



IPA Newsletter

March - April, 2016

Official Publication of the International Polka Association, Inc. ®

A Letter From The President...

Hello Polka Fans,

I hope everyone has made it through winter. Spring is only a couple weeks away. 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 Warm-Up Dance and 47th Annual "Chicago Festival of Polka Bands" was a very successful event. Thanks to John "Casino" Krawisz and his "staff" for a job well done. Thanks to the bands for your time and talent, and to all the polka fans who braved the cold weather and came out to support this annual event. A special thank you to Ron & Wally Raczkowski and the Polish Connection who sounded fantastic and brought a bus full of Wisconsin's finest polka fans to enjoy both nights of polka fun.

Thank you to Lori Urbanczyk, our NY Director, for hosting the 1st IPA Buffalo Festival of Polka Bands. It was a great event held at Potts Banquet Hall. Over 350 great polka fans attended to support polka. Thank you to the bands that performed and made the hall resonate with fine polka music.

Howdy Texas. Thanks to Theresa Parker from the *Texas Polka News*; Danny Zapletal, IPA Trustee; and Squeeze Box (Mollie, Ted, and Dana) for hosting the 1st IPA Benefit Dance in Houston, TX. Another great polka event. A great crowd of over 400 fans supported polka music and the IPA.

The 11th Annual IPA Benefit Dance in Ludlow at the PACC, chaired by Ed Szela and Fred Kendzierski, honoring Lenny Gomulka was another fantastic event. Great crowds both Saturday and Sunday packed the hall for great music and fun for all. Once again thank you to the great musicians who performed both days.

Our Polka Unity Dance in Chicago with Let's Polka USA and the IPA is scheduled for April 3, 2016 featuring The IPA Tribute Band with Hall of Famer John Gora from Canada. We will be honoring Chet Schafer for 65 years of polka radio broadcasting. Hope to see you all at Glendora Banquets for this great event.

I ask all members to get a friend to join the IPA. You can get all of the information on our website: www.ipapolkas.com

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 2016 a year to remember.

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.

Rick Rzeszutko
IPA President

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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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:

John Krawisz, Financial Secretary
International Polka Association
PO Box 1484
Plainfield, IL 60585
Phone: 630-204-1793
Email: christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net

Renew your membership online!!
Visit: www.ipapolkas.com/store

2015-2016 IPA Officers and Directors

Officers:

President: Rick Rzeszutko (IL)
1st Vice President: Christy Krawisz (IL)
2nd Vice President: Fred Kendzierski (NJ)
Treasurer: Linda Niewierowski (IL)
Financial Secretary: John Krawisz (IL)
Secretary: Keith Pietranczyk (IL)
Sergeant-At-Arms: Peter Danielczuk (CT)
Youth Advisor: Jake Mikrut (IL)
Media Advisor: Jerry Wantroba (IL)

Directors:

Patrick Henry Cukierka (IL)
Debbie Dunaj (WI)
Ed Guca (Canada)
Mike Maduzia (IL)
Dan Mateja (IL)
Laura Mateja (IL)
Mike Matousek (MD)
Dennis Mikolajewski (IL)
Bonnie Ryniec (IL)
Ed Szela (MA)
Lori Urbanczyk (NY)
John Zelasko (MI)

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, 11:00 a.m.—12 noon Central Time on WPNA (1490 AM) in Chicago or via the internet at www.radiowpna.com. Each show features IPA officers and directors including Rick Rzeszutko, Linda Niewierowski, Laura Mateja, Mike Maduzia, Christy Krawisz, John Krawisz, Bonnie Ryniec, 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 also available in the Polka Jammer archives. 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 Warm Up Dance & Chicago Festival of Polka Bands

The weather may have been chilly, but the polkas were hot on January 16 & 17. Polka fans from across the country converged in Chicago to show their support and love for polka music. Over 150 polka fans attended the Warm-Up Dance at Polonia Banquets on Saturday and over 350 at the Glendora Banquets on Sunday for the 47th Annual Chicago Festival of Polka Bands. Thank you to Ron Raczkowski for bring a bus from Wisconsin with over 50 people joining him for the trip. Thank you to all the bands who gave their time and talents. Need music for your next event? Book a live band! Contact information for the bands who performed at the January Dances are listed to below. Thank you to everyone who attended, performed, and assisted to make these events a success. ~ Christy Krawisz For more pictures visit ipapolkas.com or [facebook.com/ipapolkas](https://www.facebook.com/ipapolkas).

