



# IPA Newsletter

May—June, 2020

Official Publication of the International Polka Association, Inc.®

## A Note From Our President

I hope you are all doing well during these unprecedented times. Never in a million years would I have thought that so many great polka events and festivals would be canceled this year. I sincerely miss seeing all my polka family as I am sure you do as well.

On May 13, 2020, we successfully hosted our first-ever virtual General Meeting. We did experience a few minor issues but we working to get them resolved for the next meeting. All in all, it was a awesome experience and we received several great comments. Thank you to all who attended and mark your calendar for our next virtual General Meeting on Wednesday, July 15, 2020. Please see more information inside for details.

I encourage you all to please continue to listen to all the internet polka programs as much as you can and enjoy polka music as much as possible.

Congratulations to all the USPA Award winners that were announced over Memorial Day Weekend and a huge thank you to Robin Pegg and Geri Chadwick for entertaining us all weekend long with the USPA Home Edition. We really appreciate all of your hard work and dedication, and all of the hours spent on making this all possible. You guys were amazing.

On Memorial Day I had the honor of being a part of a two hour live radio show hosted by Keith Stras on the Polka Jammer Network, with live music by Tyler Zawatski, Johnny Krawisz, Kevin Altenburg, Bernie Gorak III, Ray "Melvin" Rzeszutko and Ted Okrzesik Jr. The guys did a fantastic job and it was great hearing live music once again. Olivia Vinecki was also in attendance posting live on Facebook. It was a great event and I was happy to be included.



You can now pay your IPA membership using **zelle**

## IPA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES 2020



**DAVE  
ZYCHOWSKI**



**TONY "KREW"  
KRUPSKI**



**BILL  
SHIBILSKI**



**RICK  
RZESZUTKO**



**ELLSWORTH  
"BABE" WAGNER**

Thank you to the IPA Hall of Fame Committee Fred Bulinski, Fred Kendzierski, and Brad Turk, for doing a fabulous job conducting our election process, as well as to our election judge, our Board of Trustee and their Electors for their contribution and cooperation.

I would like to personally congratulate Bill Shibilski, David Zychowski, and Rick Rzeszutko for being inducted in the Living Category and the family of Tony (Krew) Krupski and Ellsworth "Babe" Wagner, for being inducted in the Deceased Category. Congratulations on your 2020 induction in the IPA Hall of Fame. All their bios will be published in the next newsletter.

To all the 2019 music award winner, thank you so much for all your dedication to the music we all love, all the hours you spend practicing, driving to these dances, festival or events to provide us with the best musical entertainment, we greatly appreciate it. Please see the list of winners inside this newsletter.

Congratulations to Robbie Piatkowski on winning the 2020 Leon Kozicki Trustee's Award. This award is presented to a "side-man" who has made significant contributions to a polka band(s) and is voted on by the Board of Trustees.

Please note that as of the publishing of this newsletter, our 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual IPA Convention and Festival Labor Day weekend is still on. We will keep you posted if this changes. Please see flyer inside this newsletter.

In closing, I would like thank the officers and directors of the IPA, most of whom still work 40 hours a week; have families; some that have parents who they need to care for; but volunteer hours on end to come up with ideas to keep our great organization going and keep polka music alive. I greatly appreciate each and everyone of them.

Please continue to be safe and stay healthy. I hope to see you real soon.

Musically yours,

*Christy*



**IPA Hall of Famers Sailing  
the Sea aboard the  
Princess Polka Cruise 2020  
hosted by Jimmy Sturr and  
Mollie B.**

L to R - Johnny Karas, Keith Stras, Al Piatkowski, Jimmy Sturr, Mollie Busta Lange, Ted Lange, Walter Ostanek, and Steve Meisner.

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP in Preserving our Polka Legacy**

The IPA is embarking on a journey to archive any IPA Hall of Fame induction speeches from the past. These moments are essential to preserving the music history that we love. If anyone has any IPA Hall of Fame induction videos on VCR tapes, we would like to borrow them and convert them to digital format. The IPA will then publicly post the videos on our website. All the VCR tapes will be returned after we completed the process. If you already have the videos in digital format, we would gladly take these as well. For more information, you can contact the IPA at [archives@ipapolkas.com](mailto:archives@ipapolkas.com) or you can mail the VCR tapes to the following address: **International Polka Association, Inc., PO Box 1484, Plainfield, IL 60544.**



## 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Polka Association Festival & Convention



Make your plans now to attend the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
IPA Festival & Convention

