

**THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
OF AMERICA, INC.**

Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce

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Dear Friend,

American Polonia is a large and significant community but its full potential has not yet been realized in our society. To remedy this situation Polonia needs strong prestigious institutions that encourage the maintenance and promotion of Polish culture and learning. With sufficient resources such organizations could make a greater impact on mainstream American culture and simultaneously elevate the image of both Polonia and Poland. Since 1942 PIASA has been just that type of organization counting among its members Nobel Prize winners like Dr. Frank Wilczek of MIT and Dr. Roald Hoffmann of Cornell. Little wonder that our distinguished member, Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, described the Polish Institute as a “vital link between the Polish American community as well as American and the new independent Poland. As such it enriches intellectual life of both American and Poland “. Likewise, during an official visit to PIASA on September 14, 2000, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Poland, Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, declared, “The promotion of knowledge about Poland’s historic achievements is one of the most important Polish foreign policy aims. I am pleased to acknowledge that we can always count on the Polish Institute’s valuable experience and professionalism in our activities in the USA”

It is, therefore, with some optimism that the Polish Institute launches its “**Meeting the Challenges of the Future**” the 2005-2006 Fund Raiser, which hopefully will not only receive the support of its members but of the Polish Institute community in general. This fund raiser, designed to provide needed resources, will help celebrate three significant anniversaries in 2006: the **50th anniversary** of our quarterly **The Polish Review**, the only academic journal in the English language exclusively devoted to Polish affairs, the **100th birthday** of our President Emeritus, **Prof. Feliks Gross**, and the **50th anniversary** of the passing of one of the most illustrious members of the Polish Institute, the great Polish poet, **Jan Lechon**.

An enclosed brochure will describe more specifically the needs of the Institute. Here, we would like to draw your attention to just a few of them: (1) Resources for **outreach programs** designed for **college/university students** (2) **Expansion of the PIASA BOOKS** publication program; (3) **Awards** (cash prizes) in the fields of History, Humanities, Social, Sciences, Natural Science and Applied Sciences (4) **Computerization of PIASA’s Library**, making it available on line using “Biblioteka Narodowa’s data base system “MAK”; (5) **Computerization of PIASA’s Archives** with the goal of making them more accessible to researchers. We trust that you will give this letter and the enclosed brochure your considered attention and that you will be persuaded to respond positively to our appeal. Whatever level of support you can give will be greatly appreciated. We extend our warmest best wishes. Z gory dziękujemy i serdecznie pozdrawiamy.

Sincerely yours,

Piotr S. Wandycz
President

Thaddeus V. Gromada
Executive Director

John Wasacz
Treasurer