

40th Annual International Polonaise Ball

A Tribute to
Glorious Poland
Saturday, February 4, 2012



His Eminence Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, President Lech Wałęsa,
Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, His Excellency Archbishop Thomas Wenski

On February 4, 2012, the 40th International Polonaise Ball, "A Tribute to Glorious Poland", organized by the American Institute of Polish Culture and under the auspices of the Ambassador of Poland, was held in Miami.

Following tradition, honored at the Ball were the recipients of Gold Medals, the highest award presented by the Institute, and of Amicus Poloniae, an award presented by the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland. The Lech Wałęsa Media Award was also presented by the legendary leader of Solidarity. Among the honored guests were royalty, ambassadors, businessmen and many other dignitaries.

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the American Institute of Polish Culture, the International Polonaise Ball celebrated the country of which so many are very proud: Poland. In past years, the Institute has paid homage to other nationalities and their friendship with Poland, including France, Mexico, Japan, Greece, Italy, Latin America and Native Americans. But this year highlighted all that makes Poland so magnificent, focusing on the undying Polish spirit which has persevered despite years of occupation.



Presentation of the Lech Wałęsa Media Award:
President Lech Wałęsa,
Mr. Alex Storzynski, President of the Kosciuszko Foundation



Presentation of the Special Recognition:
Countess Barbara Pągowska-Cooper,
Lady Blanka Rosenstiel



Ms. Rita Cosby, Mr. Alex Storzynski,
Dr. Maria Siemionow



Presentation of *Amicus Poloniae*:
Deputy Chief of Mission, Maciej Pisarski, Embassy of the Republic of Poland,
Washington, D.C. Marquisa Maria Alonso, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel,
Marquis Alexander Montague



Mr. Keith Gray,
Mrs. Agnieszka Gray



Countess Barbara Pągowska-Cooper,
Dr. Jan Kulczyk, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel



Ms. Dorota Tomczyk, Mr. Piotr Gulczynski,
President of the Lech Walesa Institute



Dr. Rebecca Friedman,
Dr. Jonathan Mogul



Countess Janelle Cooper
with members of the Polish American Folk
Dance Company



Mr. Mike Skronski,
Ms. Kim Fontaine Skronski



Dr. Charles Drake,
Baron Kimon Andreou



Mr. Paul Landrum, Dean Ken Furton,
Dr. Mark Rosenberg,
President of FIU



Mr. Amedeo Guazzini,
Mrs. Miriam Guazzini



Chancellor Andres Linholm, Royal House of Sulu,
Marquis Alexander Montague, Marquisa Maria Alonso,
Count Antonio De Deus Ramos Ponces De Carvalho,
Marquis Alberto Artur D'Ornellas e Vasconellos Jardim



Chancellor Boniface Benzinge, H.R.H. King Kigeli V of Rwanda, Lady Saba,
H.I.H. Ermias Sahle-Sellase Haile-Selassie, Prince of Ethiopia



Ms. Mariela Cacciotti, Mrs. Teresa Lowenthal,
Mrs. Bettina Rodriguez Aguilera, Father Tomasz Szopa



Mrs. Jadwiga Gewert, General Mieczysław Bieniek, Deputy Supreme
Allied Commander Transformation of NATO in Norfolk, VA
Mrs. Elizabeth Piotrovsky, Mrs. Grażyna Bieniek



Miss Lucia Lowenthal, Mr. Patric Lowenthal, Miss Veronica Parra,
Mr. Raul Duarte, Miss Francesca Lowenthal



Mr. Bob Dickinson, Mrs. Jodi Dickinson,
Mrs. Teresa Lowenthal, Mr. Paul Lowenthal



Mrs. Malgorzata Kon,
Mr. Michael Pagel



Miss Melissa Szwanke, Mr. Ray Szwanke,
Mrs. Lisette Szwanke



Mr. John Frank Velez,
Mrs. Beata Paszyc, Executive Director of AIPC
and Honorary Vice Consul of Poland



Mr. Albert Bednarek, Mr. Bronislaw Bajcar, Ms. Anna Ladowski, Mrs. Monika Bajcar, Mrs. Maria J. Ladowska, Mr. Ludwik Wnekowicz,
Mrs. Anna Figiel, Mr. Marek Figiel, Dr. Renata Cymer



