

International Polonaise Ball 2002

THE 30TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL POLONAISE BALL



The amicable relationship between Poland and Greece reflects the mutual respect and friendship between their peoples over the course of history.

Greece and history are inseparable. In a Greek museum, one must look closely to tell whether a displayed antiquity is from 800 BC or AD 800.

Socrates was born in 469 BC. Plato (428-347 BC) followed Socrates and taught Aristotle (384-322 BC). Because of these intellectual giants, and many others, Greece also means philosophy, science, ethics, politics, art, poetry and drama.

The amazing kaleidoscope of Greek accomplishments displayed Hellenic ingenuity for 2000 years before Poland was born.

The friendship of Greece and Poland began with trade missions between Byzantium and Poland during the Piast Dynasty. Mieszko II knew Greek. A Greek liturgical prayer is the basis for the oldest Polish song, Bogurodzica.

Greek emigration to Poland began in the 15th century. In 1520 the Greek language began to be taught in the university at Krakow.

The 17th and 18th centuries saw an increased Polish fascination with Greek literature. This was followed by an increase in travel to Greece where the beauty of the islands and the richness of Greek culture attracted Polish artists, poets, writers and nobility. That continued into the 20th century when many Polish intellectuals drew inspiration from travel to Greece and a study of Greek history.

The Greek struggle for independence from the Ottoman Empire (1821-1832) provoked sympathetic reactions across Europe and particularly in Poland, then subjugated and longing for independence from the partitioning countries. Following the lead of Prince Adam Czartoryski, Poles offered Greece soldiers, weapons, money and moral support. This support was repeated during World War II, when many Poles fought in support of Greece and the Polish hero Jerzy Iwanow (Szajnowicz) helped to organize clandestine Greek resistance.

Since World War II, Polish interest in Greece has flourished. During the tragic Greek civil war in 1948 – 52, over 12,000 Greeks immigrated to Poland. Greek schools, cultural clubs and artistic groups promoting music and dance came into existence. Among the more famous of the members of these groups are Paulos Raptis, Eleni Tzoka and Nikos Chadzinikolau.

Today there are vital literary, artistic, trade and scientific exchanges between Poland and Greece. Their close historical ties, their political similarities and their shared reverence for the past help to foster mutual understanding, tolerance and respect.

The earliest record of Greek emigration to the United States was the attempt to establish a colony in New Smyrna, Florida, just before 1800. As was the case with Poles, they came to seek a better life in a land of opportunity. Both Poles and the Greeks brought their culture to America to the great benefit of our country.

 **Letters** **President of the United States****THE WHITE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON February 5, 2002

I am pleased to send warm greetings to those gathered for the 30th International Polonaise Ball hosted by The American Institute of Polish Culture. Special congratulations to tonight's honorees as you receive Gold Medals in recognition of your contributions to society.

One of America's greatest strengths is its diverse population. For centuries, immigrants have come here seeking freedom and opportunity with the hope of finding a better life. As you look back at adversities overcome and great goals attained, you can take pride in your accomplishments and lasting contributions to the success of our Nation.

Your celebration's theme, "Poland and Greece -- Centuries of Social, Diplomatic, and Cultural Ties" recognizes that trust, cooperation, and peace between nations are built on understanding, and that real understanding comes from communication. I commend your organization for its commitment to promote cultural interaction and the development of relationships among leaders and citizens of different countries. I also applaud your efforts to preserve your rich customs and history. By sharing your heritage, you help others to take pride in their roots and to better understand the values and ideals on which the United States was founded.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes on this special occasion.

 **President of the Republic of Poland**

Warsaw, 7 February 2002

Subject: To the Guests and Organizers of the 30th International Polonaise Ball

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to offer you once again the assurances of my warm feelings and my appreciation for the work of the American Institute of Polish Culture. The thirtieth anniversary of your organization is an excellent opportunity to congratulate you on your many successful projects, and to offer heartfelt thanks to the Institute's founder and President, Mrs. Blanka A. Rosenstiel, for her efforts and perseverance. I highly value the Institute's role in promoting Polish culture in the United States, and your contribution to the strengthening of cordial relations between the Polish people and the American people.

This year's International Polonaise Ball celebrates the tradition of friendly ties between the Polish people and the Greek people. The fortunes and works of the many eminent figures of both nations have found a lasting place in the histories of our two countries.

