

The 35th International Polonaise Ball



Opening Polonaise Dance – Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mr. Richard Wilke-Janicki,
Countess Barbara Pagowska-Cooper, Mr. Erhan Sakaoglu



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel,
Countess Barbara Pagowska-Cooper,
Chairpersons of the International Polonaise Ball



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Prof. Thaddeus Piotrowski, Honorable Walter Zachariasiewicz,
Mr. James Conroyd Martin, Mrs. Lynne Olson and Mr. Stanley Cloud



Chancellor Boniface Benzinge of Rwanda, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Countess Barbara Pagowska-Cooper, King Kigeli V of Rwanda,
Mrs. Hanna Reiter (wife of Ambassador to the Republic of Poland to the US), Ms. Pat Riley, Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie of Ethiopia



Ambassador Janusz Reiter and Mrs. Hanna Reiter,
Mrs. Adela Zachariasiewicz



Marquis Alexander Colonna-Walewski Montague and Marquise Maria Alonso Montague,
King Kigeli V of Rwanda, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Chancellor Boniface Benzinge of Rwanda,
Mrs. Marjorie Sonderling, Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie of Ethiopia



Mr. Jaroslaw Rottermund, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel,
Ms. Beata Paszyc, Hon. Vice Consul of Poland



Mr. Erhan Sakaoglu, Mrs. Anahid Govaert, Hon. Consul of Belgium,
Mr. Emanuele Viscuso



Honorable Walter Zachariasiewicz, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel



Mrs. Rosa-Rita Gonzales, Mrs. Eldris de la Torre, Mr. Leo Bataglia,
Mrs. Anita Ricci, Mrs. Grace Miro



Mrs. Hanna Reiter and Mr. Janusz Reiter, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, King Kigeli V of Rwanda
(in the back – the dancers from the Polish-American Folk Dance Company in NY)

The Grandeur of Poland's Past Comes Alive at the Polonaise Ball

The great Polish composer Fryderyk Chopin intended the Polonaise dance to showcase Poland's magnificent and turbulent past and is a dream of a powerful, victorious and prosperous Polska. That splendorous dream became a reality January 27, Saturday night at the 35th annual International Polonaise Ball at the historic Surf Club on Miami Beach.

The American Institute of Polish Culture chose the Surf Club because of its picturesque ocean front setting and because of its illustrious past of hosting glittering parties with world famous personalities such as the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Douglas

Fairbanks, Jr., General Douglas MacArthur, and Sir Winston Churchill. The parties played host to Metropolitan Opera soprano Lily Pons, New York chanteuse Hildegarde, and Elizabeth Taylor.

The theme for the evening's gala was a tribute to America's first permanent settlement, Jamestown (1607), on its four hundredth anniversary. An eclectic crowd of elegant ladies and their gentlemen from around the world took their turns at the podium to express their admiration for the critical contribution made to the settlement by an extraordinary contingent of Polish pioneers who sailed to the colony with the legendary Captain, John Smith.



Mr. Lee Tiger and Mrs. Gosia Tiger, Mr. Duane Treeman and Mrs. Liliana Treeman, Mr. Jaroslaw Rottermund, Ms. Lucyna Wender



Mrs. Suzi Wilkinson and Mr. Larry Wilkinson, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Ms. Marjorie Sonderling, Mr. Albert Zanger



Dr. Jerome Zwierzycki and Mrs. Patricia Zwierzycki,
Countess Barbara Pagowska-Cooper



Mr. Jerzy Siemiginowski, Ms. Ligia Lalewicz



Mrs. Gosia Tiger and Mr. Lee Tiger (Miccosukee Tribe)



Ms. Dorothy St. Jean, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel

Polish pioneers built the first glasshouse producing glass, bottles, jugs and beads. Native American women brought grain to trade for glass trinkets. The Poles were also responsible for the first strike in America for equal rights which they were granted.

The Ball began with a call to the nobility to take their places on the Ballroom floor. Delegations from around the nation and the world, stylish ladies and gentlemen of noble Polish heritage, were introduced to the assembly and proceeded to take their places in the Center of the Grand Ballroom.

