



# The 42<sup>nd</sup> International Polonaise Ball

## Argentina & Poland in Love with Tango

Saturday, February 1, 2014



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, President Lech Walesa, Mrs. Dorota Schnepf, Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mr. Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski,  
Mrs. Maria Teresa Carrizo Sliva



Pres. Lech Walesa, Mr. Andrew Nagorski, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel

The 42nd International Polonaise Ball organized by The American Institute of Polish Culture and under the patronage of Ryszard Schnepf, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, was held in historic Eden Roc Hotel in Miami Beach on February 1, 2014. The Ball was a celebration of *Argentina & Poland In Love with Tango* and brought over 380 guests together from all over the world including Argentina, Canada, Germany, Poland, Scotland and the U.S. The Eden Roc's Promenade Ballroom sparkled with hundreds of lights and yards of gauzy chiffon. A feathered Polish white eagle with white and red fabric swags



Amb. Ryszard Schnepf, Dr. Mark Rosenberg, Pres. Lech Walesa,  
Mr. Nabil Achkar

and a yellow Argentine sun with white and blue swags framed the stage, where the Frank Hubbell Orchestra played beloved dance tunes and smooth jazz melodies.

It is a tradition that the Ball is opened by the stately Polonaise dance with Lady Blanka Rosenstiel and President Lech Walesa leading a procession of distinguished guests. At its conclusion, the official segment of the Ball began with a welcome speech by Lady Blanka in which she asked the guests to begin preparing for a special Ball celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Institute.



Mr. Gregory Fyrc, Mr. Leszek Ladowski, Countess Barbara Pagowska Cooper, Dr. Damian Valenzuela Mayer, Mrs. Agnieszka Gray, Mr. Keith Gray, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Marquisa Maria Alonso, Marquise Alexander Montague, Mrs. Teresa Lowenthal, Mr. Paul Lowenthal, Mrs. Emma Algarra, Count Rodney Hildebrandt, Count Matthew Meehan





Mr. Paul Landrum, Mrs. Karen Landrum,  
Mrs. Debby Furton, Provost Kenneth Furton



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mr. Jan Karaszewski  
with Polanie dancers



Dr. John Stack, Mrs. Nancy Stack Savoie,  
Ms. Emily Gresham, Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Mr. Pedro Botta



Mr. Kamil Blaszcak, Mrs. Cheryl Schindler,  
Mr. Jacek Schindler



Mr. Douglas Evans, Ms. Carol Jaeger,  
Mr. Mikolaj Bauer, Ms. Ewa Osiovy



Mr. Soloman Yakoby, Mrs. Lana Yakoby,  
Mr. Zygmunt Staszewski

Next, the Ambassador of Poland awarded Amicus Polonaie for outstanding efforts to promote cooperation between Poland and the U.S. One was given to Mr. Nabil Achkar, Secretary of the Consular Corps in Miami and First Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Interaudi Bank, who said in Polish, "Long Live Poland" ("Niech zyje Polska") and the other to Dr. Mark Rosenberg, the President of Florida International University. Both gentlemen share a passion for service to the community-at-large, and a desire to ensure that Florida continues to embrace many diverse cultures and people.



Mr. Daniel Higuera, Ms. Eva Marina Ovejero,  
Dr. Damian Valenzuela Mayer



Dr. Witold Zajewski,  
Lady Blanka Rosenstiel



Mr. Henrique Vollmer, Mrs. Helene Vollmer,  
Mrs. Juan-Leigh Meyer Grocholski, Mr. Gabriel Grocholski



Mrs. Valeria Rosenbloom, Dr. Dipnarine Maharaj,  
Dr. Jacqueline Gouvea



Seated: Ms. Victoria Golden, Mrs. Euphrosyne N. Parker  
Standing: Dr. Ashby Moncure, Mr. Ryszard Lewinski



Mr. Piotr Gulczynski,  
Mrs. Katarzyna Gulczynski



Mr. Jordi Verite,  
Mrs. Alex Verite



Mrs. Agnieszka Gray, Mr. Keith Gray,  
Mrs. Inga Luksza Senis, Honorary Consul  
John Petkus