To this day, they continue to stir the imagination and provide inspiration for the successive generations. Today, we enjoy very close mutual relations, and credit for that is due, among others, to American Institute of Polish Culture Gold Medal Recipients: Mrs. Eleni Tzoka and Mr. Nikos Chadzinikolau. Please accept my congratulations on your admirable professional achievements.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you satisfaction at seeing your plans and intentions at the American Institute of Polish Culture fulfilled.

I also wish you good fortune and good health in 2002.


Aleksander Kwasniewski



Ambassador of the Republic of Poland

EMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

Washington, 02.04,2002

Lady Blanka A. Rosenstiel
Prezes
The American Institute of Polish Culture

Dear Madam Consul,

Please, accept my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the *30th Annual International Polonaise Ball*.

Although I cannot personally share with you the joy of this unique evening, I am happy to know that once again - thanks to your creativity and good energy as well as the excellent work of the American Institute of Polish Culture - a lot of Poland's friends will get together to enjoy the atmosphere of this unusual feast of cultures.

I am particularly pleased knowing that this year's Ball celebrates the close historic and cultural ties between Poland and Greece - the country of a great past and promising future, the country of a people who once opened an unexhausted, rich cultural source for other nations and cultures, and who now so dynamically and positively participate in the new structures of a contemporary Europe.

Let me extend my warmest greetings to our Greek friends!

Dear Madam, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for everything that you, personally, and the American Institute of Polish Culture under your leadership have been doing to promote the presence of Polish culture in the US, strengthening, in this beautiful and effective way, the ties of friendship between Poland and America. I am convinced that the 30th International Polonaise Ball dedicated to Greece and celebrated on American soil will create a perfect meeting space for three so close yet different traditions brought together in the very heart of warm and welcoming Florida.

I would like to wish all the participants of the Ball a wonderful and unforgettable evening.

Przemyslaw Grudziński



Ambassador of Greece

MESSAGE BY THE AMBASSADOR OF GREECE MR. ALEXANDER PHILON ON THE OCCASION OF THE 30th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL POLONAISE BALL FEBRUARY 9, 2002, MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

February 9, 2002,
Miami Beach, Florida

It is a great pleasure and a special honour for me to extend my cordial greetings to the distinguished members and guests of the American Institute of Polish Culture on the occasion of the 30th International Polonaise Ball.

This important event constitutes an excellent opportunity to pay tribute to all those who have joined the American Institute of Polish Culture in the noble effort of promoting not only Polish culture, which we all admire, but also the links between cultures that have created in Europe a real cultural space with no borders or limits.

In particular, I would like to express my appreciation to the Institute for its decision to honor Greece at today's event, highlighting the importance of the traditional cultural ties between Greece and Poland. In your program, you have rightly put the focus on some important aspects of these ties.

May I also congratulate you for your presentation of Gold Medals to Professor Nikos Chadzinikolau and Mrs. Eleni Tzoka, both of whom represent our two cultures in ways which make us profoundly proud.

Together with my feelings of deep appreciation and high esteem, I would like to wish wholeheartedly success and prosperity to you all.

Alexander Philon
Ambassador of Greece

 **Archbishop of Miami**

ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI
Office of the Archbishop

February 9, 2002

Dear Lady Rosentiel:

It is my pleasure to extend greetings to all who are participating in the Thirtieth Polonaise Ball, this year honoring the beautiful country of Greece.

In particular, I greet the many distinguished guests from the Polish and Greek civic, diplomatic, religious and business communities. Allow me also to express my sentiments of congratulations to Professor Nikos Chadzinikolau and Mrs Eleni Tzoka whom you honor this evening.

The rich cultural mix found in South Florida is one of our greatest characteristics. Here individuals and families not only preserve their unique cultural practices but also contribute to the beautiful mosaic of peoples which makes up our community. So many of these peoples have roots which can be traced to the classic Greek culture. Its history, arts, theology, literature and scientific discoveries continue to advance human civilization and the progress of peoples everywhere.

May the Lord continue to bless you and all those who share in this year's celebration abundantly. With personal good wishes, I am

Sincerely in the Lord,


Archbishop of Miami

THE 30TH INTERNATIONAL POLONAISE BALL CELEBRATING GREECE AND POLAND CENTURIES OF SOCIAL, DIPLOMATIC AND CULTURAL TIES

by Beata Paszyc

The friendly relationship between Greece and Poland encompasses much history. The mutual respect between these two countries has fostered strong social, cultural and literary ties. The friendship, which started in the 10th century, has flourished throughout the ages and continues today on various levels.

