

Dear Friends,

We hope that the holiday season finds you healthy and ready to celebrate with family and friends. We would like to believe that we are “back to normal” as Christmas is all about believing... and may all your and our wishes come true. Wszystkiego Najlepszego!

Our mission states that we are dedicated to preserving and promoting our Polish Heritage and Culture as well as advancing Polish Culture through education.

With that in mind, we awarded 6 scholarships in 2023. Our website highlights recipients. Students will have an opportunity to apply for 2024/2025 scholarships in the spring. We have also sponsored the Clearwater, Tarpon Springs, and Tampa Saturday Schools. They celebrated their anniversaries, and we are very proud of their achievements. We sincerely hope that they and their parents will become active in our organization. There is so much more that can be done by us thanks to the efforts of the previous members and contributors. Just as a reminder, the Institute was founded in 1982! Please read on the other side what we are guided by.

Upcoming announcements

- ◆ Concert with the music by Fryderyk Chopin, and music written for Chopin by contemporary women composers.
- ◆ We heard you—The Polonaise Ball is back this year. Please sign up to volunteer!
- ◆ As mentioned we will be awarding the next set of scholarships—deadline for applications will be in May, 2024.
- ◆ As we have done each year, we will celebrate Poland's Constitution Day in May and Independence Day in November by the Kosciuszko Monument in St. Petersburg.
- ◆ Congratulations to The Kosciuszko Foundation (thekf.org) for opening the Florida Chapter headquartered in Sarasota. We are in talks about coordinating future events with them. As they say “strengths in numbers.”
- ◆ Save the date: March 29, 2024—First Prize winner in the 2021 Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw, Bruce Liu performs a recital including Rameau, Ravel, Chopin and Liszt. If you are interested in attending as a group, please email aipctampabay@gmail.com with your interest.

Please join our Institute for discounted rates on future events or just to stay informed about our efforts to promote Polish Culture.



Wesołych Świąt i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku

Our vision:

- ◇ To enrich both the American and Polish cultures by sponsor-ship of national, social, educational scientific, culture and other evens concerned with demonstrating Polish abilities, traditions and contributions to world cultures.
- ◇ To create a physical and intellectual environment with will foster and enhance the natural, reasonable, and rightful aspirations of Polish-Americans and Polish American organizations and communities, on a co-operative basis, in the State of Florida.
- ◇ At the same time, to maintain and foster the spirit of loyalty and commitment to American ideals which are characteristic of the people of Polish origin in the State of Florida and in the United States.

Toward this end, our Institute has presented artistic events, concerts, film presentations, lectures, exhibits, and introduced to the Tampa Bay area that classic social event of the season – The Polonaise Ball. At this Annual Gala Dinner Dance we also honor individuals of an American and Polish descent in the Tampa Bay area, whose social awareness and moral integrity enhance the image of Poles in our community.

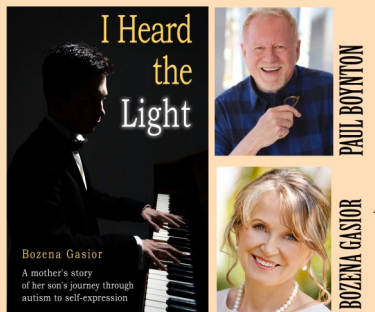
Christmas time is time to remember those that came before us

Szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl is an on-line service developed by the NDA which presents scans and descriptions of archive materials collected in the Polish archives. Currently more than 55 million scans of archive materials are available in the service, their number still growing.

Additionally, Familysearch.org and www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Poland_Websites Ancestry.com , www.ancestry.com/search/places/europe/poland Myheritage.com , www.myheritage.com/research/category-Poland

Book

INSPIRATIONAL



I Heard the Light

Bozena Gasior
A mother's story of her son's journey through autism to self-expression

Paul Boynton, author of "Begin with Yes"

This remarkable book will strike a chord with every mother who has loved their child with all their being.

Paul Boynton, author of "Begin with Yes"

Available on Amazon as an ebook, audiobook, and in paperback

Milosz has shown all of us that we can succeed beyond our own abilities.

Truly inspirational.

American Institute of Polish Culture supports Milosz as a pianist who continues to overcome challenges of his disability and serves not only as an ambassador for Polish culture but also as an ambassador for persons with disabilities.

Milosz's mother, Bozena Gasior, has just published a book " I Heard the Light" about Milosz who made history as the first piano major with autism to graduate from Pinellas County Center for the Arts in the school's 35-year history.



American Institute of Polish Culture in Tampa Bay, Inc. Publication

Advancing Polish Culture Through Education

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