

# *The 34th International Polonaise Ball*

## *Tribute to Solidarity and President Lech Walesa*



Opening Polonaise Dance



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mrs. Danuta Walesa



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, President Lech Walesa



Mrs. Barbara Cooper, Mr. Roman Cooper, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mrs. Laura de Oña Suarez, Mr. Diego Suarez, Mrs. Monica Suarez



Dr. & Mrs. Marek and Shirley Chodakiewicz



Ms. Beata Paszyc, President Lech Walesa, Mr. Lee Tiger



Mrs. Marjorie Serralles-Sonderling, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Ms. Wanda Urbanska, Honorable Mariusz Brym



Honorable Walter Zachariasiewicz, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel



President Lech Walesa, Mr. Jaroslaw Rottermund



Dr. Lee Edwards, Dr. John Lenczowski, Mr. Andrzej Czerwinski





# The 34th International Polonaise Ball

Organized by  
The American Institute of Polish Culture, Inc.

The American Institute of Polish Culture dedicated this year's 34th International Polonaise Ball to Solidarity and its leader, former Polish President Lech Walesa. He attended the event as the guest of honor, accompanied by his wife Danuta and one of his daughters, Maria Wiktoria, accompanied him on their 10-daylong stay in the U.S. During the ball AIPC also honored Hon. Walter Zachariasiewicz and Dr. Marek Chodakiewicz with Golden Poloniae – the organization's highest decoration. Marjorie Serralles-Sonderling and Wanda Urbanska received the Friends of Poland awards from a delegate of the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C.

On the evening of February 11, 2006, a ballroom in the ocean-front Fontainebleau Resort in Miami was filled with more than 200 guests, who came to pay tribute to the leader of a movement that 25 years ago changed the political landscape of Europe. Thanks to Walesa and Solidarity, Poland had broken free from communist oppression and lead the way for other nations of the Eastern Block. The world had watched and Walesa was making national headlines.

Among the ball guests were Mariusz Brymora, the cultural counselor from the Embassy of Poland in Miami; Ambassador of Greece Locas Tsilas; Ambassador Arnold Willen; Dr. Pamela Dana from the Florida Governor's Office. Some came from as far away as Canada, Germany and Sweden. There was a group of friends from Chicago, including the Institute's Vice President and Barbara Cooper. Representatives of South Florida's Cuban community came to pay tribute as well – Walesa has long been a source of inspiration for many.



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel,  
President Lech Walesa



Mrs. Margaret Speidel,  
Dr. Michael Speidel



Mr. & Mrs. Alberto and Eva Naya



Mr. John Frank Velez, Ms. Beata Velez



Miss Polonia USA Claudia Wlodarczyk,  
Mr. Erhan Sakaoglu



Ms. Diana Chlebek, Mr. Roman Cooper



Mrs. Lillian Machado, Mr. Gus Machado



Ms. Susan Poplawski, Mr. Ashley Smith



Mrs. Izabela Karaszewski,  
Mr. Jan Karaszewski



Ms. Natalia Lopatniuk, Dr. Miroslaw Sochanski



Mrs. Marilyn Williams, Dr. Henry Williams III



Ms. Maria Wiktoria Walesa and  
Mr. Andrzej Pawlikowski, Mr. Howard Smith





Mrs. Malgorzata Tiger, Mr. Lee Tiger and Dr. Pamela Dana,  
Office of the Florida Governor



Honorable Bozena Jarnot, Honorable Mariusz Brymora,  
Mrs. Danuta Walesa



Mrs. Lucila Schmitz, Mr. John Schmitz, Mrs. Ma  
Serralles-Sonderling, Mr. Albert Zanger



Ambassador & Mrs. Loucas and Pat Tsilas



Mr. & Mrs. Roman and Barbara Cooper



Mr. Howard Laks, Ms. Irena McLean



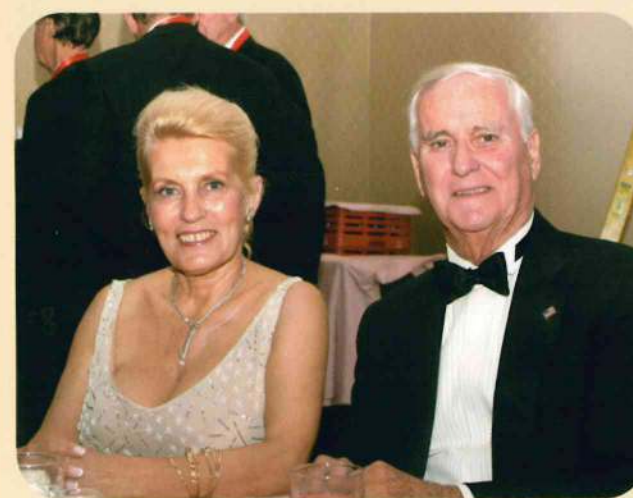
Mr. & Mrs. Fausto and Remedios Diaz-Oliver,  
Dr. Monika Krol, Mr. Al Koproski



