

# **IPA Newsletter**

November - December, 2013

Official Publication of the International Polka Association, Inc. ®

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#### October 4, 2013 Press Release

After many years of dedicated service to the International Polka Association, Dave Ulczycki announced his desire to conclude his tenure as IPA President at a recent Board of Directors meeting. Dave was elected president in 2006 and presided over many organizational improvements and successful events. He also served as an Illinois director and 1st vice president as he selflessly gave his time and efforts for the promotion of polka music.

Dave was also very instrumental in fostering improved relations and cooperation between the IPA and fellow polka organizations such as the United States Polka Association (USPA) and the Cleveland Polka Association (CPA).

In keeping with IPA by-laws, to fill the vacancy, 1st Vice President Rick Rzeszutko has assumed the role of acting president and will continue in that capacity until the next IPA festival and convention, planned for August 31, 2014. At that meeting, elections will be conducted to determine the new president and other IPA positions open at that time.

On behalf of the membership, all the IPA officers and directors extend their sincerest gratitude and heartfelt congratulations to Dave Ulczycki for his stellar career of leadership.

# Next IPA General Member Meeting:

Tuesday, November 19
Doors Open 6:30 pm
Meeting 7:00 pm
Polonia Banquets
4604 S Archer Avenue — Chicago, IL

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

Greetings Fellow IPA Members;

On September 30, 2013, President Dave Ulczycki decided to end his term as IPA president. During his many years of service, Dave has served as director, 1st vice president, and since 2006, president of the IPA. I was honored to serve as 1st vice president under Dave and would personally like to thank him for his friend-ship, as well as his dedicated efforts to the IPA and the promotion of polka music. On behalf of the officers, directors, and members of the IPA, a great big THANK YOU goes out to Dave for his hard work and leadership. I think I speak for all in wishing him the best of health and happiness.

I would also like to thank Marge Machay, John Mikrut and Fran Russo, whose terms of service as directors also came to an end as of the general meeting last August during the IPA Festival. Marge has served the IPA for many years in various capacities and has always gone above and beyond the call of duty. The IPA owes a debt of gratitude to Marge, John, and Fran. Thank You!

It's a pleasure to welcome our new directors elected in August to two-year terms. They include Keith Pietranczyk and Dennis Mikolajewski from Illinois, and from New York, Lori Urbanczyk. I wish them well and look forward to working with them, as well as the entire group of officers and directors who are committed to promoting the IPA and polka music.

In keeping with the IPA by-laws, to fill the vacancy, I will be assuming the role of acting president and will continue in this capacity until the next convention meeting scheduled for August 31, 2014.

I covet the support of the board and membership as we all move forward together in promoting polka music in a positive manner.

Best wishes for a happy Thanksgiving, a blessed Christmas, and the best of health and prosperity in the New Year.

Rick

#### **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.

#### **Editor:**

Debbie Dunaj **Contributors:**Peter J. Danielczuk

#### Contact us:

International Polka Association, Inc.® 4608 S. Archer Avenue Chicago, IL 60632 1-800-TO-POLKA (1-800-867-6552)

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 4608 S. Archer Avenue Chicago, IL 60632

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: vacant

2nd Vice President: Fred Kendzierski (NJ)
Treasurer: Linda Niewierowski (IL)
Financial Secretary: Christy Krawisz (IL)
Secretary: Laura Mateja (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

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 to you, please send an email to 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, Dan Mateja, and Jerry Wantroba.

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!

#### Join the International Polka Association

As We Celebrate January Being "National Polka Month"

#### Festival of Bands - Warm Up Dance

Saturday, January 18th, 2014



# Music by: Gomulka



Polonia Banquets - 4604 S. Archer Avenue, Chicago, Illinois Doors Open at 5:00 PM - Music 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM Admission \$12.00 at the door' - Polonia's Kitchen will be open!

