



IPA Newsletter

March-April 2013

Official Publication of the International Polka Association, Inc.®

IPA Warm Up Dance and 44th Annual Chicago Festival of Band a Huge Success!

We all know that January is “National Polka Month”, and the IPA, again ran two dances this year. The first was on Saturday January 19th at Polonia Banquets, this year featuring the fine sounds of Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push. What a great time had by all. A big Thank You to Lenny Gomulka and The Chicago Push, Marge Machay and the entire Staff at Polonia Banquets, and all of the Officers, Directors and volunteers that helped make this event a true success!

The following day, January 20th, was the 44th Annual Festival of Polka Bands, held at the Glendora House. We had 9 of Chicago’s Top Polka Bands performing for us that afternoon. Another big Thank You to The Downtown Sound, Tony Blazonczyk’s New Phaze, Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push, Freeze Dried, Lenny Zielinski and the D-Street Band, Polka Generations, IPA Tribute Band, Eddie Korosa, Jr. and his Boys from Illinois and Billy Gula’s Chicago Image. We appreciate all of the musicians who performed with these bands that afternoon. Thank you so very much. Thank you to Mary, Stanley and the Staff at the Glendora House, Michelle Genrich and all of the people who came in from Wisconsin on the Bus, all of the out of town Polka Fans and all of the Chicagoland Area Polka Fans. Thank you to John Krawisz and Jake Mikrut for the use of their equipment, and to everyone who helped with the set up and take down of all the band equipment. We can not forget all of the volunteers that help us out on Sunday. It was a very long day for a lot of us, and we really appreciate all your help. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

*Please see inside this newsletter for pictures of the events.

IPA Financial Reports

IPA Warmup Dance January 19, 2013

Income \$4316.00
Expenses \$1861.50

IPA Profit \$2454.50

IPA Festival of Bands January 20, 2013

Income \$4226.00
Expenses \$1245.13

IPA Profit \$2980.88

IPA Newsletter

The "IPA Newsletter" is the official publication of the INTERNATIONAL POLKA ASSOCIATION, INC.®. The "IPA Newsletter" welcomes submissions from readers and will publish them with consideration to space and time requirements. Pictures are welcome but used only when budget and space constraints allow. All items become the property of the IPA. If you would like a photograph returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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Christy Krawisz

Contributors:

Christy Krawisz, T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert, Gilbert Ziemiński

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Christy-

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Or 1-630-204-1793



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Membership

Due are \$15.00 per person for all members. You can also purchase a lifetime membership for only \$200.00 per person. If you would like to join the IPA, please send your check or money order to:

Christy Krawisz, Financial Secretary

International Polka Association

4608 S. Archer Avenue

Chicago, IL 60632

Phone: 1-630-204-1793

Email: Christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net**VISIT THE I.P.A. HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM**

If you are interested in visiting the International Polka Association's Hall of Fame and Museum, please Contact Dave Ulczycki at 312-315-2215 to make an appointment.

IMPORTANT! MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

As reminders for membership renewals are mailed out, it would be greatly appreciated if these could be returned **as soon as possible**. Not only are these fees used to allocate printing and mailing expenses, but for various other causes. **So please return your renewals in a timely matter.**

IPA RADIO SHOW

Don't forget to listen to the IPA Radio Show on Sunday, 10:00–10:30 a.m. CT on WPNA (1490 AM) in Chicago or www.wpna1490am.com via the internet with different DJ's every week or two weeks. President Dave Ulczycki, Vice President Rick Rzeszutko, Treasurer Linda Niewierowski, Secretary, Laura Mateja, Financial Secretary Christy Krawisz, Director John Krawisz, Director T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert, Director John Mikrut, Director Dan Mateja and Media Advisor Jerry Wantroba.

The IPA Radio Show will be on the Polka Jammer Network on Saturday from 4-5 pm and then replayed on Wednesday from 9-10 pm Central Time. DJ include Chicago Officers and Directors and Out of Town Directors. Be sure to tune in!

Visit: www.polkajammernetwork.org

Please Call 1-800-TO-POLKA if you are interesting in advertising on the IPA Radio show. WE NEED SPONSORS!



I.P.A. & LET'S POLKA U.S.A. CLUB

are sponsoring a dance
featuring



I.P.A. Tribute Band ***Also the IPA "Hall of Famers"*** ***From Chicago***

Band Members Include:

Tony Blazonczyk
John Krawisz
Danny Mateja
Laura Mateja
Rick Rzeszutko
Ray Rzeszutko
Lenny Zielinski



Sunday March 24, 2013

Music from: 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Doors open: 1:00 pm

Glendora Banquets
10225 S. Harlem Ave
Chicago Ridge, Illinois

Admission: \$10.00 at the door
(show your IPA or LPUSA Membership and get
\$1.00 off admission at the door)

Children under 18 FREE when
accompanied with an adult.
For more information contact:

- Dave Ulczycki (312) - 315-2215 I.P.A.
- Norb Ciesla (708) - 532-8919 LPUSA

Mary's kitchen will be open and food will be available for purchase.

