May - June, 2014

Official Publication of the International Polka Association, Inc. ®

#### A Letter From The President...

Greetings Polka Fans,

Believe it or not it is SPRING! If we keep saying and thinking it, it will come true. I hope everyone made it through the tough winter months and are in good health.

It's time to get ready for another exciting polka festival season.

So far this year, many of the winter polka events have been excellent. Very good crowds have been coming out and supporting the polka activities.

The IPA January weekend was quite successful in spite of some snow and cold temperatures. The Annual IPA Benefit Dance in Ludlow at the PACC, chaired by Ed Szela and Fred Kendzierski, honoring Eddie Blazonczyk Sr. was another sold out event. Our dance in Chicago with Let's Polka USA and the IPA was well attended and provided an exciting afternoon of Polka Music for all who attended. Thanks to IPA Polka Hall of Famer John Gora from Canada who came out and put on quite a show. Thanks to all the Hall of Famers who came out to Ludlow, Glendora Banquets, and Buffalo to perform for all of their fans.

Let's keep the momentum going. I urge everyone to continue to support all of the polka promoters, polka bands, DJs and IJs, and the polka organizations. If we continue to work together, we can and will achieve great things. Let's make 2014 a year to remember.

I would also like to congratulate the 2013 IPA Hall of Fame Class and 2014 IPA Polka Music Award Winners. We look forward to the IPA Festival Labor Day weekend to celebrate with you.

In closing, I would like to thank the officers and directors of the IPA. This dedicated group of men and women work hard to keep our organization moving in a positive direction.

Polkatively Yours, Rick Rzeszutko

Next IPA General Member Meeting:
Tuesday, May 20
Doors Open 6:30 pm
Meeting 7:00 pm
Polonia Banquets
4604 S Archer Avenue — Chicago, IL

#### **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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Debbie Dunai

#### **Photo Credits:**

Debbie Dunaj, Dennis Mikolajewski, Christy Krawisz, Laura Mateja, Les Kapuscinski

#### Contact us:

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Website: www.internationalpolka.com

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#### Membership

Dues 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 PO Box 1484 Plainfield, IL 60585

Phone: 1-630-204-1793

Email: christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net

## 2013-2014 IPA Officers and Directors

#### Officers:

Acting President: Rick Rzeszutko (IL) 1st Vice President: Christy Krawisz (IL) 2nd Vice President: Fred Kendzierski (NJ) Treasurer: Linda Niewierowski (IL)

Financial Secretary: vacant

Secretary: Laura Mateia (IL) Advisor: Leon Kozicki (IL) Sergeant-At-Arms: Peter Danielczuk (CT) Youth Advisor: Jake Mikrut (IL) Special Advisor: Jerry Wantroba (IL)

#### Directors:

Debbie Dunaj (WI) Ed Guca (Canada) T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert (IL) John Krawisz (IL) Pat Maduzia (IL) Dan Mateja (IL) Mike Matousek (MD) Dennis Mikolajewski (IL) Keith Pietranczyk (IL) Ed Szela (MA) Lori Urbanczyk (NY) Joni Zychowski Minehart (PA)

Would you like your newsletter emailed to you?

The IPA would like to go green! Help us save money on printing costs and postage.

If you would like your newsletter emailed please send an email to you, christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net

Please put in the subject line: PLEASE EMAIL MY NEWSLETTER.



## **IPA RADIO SHOW**

Don't forget to listen to the IPA Radio Show on Sundays, 10:00-10:30 a.m. Central Time on WPNA (1490 AM) in Chicago or via the internet at www.wpna1490am.com. Each show features IPA officers and directors including Rick Rzeszutko, Pat Maduzia, Linda Niewierowski, Laura Mateja, Christy Krawisz, John Krawisz, T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert, Dennis Mikolajewski, Keith Pietranczyk, Jerry Wantroba, and Dan Mateja.

The IPA Radio Show is also broadcast on the Polka Jammer Network on Saturdays from 4-5 p.m. Central Time and then replayed on Wednesdays from 9-10 p.m. Central Time. 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!

#### IPA Polka Music Awards & Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

The International Polka Association would like to officially announce this year's Polka Music Hall of Fame inductees and the 2013 Polka Music Award winners. Each year two prominent living personalities and one deceased celebrity, who have made outstanding contributions toward the advancement of the polka music industry, are elected into the Polka Music Hall of Fame. An academy of over 165 qualified electors from across the country select the Hall of Fame inductees and music awards recipients. The voting is tabulated by the Institute of Industrial Relations of Loyola University of Chicago, and the entire process is administered by an eleven-member Board of Trustees.