Ms. Maria Cruz,  
Mr. Michael Antczak





Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Governor Charlie Crist,  
Pres. Lech Walesa



Seated: Mrs. Carmen Cason,  
Deputy Consul Gustavo Terrera  
Standing: Mayor Jim Cason of Coral Gables



Consul Pawel Pietrasienski, Consul Ewa Pietrasienska,  
Ms. Elzbieta Golebiewska, Hon. Consul John Petkus



Mr. Thomas Gallinar,  
Ms. Luccia Lowenthal



Mrs. Barbara Muze, Mrs. Jadwiga Gewert, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel,  
Mrs. Beata Paszyc, Ms. Lynne Schaefer



Amb. Ryszard Schnepf,  
Mrs. Dorota Schnepf



Mr. Juan Avila, Dr. Ewa Jachimowicz,  
Dr. Tomasz Osolkowski



Mr. Ali Torabi, Countess Brigitte Cooper, Mrs. Agnieszka Gray, Mr. Keith Gray, Countess  
Barbara Pagowska Cooper, Ms. Renata Lobodzinski, Countess Izabella Budys,  
Countess Janelle Cooper



Ms. Nina Mlodzinska de Rovira,  
Mr. Allen Bozek



Hon. Consul Marek Pienkowski  
with a Polanie dancer



Mrs. Maggie Villacampa,  
Mr. Jorge Villacampa



Marquisa Maria Alonso,  
Marquise Alexander Montague



Mr. Mike Skronski,  
Ms. Kim Fontaine-Skronski

Photography: Gort Productions, Betty Alvarez





Seated: Ms. Isabell Wnekowicz, Dr. Krystyna Wnekowicz, Dr. Janina Styperek, Mrs. Wioletta Imber  
 Standing: Mr. William Wnekowicz, Dr. Januariusz Styperek, Dr. Ludmila Wrobel, Mr. Ludwik Wnekowicz, Mr. Victor Imber, Dr. Jerzy Wrobel



Seated: Ms. Lynne Schaefer, Mrs. Barbara Muze, Mrs. Anna Lukaszek-Guerrero  
 Standing: Prof. Stanislaw Wnuk, Mrs. Elzbieta Wnuk, Mrs. Jadwiga Gewert, Dr. Maria Sarach-Kozlowski, Mr. Janusz Kozlowski, Mrs. Joanne Wiela, Mr. Ignacio Guerrero, Mrs. Katarzyna Zielinski, Mr. Douglas Evans



Seated: Ms. Agnieszka Konsorska, Countess Izabella Budys, Ms. Renata Lobodzinski, Mrs. Viola Kruszelnicki, Dr. Renata Cymer  
 Standing: Mr. Jacek Tataro, Dr. Jolanta Tataro, Mr. Krzysztof Kruszelnicki



Ms. Gabriela Goodrich, Mrs. Krystyna Nagorski, Mr. Andrew Nagorski, Dr. Alma Kadragic, Dr. Maria Michejda, Ms. Katarzyna Zawitkowska



Seated: Mr. James J. Klein, Ms. Bianka Ukleja, Mr. Carlos Enrique Sanches, Ms. Ania Navas  
 Standing: Mrs. Anna Ukleja, Dr. Andrzej Ukleja



Ms. Lucia Puentes, Mr. Aldo Martin, Ms. Ann Centurion, Mr. Rafael Portuondo, Ms. Francesca Lowenthal, Mr. Randy Shaw



Seated: Mrs. Margorzata Woo, Ms. Helena Kolenda, Mr. Richard Merwin, Mrs. Slibicki  
 Standing: Mr. Marek Chojnacki, Ms. Ewa Osioy



Mrs. Jadwiga Lobrow, Mr. Chester Lobrow, Countess Cheryl d'August, Count Andrew d'August, Dr. Ania Pasck-Lobrow, Dr. Tomasz Lobrow



Baron Cyril Woods, Ms. Helve Massakas, Dame Lorna Woods, Judge E. Wayne Bachus

The Gold Medals, the highest honor bestowed by the Institute, went to two outstanding individuals. Mrs. Maria Teresa Carrizo Sliva, a prima ballerina from Argentina who married a fellow dancer of Polish descent, has given her expertise and love of dance to countless performers and groups throughout the world. She founded the very successful company, New Century Dance Company in Miami, and her choreography continues to inspire and excite audiences with its artistry, vibrancy and originality.