#### 45th Annual Chicago Festival of Polka Bands

Sunday, January 19th, 2014 Featuring 10 Top Polka Bands:

Lenny Gomulka & The Chicago Push Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze

Freeze Dried Bill Gula's Chicago Image IPA Tribute Band

Music Company

Eddie Korosa, Jr. & His Boys From Illinois

Jim Polaski & The Chicago NuTones - A Tribute to The Johnny Bomba Band Lenny Zielinski &

Lenny Zielinski & The D-Street Band Polka Generations

Glendora House – 10225 S. Harlem Avenue, Chicago Ridge, Illinois Doors Open at 11:00 AM – Music Starts 11:30 AM Admission \$12.00 at the door\* – Mary's Kitchen will be open!

#### Special 2-Day Pass for only \$20.00!

Show your IPA Membership Card at the door and receive \$1.00 off admission! For information and tickets, call the IPA at 1-800-TO-POLKA

Please mark your calendars for January 18 and 19 as we celebrate the 45th Annual Chicago Festival of Polka Bands. Coming in from out-of-town? Days Inn in Bridgeview has rooms available for \$59/night. Call 708-430-1818 to make your reservation and mention "POLKA" to get the discounted room rate.

#### Recordings Sought For Annual Music Awards

# ATTENTION ALL RECORDING COMPANIES AND POLKA BANDS!

The International Polka Music Hall of Fame® and Chairman, Leon Kozicki, strongly urges any recording company and/or polka band who has released recordings during the calendar year of 2013 to notify and remit that recording to him as soon as possible. This is to determine eligibility for the 45th Annual Polka Music Awards which will be presented at the annual festival at the Polka Music Hall of Fame® and Music Awards banquet.

Registered companies will receive affidavits which **MUST** be completed and returned to the International Polka Music Hall of Fame Chairman, Leon Kozicki, by the deadline of **FEBRUARY 14**. **ONLY** those recordings which were produced during 2013 will be accepted. The recordings, if determined eligible, will be placed on a master list, mailed to the IPA electors, and then be selected to receive the favorite song and favorite album of the year for 2013.

The IPA electors represent the various geographical areas within the United States as well as Canada.

The awards have been presented for the past 44 consecutive years to deserving bands and vocalists. It is requested that copies that are eligible be sent to the IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame Chairman when affidavits are returned.

PLEASE FORWARD ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Leon Kozicki, Chairman, Polka Music Hall of Fame ®, 13405 Tall Pines Lane, Plainfield, IL 60544

# **Deadline for Polka Music Hall of Fame**

Potential new candidates for consideration as nominees of the International Polka Association's Polka Music Hall of Fame for next year, must submit their qualifications by the <u>December 1, 2013</u> deadline. This should include eleven (11) copies of their biography with age and date of starting in polka music.

Candidates must have been active for 25 years as a musician, bandleader, DJ, recording artist, vocalist, etc. They must have gained prominence on a regional to national level and list outstanding awards, accomplishments and achievements.

All entries must be submitted to:

Leon Kozicki, Chairman—Polka Music Hall of Fame, 13405 Tall Pines Lane, Plainfield, IL 60544

All questions concerning eligibility should be directed to Leon. He can be contacted at the address above or by phone: 815-372-9263.

#### International Polka Association

#### Breakfast with Santa

Sunday December 8, 2013

Polonia Banquets
4604 S. Archer Avenue, Chicago, Illinois



Doors open at 10:30 am Breakfast 11:00 am Music from 12-3 pm



Music by: Lenny Zielinski's D-Street Band

And a special appearance by Santa

Reservations are required! Please contact Linda Niewierowski at 312-342-3959 to make your reservation no later than November 30, 2013.

You can also email Linda at plkaqueen25@aol.com

CURRENT IPA MEMBERS AND CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS OLD

ARE FREE

NON-MEMBERS ADMISSION IS \$10.00 per person

Merry Christmas ~
Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia

# International Polka Association Festival & Convention



Same location! NEW weekend!

August 29, 30, 31 2014

Friday, August 29

John Góra & Górale

The Knewz

Saturday, August 30

Embassy Suites - Independence, Ohio

216-986-9900 www.clevelandindependence.embassysuites.com

> Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push

> > The Boys

IPA Tribute Band

Sunday, August 31

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.

