



IPA Newsletter

January—February, 2019

Official Publication of the International Polka Association, Inc.®

A Note From Our President

Greetings,

I hope everyone had a fantastic holiday season.



The new year started out at our Warm-Up Dance at Polonia Banquets with some great music featuring Full Circle. They did a great tribute set to the music of the Tones. The cold snowy weather did not stop the party. I thank all of the great polka fans who braved the weather and still came out and had a great time. Thanks to the Machay family for their hospitality and great service. The next day, the party moved to Glendora Banquets for the Annual Chicago Festival of Polka Bands. It turned out to be another fantastic fun filled day of polka fun for everyone. Thank You to Stanley, Mary and the whole family for the great service as always. The Polka Jam Band, Tri City Drive, The Windy City Brass, The D Street Band, The Music Co., The IPA Tribute Band, Tony B and New Phaze, and FreezeDried filled the hall with a day full of polka music and memories. We thank you. Special thanks to all of the great Polka Fans who came from 8 states and Canada to support this annual event. Thank You to all of the IPA officers and directors for their hard work and dedication. It was truly a team effort. Special thanks to all of the polka DJ's and IJ's for advertising our events. We really appreciate all that you do to support polka music and the IPA.

(Continued on page 9)

January was



National Polka Month

2019 Joseph Jozwiak Award Recipient



Sally Rzeszutko

Many years ago, the late Joseph Jozwiak, a director of the IPA, proposed an award be bestowed upon an individual or group of individuals who made a significant contribution or endeavor to enhance the promotion of polka music. Originally named the Special Achievement Award, the International Polka Association voted to honor those worthy individuals. Following his passing, the award was renamed the Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement Award to pay tribute to Joe and his idea.

We are proud to announce that the winner of the 2019 Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement Award is Sally Rzeszutko.

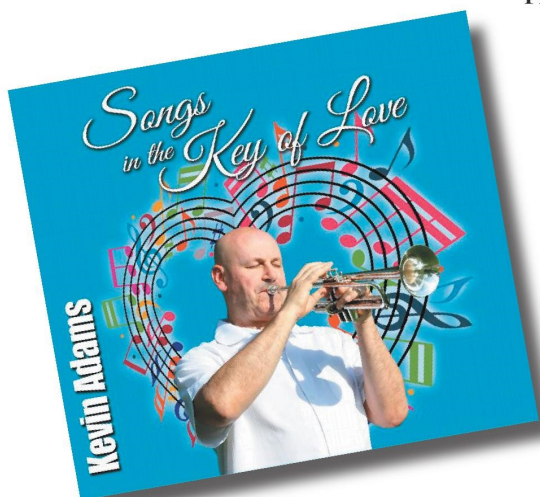
Sally has been a longtime IPA member and supporter of polka music. Three of her four children are polka musicians; Bob "Odie", Rick, and Ray "Melvin" Rzeszutko. Sally also has a daughter, Rhonda, and is the proud grandmother of seven grandchildren.

Sally has dedicated numerous hours volunteering for the IPA. You have probably spoken to her as she worked the admission table at so many of the Chicagoland IPA events as well as the IPA Festival and Convention. Sally has also assisted with several duties for the Hall of Fame and Music Awards Banquet. Sally has spent uncountable hours taping, labeling, and stamping practically every newsletter over the past five years. Sally also spends much of her time supporting as many polka bands as she can by attending their dances and enjoying the music she loves so much.

Please join us in congratulating Sally on this richly deserved award.

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51st Annual International Polka Association Festival & Convention

Make your plans now to attend the 51st Annual
IPA Festival & Convention ®

August 30th - September 1st

**Labor Day Weekend
Millennium Hotel Buffalo
(716) 681-2400**

3 Fun-filled days of Polka Entertainment! Music by:

The Beat, The Boys, Freeze Dried,
Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, John Gora & Gorale,
IPA Tribute Band, Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men,
Polka Country Musicians, Ray Jay & The Carousels
(Bands subject to change)

Welcome Party, Hall of Fame and Music Awards Banquet,
Pool Parties, Polka Mass, Election of Officers and Directors
Plus much, much more!

