

The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA)
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**POLISH INSTITUTE'S 67TH ANNUAL MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS;
FOCUS ON '1989; THE YEAR POLAND CHANGED THE WORLD**

The 67th Annual Meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA) was held on June 13-14, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Jersey City/ On the Hudson, overlooking the New York Harbor with a skyline view of Lower Manhattan and very close to the dramatic Katyn massacre monument. According to the chair of the Annual meeting, Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, over 200 persons attended the two day multi-disciplinary conference on Polish and Polish American studies.. Most were scholars and scientists from 20 states and 5 foreign countries which included Poland, Canada, United Kingdom, Netherlands, and Israel. Representative of the following organizations participated in the conference: Polish Cultural Foundation of Clark, N.J., Polish American Historical Association, Polonia Technica, Pilsudski Institute of America, The Kosciuszko Foundation, Orchard Lake Schools of Michigan, American Council of Polish Culture and the Polish University Club of N.J. The conference opened with plenary session on "1989 Annus Mirabilis: Poland's Road to Independence" moderated by Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, President of PIASA, New Jersey City University. Panelists included Dr. Jan Kubik, Rutgers University, Dr. Z. Anthony Kruszewski, University of Texas at El Paso, Dr. Jakub Grygiel, Johns Hopkins University, DR. Neal Pease, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Dr. Susanne S. Lotarski, U.S. Department of Commerce. Seventeen other sessions and panels were presented on various topics and in various disciplines which included, "Poland After 20 years of Transition", "Cold War and Its Aftermath in Poland and Eastern Europe", "Polish Children in Exile", "Prominent Poles in the History of Science", "Polish Music and Cinema", "'Kazimierz Wierzynski: On the 40th Anniversary of his Death", "World War II" Its Impact on Poland", etc. The conference was concluded with the presentation of the monodrama "Helena, the Queen of Emigrants" a production of the Polish Theatre Institute of U.S. featuring Nina Polan as Helena Modjeska. The entire listing of the program can be found on PIASA's website: www.piasa.org

The main banquet address was delivered by HE John R. Davis, U.S. Ambassador to Poland in the crucial years of the 1980's. He spoke on "1989, the Year that Poland Changed the World" based on his personal experiences in which he was not only an eye witness but an active participant in making history. He was preceded by Hon. Krzysztof Kasprzyk, Consul General of the Republic of Poland, in New York City, whose remarks were based on his role during the dramatic events of 1989.

The results of the 2009 election by mail ballot were announced during the gala banquet that took place the evening of June 13. Each year PIASA members elect one third 1/3 of the Board of Directors for a term of three years. The following were elected to the PIASA Board: Leonard Baldyga, Career Minister, U.S. Foreign Service (ret), Anna M. Cienciala, Professor of History, University of Kansas; Zbigniew Darzynkiewicz, Director of Brander Cancer Research Institute New York Medical College; Eve Krzyzanowski, media professional, presently Executive Producer of "Moment of Luxury" a series for

PBS stations; Rafal Olbinski, graphic artist, illustrator and designer; and John Wasacz, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Manhattan College.

The chair of the 67th Annual Meeting was Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, President and Executive Director of PIASA while his Deputy Executive Director Janina Kedron, was the Coordinator. The Annual Meeting committee members included staff member Patrycja Roman and volunteers Theresa M. Gromada and Henry P. Kedron. Plans for the next Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, WI are being prepared.