Out of Town Guests:

Special Room Rates at the Days Inn – Bridgeview 9625 South 76th Avenue
Bridgeview, IL 60455 – Phone: 708-430-1818.
Saturday and Sunday Rate: \$59.00 (plus tax)

MUST MENTION THE CODE: "POLKA" to get the Special Rate

Be sure to visit our website @
www.internationalpolka.com
www.letspolkausaclub.com



DON'T MISS OUT
ON THE FUN WE
HAVE ON THE BUS!



Join the I.P.A. on a Bus Trip
Saturday April 27, 2013 - Sunday April 28, 2013
To the 7th Annual Memorial "Gift of Life" Dance
In Honor of Lisa Marie Biskup
PRCU Hall in Wyandotte, Michigan—1420 Oak Street
Music by: Randy Krajewski & Badinov and Freeze Dried

\$140 Per Person ~ Based on Double Occupancy (\$175 for Single Occupancy)

This price includes: Motor Coach Transportation to and from the Dance,
Refreshments and snacks on the bus and at the Hotel after the Dance,
Hotel Room for one night at the LaQuinta and admission into the Dance.

The bus will leave from the Glendora House, 10225 S. Harlem Avenue, Chicago Ridge, Illinois
at 9am on Saturday April 27, 2013 & return at approximately 4 pm on Sunday April 28, 2013.

For Reservations call Dave at 312-315-2215

\$25.00 deposit due immediately. Balance due by April 1, 2013

Please fill out the below form and return it to the IPA, 4608 S. Archer Avenue, Chicago, IL
60632 with your \$25.00 Deposit. I.P.A. reserves the right to cancel the bus trip if
there are not enough people signed up to cover the expenses of the bus.

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

POLKA BENEFIT DANCE

**7th ANNUAL MEMORIAL "GIFT OF LIFE" DANCE
IN HONOR OF LISA MARIE BISKUP**

PRCU HALL IN WYANDOTTE, MICHIGAN - 1430 OAK ST. - 48192

SATURDAY, April 27, 2013



featuring fine music by

Randy Krajewski & BADINOV

from

Toledo, Oh

AND

Freeze Dried

from

Chicago, Illinois



Special guest appearance by the legendary Hall of Famer, Mitch Biskup

Adults-\$19.00

Kids 13 & under Free

Doors open at 6:00pm

Music from 6:30pm - 12:00am



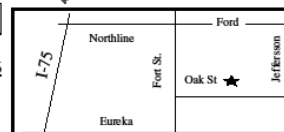
Polish Kitchen
Door Prizes
Raffles

NO BYOB - CASH BAR

For More Information

Ron-Sue Biskup (810) 588-6266

ALL DONATIONS
INCLUDING ADMISSION PRICE
IS TAX DEDUCTABLE



**ALL PROCEEDS ARE FOR THE 'LISA BISKUP
ORGAN AND TISSUE DONOR FOUNDATION'**

Fran's

25 Hours
of Great Polka Music!

Polka Weekend

Featuring

- The Polka Family Band
- Eddie Forman Orchestra
- Joe Stanky & His Cadets
- Dennis Polisky & The Maestro's Men
- O'Such Rhythm & Music
- DJ Bruce Z (in the lounge)

Fran's Polka Weekend includes...

- 2 Nights & 3 Days at the fabulous Honor's Haven
- 6 Gourmet Meals ind. 2 Buffet Breakfasts with Omelette Station
- 4 Hour Welcome Party with Open Bar & Buffet
- Saturday Cocktail Party w/hors d'oeuvres
- Saturday Morning & Afternoon Open Bar Parties
- Bloody Mary & Screwdriver Wake-Up Party
- Pizza Party with Beer and Soda
- Night Club Entertainment
- Various games & hotel activities
- Ice Cream Sundae Party
- After Dinner Cordials
- Polka Mass plus much more...

**POLKA
WEEKEND
GOLF
TOURNAMENT
HOSTED
BY BERNIE
GOYDISH!**

SEPT. 27-28-29, 2013

HONOR'S HAVEN RESORT & SPA
Rt. 209, Ellenville, NY

WEEKEND RATES: P.P./DBL OCC. (TAX INCL)

Deluxe \$311.00

Executive \$321.00

Mini Suites ... \$341.00

Single Rate available on request

3rd & 4th In room: \$263. p.p.