More details and information to follow.
Visit our website: www.ipapolkas.com



Be sure to listen to the IPA Radio Shows:
Polka Jammer Network
Saturday's 4-5 PM (CT)

Sunday's from 11 am to Noon (CT)
Chicago WPNA 1490 AM or radiowpna.com

FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

WINNERS

There is still time to be included in the drawing. Visit www.ipapolkas.com for more information.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Judy Krason IL	2 Martin Olshanski PA	3 Mia Pearl IL	4 Bonnie Matusovich CT	5 Robert Bonoczi CO
	6 Edward Krupinski MA	7 Sally Rzeszutko IL	8 Betsy Turk NE	9 Sylwia Skowronek IL	10 Bud Beyer IL	11 Mark Fitzpatrick CT
12 Ed Zavaski CT	13 Andrew Krystopolski FL	14 Myna Sadowski PA	15 Steve Smith AZ	16 Dave Ulczycki IL	17 Chris Hedrich MI	18 John & Carolyn Baras MO
19 Chet Kowalkowski IL	20 DRAWING DATE Ed Zavaski CT	21 Michell Lieberg NY	22 Carol Wirack IL	23 John Gembka NY	24 Matt Mocek OH	25 Mark Kramer PA
26 Matt Mocek OH	27 DRAWING DATE Ken Pienta IL	28 Jeanette Ziobro IL	29 Floyd Grocholski MI	30 Karen Hudy IL	31 John Gembka NY	

Enter to Win!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 John O'Brien TX	2 Margoe Cavanaugh PA
					8 Kevin Kwiatkowski OH	9 Virginia Pojedynski OH
3 DRAWING DATE Cecelia Osysko IL	4 Walt Groller PA	5 Robert Wojnowski MA	6 Arlene Tolbot IL	7 Sally Rzeszutko IL	8 Kevin Kwiatkowski OH	9 Virginia Pojedynski OH
10 Kim Rozek NY	11 Mark Fitzpatrick CT	12 Mitch Biskup MA	13 Ken Ruitenber IL	14 Walter Goralczyk OH	15 Larry Walk OH	16 Julie Ann Matus TX



Bill Horodecki, FL

Jordan Chickosis, Alberta, Canada

Tara Randazzo, FL

Mark Cappelletty, CA

Mary Wasek, IL

Ralph Berge, WI

Roger Wartgow, WI

Doug Busch, FL

Jon Deitz, WI

Dave Walczak, IL

Janice Collins, IL

Robert Ochwat, IL

Bill Malinowski, IL

Marian Betley, IL

Al Betley, IL

Jeanette Adamczyk, IL



WESOLYCH SWIAT

DEC. 25, 2018

BOZEGO NARODZENIA

I SZCZESLIWEGO NOWEGO ROKU

HAPPY LOUIE, JULCIA along with our FAMILY, FRIENDS and THE MJF FOUNDATION FOR PARKINSON'S RESEARCH would like to thank you all for the support we received during our Third Annual MJF Polkas for Parkinson's event on July 28, 2018 at Pulaski Park, Three Rivers, MA, with music provided by BOX ON, the family band from Michigan. The event was a huge success and your support is truly appreciated. It was truly a fun and entertaining afternoon. Once again, HAPPY LOUIE sang his "GREEN GRASS POLKA. A big Thank You to our VOLUNTEERS, DENISE, AMANDA, JAKE, CLAIRE, MILES, DAVID, AMY, SOPHIE, HENRY, DR. LOU, KATHY, MIKE, MATT, SHAINA, CATHIE, RON, ERNIE, BILL, STAS, ANN, KATHY, FRANK. WITHOUT YOUR HELP, THE DANCE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. THANKS TO ALL WHO DONATED THE MANY RAFFLE PRIZES AND 50/50 RAFFLES. ALL MONIES DONATED TO MJF FOUNDATION...