# \$5200.00 IN PRIZES TO BE AWARDED



			Organiza			PEL	SHUART	, 2019		IFA BU	DU ME	HING	
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# 9th ANNUAL IPA BENEFIT DANCE

**Ludlow PACC** 

355 East Street Ludlow, Mass 01056

Sunday, March 9, 2014 2 PM – 7 PM

Music By:

Lenny Gomulka's Chicago Push Dennis Polisky & The Maestro's Men Eddie Forman & EFO Orchestra



Musical Tribute To

# **Eddie Blazonczyk**

Get Your Tickets Early! \$20 per Person Advance Tickets Only No Tickets Will Be Sold Or Held At The Door

FOR TICKETS - CALL: Ed Szela - 413-567-1961 Or Send Check To: Ed Szela, 104 Williston Drive, Long Meadow, Mass 01106

For Table Reservations of 8 or More Call Carol Blajda at 413-549-6997

TELEPHONE NO.

# **Welcome New Members!**

We would like to welcome
our newest members:
Walter Biesk
Frank Borzymowski,
Karen Danielczuk
Craig Marsolek - LIFETIME MEMBER
Frank "Pan Franek" Piotrowski - LIFETIME MEMBER
Duffy O'Neill
Thaddeus Szymanski
Keith Stras

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.

# On Memoriam

Thaddeus Wilebski—IPA member, passed away November 2012

Michaeline Drust—IPA member, passed away October 2013.

John E. Yakupkovic—IPA member, passed away June 2013.

Nina March—IPA member, passed away October 2013.

Emily Pinter—former IPA president, passed away October 2013. (See p. 8 for bio.)

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

# In the Mail...

Dear IPA,

Thank you so much for your donation in memory of Mr. Fred Hudy. On behalf of the patients and families who will benefit from your thoughtfulness, please accept our heartfelt thanks.

Advocate Children's Hope Hospital Advocate Charitable Foundation

# Thank You!

Thank you to June Ingram for the \$125 donation to the IPA from the sale of the Rich Bobinski CD.

Thank you to Peter Danielczuk, T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert, Judy Krason, Laura Mateja and Diane Nowakowski for the use of their photos in this newsletter.

# Calendar of Events

November 19: General Member Meeting

Polonia Banquets, Chicago

December 8: Breakfast with Santa

Polonia Banquets, Chicago

January 18: Festival of Bands Warm-Up

Polonia Banquets, Chicago

January 19: Festival of Polka Bands

Glendora Banquets, Chicago

March 19: 9th Annual IPA Benefit Dance

Ludlow, MA

#### IPA SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR THE JOE JOZWIAK SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

It's that time of year again to get your nominations in for the annual Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement Award. How did this award get started? Who does this award honor?

Many years ago, the late Joseph Jozwiak, a director of the IPA, made a suggestion that an award be bestowed upon an individual or group of individuals who have made а significant endeavor to contribution or enhance the promotion of polka music. After much discussion, the International Polka Association (IPA) voted to worthy individuals with honor those establishment of the Special Achievement Award. To pay tribute to Joe Jozwiak, following his passing, this award was renamed the Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement Award.

Members of the IPA are invited to send in their nominations to recognize polka personalities who might not otherwise be acknowledged for their dauntless contributions. Nominees can include Ballroom DJs. Polka Writers. Promoters. Bands and musicians are Operators, etc. excluded.

To submit a nomination, complete the form below, include a short biography of the nominees' accomplishments that qualify him or her for this award and mail it to: Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement Award, c/o I.P.A, 4608 S. Archer Avenue, Chicago, IL 60632. Nominations MUST be received NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1.

Those already nominated include:

Laura Bethke, Past IPA Secretary, and Financial Newsletter Editor, Assistant Minnesota Fame Chairman, Award Minnesota. Winning Writer and guest Harold Otto, DJ & Chairman DJ, from the State of of Pulaski Polka Days from Illinois.

and Director of PACC in polka Ludlow, MA from the State Cleveland, Ohio. of Massachusetts.

