

International Polonaise Ball 2001

THE 29TH INTERNATIONAL "POLONAISE" BALL



The 29th International Polonaise Ball organized by the American Institute of Polish Culture (AIPC), founded by Lady Blanka Rosenstiel in 1972, paid tribute to the friendship between Great Britain and Poland throughout the centuries. Polish-British relations date back to 1015 and stretched through various stages of history. In the 14th century a colony of English merchants settled in Gdansk and in the 17th century the Scots built the Shakespearean Theater there. During the dark days of World War II, Polish and British troops fought together against the Nazis. Sir Winston Churchill said once about the Polish air fighters in the Battle of Britain: "Never ...was so much owed by so many to so few." It was some of the harsher moments of history, which proved the real friendship between the two countries. After Poland gained independence in 1989, Queen Elizabeth II and the Prince of Wales visited Poland and spoke warmly about their common history. In more recent times, Great Britain helped tremendously in promoting Poland to NATO and is now supporting Poland in its endeavors to become part of the European Union.

The 29th International Polonaise Ball entitled "Great Britain and Poland – Centuries of Friendship and Admiration", was held on January 27, 2001 at the beautiful Wyndham Miami Beach Resort.

It started with a lovely cocktail party sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Roman Cooper, Mr. Waldemar Dowiak and Mrs. Harriet Irsay. The guests arrived elegantly attired; ladies wearing beautiful dresses, and men wearing tuxedos. Everyone looked attractive, radiant and ready to enjoy a delightful evening. All the guests passed down the receiving line where Mrs. Ande Lippen's committee warmly welcomed them to cocktails while piano and bagpipe music alternated for their enjoyment.



Mrs and Mr. Winston Churchill



**HM Consul and
Mrs. Robin Baylis**

Many of the guests traveled long distances to attend the Ball, including from England; Mr. and Mrs. Winston Churchill (the grandson of Sir Churchill), the Honorable Celia Sandys (the granddaughter of Sir Churchill), Lord and Lady Belhaven and Stanton, Countess Monika von Habsburg, Mr. and Mrs. Ian Hamilton, Mrs. Elzbieta Rummel-Rogerson, and the American Institute of Polish Culture Gold Medal Recipient Count Adam Zamoyski; from Monaco Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Schietse; from Poland Slawomir Urbaniak – Under Secretary of State, movie director Mr. Jerzy Hoffman; from Chicago Mr. and Mrs. Roman Cooper; from New York Mr. and Mrs. Janusz Glowacki; Mrs. Harriet Irsay from Winnetka, Illinois; Mr. and Mrs. Chester Partyka, Mr. and Mrs. Thad Cooke with friends from Ohio; Dr. and Mrs. Ted Darocha from Texas; Mr. Andrzej Pawlikowski from San Francisco; from Washington DC Mr. and Mrs. Walter Zachariasiewicz. From Miami, HM Consul Robin and Mrs. Baylis and representatives of British community. Mrs. Ann Andersen and Mr. Duncan Simmonds MBE, were assisting and also participated in the Ball.

When the door to the Grand Ballroom opened, members of the Polish-American Folk Dance Company from New York wearing 17th century Polish costumes greeted the guests. The room was beautifully decorated; the gold-crowned white feather eagle proudly hovered over the podium, and the ceiling was draped in pink swags, with little lights and feathers. The pink light and gorgeous flower arrangements gave the Ballroom a soft and warm atmosphere.

Mr. Duncan Simmonds, MBE, the Master of Ceremonies, opened the Ball with the anthems of the United States, United Kingdom and Poland. Congratulatory messages from President George W. Bush and President of the Republic of Poland Aleksander Kwasniewski as well as the Polish and British Ambassadors were presented.

It is a tradition that the Ball starts with the Polonaise danced by some of the distinguished guests. This year the music was from the movie Pan Tadeusz by Andrzej Wajda, a Polish movie director, and the recipient of an Oscar for his life long achievements in directing.



**Mrs.H. Irsay and
Mr. J. Sullivan**

Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, with Mr. Slawomir Urbaniak, Under Secretary of State from Poland, led the dance. Lord and Lady Belhaven and Stanton, HM Consul and Mrs. Robin Baylis, the Honorable and Mrs. Miroslaw Sawicki, Mrs. Harriet Irsay and John Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Beaman, Mr. and Mrs. Roman Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Haciski, and Mr. and Mrs. Tully Patrowicz followed them. It was a stately procession of couples who moved gracefully to the beautiful music.



**Lady Belhaven and Stanton,
Bishop Wenski, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel**

Then, his Excellency Bishop Tomasz Wenski gave the invocation. At this point, a delicious dinner was served. Soon the Polish American Folk Dance Company of NY under the artistic direction of Mr. Daniel Dziadura, entertained the guests. They began with a Mazur, and later throughout the evening performed English Country dances in original folk costumes followed by the Polish dance Krakowiak.

Lady Blanka Rosenstiel received proclamations from the Mayor of Dade County Alex Penelas, and the Mayor of the City of Miami Joe Corollo. Both proclamations stated that January 27th, 2001 was a Day of the American Institute of Polish Culture. The Mayors asked all to join them in saluting the American Institute of Polish Culture for its lasting contribution to society.

Mr. Adam Alexander, Doctor of Musical Arts, University of Miami, a pianist who has performed and recorded throughout Europe, Canada and The United States, entertained guests by playing Polonaise in A flat Major op.53 by Fryderyk Chopin. It was received with great enthusiasm.

Each year the AIPC awards Gold Medals for outstanding achievements. This year the recipients were the last President of the Republic of Poland in Exile Ryszard Kaczorowski, for helping to shape the modern history of Poland, and Count Adam Zamoyski for outstanding achievements in literature. President Kaczorowski, after fighting during the WW II under General Anders, chose a hard life in exile rather than living in occupied Poland and was very active in the exile movement. He is still sought after as a symbol of the liberty for which Poland fought so hard. President Kaczorowski could not come to Miami, but in his conversations and letters to Lady Blanka, expressed his gratitude and appreciation for this award. Mrs. Basia Kaczmarowska-Hamilton, recently delivered the Gold Medal to him in London, at a gathering of distinguished guests, amongst whom was Prince Michael of Kent.



**The Hon. Celia Sandys and
Count Adam Zamoyski**

Count Adam Zamoyski, who came from London to Miami to receive the Gold Medal Award, is a prolific writer, historian and linguist. He has authored many books including novels, such as The Battle for the

Marchlands, Paderewski, Chopin, The Polish Way, and The Forgotten Few (The Polish Air Force in the WW II). He is well known for his philanthropic work and spends countless hours working to support a wide variety of Polish causes. In his speech Count Adam Zamoyski said that it is important to share and propagate the knowledge and culture of Poland through books, lectures and cultural events. He also said he was honored to be recognized by the American Institute of Polish Culture.



**Lady Blanka Rosenstiel
& Mr. Slawomir**

The distinguished guests from England were presented with flowers, and Mr. Slawomir Urbaniak, the Under Secretary of State gave an interesting speech on Polish-British relations focusing on the most recent cooperation between the two countries.

After the official part of the Ball, people filled the dance floor and danced the night away to the music of the Frank Hubbell Society Orchestra. The Ball ended with a Polonaise dance in which both guests and the Polish American Folk dancers participated.

The guests left with a new awareness and appreciation for Polish culture. This elegant and prestigious Ball honoring Polish-British 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.