The results are as follows:

#### 2014 IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame Inductees

Living Category: Kevin Adams (OH) Eddie Biegaj (NJ)

Deceased Category: Cliff Hermel (MN)

Pioneer Category: Alfred Vrazel (TX)

#### 2013 IPA Polka Music Award Winners

Favorite Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka

Favorite Female Vocalist: Mollie Busta Lange

Favorite Instrumental Group: Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men

Favorite CD:

"Save The Music" - Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push

Favorite Song:

"Rose Colored Glasses" - Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push



The induction ceremonies and award presentations will be conducted at the IPA's Polka Hall of Fame & Music Awards Banquet held this year on August 30th at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Independence, Ohio. Contact Linda Niewierowski at 773-489-3987 to make your banquet reservations. The banquet is just part of the 46th Annual IPA Polka Festival and Convention that takes place from August 29-31, 2014. During the festival, fantastic polka music will be provided by John Gora & Gorale, The Knewz, The Boys, Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, IPA Tribute Band with special appearances by IPA Polka Hall of Famers, Full Circle, The Project, and Polka Country Musicians. A Polka Mass followed by a convention with election of IPA officers will take place on Sunday, August 31.

For all the details about the festival, banquet, and convention, visit www.internationalpolka.com. To make hotel reservations, call (216) 986-9900 and mention "IPA Polka Festival" to get the special \$101 room rate. Room reservations must be made before August 18.

#### IPA Polka Hall of Famer Lucian Kryger Passes



As a teenager Lucian Kryger had recorded several 78 RPM recordings with his father's orchestra (Brunon Kryger) on the Harmonia Label of N.Y. In 1951, Lucian, Jerry and brother Bruce recorded two 78 RPM recordings for Polo Records. One of the hit sides was entitled, "Little Boy Oberek." Lucian started recording for RAVE Records of Bethlehem, PA., in 1962 and later recorded for Starr Records of Florida, NY.

The personal appearances of the Kryger Orchestra spread all through the Eastern Coast. In reminiscing about the past, Kryger mentioned some places that were once very popular in his time and area, but that have since faded out of the picture to be replaced by our more modern polka festivals, which are held in very plush locations

around the country. One of the most memorable parks was that of Sans Souci Park in Wilkes-Barre, PA; where "Kryger Day" was celebrated each year and thousands attended. Other popular locations of the time were Granada Ballroom, Wilkes-Barre, PA; Central Park, Allentown, PA; Lakeview Ballroom, Barnesville, PA; Hazle Park, Hazleton, PA; Mickey's Gardens, Larksville, PA; and a list that could go on and on.

Lucian Kryger conducted a polka show each Sunday from 12:00-1:00 p.m. for approximately 15 years over radio station WBAX in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and was also associated with radio station WILK in Wilkes-Barre and radio station WNAK in Nanticoke, PA. For two consecutive years (1979-1981) the orchestra televised a polka show once per month live from the Pocono Hershey Ballroom in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. In 1987 The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, Inc. (GRAMMY) nominated the orchestra as one of the top five polka bands in the U.S. & Canada.

Until his death, Kryger and the orchestra found time to donate their time and talents to charitable organizations and institutions such as The Cancer Drive of Hazleton and Wilkes-Barre area, the Hea Association of Wilkes-Barre, PA., and the Veterans Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Lucian Kryger resided at 23 Diebel Street in Wilkes-Barre, PA., with his wife, Eleanor. They were parents of two daughters, Lucianne Grohowski and Alison Kryger, and grandparents of Ryann and Stephen Grohowski of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Lucian Kryger and Orchestra were one of the finest polka bands in the country and, in fact, all polka people will long remember Lucian Kryger for his devotion to polka music.

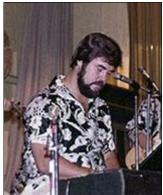
Lucian was inducted into the IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame in 1989. He passed away at home on January 29, 2014.

For biographies on all IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame inductees, visit http://internationalpolka.com/hall-of-fame.html

#### IPA Polka Hall of Famer Richie Tokarz Passes

Uniquely, making his name as a sideman, Richie Tokarz is well known particularly in the Polish sector of polka music. Through the years he has demonstrated his talents playing the accordion, trumpet, and singing with top polka bands. Also, his efforts as a musical writer have always scored high on the list.

Born on February 16, 1949, to Stanley and Florence Tokarz, he was raised in Whiting, Indiana and he was the older of two sons. Tokarz began accordion lessons at the age of seven. He propelled within his ranks when he achieved notoriety for playing polka music duets creatively at accordion recitals. From that time on he has been an instrumental force in helping bands achieve popularity at the national level.



Richie Tokarz wrote four albums for Chicago's Polka General, Li'l Richard. He compiled numerous tracks by the late Marion Lush on an "Adults Only" Polish Party polka album, just to name a few. His excellent accordion work on recordings can be heard with Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push and Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones. During the last three decades of the 20th century, Richie Tokarz made a name for himself as a dynamic sideman by traveling the national circuit with Marion Lush, Eddie Blazonczyk and Lenny Gomulka. In addition to his party-like personality, he was also known for his accordion expertise and his natural blend as a backup and lead singer. Making polka music professional and creating new, original ideas were key elements to his sideman popularity status. He was an inspirational role model for many upcoming musicians.

His personality was reflected throughout greater Chicagoland when Rich managed a weekly polka radio program back in the 1970s. Richie Tokarz has been a valuable resource for three notable names in polka music who eventually became synonymous with those entertainers. They are Marion Lush, Eddie Blazonczyk and Lenny Gomulka. Along with his younger brother, Jerry, Tokarz recorded with Li'l Richard's Polka All-Stars and the famous Pala Brothers Band of yesteryear.

