



THE POLISH
MUSEUM
OF AMERICA

41st Annual Gala

"The idea of an annual fund raiser benefiting The Polish Museum of America grew out of a genuine concern for its continued, viable existence....Your presence here tonight convinces us that the idea found full acceptance and that we have truly succeeded in establishing a tradition in the Polish American community: an annual Summer Ball for the benefit of The Polish Museum of America which will become even more elegant and profitable as the years go by."

Sabina P. Logisz & Walter L. Sojka
Co-Chairpersons
First Summer Ball 1979



The poppy was chosen as the symbol of the Summer Gala because it is both a beautiful and common summer wild flower of Poland, symbolizing Flanders's field to Americans and Monte Cassino to the Poles.

Cover design: Original art by Patrycja Stępnia; adapted by Lisa Terlecki

THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA

PRESENTS ITS

VIRTUAL 41ST GALA

A Night at the Polish Museum

... as history comes to life!



October 8, 2021 at 6:30 pm

2021 Spirit Award Recipients

Frank J. Spula

Jozef Pilsudski Institute of America

Mistress of Ceremony Elżbieta Sawczuk

Music by Anthony Kawalkowski Trio

Your support during these continued unprecedented times is greatly appreciated

Log on to the website to make a donation

www.polishmuseumofamerica.org



THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA 41st GALA COMMITTEE

General Chair	Micheline Jaminski
Appeals	Małgorzata Kot, Richard Owsiany
Finances	Katarzyna Ogórek, Dean Uminski
Gift Packages	Virginia Cudecki, Paul Odrobina
Program	Micheline Jaminski, Richard Owsiany
Program Book Advertisements	John Chitkowski, Małgorzata Kot, Marek Kowalczyk, Stephen Kusmierczak, Thaddeus Machnik, Richard Owsiany, Andrzej Pawlowski, Anna Sokolowski
Program Book Articles	Victoria Granacki, Halina Misterka, Julita Siegel, Teresa Sromek
Reception	Sharon Orlowski, Mary Jane Robles, Betty Uzarowicz
Technical Support	Eugeniusz Jarząbek, Mariusz Boruch, Mieczysław Herba, Zbigniew Habina, Dariusz Lachowski, Czesław Mogilinski, Kevin Ryba, Carlos Escobar, Polvision TV

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Polish Roman Catholic Union of America
as a major sponsor of the 41st Gala and publisher of
The Paderewski Room of the Polish Museum of America

ADDITIONAL THANKS

Barbara Bilszta, PaSO	Lidia Kowalewicz
Iwona Bożek	Natalia Kowalski
Joanna Chlebek	Barbara Kożuchowska
Youssef El Yakine	Piotr Lachowicz
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Jan Gora	Filip Ogórek
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Marlena Hadas	Julie Prado
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Paulina Jakubiec, All in Bloom Designs	Arthur Rykala
Elizabeth Jakubowicz, Kasia's Deli	Elzbieta Sawczuk
Richard Jaminski	Patrycja Stępniaik
Łukasz Kaczmarczyk	Lisa Terlecki
Anthony Kawalkowski Trio	Conrad Wiecek
Paulina Kosińska	Michał Wyczasany

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 41st Polish Museum of America Gala streaming live from the Sabina Logisz Great Hall! I am happy report that the PMA has and continues to weather through the difficulties associated with the pandemic. We were able to open the museum to the public this past May. Our staff continued the work of the museum throughout this time. This would not have been possible without the financial support of our partners, sponsors, and donors. We are extremely grateful to these individuals, institutions, businesses, and Polish government ministries who understand the viability and important role the PMA plays in the cultural fabric of our city, state, and nation.

Tonight, as we stream live from the PMA, I hope that you feel a part of the Gala. This year, we celebrate the 80th anniversary of the opening of the Paderewski Room in the PMA. I also extend my congratulations to the 2021 Polish Spirit Award recipients: Jozef Pilsudski Institute of America and Frank Spula, for their support of the PMA's mission and their work in Polonia.

On behalf of the officers, Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers, I extend thanks all our donors to the 41st Gala. I especially want to thank our anonymous donor who challenged us with a matching \$50,000 donation. The funds raised will allow us to continue our mission of "Preserving the Past to Benefit the Future" into 2022. I also want to recognize the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America for their continued support of the PMA since 1935. To all our donors and sponsors throughout the year, thank you for your faith in and commitment to the Polish Museum of America: The Treasure of Polonia. *BÓG ZAPŁAĆ!*



Richard Owsiany


SŁOWO DYREKTOR ZARZĄDZAJĄCEJ

Szanowni Państwo, Drodzy Przyjaciele Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce,

Z radością podpisuję się pod słowami Pana Prezesa Ryszarda Owsianego. Kolejny rok, pełen doświadczeń właśnie się wypełnia, a jego dominantą jest dla nas wszystkich doroczna Gala. Pracowaliśmy zespołowo; pracownicy, wolontariusze, Rada Dyrektorów – oddani członkowie i sympatycy. Towarzyszyście nam Państwo wirtualnie i realnie. Dzięki Instytutowi Polonika, kolejne dzieła sztuki zostały poddane konserwacji. W realizacji pokoju kostiumowego wsparło nas Ministerstwo Spraw Zagranicznych, a Ministerstwo Kultury, Dziedzictwa Narodowego i Sportu po raz drugi przyznało nam bardzo ważny grant wspierający nasze działania.

Dziękując sponsorom, gratuluję Wszystkim, którzy przyczynili się do sukcesu Gali, w szczególności Komitetowi pod kierownictwem Pani Micheline Jaminskiej, wiceprezeski naszej organizacji matczynej, Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego w Ameryce. Gratuluję Instytutowi Józefa Piłsudskiego w Nowym Jorku i Panu Frankowi Spuli, którzy otrzymują nagrodę Ducha Polskości.

Dziękuję wszystkim z serca za nasz kolejny wspólny rok!



Małgorzata Kot

Bł. Kard. Stefan Wyszyński powiedział: „Tyle wart jest nasz rok, ile zdołaliśmy przezwyciężyć w sobie niechęci, ile zdołaliśmy okazać ludziom serca, bliskości, współczucia, dobroci i pociechy”.



KANCELARIA PREZYDENTA
RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ

Warszawa, 9 października 2021 r.

SEKRETARZ STANU

Adam Kwiatkowski

Organizatorzy i Uczestnicy
41. Galii Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce
Chicago, USA

Szanowny Panie Prezisie
Szanowna Pani Dyrektor
Drogi Rodacy
Szanowne Państwo

serdecznie pozdrawiam wszystkich gości przybyłych na 41. Galę Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce w Chicago, upamiętniającą 80-lecie śmierci Ignacego Jana Paderewskiego. Bardzo się cieszę, że pomimo trudności związanych z obostrzeniami epidemiologicznymi, po roku przerwy, możecie się Państwo ponownie spotkać i kontynuować tę wyjątkową tradycję.

Dzisiejsza uroczystość ma na celu oddanie hołdu wielkiemu patriocie, mężowi stanu, wybitnemu pianinie i kompozytorowi. Postać Ignacego Jana Paderewskiego miała ogromny wkład w odzyskanie przez Polskę niepodległości. To właśnie dzięki Jego staraniom, prezydent USA Woodrow Wilson w orędziu do Kongresu zażądał utworzenia wolnej Polski z dostępem do morza. Także za prezydentury Wilsona, w 1919 roku zostały nawiązane stosunki dyplomatyczne pomiędzy Polską, a Stanami Zjednoczonymi.

Chciałbym Państwu podziękować za to, że przyczyniacie się do zachowania pamięci o zasłużonych, dzielnych synach narodu polskiego, która jest tutaj, w Stanach Zjednoczonych wciąż żywa. Dzięki zaangażowaniu wielu osób w działalność tego najstarszego i największego muzeum etnicznego w USA, którego misją jest pielęgnowanie polskiego dziedzictwa narodowego, nasi Rodacy – szczególnie dzieci i młodzież polskiego pochodzenia urodzona na Obczyźnie, mają możliwość zapoznania się z polską historią, kulturą i sztuką. Dziękuję Państwu za patriotyczną postawę oraz nieustraszoną pracę na rzecz podtrzymywania więzi Polonii amerykańskiej z Ojczyzną.

Osobiście, niejednokrotnie miałem przyjemność odwiedzić to szczególne miejsce, znajdujące się w samym sercu „Polskiego Śródmieścia”, w którym jednym z najchętniej odwiedzanych miejsc jest właśnie sala poświęcona I. J. Paderewskiemu. O wyjątkowości instytucji świadczy wizyta Prezydenta RP Pana Andrzeja Dudy wraz z Małżonką w 2018 roku, podczas której Para Prezydencka podziwiała pamiątki po Mistrzu.

W imieniu Prezydenta Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej Pana Andrzeja Dudy oraz własnym, raz jeszcze dziękuję Państwu za trwanie przy polskości, popularyzowanie polskiej kultury oraz promowanie dobrego imienia Polski i Polaków. Życzę Państwu pomyślności oraz wielu sukcesów w życiu zawodowym i osobistym.

2 wyrażeni szanunku,
Adam Kwiatkowski



RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA
Wiceprezes Rady Ministrów
Minister
Kultury, Dziedzictwa Narodowego
i Sportu

**Pani
Małgorzata Kot
Dyrektor zarządzający
Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce**

**Pan
Ryszard Owsiany
Prezes
Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce**

Szanowni Państwo,

dziękując za zaproszenie na 41. Galę Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce serdecznie pozdrawiam organizatorów i uczestników tego wydarzenia. Cieszy mnie, że tradycja organizacji Gali jest podtrzymywana, gromadząc co roku donatorów, przyjaciół i sympatyków Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce. Poprzez udział w Gali wpierają Państwo działalność jednej z najstarszych instytucji emigracyjnych, stając się częścią ponad 85-letniej historii tego miejsca.

Cieszy mnie fakt, że wiele inicjatyw Muzeum może być realizowanych dzięki wsparciu kierowanego przeze mnie resortu kultury, od 2020 roku także w ramach nowopowstałego Programu Ministra „Wspieranie Archiwów, Bibliotek i Muzeów poza Krajem”. Jestem przekonany, że przyznane dofinansowanie umożliwi kontynuację działalności Muzeum oraz wesprze działania mające na celu szeroką promocję historycznych kolekcji i zbiorów dóbr kultury.

Cenne zbiory muzealne, archiwalne i biblioteczne z pieczołowitością gromadzone w Muzeum Polskim w Ameryce stanowią pomost między przeszłością a teraźniejszością. Są kompendium wiedzy dla kolejnych pokoleń Polaków zarówno w Stanach Zjednoczonych, jak i w innych zakątkach świata oraz odzwierciedleniem wielu ważnych momentów w historii narodu polskiego.

Przykładem kolekcji o szczególnym znaczeniu są artefakty związane z postacią Ignacego Jana Paderewskiego. 80. rocznica śmierci tego wybitnego męża stanu jest jednym z powodów, dla których spotykamy się na dzisiejszej Gali. Jest ona także okazją do upamiętnienia hojnego daru Jego siostry Antoniny Wilkońskiej. Dzięki przekazanym pamiątkom Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce może szczycić się unikatową kolekcją przechowywaną w otwartym w 1941 roku Pokoju Paderewskiego.

Troska i wkład wszystkich Państwa w zachowanie cennych zbiorów instytucji wymaga specjalnego podkreślenia. Pragnę zatem wyrazić uznanie i podziękować za Państwa wsparcie, w tym materialne. Na ręce Pani Dyrektor i Pana Prezesa kieruję szczególne podziękowania dla całego Zespołu Muzeum Polskiego, który z niezwykle zaangażowaniem pielęgnuje powierzone mu polskie dziedzictwo kulturowe.