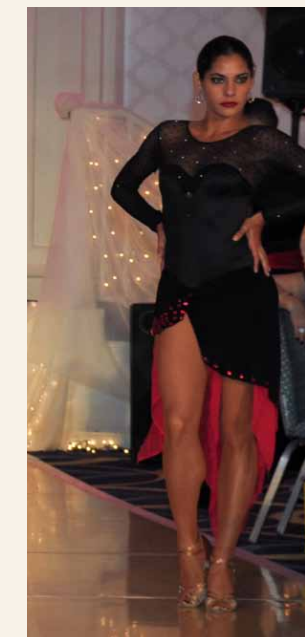
Mr. Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski, born and educated in Poland, eventually settled in the U.S., where his long career as a civil/industrial engineer with over 50 patents to his credit have



Argentinian Malambos performers

earned him the highest honors in his chosen fields. He is a prolific writer of Polish and European history, author of several atlases, an accomplished lexicographer, and his editorials, columns and reviews have appeared in hundreds of publications throughout the world.

The Lech Walesa Media Award was presented personally by the legendary Solidarity leader to author Mr. Andrew Nagorski for his dedication to the cause of freedom and writing about Poland's history and culture. As the senior editor of *Newsweek* from 2000 to 2008, Nagorski handled the expansion of the news magazine to several countries, including *Newsweek Polska* in 2001. In 2011, Poland's President Bronislaw Komorowski



Tango dancers of the New Century Dance Company





Seated: Mr. Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski,  
Mrs. Magdalena Pogonowski  
Standing: Mr. Wojciech Putz, Mrs. Dorota Pogonowski-Henne



Malambo performers with Lady Blanka Rosenstiel,  
Mrs. Beata Paszyc



Mr. Piotr Nowak, Ms. Marta Lefik, Mr. Donald Hyun  
Kiolbassa, Ms. Kinga Plich, Mr. Grzegorz Dąbek



Mr. Thomas Ross,  
Countess Entrude de Suiza



Mrs. Maria Teresa Carrizo Sliva  
and family



Baron Jason Psaltides, Mr. Nabil Achkar  
Mr. John Orietta, Mrs. Hoda Orietta



Ms. Katarzyna Kardas, Mr. Phil Sauer,  
Ms. Cheryl Model, Cpt. Danny Kipnis



Dr. Marek Chodakiewicz,  
Ms. Francesca Graham



Seated: Mr. Steve Karski, Mrs. Barbara Tomkowska, Ms. Sonia Tomkowska,  
Mr. Zdzislaw Wieckowski  
Standing: Mr. Robert Niziol, Mr. Zbigniew Slabicki, Mr. Slawomir Tomkowski



Mrs. Frances Burzynski,  
Mr. Janusz Burzynski

awarded him the Cavalier's Cross for his reporting from Poland about the Solidarity movement.

A Special Recognition was also given to Dr. Witold Zajewski, a family practitioner in the Chicago area, for his ongoing support, medical care giving and charitable contributions to the Polish-American community.

During the dinner, which was an homage to traditional Argentinian grill with the delicious wines supplied by Mr. Damian Valenzuela-Mayer of the Latin American Invest Corp of Argentina, the guests were treated to remarkable performances by the New Century Dance Company. Seductive and dramatic tangos depicting old-as-time stories of love won and lost were skillfully choreographed and danced especially for the Ball in honor of the love Poland and Argentina have for this passionate dance. That some of the dancers were Mrs. Carrizo Sliva's children was an extra special touch.