**September 4 - September 6, 2020  
Labor Day Weekend  
Millennium Hotel Buffalo  
(716) 681-2400**

### **3 Fun-filled days of Polka Entertainment by:**

Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push, The Boys, Box On,  
I.P.A. Tribute Band, Polish Connection, Eddie Forman  
Orchestra, The Beat, Polka Country Musicians, Phocus,  
New Direction, John Gora and Gorale & The Kosmix  
(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](http://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](http://radiowpna.com)  
Sunday's from 11 am to Noon (CT)



# FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

# WINNERS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Nick DiSebastiano MD	2 Eugene Bolera NY	3 Rosemarie Tynski IL	4 Lorraine Matusovich CT	5 Tish Blazonczyk IL	6 Gerrie Barsukiewicz NY	7 Stanley Rafa IL
8 Jean Pala IN	9 Mike Gryczko MI	10 Kenny Olowin PA	11 Sally Sendra IL	12 Robert Wojnowski MA	13 Dave Raccis MA	14 Rony Spacone IL
15 Julie Ann Matus TX	16 Stacey Morris PA	17 Carolyn Baras MO	18 Bob Frydryk MA	19 Lynn Kizewski WI	20 Karen Hudy IL	21 Joseph Wondolowski IL
22 Robert Banoczi CO	23 Gloria Bonnin WI	24 Ron Palkowski MI	25 Denise Gliwa IL	26 Joanie Ziemski MD	27 Katie Krawisz IL	28 Pat Laskowski IL
29 Stephen Kosinski IN	30 Dale Cribbons MI	31 Donna Carron MD				

# congratulations

# FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

# WINNERS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Dave Ulczycki IL	2 Ashley Gresian MA	3 Earnest Daigle MA	4 Candy Bonnin WI
5 Stan Simms FL	6 Mark Janson MI	7 Rick Kunke IL	8 Al Meilutis NY	9 Gerry Krysa NY	10 Doame Nowakowski IL	11 Mia Pearl IL
12 F.C. Proszowski PA	13 Ed Siwiec MI	14 Thomas McGuike PA	15 Irene Kostecki-Lizzio IL	16 Garrey Prcin TX	17 Catherine Hartenbower IL	18 Cheryl Furmaniak IL
19 Elizabeth Arguelles IL	20 Nick DiSebastiano MD	21 Karen Hudy IL	22 Matt Mocek OH	23 Steve Swiader RI	24 John Wisniewski PA	25 Ruth Lietz WI
26 Ted Jedrzesevicz CANADA	27 Glen Embree PA	28 Wally Goralczyk OH	29 Debbie Jackinoski IL	30 Alexander Saltanovitz, Jr IN		

*Enter to Win!*

# It's Always Sunny in Florida...

Witamy członków!

I hope all our members and their families have been staying healthy and safe! Our state is slowly beginning to re-open, but at this time our Polish Clubs are still closed until further notice. We are lucky to have several awesome Polka internet opportunities such as, Polish New Castle Radio (PNC), 24/7 Polka Heaven and The Polka Jammer, to help pass the time while getting our 'honey do' lists completed! A lot of folks are also staying connected with their polka friends virtually and via chat rooms. I have noticed the chat rooms have been very busy!



By Brad Turk

Looking ahead when it is safe for everyone to go out to polka dances and have a Na Zdrowie with friends, mark your calendars for the following events happening here in the Sunshine State:

**The General K. Pulaski Club in Belleview** is tentatively planning to reopen on September 13<sup>th</sup> with their annual Oktoberfest dance.

**The Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach** is ready to open as soon as possible. Upcoming dances will be posted on their Facebook page

**The Polish American Society of St. Petersburg** is planning to open its doors on November 1<sup>st</sup>. They will be celebrating the club's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, making them the OLDEST Polish club in the state - Sto Lat! Special events have been planned for this occasion in January 2021.

**The Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach** is currently looking ahead to New Year's Eve 2020, along with a special event on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. This event will feature Michael Costa & The Beat, making their first-time appearance in Florida. This will be a dance you don't want to miss!

As [we look forward to the return of dances, please continue to visit all of our club's websites, along with IPA and Polka Jammer for the latest information.](#) The following Florida clubs are all current members of the IPA; General K. Pulaski Club in Belleview, Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach, Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach, and the Polish American Society of St. Pete. Please encourage all your family and friends to join the clubs as well as the IPA, by simply filling out an application on our website: [www.ipapolkas.com](http://www.ipapolkas.com). We are hoping to surpass our goal of 1,000 members and you can help us in this endeavor. ALL clubs need your support!