The other dignitaries, many of Royal lineages from around the world, including King Kigeli V of Rwanda, Chancellor Boniface Benzing of Rwanda, Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie of Ethiopia, Marquis Alexander Colonna-Walewski Montague and Marquise Maria Alonso Montague of Coral Gables, Mr. Janusz Reiter, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland from Washington DC, Mr. Robert V. Ogrodnik, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in St. Louis, Ms. Anhaid Goavert, the Honorary Consul of Belgium, and Ms. Beata Paszyc, the Honorary Vice-Consul of the Republic of Poland in Miami remained in their perspective places of honor as Lady Blanka Rosenstiel and Mr. Richard Wilke-Janicki, led the procession.

A hush swept through the assembled dignitaries when the Chair of the ball, the stunningly beautiful Countess Barbara Pagowska-

Cooper of Chicago, followed, sauntering down the center of the ballroom floor. Some in the audience even debated as to who might be more beautiful, Countess Pagowska or Helen of Troy! Not one to miss an opportunity, President Bush along with Senators, Congressman and other statesmen, sent letters and messages of congratulations and acknowledgement of Poland's achievements including the contribution made to America's founding by the heroic efforts of Polish patriots. The Ball also honored the Native American contribution to Jamestown and highlighted the cooperation and friendship between the first Poles and American Indians.

During the Ball Mrs. Lynne Olson (Washington, DC), Mr. Stanley Cloud (Washington, DC), best selling authors of the book "A Question of Honor," revealed that heroic pilots, also sons of Poland, were pivotal in stemming the German onslaught in the skies over England during the Battle of Britain. Prof. Thaddeus Piotrowski (New Hampshire) and Mr. James Conroyd Martin (Chicago, IL) are also the American authors of bestselling books about Polish history and culture. The above mentioned were the American Institute of Polish Culture Gold Medal laureates who came to receive this honor in person. The authors promoted their books and gave autographs.

The Ball's artistic program included a 10-piece Frank Hubbell Orchestra and numerous performances by the Polish American Folk Dance Company of New York which has a repertoire of 23 folk



Mr. John Frank Velez, Ms. Beata Paszyc, Hon. Consul of the Republic of Poland, Ms. Dorota Wolczynska, Mr. Lee Tiger and Mrs. Gosia Tiger, Native American dance group Kehewin family Cree Nation from Canada



Dr. Irena Siemiginowski and Mr. Jerzy Siemiginowski



Ms. Grazyna Uberlauer, Mr. Wieslaw Soja, Ms. Wanda Rogoz, Mr. Erik Szczepkowski,
Ms. Krystyna Gosniowski, Mr. Zbigniew Gosniowski, Ms. Valentina Kasia De Mare



Prof. Thaddeus Radzilowski



Ms. Lidia Edwards, Ms. Ewa Komandor, Mr. Joseph Lesniak,
Ms. Wladyslawa Wieczorek, Ms. Stanisława Lanoszka



Mr. Jaroslaw Rottermund



Mrs. Evelyn Budde Dureiko, Mr. Wieslaw Wlodarski and Mrs. Halina Wlodarski,
Mr. Joseph Dureiko



Ms. Catherine Sandre, Mr. Gabriel Grocholski



Mr. John Frank Velez, Beata Paszyc, Hon. Vice-Consul of the Republic of Poland, Miami



Dancers from the Polish American Folk Dance Company from New York



Dancer from the Native American dance group Kehewin family Cree Nation from Canada



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Ms. Ula Furman

dance suites from different regions of Poland. The Native American theme was strengthened by a performance of the Canadian Native American dance group - Kehewin family Cree Nation. Their performance highlighted several of the traditional and contemporary Native Pow Wow dance styles. Mr. Lee Tiger, the son of the chief of Miccosukee Indians gave a speech praising Indians and Poles and encouraged further personal cooperation between the two divergent peoples (He's married to a lovely girl from Poland).

The guests enjoyed the charming location and exquisite cuisine and the following day they gathered for the Special Brunch which included dancing, a performance by the Polish American Folk Dance Company and the book signing by the Gold Medal Recipients.