FREE: 1st child, 16 or under,
sharing with 2 full priced adults in room.



**GROUP
INFORMATION
AVAILABLE
908-722-9025**

Send \$40 p.p. dep. to: **POLKA WEEKEND, c/o Fran Fierst**
305 Brooks Blvd., Manville, NJ 08835-1328

Join the IPA and USPA for a Joint Polka Celebration

Featuring

The Downtown Sound

Saturday ~ October 19, 2013

Holiday Inn ~ 15471 Royalton Road, Strongsville, Ohio

Music from 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

Donation: \$12.00 per person

Special Room Rate of \$62.00 plus tax, if you tell the hotel you
are with the Joint Polka Celebration.
Call 440-238-8800 for Reservations.

For more information call:

Barb at: 440-886-6157

Dave at: 312-315-2215

No outside food or beverages permitted by law
Tables reserved for parties of 10 or more

Pictures from IPA Warm up Dance and 44th Annual Festival of Bands.

Pictures used with permission from: Debbie Dunaj, Stan Wilgocki, Rick Rzeszutko, T. Ron Jasinski Herbert and John Zelasko
THANK YOU!



OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Walter Fafara, passed away in February. Wally was the former owner of Wally's Last Stop in Chicago. Deepest Sympathy to the entire Fafara Family.

Steve Kriengel, husband to Jean and Father to Tom Kriengel (Polka Concertina Player), passed away in February. . Deepest Sympathy to the entire Kriengel Family.

Joseph Malinowski, Father to IPA Member, Josephine (Jo Jo) Malinowski, passed away in February. Deepest Sympathy to the entire Malinowski Family.

Our deepest sympathy wishes to all the family and friends of Walter, Steve and Joseph.

May you rest in Peace.

**Would you like your newsletter
Emailed to you?**

The I.P.A. would like to go GREEN! Help us save money on printing costs and postage!

If you have a computer and would like your Newsletter emailed to you (pdf form), please send an email to:
Christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net

PLEASE PUT IN THE SUBJECT LINE
~ "PLEASE EMAIL MY NEWSLETTER"

THANK YOU



Come Celebrate the International Polka Associations 45th Anniversary!

Thursday August 1st to Sunday August 4th, 2013

Mark your calendars! The 45th Annual I.P.A. Festival and Convention is at the Embassy Suites~Cleveland-Rockside 5800 Rockside Woods Blvd., Independence, Ohio. On Thursday, August 1st, **The Del Sinchak Band** will be playing from 7-10:30 pm. On Friday, August 2nd, from 5 pm—1 pm, music by **The Divas featuring Ania Piwowarczyk, Gennie Okrzesik and Mary Lou Czerniak, The Knewz, Polka Family and Freeze Dried**. On Saturday, August 3rd, the **44th Annual I.P.A. Polka Music Hall of Fame and Music Awards Banquet** begins at 10 am. Reservations are required and the price of a ticket is \$35.00. Please contact Linda Niewierowski 773-489-3987 or email her at plkaqueen25@aol.com. In the Evening on Saturday from 4 pm—1 am, music by **The Boys, Polka Country Musicians and the IPA Tribute Band with Special Guest I.P.A. Hall of Famers**. On Sunday August 4th, the **Polka Mass** begins at 9 am and the **Annual Election of Officers and Convention Meeting** begins at 10 am (current members only). Admission prices are \$10.00 on Thursday and \$15.00 on Friday and Saturday, payable at the door. No Advance Tickets. Children under 16 will be admitted FREE when accompanied by an Adult. For Hotel Reservations, call 216-986-9900, price is \$99 plus tax per night and you must mention you are coming for the I.P.A. Polka Festival.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE NO LATER THEN JULY 15, 2013. THIS IS AN ALL SUITES HOTEL. All suites have a private bedroom and separate living rooms, a wet-bar, microwave, refrigerator, coffeemaker and two flat screen TV's, Complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast each morning, Complimentary Manager's reception with light snacks and beverages each evening, Indoor pool, whirlpool, fitness center and seasonal outside sundeck.

For Hotel Reservations, call 216-986-9900, price is \$99 plus tax per night and you must mention you are coming for the I.P.A. Polka Festival.