Archbishop Thomas Wenski,
Monsignor Anthony Czarnecki



President Lech Walesa, General Mieczyslaw Bienek, Mrs. Grazyna Bienek



Mr. Waldemar Dowiak,
Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz



Mr. Michael Murray,
Mrs. Nina Młodzinska de Rovira



Mrs. Alicja Iwazkiewicz,
Mr. Lester Brown



The Delegation from Orchard Lake Schools with Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz:
Dr. Edward Martin, Chancellor Tom Machalski , Mr. Orest Melnyk, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, Mrs. Sherril Martin,
Mrs. Connie Nadrowski, Mr. Lawrence Nadrowski, Ms. Patricia Zawadzki



Ms. Kim Fontaine Skronski,
Consul Włodzimierz Sulgostowski



Mrs. Maria Ładowski,
Father Andrzej Pietraszko



Mrs. Christina Kruszewski,
Mr. John Kruszewski



Count Włodzimierz Grocholski,
Ms. Dorota Tomczyk



Board of Directors; The American Institute of Polish Culture:

Mrs. Beata Paszyc, Mr. Steve Karski, Mr. Jacek Schindler, Mr. Jaroslaw Rottermund, Marquis Alexander Montague, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Countess Barbara Pagowska-Cooper, Mrs. Marjorie Sonderling, Mr. Mike Skronski, Mrs. Rose Kruszewski, Mr. Edward Kruszewski, Mrs. Teresa Lowenthal, Mr. Gerald Jaski

The meaning of "Glorious Poland" captures the strong Polish spirit. It is reflected in the complexity of Polish history marked by proud people, noble causes, royal architecture, splendid landscapes, heroic leaders and monumental events. Polish history, culture and tradition are full of extraordinary people, revolutionary inventions, ground-breaking laws, amazing discoveries and events that have changed the shape of the world. Many of those people were ahead of their time. That is a heritage and ethnic group for which we should be proud.

Joining in the celebration were many distinguished guests, representing over 18 countries. Among them, the legendary leader of Solidarity, President Lech Walesa; Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow; Deputy Chief of Mission Maciej Pisarski, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D.C; royal guests including H. R. H. King Kigeli V of Rwanda, and H. I. H. Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie of Ethiopia.

Among members of the Consular Corps were John Petkus, Honorary Consul of Poland in Las Vegas; Victoria London, Honorary Consul of Romania in Miami; Edith Powell, Honorary Consul of Poland in the Bahamas; Krystyna Mikulanka, Honorary Consul of Malta in Poland; and Grace Carvajal, Honorable Consul of Costa Rica.

Honored guests also included world renowned scientists, academics, artists, and many distinguished personalities from the United States and Europe including Polish businessman Dr. Jan Kulczyk who is, according to Forbes, the most affluent person in Poland, General Mieczyslaw Bieniek, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Transformation of NATO in Norfolk, VA, as well as members of the Royal Sultanate of Sulu and the Royal House of Georgia and Portugal.

The Archdiocese of Miami was represented by His Excellency Archbishop Thomas Wenski and many of their employees and priests from various parishes in Miami.

Florida International University, host of the Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland, was proudly represented by President Mark Rosenberg, Dean Ken Furton, Dr. John Stack, Dr. Rebecca Friedman, and Mr. Paul Landrum with their spouses and family members.

Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Douglas Evans, President of Classical South Florida 89.7 FM, introduced the "Guardian Angel" of the Institute, Founder and President, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel. Lady Blanka welcomed guests and spoke of the beginnings of the Institute and how, with her brother, it was a labor of love inspired by her mother.

On behalf of Ambassador Robert Kupiecki, Deputy Chief of Mission Maciej Pisarski presented Lady Blanka a Certificate of Appreciation for her 40 years of outstanding services in promoting Polish culture in America.

After the invocation by Archbishop Wenski, Cardinal Dziwisz conveyed a special message, speaking of his time with Blessed Pope John Paul II and promoting the construction of the "Do Not Be Afraid" Center in Krakow, Poland. The Center is to be a place of remembrance for pilgrims paying homage to the late Pope. During his visit to South Florida, Cardinal Dziwisz held mass in Pompano and West Palm Beach, and talked about the importance of the Center and encouraged people to support and visit it.

The Cardinal presented Lady Blanka with the Pope John Paul II Medal for her continued support and promotion of the legacy of the Blessed John Paul II.

