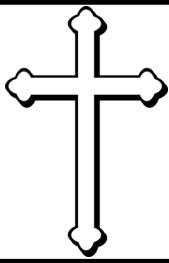
**Your gift ensures Polka Music and Dance will live on!**

**IN OUR PRAYERS FOR CONTINUED SPEEDY RECOVERIES**

Connie Rice-Ames, Larry Maresh, Weldon & Delores Schulte, Wellie Harris

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

**May the Power of Polka Be With You!**



with deepest *Sympathy*



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



**Evelyn Annie Maresh  
July 19, 1939 - Nov 18, 2025**

Evelyn Maresh, 86, passed away peacefully on November 18, 2025. Born in Pilot Grove, Texas, she began school in Sweet Home. When she was 10 years old, her family moved to Yoakum and she attended St. Joseph's Catholic School graduating in 1957. She met the love of her life, Larry, on a blind date at the VFW Hall in Moulton at a New Year's Eve dance.

They married on July 26, 1958 and recently celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary. Starting their life together in Houston, they joined Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church and eventually moved in 1992 to Pearland, joining St. Helen Catholic Church. No matter where she lived, she built a life centered on faith, family, and tradition.

Evelyn devoted her life to her loved ones and the community she cherished. She is survived by her devoted husband, Larry Maresh, and their four children: Jeffrey; Suzanne and her husband David; Gregory (preceded in death by his wife Mickie); and Dianne and her husband Matt, all of whom were her greatest source of pride.

She was also blessed with her grandchildren; Benjamin and his wife Kay, Elizabeth and her husband Peter, Katrina and her husband Reece, Lauren and her husband Kenny Joe, Phillip and his wife Kathleen, Sidney, and Madison. Her joy multiplied with her great-grandchildren Blane, Blair, Bennett, Evelyn, Nicholas, Benjamin, KJ, and Archie, each of whom brought a special light into her life.

Evelyn was preceded in death by her dear parents, Annie and Jerry Honc, and by her brother, Leon, who she held closely in her heart throughout her life.

Deeply rooted in her faith, Evelyn has always been an active member of her church and her service started in the Catholic Family Fraternal of (K.J.Z.T.) She was a member for 75 years and served as treasurer for over 30 years. She volunteered her time as Den Mother helping her sons in the Boy Scouts of America and assisted her daughters in the Girl Scouts of America at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. Her service continued through the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #2330 here in Pearland. She did very much enjoy volunteering, giving back, and staying connected with her community.

Evelyn also found great joy in dancing and fellowship. She was a charter member of the Polka Lover's Klub of America, Texas Chapter I and held office for 21 years beginning in 1989. Additionally, she was a member of S.P.J.S.T. Lodge 88 where Czech heritage is preserved.

Evelyn loved being a housewife when the children were at home. She was the best mom. After her last child entered grade school, Evelyn helped the family in another manner and began part time work at JCPenney at Palm Center. Once her children finished school and left home, she gathered her entrepreneurial skills and love of travel to become co-owner of the Travel Factory. She led that effort for 24 years and eventually sold it to American Express Travel staying in their accounting department until she retired. Then alongside her husband, Evelyn helped in their family business, Monarch Printing, contributing to its success with her strong work ethic and gracious presence. Her children and grandchildren hold dear the memories of working with her in the print shop. They enjoyed being able to work beside her, as she provided them with tasks and jobs which were always followed by a special lunch together with our beloved "Ma".

Evelyn's life was guided by a deep appreciation for family traditions. She poured love into holiday gatherings, shared her treasured favorite recipes, and invested her time in creating unforgettable moments with those she loved. Her legacy lives on in the traditions she passed down and the values she instilled which were faith, family, togetherness, and love. Her memory is our keepsake, with which we will never part. God has her in His keeping; we have her in our hearts. Her legacy is etched into all our family's memories and traditions forever more. Thank you for filling our lives endlessly with love, patience, and joy.

