You are cordially invited
to the 40th Annual

International
Polonaise Ball
A Tribute to

Glorious Poland

in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of
The American Institute of Polish Culture
promoting Polish heritage in the U.S.

Gala Dinner Dance
Saturday, the fourth of February
the year two thousand and twelve
at seven o’clock, p.m.
the Grand Ballroom

Surf Club
9011 Collins Avenue
Surfside, FL 33154

“Polonaise” by the Members of the Committees

Entertainment
Music for Dancing

White or Black Tie, Regalia

R.S.V.P.
Under the gracious patronage of
the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Washington D.C.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kupiecki

Special Guests
President and Mrs. Lech Wałęsa
His Eminence Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz

Royal Guests
H. R. H. King Kigeli V of Rwanda
H. R. H. Duke Dom Duarte Pio de Braganca
H. R. H. Raja Muda Muedzul Lail Tan Kiram of Sulu
H. I. H. Prince Ermiyas Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie of Ethiopia
H. I. H. David Bagrationi of Moukhrani, Royal House of Georgia
Marquis Alberto Ornellas de Vasconcellos
Count Ponce de Leon

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Honorable and Mrs. Zbigniew Brzeziński
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Mr. Rafał Olbiński
Mrs. Barbara Kaczmarowska-Hamilton
Mr. Rafał Olbiński

Mrs. Marjorie Sonderling
Mrs. Dorothy St. Jean
Mr. Włodzimierz Sulgostowski
Mr. John Wayne, Jr.

Lady Blanka Aldona Rosenstiel
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Colonna-Walewski Montague
and Marquise Maria Alonso Montague
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Mrs. Marjorie Sonderling
Mrs. Dorothy St. Jean
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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 any ethnic group should be proud of.

Among others, in 1430, Poland introduced a law, Neminem Captivabimus, guaranteeing that no one would be arrested without due process. It pre-dated England’s Habeas Corpus (1679) by nearly 250 years.

Poland’s Nihil Novi constitution of 1505 mandated that “nothing new” would be undertaken in the nation without the consent of the ruled (i.e., the Polish parliament). In America, it translates as “No taxation without representation.”

Poland’s Liberum Veto was a legal device to ascertain that the majority would not tyrannize a minority, even a minority of one. A single deputy could interrupt the parliamentary deliberations and invalidate them legally with a single dissenting vote if he felt individual freedom was threatened. What is amazing is that no one abused the law for nearly 200 years.

Poland has long respected its minorities. In 1573, the Polish parliament passed the law of the Confederation of Warsaw, which guaranteed freedom of religion to everyone, including non-Christians. The Jews, Tatars, Armenians and Scots enjoyed a virtual autonomy.

The Polish parliament, the Sejm, evolved out of medieval ducal and royal councils and is one of the oldest institutions of this kind in the world. It was the Sejm that undertook much needed reforms in the middle of the 18th century. The world’s first Department of Education resulted: The National Education Commission; and, then, the world’s second written basic law: The Constitution of May 3rd, 1791.

For the next century or so, the Poles rebelled periodically, invoking their ancient rights and the universal slogan: “For your freedom and ours!” And they never relented until victory and restoration of free Poland in 1918.

The Poles not only bravely won their freedom after 123 years of occupation, but they diligently rebuilt their country which had been woefully underdeveloped by the partitioning powers and utterly devastated by the First World War. The Sejm immediately introduced an eight hour working day and granted voting rights to women.

The nation’s intellectual endeavor was second to none. One only needs to mention the Polish Mathematical School which gave the world the secret of the Enigma, which was Poland’s most tangible contribution to the Allied victory in the Second World War. Additionally, Poles contributed to the hydrogen bomb, which protected the US during the Cold War. Poles heroically fought Germans and Russians in the war. Even during the Communist Regime imposed after the war in 1945, Poland continued to fight for freedom until the fall of the Eastern Bloc, thanks to the efforts of Pope John Paul II, who inspired mankind, and Lech Walesa and “Solidarity” which inspired freedom fighters around the world.

Poland is now a modern democracy with a stable market economy. Part of NATO and the EU, Poland is still forging new paths.
The meaning of “Glorious Poland” encapsulates the 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.