This year the American Institute of Polish Culture celebrates the three decades of its existence. The 30th International Polonaise Ball, in tribute to Greece and Polish-Greek relations was held on February 9, 2002 at the beautiful Wyndham Miami Beach Resort. It began with a lovely cocktail party.

Members of the Polish-American Folk Dance Company from New York wearing 18th century Polish costumes greeted the guests to the Mediterranean Ballroom. The colors of the décor were cream and blue just like the flag of Greece, the emblem of Poland, the gold-crowned white feather eagle proudly hung over the podium, while forsythias on the tables gave the feel of a spring-like joyful atmosphere.

The Ball commenced with the anthems of the United States, Greece and Poland. The Master of Ceremonies, John Wayne, Jr. a well-known singer, opened the Ball. He then read a congratulatory message from President George W. Bush. Mrs. Teresa Janiszewska, Consul of the Republic of Poland read the President of the Republic of Poland Aleksander Kwasniewski's letter. Mrs. Anna Niewiadomska Counselor of Cultural Affairs, delivered a message from the Polish Ambassador Przemyslaw Grudzinski and Ambassador Loucas Tsilas spoke warmly on behalf of the Greek Ambassador Alexander Philon.



**Ambassador and Mrs. Loucas Tsilas, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel,
Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Schietse**

Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mrs. Hariett Irsay and Mrs. Elektra Spillis were the Chairpersons for the Ball. Lady Blanka welcomed everybody to the celebration of the 30th anniversary and the International Polonaise Ball in tribute to Greece and Polish-Greek relations. She also acknowledged the presence of the Board of Directors of the Institute to thank them for their efforts, generosity and support.

The following Directors were present: Mrs. Barbara Cooper and Mr. Roman Cooper, the Honorable Maurice Ferre and Mrs. Mercedes Ferre, Mr. Michael Gastom, Mrs. Harriet Irsay, Mr. Boleslaw Laszewski, Mrs. Ande Lippen, Mr. Edward Kruszewski, Dr.

Tully Patrowicz, Mrs. Ednagene Schofman, Mr. Edmund Sadowski-Vice President, Mr. Michael Skronski and Mr. John Sullivan. It is a tradition that the Ball starts with the Polonaise.

It was led by Lady Blanka Rosenstiel and the Honorable Bogdan Hryniewicz, followed by Ms. Anna Niewiadomska and Mr. Benedict Markowski, Mrs. Eleni Tzoka with Mr. Ares Chadzinikolau, Mrs. Harriet Irsay and John Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Schietse, Dr. and Mrs. Stanislaw Burzynski, Miss Agnieszka Zakreta with Mr. Ignacy Mitera, Mr. and Mrs. Witold Sulimirski to mention a few.



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, The Honorable Bogdan Hryniewicz, Mrs. Anna Niewiadomska; Cultural Attache, Mr. Benedict Markowski

After the dance his Excellency Bishop Tomasz Wenski gave the invocation. During dinner guests enjoyed the artistic program. The Polish American Folk Dance Company of NY performed a White Mazur. The Isadora Duncan Dance Ensemble gave a performance of Valse Brillante to music by Chopin. They also danced Bacchanal, which was to evoke the Maenads, the ancient cult of Greek women who worshipped Dionysus, god of wine and ecstasy, to music by Gluck. The dancers finished with a graceful Southern Roses, waltz by Strauss. Then, Mr. John Wayne Jr. sang some beautiful songs in his golden tenor-baritone voice. All performances were received with great enthusiasm.

Lady Blanka Rosenstiel received proclamations from the Mayor of Dade County Alex Penelas, and the Mayor of the City of Miami Emanuel Diaz.

Super Angels recognized for their heart and generosity were called to the stage: George Batchelor, Stanislaw and Barbara Burzynski, Basia and Roman Cooper, Harriet Irsay, Ande Lippen, Andres and Jane Molina, Peter and Elektra Spillis.

Agnieszka Zakreta, Miss Polonia of the World 2000, presented the flowers.

Consul Teresa Janiszewska and Mrs. Anna Niewiadomska, Counselor of Cultural Affairs, representing the Ambassador of Poland awarded a very special recognition Amicus Poloniae to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Beaman, Mrs. Harriet Irsay, Mrs. Ande Lippen, Mrs. Hanna Saxon for their outstanding efforts to promote development and cooperation between Poland and the United States.