The attendance at the dance was over 400 happy polka fans. Thanks to all of you who could not attend the dance, however, sent in a donation. We received another beautiful thank you letter from the MJF Foundation for Parkinson's Research. DJ Peter Danielczuk will return as MC in 2019.

The total amount donated this year to the MJF Foundation from our Polka event was \$ 10,580. To date from our three fundraisers, the total amount donated is \$ 26,297. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for your kind generosity. Thanks also to the DJ's and LJ's for promoting our event and to the POLISH NEW CASTLE RADIO (PNCR) for donating their services for the live broadcast on that day. Thanks to STAS WILGOCKI and BRIAN CHENKUS for hosting the live broadcast. Polish New Castle Radio (PNCR) will return to our 4TH Annual Parkinson's Dance on SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 2019 for another lively broadcast at the dance and performing once again is BOX ON and their family band at Pulaski Park, Three Rivers, MA from 2 to 6. A big thank you once again to the TOWN OF PALMER, MA for donating our ride to Pulaski Park and to Nancy Czabaj for making the arrangements and thanks to the driver.

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SPEED A CURE THIS YEAR. MJF FOUNDATION IS CLOSER THAN EVER TO A PARKINSON'S DISEASE CURE, BUT SCIENCE REMAINS AHEAD OF FUNDING. YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR CAN ENSURE PROMISING RESEARCH MOVES FORWARD IN 2019. DONATE NOW BY GOING TO www.happylouie.com and click on DONATE NOW TO THE MJF FOUNDATION. AFTER DECEMBER 31ST THE SITE TO DONATE WILL BE TAKEN DOWN AND 2019 STARTS A NEW YEAR WITH A NEW WEBSITE. THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TO MAKE PARKINSON'S A THING OF THE PAST. Thanks Happy Louie musicians, Rich, Brian, Tony, Joe Laro for your performance and Hank.

Again thank you to everyone who made a donation and for all who attended this year's dance. May God Bless you and your families and keep you all safe and healthy through this Christmas and the New Year. See you in 2019, SATURDAY, AUGUST 3RD at Pulaski Park, Three Rivers, MA 2 to 6 p.m. with BOX ON for our Fourth Annual MJF Parkinson's Dance.

WE HAVE LOST A FEW MORE OF OUR POLKA FANS IN 2018.....ELEANOR JASAK...SANDY ORSZULAK...TERRY SKWIRA...MARY KOKOSZKA...LLOYD KLEIN...HELEN DEMBEK...FRAN PINKOS, THERESA HAYES...MARY BOURRET...LOUISE KUSEK...HELEN REGAN...RICHARD & CAROL RONDEAU. REST IN PEACE.

*Love, Peace, Hope and Joy!
Happy Louie and Julcia*

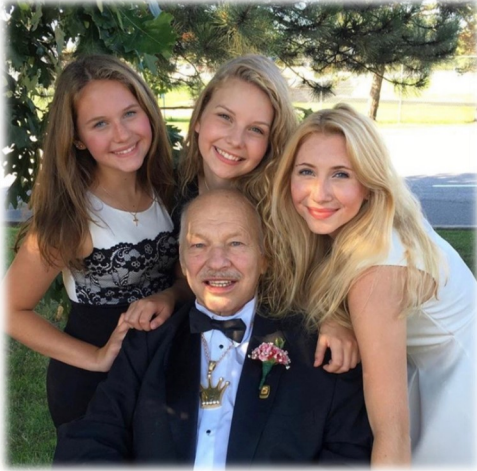
*Please keep
Happy Louie, Julcia
and our family in
your prayers. D. J. Laro*