**Bob George Liska**  
**February 19, 1928 – December 1, 2025**



Bob George Liska was born on February 19, 1928 to Josef and Filomena (Svehlak) Liska on the Family Farm outside of Ennis, Texas, being the youngest of five children. He passed away peacefully at home on December 01, 2025 in Dallas, Texas. He was 97 years of age.

Bob grew up on the Family Farm on Creechville Road, about six miles outside of Ennis, Texas. He was a true country boy experiencing things like raising animals for family consumption, working the fields and riding a pony or horse drawn buggy into town for gatherings, church, family visits and shopping. Bob experienced the Great Depression as a young boy, but never knew that life was a hardship since basic simple needs were being met and everyone else was having the same experiences. Having grown up with tremendous “frugality” meant that the rest of his life would be impacted by such idealism. The many lessons of being self-sufficient, bartering for supplies, not being afraid of hard work and having faith in God would carry him through the entire rest of his life.

Bob was a member of numerous social, non-profit fraternal and professional organizations including; KJT Society #111, RVOS Lodge 142, SPJST Lodge 84 and Polka Lovers Klub of America (P O L K of A).

Bob’s study of the Czech language deepened not only his understanding of the language but of the traditions, stories and songs that were the heart of the Czech identity. Bob loved to dance polkas and waltzes and promoted the continued performance of the Czech dance known as the Beseda. Bob’s father, Josef Liska, was teaching the Beseda to many of the Czechs in the Ennis area beginning in the 1930’s. The dance is still regularly performed today by numerous groups.

Besides being an excellent dancer he was also a wonderful singer. Through his love of music he became the director of the Dallas Czech Singers for 35 years, leading the group in preserving and performing traditional Czech music. He also helped to coordinate the publishing of the Czech songbook, Pisnický Ceske, (“Czech Songs”) a coordination of over 100 Czech songs compiled by the Dallas Czech Singers.

Bob never passed up an opportunity to sit and converse or sing in Czech with those who were able to do so especially where there was a cold “pivo” involved.

His annual klobase making session was something that he really cherished, especially in his later years, as it was a way to spend time with some relatives that meant so much to him. They helped him to make his recipe of klobase and when the work was done, there was plenty of idle time to chat, share memories and an occasional schlook of Slivovice.

He is survived by six children; Sadie Bell and husband Rusty, Bobby J Liska, David Liska and wife Diane, Jimmy Liska and wife Theresa, Carol Scott and husband Clint, Janet Songer and husband Scott. Grandchildren – TJ Bell (Brianna), Adam Bell, Jarrod Norton (Mary), Nathan Liska (Ashley), Sherry Miller (Tim), Ashley Colunga (Jordan), Matthew Chappel (Jennifer), Elizabeth Goldman (Ernest), Cody Scott (Kate), Cassidy Scott, Carson Scott, Landry Songer (Claire) and Gabriel Songer ; Great-Grandchildren Shawn Norton, Kaylee Norton, Braden Miller, McKinley Miller, Sydney Miller, Brox Colunga, Lowe Colunga, Addison Bell, Hudson Bell, Peyton Goldman, Bennett Chappel and Ian Chappel; numerous nieces, nephews and family friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held December 9, 2025, at St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church, 401 E. Lampasas St, Ennis, TX 75119. Interment followed at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, 300 S. Jeter Dr, Ennis, TX.

*The above obituary is accompanied by this story by—*

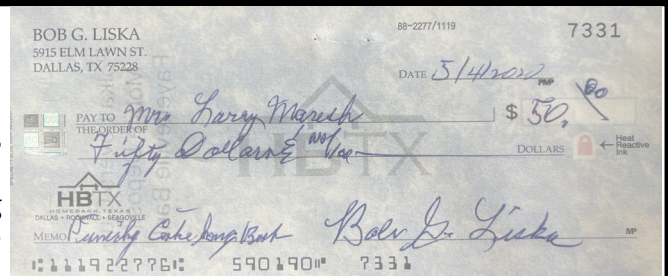
*Carol Artz-Bucek*

In mid-December, Larry Maresh contacted PLCTM President Gary Bucek to ask whether a check dated May 4, 2020, could still be deposited.