The ceremony continued as Special Recognitions were presented by Lady Blanka. The first was to Countess Barbara Pagowska-Cooper, Vice President of the Institute, for excellence in promoting Polish culture and charitable work for the Polish medical community in the U.S. and medical assistance in Poland.



Countess Janelle Cooper, Ms. Jola Tatara, Dr. Ewa Piacentille, Ms. Maryla Hawelotte



Dr. John Lenczowski, President of IWP



Consul Włodzimierz Sulgostowski, Dr. Jan Kubik, Mrs. Janina Kubik, Father Krzysztof Wieliczko



Ms. Renata Ryan, Mr. Charles Falk



Mrs. Claudine Smurfitt and friends



Mr. Mikolaj Bauer, Mr. Douglas Evans



Mrs. Rose Kruszewski, Ms. Pat Riely,
Mrs. Susan Kruszewski Cox



Dr. Jack Pinkowski,
Mrs. Monica Pinkowski



Dr. Jerome Zwierzycki,
Mrs. Patricia Zwierzycki

The next award went to Rita Cosby for promotion in Poland and Polish culture in mainstream media in the U.S. Ms. Cosby is a renowned Emmy® award winning TV host and veteran correspondent who has anchored highly-rated primetime shows on Fox News and MSNBC. She is also best-selling author of the book, *Quiet Hero: Secrets From My Father*.

Flowers and words of thanks were given to supporters of the Institute - Ruby Bacardi, Jodi and Bob Dickinson, Keith and Agnieszka Gray, Amedeo and Miriam Guazzini, and Paul and Teresa Lowenthal for their continued loyalty and financial contributions.

Lady Blanka invited past and present Board Members of the Institute to the stage, expressing her eternal gratitude for endless support over the past 40 years - Countess Barbara Pagowska-Cooper, Count Wlodzimierz Grochowski, Gerald Jaski, Steven Karski, Rose and Anthony Kruszewski, Teresa Lowenthal, Alex Montague, Jacek Schindler, Count Richard Wilke - Janicki, Mike Skronski, Marjorie Sonderling, and Jaroslaw Rottermund. Lady Blanka also thanked Beata Paszyc, who has been the Director of the Institute for over 12 years, and Melissa Szwanke, Assistant to the President, for their passion, dedication and hard work.

As Board Members stood with Lady Blanka, guests began singing a heartfelt *Sto Lat*, in honor of Lady Blanka and the Institute. As the harmony continued, a birthday cake topped with sparklers was wheeled-out in celebration of the four decades of the Institute.

Next, Marquis Alexander Montague, a member of the Institute's Board of Directors, and his wife Marquisa Maria Alonso, were honored with Amicus Poloniae, presented by Deputy Chief of Mission Maciej Pisarski, on behalf of Ambassador Robert Kupiecki and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D.C., for their outstanding efforts in promoting cooperation between Poland and the United States.

It is a beautiful tradition that each year the formal ceremony of the Ball opens with a 17th century Polish dance - La Polonaise -- a stately proces-

sion by the members of the Committees and distinguished guests. Then the Polish American Folk Dance Company of New York performed traditional dances as guests enjoyed a delectable dinner.

After dinner, President Walesa presented the Lech Walesa Media Award to Alexander Storozynski, president of the Kosciuszko Foundation and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, for raising awareness about Poland in mainstream media. At the podium Mr. Storozynski recalled his research in Poland in the 1980's, when "you could never be too sure who you could talk to and who was listening;" stressing how far we have come since then and how much President Walesa did to shape the modern democratic world. He reminisced on his first meeting with President Walesa and expressed how honored he was to receive such an award from the hands of such an international hero.

Gold Medals, the highest distinction awarded by the Institute, were presented by Lady Blanka to Dr. Maria Siemionow, world-renowned surgeon and Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, former life-long secretary to Blessed Pope John Paul II. In accepting the award, Dr. Siemionow, who led the team of surgeons to complete the first near-total face transplant in the United States and the world, expressed deep gratitude to Lady Blanka for acknowledging the successes of not only Poles, but Polish women in the United States. Dr. Siemionow also commented on the status of Poles in America and on her pride as a Polish woman.

With champagne in hand, Mr. Evans offered a toast, thanking Lady Blanka for promoting Polish culture and heritage of Poland in the US for so many years with undying enthusiasm and unparalleled vision, and congratulating her for doing such an awe-inspiring job educating America about Poland and her people, all with such grand style.