It was because of his national dedication to polka music and because of the many years of demonstrating his talents on stage and recordings, that Richie Tokarz became a nationally recognizable name in polka music.

#### Career Chronology:

1965 Started musical career with Pala Brothers Band

1968 Joined Marion Lush

1976 Member of Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones

1985 Member of Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push

1990 Returned with Eddie Blazonczyk

1992 Returned with Marion Lush

1994 Returned with Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push until his passing in 2014

During these years Richie Tokarz was the recipient of numerous awards for his talents as a musician and for his song writing ability. He composed over 40 polkas, waltz, and obereks. He also recorded over 25 albums. Some of the songs he composed are: "Stella At the Wheel," "Wrong Number," "Now I See Her, Now I Don't," "Glass of Love," "It's a Mistake," and "Just Married."

Richie Tokarz was inducted into the IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame in 2000. He passed away on Tuesday, April 22, 2014, from complications attributable to Type 1 diabetes. He was 65 years old.



# News News & Notes



Dear IPA Board,

Our sincere thanks for all that you did to make the Ludlow Eddie B Tribute Dance so special and successful. Our family was truly appreciative of the love and respect that was shown for my dad. We were honored to be there. Thank you for the beautiful crystal award as well. That day will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

Sincerely, Kathy Blazonczyk

#### Rick & Board.

I did have a fun weekend, and the respect that you gave Ed Sr. from all the bands to your out-of-state directors — I do appreciate everything that went on. May the IPA continue for many years.

Tish Blazonczyk

#### Dear International Polka Association,

Thank you for your donation to Medical Oncology Associates Prescription Assistance Fund in memory of Lucian Kryger. This donation will assist cancer patients in our practice as they cope with their illness.

Medical Oncology Associates Kingston, Pennsylvania



- Thank you to Ed & Jeanne Szela for their donation in the memory of Brian Swick.
- Thank you to Rob Czech & Sue Szela for their donation in the memory of Brian Swick.
- Thank you to the TCF Foundation for their donation to the upcoming IPA convention.

Congratulations to IPA members Eddie Korosa, Jr. of Chicago, Illinois and Todd Zaganiacz of South Deerfield, Massachusetts who were awarded the 2014 Frankie Award, along with Jim Bochnicek of Papillion, Nebraska. This award, given by the Polka America Corporation, is geared to recognizing outstanding contribution to polka music by unheralded people. These individuals must have unselflessly contributed to the perpetuation, advancement, and exposure of polka music. The Frankie Award is in recognition of Frankie Yankovic, for all of his contributions to polka music.

Congratulations, Eddie and Todd!

# Teen Party Coming to 2014 Polka Fireworks!

A Tween Mixer and Tween Party has been added once again to the festivities at this year's Polka Fireworks Festival at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, PA. This is a great opportunity for the younger generation to meet and get acquainted while having a great time. There will be games, fun, and prizes — and a chance to build friendships that make us one big polka family. The IPA is a proud sponsor of this event, which is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of July 4. More details to come!

Pictured left: Attendees from the 2013 Tween Party.

#### IPA Dances in Ludlow, Chicago, and Buffalo

While this may have felt like a very long winter and chilly spring for most, the IPA was busy providing polka music from Illinois to Massachusetts. March 8-9 brought the IPA Benefit Dance weekend to Ludlow. Fantastic crowds congregated for Massachusetts. both days. Music was provided by the IPA Tribute Band, as well as a Music Tribute to Eddie Blazonczyk including Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men, and Eddie Forman & EFO Orchestra. Thank you to Ed & Jeanne Szela and Fred & Linda Kendzierski for all of their hard work putting together this weekend of great music. Also thank you to IPA Polka Hall of Famers Billy Belina, Al Platkowski, Wally Dombrowski, Jackie Libera, Fred Bulinski, Fred Kendzierski, Mitch Biskup, Lenny Gomulka, and Eddie Forman who all performed with the IPA Tribute Band. Thank you also to IPA Polka Hall of Famers Keith Stras, Happy Louie, and Jimmy Sturr for their appearances at the benefit dance on Sunday.

March 30th brought together the IPA and the Let's Polka USA organization from Chicago for a joint dance. Music was provided by the IPA Tribute Band with special guest appearances by IPA Polka Hall of Famers. Thank you to John Gora, Leon Kozicki, John Furmaniak, Chet Kowalkowski, and Richie Gomulka for performing with the band as well as Johnnie Bomba for attending.

April 12 thbrought the Spring Polka Fling to Buffalo, New York, hosted by IPA Director Lori Urbanczyk. Music was provided by The Boys and New Direction. IPA Polka Hall of Famer Ed Guca performed a few tunes with the New Direction, and Polka Hall of Famer Mike Nowakowski was also in attendance.

Thank you everyone near and far for your continued support of the IPA. Please continue to support the local dances, bands, and organizations in your area to keep the music alive.









From top: IPA officers and directors attending the benefit in Ludlow, MA; IPA Polka Hall of Famers attending the benefit in Ludlow, MA; IPA Hall of Famer Ed Guca (L) belting out a tune with Ray Barsukiewicz, IPA Hall of Famers, Frankie Liszka, Mike Matousek, Mike Nowakowski and Ed Guca in Buffalo, NY; and pictured left, Chet Kowalkowski performing with the IPA Tribute Band.



