



IPA Newsletter

March - April, 2019

Official Publication of the International Polka Association, Inc.®

A Note From Our President

Hello Polka Fans,

Believe it or not it is SPRING! If we keep saying and thinking it, it will come true. I hope everyone made it through the tough winter months and are in good health. It's time to get ready for another exciting Polka Festival Season.

First, I would like to welcome Jill Staczynski our new Director from WI, and Dave Bonczkiewicz our new Director from AZ. We look forward to working with you. Thank you to Debbie Dunaj and Jill Czerniak for your service.

The IPA Benefit Dance in Ludlow at the PACC chaired by Fred and Linda Kendzierski and IPA Director Sue Szela, honoring the great music of Wanda and Stephanie was another great event. Thanks to Dennis Polisky and Maestro's Men, the Eddie Forman Orchestra and Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push for the great music and entertainment. Thank You to all the great polka fans who attended and supported this 14th Annual Event. Also honored were polka promoters of the past, Fred and Marcia Bulinski & Gil and Mary Ziemski – Polkamotion By The Ocean; Bernie Goydish – Wildwood Polka Spree; and Dick Pillar – Polkabration.

Thank You to Theresa Parker and the Texas Polka News for sponsoring another IPA Benefit dance in Texas. We appreciate all that you do for polka music and the IPA. I urge everyone to look into subscribing to the Texas Polka News.

Also, thank You to Debbie Dunaj for organizing the Wisconsin dance featuring Gary's Ridgeland Dutchman at The Rib River Ballroom and to all the polka fans who attended and had a great time.

Our joint dance with Let's Polka USA and the IPA was well attended and provided an exciting afternoon of polka music for all who

(Continued on page 6)



The I.P.A. has a **twitter** account!

Follow us
@ipapolkas123

Olivia
Vinecki
&
Tyler
Zawatski



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on your
Engagement



Kayla
Rosinski
&
Brian
Urbanczyk



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HERE COMES THE RAINBOW

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MAMA CI MOWI WALTZ

MOONLIGHT POLKA

ZIELONY MOSTECZEK

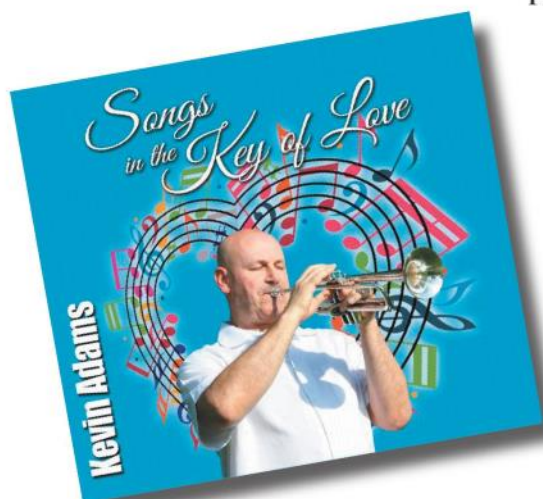
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51st Annual International Polka Association Festival & Convention

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, Buffalo Concertina All-Stars,
The Buffalo Touch, Freeze Dried, The Kosmix,
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)

Chicago WPNA 1490 AM or radiowpna.com

Sunday's from 11 am to Noon (CT)

FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

WINNERS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 John O'Brien TX	2 Margoe Cavanaugh PA
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 Rutenberg IL	14 Walter Goralczyk OH	15 Larry Walk OH	16 Julie Ann Matus TX
17 Steve Smith AZ	18 Eugene Murawicz MI	19 Paul Mocek OH	20 Brad Turk FL	21 Justin Kosinski NJ	22 Jerome Fabian PA	23 Paul Mocek OH
24 Nick Moros FL	25 Jennifer Okrzesik IL	26 Lindsey Mateja IL	27 Teri O'Brien TX	28 Janet Dressler NY		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Tammy Arnes MI	2 Jennifer Gembka NY
3 Mark Janson MI	4 Paul Mocek OH	5 Laura Mateja IL	6 Jan Voparil FL	7 Sally Sendra IL	8 Jenny Ruitenber IL	9 John Struziak MA
10 Fr. Tom Aleska PA	11 Alex Saltanovitz IN	12 Peter Danielczuk CT	13 Kenneth Dunaj WI	14 Myna Sadowski PA	15 Drawing Date Emme Sweis IL	16 David Raccis MA
17 John O'Brien TX	18 Michael Blaskowski WI	19 Susan Jurevis IL	20 Carol Wirak IL	21 Richard Leach WI	22 Richard "Sudsy" Cerajewski IN	23 Corinne Turk FL
24 Jo-Jo Malinowski IL	25 Stas Golonka IL	26 Joanie Ziemski MD	27 Nina Rzeszutko IL	28 Rich Sendra IL	29 Lindsey Mateja IL	30 Jenn Kant WI
31 LouAnn Murray IL						