Can't get enough polka on regular broadcast radio? The alternative is Polka Internet Radio, where the music never stops. Most, if not all archive their shows as MP3 files, so that you may download and listen at your leisure. Some of the polka sites you should be aware of are:

<http://www.247polkaheaven.com>,
<http://www.polkajammernetwork.org>,
<http://www.polishnewcastleradio.com>
<http://wbc1490.com/the-denny-o-polka-show>

Used with permission from Polonia Today

Polka United ~ Uniting Everything
Related to Polka Music

Visit their Website www.polkasunited.com

THE IPA RADIO SHOW IS NOW ON THE POLKA JAMMER NETWORK

The I.P.A. Radio Show is now on the Polka Jammer Network from 4-5pm on Saturdays and then replayed on Wednesday from 9-10 pm. (Central Time).

Visit: www.polkajammernetwork.org



Fred Bulinski

**IPA Hall of Famer,
Past Bandleader,
Past IPA Director,
Musician and Promoter.**

Interview by: Christy Krawisz

IPA: Please tell me about your family:

Fred: I am married to the love of my life and best friend, Marsha. We have been married for just over 43 years and I still feel as though we are on our first date. We have one daughter, Karen. She is married and has two sons; Zachary age 6 and Jacob age 2. Karen, her husband, Scott, and our two grandsons are now the focus of our lives. We actually get withdrawal pains when we do not see the kids for awhile.

IPA: What age did you start playing instruments and what were they?

Fred: It was so long ago that I cannot remember exactly when I started lessons, but I think I was 8 years old. Our parish, St Stan's in Niagara Falls, NY had a drum and bugle corps and would play for all the feast days, holidays and communions. I saw the band marching around the church and begged my parents for lessons. I started out on a very old used trumpet that was dented up pretty badly. Soon however, my father found another newer "used" horn. I remember this one because it cost a lot of money (\$15.). Well back then that was a lot of money.

IPA: What made you decide to play Polkas?

Fred: I always listened to the radio, Stan "Stas" Jasinski on the Buffalo stations. By the way, Stan is in the IPA Hall of Fame. The music was motivating. But I think what really pushed me over the top was when L'il Wally and Marion Lush came to town. The entire family would go. My mother taught me how to dance the Polka and I enjoyed the music, the crowd and of course dancing. It was about 1962, when I got my first call to play a gig. One of the local bands needed a horn player. My instructor gave my name to the bandleader, not so much because I was a good player, but more so because I could read music really well and I could transpose from the "C" sheets on sight. Well that worked out well because most of the bands back then only had accordion sheets and everyone else had to either write out their own parts or transpose off of the "BOX" man's music.

IPA: What bands have you played in?

Fred: I played with a few bands in Niagara Falls and when I was 15 I formed my first band, a four piece group called the Goraly. Everyone called us the gorillas .. I didn't understand why. I played with some of the better known Buffalo bands, like the G-Notes and Wanda and Stephanie. But when I returned home after serving four years in the army, I hooked up with the Jumping Jacks. This was the best band ever. Eddie Grabski and Bobby Nowicki really taught well, especially about how to run a band.

IPA: Please tell me about your "Favorite" or "Best" job you played.

Fred: I guess the most memorable gig was 1980 in Ocean City, MD. It was the opening number for my festival, Polkamotion By The Ocean. I was only 33 years old and I put this monster festival together, spent all of our savings to make it happen, And what do you know, It was a SUCCESS beyond anyone's expectation. My heart was bursting with happiness and a sense of accomplishment. There I was, surrounded by the legends of the Polka Industry and it was little old me who hired them to play. I felt like I just landed on the moon, especially when Eddie B came over and called me by name. He actually knew who I was. Wow! I finally arrived.

IPA: Who did/do you admire musically?

Fred: There are too many people in the field that I can say I admire and respect. Some for their talent, others for their accomplishment, and some just for being wonderful people. I could give you a list of names but there wouldn't be any room left in the newsletter for anything else.

IPA: Could you please tell me about the year you were inducted into the IPA Hall of Fame.

Fred: 1992. It was such a great experience. My wife and daughter, my brother-in-law and his wife, and my sister and parents came all the way to Chicago from Niagara Falls to witness this great honor. And was I surprised when my main guy, Dave Korch showed up as well my dear friends Roger and Cindy Rohn who flew in from Hawaii to share the moment. And of course my dear friends Henry and Juanita Wronka who flew in from Phoenix, AZ. These people really made my special just a little bit better. I remember sitting at the head table next to Fred Hudy. What a great guy. He made me feel at ease as I felt like my feet were not touching the ground.

Fred Bulinski, Continued on Page 8

Fred Bulinski, Continued

IPA: How do you think we can keep the music we all love so much going for years to come?

Fred: It is a tough question and many have and are still wrestling with this issue. It will take a new wave of young people to get involved and take some chances on running dances and perhaps even re-inventing polka weekends and festivals. It will be much harder for them than it was for me and my contemporaries simply because the audience has diminished significantly. But there are still a few of us “old lions” hanging around who will be more than willing to lend a hand, give advice or simply volunteer our time to help advertisement, promote and actually work at future events.