Band	Bandleader	Email	Phone Number
Polka Beaches	Jake Mikrut	mikstiks94@gmail.com	773-503-4361
Great Lakes Sound	Aaron Slivinski	aaronslivinski@yahoo.com	989-574-5781
Polish Connection	Wally Raczkowski	walrazz@charter.net	715-571-3210
Polka Confetti	Keith Stras	kgstras@ix.netcom.com	847-468-0112
Freeze Dried	John Krawisz	graphicpallet@sbcglobal.net	630-334-2941
Jim Kilian & Honky Chicago	Jim Kilian	jkilian45@yahoo.com	630-864-0682
IPA Tribute Band	Dan Mateja	mateja@ameritech.net	708-403-7991
Ampol Aires	Wayne Sienkowski	ampolaires@yahoo.com	708-484-7509



IPA Buffalo Festival of Bands

The first International Polka Association "Buffalo" Festival of Bands – Warm Up Dance was held Saturday, January 23rd, 2016 from 6:30 pm – 12:30 am at the Potts Banquet Hall, Clinton & Rossler Plaza 41 S. Rossler Street, in Cheektowaga, NY.

The overflow crowd of 325 was entertained by eight polka bands from Buffalo including PHOCUS, THE NEW DIRECTION BAND, RARE VINTAGE, CONCERTINA ALL-STARS, BUFFALO TOUCH, SPECIAL DELIVERY, the "Original" KREW BROTHERS and THE KNEWZ. There were special guest appearances by local IPA Hall of Famers John Gora, Eddie Guca, Michael Nowakowski and Mark Trzepacz.

I envisioned a similar event to the IPA Chicago Festival of Bands which has run for the past 47 years featuring their local talent and Hall of Famers and it was a huge success.

The IPA also paid a special "Tribute to Danny Potts" for his 25 years of polka promotions in Buffalo,. Besides supporting the local polka bands by opening his banquet hall for them to practice, he has also hosted many local polka events and has hosted dances for out-of-town polka bands traveling through Buffalo, which included Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones, Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze and Bernie Gorak's Polka Generations from Chicago, Touch of Brass from Toledo, Ethnic Jazz from Cleveland, Polka Family and Doubleshot from Pennsylvania, The Boys from Baltimore, Ed Guca and his Polish Canadians and John Gora and Górale from Canada, to name a few.

Ron Urbanczyk, leader of the New Direction Band, was the band coordinator and MC of the event. A big IPA THANK YOU goes out to the 8 polka bands, Kathy Urbanczyk, Kayla Rosinski, Brian Urbanczyk, Sue Skurzewski, Michelle Bojczuk, Cherie Trzepacz, Eddie Kutas and Eddie and Wanda Guca for their help at the door and with the 50/50 raffles, Les Kapuscinski for capturing the event in photos, and to Danny Potts the use of his banquet hall.

We look forward to next year for our second Buffalo Festival of Bands. ~ Lori Urbanczyk

For more event photos, visit ipapolkas.com or facebook.com/ipapolkas



IPA Benefit Dance - Houston, Texas

About 400 Texans attended a Super Bowl Polka Party with SqueezeBox, raising more than \$2,000 for the International Polka Association Hall of Fame, and signing up several new members. The event, sponsored by Texas Polka News, took place on Sunday, February 7, at SPJST Lodge 88 in Houston. Band members Mollie B, Ted Lange, and Dana Lindblad visited with fans before the dance. Danny Zapletal, IPA Hall of Fame's newest Trustee, welcomed everyone and gave a brief history of the IPA. He also introduced Texas musician and radio DJ Alfred Vrazel, who was inducted into the IPA Hall of Fame in 2014. Alfred told everyone about his experience of attending the IPA Convention with a busload of Texas polka fans and how all were treated like royalty. Mollie B read a letter from IPA President Rick Rzeszutko thanking everyone for attending the event and welcoming the Texas region to the IPA Hall of Fame. For the grand finale, SqueezeBox was joined on stage by Alfred, Danny, and John Dujka for a medley of traditional Czech polkas, When the Saints Go Marching In, and You Are My Sunshine.



11th Annual IPA Benefit Dance - Ludlow, MA

Ed Szela and Freddy "K" Kendzierski presented the 11th annual IPA Hall of Fame Benefit Dance February 20 and 21 at the Ludlow PACC in Ludlow, Massachusetts. Music was provided on Saturday evening by The Knewz, and Sunday entertainment was provided by Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, Dennis Polisky and Maestro's Men, Eddie Forman Orchestra, and an all-star tribute band. Sunday also included a tribute to IPA Polka Music Hall of Famer, Lenny Gomulka. With fantastic crowds both evenings, this event has continued to be a huge success. Thank you to Ed and Freddy K for all their hard work and to the bands for their time and talents.