Fran Fierst, Polka Promoter the Versatones Polka Fan from the state of New Club of Chicago from the Jersey, presenting many state of Illinois. polka weekends.

er of public access TV pro- Ilinois. gram "Polka Time with Stas Helen and Annie" from the state promoter from the state of of Rhode Island.

T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert, IPA John Rivard, Editor and Director and producer of producer of The Texas PoloniaToday.com from the Polka News from the state state of Illinois.

Thomas & Shirley Kalinow- Chuck Stastny, Former IPA ski, Polka Promoter and DJ officer, DJ and promoter of from the state of Maryland. polkaconnection.com from Butch & Mary Kotowski, the state of lowa. Dance instructors from the state of Maryland.

Dave Magdalik, DJ & Polka promoter from the state of Florida.

Julianne Mossak, Promoter for the Chair State Polka to Polka Music Hall of Festival from the State of

the state of Wisconsin.

Ernest Daigle, DJ, Promoter Eddie Ostry, DJ/IJ and promoter

Trudy Patek, President of

Piotrowski, John Stas Golembowski, produc- promoter from the state of

> Ptak-. Polka Connecticut.

> of Texas.

Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement Award Nominee					
Honoree Name:					
Signature of Member:	-				
Address:	-				
Nominations MUST be received NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1.					
Mail this to: Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement Award, c/o IPA, 4608 S. Archer Avenu Chicago, IL 60632. Signature is required to verify current membership. Also, include					

short biography of the nominees' accomplishments that qualify him or her for this

#### **PLEASE REMEMBER:**

This form is only for nominations.

The IPA Board of **Directors and Officers** will determine the winner.

# Getting to Know Your IPA Board Members



Keith Pietranczyk, IPA Director from Illinois

Keith is one of our newest board members. He has been an IPA member for years and this year to become more involved with the IPA. He was nominated and voted in as an Illinois director at the 2013 IPA convention.

Born and raised on the south side of Chicago, in the Hegewisch neighborhood, Keith has been around polkas as long as he can remember and doesn't remember a part of his life not involving polkas. His father played bass and drums with his uncle's band, Jerry Pietranczyk's Polka Sharps. Growing up, Keith used to go to the picnic groves around Chicago as well as festivals. Since then, he has traveled near and far to attend and support the various festivals around the country.

Being a new IPA director, Keith looks forward to helping and working with fellow board members and entire organization to promote and support the music we all love.

Keith and his wife Jennifer currently live in the western suburb of Bolingbrook. Keith says, "For those that don't know me well, if you see me at a dance, festival, etc., come say hi! I love meeting new people. I'm an avid foodie, a runner, and in my opinion, there's no more fun on earth than Disney World. (Yes I'm a Disney nut!)"



Debbie Dunaj, IPA Director from Wisconsin

Debbie became an IPA director in 2012 to complete a year of a two-year term that was previously filled. She then was re-elected to a full two-year term at the 2013 IPA convention. Debbie is also the newest editor of the IPA newsletter.

Debbie has been around polkas since before she was born. Her father, Ken, played with The Polka Sonics when she was young, so her parents would pack her up and take her along to the various events in the area. Since then she's attended dances, festivals, and cruises from Hawaii to Delaware to the Caribbean.

Music has always been a passion for Debbie. Singing in various groups and choirs while in school makes her appreciate polka music that much more. She sang "Thinking of You" several years back on a recording with Family Tradition, the band her father currently plays in. And once in a great while, you might catch her singing a tune on stage with some of her favorite polka bands.

If it weren't for polka music, Debbie says she wouldn't have made so many friends from so many destinations. To quote Jimmy Weber & The Sounds, "There may be miles and miles between us, but we're not that far apart. Remember all these good times, and hear the sounds within your heart."