Dr. Horacio Aguirre, Mrs. Nieves Mayo, Mr. Ricardo Mayo



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, President Lech Walesa  
Dr. Horiacio Aguirre, Mr. Diego Suarez



Mrs. Margarita de Gea Grezell, Mr. John Sullivan



Mr. Jose Luis Ferre, Ms. Helen Aguirre, Mrs. Soraya Zuluaga,  
Mr. Pedro Zuluaga



Ms. Ana Remos, Mr. Juan Williams



Back: Ms. Beatrice Clancy, Ms. Claudine Smurfit, Mrs. Monica Heftler,  
Mrs. Danuta Walesa, Mrs. Barbara Lis, Ms. Natalia Lopatniuk, Front: Ms. Maria Clancy,  
Mrs. Lucila Schmitz, President Lech Walesa, Mrs. Marjorie Serralles - Sonderling,  
Mrs. Gigi Luczynski



Sitting: Dr. & Mrs. Jerome and Patricia Zwierzycki, Mr. & Mrs. Roman and Barbara Cooper  
Mrs. Jolanta Golec, Dr. Janusz Golec; Standing: Mrs. Alina Wlodarska, Mr. Casey Chlebek, Ms. Diana  
Mr. Michael Skronski, Father Wladyslaw Podeszwik, Mrs. Jagoda Krukowski, Dr. Mirosław Soch  
Dr. Maria Wojnarski, Ms. Brigitte Cooper, Dr. Wiesław Wojnarski, Mr. Don Ritchie, Ms. Janelle C





Mrs. Regina Beaman, Mr. Andrzej Pawlikowski



Ms. Amanda Rottermund,  
Mr. Jaroslaw Rottermund,  
Ms. Lucyna Wender



Ms. Alicja Schoonover



Mr. & Mrs. Stanley and  
Phyllis Kupiszewski



Mr. & Mrs. Waclaw and Aleksandra Cilulko,  
Mrs. Jolanta Brzozowski, Mr. Zbigniew Brzozowski



President and Mrs. Lech and Danuta Walesa with  
the Polish American Folk Dance Company



Mr. & Mrs. Andrzej and Jadwiga Kruk  
Mrs. Jolanta Golec, Dr. Janusz Golec



Sitting: Dr. Horacio Aguirre, Mrs. Lillian Machado,  
Mr. Gus Machado; Standing: Mr. Diego Suarez,  
Ms. Helen Aguirre, Mrs. Remedios Diaz-Oliver,  
Mr. Fausto Diaz-Oliver, Mrs. Nieves Mayo, Mr. Ricardo Mayo,  
Mrs. Laura de Oña Suarez



Sitting: Ms. Lesleen Bolt, Mr. Stephen Keller, Ms. Billie Price;  
Standing: Mr. Michael Starr with son, Dr. Lee Edwards,  
Mrs. Marlene Berg, Dr. Pamella Dana, Mr. David Berg



Standing: Dr. Pawel Georgica, Dr. Bronislaw M  
Dr. Monika Krol, Mr. Ryszard Scibor, Ms. Iwona R  
Mr. Alexander Koproski; Sitting: Dr. & Mrs. Jack and  
Pinkowski, Mrs. Patricia Koproski



Standing: Mr. Duane Treeman, Mr. Witold Kolankowski,  
Mrs. Liliana Treeman, Ms. Jadwiga Garbacz;  
Sitting: Ms. Robyn Carmichael, Mr. Andrzej Pawlikowski,  
Mr. & Mrs. Leszek and Marie Rose Dydynski,  
Ms. Jadwiga Gewert, Mr. Mark Greenberg



Standing: Mr. Eugene Starky, Mrs. Lena McGinnis,  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard and Taiko Krzyzanowski, Ambassador Arnold Willen,  
Mrs. Margarita de Gea Grezell, Dr. Jeanetta Stega; Sitting:  
Mr. George Malesz, Mr. Andrzej Janczyk, Ms. Jadwiga Krasicka.