IPA: If you were asked the question: “Why should I join the IPA? What is in it for me?” How would you answer them?

Fred: I have been pushing the IPA on our show on the PolkaJammer Network. I have strong feelings for the organization and try to draw peoples’ attention to it by pointing out the events it sponsors, especially Ludlow and the IPA convention. I tell people that there is a real sense of belonging once you join and start meeting the other wonderful members of the IPA. As far as “what’s in it for me?” ...well, I don’t address that because if someone is going to ask such a question, I don’t think they will join under any circumstance.

IPA: How do you think we can get more people interested in being a member of the IPA?

Fred: I think what the IPA is doing with little extras for joining are great. Every little bit helps and makes us stand out as a leader in the industry. I think we need to portray ourselves as a little bit more of a fun club to belong to. There are a lot of important things the IPA does, but the IPA needs to look friendlier to the outside public. Maybe this will attract them to our ranks.

Fred: Thanks again!! I can only say that I take pride in being affiliated with the IPA and hope that I will still be able to make contributions that will lead to success for the organizations and the re-energizing of the Polka Industry. Thank you Christy for inviting me to do this interview. It is nice to be remembered. I hope to see you all in August for the convention.

As the Polkas Play..... By Cheryl Furmaniak

January was National Polka Month and the International Polka Association held their annual Dance. It was a wonderful crowd that had people chattering about how it brought back memories of dances gone by. Dances that had you seeing friends you haven't seen in awhile, introductions of new friends and gatherings around the bar. The sounds of all the great musicians, who play in their respective bands. Having great conversations, great entertainment and great memories as the "Polka Music Plays" life is good and I am thankful that this is provided by the IPA. I was surprised when I found out I would be receiving a certificate of appreciation for my husband John who was at home in a pre-operative state. He was looking at another pacemaker surgery within two and a half months. The first pacemaker was actually making John even worse than better. Thankfully, with all your warm wishes and prayers the new pacemaker has, John is on the mend and looking forward to performing again soon. President Dave presented me a certificate for John for 40 years of dedication and being a musician in the Polka Field. John was extremely appreciative and it cheered him up prior to the surgery. Tony and Rena Blazonczyk circulated poster boards for people to sign and put their thoughts down. When I brought them home he was again, surprised and appreciative!

On behalf of John "Foo", our children- Christy(John) Krawisz, John (Dorine)Jr. , Jason "J.J." (Jen)-grandchildren, Sydney, Katie, Morgan, Hayley, Jaylen, Avery and myself, we would like to thank the IPA for this recognition and all the many many fans of "Foo's". The DJ's and IJ's too! For all your wishes, cards and prayers.. I cannot forget Fr. Norb for the downloads on YouTube so John could see what was going in the Polka Field, "As the Polkas Play".

Looking forward to being On the Road Again!

Pictures from IPA Warm up Dance and 44th Annual Festival of Bands.

Pictures used with permission from: Debbie Dunaj, Stan Wilgocki, Rick Rzeszutko, T. Ron Jasinski Herbert and John Zelasko



Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members:

Daniel Okrzesik, Pete Pirucki, Ted Okrzesik, Jr., Mike Korba, AJ Okrzesik, Pauline Veronica Adelman, Gary Hvdik, Frank Alberts, Paul Wolniakowski, Barbara S. Wilgocki, Josefina Kozak

Members are very important to the International Polka Association!

With the dues we collect, we are able to pay the month operating expenses of the International Polka Association. The Officers and Directors of Illinois voted to have a membership drive and incentive program. Please tell your family and friends what a great organization the International Polka Association is. This is the perfect time to help the IPA get more members.

Membership is only \$15.00 per year, or you can sign up for a lifetime membership, and that is only \$200.00.

PLEASE SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ENVELOPES BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!



The International Polka Association Tribute Band proudly presents “Yesterday’s Songs”

It features a mixture of songs originally recorded by IPA Hall of Famers and Award Winners, along with some arrangements recorded as a Polka for the very first time to offer you something new and fresh. Our goal was to record a CD that has something for all Polka fans, both young and old. Whether you like traditional Polka music or enjoy some newer melodies, we hope there is something for you on this recording.

During the course of this project, we lost two very important people in our lives. We would like to dedicate this recording to the memories of two of our fathers, Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr., and John Mateja, both of whom provided support and inspiration to our musical endeavors over the years.

A very heartfelt “Thank You” to our Executive Producer—Gene Swick, who without hesitation was eager to lend his support to this project. We appreciate you very much. A big thank you to all the IPA Officers and Directors for their support and encouragement. Also, special thanks to Barbara Kociolek, Anna & Bob Borowski, and Andrew Okrzesik for their contributions as well.

