

The American Institute of Polish Culture, Inc.

Mrs. Blanka A. Rosenstiel founded the American Institute of Polish Culture (AIPC) in 1972 as a non-profit, tax-exempt Florida Corporation. The aims of the Institute are twofold -- first, to share with Americans the rich heritage of Poland, which has contributed in so many ways to the history of the U.S., and second, to promote the scientific, educational and artistic contributions of Polish-Americans. For over forty years our endeavors have received support from our members, donors, the enthusiastic participation of other ethnic groups in the community, and the friendly cooperation of the press, all of which have helped to strengthen our leading role in the cultural life of the community. We will continue being a catalyst in promoting knowledge about Poland and Polish-Americans nationwide. Ongoing programs include:

Each year, the **Harriet Irsay Scholarship**, established in 1992, awards ten to fifteen talented students \$1,000 grants each. All majors and areas of study are considered and many applicants are of Polish descent. AIPC has awarded close to \$300,000 in grants to worthy students over the last two decades.

In 1998, the Institute spearheaded the establishment of the **Kościuszko Chair of Polish Studies** at the University of Virginia, for research and education and sponsorship of visiting scholars. In 2008, the Chair moved to the Institute of World Politics in Washington, D.C.

AIPC has sponsored dozens of lectures at educational facilities throughout the years. As a result of four decades of collaboration with Florida International University (FIU) the **Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland** was established there in Miami in 2010. Lecture themes have included globalization, art, music, politics and economics. AIPC also established the ongoing lecture series at CREES (Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies) at the University of Virginia in 2005.

The annual **International Polonaise Ball** serves as the main fundraiser for the Institute and is attended by guests from around the world. Each year themes explore the cultural ties between Poland and other countries, such as Spain, India, Greece, Japan, Great Britain, Argentina, and Brazil. Gold Medals recipients have included President Lech Walesa; Dr. Andrew Schally, Nobel Prize laureate in medicine; James Michener, author; Senator Barbara Mikulski; David Ensor, war correspondent and journalist; and Professor Norman Davies, historian.

Film: Polish film is a growing presence in international moviemaking, and AIPC helps to foster that growth in the U.S. by bringing contemporary Polish filmmakers and their work to Miami in collaboration with International film Festivals. Many of the films have won major awards and some were screened for the first time in the U.S.

Art: The Institute has long been a champion of fine and contemporary Polish and Polish-American art, and has sponsored and organized several solo and group shows. For example, our historical exhibit, *Perspektywa Polska*, traveled nationwide to museums, universities for over 25 years.

Publications: AIPC has translated and published many books including the five volume history of Poland, *Saga of a Nation* written by Pawel Jasienica and translated by Alexander Jordan, and the rare *Accomplished Senator* by Wawrzyniec Grzymala Goslicki (1530-1607). Our annual magazine, *Good News*, is distributed to members and friends, and the Institute houses a library with books in both Polish and English. Publications are also available online, www.ampolinstitute.org

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