



# Newsletter

DECEMBER 2010

## POLISH ASSISTANCE, INC. - POLSKA BRATNIA POMOC

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The 53rd

### *Bal Polonaise*

will take place on  
Saturday, February 26, 2011  
Grand Ballroom  
The Plaza Hotel  
New York, New York

**Celebrating the Legacy of**  
H.S.H. Princess Grace of Monaco  
An Honorary Member of Polish Assistance

**Honorary Chairman and Guest of Honor**  
H.S.H. Prince Albert II  
Sovereign of Monaco



#### **Ball Chairs**

Mariola Haggar  
Nina Mlodzinska de Rovira  
Jadwiga Palade  
Chevalier Cesare L. Santeramo, K.C.S.J.  
Wanda Wolinski

For more information, please contact  
[office@polishassistance.org](mailto:office@polishassistance.org) or call 212-570-5560

#### **About Polish Assistance**

Since 1956, Polish Assistance has been providing financial assistance to needy persons of Polish origin who are facing unforeseen hardships. Our recipients receive assistance in meeting daily expenses, usually to supplement low social security payments or to cover extraordinary medical bills. Our beneficiaries include homeless people undergoing medical treatment and handicapped people who are unable to care for themselves. We also give assistance to single parent households. For example, we sent three children to a summer camp as their father continued to struggle with a \$400,000 nursing home bill for their comatose mother. Then there is a case of a single mother of three whose husband died of a heart attack on Christmas Eve. She receives assistance for her autistic son as she tries to become independent. We never forget the elderly heroes who took part in the Warsaw uprising and who continue their involvement in many Polish causes.

To accomplish this, we solicit donations through dues and a series of fundraising activities. The grant Committee reviews the applications and makes a recommendation to the Board of Directors. Funds are allocated on a one time basis or monthly. Each grant is reviewed on an annual basis.



On behalf of the Board of Directors  
We wish you a joyous Holiday Season, Merry  
Christmas and a very Happy New Year  
Wesołych Świąt oraz  
Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku



**Message from Jadwiga Palade  
President  
Polish Assistance**

I wish to reiterate my most sincere appreciation to supporters of Polish Assistance. Since 1956, Polish Assistance has been providing financial assistance to needy persons of Polish origin who are facing unforeseen hardships due to personal tragedies. Through the past fiscal year we have helped nineteen people, and during this fiscal year we have been issuing monetary assistance to around twenty applicants. This year we have assigned over \$35,000 in grants to needy persons of Polish origin. In the past four years we have distributed over \$167,000 in assistance which now requires us to dip into our capital as our contributions have decreased due to the current economic conditions. We are hoping that with your support we will be able to turn this trend around as our primary goal is to increase giving over the years.

In order to expand our assistance to those in need, we need to raise more funds, and more volunteers are necessary to help us with our fundraising efforts. Many of our Board of Directors have served the organization for many years – some from the very beginning. Ela Sulimirski Landegger, who has been involved in Polish Assistance since she was 16 years old, has become the new Chairman of the Board. She is the daughter of Teresa and Witold Sulimirski, who themselves are longtime board members and have served on the board in multiple capacities. Eva Skibicki, who is my daughter, is now the assistant secretary. Both of them have the commitment to help the needy. They bring many fresh ideas on fundraising and a lot of energy. With the support of the current board members’ wisdom and experience, we are excited about our future. We also welcome two new members – Lady Blanka Rosenstiel and Richard Reczka.

As we create a legacy for our children and grandchildren, we invite you to do the same. We encourage you, your children and your grandchildren to get involved as well. It is important to instill in them Polish traditions and philanthropy.

With best wishes,

*Jadwiga Palade*



**Message from  
Cesare L. Santeramo, K.C.S.J.  
Secretary**

We are pleased to introduce to you our new Board of Directors. The Board foremost wishes to thank our departing members Mariola Haggar, Peter Makula and Olga Lorenc for their service and contribution to the organization. Although no longer on the Board, they have pledged their continued support and involvement in the organization.