2018 Festival & Convention Financial Report		
August 31st to September 3rd, 2018		
Annual Festival Revenue		
Ad Book Revenue	6,633.00	
Donation & Miscellaneous Income	206.00	
Door Admission Income	20,280.00	
Raffle Sales	3,706.00	
Room sales credit from Hotel	2,761.00	
Split the Pot	2,440.00	
Vendor Commission	150.00	
Total Annual Festival Revenue		36,176.00
Annual Festival Expenses		
Ad Book	3,580.08	
Advertising & Marketing	700.97	
Band Expense	17,650.00	
Printing	1,663.68	
Decorations and Giveaways (significant portion of this expense offset by donations)	7,985.38	
Raffle Mailing - Printing	587.15	
Raffle Payouts	1,000.00	
Wristbands	59.80	
Total Annual Festival Expenses		33,227.06
Profit from Festival		2,948.94
Hall of Fame Report		
Banquet Sales	4,960.00	
Total Hall Of Fame Income		4,960.00
Hall Of Fame Operational Expense		
Banquet Flowers & Entertainment	531.95	
Hall of Fame Operations	500.00	
HOF Banquet	6,442.96	
HOF Reception	1,141.88	
Pins & Awards	3,252.00	
Postage	333.10	
Printing	279.90	
Total Hall Of Fame Operational Expense		12,481.79
Net loss on HOF Awards and Banquet		(7,521.79)

Interview with Stas Golanka

2016 Hall of Fame Inductee and Bandleader

by: Christy Krawisz



IPA: Please tell me about your family ~ your parents, your siblings, your wife, children and grandchildren.

Stas: I was born in a primarily Polish neighborhood on the West Side of Chicago. I lived with my parents and two sisters and music was always an important part of our house. My wife Sue and I have been married for fifty-two years and we have two children, Allan and Michelle. Our son-in-law is Bob, and we have three granddaughters of which we are most proud; Olivia, Madeline, and Faith.

IPA: What age did you start playing an instrument(s) and what were they?

Stas: I started playing music in my early teens, like a lot of guys in my neighborhood. I started out playing the accordion and then stuck with playing the drums the rest of my career. I always enjoyed singing and have been doing that for as long as I can remember. I used to sing along to the Polish music my mother played in our house growing up.

IPA: What made you decide to play Polkas?

Stas: My family was Polish, and we were very proud of that. I also grew up in a neighborhood where playing music is what all the “cool guys” did.

IPA: What bands have you played in?

Stas: When I was a teenager a lot of guys just played jam sessions in pick-up bands for fun. My first band was “Stas Golonka and the Polka Diamonds”. I am most known for my band “Stas Golonka and the Chicago Masters”, which lasted more than fifty years.

IPA: Who did/do you admire musically, polkas and non polkas?

Stas: I have always admired the music of Elvis Presley, Dean Martin, Engelbert Humperdinck, Freddie Fender, and the Everly Brothers. I also am a big classic country music fan, such as Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, and Charlie Pride.

IPA: What was your most memorable moment on stage?

Stas: Dyngus Day Festival, in the Old Train Station in Buffalo, New York. Myself, Marion Lush, and The Krew Brothers were the headliners. There were thousands of people enjoying our music and the Dyngus Day excitement. It was probably in the early to mid-1980s.

IPA: What was the biggest job you ever played?

Stas: The job I talked about above, at the Dyngus Day Festival, was probably the biggest crowd I have ever entertained. It was a great day and I enjoyed having my band, “The Chicago Masters”, share the stage with Lush and The Krew Brothers. I also played at “The Car and Driver Magazine” Convention in Chicago. It was at “The John Hancock Building” on the 95th Floor and quite a fancy affair. Perhaps one of the greatest and most historic jobs was at the original “Taste of Chicago” on Navy Pier, ran by Mayor Jane Byrne. It is there that I met one of my music icons, Freddie Fender, who was also a headliner that day!

(Continued on following page)

Interview with Stas Golanka

2016 Hall of Fame Inductee and Bandleader

by: Christy Krawisz (continued from previous page)

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

Stas: I think it is important that we honor the past musicians that did such great things and created such great music, while at the same time be open and excited about the new musicians and sounds of today. Listening and sharing music through all forms of media is the best way to keep Polka music relevant and alive for next generations. It is especially important that we pass down Polish culture, traditions, and music to our families, because they are the ones that will carry our legacy and love of our Polish heritage into the future.