As a reminder, we have three superior Polka Jammer IJ's in the Sunshine state that will keep you informed of all upcoming polka events: 2009 Hall of Famer Joe Oberaitis with his Polkas 101 and Slovenian Polka Blast Show; Dick Ozimek with Cousin Ozzie's Basement; Ray Skorka has Crankin' Polkas, and Cranking Polka Universe Facebook page (check it out), along with our IPA show. They are all listed on [www.polkajammernetwork.org](http://www.polkajammernetwork.org).

If you would like any additional information about our clubs, polka dances or special events, please email me at [bradturk@cox.net](mailto:bradturk@cox.net) or call: (352) 875-3961. Let's make 2020 a polka year to remember by visiting all the clubs, when they reopen. And as always, continue to support LIVE polka music. ALL clubs need your support! Stay Safe Everyone!



L to R - IPA Director, Brad Turk; IPA Member, Jasiu Klocek; 2012 Hall of Famer, Wally Dombrowski; IPA Member Peter Pantaluk

You weren't the only one to miss HTPD 2020,  
don't let it happen again,  
**Make Plans to Attend...**



**- APRIL 15, 16 & 17, 2021 -**

**Renaissance Toledo Downtown Hotel**

444 North Summit Street, Toledo, Ohio

The DynaBrass, Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push,  
Michael Costa & The Beat, Polka Country Musicians,  
The Knewz, Polish Connection, John Gora & Gorale,  
Holy Toledo Jam Band and DJ Kenny Olowin  
Live Broadcasts on the Polka Jammer Network

**[www.holytoledopolkadays.com](http://www.holytoledopolkadays.com)**

Joe Zalewski - 419.351.5031 - [joez@holytoledopolkadays.com](mailto:joez@holytoledopolkadays.com)