Pelen uznania składam Państwu najserdeczniejsze życzenia wszelkiej pomyślności i wytrwałości w realizowaniu misji Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce.

Wszystkim uczestnikom, zarówno zgromadzonym w Muzeum, jak i wirtualnie uczestniczącym w uroczystości, życzę udanego wieczoru.



Piotr Gliński



Embassy
of the Republic of Poland
in Washington

Washington, September 23rd, 2021

The Polish Museum of America
984 North Milwaukee Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois 60642-4101

Letter to the Participants of the 41st Gala of the Polish Museum of America

Thank you for inviting me to attend the 41st Gala of the Polish Museum in America, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the death of Ignacy Jan Paderewski. I very much regret that I will not be able to take part in this momentous event.

Please accept my sincerest congratulations and highest appreciation for your efforts in nurturing Polish culture and memory since 1937.

The Polish Museum in Chicago is a unique place in the United States - an extraordinary island of Polishness connecting Poles and friends of Poland. For over eighty years, the Museum has contributed to the cultivation of the Polish identity among generations of Poles who came to the United States. We are grateful for your promoting the culture, traditions and history of our country - a very demanding and responsible task, as the over nine million-strong American *Polonia*, of which you are important representatives, is vital to the affairs of Poland itself. The United States of America is, and will, remain a strategic partner of our homeland, and it is the Polish diaspora that plays an integral role in the strengthening of our bilateral relations.

I truly appreciate the important and much-needed support that you have given the Polish community in the U.S., including to those who settled in Chicago and made it their new home, and to new representatives of *Polonia*.

I wish you every success in your future endeavors, and I am deeply convinced that this year's Gala will prove to be an unforgettable experience.

Piotr Wilczek

Ambassador of Poland to the United States



Konsulat Generalny
Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej
w Chicago

Chicago 28 września 2021 roku

Pan Ryszard Owsiany
Prezes
Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce

Pani Małgorzata Kot
Dyrektor Wykonawcza
Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce

*Szanowny Panie Prezencie,
Szanowna Pani Dyrekcjo,
Drogi Pracownicy, Wolontariusze i Przyjaciele
Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce,*

Od przeszło 80 lat Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce pełni rolę strażnika materialnych świadectw kultury i historii Polaków i Polski w Stanach Zjednoczonych. Zrozumiałym wyróżnieniem jest zatem przyznany w tym roku Muzeum tytuł Kustosza Pamięci Narodowej. Laur Instytutu Pamięci Narodowej złożono w ręce przedstawicieli placówki podczas gali w Zamku Królewskim w Warszawie. Doceniono szczególną rolę Muzeum w upamiętnianiu historii Narodu Polskiego i jego znaczenie dla kolejnych pokoleń Polonii, jasno pokazując, że za unikalny charakter placówki odpowiadają przede wszystkim tworzący ją ludzie.

Archiwa Muzeum są imponujące, dokumentują wielowiekową obecność naszych rodaków na kontynencie amerykańskim. Obok darów Polonii kolekcję muzeum stanowią eksponaty z Pawilonu Polskiego z Wystawy Światowej, która odbyła się w 1939 r. w Nowym Jorku. Jednak to rola kustosa pamięci o Ignacym Janie Paderewskim zasługuje na szczególne podkreślenie. Pielęgnując pamięć o Paderewskim w istocie przekazują Państwo młodym pokoleniom powód do dumy z własnej Ojczyzny. Pióro, którym maestro podpisywał Traktat Wersalski, jest przecież dobitnym symbolem podmiotowości Polski na scenie międzynarodowej. Najbogatsze jednak Muzeum będzie jedynie magazynem, jeżeli zabraknie ludzi z pasją, takich jak Państwo, gotowych opowiadać historie zgromadzonych w nim skarbów.

Cieszy mnie, że Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce otwarte jest na najmłodsze pokolenie Polonii. Ale przecież lekcje historii mają tu nie tylko uczniowie szkół polonijnych. Wysiłek pracowników i wolontariuszy Muzeum poświęcony promocji polskiej kultury w USA i zachowaniu dziedzictwa narodowego okazałby się mniej owocny, gdyby ograniczał się tylko do polskiego kręgu odbiorców.

Słowa głębokiego uznania kieruję zarówno do Kierownictwa Muzeum jak i do Wolontariuszy, Darczyńców oraz Przyjaciół Muzeum. To dzięki Państwu w tak trudnym dla nas wszystkich okresie nie gaśnie ani na chwilę aktywność placówki i stale podejmowane są nowe inicjatywy służące kultywowaniu i popularyzowaniu polskiego dorobku kulturowego, a także umacnianiu relacji polsko- amerykańskich za co z serca dziękuję.

Z szanem i szacunkiem,

Małgorzata Bąk-Guzik

Konsul RP



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

September 21, 2021

Congratulations!

I am pleased to congratulate the Polish Museum of America on the celebration of its 80th anniversary of the opening of the Paderewski Room.

To celebrate an anniversary such as this is a significant milestone for any organization. This is an excellent opportunity to reflect on all you have accomplished during the past 84 years and to make plans for the future that build upon that success. Your longevity is truly a testament to the relationships you have developed through the years. I have no doubt your organization will continue to excel for years to come. I commend everyone at the Polish Museum of America for their hard work, dedication, and passion.

It is my honor to join in commemorating the Paderewski Room's 80th anniversary. On behalf of the people of Illinois, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker". The signature is stylized with large, bold letters and a prominent "P".

Governor JB Pritzker



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR

October 8, 2021

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the City of Chicago, I am honored to welcome all those gathered for the 41st Annual Polish Museum of America Gala.

Founded in 1935 as a part of the historic Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, the Polish Museum of America works to preserve, promote, and share the rich Polish history and culture with the greater community. Through thoughtful exhibitions, involved programming, and education research on the Polish experience in Chicago, across the country, and in native Poland, the Museum has helped to inform and inspire generations of visitors of all backgrounds.

This year's gala presents the opportunity to come together to celebrate all that the Museum has offered while also looking ahead to the future. Chicago is home to the largest Polish population outside of Poland and I am proud of the tireless efforts of the Museum's staff and members in curating projects, events, and collections that inform and inspire visitors. I am proud to recognize Mr. Frank Spula, president of the Polish National Alliance and Polish American Congress, and the Pilsudski Institute of America, this year's *Polish Spirit Award* recipients. I commend and congratulate the Polish Museum of America for their ongoing efforts to share an important legacy that will impact generations of visitors.

I hope your event is memorable and enjoyable. Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Mayor

IDzGP/2021/291

Warszawa, 24 września 2021 r.

Pan
Ryszard Owsiany
Prezes
Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce

Pani
Małgorzata Kot
Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce

Szanowni Państwo,

serdecznie dziękuję za zaproszenie na 41. Galę Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce. Z uwagi na niemożność osobistego udziału w tej ważnej dla Muzeum, dorocznej uroczystości, pragnę za pośrednictwem niniejszego listu serdecznie pozdrowić Organizatorów Gali oraz wszystkich zaproszonych Gości.

Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce, działające od 1937 r. (a założone dwa lata wcześniej pod nazwą Muzeum i Archiwów Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego w Ameryce) jest jedną z najważniejszych organizacji polonijnych na kontynencie amerykańskim, a zarazem jednym z najstarszych i największych muzeów etnicznych w Stanach Zjednoczonych. Dzięki wytrwałej pracy organizatora i pierwszego kustosza, Mieczysława Haimana, który w 1939 r. wezwał amerykańską Polonię do gromadzenia i przekazywania poloników, ofiarnie kontynuowanej w kolejnych dziesięcioleciach przez jego następców, Muzeum poszczycić się może największymi zbiorami poloników na terenie USA.

Niezmiernie cieszy mnie fakt, iż od chwili swego powstania pod koniec 2017 r. Instytut POLONIKA nawiązał bliską i aktywną współpracę z Muzeum Polskim w Ameryce. Swoją szczególną wymiar znalazła ona w rozpoczętym w 2019 r. projekcie konserwacji obrazów polskich artystów z kolekcji Muzeum, stanowiących oryginalnie elementy wyposażenia Pawilonu Polskiego podczas Wystawy Światowej w Nowym Jorku w 1939 r. Wśród przeszło pięćdziesięciu płócien, objętych dotychczas pracami konserwatorskimi, były m.in. dzieła: Olgi



Boznańskiej, Józefa Czapskiego, Tytusa Czyżewskiego, Leonarda Pękalskiego czy Andrzeja Pronaszki.

W imieniu własnym oraz całego zespołu Instytutu POLONIKA pragnę wyrazić Dyrekcji oraz Pracownikom Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce wdzięczność i podziw za wieloletnią opiekę nad skarbami polskiego dziedzictwa kulturowego, przechowywanymi w budynku przy 984 North Milwaukee Avenue. Wspieranie realizacji wspólnych projektów w sferze ochrony, udostępniania i popularyzacji Państwa kolekcji i zbiorów jest dla nas źródłem wielkiej satysfakcji! W przyszłości mamy nadzieję zainicjować kolejne przedsięwzięcia, a jeszcze w tym roku, wspólnie z Muzeum Polskim w Ameryce, pragniemy zaprosić na przygotowaną przez Instytut POLONIKA wystawę prac polskiego architekta i akwarelisty Tytusa Brzozowskiego „12 miast”. Ekspozycja, która już w październiku dotrze do Stanów Zjednoczonych, to barwna opowieść o polskiej obecności za granicą, dziełach sztuki i architektury, ludziach i miastach od Chicago po Tbilisi.

Z poważaniem i serdecznymi pozdrowieniami

**Dorota Janiszewska-
Jakubiak**

Elektronicznie podpisany przez
Dorota Janiszewska-Jakubiak
Data: 2021.09.27 16:10:59 +02'00'



Dorota Janiszewska-Jakubiak

Dyrektor Instytutu POLONIKA



Warszawa, dnia 5 października 2021 r.

Pan Przewodniczący Rady James Robaczewski
Pan Prezes Ryszard Owsiany
Pani Dyrektor Małgorzata Kot
Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce
Chicago, USA

W imieniu Ośrodka Rozwoju Polskiej Edukacji za Granicą oraz moim osobistym proszę przyjąć najserdeczniejsze gratulacje i najlepsze życzenia okazji 41. Gali Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce oraz Polskiego Miesiąca Dziedzictwa Narodowego w Stanach Zjednoczonych.

W szczególności gratuluję i dziękuję wszystkim Darczyńcom, którzy z serca hojnie wpierają Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce.

W związku z objęciem przeze mnie nowej funkcji wicedyrektora ORPEG ds. wspierania oświaty polskiej za granicą, liczę na dalszą dobrą współpracę z Kierownictwem i całym wspaniałym Środowiskiem skupionym wokół Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce w działaniach wspierających najmłodsze pokolenia Polaków w Ameryce.

Jeszcze raz dziękuję za możliwość owocnej współpracy z Państwem w czasie mojej 4-letniej pracy w Konsulacie Generalnym RP w Chicago, a w szczególności za niezapomnianą uroczystość pożegnalną w Muzeum Polskim w Ameryce.

Łączę wyrazy szacunku i pozdrawiam,

Piotr Semeniuk
Wicedyrektor ds. wspierania oświaty polskiej za granicą
Ośrodek Rozwoju Polskiej Edukacji za Granicą

Piotr Semeniuk
Vice Director for Supporting Polish Education Abroad
The Center for the Development of Polish Education Abroad



James J. Robaczewski, ALMI, FIC, ACS
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

October 8, 2021

Dear Friends of The Polish Museum of America,

As we continue to adapt to the increasingly virtual world, I would like to welcome all of you to the 41st Annual Gala of the PMA, the second held virtually. Though we would like to be together in person, we use the technology available to ensure the safety of all attendees so that we may still come together as a community to support the treasure that is The Polish Museum of America.