# Former IPA President Emily Pinter Passes

Emily Pinter began her music and dancing at the early age of five, studying piano, ballet and tap dancing. At age 16, while dancing with the Alliance of Polish Clubs group, the dancing instructor took ill, and Emily was asked to take over the class. The following year she was hired full-time, launching her on a career of dancing. In 1948, Emily directed her first recital. She continued with musical lessons on piano, accordion and clarinet at Northwestern University School of Music.

She joined an international folk dance group and became a piano accompanist. In 1951, Emily and her partner, Vince Samaska, entered the Sun-Times Harvest Moon Festival

Dance Contest held at the Chicago Stadium with 23,000 people in attendance. Emily and Vince took first place in the Polka Division. She performed at the Oriental Theatre and Blackstone Hotel. She taught ballroom and polka dancing at Arthur Murray Studios and Aragon Ballroom.

She organized the Polish Festival Dancers, a young adult group, which became quite popular performing on WGN-TVs "International Cafe," Folk Festival at the Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis, MO, Downtown Christmas Parades, Chicago Lakefront Festivals, etc. They appeared at many dinner-dance floor shows with the Steve Adamczyk, Johnnie Bomba, and the late Joe "Pat" Paterek Orchestras.

She attended various Folk Dance Camps throughout the country, teaching and studying new dances. Her expanded knowledge of the various ethnic dances resulted in a performance titled "80 Minutes around the World", at which 263 of her students performed dances of Polish, German, Russian, Jewish, Irish, French, Ukrainian, Italian, and Mexican origin, all in costumes of the country represented. The show was held at the Morton High Auditorium in Cicero, IL and was emceed by Chet Schafer.



Joe & Emily Pinter

For many years she taught the children of the PRCUA groups at seven different parishes throughout Chicago. In addition, she has two private groups on the north side, and one on the south side. In 1973, she was instructor at the PNA College in Cambridge, PA. Her last group was at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. Emily belonged to the 7PNX Youth Choir and sang with a quintet called the "Charmettes" with the late Mattie Madura.

Emily assisted Chet Gulinski on WOPA Radio & Chet Schafer on WTAO. She participated in many Polka Stage Shows produced by Chet Schafer.

In 1969, Emily became involved with the IPA where she served as director for two years, treasurer for eight years and the first woman president for two years. It was during her tenure as president that the IPA building was purchased. She served as chairperson of the Annual Awards Banquet for many years. She is a recipient of the Antonina Blazonczyk Award for her dedication to the polka field.

She worked full time for Kemper Insurance Co. as an executive assistant for 27 years and then as a secretary for 11 years for Storgaard Construction Co. She found time to marry Joseph Pinter in 1963 and attended many polka festivals with him throughout the country.

She died on October 21, 2013, in Florida.

(Reprinted from http://www.internationalpolka.com/emily-pinter.html)

Celebration of Life & Memorial Mass for Emily Mucha Pinter

Tuesday, November 19, 2013 6:00 p.m. Polonia Banquet Hall 4604 S Archer Avenue Chicago, Illinois

Contact Bel-Aire Enterprises for more information. 708-594-5182

# Ray Henry's "Ballroom Polka" Proclaimed Connecticut's State Polka

On June 25, 2013 Governor Dannel Malloy signed an Official Statement proclaiming Ray Henry's "Ballroom Polka" as Connecticut's State Polka. A dance was held on Sunday, November 3, 2013 to honor this declaration, and it was a complete success. Over 250 people jammed the Polish National Home in Hartford, CT and danced to a very special band (The Ray Henry Tribute Band) put together by Polka Hall of Famer Dennis Polisky and Joseph Milardo, both former members of the Ray Henry Band. Special guest vocalist was Polka Hall of Fame member Eddie Skinger who played with Ray for over 20 years. Also performing a few vocals was Eddie Biegaj. Among those in attendance included Polka Hall of Fame members. Mitch Biskup and Billy Belina.

Connecticut State Representative Linda Gentile presented Peter J. Danielczuk with a proclamation from Governor Malloy declaring the "Ballroom Polka" as the Connecticut State Polka. Peter was the catalyst of getting Connecticut to recognize the polka. The dance brought back many memories of those in attendance of the great dances that were held at the Polish Home years ago.