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

Stas: I think it would be a good idea for the IPA to explore new groups or outings to sponsor or be a part of; such as charitable events, walks/runs, or community festivals that a wide variety of people attend. Music and dancing at such events may interest people, that are not necessarily Polish or know anything about Polka music, but that may enjoy the music and then want to attend other events. Especially outdoor activities where a lot of young people gather and socialize.

IPA: Stas, is there anything else you would like to add? You can say anything you would like.

Stas: I have enjoyed entertaining people for over sixty years and I am most grateful for all the wonderful people that Polka music has brought into my life... "Forget Me Never".

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(Continued from page 1)

Thank you to the family of the late polka Hall of Famer Johnny Bomba for their donation of items that have been placed in the Hall of Fame. It is a great addition to the collection of items that are housed there, and will be a lasting memory to Johnny.

The Calendar raffle is in full swing, and the first round of winners have been picked. The raffle will continue through April 30th. You can still get in by going to ipapolkas.com. Thank You for your support.

Keep watching the IPA Newsletter, ipapolkas.com, and our facebook page for information on all of our upcoming events.

Thank You
Rick

14th Annual

IPA Hall of Fame Benefit Dance 2019

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2 days!

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9th**
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ADMISSION \$15

featuring



**SUN
MARCH
10th**
2pm-7pm
ADMISSION \$20

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WANDA & STEPHANIE
AMERICA'S POLKA SWEETHEARTS
★
Music by



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& Chicago Push*



*Eddie Forman
Orchestra* ★



*Dennis Polisky
& Maestro's Men* ★

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Linda Kendzierski
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Bonita Springs, Florida 34134

Sue Szela 413-896-0433

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MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The **Freddy K Jr. Music Scholarship Committee** is now accepting requests for applications for the 2019 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
23850 Via Italia Circle, Apt #1104
Bonita Springs, Florida 34134

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.

WINNERS OF \$1000 SCHOLARSHIPS

2018 – Zachary Piatkowski, Canastota, New York

2017 – Veronica Prytko, Millbury, Massachusetts

Joseph Blackburn, Troy, New York

2016 – Olivia Piatkowski, Canastota, New York

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

Sunday June 2, 2019



**The Hammond
M o h a w k s**

20th Annual
POLKAMANIA

At

**The Hammond Mohawks
Picnic Grounds
4040 Calumet Ave
Hammond, Indiana**

Featuring Great Polka Music By:



**Continuous Music – – Alternating Bands
From Noon to 6pm CST
Gates open at 11:30am**

Adults: \$13

Children under 12: \$3

Authentic Polish food – Drinks – Raffles – Desserts – Polish Memorabilia

Available at Additional Cost

For more information, contact: Alan Pala 219-677-3586



January

January 1: John Kaiser; Mitch Paprocki
January 2: Eugene Sadus; Stephen Binkiewicz;
 Wandzia Kuluzny; Cecilia Osysko; Donna Ingot;
 Lucas Yash
January 3: Ernest Daigle; Kevin Kurdziel;
 Dawn Rosinski; Adam Hembel; Batuhan Eisen
January 4: Jerry Fabian; Rick Kunke
January 5: Nancy Szmyd; Ralph Sabatini
January 6: John Freidhoff, Michele Troczynski
January 7: Suellen Gomulka; Candy Bonnin; Erv
 Wisniewski; Stephen Kaminski; Marianne Buzinski
January 8: Laura Mateja
January 9: Jeff Yash
January 10: Pat Stanek; Les Motyka; Deb Jones;
 Brian Chenkus; Anthony Glaza
January 11: Frank Liszka
January 12: Vince Ashman; Richie Dombrowski;
 Paul Brozek
January 13: Barbara Szydlowski
January 14: Elaine Nowak; Stanley Raiczky;
 Mike Cielecki
January 15: David Dobrzinski; Joseph Kubicar;
 Bob Koziel; John Jaworski
January 16: James Lewandowski; Emma Bogdon
January 17: DeeDee Ogrodny; Al Piatkowski;
 John C. Mikrut; Zachary Mikrut; Mike Kocieniewski;
 Jordan Chickosis
January 18: Lucille Marsolek; Brian Kapka;
 Duane Mijal; Virgil Kazmierski
January 19: Hayley Krawisz
January 20: Richard Tady; Teresa Bagrowski;
 Goran Lukic; Brad Cutright
January 22: Ann Marie Matousek; Jim Pie-
 tranczyk; David Korch
January 25: Craig Marsolek; Walter Maduzia;
 Bill Dobrucki
January 26: Laura Bethke
January 28: Sharon Heiman; Ray Kanoza;
 Don Maduzia; Kenny Habrack; Basia Toboy
January 29: Mary Anne Robinson; Gary Bassett
January 30: Chet Dombrowski
January 31: Richard Leach