During this Gala, the PMA is commemorating the 80th anniversary of the death of Ignacy Jan Paderewski. Paderewski was a pianist, composer and diplomat. He served as Prime Minister of Poland in 1918 and signed the Treaty of Versailles, not only ending World War I, but reestablishing Poland on the map of Europe. The PMA is home to many Paderewski artifacts, from the furniture from his apartment in New York City, including his last practice piano, to the pen that he signed the aforementioned treaty.

If you do not already, please consider supporting the endeavors of the PMA. Wishing The Polish Museum of America prosperity and all attendees a wonderful time.

Sincerely yours,

James J. Robaczewski
Chairman of the Board
The Polish Museum of America



Polish Roman Catholic Union of America | PRCUALife™

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POLISH SPIRIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Polish Spirit Award is given in recognition of the commitment of an individual or organization in promulgating Polish and Polish American heritage, culture, and community as well as supporting the Polish Museum of America in "Preserving the Past to Benefit the Future." Since 1987, thirty-nine awards have been bestowed upon deserving recipients. Since 2018, recipients in both categories are recognized annually.

- 2020 Izabela Roman, M.D., Ph.D.
Holy Trinity Polish Mission
- 2019 Deborah L. Greenlee
Paderewski Symphony Orchestra
- 2018 Maria Bronny Ciesla, President Emeritus, Polish Museum of America
Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union
- 2017 Copernicus Foundation
- 2016 Polish American Chamber of Commerce
- 2015 Gift from the Heart Foundation & Shriners Hospital for Children, Chicago
- 2014 Joann S. Ozog
- 2013 Polish Teachers Association in America
- 2012 Kazimiera Bober, Founder, Kasia's Deli, Inc.
- 2011 Alex Storozynski, President, Kosciuszko Foundation
- 2010 The Ted and Alice Przybylo Family of White Eagle Banquets
- 2009 Teresa N. Abick, Vice President, Polish National Alliance
- 2008 Polish and Polish American Veterans Association
- 2007 Alliance of Polish Clubs in the U.S.A.
- 2006 Polish Highlanders Alliance of North America
- 2005 Walter L. Sojka
- 2004 Chet & Dolores Schaefer
- 2003 Donald V. Versen, Sr. & Joan Versen
- 2002 Stanley & Barbara Stawski
- 2001 Polish Roman Catholic Union of America
- 2000 Chicago Society Polish National Alliance
- 1999 LOT Polish Airlines
- 1998 Polish Women's Alliance of America
- 1997 Matt L. Rodriguez, Superintendent, Chicago Police Department
- 1996 His Eminence Adam Cardinal Maida, Archbishop of Detroit
- 1995 Polish American Medical Society
- 1994 The Honorable Mary Ann McMorro, Justice, Supreme Court of IL
- 1993 PeKaO Trading Corporation
- 1992 U.S. Congressman Dan Rostenkowski
- 1991 Chester S. & Stella T. Sawko
- 1990 I. George & Joan Kosinski
- 1989 Legion of Young Polish Women
- 1988 His Excellency Bishop Alfred L. Abramowicz, D.D.
- 1987 Aloysius A. Mazewski, President, Polish American Congress & Polish National Alliance



THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA

proudly presents the

POLISH SPIRIT AWARD

to

FRANK J. SPULA

in the individual category

and to the

JOZEF PILSUDSKI INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

in the organization category

in recognition of their commitment to American Polonia
in promulgating Polish and Polish American heritage, culture,
and community as well as supporting
the Polish Museum of America
in its mission



FRANK J. SPULA

President of the Polish National Alliance and Polish American Congress

Frank was born and raised in the City of Chicago and is currently a resident of Highland Park, Illinois.

Frank is a member of various organization, including a proud member of the Polish National Alliance and Polish Roman Catholic Union of America.

Frank earned his degree from DePaul University studying business and psychology. He is also a graduate of the LOMA Institute having earned the distinguished FLMI Designation.

Prior to his career with the Polish National Alliance Frank's professional training was through a commercial life insurance carrier. He began his career at the Polish National Alliance in sales and advanced to Sales Director and held this position until being elected National Secretary.

Frank was elected Chairman of the 44th and 45th National Conventions, in Denver and New Jersey and was elected President of the Polish National Alliance in 2005. He was reelected to the position of President until his appointed as President and CEO of the organization and elected Chairman of the Board.

As a longtime member of the Polish American Congress he is a former President of the Illinois Division of the Polish American Congress, elected in 1993 through 1997. In 2005 Frank was elected National President of the Polish American Congress.

Frank is also a member of the Alumni Association and member of the FLMI Society, former Vice-President of "Vision Illinois", a non-partisan political organization and President of a Political Action Committee.

Frank also is a former member of the 21st Century Commission and Turn around School Commission, appointed by former Mayor Richard Daley, a former member of the Advisory Board to Bishop Abramowicz Seminary of Chicago.

Frank continues as Publisher of the Polish Daily News and Chairman of the Alliance Radio 103.1 FM.

Currently, and for the last eight years, he has served as a Director of the Edgebrook - Sauganash Chamber of Commerce and remains active in charitable and religious activities for the community.

Frank's hobbies include a passion for classic cars, jazz music, fine dining and company of his close family consisting of sister in law and 3 accomplished nieces as well as good friends.

PILSUDSKI INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

The Pilsudski Institute of America is a New York - based, independent, non-profit research organization, whose main goal is to preserve and promote Polish national heritage, history and culture in the USA. The Institute was established in 1943 on the initiative of several patriotic activists and former ministers of the pre-war Polish Second Republic, and named after the leader of the Second Polish Republic, Marshal Józef Piłsudski.

The Institute has one of two largest and most important archives in the US on modern history of WWI and WWII, particularly focused on Poland and Eastern Europe. During its 70-year history, the Institute acquired and preserved unique archival documents that are universally used by writers and researchers working on this period of European history, and on the history of immigration to the US from Central-Eastern Europe.



The most precious items from our collection include:

- Order nr. 1,000 - Order of Battle of Warsaw 1920, with signatures of Marshall Pilsudski, gen. Rozwadowski and other military commanders (from the archival collection of Commander-in-Chief 1918-1922).
- Archival collection of Silesian Uprisings 1919-1921.
- Letter of King Sigismund I the Old to Jan Mikołajewicz from 1513 (donation of Mr. Alfred Szebel)
- A gallery of 250 paintings: Matejko, Mehoffer, Wyspiański, Axentowicz, Malczewski, Gieryski, Wyczółkowski and others.

Over the last 15 years, we were able to digitize hundreds of thousands of historic documents that are available online at our website: www.pilsudski.org



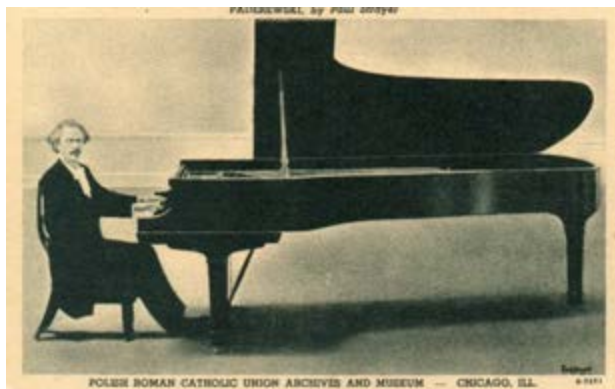
Apart from serving as the research, library and art gallery, the Institute is organizing recurring cultural events such as exhibitions, author's evenings, lectures as well as educational workshops for school children.

Pilsudski Institute of America
138 Greenpoint Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11222
Tel. 212 505 9077, email: office@pilsudski.org

WHERE DID IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI LIVE?

By Victoria Granacki

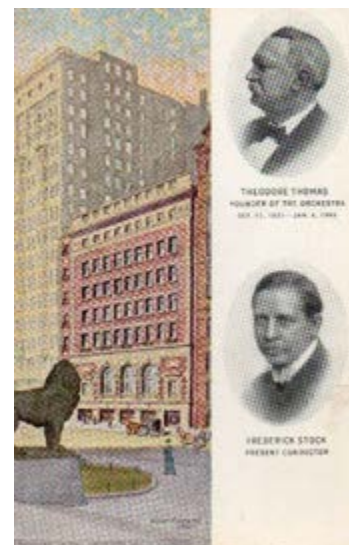
The most complete collection in the world of original artifacts and documents from any residence of the great Polish pianist, statesman, and humanitarian, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, is at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. After the Nazis invaded Poland and threatened all of Europe, Paderewski abandoned the villa in Rion Bosson Switzerland he had called home for almost 50 years and fled to New York City in late 1940. He took up a suite of rooms at the Buckingham Hotel on 57th Street just down the street from Carnegie Hall. When he died at the hotel on June 29, 1941, he had no other home. The suite's furnishings, his piano, and other precious items were donated to the Polish Museum by his sister, Antonina Wilkonska. Today they comprise the core of PMA's Paderewski collection. This year's Gala commemorates the 80th anniversary of that donation and the inaugural opening of the Paderewski Room November 3, 1941.



Paderewski led a nomadic lifestyle that began even as a youth. Although his father was an administrator of vast land holdings in the southeast provinces of Poland, by age 12 the young Paderewski had moved to Warsaw to study and live with the family of a piano manufacturer. In the years following 1880, he concert-toured in Russia, returned to teach in the Warsaw Conservatory, married Antonina Korsak the love of his life, and had a son, Alfred. After his wife died tragically shortly after childbirth, Paderewski began traveling back and forth to Berlin, stopped a few years in a 2-room Vienna flat as he studied with Teodor Leshetizky, and then paused in Paris beginning in 1889-1906 to rent an apartment at #94 Avenue Victor Hugo for his half-orphaned, disabled son. With his son under the care of others, in 1891-1892 Paderewski launched the first of his American tours at New York's newly opened Carnegie Hall, and stayed in fine hotels in major cities, or retreated to his private, well-appointed Pullman railcar between concert venues.



Paderewski was already a European sensation when he arrived in Chicago as part of that first tour for his debut at the Auditorium Theater on New Year's Day, 1892. It was the inaugural season of the Chicago Orchestra under founding conductor Theodore Thomas and would be the start of an enduring personal friendship as well as a deep admiration for the city itself. In his *Memoirs* he said Chicago impressed him more than any other city in America. He admired its "stupendous driving force pushing those eager millions of population towards their goal." At his concerts over the years, he found the "untrammelled enthusiasm of its audiences ... uplifting, inspiring."



The piano virtuoso headlined the opening in Chicago of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition on May 2, 1893, under the direction of Thomas. The fair's Music Hall was in the Court of Honor in today's Jackson Park. Over the next ten years he joined the Chicago Orchestra many times at the Auditorium Theater and then later at Orchestra Hall. He held early recitals at Central Music Hall (since demolished) and through the 1930s at the Civic Opera House, and performed in the homes of prominent supporters including Prairie Avenue's John and Frances Glessner. Although he often dined in the homes of musical friends and patrons, his lodgings were usually in the city's hotels, among them the Congress Hotel shown with its elaborate historic lobby. (now the Congress Plaza Hotel at 520 S. Michigan).