For more photos, visit ipapolkas.com or [facebook.com/ipapolkas](https://www.facebook.com/ipapolkas)



48th Annual IPA Festival & Convention

**48th Annual
International
Polka
Association
Festival & Convention**



Millennium Hotel – Buffalo, New York
716-681-2400
www.millenniumhotels.com/buffalo

Labor Day Weekend 2016 – Mark Your Calendars!

Friday, September 2	Saturday, September 3	Sunday, September 4
John Gora & Gorale	Buffalo Concertina All Stars	Eddie Forman Orchestra
Mike Costa & The Beat	IPA Tribute Band	Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
	The Boys	Music Company
	The Knewz	Polka Country Musicians

Tower rooms are available for \$139 plus tax, per night when mentioning the IPA Polka Festival.

www.ipapolkas.com or www.facebook.com/ipapolkas



The International Polka Association and Let's Polka USA present their 5th annual Unity Dance on Sunday, April 3 at Glendora Banquets. Music will be provided by the IPA Tribute Band with a special-guest performance by IPA Polka Hall of Famer from Canada, John Gora.

We will also be celebrating the 65th anniversary of IPA Hall of Famer Chet Schafer's career in radio broadcasting.

We hope to see you there!

Mark your calendars! We hope you can join us Labor Day weekend in Buffalo, New York, for the 48th annual International Polka Association Festival & Convention to be held once again at the Millennium Hotel in Buffalo.

Call today to reserve your room at the newly renovated Millennium Hotel. Don't wait — our first block of rooms has already sold out! It is sure to be another fun, successful, and well-attended event. Mention the IPA Polka Festival to receive the group room rate.

A full brochure will follow with complete details including a welcome party on Friday, September 2; IPA Hall of Fame & Awards Banquet and pool party on Saturday, September 3; and Polka Mass on Sunday, September 4.

Watch ipapolkas.com and facebook.com/ipapolkas for more information to come!



**THE IPA AND LET'S POLKA USA
PRESENT THEIR 5TH ANNUAL
UNITY DANCE**



Sunday, April 3, 2016

at Glendora Banquets - 10225 S Harlem Avenue
Chicago Ridge, Illinois

Doors Open at 12:30 PM:

A Live Radio Broadcast of the Chet Schafer Radio Show!*

from 1:00 - 2:00 P.M.

Music from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

The IPA Tribute Band

with a special guest performance by
Canadian Hall Of Famer - John Góra

*We will also be celebrating Polka Hall Of Famer -
Chet Schafer's 65th Anniversary of Radio Broadcasting!



Admission: \$10.00 payable at the door

Raffles, Membership Table, T-Shirts, and CDs for sale!

For more information visit www.ipapolkas.com

IPA Polka Hall of Famer Joe Czerniak Passes

Joseph F. Czerniak of Duluth, Minnesota, was elected to the polka Music Hall of Fame in the Pioneer category. Joe was inducted along with other inductees, on Saturday, August 5, during the annual International Polka Association Convention and Festival, at the Ramada O'Hare Hotel, in Chicago.

Joe Czerniak has been long acknowledged as a Pioneer in many aspects of the polka industry. Joe, 65 years young at the time of his induction, was born to Polish immigrant parents in Duluth, and lived his entire life there. He began professionally at age 14, and formed his own band the Duluth polka Dots in 1939, at age 15. In addition to concertina, the band used banjo and drums. They played Polish, Scandinavian, Slovenian, and German styles of old time music. The band played every weekend until Joe was drafted into the Air Force in 1942.

Of course, Joe took a Concertina into the service with him. When Joe was discharged, he expanded the polka Dots from three piece to four. Later more members were added. The polka Dots have been performing for weddings, parties, and polka Festivals ever since – fifty years. They travel throughout the upper Midwest and have performed in Chicago for the IPA Festival. A celebration commemorating the 50 year anniversary of Joe Czerniak's polka Dots for family, friends, former students and band members, took place in Duluth, in July, 1989.



Former polka Dot members include Joe's sons Bill and Greg. Bill started taking concertina lessons from Joe at age 6 in 1952. It wasn't long before Joe was teaching dozens of other students in his basement studio. He taught steadily ever since then— for 37 years. In that time, Joe taught literally hundreds of students, many whom have gone on to gain national notoriety as Concertina players and recording stars. These include son Bill, and frequent IPA award winner, Renata Romanek. He inspired numerous local polka groups to start up. Most recent of these was the Silver Bay Concertina Club.