By Charles Dundee and Beata Paszyc

Photography: Beata Paszyc, John Frank Velez, Mike Skronski and earthbeatproductions.com



Professor Zdzislaw Wesolowski, Ms. Anna Navas



Ms. Marjorie Sonderling, Mrs. Carol Sadowski



Mr. Krzysztof Jurczynski, Ms. Halina Malinska, Mr. Jan Siuta



Mrs. Danuta Szczesna-Cordary and Mr. Rick Cordary



Ms. Connie Kostyra, dancer from the Polish American Folk Dance Company from New York



Miss Nicole D'Aiguillon, Miss Catherine Sandre



Tamara McKeehan, Baroness Magdalena Sambor, Mr. Walter Beaman, Mrs. Regina Beaman



Drs. Ralph and Roberta Slonim



Mrs. Robin Szpak, Mr. Mark Szpak, Ms. Mary Szpak



Ms. Brigitte Cooper, Mrs. Patricia Zwierzycki,
Mr. Dan Ritchie



Mrs. Rose Kruszewski,
Father Andrew Pietraszko



Ms. Maria Amanowicz, Ms. Vera Szerszen, Dr. Irena Rytel

A Very Special Brunch



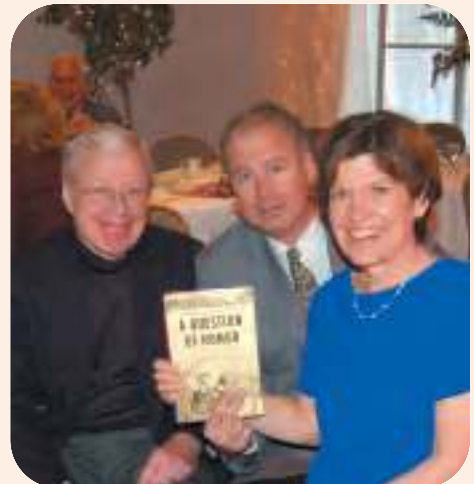
Mrs. Lynne Olson and Mr. Stanley Cloud, Mrs. Regina Beaman, Prof. Thaddeus Piotrowski, Mr. James Conroyd Martin



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mr. Jaroslaw Rottermund, Honorable Walter Zachariasiewicz



Dancers from the Polish American Folk Dance Company from New York, Mr. Matthew Soltysiak, Ms. Mary Allen



Mr. Stanley Cloud, Mr. Jaroslaw Rottermund, Ms. Lynne Olson



Mrs. Danuta Kyparisis, Mrs. Elzbieta Wnuk and Prof. Stanislaw Wnuk, Ms. Beata Paszyc, Mr. Konstantinos Kavallieratos, Ms. Ingrid Benson-Villegas



Ms. Dorota Wolczynska, Mr. Andrzej Janczuk



Prof. Thaddeus Radzilowski,
Ms. Beata Paszyc



Ms. Ula Furman



Mrs. Maryla and Mr. Marek Raczowski



Ms. Stanisława Lanoszka, Mrs. Judith Laskowski



Mr. Ryszard Sudol, Mrs. Danuta Kyparisis



Mrs. Elzbieta and Prof. Stanisław Wnuk



Dancers from the Polish-American Folk Dance
Company from New York



Mr. Kris Lewicki and Mrs. Melissa Lewicki



Mr. John Sullivan, Ms. Harriet Irsay, Mrs. Carol Sadowski, Ms. Lee Miller



Dr. Irena Rytel, Mr. Michael Gastom, Mrs. Carol Ogradnik, Mrs. Lydia Gastom, Ms. Danuta Babut, Mr. Robert Ogradnik, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland, St. Louis, MI, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mrs. Maria Czuliniski



Ms. Jadwiga Gewert, Ms. Jadwiga Garbacik



Mr. Kris Lewicki, Mr. Stanley Cloud, Erik and Travis Lewicki, Mr. David Smock, Ms. Lynne Olson



Dr. Jerome Zwierzycki, Mrs. Patricia Zwierzycki, Patrick Wlodarski, Countess Barbara Pagowska-Cooper, Ms. Jolanta Golec