After the formal program, guests filled the dance floor to the music of the Frank Hubbell Orchestra. As the last notes began to wind down, the Polonaise was grandly performed by all guests. And in the early hours of the morning, old and new friends parted ways, with wonderful memories of a glorious evening!



Mrs. Michelle Kurzydowski, Miss Aleksandra Kurzydowski,
Mr. Karol Kurzydowski, Mr. Michal Kurzydowski



Dr. Witold Zajewski, Countess Izabela Budys



Mrs. Marzena Reiff, Mrs. Violetta
Kruszelnicka, Mr. Krzysztof Kruszelnicki



Mr. Janusz Burzynski, Mrs. Frances Burzynski



Mrs. Regina Beaman, Mr. Walter Beaman



Mr. Jon Theobald, Mrs. Dorothy St. Jean



Mrs. Victoria London,
Honorary Consul of Romania,
President Lech Walesa



Countess Barbara Pałowska-Cooper, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Dr. Jan
Kulczyk, Ms. Rita Cosby, General Mieczyslaw Bieniek



Mrs. Sigrid Huth,
Mr. Anthony Kruszewski



Dr. Wojciech Cymer, Dr. Renata Cymer, Mr. Slawomir Szymczak



Mrs. Raquel Jarosz, President Lech Walesa, Mr. Zbigniew Jarosz



Dr. Basil Mangra, Miss Monica Mangra,
Mr. Craig Powell, Mrs. Magdalena Mangra



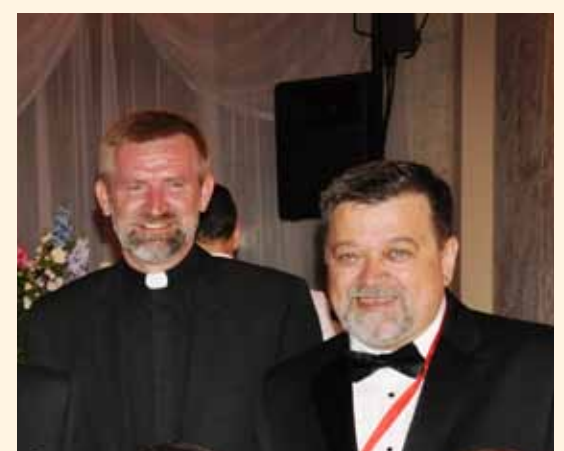
Mrs. Taiko Krzyzanowski, Dr. Marek Chodakiewicz,
Mrs. Mary Lou Rajchel



Mrs. Evelyn Dureiko,
Mr. Joseph Dureiko



The Polish American Folk Dance Company



Father Klemens Dabrowski, Mr. Leszek Ladowski

A Very Special Brunch

Sunday, February 5, 2012

On the morning of Sunday, February 5, 2012, guests of the Ball and Brunch had an opportunity to say goodbye to old and new friends until next year's festivities!

Some had the chance to meet and take photos with President Lech Walesa and Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, Dr. Siemionow, Ms. Rita Cosby, Mr. Alex Storzynski and Lady Blanka.

Entertained by the Polish American Folk Dance Company, guests enjoyed a delicious buffet and some danced to the melodies of Frank Hubbell orchestra.



Mr. Zdzislaw Zielinski, Mrs. Bozena Zielinska, Mrs. Grazyna Bienek, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, General Mieczyslaw Bienek



Dr. Marek Pienkowski, Honorary Consul of Poland in Tennessee, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel



Mrs. Beata Paszyc, Mr. Michel Pawlowski, Ms. Rita La Porta



Mr. Walter Beaman, Mrs. Regina Beaman



Mr. Włodzimierz Siemionow, Dr. Maria Siemionow



Mrs. Edith Powell, Honorary Consul of Poland in the Bahamas, Mr. Tomaczek Bednarek, Ms. Rita Cosby



Ms. Krystyna Mikulanka, Honorary Consul of Malta in Poland, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel



Mrs. Katarzyna Magurie, Mrs. Magdalena Tomasino



Mr. John Petkus, Honorary Consul of Poland in Las Vegas



Mr. Piotr Tabeau, Countess Barbara Pagowska-Cooper



Mrs. Agnieszka Gray, Mr. Keith Gray