Sitting: Mrs. Soraya Zuluaga, Mr. Jose Luis F  
Mr. Jacek Schindler; Standing: Mr. Richard W  
Mr. William Thourlby, Mr. Douglas Coope  
Mr. & Mrs. Mace and Sophie Mavroleon, Mr. Pedro  
Mrs. Cheryl Schindler, Mr. Gabriel Grochol



Mr. Michael Skronski, Mrs. Malgorzata Darwin,  
Dr. Alina Szczerba, Mr. Zbigniew Szczerba



Standing: Ms. Ania Navas, Mrs. Margarita de Gea Grezell, Ambassador Arnold Willen,  
Mrs. Henrietta Partyka, Mr. Chester Partyka, Mrs. Maria Czulinska;  
Sitting: Ms. Wanda Currea, Dr. Zdzislaw Wesolowski, Mrs. Bettie Nathanson,  
Dr. Andrzej Bartkowski



Honorable Mariusz Brymora, Drs. Andrzej  
Ewa Remin, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel,  
Dr. Andrzej Bartkowski





Ms. Claudine Smurfit, Mr. Jimmy Corpora



Ms. Ania Navas, Dr. Zdzislaw Wesolowski



Mrs. Danuta Walesa, President Lech Walesa



Mr. Walter Beaman and Lady Blanka Rosenstiel



Honorable Walter Zachariasiewicz, Mrs. Marilyn Williams, Dr. Henry Williams III, Mrs. Adeline Zachariasiewicz, Mr. George Malesz, Mrs. Lena McGinnis



Mr. Andrzej Czuma and Lady Blanka Rosenstiel



Mrs. Monica Heftler



Mr. Don Ritchie, Ms. Brigitte Cooper, Ms. Jan Cooper, Mrs. Barbara Cooper, Mr. Roman Cooper



Mr. & Mrs. Edward and Olga Gruszka



Drs. Wieslaw and Maria Wojnarski



Ms. Irma Valenta, Mrs. Virginia Valenta



Mr. & Mrs. Wieslaw and Halina Wlodarski

After the traditional cocktail hour at 7 p.m. the guests entered the luxurious ballroom. As usually, large crowned feather eagle – symbol of independent Poland - hung on the wall above the orchestra. After everyone took their seats at the tables, the master of ceremony Jaroslaw Rottermund introduced the Polish-American folk Dance Company from New York, which performed to the music of a patriotic song “Mury” (“Walls”) from the Solidarity era. After the presentation Rottermund read greetings from Presidents George W. Bush and Lech Kaczynski, Governor Jeb Bush and from the Polish Ambassador Janusz Reiter.

Lady Blanka welcomed everyone and especially President Walesa and his family: “Mr. President, you were able to achieve all that in a peaceful way, without any violence,” she said referring to the Solidarity times. “The world is better today thanks to you, and Poland is proud to have such a distinguished son.” Then Lady Blanka and President Walesa lead the dignified Polonaise, the centuries-old Polish dance that opens the ball each year.

After the last tunes faded away, Lady Blanka handed flowers to the ball’s main contributors: Barbara and Roman Cooper, Monika Heftler as well as Diego and Laura Suarez, Cuban exiles who have been working for freedom and democracy in their homeland. A special recognition went to Andrzej Czuma from Chicago “for his fearless dedication to the causes of Solidarity during trying times.” Counselor Brymora, on behalf of Ambassador Reiter, handed the Amicus Poloniae plaques to Marjorie Seralles-Sonderling and Wanda Urbanska. The Institute’s highest recognition, the Gold Medals, went to Hon. Walter Zachariasiewicz “for outstanding achievements in Polish-American relations” and to Dr. Marek Chodakiewicz, “for outstanding achievements in the field of Polish history.” Hon. Zachariasiewicz’s biography and accomplishments are impressive. A Siberian gulag and NKVD prison survivor, he has worked for Poland in exile – in Istanbul, London and since 1948 in the United States, where he helped give refuge to many exiles from Poland. He coordinated a world wide campaign to build a John

Paul II Polish Pilgrim House in Rome and was personally appointed Holy Father to the Board of Directors of the John Paul II Foundation. His awards include the Knight Commander With Star in the Order of Saint G by Pope John Paul II and Knight Commander With Star in the Order of F Restituta by the President of Poland.

Dr. Marek Chodakiewicz from the Institute of World Politics in Washington D.C. – although two generations younger – has accomplished a great deal. He has written many scholarly articles and more than 10 books about Polish history, specializing in Polish-Jewish relations.

“Behind every successful man is a woman,” said Lady Blanka introducing Mrs. Danuta Walesa to the stage and handing her a bouquet of roses. She praised Mrs. Walesa’s courage and perseverance, noting that without her support and hard work as the mother of eight children, Lech Walesa would not be able to accomplish everything he did.