Many of Joe's students traveled long distances to take lessons. This is a tribute to his popularity as a teacher. He is an excellent instructor, because of his patience and his attention to detail. Joe emphasized the correct way to play the instrument, utilizing good rhythm, chromatic accuracy, and proper chord application. Joe's own arrangements of polka and waltz music for concertina were in high demand, as well as his copyrighted scale and chord transposition chart for concertina. For many years, Joe sponsored "Concertina Displays," or concertina get-togethers, not only to promote sales of concertinas, but to provide an audience for aspiring polka musicians.

The Duluth Polka Dots first long play recording was made in 1965, featuring Joe and sons Bill, on concertina, and Greg on drums. It was called 'Twin Concertinas.' Joe's most recent recording was "Concertina Hall of Fame," recorded to commemorate his induction into the World Concertina Congress Hall of Fame in 1981. This prestigious event took place in New Ulm, Minnesota, when Joe's peers in the concertina industry, from throughout the United States, recognized his unique contributions to the popularity and advancement of their favorite instrument.

Joe Czerniak became acknowledged as one of the most knowledgeable and innovative craftsmen, with respect to amplifying and repairing concertinas. In fact, he was single handedly responsible for the growing acceptance of stereo wiring for concertinas by many nationally prominent concertina players. Over the years, Joe developed techniques to amplify concertinas, which enable the performer to obtain a "true" concertina sound, despite the amplification. This is very critical to polka performers. In addition, Joe is equally adept at tuning and other repair categories.

Joe Czerniak was inducted into the IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame in 1989. He passed away on February 15 at the age of 92.

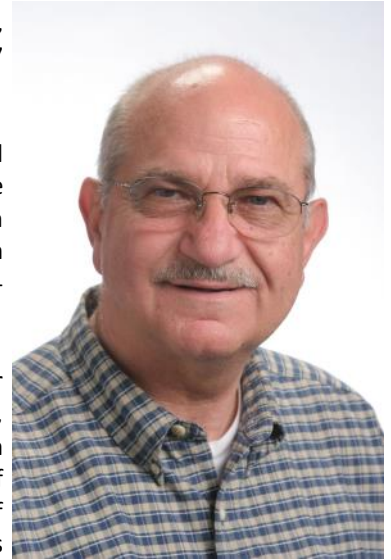
Hall of Fame bio taken from: <http://www.ipapolkas.com/blog/otw-portfolio/joe-czerniak-pioneer-category-inducted-1989/>

Former IPA Chaplain, Father Bob Grib Passes

Let us pray in thanksgiving for the life of Fr. Robert (Bob) I. Grib, S.J., who died on January 25, 2016, at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital in Pontiac, Mich. He was 75 years old, a Jesuit for 57 years, and a priest for 43 years.

Father Bob was born in Chicago on March 31, 1940. He attended Five Holy Martyrs grade school from 1946-54, before moving on to St. Ignatius High School, where he graduated in 1958. He entered the Jesuits in Milford, Ohio on September 1 that year. After pronouncing first vows in 1960, he continued with his juniorate studies at Milford, before moving to West Baden, Ind., in 1962 for philosophy. He completed his philosophy studies in North Aurora, Ill., receiving a master's degree.

Upon completing his philosophical studies, Father Bob asked to be missioned to Patna, India, for his regency. In 1965, he began to study Hindi for two years at Khrist Raja High School in Bettiah, Bihar, before continuing to teach English and sociology at the high school for another year. From 1968-69, Father continued his study of Hindi at XTTI in Patna, Bihar. After this special year of language study, he moved on to the Papal Athenaeum in Harzaribagh Bihar, for four years of theological studies. He returned to Chicago for his ordination on March 19, 1972, at St. Thomas More Church. Father Bob completed his Bachelor of Sacred Theology in India in 1973.



From 1973-74, he served as dean of the Jesuit Juniorate Program and taught English at XTTI in Patna, Bihar. In 1974, he began three years of service as a parish priest and diocesan youth director at a Catholic church in Bettiah, Bihar. This was followed by his tertianship year at St. Xavier's School in Hazaribagh. From 1977-78, he spent a year of special studies at the Central Hindi Institute in Delhi. Father Grib professed final vows on November 5, 1977.