Guests were then treated to rousing malambos performed by two "gauchos," each man competing against the other with complicated percussive footwork while playing large animal hide-covered drums to create thrilling, yet melodic music with a compelling beat. One of the men used a boleadoras (two long leather lassos with a wooden ball on one end - one lasso for each hand) that he whirled in complex formations, striking the floor in rhythmic beats and creating another layer of complex music. The standing ovations proved just how wonderful all of the performances were.

Around midnight, the Polish-American Folk Dance Company "Polanie" from Sarasota, Florida performed a graceful and regal Polonaise as befitting this 17th century dance, and invited all guests to join them in a colorful procession on the dance floor.

There were many new faces at the festivities

including a large group of government and community officials from Rzeszow, Poland, friends and family of the Latin American Invest Corp., the Polish American Business Club, and editors and journalists from the Polish newspapers *Nowy Dziennik* in New York City and the *White Eagle* in Buffalo. Several members of the PANGEA Alliance, a non-profit organization that promotes entrepreneurship and innovation as well as connects young Polish professionals around the world, also attended. How refreshing it was to have so many young guests - the future of Polonia who are already making significant strides in business, entertainment, government and education. It was a wonderful mix of people from all walks of life!

Once again, the American Institute of Polish Culture hosted an evening of traditional grandeur and timeless elegance enjoyed by many members and old and new friends in very modern and stylish Miami.



Ms. Emma Kiworkowa,  
Mr. Mariusz Bernartowicz



Dr. JJ Centurion, Mrs. Bunny Centurion, Ms. Lili Jimenez, Mr. Ron Sellers,  
Ms. Susan Warriner, Mrs. Teresa Lowenthal, Mr. Paul Lowenthal



Dr. Carlos Gomez, Yvonne Gomez,  
Mrs. Holly Gomez





# A Very Special Brunch

Sunday, February 2, 2014

On Sunday, 200 guests attended a lovely and sumptuous brunch in the Eden Roc's ballroom. Several attendees from the Ball, including all of the awardees, and many others spent three hours meeting new people and catching up with long time friends. President Lech Walesa graciously posed for photographs with guests and signed his autobiography, *The Road to Truth*. The Polanie folk dancers performed graceful numbers in traditional Polish costumes and the Frank Hubbell Band provided the melodies. It was a fitting finale to another wonderful International Polonaise Ball weekend.



Mrs. Donna Kyparisis, Dr. Jerzy Kyparisis,  
Ms. Iga Henderson, Mr. Leonard Nock



Countess Janelle Cooper, Countess Barbara Pogowska  
Cooper, Pres. Lech Walesa, Countess Brigitte Cooper



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Pres. Lech Walesa,  
Dr. Patricia Riley



Father Tomasz Jegierski, Father Ian Boyd



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel  
with a government deligation from Rzeszow, Poland



Mrs. Maria Teresa Carrizo Sliva,  
Mr. Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski,  
Mr. Andrew Nagorski



Mrs. Ela Piotrovsky,  
Mr. Ralph Piotrovsky



Mrs. Willman, Mr. Andrew Hubert Willman,  
Ms. Otilia Capraru



Mr. Bogdan Panek and family



Mrs. Teresa Szczepanik, Ms. Eva Kwasnik,  
Ms. Eva Kordos



Mrs. Beata Paszyc, Miss Nel Velez-Paszyc,  
Pres. Lech Walesa, Amb. Ryszard Schnepf



Mrs. Agnieszka Gray,  
Ms. Lucy Dolinski



Mr. Artur Zielinski,  
Mrs. Katarzyna Zielinski



Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Nowakowski, Mrs. Agnieszka Kaczowska,  
Mr. Andrew Weitz, Mr. Leszek "Nick" Sadowski



Ms. Daniela Hartman, Mrs. Alexandra Bobrek,  
Mr. Cristina Bobrek,  
Ms. Cecelia Lawinski



Ms. Charlene Delaney, Ms. Delores Strand,  
Ms. Martha Pachnik