After many years of dedicated service to Polish Assistance, Nina Mlodzinski de Rovira passed the duties of the Chairman of the Board to Ela Sulimirski Landegger. Nina will continue to serve on the Board as a director and assured us of her continued involvement as well. Nina’s involvement in Polish Assistance began in 1962. In her unselfish service to the organization she chaired the Junior Committee in the early years, served over 15 times as a Ball Chairman, not to mention 30 years as a Board Member. She was instrumental in moving the Ball from The Pierre Hotel to The Plaza. There are no words that anyone can express to show the gratitude for her work and it is simply impossible to identify how many needy people benefited from her contributions to Polish Assistance.

Wishing you Blessed Christmas and a Joyous Holiday Season

*Cesare L. Santeramo, K.C.S.J.*

**Board of Directors**

- Chairman** - Ela Sulimirski Landegger
- President** - Jadwiga Palade\*
- Vice President** - Nina Thiessen, M.D.\*
- Treasurer** - Richard Reczka\*
- Secretary** - Cesare L. Santeramo, K.C.S.J.\*
- Assistant Secretary** - Eva Skibicki

**Directors:**

Nina Mlodzinska de Rovira, Marta Hemming, Michelle Pyka Laskowski, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Teresa Sulimirski, Witold Sulimirski\*, Richard M. Szyplula, Esq.\*, Wanda Wolinski\*

(\* ) denotes members of the Executive Committee

## Board of Directors Elects New Members



**Ela Sulimirski Landegger**  
Chairman of the Board  
Polish Assistance

Ela Landegger has been actively involved in Polish Assistance since she was eight years old. It is a legacy that her parents, Teresa and Witold Sulimirski passed on to her. Over many years, she has assisted, chaired and co-chaired the Bal Polonaise and Autumn Dance.

Although Ela received her BA in Economics and French and worked in public relations, mortgage brokering and doll house building, it is her volunteer career that defines her. She has served in leadership positions on various charitable boards, including President of two Junior Leagues, and is currently the President of the American Women's Club of Oakville and an advisor to the new Canadian Red Cross Tiffany Circle.

Ela lives in Oakville, Canada. She is married to Cary Landegger and has two daughters, Alexandra and Montana, and two step-children Theo and Sabrina.



### Things to be thankful for this holiday season:

- Good health
- Food upon our table
- A warm home for our family
- Your support to make the same possible for the needy in our community



**Richard T. Reczka** is a Vice President at Vornado Realty Trust's Acquisitions and Capital Markets department. Vornado is the one of the largest real estate investment trusts in the United States and is a member of the S&P 500 index.

Richard's primary responsibility at Vornado is sourcing and negotiating the company's secured borrowings. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Rutgers University and is also a Certified Public Accountant.

Richard lives in Newton, New Jersey with his wife, Helene, and 4 children, Hailey, Brooke, Ethan and Richard.



**Lady Blanka A. Rosenstiel**, Honorary Consul to the Republic of Poland, is a pillar of the Polish community through her leadership, sponsorship and avid interest in the arts, dedication to helping young artists, and desire

to promote Poland's heritage while fostering culture in her American homeland. She established *The American Institute of Polish Culture, Inc.* in Miami and the *Chopin Foundation of the United States*. In 1998 she helped to establish a permanent *Kosciuszko Chair of Polish Studies* at the University of Virginia. Mrs. Rosenstiel has been awarded many titles and honors with the most recent being Ellis Island Medal of Honor, Cavalier's Cross of Polonia Restituta Order, Jose Marti Medal, and Polish Commander Cross of the Order of Merit.



**Eva Skibicki** is First Vice President at Raymond James, a financial services company, in St. Petersburg, Florida. She is the manager of the taxable fixed income trading and unit investment trust departments. Eva's career in the financial services industry began 33 years ago and presently she co-chairs the Retail

Fixed Income Committee of the Bond Dealers of America Association. She has been an active fundraiser for several organizations and currently serves the Board of Directors of the Alliance College Alumni Association.