Since 1968, the International Polka Association has been promoting Polka Music by honoring Polka artists through our Hall of Fame inductions and annual award presentations for recording and performance. Please join the IPA in helping to keep our music and Hall of Fame alive.

***Membership information is available at
www.InternationalPolka.Com,
or call 1-800-TO-POLKA • (1-800-867-6552).***

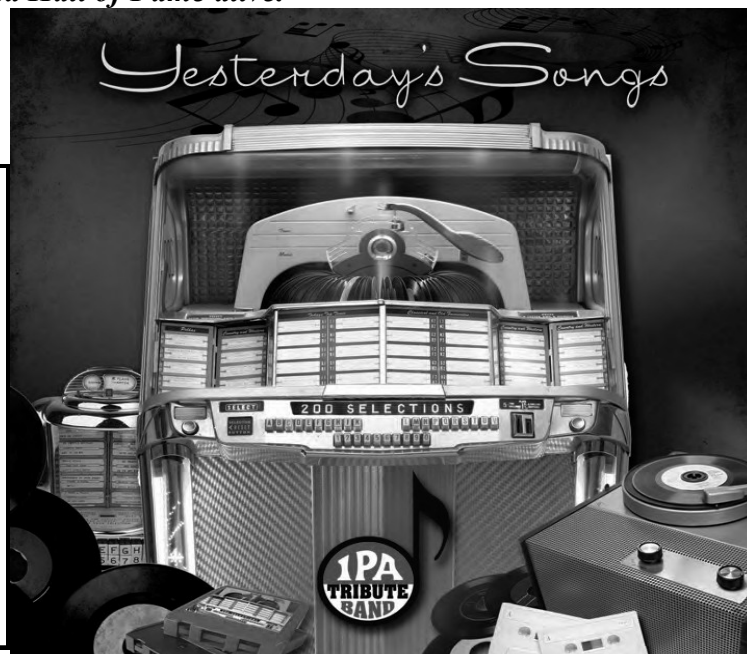
Thank you for your support!

To purchase a copy of this CD, please send a check or money order made payable to the IPA, for **\$18.00 (\$15.00 plus \$3.00 postage and handling)**. Mail it to: International Polka Association, 4608 S. Archer Avenue, Chicago, IL 60632.

PLEASE BE SURE TO SEND YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE, so we can mail the CD to you.

You can also purchase a copy of this CD from any IPA Tribute Band Member.

A portion of the proceeds from this recording are being Donated to the International Polka Association.



Rich Bobinski - 26 Classic Hits from the past

New CD Release! Co-Producer & Sound File Enhancement by Peter J. Danielczuk, I.P.A. Sgt. At Arms. A portion of the proceeds from this recording are being donated to the International Polka Association. The I.P.A. is instrumental in the preservation and promotion of Polka Music throughout the United States. Distributor and Co-Producer is Jimmy K Polkas, 440-846-0404 or visit www.jimmykpolkas.com

Tuesday March 19, 2013 ~

**St. Joseph's Celebration and THE NEXT
I.P.A GENERAL MEETING AT POLONIA
BANQUETS. Doors Open at 6:30 PM**

FREE FOOD

**Certificate of Appreciation
were presented to the following:**

John "Foo" Furmaniak for 40 years in the Polka Field.

**2012 Calendar Raffle Winners
Janaury 11 to February 7, 2013**

Michael Skalecki WI, Sally Sendra IL,
Joseph Oginsky MI, Jeannette Ziobro IL,
Edward Krupinski MA, Bruno J. Burdzy NJ,
Lynn Chwojdak, OH, Rusty Russo OH,
David Ulczycki IL, Brian Lesiewicz WI,
Loraine Matasovich CT, Eugene Swick CA,
Andy "Day" Dziagwa IL, Lucile Marsolek
MN, Tracy Pirucki IL, Emme Sweis IL,
Mary Ann Robinson IL, Kaci Rogers IL,
Christy Krawisz IL, Susy Jurevis IL, Jim
Nash IL, Jerry Kriston IL, Mark Trzepacz
NY, Maria Menclewicz CA, Grazyna
Danielczuk CT, Lydia Kwit IL, J
ohn Robinson IL, Stanley Sulikowski IL

Congratulations to all the winners.
More winners to follow in next newsletter.

In the Mail...