(Continued from page 1)

were there. Thanks to Ray Jay, who came out and did a fantastic job with the IPA Tribute Band. It was great seeing you and Maryann.

Finally, I hope you enjoyed our live broadcast with the IPA Tribute Band on the Polka Jammer for the annual Jammerthon. Thank you to all who called in and donated during our time on the air. Special thanks to Steve Kaminski for engineering the event.

Let's keep the momentum going. I urge everyone to continue to support all the polka promoters, polka bands, DJ's and IJ's, and the polka organizations. Let's make 2019 a great year for polka music.

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 the our organization moving in a positive direction.

May you and your family have a Happy and Blessed Easter.

Rick



**My apologies to Stas and the
Golonka family for the
misspelling of their name in the
February newsletter.**

- Lynn Kaminski



Wesotego Alleluja!

Happy Easter

from

***The International Polka
Association***



Jim Pacholski, IL

Robert Plemmons, TX

Elizabeth Tarchala, FL

Thomas Rokosz, FL

Darlene Arneson, WI

Peter Chunis, MA

Krystyna Chunis, MA

Micheal Kott, IL

Henry Dymerski, FL

Elaine Libert, FL

Felicia Reilly, IL

Mike Marek, TX

Jania Marek, TX

Beverly Hoffpauir, TX

Skylar Hoffpauir, TX

Makayla Hoffpauir, TX

David Slovak, TX

Michelle Slovak, TX

Leonard Schrank, IL

Charles Robinson, TX

Mitch Kempinski, FL

Flora Patterson, VA

Ronald Kurtin, TX

Dorothy Schulze, TX

Larry Schulze, TX

Garrey Prcin, TX

Herbert Lovell, TX

Sara Lenart, TX

Ray Lenart, TX

Johnny Kovar, TX

Rita Kovar, TX

Bud Holy, TX

Janie Holy, TX

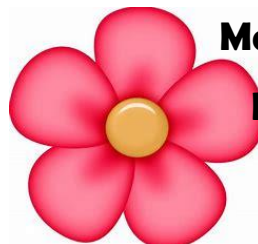
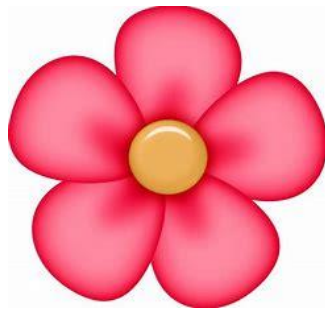
Eugene Brenek, TX

