

# YULETIDE CHEER

The American Institute of Polish Culture and the Chopin Foundation of the United States ended another busy and successful year with their annual Christmas party on December 20, 2016. Over 80 people attended - members, contributors, volunteers, supporters and other long time friends. There were also a few new faces who we hope will become members and make our celebration part of their yearly yuletide cheer.

Ms. Maria Blacha prepared a feast for the party, with delicate Polish style sandwiches, a variety of cheeses, and platters of fruits and sweets, all accompanied by delicious red, white and rose wines. After Lady Blanka Rosenstiel thanked everyone for

coming, and Beata Paszyc and Jadwiga Gewert talked a bit about the Institute and Foundation, a gifted young pianist, Alejandra Sarmiento, played three fantastic piano pieces. At only 11 years old, there is no doubt that she has quite a future ahead of her as a musician of exceptional talent.

Then it was on to the raffle - books, piano CD's, a Rafal Olbinski poster and a few bottles of Chopin vodka inspired guests to participate which helped us to raise funds for our organizations. The party ended with several guests happily singing Polish carols and encouraging Lady Blanka to do a solo. What a wonderful time!



Singing Christmas carols



Mr. Irving Fourchard, Mrs. Beata Paszyc



Mr. Ariel Garcia, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Ms. Eldris de la Torre, Ms. Ursula Zolnierski, Mrs. Teresa Szczpanek