"Dear IPA Board Members, Thank you for the beautiful plaque presented to me by Larry Walk and for being a part of my "Tribute". It was such a success. It truly was a day to remember and I'm sure that folks will be talking about this day for a long time. Please extend my gratitude to all your members"

~ Bruno Mikos

"CHRISTY,
THANKS TO YOU, AND THE BOARD FOR THE VERY NICE CARD. WHAT A GREAT GESTURE, I REALLY APPRECIATED IT. SEEMS TO ME THAT THE IPA IS ROLLING PRETTY GOOD. I THINK YOU AND THE NEWER PEOPLE, ARE TO THANK FOR KEEPING THE TRADITION GOING! THANKS FOR VOTING FOR ME TOO."

' ~ Eddie Korosa, Jr. Via Email

Monaca PNA Club—Dances

**Sunday March 17, 2013
Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push**

**Sunday April 7, 2013
Polka Family**

**Dancing from 3-7 PM (Both Days)
Monaca PNA Club
1752 Pennsylvania Ave
Monaca, PA 15061**

**All Wooden Dance Floor
Admission \$12—Children 16 & Under Free
Call Myna Sadowski—724/584-0101**



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T.K. Frank's Best Sellers - CD's

ADAMCZYK, STEVE

"Hi-Fi Polkas" ~ "Polkas with Pep"
"Parade of Polkas"

BLAZONCZYK, EDDIE (VERSATONES)

"Polka Medley Album" NEW
"Polka Thriller" NEW

BLAZONCZYK, TONY AND NEW PHAZE

"Have a Shot With New Phaze" NEW

BLIHOUDE, OTTO

"Gamel'ots Story"

BLOUNT, STAN - "It's About Time"

BOBINSKI, RICH

"Forever in Time" NEW

THE BOYS

"A New Day" NEW ~ "Classics" NEW

BUDZILEK, RAY

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"New Sounds in Polkas"

"Polish Dolls"

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CYMAN, JAN AND MUSICALAIRES

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"Happy Memories"

"Happy Louie - Live"

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"Good Luck" ~ "Love & Peace"

"Red, White & Beautiful"

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"Songs for You" ~ "One More Time"

"Paloma Blanca" ~ "Jak Sie Masz"

"Update those Good Old Polkas"

"Polkas on Fire" ~ "Polkarisma"

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"Your Polka Sweethearts"

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"Rex Years Volume 3"

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The Freddy K. Jr. Scholarship Fund

The Freddy K. Jr. Music Scholarship Committee is now accepting requests for applications for the 2013 Scholarship award. Applicants must be high school seniors who have been accepted to an accredited college and play a musical instrument. The award is presented at a Polka Festival of their choice each summer.

Anyone who is interested in applying for the scholarship award can contact the Scholarship Committee at:

The Freddy K. Jr. Scholarship Fund
50 Totten Drive
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

WORTHY OF RESPECT

By: T. Ron Jasinski Herbert

Val Bakowski, a polka promoter in the Buffalo, New York, area, says that some people tell him that all polka music sounds the same and says he is sick of defending against this ignorance. We agree with him and go even further. We're sick of those who put polka music down in any way whatsoever.

Regarding the opinion that all polka music sounds the same, it is an acceptable argument only for the tone deaf or musically prejudiced. Anyone who has not been exposed to a particular genre of music may feel that all compositions in that form sound alike. The intelligent thing to do in such a circumstance is for the person to remain silent. As an analogy, don't discuss TV if you have never seen a television set.

Beyond that, a certain segment of the population has no conception regarding the breath of the various insults that polka music suffers. For some reason, some people believe that polka is a safe target to assail, when most of their traditional assailable objects are now off limits. They fail to understand the depth of their attacks.

Not every Polish American is a member of a Polish organization or, for that matter, knows very much at all about their Polish heritage. The link to their Polishness for perhaps the majority of Polish Americans is in fact simply the polka. It is what they recall from their youth in a Polish home or experience today at a Polish wedding in America. Studies demonstrate that polka fans who do not understand anything but a few words still enjoy, often prefer, polka tunes performed with Polish lyrics. Again, it is a matter of connectivity to roots and somewhat familiar sounds.

The creator of a comic strip, published in the heavily Polish populated Chicago Sun Times, as well we assume in other newspapers, obviously believes it safe and proper to treat the polka in a derogatory manner. The International Polka Association (IPA) rightly complained. It may not have realized, however, that it was not only upholding the polka, but also defending music that happens to be the core of Polishness to millions in American Polonia.

We cannot help but note, that while it may seem fair game to treat polka music negatively, the same attitude does not apply to rap, which is neither music nor uplifting. I will dare to say that rap is predominantly garbage, noise, violent and obscene, without any social benefit. And, I make that claim even when Poles, apparently willing to accept anything from American, good or bad, have embraced rap "music" and produced an unhealthy plethora of this dissonance in Polish.