Maryann Cuglewski, OH

Robert Szymczak, FL

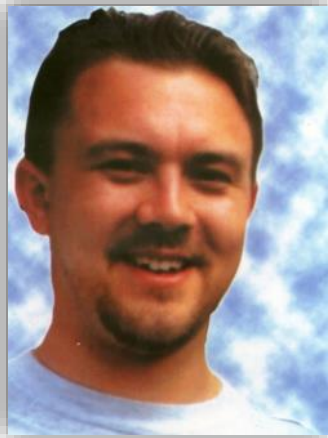
Jayne Szymczak, FL

Veronica Costa, NJ



\$1000 FREDDY K JR

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 | 2007 – Kevin Martin, Hudson, New Hampshire |
| Joseph Blackburn, Troy, New York | 2006 – Lanelle Raccis, Wilbreham, Massachusetts |
| 2016 – Olivia Piatkowski, Canastota, New York | 2005 – Nick Koryluk, Hicksville, New York |
| 2015 – Adam Winiarz, Norton, Massachusetts | 2004 – Michael D. Riel, II, Chicopee, Massachusetts |
| 2014 – Jenna Libera, Charlton, Massachusetts | 2003 – Ryan Ogrodney, White Oak, Pennsylvania |
| 2013 – Eva Snyder, South Hadley, Massachusetts | 2002 – Brian Romianik, Millville, New Jersey |
| 2012 – Justin Kohan, Orchard Park, New York | 2001 – Melissa Mocadlo, Stevens Point, Wisconsin |
| 2011 – Stephen Piatkowski, Canastota, New York | 2000 – Andrew Krystopolski, Wilmington, Delaware |
| 2010 - Kassandre Dardzinski, Saugus, Massachusetts and | 1999 – William Lomnychuk, Reading, Pennsylvania |
| Anita Marie Thomas, Balto, Maryland | 1998 – John Daigle, Chicopee, Massachusetts |
| 2009 – David Raccis, Wilbreham, Massachusetts | |
| 2008 – Christopher Wanyo, Shillington, Pennsylvania | |

IPA's IJ/DJ Schedule

www.polkajammernetwork.org

**Saturdays 4pm—5pm
Central Time**

WPNA 1490 AM Chicago or

www.radiowpna.com

**11am—Noon
Central Time**

13-Apr-19	Keith Pietrancyk
20-Apr-19	Christy K. and Lynn K.
27-Apr-19	Brad Turk
4-May-19	Laura Mateja and Dennis Mikolajewski (Rick)
11-May-19	Rick Rzeszutko
18-May-19	Peter Danielczuk
25-May-19	Ed Guca
1-Jun-19	Keith Pietrancyk
8-Jun-19	Christy K. and Lynn K.
15-Jun-19	Brad Turk
22-Jun-19	Laura Mateja and Dennis Mikolajewski (Rick)
29-Jun-19	Rick Rzeszutko
6-Jul-19	Peter Danielczuk
13-Jul-19	Ed Guca
20-Jul-19	Keith Pietrancyk
27-Jul-19	Christy K. and Lynn K.
3-Aug-19	Brad Turk
10-Aug-19	Laura Mateja and Dennis Mikolajewski (Rick)
17-Aug-19	Rick Rzeszutko
24-Aug-19	Peter Danielczuk
31-Aug-19	Ed Guca
7-Sep-19	Keith Pietrancyk

14-Apr-19	Keith Pietrancyk
21-Apr-19	Christy K. and Lynn K.
28-Apr-19	Brad Turk
5-May-19	Laura Mateja and Dennis Mikolajewski (Rick)
12-May-19	Rick Rzeszutko
19-May-19	Peter Danielczuk
26-May-19	Keith Pietrancyk
2-Jun-19	Keith Pietrancyk
9-Jun-19	Christy K. and Lynn K.
16-Jun-19	Brad Turk
23-Jun-19	Laura Mateja and Dennis Mikolajewski (Rick)
30-Jun-19	Rick Rzeszutko
7-Jul-19	Peter Danielczuk
14-Jul-19	Laura Mateja and Dennis Mikolajewski (Rick)
21-Jul-19	Keith Pietrancyk
28-Jul-19	Christy K. and Lynn K.
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11-Aug-19	Laura Mateja and Dennis Mikolajewski (Rick)
18-Aug-19	Rick Rzeszutko
25-Aug-19	Peter Danielczuk
1-Sep-19	Rick Rzeszutko
8-Sep-19	Keith Pietrancyk



