



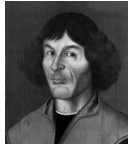
## American Institute of Polish Culture

Of Tampa Bay

9190 49<sup>th</sup> Street North

Pinellas Park, FL 33782-5228

email: [AIPCtampabay@gmail.com](mailto:AIPCtampabay@gmail.com)



Nicolaus Copernicus  
1473 - 1532  
Astronomer



Tadeusz Kosciuszko  
1746-1817  
Military Leader



Frederic Chopin  
1810-1849  
Composer



Marie Curie Sklodowska  
1867-1934  
Scientist-Radioactivity



Karol Wojtyla  
1920-2005  
Pope Saint John Paul II



Solidarity Trade Union  
1980 -  
Fall of Communism

### SAVE THE DATE

## Ball Polonaise

April 22nd, 2017

7:00pm

Feather Sound Country Club

2201 Feather Sound Dr.

Clearwater, FL 33762

Dinner, Dancing, Silent Auction

Tickets \$75

To receive updates  
please email [AIPCtampabay@gmail.com](mailto:AIPCtampabay@gmail.com)



To place an ad or a special message in the 35th Anniversary Souvenir Journal, please contact us at [AIPCtampabay@gmail.com](mailto:AIPCtampabay@gmail.com) or 727- 461-5312 (evenings)



### 2016 in Review by Leszek Zielinski, President

**Ball Polonaise** - We held another spectacular AIPC event in January 2016 - this time at the Polish Center of John Paul II. Spotlight was on two artists: locally well known Artur Kalata and Margaret Zarzycka, a violinist with Sarasota Orchestra.

**The Wall Speaks**, a multimedia exhibit composed and prepared by Wojtek Sawa, an artistic director, was opened from January through April 2016 at the Florida Holocaust Museum, as well as in the fall in Poland. It is receiving many accolades.

**May 3rd Constitution Day.** We also celebrated 225th Anniversary of Poland's First Constitution at the General Thaddeus Kosciuszko's Monument in the Williams Park in St. Petersburg. AIPC, who organized the event, included other organizations.

**St. Petersburg Folk Festival Society** On April 23rd, we participated in Annual Ball organized by the SPFFS. This year Richard Glowacki was selected as the Man of the Year, with Mariola Nowakowska, as the Ambassador of the year. The Polish community was well represented.

**Poland's Independence Day** - (November 11, 1918). The Institute prepared a special celebration of Poland's Independence Day. A special commemorating plaque was installed honoring Mr. Wally West, AIPC's founder, who was also instrumental in raising funds to build this spectacular monument. It is dedicated to Gen. Brig. Thaddeus Kosciuszko that signified Polish contribution to the fight for freedom in the United States.



**The Wall Speaks** – Voices of the Unheard, multimedia exhibit by Wojciech Sawa is dedicated to Polish children and teenagers of World War II subjected to Nazi German and Soviet policies best summarized by the words: “We will make you less than human.” It is important to notice the value of this multimedia presentation as it brings out the sacrifices of the Polish children during World War II and the Nazi occupation of Poland. It speaks to the monstrosity of discrimination, hatred, human suffering and exclusion. It is a very important message for the today’s generation.

The Wall Speaks Exhibit, composed and prepared by Wojtek Sawa, an artistic director, was opened from January through April, 2016 at the Florida Holocaust Museum. The exhibit featured large format photography, as well as interactive artifact and video installations. All interviews, photographs and artifacts are a reflection of a personal journey undertaken by the exhibit’s author, conceptual and multimedia artist Wojtek Sawa.

In the words of Wojtek Sawa, the creator of The Wall Speaks, *“The Wall Speaks project is dedicated to videotaping stories (personal narratives) of men, women, and children affected by a global World War II struggle for Poland’s independence.”* Wojtek Sawa has traveled all over the U.S. and Poland collecting previously unrecorded stories that will enable people to realize the impact the WWII had on the people of Poland. The exhibits in Poland generated a lot of interest; numerous articles appeared in the Polish media throughout the country. New contacts were established for further exhibits. It has been noted by the Polish Government’s various departments and gained major support, including the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda. A special educational program of workshops and lectures was offered to 500 schools in Poland.



The American Institute of Polish Culture in Tampa Bay supports and sponsors The Wall Speaks project. Wojtek Sawa, who is the creator of The Wall Speaks, is a Board of Directors Member of the American Institute of Polish Culture. To help fund this very important project, make a donation to the **American Institute of Polish Culture/Wall Speaks** and mail to AIPC at 9190 49<sup>th</sup> Street North, Pinellas Park, FL 33782.



*How it all began.. The proclamation of Marshal Law in Poland in December of 1981 caused a spontaneous flurry of patriotic activity in the Polish community of Pinellas County. A group of friends often gathered in our restaurant “Little Europe” to chat and express a yearning for a real local Polish organization. A rally followed and subsequently the American Institute of Polish Culture was formed with Wally West as its first President. 35 years later, we are celebrating our accomplishments as we renew our commitment to preserving and promoting the richness of Polish culture including the contributions made by Poles and Americans of Polish descent to the advancement of our Western civilization. Please join us as we continue this very important mission.*

**Krystyna Markut, Co-Founder**

#### **Introducing our 2017 Board of Directors and Committee Members**

Leszek Zielinski - President, George Czkwianianc - Vice President, Eva Skibicki -Treasurer , Krystyna Markut – Secretary, Zofia Filinski – Director, Jolanta Zasadna – Director, Wojtek Sawa, Director, Mariola Nowakowski, Director

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