**June 1** – Michael Skalecki; Krysta Latawiec; Alicia Bliznik; Dottie Stanky

**June 2** – Jack Sanocki; Keith Werwas, Jr.

**June 3** – Bernie Gorak, Sr

**June 4** – Richard Sendra; Bob Jakubielski; April Burclaw

**June 5** – Jeannette Ziobro; Stan Pasko

**June 6** – Mary Jo Liccar; Joseph Heier; Carl Simchena; Bob Banoczi

**June 7** – Joe Kizior; Rich Benkowski; Debbie Dunaj

**June 8** - Ted Jedrzejewicz; Gregory Dybas; Alex Saltanovitz, Jr.; Bruce Brzeczowski

**June 9** - Lambert Lasecki

**June 10** – John Baras; Dale Kivinen; Eugene Kasproicz; Johnny Karas; Jasiu Klocek

**June 11** – Wayne Drust; Eddie Ostry; Thomas Rokosz; Helen Skolaut

**June 12** –Virgil Herrmann; Chet Kowalkowski

**June 13** – Walter Berkowicz; Pamela Reed; Teddy Gomulka; Leon Matczak

**June 14** – Judy Kwiatkowski; Jon Deitz; Zupe

**June 15** – Kevin Cornell; Linda Ryndak; Ed Izyk

**June 16** – Jill Comras; Aaron Slivinski

**June 17** – Irene Alch; Micheal Kott; Al Bakowski

**June 18** – Kevin Weinstock; Dave Walczak

**June 19** – Tony Crispo; Steve Burclaw; Bernard Krygowski; Roberta Polovick

**June 20** – Bud Beyer; Karen Dekoski; Paul Rite; Joey Falch

**June 22** – Joanne Kozleski Jones; Jerry Rymanowski

**June 23** – Ed Krupinski; Mark Smoko

**June 24** – Kenneth Dunaj; Mollie Busta; Julie Matus

**June 25** – Dave Parcheta

**June 26** – Mary Ann Makatenas; John Filipczak; Joe Zalewski; Ronald Petko

**June 27** – Joseph Wondolowski;

**June 28** – Julcia Dusseault; Frank Blajda

**June 29** – Ron Urbanczyk; Bob Frydryk; Robin Chimniak



**July 1** – Adam Biskup;  
Betty Lange

**July 2** – Al Betley

**July 3** – Ken Yash; Keith  
Wesolek

**July 4** – Hank Haller; CW Benson; Ronald  
Latawiec; Sara Latawiec

**July 5** – Jan Sweet; Michael Costa;  
Adam Bujanowski

**July 6** – Steve Litwin; Jennifer Bulanda;  
Erika Danner; Elizabeth Rozek;  
Dennis Polisky

**July 7** – Benita Szymanski; David Slovak;  
Jerry Romanowski; Andrew Putz

**July 8** – Eugene Retka; Carl Prushinski

**July 9** – Bea Zawada; John Wisneski

**July 10** – Jerry Wantroba; John Matyjas;  
Christine Misiak

**July 11** – Trevor Bukowski

**July 12** – Danny Fabeck

**July 13** – Theresa Pawlicki; Marie Marek

**July 14** – William Stasila; Ronald Ziemba;  
Sophie Skinger; Donna Carron

**July 15** – Arthur Kalena; Wally Dom-  
browski; Laurie Pala; Joe Gilewski;  
Robert Moon

**July 16** – Cheryl Furmaniak

**July 17** – Thomas Kalinowski; Pat Mikos;  
Brian Hafeman

**July 18** – Maggie Zabielski; Lori Yash;  
Stephen Swiader;

**July 19** – Sue Conway; Bill  
Gliwa; Fred Pisarski; Rita  
Kovar; Mike Costa;  
Russ Napiwocki; Nick  
Chmielewski

**July 20** – Randy Cernosek;  
Andrew Krystopolski

**July 21** – Donna Piatkowski; Joe Macielag;  
Ron Potenski; Ashley Horoschock

**July 22** – Bonnie Potoniec; Steven Sopko;  
Roman (Travers) Truskolaski;  
Teresa Fras-Wachon;  
Catherine Hartenbowe

**July 23** - Lawrence M. Stec;  
Peter Pantaluk

**July 25** – Eddie Labuda; Jeannette  
Adamczyk

**July 26** – Karen Mikrut; Ed Nicoski;  
Patty Candela

**July 27** – John Gora, Dr. Ann Hetzel Gun-  
kel; Mary Alice Pavey; Michelle Robinson-  
Estelle Gomulka

**July 28** - Lorraine Matusovich; George  
Rosinski; Mirosław Antas; Paulina Zielinski;  
Lynn Kizewski; Greg Winiarz

**July 29** – Kathy Urbanczyk; Jane Ge-  
lineau; Ted Okrzesik Sr.; Ron Raczkowski;  
Henry Lenard

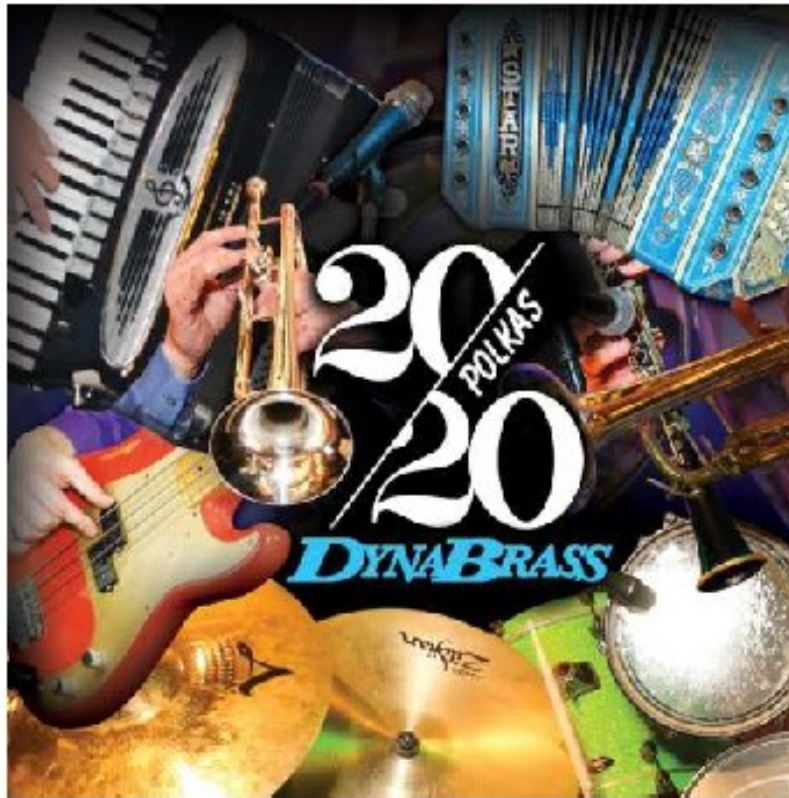
**July 30** - Bob Sendra; Arthur Kott

**July 31** – Len Fornek; Rayanne Bakowski

Order Your Brand New DynaBrass CD Today....

All DynaBrass CD's are \$18 each (includes shipping in USA only)

For shipments outside of the USA, please email [jzalewskitpm@msn.com](mailto:jzalewskitpm@msn.com) to get pricing and place your order.