2018

October 50th Anniversary Dance in Chicago

Income - \$8,850.00

Expenses - \$11,555.11

Loss - **\$2,975.11**

2019

IPA Warm-up Dance/Festival of Bands

Income - \$5,846.00

Expenses - \$3,928.96

Profit - \$1,917.04

IPA/Let's Polka USA Unity Dance

Each club received \$413 profit

IPA Funds at Balance as of 3/25/19

\$200,480.70



Interview with **Florian Chmielewski** 2015 Hall of Fame Inductee

IPA: Please tell us about your family ~

Florian: I am the tenth member of a family of 15. My Grandfather Frank was born in Poland and came to America in the late 1880's with his fiddle in hand. In 1911, my father Tony continued the music with his brothers forming the 2nd generation of family musicians. In 1945, I formed the 3rd generation with four of my brothers calling ourselves the Chmielewski Brother's Orchestra. The 4th generation was formed when my children, Florian Jr, Jeff, Mark and Patty joined the band in the early 1970's. Four of my 10 Grandchildren; Nick, Lexy, Kati and Tony join me on stage as the 5th generation and on special occasions, some of my 13 Great Grandchildren perform with me as the 6th generation.

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

Florian: At the age of 18, my brother Chester gave me his accordion and challenged me to learn it in three months or he would take it back. It wasn't long after that, I was fulfilling a desire I had always held, but hadn't had the chance to pursue. With a repertoire of just four songs, I booked my first job for a local wedding and from that moment on, my brothers accordion became mine. My accordion came with me to the Air Force where I obtained a spot on a local radio show alongside Hank Williams. I also brought the accordion with me to the State Capitol and performed while I was a MN State Senator for 26 years. My accordion is my passion and I never go anywhere without it.

IPA: What made you decide to play Polkas?

Florian: For over 135 years, my family has been performing polka music through six generations. It's just what we did as a family and at any social gathering. My accordion has opened many doors and given me many opportunities and I can't imagine life without it. Polka is such happy music and it always brings smiles to those around.

In 1955, I had the opportunity to record a weekly television show called "The Polish TV Party" which was half in Polish and half in English. After a few years I was offered my own television

show that was called "Chmielewski Funtime". The show continued for 35 years and was seen across the United States and Canada on numerous networks. In the early 1980's the Chmielewski Funtime Show rated #1 on the Nielsen Ratings in the Midwest and Canada and outranked the longest running show at the time which was "All in the Family".

It's been exciting to see my daughter Patty carry on the Polka tradition with her own weekly television and radio show called "The Funtime Polka Party" which she hosts with her husband Michael Bell. They will be recording another show this summer/fall featuring vintage footage from our original show and various bands that made guest appearances. The name of that new show has not been released yet but you'll want to keep a lookout. It should be a lot of fun.

IPA: What bands have you played in?

Florian: I actually never had the opportunity to play with any other bands because the Chmielewski Funtime Band in its peak, was doing 278 performances a year. We travelled over five million miles from one end of the state to another, so I had no extra time to fill in with other bands. However, my fondest memories were those when I played alongside Frankie Yankovic and Myron Floren for many years at different events.

IPA: Who did/do you admire musically?

Florian: I have the greatest admiration for Frankie Yankovic, Lawrence Welk, Myron Floren and Lil' Wally. We had been friends for many years and having the opportunity to perform with them over the years made our relationship even more special.

IPA: What was your most memorable moment on stage? What Year? What Town? And why?

Florian: My fondest moment was in 1956 in Atkinson, MN at the Elmwood Inn where I met the woman who would become my wife. I was on my way to Michigan to play a job, but blizzard conditions caused the job to be cancelled. Instead of heading back home, I

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stopped into the Elmwood Inn to listen and sit in with the local band when this beautiful woman approached me to dance. After a second dance, I decided it was time to leave and asked this lovely lady if I could give her a ride home. She was amazing, and I just knew she was the one, so I thought I'd cut to the chase and ask her to marry me. I told her I'd give her a diamond in June and we could get married in September and she agreed! She was a remarkable wife and mother and I could never have done the things I have without her constant love and support.

In 1971, my daughter Patty and son Florian Jr. danced together and with Bobby and Sissy from the Lawrence Welk Show. It was an honor to see my children perform on his show and to meet with Mr. Welk in person.