From 1978-85 Bob taught Hindi to the novices and junior candidates at XTTI, Naviyoti Niketan in Patna, Bihar. He also served as director of the summer Hindi programs for priests and religious. From 1985-87, he conducted training in counseling, spirituality, and neuro-linguistic programming at the Sadhana Institute in Lonavara, Maharashtra. He was the director of candidates at Sanjivan Niwas in Patna, Bihar, from 1987-88. From 1988-89, Father served as a parish priest in the Catholic Church in Bettiah in the Champaran region of Bihar. He was then stationed at Navijyoti in Patna, Bihar, until 1994, directing retreats, youth leadership training, summer Hindi courses, and sessions in neuro-linguistic programming. Finally, from 1994-96, Father Bob was the Diocesan youth director at the Muzaffarpur Minor Seminary in Muzaffarpur, Bihar. With this final assignment, he concluded his 31-year career in India, with many acknowledging that he probably spoke Hindi better than those native to the country!

Upon returning to the United States in 1996, Father Grib served as a substitute teacher at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis. He then served as pastor at St. Ignatius Parish in Chicago. After a sabbatical year, Father spent a year and a half as associate pastor at Our Lady of the Brook Parish in Northbrook, Ill., before directing retreats at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington, Ill. From 2002-09, Father Bob served as an associate pastor at St. Juliana Parish in Chicago. After a semester sabbatical, he spent the next year in residence at St. Francis Borgia Parish in Chicago, where he also assisted with music ministry. He was then involved in other music and pastoral ministry, before residing at St. Eugene Parish in Chicago, where his brother, Phil, is a priest in residence. In 2015, Father Grib moved to Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich., to care for his health.

He is survived by his brother Rev. Philip J. Grib, S.J. He was preceded in death by his parents, Philip and Helen (Zak) Grib.

Memorial Gifts may be made to: Jesuit International Missions or the Jesuit Partnership, 2050 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60614, or online at <http://jesuitsmidwest.org/supportus>

Obituary taken from: http://www.desmondfuneralhome.com/obituary/Rev.-Robert-I.-Grib-S.J./_1584647

IPA Calendar Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the first winners in the 2016 IPA calendar raffle. Don't forget to send in your raffle tickets for one of 48 more chances to win!

January 3	Mary Jo Pavilon	Palos Park, IL
January 10	Art Kalena	Hemet, CA
January 17	Ed Nicoski	Melrose Park, IL
January 24	Halle Sweis	Homer Glen, IL

IPA Radio Shows

Don't forget! The IPA broadcasts two weekly polka shows, and both are available to listen to online. Below is the tentative schedule of IPA directors and officers hosting the shows. (DJs/IJs and broadcast times are subject to change.)

Polka Jammer IJs

Saturdays 4:00-5:00 pm, Central Time
www.polkajammernetwork.org

March 5:	Keith Pietranczyk
March 12:	Fred Kendzierski
March 19:	Mike Maduzia and Rick Rzeszutko
March 26:	Linda Niewierowski and Jerry Wantroba
April 2:	John Zelasko

WPNA Radio Shows DJ's

Sundays, 11:00-12 noon Central Time
 1490 AM Chicago or online at
www.radiowpna.com

March 6:	John & Christy Krawisz
March 13:	Keith Pietranczyk
March 20:	Bonnie Ryniec, Dennis Mikolajewski, and Dan & Laura Mateja
March 27:	Mike Maduzia and Rick Rzeszutko
April 3:	Linda Niewierowski and Jerry Wantroba

Welcome New Members!

Edwin Rajewski	Greg Skibiski
Richard Maack	Mitch Piotrowski
Mark Kupiec	Boyer Simcox
Irene Lizzio	Roman "Travers" Truskolaski
Gary Stewart	Wesley Matus
George Hess	Julie Matus
Paul Futa	Gregorio Martinez, Jr.
Kathy Futa	Richard Rogers
Tony Blazonczyk	Pat Klesel
Wally Raczkowski	Peggy Kidwiler
William Mueller	William Michael Machacek
Joni Borger	C.J. Jozwiak
Robert Mazur	Louis Stewart Jr.
Lynn Chwojdak	Valerie Nidoh
Patricia Romanowski	
Sue Skurzewski	LIFETIME MEMBER:
Robert Krupka	Edward Stachura
Judy Nowak	
Walter Mendel	
Daniel "Potts" Pocziwinski	

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. Renew online at www.ipapolkas.com.

Note of Thanks

Dear IPA Board Members,

Thank you for your donation to the Deborah Hospital Foundation in memory of my dad, Bernie Goydish. The generosity shown by the board is truly appreciated.