Clockwise, from top left: One of the bandstands showcased at the dance; Ray Henry's Tribute Band under the direction of Dennis Polisky and Joseph Milardo; Proclamation recognizing Ray Henry's "Ballroom Polka" as Connecticut's State Polka; CT Congressman John Larson with Dennis Polisky and Peter Danielczuk; and CT State Representative Linda Gentile presenting Peter Danielczuk with proclamation from CT Governor Malloy naming the Ballroom Polka the Official State Polka.





### IPA Picnic — Saturday, September 7, 2013

Chet's Melody Lounge—Justice, Illinois Music provided by Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze



# Frankenmuth Oktoberfest — September 19-21, 2013

Heritage Park—Frankenmuth, Michigan IPA was a proud sponsor of both the Summer Music Fest in August and Oktoberfest in September.



# IPA/USPA/CPA Joint Dance — Saturday, October 19, 2013 Holiday Inn—Strongsville, Ohio

Music provided by Downtown Sound







# Awards and Recognition Given at Polkamotion by the Ocean

Several IPA board members attended Polkamotion by the Ocean in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware September 11-15. While attending the festival, three awards were handed out on behalf of the International Polka Association.

Lenny Gomulka was awarded a certificate commemorating 50 years of playing polkas.

Gil Ziemski was awarded the Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement award for his contribution to polka music. Accomplishments include chairperson of St. Luke's Polish Festival in the Baltimore area, co-founder of Polkamotion by the Ocean, and former polka DJ.

Dennis Polisky and the Maestro's Men were awarded Best Instrumental Group during the IPA Polka Musical Hall of Fame and Awards Banquet in August. The band had a previous commitment at that time and were presented the award in person in Rehoboth Beach.









# Lenny Gomulka says "Save the Music"

The polka world has always focused on preserving music and preserving cultural traditions. Not until now has the discussion come up to save the music as we know it. Polka music has been known to bring friends together. It's been a family form of wholesome entertainment and it's been a genuine way for people to meet people.

In the newest CD just released by Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push the focus has shifted from "preserving" the music to "saving" the music. Not as simple as it may seem, polka music needs to be saved from falling by the wayside.

Polka music unlike other musical genres consists of a unique, loyal, passionate fan base. Those pure polka fans & enthusiasts are indeed the spirit and inspiration for every bandleader, every musician, every polka promoter. Collectively, entertainers & fans alike need a unified approach to reimage polka music in order to gain more respect. The word is already out there. Even VH1 has formed their Save the Music Foundation with efforts to develop strategic partnerships with school districts and to build sustainable instrumental music programs for public elementary and middle school students. It's been proven that the benefits of music education are astounding and studies have consistently exposed the tremendously positive effect music education has on a child's academic performance, sense of community, self-expression and self-esteem.

This is exactly what "Save the Music" by Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push is all about. Children's involvement is key and it's up to the polka community to encourage that and make it happen. This new "Save the Music" CD release with Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push captures photos of Lenny's son, 7-year old Teddy Gomulka, enjoying his musical moment. It also features the 7-year old singing along on a song that he himself composed. This is why it's called "Save the Music," and this is what polka music needs much more of.

Together let's "Save the Music" with Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push featuring 15 tracks of which 12 are all-new compositions. CDs are available on-line at <a href="https://www.chicagopush.com">www.chicagopush.com</a> or by sending \$17 to Chicago Push, 30 Woodland Place, Ludlow, MA 01056. (See advertisement on next page.)