Another memory that particularly comes to mind is in 1978 at the Pine City, MN fairgrounds. This is where I launched the 1st Annual Chmielewski International Polkafest. It was a 4-day event that featured 50 bands from across the United States and many countries. In addition to the music, I added a little variety that featured special appearances by the World's Greatest Yodeler, the World's Worst Irish Tenor and dancing horses. The opening ceremony would begin with the passing of an Olympic style torch to the Governor of Minnesota that I called the "International Torch of Friendship". As the torch was being passed, oil from the torch had dripped onto the Governor and as he received the torch, he went up in flames! Fortunately, the Governor had only minor injuries and the event continued as planned.

In 1989, we performed for the Minnesota Music Academy at the Orpheum Theater in Minneapolis, MN. We had received 9 out of 11 "Minnie" Grammy Awards including best Czech/German/Bohemian/Polish Polka Group and Minnesota's most popular band.

In 1991, we were selected for a cultural exchange mission in the Bahama Islands to introduce residents to the sounds and dance of polka music. Everything was well received, and it was an exciting to be part of that mission.

Some of the awards I am grateful to have received are two honorary doctorates of musicology and law degrees, Minnesota Music Hall of Fame, Ironworld USA Hall of Fame and the IPA Pioneer Award. All these awards and many more from my political career are on display at the Pine County Historical Society in Askov, MN.

IPA: What was the biggest job you ever played? What band was it? How many people do you think were there?

Florian: Our biggest audience was at the Nation's largest Scandinavian Festival in Minot, ND

called the “Hostfest” with crowds in excess of 20,000 each day. With my children by my side, we began around 1978 and continued to perform every year for 28 years. We had the opportunity to perform on all the various stages over the years including the main stage when we were the warm up band for Johnny Cash and June Carter.

Another spectacular opportunity we had was to perform at the Minnesota State fair for 25 consecutive years. We still perform at the fair on occasion and it’s a place where I bring out all the musical family generations on stage and people really enjoy that.

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

Florian: Polka music is not only happy music but it’s also a healthy form of exercise. We need to get it back into the school systems, so the younger generations can be exposed to it. For many years, I brought my accordion to my Grandchildren’s schools and we all played together for their elementary classes. It’s the music we all grew up with surrounded by family and friends and we need to make the effort to expose it to our children, grandchildren and others like we did years ago.


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

Florian: Since technology is the most effective communication today, it’s important to share events or any special moment involving polkas on every form of social media. Asking family and friends to share the information you posted will encourage others to like or better yet, attend the upcoming event.

IPA: Florian, is there anything else you would like to add?

I would like to thank all the dedicated polka fans and friends who supported my musical journey spanning more than 73 years. At the age of 92, I continue to play my accordion several times a week because it continues to bring smiles to those that hear it.

I recently released a book called “0-90” which highlights most of my music and political career which my daughter Patty co-authored. It was quite an experience gathering up memories and contacting different people to write and add their experiences they had with me. I am very proud of that book.

I’m especially grateful to my daughter Patty who has graciously risen to every challenge I have bestowed upon her and works hard to keep the tradition of polka music in the hearts and lives of others. In addition to her, my son Florian Jr. and Grandson Nick also perform in other polka bands which makes me proud that they are keeping our family heritage of polka music going in other ways. 

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:



THE PROJECT

**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



March

March 1 – Elaine Veverka; Kathy Prochot
March 2 – Todd Zaganiacz; James “Wigs” Weglicki; Mike Marek
March 3 – Tom Mrocza; Dennis Zielinski, Jr.; Karen Danielczuk; Tim Verthein; Tony Rozek, Jr.; Tom Butash
March 4 – Ken Yagelski
March 5 – Dick Pillar; Stanley Martin Sr.
March 6 – Joan Pyzik; Rick Rzeszutko; Gintare Okrzesik
March 8 – Wendy Wantroba; Les Kapuscinski
March 9 – Joseph Mehoczky; Eddie Siwiec; Thomas McGuire
 Joseph Pusz; Steve Kantorski; Linda Malachin
March 10 – Fred Ziwich
March 11 – Fr. Dennis Bogusz; Walter Kazmierczak; Chester Pala; Jon Peters
March 12 – Garry Kuchenbecker; Josefina Kozak; Angela Piasecki; Joseph Warco; Chase Stanczewski; Tommy Wanderlich
March 13 – Frank Waltos; Kelli Lee
March 14 – Casey Kliszak
March 15 – Joan Zychowski Minehart; Father Tom Aleksa; Johnny Kovar
March 16 – Wojtek Kukiela
March 17 – Larry Walk; Patrick Henry Cukierka; Jeff Mleczo
March 18 – Mary Lou Brock; Joseph Dendis; Garrey Prcin
March 19 – Joseph Oginsky; Marcia Musial; John Mysliwiec
March 20 – Vincent Shemansky; James Kaminski
March 21 – Roman Marsolek; Chris Turecek
March 22 – Theresa Slipek; Ted Lange; Debbie Jackinoski; John Zelasko; Debbie Bezler; Sue Krysa
March 23 – Julie Ann Kurdys; Dianne Gora
March 24 – Mark Kohan; Missy Lynn Krejci; Katie Krawisz; Stephen Durski
March 26 – Tony Winarz; Patricia Wojnowski; Steven Fenus
March 27 – Mike Gryczko; Yvonne Zapletal; Bob Ochwat
March 28 – Mike Kochanek; Chester Dziadosz; Frank Kosman; Antoinette Rozek; Zachary Janson
March 29 – Allan Maroszek
March 30 – Jim Barvainis; Mitch Piotrowski; Richard Pijanowski; Emily Olszewski
March 31 – Judy Stringhill; Lori Lewandowski; Chuck Troiani

April

April 2 – Joseph Witek; Krystyna Chunis
April 4 – Timothy Haselow; Mary Lou Czerniak; Felicia Reilly
April 5 – Steven Smith; David Straup Slick
April 6 – Bill Kozlauska; Alice Koziel; Richard Szuflita
April 7 – Betty Downey; Barbara Ann Adams; John Zelasko, Sr.
April 8 – Tom Reznickervitz;
April 9 – Michelle Genrich; Veronica Grocholski; Stanley Rafa
April 10 – Val Janson
April 11 – Roger Malinowski; Paul Chichin
April 13 – Louella Kundert; Mark Coleman; Lucas Lacki
April 14 – George Walker; Larry Trojak
April 16 – Ed Vatawuk; Brian Tos
April 17 – Steve Meisner; Ronald Biskup; Diane Nowakowski; Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk; Mack Martin; Tyler Zawatski
April 18 – Peter Wendlinger
April 19 – Mitch Gorz
April 20 – Cherie Trzepacz; Michael Blaskowski; Tim Rohal
April 21 – Jane Siuda; Bob Jarnot; Carol Jean Dziedziak-Zanck
April 22 – Leonard Cioch; Johnetta Vinka; Maria Szymanski; Debbie Rymanowski
April 23 – Brian Szumigalski
April 25 – Sally Rzeszutko; Brian Urbanczyk; Marie Brado; Robert Gawryla
April 26 – Gary Osga; Gloria Bonnin; Phyllis Videtich
April 27 – Rev Phillip Grib; Michael Schrader; Frieda Mocny; Linda Walczynski-Louie; Amanda Cowe; Theresa Parker
April 28 – Eric Kurowski; Joseph Price; John Sakal; Michael Bednarz; Ralph Berge
April 29 – Kim Cielecki

Sto lat





Patrick Henry Presents!

Chula Vista Resort

Wisconsin Dells Polka Fest! 8th Year!

& Expo!

APRIL 26-28, 2019

A Great Weekend of Family FUN!

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

Box On

from Michigan (Saturday & Sunday) They're back in the Dells!

The "D" Street Band

from Illinois (Friday)

Polish Connection Band

from Wisconsin (Friday)

The Main Squeeze

from Minnesota (Friday)

The Goodtime Dutchmen

from Wisconsin (Saturday) Back in the Dells!

Gary's Ridgeland Dutchmen

from Wisconsin (Saturday)

The I.P.A. Tribute Band

from Illinois (Saturday)

Doctor Kleibasa

from Minnesota (Saturday)

The Maroszek Brothers

from Wisconsin (Sunday)

Special Guest Artist: Eddie Blegaj!