Ed & Christine Wolinski and the family of Bernie Goydish

In Memoriam

The IPA extends their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the following IPA members:

Walter Biesk
 Ronnie "BeBop" Lietz
 Father Robert Grib, Former IPA Chaplain
 Joseph Czerniak, IPA Hall of Famer



"Like" us on Facebook!
 For all the latest news and information, visit:
facebook.com/ipapolkas

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.

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

2016 IPA Calendar Raffle

Don't forget! There are still 48 chances to win. Turn in your raffle tickets if you haven't already, or contact an IPA board member to get your raffle tickets.

One \$100 winner will be drawn each week.

Thank you for your continued support of the IPA, and good luck!

Congratulations to the first winners in the 2016 IPA calendar raffle.

January 3	Mary Jo Pavilon	Palos Park, IL
January 10	Art Kalena	Hemet, CA
January 17	Ed Nicoski	Melrose Park, IL
January 24	Halle Sweis	Homer Glen, IL

IPA General Member Meeting

Friday, March 18
7:00 PM
Glendora Banquets
Chicago Ridge, IL

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.



IPA Financials

2015 IPA Festival—Buffalo, NY

Income:	\$38,948.00
Disbursements:	\$34,678.32
Net Profit:	\$4,269.68

2015 Christmas Party—Chicago

Income:	\$270 .00
Disbursements:	\$1,302.00
Net Loss:	(\$1,032.00)

2015 IPA Calendar Raffle

Income:	\$8,260.00
Disbursements:	\$5,425.00
Net Profit:	\$2,835.00

2016 IPA Warm-Up Dance & Festival of Bands—Chicago

Income:	\$5,553.00
Disbursements:	\$2,420.00
Net Income:	\$3,133.00

2016 IPA Benefit Dance—Buffalo, NY

Income:	\$4,336.00
Disbursements:	\$820.00
Net Income:	\$3,516.00

2016 Super Bowl Party IPA Fundraiser—Houston, TX

Donation:	\$2,304.00
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IPA Birthdays



March

- 1: Elaine Veverka
- 2: Todd Zaganiacz; Jim "Wigs" Weglicki
- 3: Tom Mrocza; Tim Verthein; Dennis Zielinski, Jr; Karen Danielczuk; Tony Rozek, Jr.
- 4: Jackie Koziel; Kenneth Sesnowski; Ken Yagelski
- 5: Dick Pillar; Stanley Martin Sr.
- 6: Joan Pyzik; Rick Rzeszutko
- 7: Thomas Petrak
- 8: Wendy Wantroba; Kristopher Piotrowski; Les Kapuscinski
- 9: Joseph Mehoczky; Eddie Siwiec; Joseph Pusz; Thomas McGuire; Theresa Bolf; Steve Kantorski
- 10: Fred Ziwich
- 11: Fr. Dennis Bogusz; Walter Kazmierczak; Jon Peters; Chester Pala
- 12: Garry Kuchenbecker; Josefine Kozak; Angela Piasecki; Joseph Warco
- 13: Ed Szela; Bob Raica; Frank Waltos
- 15: Father Tom Aleksa; Joan Zychowski Minehart;
- 16: Wojtek Kukielka
- 17: Larry Walk; Patrick Henry Cukierka; Jeff Mleczo; Linda Langevin; Patricia Romanowski
- 19: Joseph Oginsky; Marcia Musial; Antoinette Petrak
- 20: Vincent Shemansky
- 21: Roman Marsolek; Annie Couch
- 22: Theresa Slipek; Debbie Jackinoski; Ted Lange; John Zelasko; Debbie Bezler
- 23: Julie Ann Kurdys
- 24: Mark Kohan; Missy Lynn Krejci; Katie Krawisz
- 26: Tony Winiarz; Patricia Wojnowski
- 27: Mike Gryczko
- 28: Mike Kochanek; Frank Kosman; Chester Dziadosz
- 30: Jim Barvainis; Chris Sikorski; Lucille Gay; Mitch Piotrowski
- 31: Judy Stringhill; Chuck Troiani