#### 25th Anniversary Dyngus Day Celebrations

Pictured right: IPA Directors Dennis Mikolajewski and Pat Maduzia and Youth Advisor Jake Mikrut, along with IPA Hall of Famers John Furmaniak and Wally Maduzia, award the Crumstown Conservation Club a certificate commemorating 25 years of Dyngus Day celebrations North Liberty, Indiana. Music at this year's celebration was provided by Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze from Chicago.

Congratulations on 25 years!



Pictured above: IPA President Rick Rzeszutko presents Val Bakowski a certificate commemorating 25 years of Dyngus Day celebrations in Buffalo, New York. Music at this year's celebration was provided by the IPA Tribute Band and Freeze Dried, both from Chicago.



### What is Dyngus Day?

Historically a Polish-American tradition, Dyngus Day celebrates the end of the often restrictive observance of Lent and the joy of Easter. Over the decades, Dyngus Day has become a wonderful holiday to celebrate Polish-American culture, heritage and traditions. There are many stories that attempt to explain the origins of the day. Many Polish customs date back to pre-Christian, Slavic practices. The custom of pouring water is an ancient spring rite of cleansing, purification, and fertility. The same is true of the complimentary practice of switching with pussy willow branches. Since 966 A.D., Dyngus Day has been associated with the baptism of Prince Mieszko I. Tradition states that Prince Mieszko I along with his court were baptized on Easter Monday. Thus, Dyngus Day and its rites of sprinkling with water have become a folk celebration in thanksgiving for the fact that the first king of Poland was baptized into Christianity, bringing Catholicism to Poland. In more modern times, the tradition continued when farm boys in Poland wanted to attract notice from the girls of their choice. It was customary to throw water and hit the girls on their legs with twigs or pussywillows. Cologne was used instead of water by the more gallant lads. The ladies would reciprocate by throwing dishes & crockery and Tuesday was their day of revenge, imitating the same tactics.

Source: dyngusday.com

# **Welcome New Members!**

We would like to welcome our newest members:

Mary Valcik
Eileen Kumpon
Edward Stachura
Gerard Soliwoda
Jerry Soliwoda
Erika Danner
Carolyn Machelski
Jerry Romanowski
Tony Rozek, Jr.
Val Bakowski

## Did You Know?

Did you know the International Polka Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization as recognized by the IRS? All donations to the IPA are tax-deductible.



Joseph Lesniak, IPA member.

Edward H. Pietraszek, IPA member.

The friends and family of our extended IPA family are in our thoughts and prayers. May they rest in peace.

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://wbcb1490.com/the-denny-o-polka-show
\*Used with permission from Polonia Today\*

Members are very important to the International Polka Association! If your membership is up for renewal, please send your renewal and dues as soon as possible. Membership dues are \$15.00 per year or \$200.00 for a lifetime membership.

# **Upcoming Festivals**

May 23-25:	USPA; Strongsville, Ohio
June 26-28:	Ocean Beach Park Polka Days; New London, CT
July 2-6	Polka Fireworks; Champion, PA
July 17-20:	Pulaski Polka Days; Pulaski, WI
July 18-20:	Bavarian Blast; New Ulm, MN
August 7-9 August 14-16	Summer Music Fest; Frankenmuth, MI
August 29-31	IPA Festival; Independence, OH
September 11-14:	Polkamotion by the Ocean; Rehoboth Beach, DE

## **IPA Calendar of Events**

May 20: IPA General Member Meeting

Polonia Banquets, Chicago

July 15: IPA General Member Meeting

Location TBA

August 29-31: IPA Festival & Convention

Embassy Suites Independence, Ohio

September 28: IPA General Member Meeting

and Dance

Stardust Banquets, Chicago

## Getting to Know Your IPA Board Members



Pat Maduzia, IPA Director from Illinois

Pat Maduzia was elected IPA Director from Illinois in 2012. She was born into the Polish music and the Polish customs. At a young age, Pat remembers her dad putting her on his shoulders to see Li'l Wally, who was in his early twenties at the time, performing at a picnic. At home, her family always had polka music playing, whether it be on vinyl or on the radio.

In her early twenties, she was crowned polka queen for Johnny Hyzny's Polka Guide Organization. The IPA wasn't in existence yet; Johnny was one of the founders of the International Polka Association.

Pat met her husband, Wally Maduzia, at Polonia Grove. They were married in the late '60s and have three children. Wally is also an IPA Polka Hall of Famer. He played with numerous bands such as the Versatones, The Tones — which he put together, Stas Bulanda's Average Polka Band, and many more. Their oldest son, Mike, followed in his dad's footsteps, starting a band called Freeze Dried. Their daughter, Michelle, and son, Dave, also have a love for polka music.

She was born in Chicago, and now resides in Lockport, a southwest suburb. Pat loves to dance and made sure all three of her children learned how to dance the polka.

Pat comments, "I would like to work with the IPA board to promote polka music. We have got to get the younger generation interested and involved with this great music. I think we are on the right track to stay united with other polka organizations. If we work with them, we are greater in number to spread the sound of polka music. Invite a friend that has not been to a polka dance to experience something new and exciting. I'm Polish and proud!"