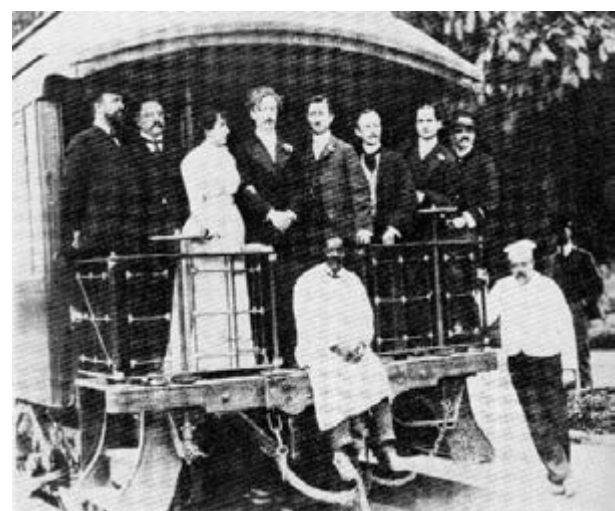


86. The Music Hall. 85. The Casino, here enter to the Music Hall



By Paderewski's fifth American Tour in 1902 he was traveling by rail in a private car named the Rambler, which parked overnight near Roosevelt Road and Illinois Central Station (since demolished). The side-track chosen was said to be a quiet spot with only (!) 200 trains passing every 24 hours. But as he

practiced late into the night, he gave unexpected concerts for nearby railway workers who gathered outside his car, drawn to the sounds of his playing. Through his decades of train travel, he occupied many other "hotels on wheels" with the names Haslemere, Ideal, Colonial, Patriot, and Superba, attended to by a round-the-clock staff of porters and chefs. Outfitted with living, dining, and sleeping accommodations, as well as his chosen Steinway piano, he was able to retire to his train car immediately after a performance and not worry about train departures to his next stop.



Paderewski owned just three properties in his lifetime – a home in Tarnow Poland for a brief five years; the villa in Morges Switzerland where he returned for decades to refresh himself between exhausting concert tours; and Paso Robles California, a large tract of orchards, vineyards and other agricultural land that had no residence on site.

Despite his seemingly rootless wanderings, Paderewski had always dreamed of a rural estate with a forest and stream of water. In 1897 he bought the Kasna Dolna estate near Tarnow in southern Poland and his new bride, Helena Gorska, moved in after their 1899 marriage in Warsaw. He rehabbed the buildings and planted vineyards, but he didn't stay long – he sold the house

within just five years. Today it operates as the Paderewski Center (Centrum Paderewskiego) and is his only residence still standing. Its website describes it having furnishings of the period donated by the National Museum in Warsaw,

in reconstructed rooms, with some Paderewski memorabilia. It operates as a concert venue, hosts festivals, and offers classes.



Still looking for a place to call home, in 1899 Paderewski found Riond Bosson, the former palace of the Duchess of Otrante. The villa, on the outskirts of Morges, Switzerland, overlooked Lake Geneva with a view of Mont Blanc. The 100-acre site had extensive gardens, greenhouses, orchards, and vineyards and its fruit was prized throughout Switzerland. His wife, Helena, raised hens from the best breeders in the world. Paderewski was finally able to settle in between travels, despite his rigorous tour schedule, and spent pleasant days with his household and staff at the villa. It was its peacefulness that allowed Paderewski the opportunity to create his opera, "Manru." In a recollection reported by pianist Arthur Rubinstein, two Steinway concert grand pianos faced each other along two bay windows and

were always covered with flowers and photographs of prominent aristocrats who had visited. The onslaught of World War II forced the Paderewskis to abandon the property and it fell into disrepair. Despite the estate's historic and artistic significance, the main house was bull-dozed in 1960 for a highway. The gardener's house and aviary are all that remain standing nearby. There is a Musee Paderewski in the Morges Castle in Switzerland that contains archived documents, recordings, a library, and some of his belongings.

It was Paderewski's 1896 American Tour that first brought him to Los Angeles and San Francisco California. But it wasn't until 1904, on a visit to "Arden," the home of his old friend, fellow countryman, and Shakespearean actress, Helena Modjeska, in Santa Anna that he was introduced to rural Southern California. When he was advised to seek therapeutic hot springs treatments for pain in his arms and hands during his 1913 9th US tour, he was referred to Paso Robles. Enchanted with the agricultural beauty of the area, he purchased his first 900 acres of land in 1914. Other purchases in the next few years led to over 2800 acres where he first planted almond, walnut, and fruit trees, and later vineyards. His two ranches were named Rancho San Ignacio and Rancho Santa Helena. By 1922 he was the heaviest single planter in San Luis Obispo County with 35,000 vines on his estate.



Figure 75: The Paso Robles Collection, Polish Music Center, USC. All rights reserved

Despite his attachment to the land itself, there was never any residence built on either ranch. Paderewski and his wife preferred to stay at El Paso de Robles Hotel every time they visited. The pair had been treated as royalty on their three-month recuperative 1913 stay. Only on their final 1939 visit, were they ensconced in their private luxury railcar on the nearby Southern Pacific Railroad line. The hotel burnt in December 1940 and was rebuilt in a completely different style. Now called the Paso Robles Inn, there is no trace today of the historic hotel in California that the Paderewskis visited so frequently.

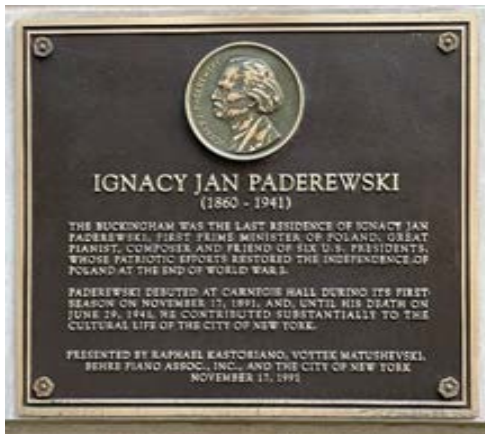


On Paderewski's 20th and final American concert tour he capped his Chicago career at the same place it had begun, at the Auditorium Theater, before a cheering crowd on March 19, 1939. He was in Chicago for just a few days, parked again in his rail car on the IC tracks at Roosevelt and Michigan. After the tour he made his way back home to Riond Bosson but his beloved Poland and all of Europe would soon be under siege by the Nazis.

When France fell to Hitler in June 1940, Paderewski made the difficult decision to flee to the US. Abandoning the estate in September of that year, he left with his sister, Antonina and his head staff, Sylwan Strakacz and family, sailing from the Portuguese coast on the S.S. Excambion on October 27. They arrived in the US on Paderewski's 80th birthday, November 6, 1940, and stayed a few weeks at the Ritz Tower in New York City. By the end of November, the party moved into adjacent suites at the Buckingham Hotel, at 101 W. 57th Street, the historic artistic and musical street so familiar to him. He had made his debut November 17, 1891, with the New York Symphony Orchestra the year Carnegie Hall moved uptown to 57th Street and 7th Avenue, and his last appearance was there February 19, 1933. Steinway Hall, the piano manufacturer who had sponsored his first and other American tours was next door to the Buckingham at 109-113 W. 57th where it had been since 1925.



Even during what would be the last six months of his life, Paderewski didn't stay put, spending the winter months in Florida hoping it would improve his health. He was back at the Buckingham in May and passed away there on June 29, 1941. His estate was left to his sister, who passed away just four months later.



Problems with the will delayed the disposition of the estate. The Switzerland part was claimed by the Communist government after World War II ostensibly on behalf of Paderewski's stepbrother Jozef. 82 crates of items from the property were stored in Lausanne and sent to Poland in 1951. Strakacz gave some items to other Polish organizations in Chicago, but the contents of the Buckingham suite were given to the Polish Museum who received the bequest in 1941. The Buckingham Hotel which originally opened in 1929 is today known as the Quin Central Park by Hilton Club. It maintains a plaque at the front entrance honoring its famous guest, but an

upstairs suite named in his honor has no historic traces. It's at the PMA where one can experience furnishings, artifacts, and documents that recreate a slice of the life of the great pianist, statesman, and humanitarian, and revered Pole, Ignacy Jan Paderewski.

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80th anniversary of the I. J. Paderewski Room opening at the PMA

By Halina Misterka

Gromadźcie pamiątki na tej wolnej ziemi, gdyż wszystko to świadczy o wielkości kultury naszej
[Gather mementoes on this free land, where all this testifies to the greatness of our culture]. – Jan Stanczyk, Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, Government of the Republic of Poland in exile, Chicago, November 3, 1941

Celebrations in Chicago dedicated to I. J. Paderewski, on Sunday, November 2, 1941

The exhibition opening of memorabilia from the last days of Ignacy Jan Paderewski in the Archives and Museum of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), scheduled for Monday, November 3, 1941, was preceded by the Sunday ceremonies on November 2. This



included a solemn holy mass for the repose of Paderewski's soul celebrated at St. John of God Church in the Town of Lake neighborhood of Chicago, followed by an evening demonstration and rally dedicated to this Great Son of Poland, organized at the Civic Opera by the American Relief for Poland. All participants wanted to honorably celebrate the 81st anniversary of the birth of Paderewski.

The Polish government was represented by special guests arriving from Washington, DC, who were warmly welcomed by Chicago's Polonia: Jan Stanczyk, Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, Government of the Republic of Poland in exile, London; Jan Ciechanowski, Polish Ambassador to the United States, with his wife; Brigadier Bolesław Bronisław Duch, head of the Polish Military Mission in Canada; Sylwin Strakacz, Consul General of New York;

and Dr. Karol Ripa, Consul General of Chicago. In the procession leading to the church, decorated on that day in white and red, were large numbers of veterans of the Polish Army, who only four months earlier had the honor of carrying the Master's coffin, accompanied by boy scouts, PRCUA girl scouts, other organizations, and school groups.

That evening, Chicago Polonia, the honorable guests listed above, along with distinguished Americans, with Chicago Mayor Edward J. Kelley at the forefront, filled the enormous halls of the Civic Opera. Franciszek X. Swietlik, president of the American Relief for Poland, hosted the celebration in honor of Paderewski. A portrait of the Master was hung and surrounded by flowers and ribbons in Poland's national colors on the stage which the rich artistic program was presented. Speakers included, among others: Archbishop Samuel Stritch of Chicago;

Ambassador Ciechanowski; Hugh Gibson, US Minister Plenipotentiary to Poland (1919-1924), who was well acquainted with Paderewski; and Brigadier Duch.

Chicago pianist Tadeusz Kozuch performed Paderewski's "Nocturne" as well as works by Chopin: "Funeral March," "Etude," "Mazurka," and "Polonaise." Baritone Jerzy Czaplicki sang arias from Ponchielli's *Il figliuol prodigo* and Moniuszko's *The Haunted Manor*. The Filareci-Dudziarz Choir performed "Po nieszpiorach przy niedzieli" from Moniuszko's *Halka*, and soloist Edward Grubinski sang arias from Paderewski's *Manru*.

Exhibition opening of memorabilia from the last days of I. J. Paderewski, at the Archives and Museum of the PRCUA, on Monday, November 3, 1941

The honored guests participating in Sunday's ceremonies accepted an invitation for the following morning at 11 a.m. in the third floor ballroom of the PRCUA building. Here, the first part of the exhibition opening of memorabilia from the last days of I. J. Paderewski was held. The guest book from that November 3, 1941, remains preserved to this day.

Jan Olejniczak, PRCUA President and the event's master of ceremonies, expressed thanks to the donors, Sylwin Strakacz, former secretary to Paderewski, and Ignacy G. Kollupajlo, Paderewski's most recent secretary, for contributing, collecting, and donating such valuable mementoes to the PRCUA museum. Speakers included Ambassador Ciechanowski, Brigadier Duch, Professor Rudolf Ganz, president of the American Musical College and well-known musician and friend of Paderewski, and Dr. Karol Ripa.