## **DynaBrass - 20/20 Polkas**

*Brand New CD released on TOPOMO Records*

TOPOMO Records has released a new recording by IPA & USPA award winning band, The DynaBrass, entitled "20/20 Polkas". The recording has 14 new songs and 1 all-time classic polka including "The Girls Just Wanna Dance", "Paint The Town", "Nothing But Trouble", "My Annie", "Journey Of Love Waltz", "Someday You'll Love Me", "The Hangover", "Walking On The Waves", "Moscow Mule", "Who's Gonna Mow Your Grass Oberek", "Every Day At My Place", "One Step Two Step", "Alcohol Waltz", "Play Me Some Music" & "In Heaven There Is No Beer"

Order your DynaBrass 20/20 Polkas CD today...

**How to Purchase the CD:** Anyone interested in purchasing the new DynaBrass CD can do so online at <http://www.dynabrass.com/recordings.html> - OR - by mailing a check payable to "TOPOMO Records" c/o Joe Zalewski, 5524 Ginger Tree Lane, Toledo, OH 43623. The CD's are \$18 each (includes shipping in USA only). For shipments outside of the USA, please email [jzalewskitpm@msn.com](mailto:jzalewskitpm@msn.com) to get pricing and place your order.

# Mollieb.com has a new look!

Ted and Molly are happy to announce that they have released a new and updated website on **www.mollieb.com**! For the past several years they have maintained two different websites which made keeping things updated on both sites at the same time difficult. After careful thought and lots of planning, they have combined both websites into one website that is easy to remember, **www.mollieb.com**. Now, if you visit [www.sbpolka.com](http://www.sbpolka.com) or [www.squeezeboxband.com](http://www.squeezeboxband.com) you will be directed to **www.mollieb.com**.

Make sure you check out the new site and let Ted and Mollie know what you think.



## Welcome new members

Amanda Dickason, KS  
Debbie Kapuscinski, PA  
Brenda Herz, NE  
Timothy Kasprzyk, FL  
Daniel Wanta, WI  
Andrew Bogdon, PA  
Valerie Oberaitis, FL  
Joseph Dipyatic, PA  
Janice Dipyatic, PA  
Ken Nicol, OH

*Lifetime*  
**members**

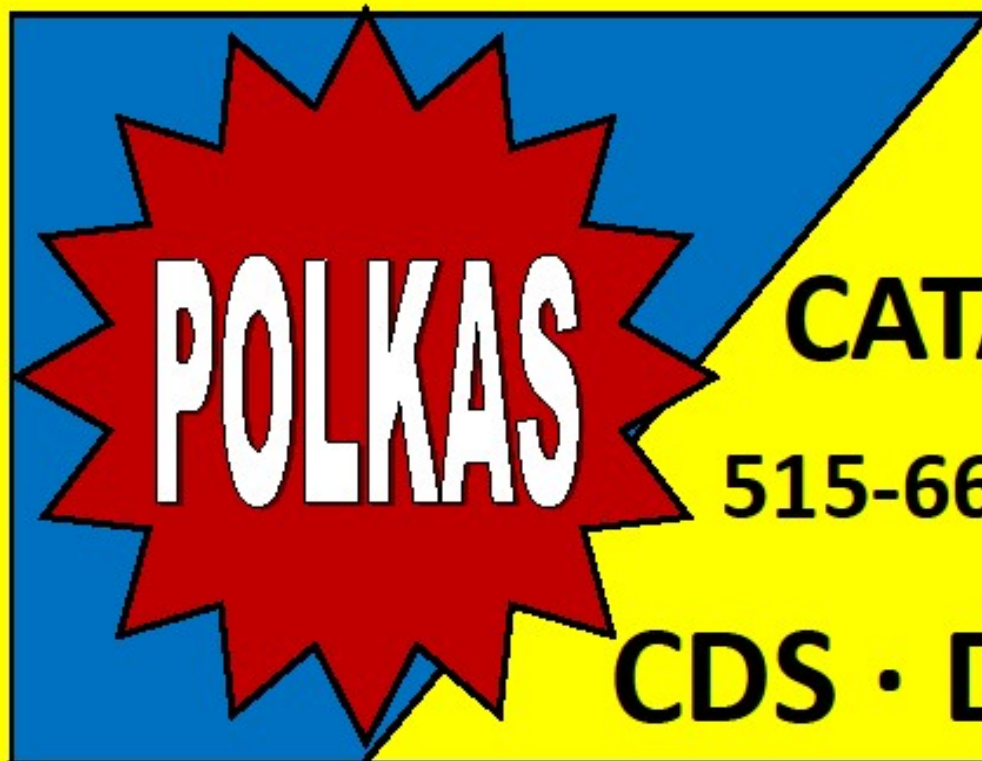
Edwin Rajewski, NY  
Patricia Caldwell, FL  
Debra Bizon, MI



A Big  
**THANK  
YOU!**

Thank you to the following members for their generous donations to the IPA.