Lest the foregoing lead to labeling me as an old fuddy-duddy, I hasten to advise that my CD collection includes classical music, early rock 'n roll, heavy rock, standards, contemporary pop, etc. You name it; I enjoy and respect almost every music genre.

Perhaps the willingness to denigrate the polka is a hang-over from the near disappearance of the so-called "Polish Joke." If so, it is one more proof that the activity is not merely an assault on polka music, but a battering of Poland, Poles and Polonia itself, whether unintentional or purposeful.

As an aside, there is also, thankfully, a movement in Poland to accept, support and disseminate the polka within Polish borders, where, admittedly, it was not widely known.

Please do not tell us that the polka is not truly Polish, but was created in another country. That begs the question. For perhaps the vast majority of Polish Americans it is Polish. If that does not satisfy you, it is certainly a Polish American phenomenon and, as such, worthy of respect.

(Taken with permission from Polonia Today)

<http://www.poloniatoday.com/february-editorial.html>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ~ STO LAT - IPA MEMBERS!

March

March 1 – Elaine Veverka
March 2 – Todd Zaganiacz
March 3 – Fred Hudy; Tom Mrocza; Ken Yagelski
March 4 – Jackie Koziel
March 5 – Dick Pillar;
March 6 – Joan Pyzik; Rick Rzeszutko (IPA 1st VP)
March 8 – Wendy Wantroba;
March 9 – Joseph Mehoczky; Eddie Siwec; Thomas McGuire;
 Theresa Bolf
March 10 – Elizabeth Cepielik;
March 11 – Fr. Dennis Bogusz; Walter Kazmierczak;
 Jon Peters;
March 12 – Garry Kuchenbecker; Josefine Kozak
March 13 – Edward Szela (IPA Director);
March 15 – Madelene Pacana; Joan Minehart; Father Tom Aleksa
March 17 – Larry Walk; Patrick Henry Cukierka
March 19 – Joseph Oginsky; Marcia Musial
March 20 – Vincent Shemansky;
March 21 – Roman Marsolek;
March 22 – Theresa Slipek; Ted Lange; Debbie Jackinoski
March 23 – Julie Ann Kurdys; Greg Komeshok
March 24 – Mark Kohan; Missy Lynn Krejci; Katie Krawisz
March 25 – John Frenczak; Marion Koziol;
March 26 – John Gretra
March 27 – Anna Bembenek; Gary Szefflinski;
March 28 – Mike Kochanek;
March 30 – Lucille Gay; Jim Barvainis
March 31 – Fr. Robert Grib; Judy Stringhill; Paul Wolniakowski

APRIL

April 3 – Richard Tomkowicz; Bob Derks
April 4 – Timothy Haselow
April 5 – Steven Smith; David Straup Slick
April 7 – Betty Downey; Martin Swiatek; Barbara Ann Adams;
 Pete Pirucki
April 9 – Michelle Genrich; John Budzinski
April 10 – Anthony Szalkus;
April 13 – Louella Kundert
April 14 – George Walker;
April 16 – Chris Valcik
April 17 – Steve Meisner; Ronald Biskup; Diane Nowakowski
April 18 – Peter Wendlinger;
April 19 – Mitch Gorz
April 20 – Cherie Trzepacz;
April 22 – Leonard Cioch; Johnetta Vinka
April 23 – Brian Szumigalski;
April 25 – Sally Rzeszutko
April 26 – Gary Osga;
April 27 – Rev Phillip Grib; Michael Schrader; Frieda Mocny
April 28 – Eric Kurowski; Joseph Price;
April 30 – Donna Stewart;



If your name is not listed above and you are a member, we must not have your birthday in our computer! If you wish to have your birthday listed, please send an email to: Christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net or send it to: Christy Krawisz, IPA Birthdays, 4608 S. Archer Avenue, Chicago, IL 60632. Please remember, you must be an IPA Member.

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March 24, 2013—Sunday - IPA/Let's Polka USA Joint Dance

2-6 PM at Glendora House, Chicago Ridge, Illinois
See page 3 for more information

April 27-28, 2013—Saturday & Sunday

IPA Bus Trip to Gift of Life Dance
See Page 4 for more information

August 1-4, 2013 - Thur-Sunday

45th Annual Festival and Convention
(Please see page 6 for all the Details)

October 19, 2013—Saturday

IPA and USPA Joint Polka Dance
See Page 4 for more information

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IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!!

As reminders for membership renewals are mailed out, it would be greatly appreciated if these could be returned **as soon as possible**. Not only are these fees used to allocate printing and mailing expenses, but for various other causes. **So please return your renewals in a timely matter.**

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