On behalf of the donors, Consul Strakacz spoke, thanking Mieczysław Haiman, museum curator, and Joseph Kania, past president of PRCUA, that from the first moment of placing the memorabilia in the museum, the treasures were appreciated, and the donors would like to see the items here permanently, adding that, letters from Poles and gifts given on behalf of Master Paderewski, which were currently in Switzerland, if the occasion was right, would return to

Polonia, and should be deposited in the Archives and Museum of the PRCUA.



Before the conclusion with Paderewski's "Minuet," Kania, who under his term as president oversaw the establishment of the Archives and Museum of the PRCUA, thanked the donors and guests, expressing his pride at what this organization had accomplished so far and of these monuments of Polish culture.

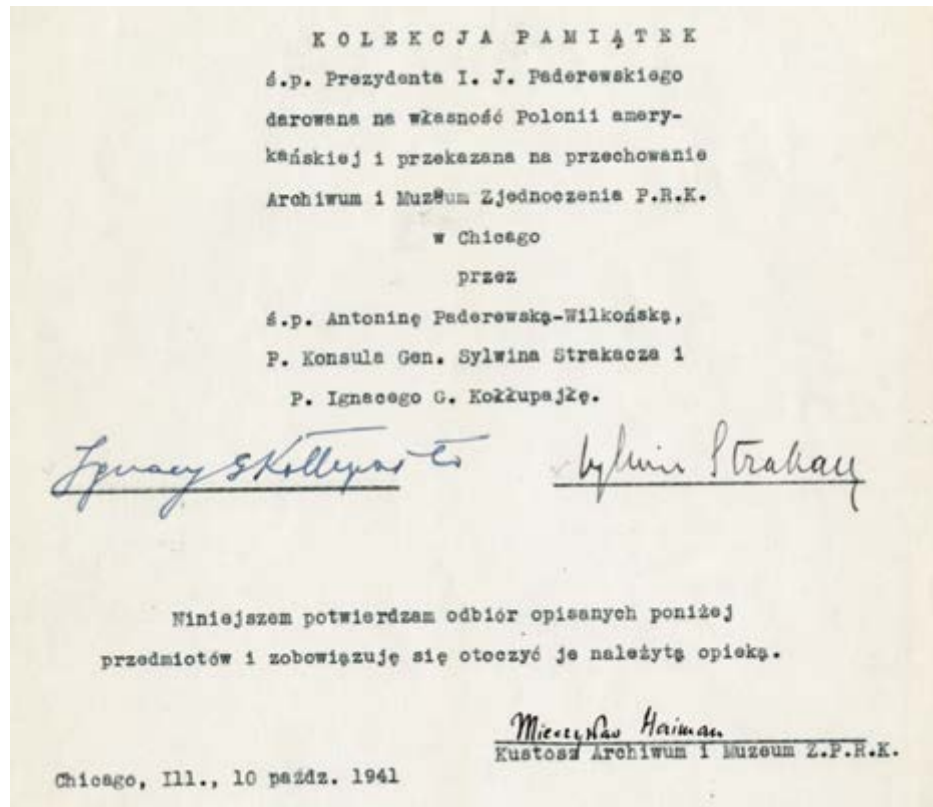
Welcomed with applause, museum and exhibition curator Haiman personally invited the guest to the

original museum room on the second floor of the PRCUA building to view the new display. The official ribbon cutting ceremony was performed by Ambassador Ciechanowski, accompanied by his wife, and Minister Stanczyk.

Obtaining the I. J. Paderewski collection for the Museum

In correspondence with Haiman, Strakacz stated that the Paderewski collection would first be presented in New York, from July 24 to September 13, 1941, with all proceeds donated to the Paderewski Testimonial Fund. At the request of Antonina Wilkońska, Paderewski's sister, immediately after its closing, the mementoes were to be transferred to the Archives and Museum of the PRCUA. Unfortunately, as one of the three donors, Wilkońska did not live to see

the opening of the I. J. Paderewski Room; she passed away three months after the death of her brother, on October 6, 1941. Paderewski's secretaries served as the executors of her will, as well as of Paderewski's will, who wished to transfer his memorabilia to the museum, and were signatories on the formal documents of donation dated October 10, 1941.



In his article describing the great gift of the late Antonina Wilkońska for Polonia, Haiman noted that this collection is owned by Polonia, and consists of the

complete furnishings arranged in two rooms at the Buckingham Hotel in New York, where the Master spent the final year of his life. The furniture was specially purchase by hotel management for the Master, and no one else made use of it. Following the death of her brother, Wilkońska, who resided with Paderewski and was three years his senior, purchased the furniture from the Buckingham at considerable cost. A sign was installed in the I. J. Paderewski Room, stating that in accordance with the wishes of the donors, visitors are asked to make a donation to the Paderewski Fund. Haiman's notations, carefully recorded at that time, include evidence of these donations, which at the decision of Strakacz, were then intended for the care and preservation of the I. J. Paderewski Room.

The deed of transfer included an item inventory of the living room and bedroom, listing a sofa, fireplace, fireplace set, tables, desk, chairs, table lamps, chests of drawers, bed, bedside table, and more. Additional inventories listed the piano, books, magazines, documents, and autographs.

At the suggestion of Kollupajło, Haiman made a sketch of the original hotel rooms, and based on this description, the furniture was arranged in the same fashion in the I. J. Paderewski Room. In the above mentioned article, Haiman expressed hope that additional mementoes collected within Polonia would also be donated. His appeal was met with enthusiasm. The collection was supplemented by numerous items, memorabilia, and various valuable materials, carefully

registered in the museum's golden book of donations. Thanks to these new acquisitions and continued research, an expanded exhibition was gradually created that not only recreated the daily life of the Master during his last year, but also gathered evidence of his tireless work towards the independence of Poland.

The first part of the exhibition showcases the living room, which features the last piano Paderewski played, a gift from the Steinway company (with which he was associated with since his first US tour in 1891) specially placed in his hotel room, along with sheet music including Chopin's "Polonaises Op. 40" – the piece Paderewski last played. The piano is completed with his famous concert stool with backrest, designed by Paderewski himself, and of which many copies were made for his personal use. Adjacent to the fireplace, and as confirmed by a New York newspaper illustration, is an armchair in which he liked to sit, next to a table with the day's newspapers, including the *New York Times* and *New York Herald Tribune*, which he recently read. Opposite stood a writing desk with two chairs, with writing paper initialed "IJP" on its



letterhead, a letter opener and writing instruments, eyeglasses, a calendar from 1941, and books on subjects indicating his vivid interest in Polonia life.



On the desk covered with a mat initialed "IJP" are the last used deck of cards, issued from a series by Refuges of England, Inc. and printed in New York, along with a package of his favorite brand of cigarettes – Mignon, from an Egyptian company (of which he was deprived of during the war and gifted by Haiman during a November 8, 1940 hotel room meeting), an ashtray, cigarette holder, and matches, as well as his sister's eyeglasses. The display case features an acknowledgement on the occasion of an eightieth birthday greeting, signed by the Master's hand. The next

case displays a very personal souvenir – a white handkerchief initialed "IJP" as well as a later received donation from the collection in Switzerland of the *Last Supper* in relief carving and donated to the PMA by Jan Kostrzewski, Poland's Minister of Health and Welfare (1968-1972).

Further along in the reproduced hotel room is presented a small semi-circular dinner table with chair, tablecloth and napkin both lettered "B" for the Buckingham Hotel, two plates and silverware, an ashtray, cigarettes, and matches, as well as salt and pepper shakers. Next is featured a dressing table with two lamps and a prescription bottle of cologne in a leather case, comb, case with scissors, metal water jug, and mirror. At the center of the bedroom display, surrounded by two chests of drawers and bedside table with a lamp, is the bed covered with a quilt, on which I. J. Paderewski died on June 29, 1941.



Among the precious mementoes that Paderewski took with him from Switzerland, and therefore saved, is a golden feather pen, featuring a white eagle, and inscribed to I. J. Paderewski as a gift from the people of the Polish nation in 1919, which was used to sign the Treaty of Versailles, and the precious watch, designed by Roman Dzikowski of New York, funded by the Polish Army Veterans of America (PAVA), as a 75th birthday present, and given to Paderewski in Paris in 1936. Also noteworthy is the display of golden personal items gifted to the Master on various occasions: cufflinks, watch, coin case, two cigarette cases of which one is inscribed, To Our Beloved President I. J. Paderewski, Warsaw, July 31, 1919, with signatures of his cabinet members.



Personal items from Paderewski's wardrobe create a separate category of the collection, and many were received after the opening of the I. J. Paderewski Room. Among them: two suits, a winter coat with a fur collar and fur hat, black top hat and another black hat, two pairs of shoes made in early 1941 in New York by shoemaker and Polish Army in France veteran, Piotr Wasiewicz, as well as an ivory Panama hat which Paderewski wore during his final public speech in Oak Ridge, NJ, on June 22, 1941 – seven days prior to his passing, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of PAVA. An audio recording of this speech is preserved in the PMA Archives.

Noteworthy are the gold tiepin and cufflinks and the Distinguished Service medal from the American Legion, as well as another donation from Chicago Consul Ripa on behalf of New York Consul Strakacz, and evidenced in an October 20, 1941 letter – the medal and decree of the *Virtuti Militari*, issued posthumously to Paderewski by the Commander in Chief of the Polish Armed Forces, General Władysław Sikorski on June 30, 1941, one day after his death.

Thanks to further efforts by Haiman and his successors, additional items were donated to the Paderewski collection over the years, among them: gramophone records; mementoes from the Master's funeral; an Irish lace black scarf originally purchased by Paderewski in England in 1936 for his sister, and donated by Vernon Kellog; oil paintings by Paul Strayer from 1941; and a cast of Paderewski's hand by Malvina Hoffman, who also cast the death mask of Paderewski which was donated and added to the permanent display in June 2014. The collection is supplemented by the rich documentary archives of Paderewski, which also continues to expand thanks to donations, and includes concert programs, manuscripts, speeches, and correspondence, as well as numerous sculptures, paintings, and photographs.

Paderewski's Swiss estate

Although over the years, as the PMA's Paderewski collection continued to grow, mementos from his Swiss estate, as promised in Paderewski's will, were never acquired. In a letter to Haiman, Strakacz noted that Paderewski was considering donating items related to American Polonia to the museum of the PRCUA, but it was not possible to do so before the end of the war. Strakacz repeated these sentiments during the opening of the Paderewski Room on November 3, 1945, and again in a letter to Haiman in 1945.

The Riond Bosson villa on Lake Geneva in Morges, Switzerland served as a home and a place of work and rest for Paderewski and his family, and as a place expressing the longing for his family home in Kuryłówka in Podolia, which he considered the most beautiful on earth.

Following the death of his second wife, Helena, in January 1934, Paderewski intended to sell this extraordinary property. Hitler's war and barbaric actions thwarted these plans. In



September 1940, together with his sister as well as Strakacz and his family, they packed what they could into two cars, set off in a hurry, and left behind the wealth and beauty of Riond Bosson. Paderewski, leaving this beloved estate, likely did not think it would be for the last time, but it may have been a blessing he did not live to see the aftermath of war and the later fate of this estate.

Paderewski, seeking justice and concerned for the fate of Poland, came to America on November 6, 1940 – his eightieth birthday. Exhausted by war and the journey's hardships, he intended to rest in his beloved Passo Robles in California, where, since 1914, he owned two ranches that included a vineyard. Previously, he stayed at the El Passo de Robles hotel, where he would rest and practice his repertoire between tours. During three summers in 1915-1918, when serving as the representative of Poles in America before the US government and the Polish National Committee in Paris, it was there that he wrote his famous speeches about Poland's independence, voiced with gusto, in several

languages, delivered during numerous gatherings and concerts, and resulted in income for the Polish Victims Relief Fund. It must have been another difficult blow when the unexpected and devastating news arrived that a fire destroyed the El Paso de Robles hotel on December 12, 1940, a place full of Paderewski's Californian memories.