February

February 1: Robert Guyette; Wanda Guca
February 2: Don Hedeker; Jody Maddie;
 Melissa Dziadosz; Deanna Hoffman
February 3: Lynn Maynard
February 5: Don Haderle; Fred Bulinski;
 Gene Mikolajewski; Ken Anderson
February 6: Richie Gomulka; Norbert Ciesla;
 Tim Quinnell
February 7: Eddie Biegaj
February 8: Barbara Haselow; Hank Kaliszewski;
 Christine Kotowski; Edward Kutas
February 9: Ron Zywiec; Evelyn Benbenek;
 Al Jelinek; Glen Embree
February 10: Fredolin Willfahrt; Frank Delaney;
 Lisa Zapiec
February 11: Don Wayerski; Jim Stanish
February 12: Walter Groller; Mario Kozak
February 14: Fred Kendzierski; Stan Wilgocki
February 15: Leonard Klamut; Frank Stetar
February 16: Lori Lachner; Christine Zelasko;
 Irene Czajka
February 18: James Sajkowicz; Linda Hurley;
 Ken Foldenauer; Al Volek
February 19: Anna Borowski; Tyler Janson
February 20: Becky Livermore; Terry Popek;
 Linda Pezo
February 22: Steve Rodgers; Sandy Mikrut;
 Cathy Coblisch
February 23: Jerry Halkoski; Jan Dressler
February 24: Eddie Zavaski, Jr; John Lesniewski;
 Frank Proszowski
February 25: Trudie Mergen; Tim Jagodzinski;
 Ashley Styczynski; Kathleen Labuda Zink;
 Linda Swiderski; Gerry Kryk
February 26: Edward Pudlo; Steve Piatkowski
 Thaddeus Szymanski; Keith Werwas
February 27: Robert Fidler; Dennis Mikolajewski;
 Charlotte Tyk; Robert Caggiano; Joseph Rej;
 Rhonda Lackowski

Sto lat



Director, Brian Kapka with past Directors, Tony Blazonczyk and Jake Mikrut



(back) Mike Riel; Financial Secretary, Lynn Kaminski;
(front) Rick Chimniak; IPA Queen 75-76 Robin Chimniak



AnnMarie Matousek & Diane Pojedynski



Karen Hudy, Wife of Hall of Famer, Fred Hudy and Diane Bulanda, wife of Hall of Famer, Stas Bulanda



(back) Secretary, Keith Pietranczyk; Director, Lori Lewandowski; (front) Director, Dennis Mikolajewski; Director, Jenny Ruitenber



Full Circle

USPA Vice-President, Carol Trzebiatowski; 2019 Joe Jozwiak Award Recipient, Sally Rzeszutko



IPA Festival of Bands

Warm-up Dance

Saturday, January 19, 2019

Chicago, IL

Polonia Banquets



Music by: Full Circle

Tribute to The Tones

Photos courtesy of Dennis Mikolajewski

Roger Malinowski—the drummer never gets a good action shot



The Tones



Dawn Roskinski; Johnny Krawisz; George Rosinski



Stephen Kaminski; Financial Secretary, Lynn Kaminski; Diane Pojedynski; Paulina Zielinski; Rena Kapka

Mike Matousek emceeing the Tones Tribute





Photos courtesy of Keith Pietranczyk



*A Very Special
"Thank You!"*

A special thank you to the following people who
donated raffle items or completed raffle baskets
for our
50th Annual Chicago Festival of Polka Bands.