THE BLOODY MARY MORNING MONSTER JAM WITH Kevin Altenburg & Friends

Band line-up subject to change without notice.

Catholic Mass - Saturday 5pm.

Polka Dancing Lessons!

WEEKEND AMTRAK TRIP AVAILABLE!

For general festival information:

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

WWW.DELSPOLKAFEST.COM

Chula Vista Resort, 2501 River Road, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

Weekend Package Available:
Only \$181 p/p Double Occupancy
Single Occupancy \$293+ tax & resort fee.

Includes:

2-Night Stay in a Beautiful Room.

Weekend Pass to the Polka Fest.

Buffet Breakfast Saturday & Sunday

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Breakfast Gratuity.

*Each additional adult, \$69+tax.

*Each additional Child < 16, \$18.50+tax.

*Upgrades available for additional \$.

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Discount code is not available
for online reservations.

Admission: Fri. \$20, Sat: \$20, Sun: \$15
Weekend Pass: \$45, Kids Under 16: Free!
with guardian. Plus Tax where applicable.
Huge Dance Floor By: Frank Napiwocki!

The International Polka Association's Annual SUMMER PICNIC



SUNDAY JUNE 30, 2019

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FROM MICHIGAN

MUSIC FROM 2PM - 6PM

ADMISSION \$12



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GENERAL MEETING STARTS AT 1:15 PM

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Texas Welcomes Squeezebox and the Alex Meixner

by Theresa Parker

Texas polka lovers are still talking about the recent tours of two great bands – Squeezebox, featuring Ted Lange and Mollie B and the Alex Meixner Band. Squeezebox sold out all SEVEN of their appearances.

“We love Texas. We always feel very welcomed. We consider all our Texas fans, our friends,” Mollie B said. “Thank you to families who brought the kids!!! This is our future, and not to mention ‘Mollie B LOVES children!’ Seeing them on the dance floor or watching the band is very rewarding for us. Please continue to bring them to all these events. Together, we can keep this music going!”

The band’s performances were made even more special by the attendance of many of the dancers who appeared in the movie, *The Mule*. If you haven’t seen the movie yet, watch for it on a streaming app soon. Turns out the star of the movie, Clint Eastwood, is a Mollie B fan. He recruited Mollie and Ted to appear in a scene at a VFW hall last summer. Mollie recruited dancers from across the U.S. – with the largest groups coming from Wisconsin and Texas – to help her stage a polka party. The nine-hour day of filming was reduced to about a minute and a half in the movie. It’s a great, happy scene in an otherwise intense movie.

Alex was here for his annual Fat Tuesday Party at the Brauntex Theatre, with additional appearances at Sefcik Hall in Seaton, and Taiton Community Center in New Taiton. Alex also made time to work with students in El Campo and Los Fresnos. In El Campo, band director Mark Van Gorp is working on connecting the students to the roots of their town’s Czech heritage. The town is home to the longest running daily polka radio show in the USA (KULP.com). “The Tex-Czech culture is prevalent in so many ways in the town, but the next generation of musicians need encouragement,” Alex said. “I’ve been working with him to bring educational assemblies in and hope to get a polka band started in the school soon.”

In Los Fresnos (South Texas), the kids are learning accordions, Bajo sexto and bass, and drums. “I was knocked out when I first encountered them at the Texas Folklife Big Squeeze contest in Austin last year and this trip to their home turf was even more impressive,” Alex said. “The kids are enthusiastic, inquisitive, and super nice. The teachers and community were very interested in the crossroads of our European polka tradition and their Tex-Mex tradition.”

Texans will once again be able to enjoy the music of Squeezebox and Alex Meixner at the 53rd Annual National Polka Festival in Ennis, May 24-26. Find out more about this great festival at nationalpolkafestival.com.

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Alex Meixner enjoyed working with students at El Campo High School during his Texas tour.

Till next time, Polka On!



Texas Polka News Publisher Theresa Parker visited with Mollie, Ted, Dana, and Joe at the Squeezebox performance in Houston on March 10.



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