Peter J. Danielczuk, IPA Director from Connecticut

Peter has been the IPA Sergeant-At-Arms since 2003. He also marks his 43rd anniversary of being involved in polka music. Very rarely is there a DJ/IJ who becomes involved in all aspects of polka music the way he has. He started his polka career in 1971 at WADS in Ansonia, CT as the engineer for the Victor and Sophie Zembruski Polish Eagle Show while was still attending the University Connecticut. Peter was given the title of "Connecticut's Prince of Polkas" by the New Haven Register, CT Post, Waterbury Republican, Hartford Courant, and New York Times newspapers. Peter was also one of the original founders of the 24-hour Polka Jammer Network as well as the "Polka Legacy" internet station. His "Polka Celebration" show is heard on Polka Jammer, 247PolkaHeaven, WNHU 88.7 in CT and WERG 90.5 in Erie, PA.

Radio isn't the only thing Peter has been involved in. In 1992 he started his Polka Celebration TV show on his local cable network which has been the #1 watched TV show on that network. Peter's other accomplishments include a regularly written article entitled "Polka Celebration" for the monthly newspaper of the Polish Falcons of America. In 2007, he was awarded the Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement award from the International Polka Association and was inducted into the Broadcasters Hall of Fame, located in Ohio. Peter was also awarded the "Frankie" Award. This award from the Polka America Corporation was created to recognize outstanding contributions and service to polka music in the name of Frankie Yankovic. Peter also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the United States Polka Association in May, 2014.

Peter also has been instrumental in helping his home state of Connecticut recognize a state polka — the Ballroom Polka by IPA Polka Hall of Famer, Ray Henry.

Peter has made polka music a major part of his life and continues to promote and entertain his listeners. Peter walks and talks polka music!

#### **46th Annual IPA Festival and Convention**

It's never too early to mark your calendars for the 46th annual IPA Festival and Convention! We hope you can join us on a new weekend—Labor Day weekend, August 29, 30, and 31 at the Embassy Suites Cleveland-Rockside; 5800 Rockside Woods Blvd in Independence, Ohio. Same location, new weekend.

Friday, August 29 starts the festival and convention with an afternoon welcome party and polka karaoke, while the fine sounds of **John Góra & Górale** and **The Knewz** will be alternating during the evening hours.

The annual Polka Music Hall of Fame and Awards banquet will start the festivities on Saturday, August 30. Music will begin in the afternoon and continue to the wee hours of the morning by **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push**, **The Boys**, and **The IPA Tribute Band**, who will also be featuring several IPA Hall of Famers.

The festival concludes on Sunday, August 31 but has lots of events scheduled in the final day. Polka Mass will be held, the annual convention meeting and elections will commence, and more fantastic polka music will conclude the three-day event. **Polka Country Musicians**, **The Project**, and **Full Circle** will provide some excellent polka music on Sunday afternoon and evening.

New this year—advanced 3-day passes will be available for purchase. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

If you have not attended the IPA Festival and Convention in the past few years, the Embassy Suites 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 TVs. Also included is a complimentary, cooked-to-order breakfast each morning, a nightly complimentary manager's reception with light snacks and beverages, and such amenities including indoor pool, whirlpool, and fitness center.

# Please Remember Us In Your Will Or Trust

To assure the future of the IPA and polka music, your assistance is needed. When you write or review your Will or Trust, please consider leaving a charitable request. Ask your attorney to include the International Polka Association.

Have you moved? Have you updated your email address? Would you like your birthday listed in the newsletter? Would you like your newsletter emailed to you?

Please email your updated information to Christy Krawisz: christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net



Embassy Suites – Independence, Ohio 216-986-9900 www.clevelandindependence.embassysuites.com

weekend!
August
99, 30, 31

Same

location!

NEW

Friday, Saturday, August 29 August 30

John Góra & Górale The Knewz Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push The Boys IPA Tribute Band Sunday, August 31

2014

Polka Country Musicians

The Project

Full Circle

Labor Day Weekend - Mark Your Calendars!!

Rooms are available at the Embassy Suites for \$101 plus tax, per night when mentioning the IPA Polka Festival.