April

- 1: Helenrae Budzilek
- 2: Joseph Witek
- 3: Bob Derks
- 4: Timothy Haselow; Mary Lou Czerniak
- 5: Steven Smith; David Straup Slick
- 7: Betty Downey; Barbara Ann Adams; John Zelasko, Sr.
- 8: Tom Reznickervitz, Erik Bogdon; Jerry Soliwoda
- 9: Michelle Genrich; Veronica Grocholski
- 11: Roger Malinowski;
- 12: Linda Skarr
- 13: Louella Kundert
- 14: George Walker
- 16: Chris Valcik; Ed Vatauvuk
- 17: Ronald Biskup; Mack Martin; Diane Nowakowski; Steve Meisner; Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk
- 18: Peter Wendinger; David Slivinski
- 19: Mitch Gorz
- 20: Cherie Trzepacz
- 21: Jane Siuda
- 22: Leonard Cioch; Johnetta Vinka; Richard Trentacoste; Maria Szymanski
- 23: Brian Szumigalski
- 24: Roberta Matuszko
- 25: Sally Rzeszutko; Brian Urbanczyk; Marie Brado
- 26: Gary Osga; Gloria Bonnin
- 27: Rev. Phillip Grib; Michael Schrader; Frieda Mocny; Linda Walczynski-Louie
- 28: Eric Kurowski; Joseph Price
- 30: Donna Stewart; Dan McGrath

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

The “BIG 50” Dance

Celebrating Jeff Mleczko's 50th Birthday



PRCUA Hall

1430 Oak Street
Wyandotte, MI

Doors open at 6:00PM
Music & Dancing 7:00 - 12:00

~ **Saturday, March 19, 2016** ~

Polka Music Featuring...

The DynaBrass

And the Debut Appearance of

The DynaVersaStickToneAires

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For more Information...

Joe Zalewski

419-351-5031

jzalewskitpm@msn.com

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May 20th - May 31st

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Torun • Mazurian Lakes area
Kashubian region • Bialystok
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For more information contact:

Mitch Biskup
617-899-5895
 m.biskup@comcast.net

Lenny Gomulka
413-374-7096
 lennygomulka@aol.com

Included Features:

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- And So Much More!!

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\$3695
 per person

Poland Spring Tour May 2016 with Lenny Gomulka & Mitch Biskup

Each year Lenny Gomulka & Mitch Biskup tour beautiful Poland. With so much to see, so much to enjoy and do, Lenny & Mitch have again targeted key regions within the Fatherland that will strike a chord especially with their upcoming Poland 2016 Spring Tour from May 20th thru May 31st. With flights departing from Toronto, Chicago & New York, visiting Northern Poland means experiencing the warm sights of the Baltic Sea region along with the excitement of Gdansk, Gdynia & Sopot. Adventure through historical Bialystok and Torun on the renowned Vistula River. Party, shop, wine & dine in the Kashubian Region and throughout the Mazurian Lakes area. Especially enjoyable will be 3-nights in Vilnius, the capital city of Lithuania. All costs are included. Lenny Gomulka & Mitch Biskup always help you celebrate in the most jubilant manner as they play, sing and join the musicians and entertainers of Poland. Joining Lenny & Mitch will be Buffalo's own musical aficionado, Ted Szymanski. Ted will join the group with his accordion and voice to add his signature to the group of entertainment during the tour. Write or call for more information as this tour is filling in quickly. Call or write for full itinerary. Lenny (413)374-7096 or Mitch (617)899-5895. Write to: lennygomulka@aol.com or m.biskup@comcast.net.

Tour of Central Europe

Prague, Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, Krakow, Zakopane



Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland

with John Gora as your host

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John Gora: Tel: 905-336-3055 or Email: john@johngora.com

Or our travel agent Wanda 1-800-533-0369 Email: wanda@chopintours.com



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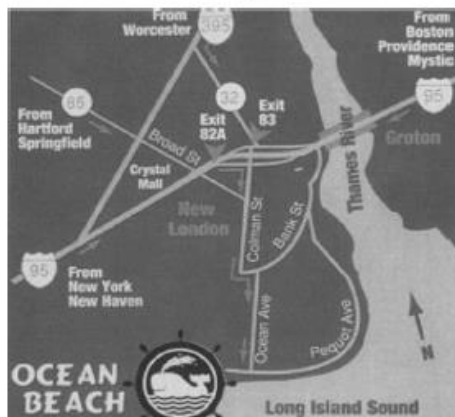
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Polka Festival Location

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www.oceanbeachparkpolkadays.com

For Questions and Ticket Inquiries

Please call the Ocean Beach Park
Polka Days information line at:
860-598-4117

Ocean Beach Park Polka Days
PO Box 247
Versailles, CT 06383
info@oceanbeachparkpolkadays.com