Gary was unsure, so Larry mailed the check along with \$50 in cash, just in case the check could not be honored, in memory of his wife, Evelyn.

After Gary received the check, I searched for Bob G. Liska and learned that he had passed away on December 1, 2025—just twelve days after Evelyn.

Gary then contacted the bank to explain the situation. The bank reported the account was still open; however, due to the statute of limitations, a bank is under no obligation to honor a check presented more than six months after its date. Therefore, we honor Mr. Liska for contributing to the memorials for Evelyn Maresh through her husband, Larry.



**Irene Ernestine Banse**  
**October 26, 1927 - August 28, 2024**

Irene Banse peacefully passed to eternal life on August 28, 2024, at the age of 96. She was born October 26, 1927 to Ernest and Erna (Schroeder) Lichey in Columbus, Texas.

She began her education at the school in the New Bielau community and later attended Weimar High School, graduating in 1945. On June 10, 1951, she married Henry H. Banse at St. Michael's Church in Weimar. They lived in Houston where their two daughters were born. In 1963, they moved to Rosenberg and in 1971 they moved back to their hometown of Weimar.

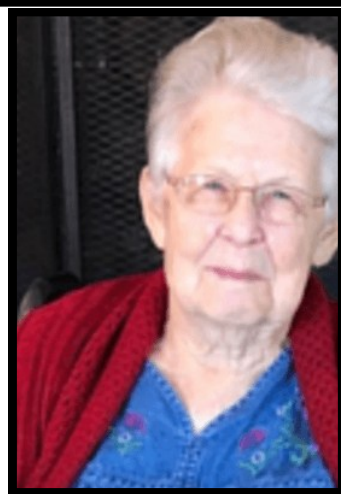
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Sewing and gardening were activities she enjoyed. Her pantry and freezer were always stocked with lots of home-grown vegetables and fruits. She had a green thumb for vegetables as well as for flowers and her home was surrounded by beautiful plants. She was a member of St. Michael's Parish, the Catholic Daughters of America, the VFW Auxiliary, and the Polka Lovers Club of America.

She worked at various places, including Stanzel's in Schulenburg and Rubin's Grocery in Weimar, retiring in 1996 to take care of Henry during his illness. Later, she worked part-time at Dr. Gordon's dental office.

Irene was preceded in death by her parents, brother Elroy, her husband, and numerous other relatives. She leaves behind her two daughters, Joyce (Denis) Muras and Karen Golsch. Grandchildren Curtis (Elizabeth) Golsch, Jeffrey Golsch, Theresa (Patrick) Connors and Andrew (Katie) Muras. Nine great-grandchildren survive. Also, very special friends Annette Coerver and Daria Emmel.

A Holy Rosary and Mass of Christian Burial was held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at St. Michael's Catholic Church. Burial followed in the St. Michael's Cemetery.



**Willie Victor Bohuslav, Jr.**  
**September 29, 1932—March 9, 2025**

Full Obituary printed in 1st Quarter 2025 Newsletter  
Newsletters are archived at [PLCTM.com](http://PLCTM.com)

The name "Willie" comes from the German elements wil and helm, meaning "will" or "desire," and "helmet" or "protector." When combined, these elements give "Willie" the translations "resolute protector" or "will helmet." Whether looking out for themselves or others, this name "Willie" means to stand up for what one believes.



**May the Power of Polka Be With You!**

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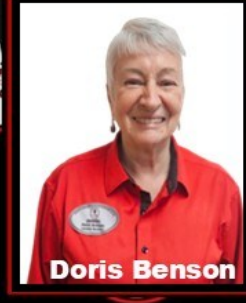
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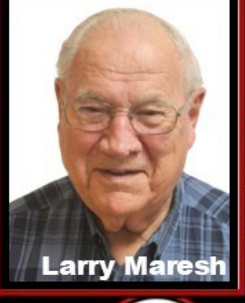
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**2023—2025**

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