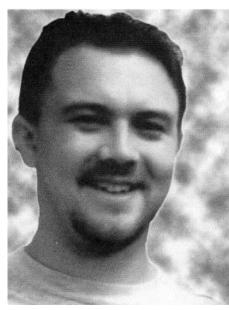
- 1: Judy Del Pozzo, Valerie Pudlo, Gary Rozak, Rita Sajkowicz, John Kwiatkowski, Jr., John Kostecki
- 3: Beverly Lorek
- 4: Harold Otto, Sandy Zaganiacz
- 5: Joe Towalski
- 6: Frank Gubala, Mashelle Pavey, Julie Misek
- 7: Ray Pasinski, Richard Kozacko
- 8: Grace Mikrut
- 10: Mike Surratt, Lenny Zielinski, John Demerski, Jill Krzeszewski, David Nowatzki
- 11: Eleanor Grudi
- 12: Bernie Gorak II. Minnie Florio
- 13: Julie Figura, Connie Shemansky, Bob Raica
- 14: Stacey Morris
- 15: Krystin Smaka
- 16: Chris Bogdon, Eddie Korosa, Jr.
- 17: Edmund Burdzy, Linda Chesky-Fernandes
- 18: Larry Stec
- 19: Clarence Karakla, Geraldine Babula, Joe Michalski, Mindi Tietz
- **20**: Stephen Dudas, Ryan Ogrodny
- 21: Marge Smith
- 22: Chet Schafer, Raymond Skorka, Steve Fornek, Linda Kendzierski
- 23: Judith Pollick
- 24: Mary Saber
- 25: Robyn Mrozinski
- 26: Tim Winiarz
- 27: Rick Zarek, Jane Piotrowski, Jersey Polka Richie, Bernadine Jankowski
- 29: Andy Bojczuk, Marty Olshanski Carolyn Kasprowicz,
- 30: Jerold Kriston
- 31: John Bryndza, Ashley Mateja, Bill Popek

- 1: Mike Skalecki. Ron Buczko
- 2: Jack Sanocki
- 3: Virgil Baker, Jr., Bernie Gorak, Sr.
- 4: Richie Sendra, Bob Jakubielski
- 5: Jeannette Ziobro, Stan Pasko
- 6: Robert Banoczi, Mary Jo Liccar
- 7: Debbie Dunaj, Rich Benkowski, Joe Kizior
- 9: Mary Kay Dench, Lambert Lasecki
- 10: John Baras, Eugene Kasprowicz, Dale Kivinen
- 11: Wayne Drust, Mel Himes
- 12: Butch Herrmann, Chet Kowalkowski
- 13: Walter Berkowicz, Casimir Karbowski
- **14:** Judy Kwiatkowski
- 15: Walter Biesk, Kevin Cornnell
- 16: Aaron Slivinski
- 18: Dave Walczak
- 19: Tony Crispo, Robert Jayo, Diane Krygier, Frank Borzymowski
- 20: Bud Beyer, Louise Kurek, Karen Dekoski
- 22: Joanne Kozleski Jones
- 23: Ed Krupinski, Sandy Fouts
- 24: Kenneth Dunaj, Mollie Busta Lange
- 25: Andrew Votaw
- 26: Mary Ann Makatenas, John Filipczak, Wayne Machnicki
- 27: Joseph Wondolowski
- 28: Julcia Dusseault
- 29: Ron Urbanczyk, Robert Frydryk

If you wish to have your birthday listed, please send an email to: christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net or send it to: Christv Krawisz, IPA Birthdays, PO Box 1484 — Plainfield, IL 60585

Please remember, you must be an IPA member.

# \$1000 FREDDY K JR MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Freddy K Jr. played trumpet in his father's band, The Freddy K Band, when he died in an automobile accident in July of 1997. Music, especially polka music, was Fred's life and passion. His personality, sense of humor, and love of polka music affected all who knew him. The music scholarship fund was set up to carry on where Fred left off by promoting polka music through the gift of a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving student every year. Each award will be given at one of the polka festivals during the summer.

The Freddy K Jr. Music Scholarship Committee is now accepting requests for applications for the 2014 scholarship award. Applicants must be high school seniors who have been

accepted to an accredited college and play a musical instrument. Anyone who is interested in applying for this year's award can download an application on our website at www.freddykjrmusicscholarship.com or contact the Scholarship Committee at the following address:

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

#### WINNERS OF \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS:

2013—Eva Snyder; South Hadley, Massachusetts

2012-Justin Kohan; Orchard Park, New York

2011—Stephen Piatkowski; Canastota, New York

2010-Kassandre Dardzinski; Saugus, Massachusetts and Anita Marie Thomas; Balto, Maryland

2009—David Raccis; Wilbreham, Massachusetts

2008—Christopher Wanyo; Shillington, Pennsylvania

2007-Kevin Martin; Hudson, New Hampshire

2006-Lanelle Raccis; Wilbreham, Massachusetts

2005-Nick Koryluk; Hicksville, New York

2004-Michael D. Riel, II; Chicopee, Massachusetts

2003-Ryan Ogrodny; White Oak, Pennsylvania

2002-Brian Romianik; Millville, New Jersey

2001—Melissa Mocadlo; Stevens Point, Wisconsin

2000-Andrew Krystopolski; Wilmington, Delaware

1999-William Lomnychuk; Reading, Pennsylvania

1998-John Daigle; Chicopee, Massachusetts

# New IPA Marketing and Communications Committee

The IPA Board has recently established a new committee to work on Marketing and Communications. It is initially comprised of a sub group of officers and directors and will work on the following efforts:

- PROMOTE the IPA Organization and Hall of Fame
- -LEAD efforts to increase membership in the Organization
- -DEVELOP strategies to expand the Polka fan base
- -WORK to improve communications to our Polka fans and between all the constituencies involved in the industry
- -BUILD alliances with other relevant organizations, both polka related and non-polka related
- SUPPORT and endorse member polka professionals in their areas of work

Any IPA members who have skills in these areas and would like to volunteer their time and talents to help towards these efforts are asked to send an email to editor@internationalpolka.com.