Although active until his last days, tired of his life's efforts to fight for a free Poland, distant and deprived of his beloved places, Ignacy Jan Paderewski died in the presence of a few loved ones; his sister, secretaries, and doctor in his Buckingham Hotel suite in New York on June 29, 1941.

Shortly after the end of World War II, Paderewski's Swiss estate came under the interest of Poland's communist regime; wishing to seize the property of the great Pole, they pursued a policy plan eliminating all obstacles. The villa, in which Paderewski carefully collected memorabilia of Polish culture along with mementoes of his international travels, and surrounded by beautiful gardens and orchards, was from 1951 methodically and successively stripped of its wealth and then sold. Items leftover, such as furniture, were auctioned. In 1958, a motorway between Lausanne and Geneva was built through a former garden. In 1965, the villa itself was demolished. All that remained was an old gatehouse, renovated after many years, and the gardener's house in the shade of hundred-year old trees. In the process of "securing" the estate by communist authorities, some items relevant to Polish culture and records listed in Paderewski's will were transferred to select institutions. Others were auctioned off and dispersed, ending up in private hands. The issue of Paderewski's estate remains an important topic among historians, and marks a stain on the legacy of the post-war communist regime of Poland.

The uniqueness of the I. J. Paderewski Collection at the PMA

Many institutions across the United States and Europe hold artifacts and documents relating to the life and work of I. J. Paderewski. The collection at the PMA is singular in its focus and origins; as its central point, it originated with the actions of Paderewski's inner circle and was successively supplemented over the years, culminating into something unique. It holds the story of the Master's final year, and is also accentuated by the PMA held collections of the

Polish National Department and papers of many individuals associated with Paderewski. Together, these materials allow researchers to continue to bring to light a variety of facts about Paderewski, even 80 years after his death, in order to more fully know the true story of this great Pole's life and his accomplishments for an independent Poland.



In 2010, on the occasion of Paderewski's 150th birthday anniversary, the PMA I. J. Paderewski Room was fully restored. The refreshed exhibits continue to delight and

inform visitors. The PMA is proud to have been entrusted with the care of this collection – and with the legacy of Paderewski, for eighty years. It is through a common effort, thanks to donors, Polonia organizations, the Polish Consul and other representatives of the Republic of Poland, that the PMA ensures the proper care and longevity of the I. J. Paderewski Collection.

PMA Gifted with 4 Historical Maps from Thaddeus V. Gromada

On September 14, 2021, the Polish Museum of America received a donation consisting of four historical maps of Poland, dating from 1656, 1719, 1730, and 1799, which will further enrich the already existing Map Collection of the PMA Archives. This gift was received from Thaddeus V. Gromada, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of European History, New Jersey City University. Gromada previously served as president and longtime board member of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (PIASA) in New York; vice president and board member of the Kosciuszko Foundation; and president of the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA).

Professor Gromada originally obtained these antique maps in the 1970s from his mentor, Professor Oskar Halecki, the founder of PIASA, and under whose supervision, Gromada completed his doctoral thesis at Fordham University, New York, in 1966: *The Slovak Question in Polish Foreign Policy 1934-1939*. In a letter to the PMA board of directors dated August 31, 2021, Gromada expressed his hope that "Halecki would be pleased and honored that his beloved maps of Poland will reside in the Polish Museum of America in Chicago, an institution he greatly respected." This was due to many years of fruitful cooperation with the museum's first curator, Mieczysław Haiman, with whom Halecki already established correspondence with prior to founding PIASA in 1942. Halecki further encouraged Haiman's collaboration with PIASA, resulting in Haiman arranging for regular donations of duplicate books from the collection of the then Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA) Library to be sent to PIASA Library in New York. The internal records of the PMA includes correspondence from Halecki addressed to Haiman, offering evidence of the professional relationship on which their friendship was based, which was interrupted by the premature death of Haiman in January 1949.

As the request of Gromada, Halecki's four maps were delivered to the PMA thanks to the efforts of Dr. Alvin M. Fountain II, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in North Carolina and President of the Paderewski Festival in Raleigh, NC, and his wife, pianist Brenda Bruce. Gromada was able to participate virtually during their visit, which was also attended by directors and employees of the PMA and PRCUA.

The donated maps are:

1. Hugo Allard (engraver/publisher): "Nova totius Regni Poloniae, Magnique Ducatus Lithuaniae, cum suis Palatinatibus ac Confiniis...", Amsterdam, 20.27 x 15.55 inches. c. 1656.
2. Edward Wells (publisher): "A new map of present Poland, Hungary, Walachia, Moldavia, Little Tartary, shewing their principal divisions, chief cities, towns, rivers, &c. ...," [London], 14.5 x 20.5 inches. 1719.
3. Guillaume Delisle - Covens et Mortier (publisher): "Estats de la Couronne de Pologne subdivisés Suivant l' estendue des Palatinats Dressee sur ce qu en ont donne Starovolsk...", Amsterdam, 17.33 x 23.62 inches. 1730.
4. John Cary (engraver): "A new map of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, shewing their dismemberments and divisions between Austria, Russia and Prussia in 1772, 1793 & 1795...", [London], 18.5 x 20.5 inches. 1799.





Restoring PMA artifacts to their original glory

By Julita Siegel

When you visit the Polish Museum, partially reopened for tours post-COVID lockdown*, you might notice many of the artifacts received a much needed conservation treatment.

Since 2018 over 50 objects were carefully restored to their original beauty. All of this was possible thanks to the cooperation with – POLONIKA** - The National Institute of Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad, based in Warsaw, Poland. Established in 2017 by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of Poland, the Institute carries out projects of conservation, scientific research, and educational nature.

Skilled experts from Parma Conservation firm in Chicago – Ewa Devereux and John Salhus - were chosen to undertake the conservation work. By mutual agreement priority and special attention were given to the precious collection of objects from the Polish Pavilion at the 1939 New York World's Fair, in preparations for the 80th anniversary exhibition. Representatives of the Institute - Dorota Janiszewska-Jakubiak and Piotr Ługowski, attended the official jubilee celebration on October 11, 2019, titled Polish Imagination: The World of Tomorrow... and approved the restoration carried out by that date. Impressed with vastness and importance of the collection and witnessing a number of objects from the Polish Pavilion requiring conservation the same priority was given to this group of artifacts in 2020 and 2021.



Restoration work this year included replica of the right wing of the Gniezno Cathedral Doors (plaster, wood), Jagiellonian Globe (replica by H. Waldyn, Kraków, 1937) and three polychrome wooden sculptures of saints.

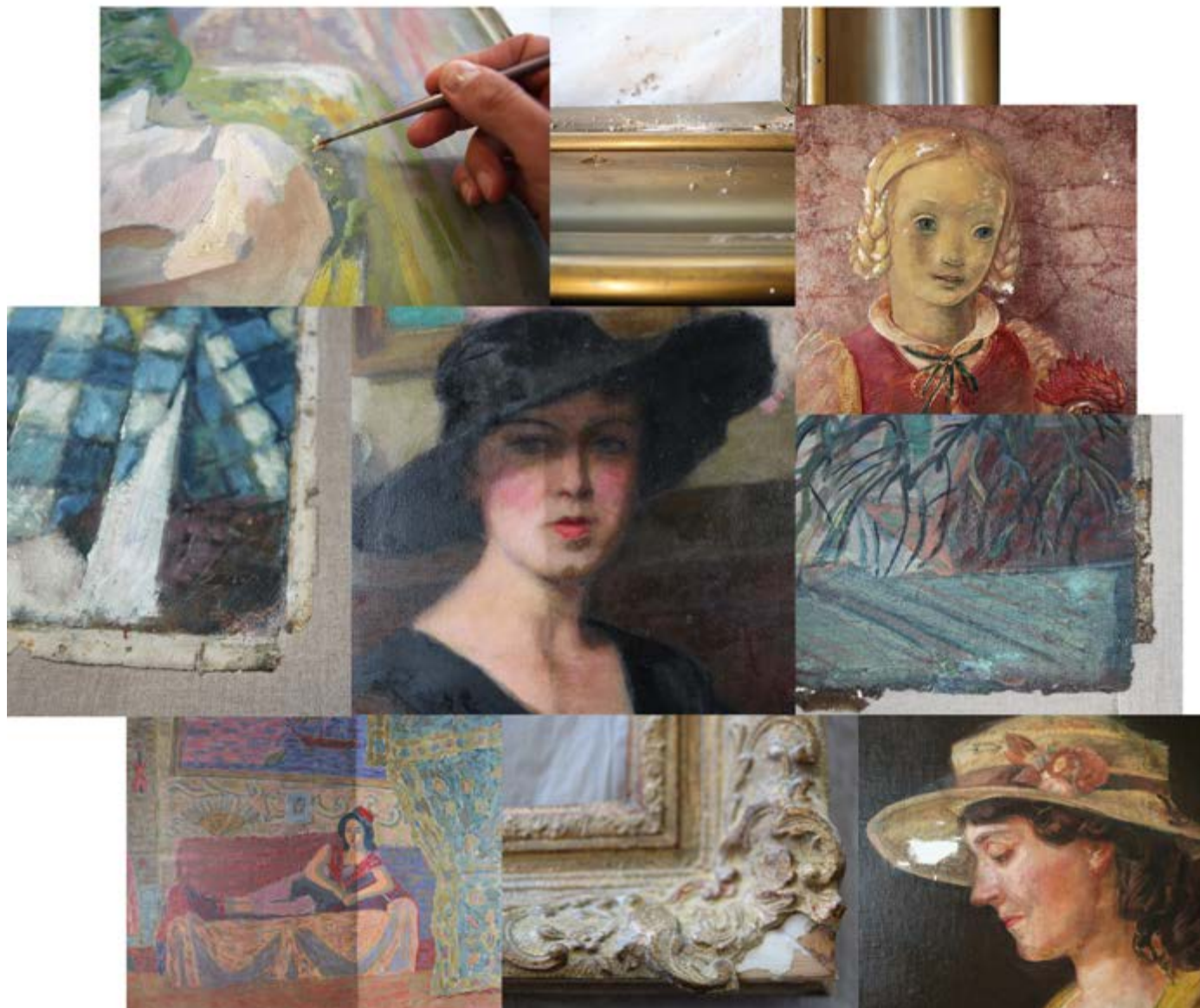
Conservation of three precious paintings on a long-term-loan at the Polish Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, has also been completed. These works are: Horse Market in Krakow and Cossacks on the Steppe by Ludwik Gędek (1847-1904), and Patrol by Władysław Szerner (1836-1915). Both artists were representatives of the Polish artistic colony in Munich, so called "Munich School", characterized as precursors of realism with the spirit of romanticism.

Going beyond the POLONIKA conservation sponsorship additional works of art were restored, and still will be restored, thanks to donations made in memory of Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak, Mother of PMA Board Member Stephen Kusmierczak, and donations made in memory of Marek Sokolowski, Husband of PMA Board Member Anna Sokolowki.



As a result of all this work – our viewers still get an authentic experience but with a feeling of pride and special care given to preserve the past for the future. Please visit us soon and see for yourself!

Cooperation with the POLONIKA Institute this year, besides the ongoing conservation project, includes an upcoming temporary exhibition of watercolors Tytus Brzozowski. 12 Cities, on view from October 22 to December 11, 2021, with an opportunity to meet the artist on Friday, November 12.



*See the PMA website for details – polishmuseumofamerica.org

**The term “Polonica” is defined as objects, documents or places originating from Poland or connected with Poland, located within the country or abroad.



THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA

41st GALA

Streaming live from the Sabina Logisz Great Hall

PROGRAM

Welcome/Video Presentation	Micheline Jaminski, Gala Chair and PMA Vice Chair Elżbieta Sawczuk, Mistress of Ceremony
Invocation	Fr. Andrzej Totzke, SChr, PMA Chaplain
Remarks	Agata Grochowska, Vice Consul, Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago Colleen Paderewski (Video) Paderewski Family Richard Owsiany, PMA President
Video Presentation	The Paderewski Room
The Spirit of Antonina Paderewska-Wilkonska	Barbara Kożuchowska, Performer Youssef El Yakine, PaSO Academy of Music
The Princess Waltz	The Future of Polonia Representatives of Polish American organizations
The PMA Today	Małgorzata Kot, PMA Managing Director
Video Presentation	The Opening of the Paderewski Room Halina Misterka, PMA Head Archivist
Polish Spirit Award	Richard Owsiany, PMA President James Robaczewski, PMA Chair
Recognition of Gala Appeal Donations	Maria Ciesla, PMA President Emeritus
Toast/Closing Remarks	Richard Owsiany, PMA President James Robaczewski, PMA Chair Micheline Jaminski, Gala Chair and PMA Vice Chair Małgorzata Kot, PMA Managing Director
Entertainment	Anthony Kawalkowski Trio



ELŻBIETA SAWCZUK

Maybe you recognize her face... or perhaps her voice? Elżbieta (Ela) Sawczuk, the mistress of ceremonies of this year's Gala of the Polish Museum of America, was associated with Polish media in Chicago for nearly two decades. For many years, she visited the PRCUA building and Polish Museum as a journalist and reporter, preparing countless reports on the most important Polish and cultural events taking place in the museum and its building.



Associated with Polish Radio 1030 AM and TV Polvision for years, Ela prepared and presented radio news and ran the evening newscast Monitor Polvision. She was also the producer of many other programs, including the medical program *Żyj Zdrowo* (Healthy Living). The center of Ela's interests has always been people and places, which resulted in many interesting TV reports, such as "Olympijskie Ateny 2004" (Olympic Athens 2004), "Podróż do Ziemi Świętej" (Journey to the Holy Land) and a series of reports about the John Paul II Foundation in Rome. For several years, Elżbieta was also a correspondent for TVP Polonia and worked on programs such as *Wieści Polonijne* (Polonia News).

Ela began her professional career in Opole (Poland), the city from which she hails. She graduated from the Radio and Television Department of the University of Silesia in Katowice, majoring in television and film production. In order to conduct research for her master's thesis on television in the United States, Ela travelled to New York, where she also worked for Jerzy Bekker's "Nasze Radio" (Our Radio).

In 1999, Ela settled permanently in the United States. Adding to her Opole-Katowice-New York-Chicago journey, her next stop was Mount Prospect—where she now lives—and the home she established with her husband, Rafał. For the past 7 years, their son, Philip, has been the center of their lives.

In 2018, Ela changed the direction of her professional career by assuming the position of Director of Marketing at the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, where she has been working since.

In her free time, Elżbieta is still active in the Polish community, and has acted as the mistress of ceremonies of events such as the Miss Polonia Competition, the selection of the Queen of the May 3rd Constitution Day Parade in Chicago and *Serce dla Skolimowa*, the charity gala for the Veteran Actors' Home in Skolimów (Poland).

Ela's love of art was instilled in her family by her older sister Małgorzata, who is currently a fine arts conservator in Chicago. As the notion of upholding cultural treasures for future generations remains extremely close to her heart, hosting the Gala of the Polish Museum in America is a great distinction and honor for Elżbieta.

THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA



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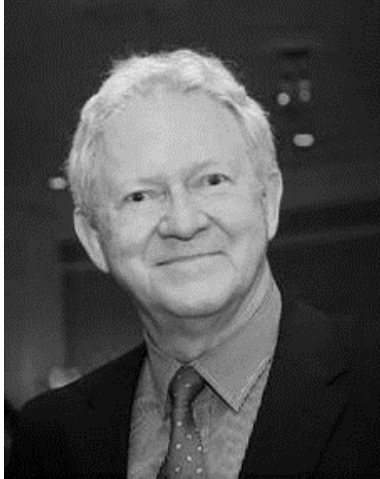
Employees represents over 140 years of combined PMA experience with higher education in related fields, in addition to continuous professional development, as well as a passion for Poland and Polonia.

This compilation of volunteers is done in alphabetical order based on those who register or who have provided service of which the PMA is aware. Each hour donated is a multiplier that advances the plans of the PMA. There are many more individuals working on committees, giving of their time, or more, whose names are not reflected here, but to whom the PMA extend its sincerest *Bóg zapłać* (May God Reward You).

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“The Costume Room Modernization at the Polish Museum of America”

The public services project financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic Of Poland
within the “Cooperation with the Polish Community and Poles Abroad 2021 – Infrastructure
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The PMA would like to express its heartfelt appreciation to all its generous donors who give throughout the year. Without them, the PMA would not be able to fulfill its mission of safeguarding Polish and Polish American history and artifacts.

Additional thanks go to a generous, anonymous PMA supporter, who graciously committed a \$50,000 matching donation, which was swiftly met.

"A Museum of the dimensions and scope of the Polish Museum of America cannot be the operation or concern of one individual."

Joseph A. Drobot, PMA Chairman, 1979

The PMA is grateful to the following donors
who chose to support the traditional Gala appeal



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In Memory of Jack & Dorothy Radgowski

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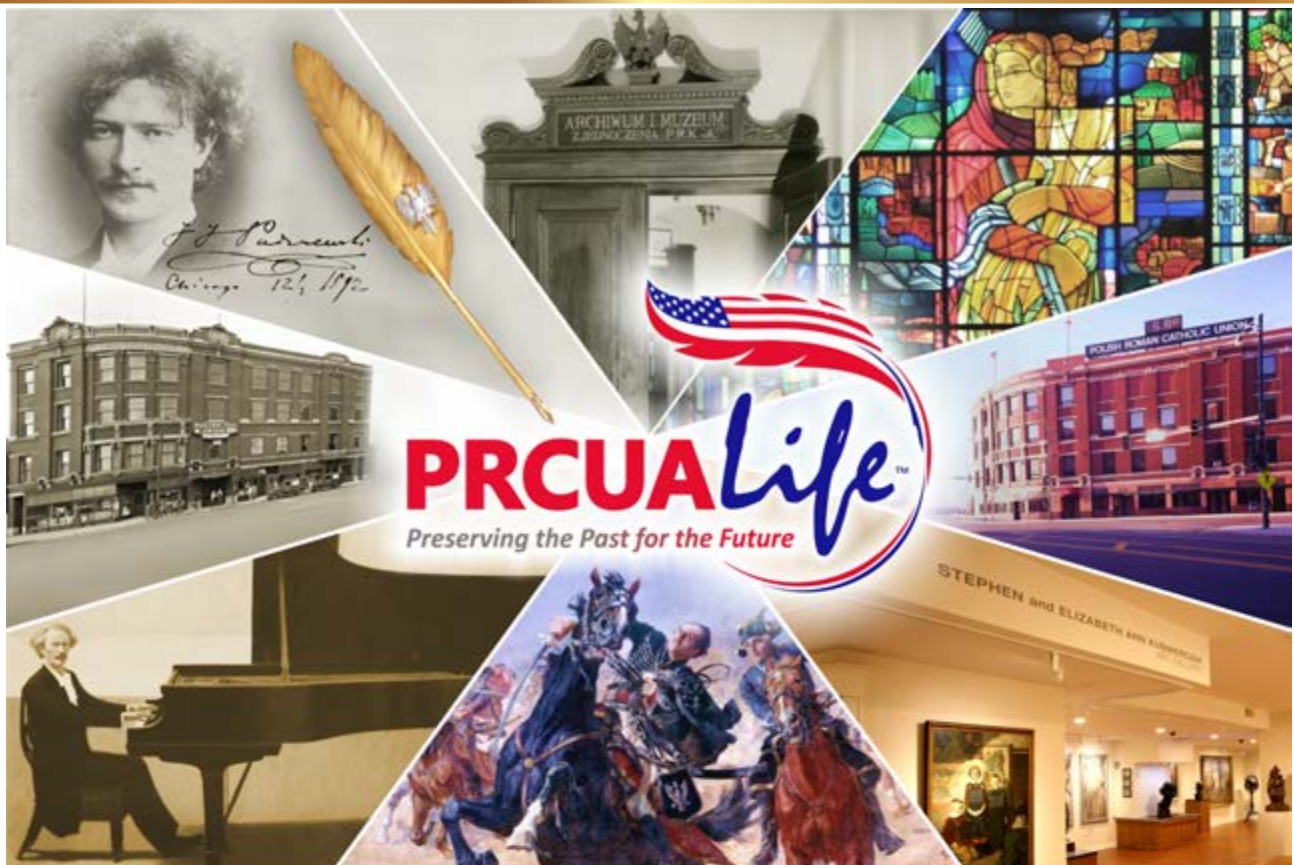
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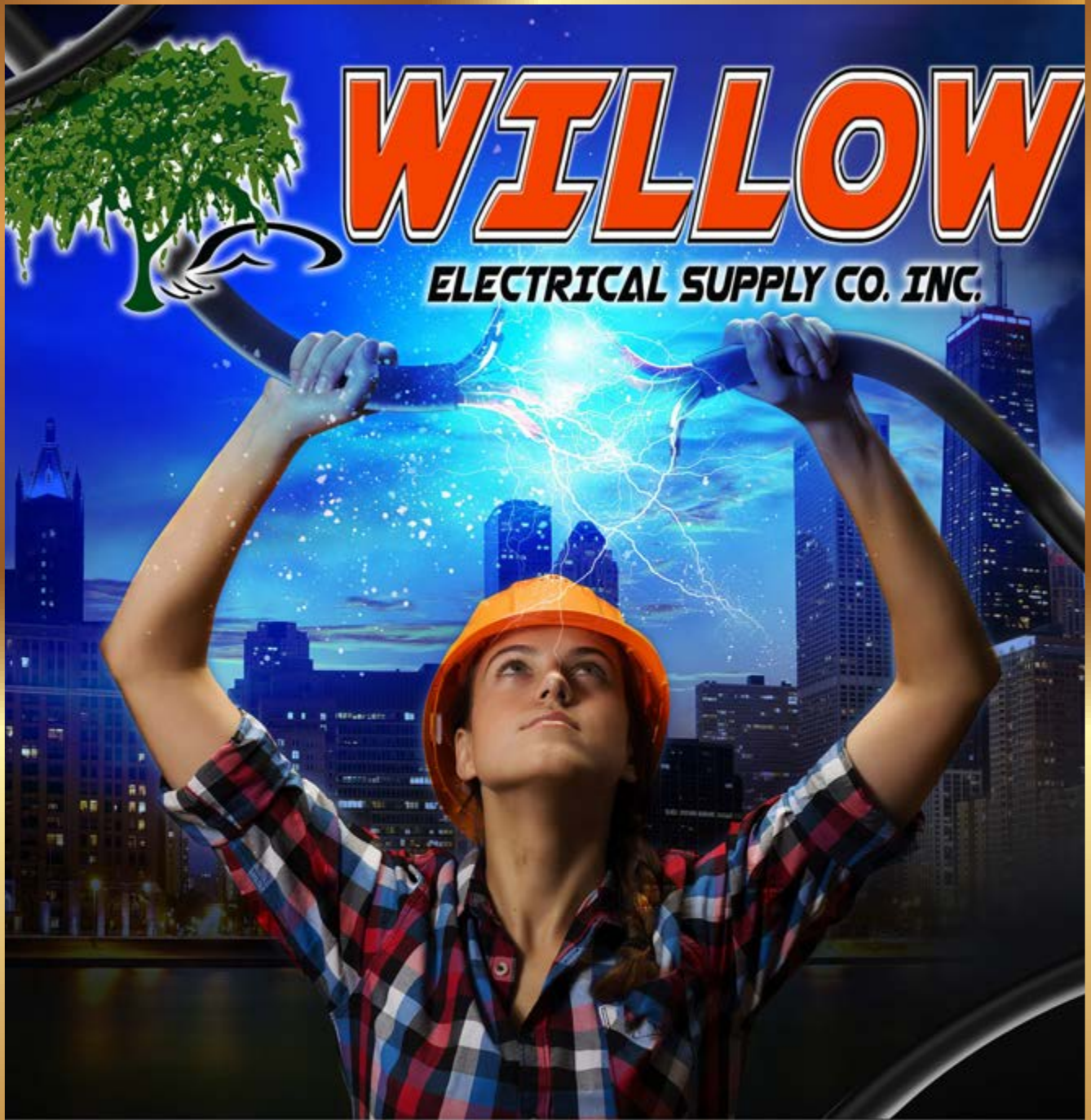
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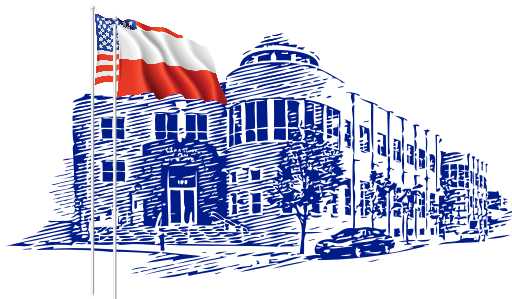
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Patricia Stepniak

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A graduate of the Fine Arts Schools in Poland, Patricia Stepniak's whole life is centered around sharing her artistic talents with the world.