Patrick Henry  
Jakubowski Family



**FREE**

**CATALOG**

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- **Listen** to samples of your favorites
- **Buy** online & pay no domestic shipping

# USPA doesn't allow a quarantine to spoil the Fun!

The IPA would like to congratulate all of those who were involved in producing the USPA - Home Edition, the virtual edition of the ever popular festival that kicks off the summer season every Memorial Day weekend in Cleveland, OH.

After the heartbreaking decision to have to cancel this year's event in Cleveland, Robin Pegg and Geri Chadwick announced that with the cooperation of Barb Haselow, President of the United States Polka Association, and it's Officers and Directors, the Annual USPA Memorial Day Weekend would indeed take place.

Robin and Geri played music from the bands that were scheduled to perform at the convention and even sprinkled in some Live recording from USPAs gone by.

They published some "rules" on Facebook that would need to be adhered to, such as:

1. You MUST bring your own beverages. Drinks will NOT be provided, Sorry!
2. Leave your car keys on the kitchen table or hang them up. You're NOT going anywhere.
3. Have FUN. Scream and Yell just as you would if you were there in front of the stage!
4. Dance around the house. You know, now would be a great time to practice those fancy moves you've been afraid of trying in public.

There were live chats and special guests hosting the entertainment from the Thursday Night Welcome Party until PCM played the final note on Sunday night. Robin and Geri even compiled a looped slide show featuring pictures of USPAs from the past, supplied by the one and only, Les Kapuscinski.

The USPA even offered their Awards Ceremony virtually on the USPA website. Those that tuned in heard the acceptance speeches from New Horizon Award Winner - Victoria Koslosky; Favorite Female Vocalist - Stacey Morris; Favorite Male Vocalist - John Gora; Favorite Polka Recording - My Polish Roots and Beyond by John Gora & Gorale; Song of the Year - Walentyna by John Gora & Gorale; Band of the Year - Polka Country Musicians; and Favorite IJ/DJ - Mark & Cherie Trzepacz.

Congratulations again to all of the winners and to the USPA, Robin, and Geri for truly making this USPA Memorial Day weekend one to always be remembered and cherished.



## 2020 Kinloch Fire Hall Polka Schedule

Sunday  
January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Ray Jay and the Carousels  
2:00pm - 6:00pm  
\$9.00 per person

Sunday  
May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Knewz  
2:00pm - 6:00pm  
\$15.00 per person

Saturday  
August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020



Polka Country Musicians  
6:00pm - 10:00pm  
\$15.00 per person

Saturday  
November 14<sup>th</sup>,  
2020



Dynabrass  
6:00pm - 10:00pm  
\$15.00 per person

**Kinloch Fire Hall**  
915 New York Ave, New Kensington, PA 15068

Food and drinks will be available for purchase. No BYOB!

For tickets, table reservations or more information contact:  
Chris - 412-260-9725

**Join us for great polka dances at the newest Pittsburgh Polka Hotspot!**

## Newsletter Article Contribution Process

The IPA Newsletter is always open to article contributions. We would love to publish post-events write-ups from the different perspectives of our members. Articles require no fee to submit as long as they do not promote sales or attendance to any one event. Email your submission to [newsletter@ipapolkas.com](mailto:newsletter@ipapolkas.com)

Please note that all submissions will be subject to space and availability in the newsletter as we try to keep it to a certain amount of pages per issues. If an article doesn't get into one issue it will be pushed to priority for the next.

Also, any advertisements regarding upcoming dances, gigs, trips, etc. that you would like published in the newsletter can be submitted to [newsletter@ipapolkas.com](mailto:newsletter@ipapolkas.com) along with the size of the advertisement, the amount of newsletters the advertisement be published in, and how you would be paying for the advertisement (at this time it is just a check, however, we are hoping for a Zelle option soon). The IPA is currently working on updating the current form and hope to streamline this process through the website in the near future.

You can find the pricing for advertising on the last page of the newsletter.

As always, email [newsletter@ipapolkas.com](mailto:newsletter@ipapolkas.com) with any questions.



## IPA GENERAL MEETING

### Wednesday, July 15th

Thank you to all the members who attended the IPA General Meeting in May. We will be hosting the next General Meeting on Wednesday, July 15th, at 8:00est/7:00cst. The IPA Board would like to invite all members to this event, which will be broadcasted virtually using WebEx.