Dr. Tully Patrowicz, who was just appointed by Governor Bush to Florida's Board of Medicine, and with his family celebrated his birthday at the ball, introduced Dr. Henryk Roztoczynski. Dr. Roztoczynski from Chicago, received a special recognition for his

charitable efforts in the field of medicine.

This year Gold Medal recipients were Mrs. Eleni Tzoka for her achievements in the field of entertainment, and Dr. Nikos Chadzinikolau for his promotion of Greek and Polish cultures. Both came from Poland for this occasion.

Eleni is one of the most popular Polish singers who through music promote both cultures all over the world.

Dr. Nikos Chadzinikolau is a great poet, translator, and historian who has had over 100 of his works published. He has devoted his life to promoting Greek culture in Poland and Polish culture in Greece.

Eleni and her band took the stage and sang Greek and Polish songs, which invigorated the guests as they danced happily to the Mediterranean tunes. Dr. Chadzinikolau proved to be a talented dancer and gave us a performance reminiscent of the dance by Anthony Quinn in "Zorba the Greek". The guests danced the night away, and left with a new awareness and appreciation for Polish and Greek cultures.

There was a warm atmosphere at the Ball enjoyed by all the guests many of whom traveled long distances; Dr. Nikos Chadzinikolau, Ms. Eleni Tzoka and Mr. Ares Chadzinikolau from Poland; Ambassador Loucas and Mrs. Tsilas, Ms. Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska the Consul of Poland from New York; Ms. Teresa Janiszewska, Consul of Poland, Ms. Anna Niewiadomska, the Counselor for Cultural Affairs from the Embassy of Poland in Washington DC; the Honorable Chester Hryniewicz, the Honorary Consul of Poland in Puerto Rico; the Honorable Stanley Balzekas, the Honorary Consul of Lithuania; Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Schietse from Monaco; Dr. and Mrs. Stanislaw Burzynski, Dr. and Mrs. Ted Darocha from Texas. Mr. and Mrs. Roman Cooper from Chicago brought 36 of their friends including:

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kotaba, Mr. Krzysztof Kurczaba and Ms. Jolanta Lorente, Dr. and Mrs. Henryk Roztoczynski, Dr. Anna Szpindor-Watson and Mr. John Watson, Miss Agnieszka Zakreta; from Ohio, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Partyka, Mr. Andrzej Pawlikowski and the Szalek family from San Francisco; from Washington DC Drs. Christopher and Maria Michejda, Mr. and Mrs. Ethan Burke; Professor Marek Chodakiewicz from Virginia, Ms. Anna and Katarzyna Karkowska from New York. From Miami, the Honorable and Mrs. Maurice Ferre, and representatives of the Greek community, Dr. and Mrs. Jerzy Kyparisis, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Prevolis Mr. and Mrs. Peter Spillis, Mr. and Mrs. John Scurtis and many more.



**FRONT TO BACK: Ms. Agnieszka Zakreta, Mr. Ignacy Mitera,
Dr. and Mrs. Tadeusz Darocha, Barbara Burzynski**

This elegant and prestigious Ball honoring Polish-Greek relations was an unforgettable evening of exquisite company, delicious food, and delightful entertainment and dancing.

A VERY SPECIAL BRUNCH WITH MUSIC AND DANCING

A Sunday brunch was held on February 10th, 2002 in the Starlight Room. This was another lovely event with 200 people attending. The guests could not only enjoy the delicious food but also experience a rich artistic program.

The Polish American Dance Company performed Krakowiak. Next, Mr. Ares Chadzinikolau performed on the piano his own compositions. In his music he incorporates the melodies of both Poland and Greece thus giving his music a new dimension. He also improvised his impressions of Miami. This mini recital of Ares who is also a poet, a writer and a painter was received with a standing ovation. Afterwards Karkowska Sisters Duo with Anna playing violin and Katarzyna the piano gave a performance featuring music of Chopin and Wieniawski and interjecting bits of information about the composers, their work and life. This was a great recital, applauded by all. Finally Eleni sang a couple of songs which sunny yet often reflective mood was very suited for the occasion. After that the Frank Hubbell orchestra played for dancing.

The brunch was both educational and enjoyable. It was a delightful combination of fun, entertainment, music and dancing.