Poland, one of the largest countries in Europe, is situated in the heart of the continent. Poland's capital, Warsaw, and its largest cities are attractive vacation destinations for those interested in history and cultural heritage. Despite heavy destruction during WWII, Poland has many world-class sites, including 19 UNESCO World Heritage sites in 13 categories. Among these sites are the city centers of Warsaw, Kraków, Toruń and Zamość; the Wieliczka Salt Mine; and the world's largest medieval castle built in Malbork by the Teutonic Knights.
Brilliant Minds

A countless number of Poles have contributed to the development of Poland and the Western world. Many of these brilliant minds were ahead of their time. Their accomplishments have been in fields including astronomy, chemistry, engineering, music, art, literature and world peace.

“One national characteristic that all Poles seem to share, no matter what their era, social origin, or intellectual level, is a spirit of curiosity and restlessness that makes them unable to accept any limitations on their own possibilities that they do not voluntarily impose on themselves.”

W.S. Kuniczak

Mikołaj Kopernik (1473-1543)
Astronomer; the first to put forward a theory of the Solar System.

Tadeusz Kościuszko (1746-1817)
A great freedom fighter of his era for Poland and Revolutionary America; designed the fortifications for West Point.

Ignacy Łukasiewicz (1822-1882)
Constructed the first kerosene lamp and in 1856 founded the first oil refinery in the world.

Tadeusz Kościuszko (1746-1817)
A great freedom fighter of his era for Poland and Revolutionary America; designed the fortifications for West Point.

Fryderyk Chopin (1810-1849)
The greatest romantic Polish pianist and composer.

Construction of a “telectroscope”, which was a simple prototype of the television.
President Lech Wałęsa
(born 1943)

Wisława Szymborska
(born 1923)

Stanisław Ulam
(1909 – 1984)

Renowned mathematician who participated in the Manhattan project, America’s experiments with the Hydrogen bomb in WWII.

Virtuoso pianist, composer, politician, the first Prime Minister of independent Poland after WWI.

The only woman to receive two Nobel prizes in two sciences: Physics (1903) and Chemistry (1911).

John Paul II was Pope from October 16, 1978 until his death on April 2, 2005.

The pontificate of John Paul II has been characterized by an openness to dialogue with the world at large. He was the first pontiff in the history of the Roman Catholic Church to hold prayer meetings with representatives of all religions.

He opened up a dialogue with followers of Judaism. He made close to 100 visits (‘pilgrimages’) to countries all over the world, many times to Poland.

His first visit to Poland in June 1979 provided inspiration for the people who afterwards founded the Solidarity movement, leading to the fall of Communism.

John Paul II, Karol Wojtyła (1920-2005)

Ignacy Jan Paderewski
(1860-1941)

Maria Curie-Skłodowska
(1867-1934)

Joseph Conrad
(1857-19254)

The only woman to receive two Nobel prizes in two sciences: Physics (1903) and Chemistry (1911).

Theoretical physicist. Nobel Prize laureate in Physics (1963)

Czesław Miłosz
(born 1911-2004)

Wisława Szymborska
(born 1923)

Pope John Paul II, Karol Wojtyła (1920-2005)

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Wisława Szymborska
(born 1923)

President Lech Wałęsa
(born 1943)

Warsaw Uprising 1944
The greatest civil resistance movement against Nazi Germany in WWII. Over 250,000 killed in 63 days.

Modern Poland
Since 1989, Poland is a modern democracy with a stable market economy, part of NATO and the EU.
The American Institute of Polish Culture presents

**Gold Medal Awards**

**His Eminence**
Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz

and

**Dr. Maria Siemionow**
for outstanding achievements in the field of medicine

The Gold Medals will be presented by Lady Blanka Rosenstiel
at the 40th International Polonaise Ball

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**Special Recognition**
presented to

**Countess Barbara Pągowska-Cooper**
for excellence in promoting Polish culture
and charitable work for the Polish medical community in the U.S
and medical assistance in Poland

**Rita Cosby**
for promotion of Polish history and culture in the media

The awards will be presented by Lady Blanka Rosenstiel
at the 40th International Polonaise Ball
The Lech Walesa Media Award

presented to

Alexander Storozynski
President, Kościuszko Foundation
Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist
for raising awareness about Polish culture and history
in mainstream media in the U.S.

The award will be presented by President Lech Wałęsa
at the 40th International Polonaise Ball

Amicus Poloniae

Robert Kupiecki
the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland
to the United States, awards the Amicus Poloniae

to

Alexander Montague and Maria Alonso

for their outstanding efforts to promote development
and cooperation between Poland and the United States

The award will be presented the Ambassador
at the 40th International Polonaise Ball