Eva lives in Clearwater, Fl. She is married to Christopher Skibicki and has two children, Karolina and Russell.

### Polish Assistance Mission Statement

To provide financial assistance to needy persons of Polish origin; to assist such needy persons in adapting themselves to new economic and social conditions, and to help them to become better integrated in community life; to lend assistance to them in case of illness and distress and voluntarily to help them in any other possible way in case of need; to provide an information center to aid in the fulfillment of the foregoing purposes.

**The *Bal Polonaise* is Polish Assistance's main fundraiser.**

Please support our fundraising efforts by attending, becoming a sponsor, placing an ad in the Souvenir Journal and/or donating to the raffle. Proceeds from the above will allow us to increase our assistance efforts to help change the lives of those in need.

**Make your reservations now.** Invite your friends to join you at this spectacular event. Space is limited.

**Become a sponsor.** Sponsors will receive special, prominent recognition. Corporations can increase their visibility and enhance their reputation with positive exposure to a prominent group of individuals while helping to change the lives of those in need.

**Place an ad in the Souvenir Journal.** Advertise your business or recognize a friend with a special message.

**Donate to the raffle.** Raffle prizes with names of donors will be prominently displayed. Raffle ticket buyers do not have to attend to win.

**Make a donation.** If you are unable to attend, you can still support the cause by making a donation to Polish Assistance. During this holiday season, for those so hard to shop for, consider also making a donation in lieu of gift giving.

To participate, see enclosed reservation form or visit [www.polishassistance.org](http://www.polishassistance.org). More details are available also by calling 212-570-6650 or by contacting [office@polishassistance.org](mailto:office@polishassistance.org).



Ms. Monika Plocienniczak and Mr. Russell Skibicki

## The 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual *Bal Polonaise* 2011

Our next *Bal Polonaise* will be on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Plaza Hotel. We have received permission from H.S.H. Prince Albert II, Sovereign of Monaco, to add his mother's name to the list of Honorary Members. We will be dedicating this event to the memory of H.S.H. Princess Grace, who opened the Ball in 1982 by leading off the dancing of the Polonaise with her dance partner Doctor Robert J. Campbell only months before her tragic death, almost 30 years ago. Prince Albert will be our Guest of Honor as represented by his ambassador to the United States, H.E. Gilles Noghes.



1982 Bal Polonaise - Chevalier Cesare L. Santeramo, K.C.S.J., H.S.H. Princess Grace of Monaco, Chevalier Robert J. Campbell, M.D., K.S.J.

### **"Nothing unimportant ever happens at the Plaza"** by *Monika Plocienniczak*

He takes her hand and gestures to the center of the ball. Both know it is their time to show the dance that defined our generations past. The piano starts to play in the background and all conversation intuitively quiets down. All eyes focus on the elegant couple dancing together; they relive a certain charm and old-world glamour that is only understood by those present at the Grand Ballroom this February evening. Still, not all can say that that they have danced the traditional Polonaise in this timeless landmark's Grand Ballroom.

It was once said that "nothing unimportant ever happens at The Plaza." An inspiration for both younger and older generations, the annual *Bal Polonaise* at the Plaza provides the style and setting that all could only dream of – yes, those unfulfilled Cinderella dreams and boyish charm we only hear about in movies or fairy tales.

## Memories from the 2009 *Bal Polonaise*

We owe many thanks to the support and dedication of Chevalier Cesare L. Santeramo, K.C.S.J. , 2009 *Bal Polonaise* Chair. The pictures that follow are only reminders of the glamour and the memories of the evening. Chevalier Robert J. Campbell, M.D.,K.S.J. was honored for attending his 50th *Bal Polonaise*. He was the first person in Polish Assistance history to have reached this golden record. We wish Dr. Campbell the best of health so he may continue dancing the polonaise for many years to come. The 2009 recipient of our White Eagle Award was Mr. Adam M. Bak, the President and owner of Adamba Imports International, Inc. in New York who is one of the most active members of our community and is a supporter of Polish Assistance.