SCHEDULE OF BANDS



Wednesday, June 22

7 pm – 10 pm
On The Boardwalk

Polka Country Musicians

Open To The Public
FREE Admission
\$6.00 Parking Fee



Thursday, June 23

11 am – 3 pm
In The Pavilion

Matt's All Star Jam Band

5:30 pm – 12:30 am
In The Ballroom

Maestro's Men

Larry Trojak With PCM

Polka Family

\$20.00 Adults
Kids 16 & Under FREE
When Accompanied By An Adult

Friday, June 24

10 am – 3 pm
In The Pavilion

The Boys

IPA Tribute Band

5:00 pm – 1:00 am
In The Ballroom

Eddie Forman

The Knewz

Polka Country Musicians

Larry Trojak With PCM

Freeze Dried

\$20.00 Adults
Kids 16 & Under FREE
When Accompanied By An Adult



Saturday, June 25

10 am – 3 pm
In The Pavilion

Freeze Dried

The Knewz

5:30 pm – 12:30 am
In The Ballroom

IPA Tribute Band

Polka Country Musicians

The Boys

\$22.00 Adults
Kids 16 & Under FREE
When Accompanied By An Adult



Band Line-Up Subject To Change.
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



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SATURDAY, April 30, 2016



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Pan Franek and the Polka Towners

and as an added attraction

A Concertina on Parade Tribute

featuring the musical talents of **HALL OF FAMERS**

Al Piatkowski

Lenny Gomulka

Ray Jarusinski

Mitch Biskup

Jackie Libera



Adults-\$20.00

Kids 13 & under Free

Doors open at 5:00pm

Music from 5:30pm - 12:00am



Polish Kitchen

Door Prizes

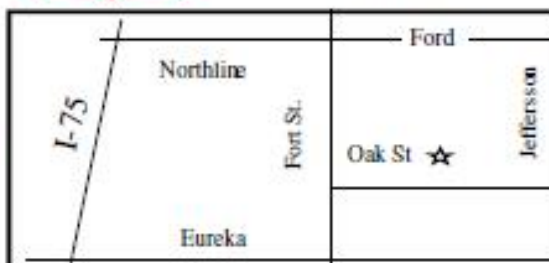
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A Great Weekend of Family FUN!

Hours: Friday: 6pm-1am, Saturday: 12pm-1am, Sunday: 12pm-5pm

The Knewz

from New York (Friday & Saturday)

Freeze Dried

from Illinois (Friday)

Polish Connection Band

from Wisconsin (Friday)

The I.P.A. Tribute Band

from Illinois (Saturday)

Polka Pak

from Wisconsin (Saturday)

The Chardon Polka Band

from Ohio (Saturday) *1st Time In Wisconsin!

Mollie "B" with Squeezebox

from the Mollie B Polka Party on RFD-TV (Sunday)

The Diddle Styx

from Michigan (Sunday)

Special Appearances by:

Eddie Blazonezyk Jr., Emily Bizon & more!

Band line-up subject to change without notice.

Catholic Mass (Polish and English) Saturday 5pm.

Weekend Bus Trip from Michigan! with The Diddle Styx!

Call Dawn at (616)334-3088 or e-mail: getwaysbydawn@gmail.net

Saturday Bus Trip from Central Wisconsin with Polka Pak.

Call Betty at (715)498-4171 or e-mail: towpro210@att.net

For general festival information:

Call Patrick Henry at (773)889-8811 or e-mail: polkadj@sbcglobal.net

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\$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 2016 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.freddyvkjrmusicscholarship.com 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

- 2015 – Adam Winiarz, Norton, Massachusetts**
- 2014 – Jenna Libera, Charlton, Massachusetts
- 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

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IPA Dates to Remember	Advertise in the IPA Newsletter
<p>March 18: IPA General Member meeting Glendora Banquets</p> <p>April 3: IPA & Let's Polka USA Unity Dance Glendora Banquets</p> <p>September 2-4: IPA Festival & Convention Millennium Hotel—Buffalo, NY</p> <p>Visit www.ipapolkas.com and www.facebook.com/ipapolkas to stay up-to-date with all IPA events.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">One Issue</p> <p>Full Page\$75.00 per issue Half Page.....\$55.00 per issue Quarter Page\$40.00 per Issue Eighth Page\$25.00 per issue</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Three Issues</p> <p>Full Page\$67.00 per issue Half Page.....\$45.00 per issue Quarter Page\$36.00 per issue Eighth Page\$22.00 per issue</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Six Issues</p> <p>Full Page\$60.00 per issue Half Page.....\$40.00 per issue Quarter Page\$32.00 per issue Eighth Page\$20.00 per issue</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: For advertisements requiring pictures, please add a one-time charge of \$10.00. Email ad files to Debbie Dunaj: dunajda07@yahoo.com.</p>
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