All members can dial in using their computers, mobile devices, or telephones. This meeting is an excellent opportunity for members to hear the future direction of the IPA and provide the opportunity to ask the board of directors questions. To register for the July General Meeting, please enter the following link in your web browser: <https://www.ipapolkas.com/go/julygeneralmtg/>

Once you enter your information, the IPA Board will approve your registration, and you will receive detailed information about the board meeting. **If you are unable to attend the meeting or would like to submit a question for us to ask before the general meeting, please send an email to: [info@ipapolkas.com](mailto:info@ipapolkas.com).**

# IPA HALL OF FAME BENEFIT DANCE

By Fred & Linda Kendzierski

Another great crowd was in attendance for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual IPA Hall of Fame Benefit Dance at the PACC in Ludlow, Mass this past March. The kickoff on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> featured the music of John Gora and Gorale. A fantastic show was put on by John and the polka fans enjoyed every minute of his performance.

Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> saw another dynamic crowd meeting with friends from over six states in attendance. Dennis Polisky and The Maestro's Men, Eddie Forman and EFO, and Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push rocked the house with great polka music.

The highlight of the evening was a tribute to this year's honoree, Ed Guca. During the 70's and 80's Ed Guca and the Polish Canadians were one of the most celebrated bands playing throughout the US and Canada. Ed is still performing today and a tribute to his music and contribution to Polka music was done by an All-Star Band and Ed got up on the stage and wowed the crowd for a Grand Finale.

Keep March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 open for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual IPA Benefit Dance.



Rear (L-R) Dennis Polisky; John Gora; Jackie Libera; Freddy K; Al Piatkowski; Wally Dombrowski; Keith Stras; Mark Trzepacz

Front (L-R) Fred Bulinski; Mitch Biskup; Ed Guca; Billy Belina; Lenny Gomulka; Eddie Forman



# 2020 Leon Kozicki Award Winner

## Robbie Piatkowski

Over the years, the IPA Polka Hall of Fame® and Music Awards processes have rightfully recognized deserving polka musicians who attained prominence in the polka industry for their musical achievements that helped promote polka music and broaden its audience. Because of their highly visible roles, bandleaders, or “front men and women,” usually received most of the recognition for their groups’ success that may have contributed to their winning individual awards or their eventual inductions into the Polka Hall of Fame. Unfortunately, exceptionally talented band mates who also contributed greatly to the success of their groups, often never received their due recognition.



To address this situation, the IPA Polka Hall of Fame and Music Awards Committee collaborated with the body of Trustees to establish a new annual award to recognize these deserving “side men or women” of notable polka bands. To honor the legacy of the long-time Chairman of the IPA Polka Hall of Fame, Leon Kozicki, the committee and Trustees also recommended the award be titled “The Leon Kozicki Trustees Award.” The IPA Board of Directors approved the establishment of the award effective in 2015.

Candidates for The Leon Kozicki Award must meet the following criteria:

- 1.) must not have been inducted into the IPA Polka Hall of Fame nor be listed on the current year’s ballot (note: receiving this award would not disqualify deserving candidates from subsequent Polka Hall of Fame consideration)
- 2.) Must have at least 15 years of dedicated, significant service to the same prominent musical group and/or leader
- 3.) May not be deceased. Each year during the Hall of Fame/Awards cycle, the IPA Polka Hall of Fame Committee develops a short list of potential award candidates.

The list is shared with the Trustees who vote to determine their choice of the most deserving candidate. The winner is contacted by the PHOF Committee and invited to attend the annual IPA Polka Hall of Fame and Music Awards Banquet to receive the award. If necessary, the award is presented at another time and location to accommodate the needs and preferences of the recipient. A plaque similar to The Joe Jozwiak Award is presented to the winner with a replica submitted for display in the IPA Polka Hall of Fame Museum.

# *2019 Music Award Winners*

## *Polish Style Polkas*

### *Male Vocalist*

John Gora



### *Female Vocalist*

Stacey Morris



### *Favorite Band*

John Gora & Gorale

### *Favorite Album*

*My Polish Roots and Beyond*

John Gora & Gorale



### *Favorite Song*

*Walentyna*

John Gora & Gorale

# *2019 Music Award Winners*

## *International Style Polkas*

### *Male Vocalist*

Ted Lange



### *Female Vocalist*

Lynn Marie Rodick

### *Favorite Band*

Squeezebox



### *Favorite Album*

*Smiles Are Out of Sunshine*

Gary's Ridgeland Dutchmen



### *Favorite Song*

*Snuggle with Me*

Gary's Ridgeland Dutchmen

# It's Here!



We are so excited to announce  
the 1st Annual...