Mrs. Luna Kaufman, Chevalier Cesare L. Santeramo, K.C.S.J, Mrs. Jadwiga Palade, Chevalier Robert J. Campbell, M.D.,K.S.J.



Forty seven million Americans are currently without insurance. That is almost 16% of the population in the United States. Nearly 9 million of those without insurance are children. Most of the cases brought to our attention are from those who are affected by a medical condition and are unable to pay for basic necessities due to ever mounting medical expenses. Dr. Nina Thiessen, the chair of the Grant Committee is looking for medically qualified volunteers to assist her in reviewing the applications that eventually are presented to the Board for consideration.



Despite the continued support of many donors, charitable contributions in the United States have declined. At the same time the need for financial aid has increased dramatically as increasing number of people are impacted by today's economic conditions. This is why we appeal to you to be even more generous by donating today and attending our upcoming fundraising events. While a fundraiser is an opportunity to socialize and celebrate each other, more importantly, it is a major source of fundraising for Polish Assistance.



**For more information** If you are interested in obtaining more information on the events and our organization please visit our website at [www.polishassistance.org](http://www.polishassistance.org), contact our office at [office@polishassistance.org](mailto:office@polishassistance.org) or call (212)570-5560. Polish Assistance, Inc. is a charitable, not-for-profit organization. Since 1956, Polish Assistance, Inc. is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Copy of our latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from the organization or from the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.



# The 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual *Bal Polonaise*

February 26, 2011

The Plaza Hotel Grand Ballroom

New York, New York

Our organization has always tried to adjust our assistance to the changing social, economic and political situations and to be there where our help is needed most. As a member of our organization or a contributor to our cause, your donations are the mainstay of our ability to help those in need. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/>	# _____ Bal Polonaise Tickets @ \$375 (includes dinner and dancing)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	# _____ After Dinner Dancing Only @ \$100	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	I cannot attend, but enclosed is my contribution of	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to place an ad(s) in the Souvenir Journal Advertising Rates: ___ Corporate Full Page (7.5"x10") . . . . . \$500 ___ Personal Full Page (7.5"x10") . . . . . \$300 ___ Half Page (7.5"x 4.75" or 3.5"x10").. . . . \$175 ___ Quarter Page (3.5"x 4.75") . . . . . \$100	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please contact me about sponsorship opportunities	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am interested in donating item(s) to the raffle	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ _____

Please make checks payable to Polish Assistance, Inc. and mail to 15 East 65<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10065

**Advertising in the Souvenir Journal:** Please include your message below or send your ad to: [olga@allarte.com](mailto:olga@allarte.com), [office@polishassistance.org](mailto:office@polishassistance.org) , or fax to: 212-570-5561. If you have any questions please contact: tel. 212-570-5560. Deadline for copy: January 26, 2011

Message:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please use this space to tell us who you would like to be seated with and list any other individuals and their addresses that you would like us to send an invitation to.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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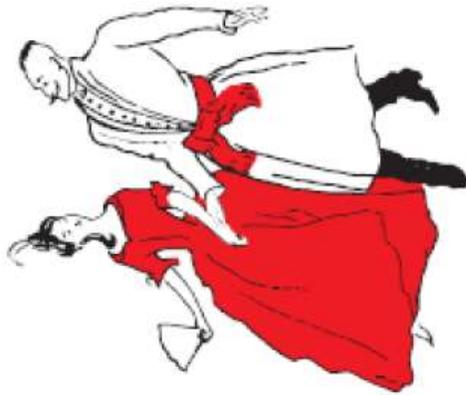
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Polish Assistance, Inc.  
15 East 65<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10065

SAVE THE DATE

53rd

*Bal Polonaise*



Saturday, February 26, 2011

Plaza Hotel  
New York, New York