Polkas United ~ Uniting Everything Related to Polka Music

Visit their website www.polkasunited.com

# THE IPA RADIO SHOW IS ON THE POLKA JAMMER NETWORK

The IPA Radio Show is on the Polka Jammer Network from 4-5p.m. on Saturdays and replayed on Wednesdays from 9-10 pm. (Central Time).

www.polkajammernetwork.org





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, IPA Sgt. At Arms. A portion of the proceeds from this recording are being donated to the International Polka Association. The IPA 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.





# Presenting the Chicago Premiere of

"Rick and Alicia Vinecki are the parents of eight amazing children, Rick is the former leader of Michigan's Melody Kings and Alicia performed for years with her brother Hank Guzevich as a member of the sensational Polka Family band. The children range in age from 8-18 Each has shown musical ability and the desire to perform playing a variety of standards from swing, rock, country to polkas and latin music". Don't miss their Chicago Premierel

Advance Tickets \$15 (Includes a \$3.00 off Dinner Coupon)

At The Door \$20

#### TICKETS ON SALE:

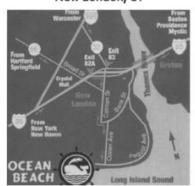
Przybylo's House of the White Eagle: 847-647-0660

K & C Entertainment: 847-468-0112 or online www.kncentertains.com

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#### Polka Festival Location

98 Neptune Avenue New London, CT





#### For More Information

www.oceanbeachparkpolkadays.com

Ocean Beach Park Polka Days PO Box 247 Versailles, CT o6383

info@oceanbeachparkpolkadays.com



## SCHEDULE OF BANDS



Thursday, June 26 7 pm - 10 pm

On The Boardwalk

Polka Country Musicians

Free Admission Open To The Public \$5.00 Parking Fee



Friday, June 27

11 am - 5 pm In The Pavilion 5:30 pm - 12:30 am In The Ballroom

Polka Country Musicians The Boys The Knewz Eddie Forman Matt's All Star Jam Band

\$19.00 per person

Kids 16 & Under Free When Accompanied By Their Parents



Band Line-Up Subject To Change

Saturday, June 28

11 am - 5 pm In The Pavilion 5:30 pm - 12:30 am In The Ballroom

Polka Country Musicians

The Boys The Knewz Lenny Gomulka & The Chicago Push Maestro's Men

\$20.00 per person

Kids 16 & Under Free When Accompanied By Their Parents



By state law, you may not bring your own food or beverages into the ballroom. Food Concessions Available Daily – Special Drink Prices Throughout The Weekend





#### PULASKI POLKA DAYS GROUNDS and ZIELINSKI'S BALLROOM

(15 miles West of Green Bay, WI on HWY 29 & 32) & (Downtown Pulaski)

Admission prices are valid for both locations. Event held rain or shine. All entertainment and activities subject to change without notice.

#### THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2014

Admission \$2.00 Children Under 12 are free with guardian Music from 5PM-11PM

#### FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2014

Admission \$10.00 Children Under 12 are free with guardian Music from 2:30PM-1:15AM

#### SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2014

Admission \$10.00 Children Under 12 are free with guardian Music from 1PM-1AM

#### **SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2014**

Admission FREE Music from 12:30PM-6PM



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MAROSZEK BROTHERS • WI

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#### FIREWORKS AT DUSK

Thanks to American Tradition Fireworks, Inc. Thursday, July 17

#### KIDS FUN AREA

Polka Days Ground

#### CAMPSITES

Call 920-822-5702 Email: wick6102@yahoo.com

#### **ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR**

Saturday & Sunday • 9AM - 3PM Call Janet or Suzanne • 920-822-3279

#### POLKA TROT 5K

Saturday • Pulaski Middle School 8:30AM: 5K Run/Walk 9:30AM: 1/2 Mile Kids Run.

Pre-Register at: swimpasc@gmail.com or Call Heather at 920-819-8832

#### DANCE CONTEST

Saturday • 6PM • Zielinski's Ballroom Call John Pinter WI Polka Boosters 262-894-6998

#### OVER \$2,000 (ASH TO BE RAFFLED!

Sunday • 5PM • Polka Days Ground Need not be present of win.

#### PORKIE & PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday • 8AM - 11AM Pulaski Polka Days Grounds

#### POLKA WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday • Polka Days Grounds • TENT 2 \*\*Please bring your own lawnchairs\*\* Lutheran - 8AM Catholic Polka Mass • 9:30AM

#### **HUGE PARADE**

Sunday, July 20 • 11AM Downtown to Polka Days Grounds Call Wayne 920-822-5456

#### PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:

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P.O. BOX 439 • PULASKI, WI 54162 • 920-822-3869 OR visit the website at www.PolkaDays.com

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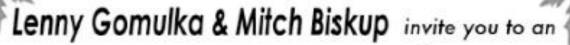
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Kraut Eating Contest

& Children's Entertainment!

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- And So Much More!!

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by Lenny & Mitch throughout the tour.