Patricia is well versed in many different areas of the fine arts, including painting, designing, and sculpting, among others.

She teaches, creates art, and uses her knowledge to train the next generation of artists at her own studio - PatriciaArtStudio.

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*„ (...) I dreszcz wzruszenia, który (...)
duszę mą polską poruszył nie lada,
gdzie wdzięczność przodkom oraz hołd historii
pieczołowicie teraźniejszość składa. (...)”*

— A. Petrusiewicz

*Najszczerze gratulacje z okazji
pięknego jubileuszu 86-lecia Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce,
z życzeniami dalszej, owocnej pracy nad polską historią,
sztuką, kulturą i dziedzictwem
oraz w podziękowaniu
za pieczołowite pielęgnowanie
polskiej przeszłości.*

~ Joanna Piątek

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Congratulations and Best Wishes
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The Polish & Slavic Center (PSC) is non-profit social and cultural services organization founded in 1972 and headquartered in New York City. With approximately 40,000 members, the PSC is one of the largest Polish-American organizations on the East Coast. It receives contracts from the City of New York – Department for the Aging (DFTA), Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD), and sponsorship from the NYC Council. Each year the PSC receives funds to support programs that are free for the community. In addition, PSC promotes the program “Polonia supports young talents” and the PSC scholarship program. PSC also publishes its own quarterly paper “Echo PSC” which is dedicated to events, happenings and achievements of Polonia.

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176 Java Street, Brooklyn, New York 11222

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Have you or someone you know within Polonia had their life interrupted due to alcohol addiction?

Have you or the individual in question recognized the problem, enrolled in an intense treatment program or need a treatment program referral? Is proper and consistent transitional housing post-treatment a major concern due to limited resources? **We may be able to help you - if you are committed to helping yourself.**

The Anawim Shelter for Homeless Men – serving Polonia since 1989

The Anawim Shelter for Homeless Women – recently opened 2020

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**Frank Spula, President of the Polish National Alliance
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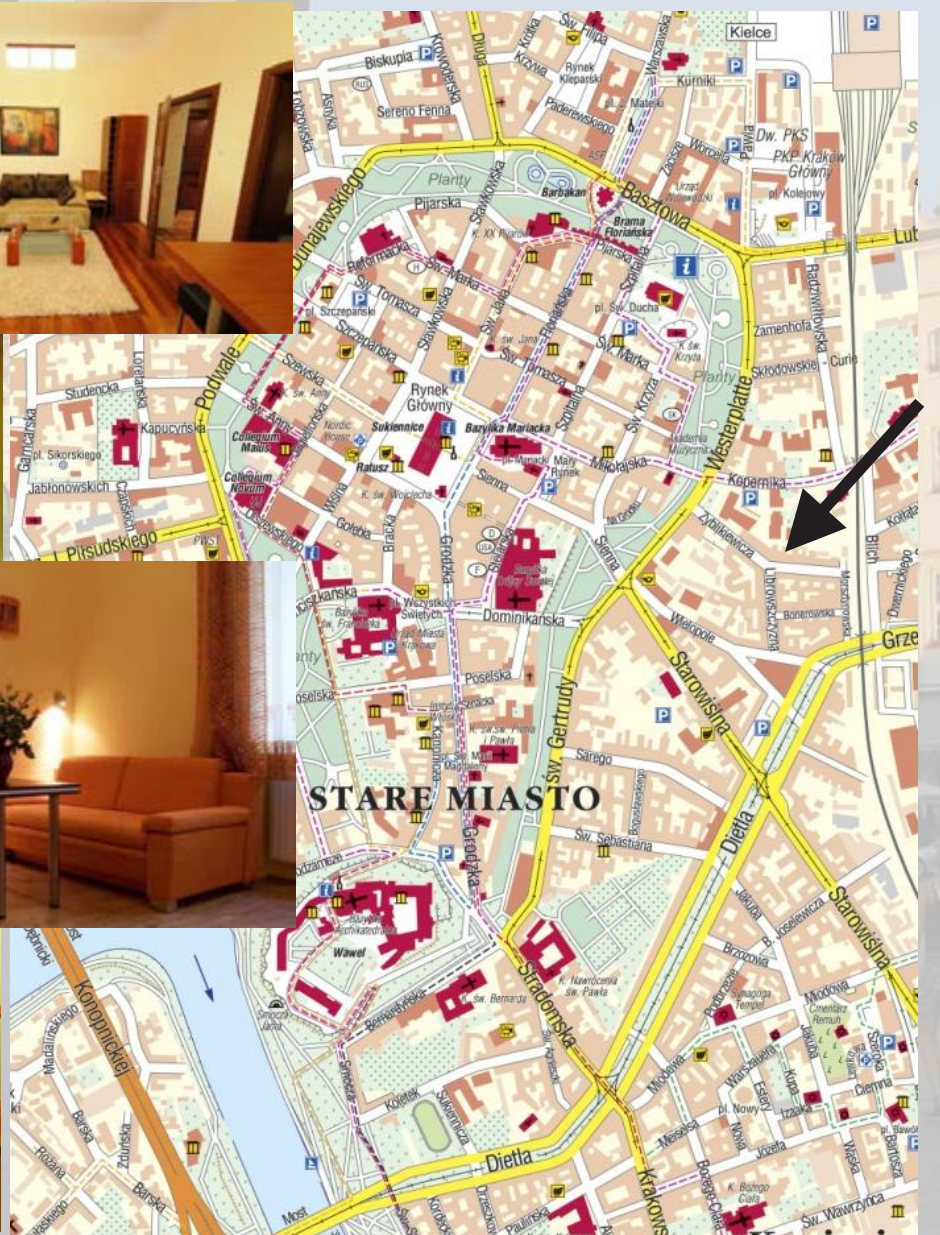
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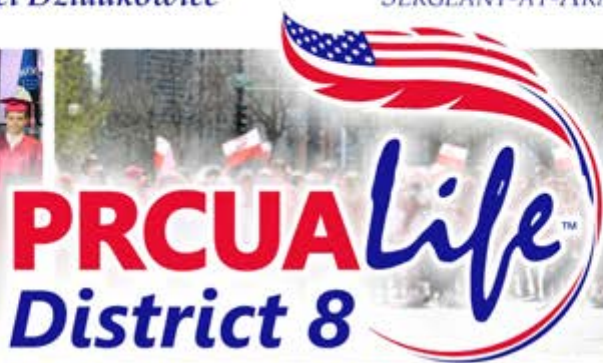
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The Polish Museum of America

which is an integral part of not only the Polish community, but also
the American community,

we send our congratulations and thanks

for your activity among the Polish community, for being a treasury of culture
and great patrons of Polish national heritage,
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We wish you perseverance and success in your mission of saving,
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The Advocates Society of Polish-American Attorneys congratulates the Polish Museum of America on the occasion of its 2021 Gala and Polish Spirit Award recipients Mr. Frank Spula and the Pilsudski Institute of America. Your great contributions to the Polonia Community are truly appreciated by all.



**CONGRATULATIONS AND OUR VERY BEST WISHES TO
FRANK SPULA, PRESIDENT OF THE POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE AND
POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS,
TO THE PILSUDSKI INSTITUTE OF AMERICA,
RECIPIENTS OF THE POLISH SPIRIT AWARD, AND TO
THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA
ON THE 2021 GALA!**

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The caricature above (1909) plays on that year's race for the North Pole and Paderewski's well-known appeal to women of all ages.

To the right is the poster for the 2020, virtual, Seventh Annual Festival; performances can be viewed on YouTube.



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*To President of Polish American Congress Frank Spula, 2021 Recipient of
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FOR HIS SELFLESS AND UNENDING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE PRESTIGE
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*Best wishes to
The Polish Museum of America,
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May this Gala be huge fun for all in attendance
and bear much fruit of success.*

*Best To All,
Katarzyna Kusz, DDS & Team*



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życzy Muzeum Polskiemu w Ameryce
z okazji Dorocznej Gali 2021
wielu sukcesów w promowaniu
kultury polskiej w Ameryce.*



Mayor Barrett Pedersen &
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Congratulate the

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Annual Gala



Thank you for all you do for our community.

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The Tatra Mountain Cultural Foundation

*Congratulations
to the Polish Museum of America
on its 41st Gala
and to the Spirit Award recipients -
Frank J. Spula
and Jozef Pilsudski Institute of America!*



Congratulations and best wishes to
Polish Museum of America!



from the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra and Academy of Music



We cordially invite you to The 20th Anniversary Concert of AM PaSO

"Thank you for music"

Copernicus Center Sunday Oct. 31st, 2021, 2 p.m.

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Congratulations to both the Piłsudski Institute and Mr. Frank Spula for being awarded the 2021 Spirit Award!

We also join in celebrating the great work of the Polish Museum of America "in preserving the past for the benefit of the future," on the occasion of their 41st Annual Gala!

The Polish American Engineers Association
Chicago, October 8th, 2021
www.polishengineers.org



And we invite all interested to our meetings, each 3rd Friday of the month- please see our website for details.





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The POLONIKA National Institute of Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad, together with the Polish Museum of America in Chicago, invite you to the exhibition “Tytus Brzozowski. 12 Cities.”

It took Tytus Brzozowski six months to paint a series of watercolours commissioned by the POLONIKA Institute. The unique exhibition opens on October 22, 2021 and runs until December 11, 2021, with an opportunity to meet the artist in person on Friday, November 12.

Tytus Brzozowski is a painter, architect and creator of fantastic and fairy-tale-like murals decorating the streets of Warsaw. The PMA will be showing 13 paintings by Brzozowski. It is his artistic vision of the cities in which Polonica can be found: from Chicago and Padua through Lviv, Tbilisi to Rapperswil, charming and exceptional for the history of Poland.

Details on the websites: www.polonika.pl and www.polishmuseumofamerica.org

Supervision: Dorota Janiszewska-Jakubiak; Curator of the exhibition: Anna Ekielska;
Project originator: Karolina Sałajczyk; Project coordinator: Jakub Krzeszowski

Contact for the media:

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