Tish and Kathy Blazonczyk, Bel Aire Enterprises

John and Sandy Mikrut, Polonia Banquets

Jim Krzeszewski, Jimmy K Polkas

Mike and Diane Nowakowski

Rick Rzeszutko

John and Christy Krawisz

Lori Lewandowski

Special thank you to Diane Pójedynski for
doing an outstanding job on the
50th Anniversary
centerpieces used at three of our
50th Anniversary events,
our festival Labor Day Weekend; our October
Chicago event; and our 50th Annual Chicago
Festival of Polka Bands.

Diane spent numerous hours setting the center
pieces up and fixing the ones that needed repairs.

Thank you Diane.



*Texas Dancers
Support the IPA*



Texas Dancers Support the IPA

By Theresa Cernoch Parker
Publisher, Texas Polka News
theresa@polkabeat.com

More than 200 polka lovers packed historic Sefcik Hall in Central Texas on Jan. 26 to celebrate National Polka Month. *Texas Polka News* sponsored the 4th annual dance benefitting the IPA. More than \$1,200 was raised through dance tickets and silent auction, and 20 Texans became IPA members.

The Praha Brothers from the nearby town of Temple provided the music. IPA Hall of Famer Alfred Vrazel along with Danny Zapletal, IPA Southwestern U.S. trustee, served as the masters of ceremony. The highlight of the evening came when Alice (Sefcik) Sulak, the 88-year-old musician and owner of the hall, sang a few songs, accompanied by Alfred on accordion, and Jerry Haisler, a polka band leader from Temple, on vocals. Jerry and Alice performed together for 48 years.

Alice's appearance was doubtful earlier in the day as she had just come home from the hospital, but you would have never known all the physical maladies she was battling (which she humorously shared with the audience). Her singing voice was strong, and she spoke to the audience in English and Czech. Alice declared herself a "tough old gal."

"If more people were like Jerry and Alfred, we would have no problems in this country," Alice said to thundering applause.

Danny presented Alice with a plaque from the IPA honoring her more than 75 years as a musician and polka promoter. Alice's father and mother built the dance hall in 1923. She has lived her entire life in the house next door and has managed the hall since 1970. She played saxophone in her family band, Adela & The Music Masters, and later in the Haisler family polka bands for 45 years, but a bad back caused her to give it up. Her son, Kenny, and his family help manage the hall now. The two-story hall features a bar with pool tables on the first floor, open on weekends. The upstairs dance area comes alive on Sunday evenings with music provided by bands booked by Alice. The second floor is also available for rentals.

Danny also presented me with a plaque from the IPA congratulating the *Texas Polka News* on its 30 years of publishing and thanking the paper for promoting polka music and supporting polka music throughout the country.

As with other *TPN*-sponsored events, those 18 years of age and under were admitted free. It was great to see dancers of all ages having a wonderful time. It was also great to see so many musicians with other Texas polka bands in attendance, including Andy Mikula, and Mike and Janice Marek of the Jodie Mikula Orchestra; David and Michelle Slovak (and Danny) of Czech & Then Some, Jim Zabochnik of Czech Harvesters, and James Marek of The Czechaholics.

"It was another awesome event where Texans showed their support of the IPA," Danny said. "Till next January, polka on!"

Thanks to photographers Harvey Wise, Justin Everett, and Gary E. McKee for capturing the images of this high-energy event. More photos can be found at [flickr.com/polkabeat](https://www.flickr.com/photos/polkabeat). Thanks to Walt Harfmann for capturing the video of Alice singing and the Praha Brothers performing. Check that out at [youtube.com/buttonboxes](https://www.youtube.com/buttonboxes).

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Lynn Kaminski, Financial Secretary
International Polka Association
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Email: lynn_ipa50th@comcast.net

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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, Laura Mateja, Christy Krawisz, Lynn Kaminski, Dennis Mikolajewski, Keith Pietranczyk, Jerry Wantroba, and Brad Turk.

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!**



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****DEADLINE FOR APRIL ISSUE IS: March 27, 2019****

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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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