Then President Walesa himself took the stage. First Dr. Lee E. Brown from the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation presented him with a medal of freedom. The memorial is going to commemorate more than 10 million victims as well as those who helped end the Cold War. A special recognition – and a pleasant surprise for Walesa – was a genuine American Indian peace pipe made by Buffalo Tiger, the chief of the local Miccosukee Indian tribe. Lee Tiger, the chief’s son, presented the pipe saying that Americans feel a special bond with the people of Poland. Finally, Lady Blanka handed the President a statue of an eagle for “the Man of Hope, who spreads the wings of freedom.” Walesa was grateful for all the honors and thanked Lady Blanka for her role in promoting Poland and Polish culture in the U.S. “Without people like Lady Blanka, there would be no Walesa and no Poland who were able to make changes in Poland thanks to the support of Poland.”

With that the official part was over, and the ballroom floor filled with couples dancing to the versatile tunes of Frank Hubbel Orchestra. The evening traditionally ended with the Polonaise dance performed by all the guests.



# Brunch

On Sunday morning guests and hosts met again for a brunch that each year follows the Polonaise Ball. Tables at the Fountaine Ballroom were set again and helped themselves to the appetizing selection of breakfast and lunch foods and drinks at the buffet.

The day's artistic program again featured dances by the Polish-American Folk Dance Company, but the main attraction was the performance of a young Polish trumpeter, Maciej Pietraszko. The 28-year old musician has been playing with Miami Beach's New World Symphony for the last few years, and his other achievements and awards from around the world are too many to name.

President Walesa once again took the podium thanking everyone for a great time he and his family had. Lady Blanka also called to the stage those who helped make this event successful – employees of the AIPC and volunteers who dedicated their time and hard work.



Mrs. Alicja Iwaszkiewicz, Mrs. Christiane Schietse-Dury, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mrs. Magdalena Sambor



Mr. Wieslaw Nowak, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, President Lech Walesa, Mrs. Alicja Iwaszkiewicz, Mrs. Danuta Walesa, Ms. Krystyna Thompson, Mrs. Maria Czulinski, Mr. Stefan Czulinski



Ms. Monika Michejda, Drs. Krzysztof & Maria



Mrs. Barbara Cooper, Ms. Pat Riley, Mrs. Monica Heftler



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel and the Polish American Folk Dance Company



Ms. Jadwiga Garbacik, Ms. Iga Henderson, Honorable Mariusz Brymora, Ms. Jadwiga Gewert, Mrs. Liliana Treeman



Mr. Maciej Pietras

## Polish Transition - Lessons for Cuba Seminar and Key Note Speech at University of Miami

On Monday, February 13, many of those who attended the ball came to listen to a keynote speech given by President Walesa at the University of Miami in Coral Gables. The speech was a part of a seminar organized by the Institute of Cuban and Cuban-American Studies (ICCAS) at the UM, under the auspices of the Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Poland and the AIPC. The event, called *The Polish Transition - Lessons for Cuba*, began in the afternoon with the presentation of the film *From Solidarity to Freedom* by Krystyna Mokrosinska. The roundtable discussion that followed featured three panelists: Dr. Marek Chodakiewicz, Dr. Barbara Kudrycka from Poland and Tadeusz Bugajski, as well as ICCAS Director Dr. Jaimie Suchlicki and Dr. Antonio Jorge from the Florida International University.

Around 6 p.m. the crowd started to grow larger in anticipation of the keynote speech by President Walesa. The guests who gathered in the lobby of the UM Bannockburn building enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres before moving to the lecture hall, where Dr. Suchlicki introduced the eminent speaker. More than 300 people filled the hall, including the UM students and academics, members of the Cuban-American community, journalists, and many others eager to watch and listen to the Solidarity icon. President Walesa talked about the challenging and exciting times of the Polish transition, about his role as well as the inspiration and spiritual support he and all the Poles drew from Pope John Paul II. He took a few questions from the audience, including one about specific advice for Cuba. Walesa underscored Fidel Castro's power of demagoguery, saying, "I wouldn't use force against him, I would use intellect," he said, recommending the development of specific "plans for urban development after Fidel Castro falls; plans for what Havana will look like five years after the fall of Communism"; convincing people that their country has a great potential that has been dormant for decades of economic stagnation. Accompanied by a standing ovation, countless camera flashes and decorative plaque from the hosts at the UM, Walesa left the audience with a boost of optimism and reflection.



Mrs. Georgina O. Lindskoog, President Lech Walesa, Mrs. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Member of US Congress; Dr. Jaime Suchlicki, Mr. Enrique Ros



President Lech Walesa



Mr. Jose Luis Rodriguez, Special Assistant to the Florida Governor, President Lech Walesa, Mr. Piotr Gulczynski