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\*



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# IPA Birthdays November December



- 1: Kevin Adams: Charles Curtin: T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert (IPA Director); Wally Stanczyk
- 2: Sylvester Wienclaw
- 3: Mark Trzepacz:
- 4: Jane Honn; Bob Szymanski
- 5: Nance Dulai: Robert York
- 6: James Polaski
- 7: Linda Jelinek
- 8: Anne Gierut:
- 9: Eugene Baniewicz; Kenneth Ghidara; Sheila Miehle; Frank Styfurak
- 10: John Evanina; Thomas Zimnowski;
- 11: Gale Burcher
- 12: Richard Kuciemba
- 13: Ray Jarusinski
- 14: June Sherry Ingram; Dennis Ostopowicz; Robert Kujawa
- 15: Sue Szela; Diane Kapka
- 17: Suzie Sanner
- 18: Jeannette Prchal; Marty Dzik
- 19: Pat Maduzia (IPA Director)
- 20: Barry Juhasz; Susan McCabe; Whitev Ryniec
- 21: Alan Mammoser; Wally Raczkowski
- 22: Sally Sendra; Myna Sadowski
- 23: Sandy Simunek; AJ Okrzesik; Robert Wojnowski
- 24: Diane Hamlin; Anita Herrmann; Josephine Malinowski; Walter Procanyn; Marlene Rohal:
- 25: Bruno Burdzy; Peter Danielczuk (IPA Sgt. At Arms); Mitch Moskal; Lynn Thull; Mary Wolski
- 26: Michaeline Drust; Andrew Dziagwa;
- 27: Sandra Lewandowski; Carol Stasila
- 28: David Bezdziecki; Richard Wojcik
- 29: Lenny Kapka; Angela Biskup
- 30: Matt Jaworski

# December

- 3: Karl Koch: Joseph Rupnik
- 4: Julie Thoms; Darryl Troczynski
- 6: Dick Zavodny: Becca Jurevis
- 7: Walter Nowak; Seth Drzewicki
- 8: Steve Coblish; Rocco Naples
- 10: Bev Koziej; Frank Piotrowski
- 11: Marge Machay, Neil Makatenas; Ed Slomkowski; Jim Nash; Richard Kujawa; Tug Sanner
- **12:** John Springer
- **13:** John Piotrowski
- 15: Darrell Weltin; Dan Okrzesik
- 16: Gary Sroka
- **17:** Mark Janson; Stanley Sulikowski; Ted Okrzesik, Jr.; Pam Zelasko
- 18: Ken Kendra: Renee Gold: Marla Kunke
- 20: Jessica Jurevis
- 22: Paul Wanas
- 23: Ronald Bies; John S. Mikrut; Carol Kibelbek
- 24: Stanley Kunysz
- 25: Joseph Niemietz
- 26: Linda Mitchkoski
- 27: Raymond Naczas: Claude Wiatrowski: Gary Rhamy; Helga Leonard
- 28: Joseph Kiljanski, Jr.
- 29: Noreen Steenbock; Marsha Bulinski
- 30: Jan Zima
- 31: Kathy Blazonczyk; Joey Husain; Gerry Gorak

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.

# 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.



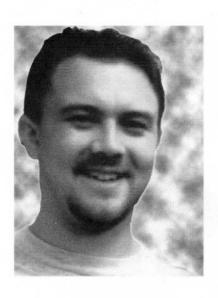
## Rich Bobinski - 26 Classic Hits from the Past

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.

# \$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 <a href="https://www.freddykjrmusicscholarship.com">www.freddykjrmusicscholarship.com</a> or contact the Scholarship Committee at the following address:

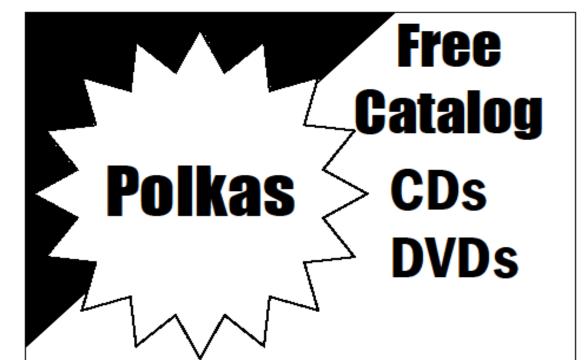
The Freddy K Jr. Scholarship Fund 50 Totten Drive Bridgewater, NJ 08807

## WINNERS OF \$1000 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

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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 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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