For More Info Call:

Lenny (413) 374-7096 • lennygomulka@aol.com Mitch (617) 899-5895 • m.biskup@comcast.net

Send \$500 Deposit per person to: Mitch Biskup Poland Tour 24 Beach Road • Ware, MA • 01082 \$3,475 Per Single Supplement \$730



#### PRESS RELEASE:

NEW!!! 2015 "Polka Dreams @ Sea" Polka Cruise - "Polka Dreams All-Star Band" Members Revealed

"A Dream Trip 4 U" is excited to announce more details about our next polka cruise adventure in sunny paradise. "Polka Dreams @ Sea" Polka Cruise will sail January 31 thru February 7, 2015, to the Western Caribbean from Ft. Lauderdale on board the beautiful Caribbean Princess®! Be sure to mark your calendar for this one as it promises to be the best cruise of the year!

Our featured bands this year are 2 of the hottest bands on the polka scene - "Polka Country Musicians" from CT and "The Knewz" from Buffalo, NY. We will also have the "Polka Dreams All-Star Band" featuring some of the biggest & hottest polka stars in the country - Jeff Mleczko (Dynabrass, TPM), Dave Morris (The Nu-Tones, The Boys, The Sounds), Joe Zalewski (Dynabrass, TPM, Holy Toledo), Rich Zebrowski, (Nu-Tones, TBC, The Sounds), and 2 IPA Polka Hall of Famers - Eddie Siwiec (New Brass Express, TPM) & Frankie Liszka (The Boys, TBC, The Sounds). Stacey Morris - USPA Female Vocalist of the Year, will also join fellow USPA Male Vocalist of the Year - Frankie Liszka and others. We will have the "best of the best" live polka music all week long on one of the biggest dance floors at

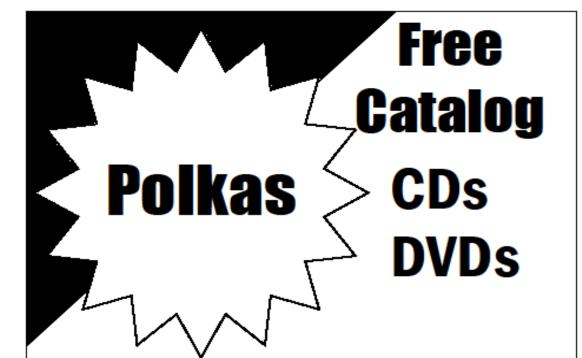
We'll also have a Polka Jam session where YOU can be the star; and we will have some fun themes such as "All Country - Day & Night", Live YOUR dream in 2015 with the "Polka Dreams @ Sea" polka "Ladies Night Out", "Pajama Party", and more. The day after we get cruise. onto the ship is "Super Bowl Sunday", and you can watch the BIG

game on a BIG outdoor screen by the pool or in the Club Fusion Lounge, so get ready to root for your favorite team.

As usual, our affable polka DJ @ Sea - Kenny Olowin will join us to host his fun-filled parties and spin some of your favorite polka tunes, and our Priest @ Sea - Father Tom Aleksa will be there to conduct an uplifting Polka Mass. In between all the polka excitement, our adventures will take us to the exotic tropical islands of Grand Cayman, Roatan (Honduras), Cozumel (Mexico) and Princess' private playground Princess Cays®!

This state-of-the-art ship features all of the latest innovations including a unique atrium with restaurants, Crooner's Lounge, and other meeting places; The Piazza - a casual street of cafés, the Vines Bar, and shops; The Sanctuary® - an adults-only haven of serenity; and the outdoor "Movies Under the Stars®" that features first-run films. Discriminating cruisers will especially appreciate the superior cruising experience of this premium cruise line. The food on the Caribbean Princess® is considered some of the best in the cruise industry.

As anyone who has sailed with us on one of our previous Polka Cruises can attest, you'll be treated like royalty on this fabulous trip! For more information and to get a cruise brochure, contact Helga Leonard of "A Dream Trip 4 U" at 724-234-2033 or email Helga at helga@adreamtrip4u.com. You can also download a brochure at www.polka-cruise.com.



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IPA Dates to Remember	Advertise in the IPA Newsletter
May 20: IPA General Member Meeting Polonia Banquets; Chicago July 15: IPA General Member Meeting August 29-31: IPA Festival & Convention Embassy Suites; Independence, Ohio September 28: IPA General Member Meeting & Dance—Stardust Banquets; Chicago	One Issue           Full Page         \$75.00 per issue           Half Page         \$55.00 per issue           Quarter Page         \$40.00 per Issue           Eighth Page         \$25.00 per issue           Three Issues           Full Page         \$67.00 per issue           Half Page         \$45.00 per issue           Quarter Page         \$36.00 per issue           Eighth Page         \$22.00 per issue           Full Page         \$60.00 per issue           Half Page         \$40.00 per issue           Quarter Page         \$32.00 per issue           Eighth Page         \$20.00 per issue
Visit www.internationalpolka.com to stay up-to-date with all IPA events.	PLEASE NOTE: For advertisements requiring pictures, please add a one-time charge of \$10.00.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!!**

As reminders for membership renewals are mailed out, it would be greatly appreciated if these could be returned <u>as soon as possible</u>. 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.** 



International Polka Association, Inc.®

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Website: www.internationalpolka.com