So you think you can compose a hit polka or waltz?

- This competition is open to anyone between the ages of ten (10) and thirty-five (35) years of age as of July 1, 2020.
- It is open to amateur and professional songwriters of any polka genre.
- All submissions will be judged by a panel of polka industry songwriting professionals.
- The winning song will win a certificate and **\$750!** The second place winner will receive **\$250!**

One special note: songs must not have been previously recorded or broadcast in any public media including YouTube, social media and digital download, so be careful not to share your genius just yet!

For more information, please visit [www.ipapolkas.com](http://www.ipapolkas.com). The full Terms and Conditions and submission form are located at our Young Songwriter link.  
**BEST OF LUCK!**

## Polka community comes together to show its love for Chester Kowalski

The polka community did what it does best and rallied around one of its own on Saturday, April 25, 2020. Chester Kowalski, who turned 85 years old in February, is one of the most visible members of Western New York's Polish and polka communities. For the past couple of years, he has been battling cancer and despite his illness he has still attended nearly all the polka events. But his battle with cancer has become more difficult in the past few weeks.

By Matthew Kushner

As published in the

Am-Pol Eagle 5/22/2020

In response, the polka community did what it does best and came together for one of its most popular members in Polonia.

Hundreds of Chester's family and friends from the polka community showed their love and support for him and organized a parade of cars that drove past his Depew home on April 25. According to the Town, there were 200-plus cars that drove from the Apple Tree Mall parking lot, down Como Park, to Chester's house.

It all started when Melissa Jozwiak had an idea on April 19.

A week earlier, on Easter Sunday, Melissa spoke with her husband, Shane and wanted to call Chester, who Melissa refers to as Chet. For the past several years the Jozwiak's would spend time with Chester and his longtime friend, Elinor Mach Pittner Baczkiewicz for Pre-Dyngus Day and Dyngus Day celebrations. "Easter Sunday, I told Shane that we should call Chet and I called him, and he could barely talk, and I was so sad," said Melissa Jozwiak.

"On Tuesday I thought, I wish I would have thought about having a parade for Chet. It wouldn't have mattered anyway, the weather was terrible," said Jozwiak.

"Then we were watching an old Sportsman's video of Chet dancing and I looked at Shane and I go, 'Why don't we do a polka parade for Chet?' Because we did a parade for Shane's dad the week before because he had his 75th birthday," Melissa said. "So, I asked Shane and he said do whatever you think, and I said, 'I am going to call Ronnie since we are friends with Ronnie and ask him for his opinion.

"So, I called up Ronnie and I said, 'You have the connections, I have a couple people I can call, do you want to take this over or should I plan it?' Ronnie goes, 'It's a great idea, you plan it. So, then I called Charlene Krasuski and Jen Pijanowski and that is where it blew up and we ended up having over 200 cars." Melissa enlisted the help of people in the polka community who she knew could spread the word like Charlene and Jen and Steve Brown. Melissa told them to get the word out about the parade for Chester and it spread like wildfire.

"I called Elinor Sunday, because I had a feeling this was going to be big and then I called her again Friday and then she told him because she didn't want him to be overwhelmed with the amount of people. It was a good thing she told him. He was very happy," said Melissa.

A special surprise that Chester was unaware of until Saturday was that there was going to be live polka music playing in his driveway. Polka musicians from multiple Western New York polka bands came together to play for over an hour and provide Chester with his favorite music, polka music.

Jimmy Nowaczewski, Ricky Krew, and Paul Dominiak from Phocus, Tommy Goldyn and Ted Szymanski from Special Delivery, and Ken Machelski and Tadj Szymczak from The Buffalo Touch, and Eric Bakowski were the musicians that set up in the driveway in front of the house to entertain Chester and those who came to show their support.

"All in all, I thought it was a very thoughtful thing to do for him. He appreciated it very much," said Jimmy Nowaczewski. "It was an honor and a pleasure to have a friend like that in my life and I would do anything that he would ask me to. To me it was an honor to have him in my life."

Chester's family including his children and grandchildren were there to celebrate Chester and show how much they love him.

Chester's niece, Linda Ziolkowski-Lund, owner of Babcia's Pierogi, was not surprised by all the outpouring of love that the Polish community showed to her uncle on Saturday.

"It didn't surprise me, but it was very overwhelming. It was hard to not get choked up watching his reaction. Uncle Chester is a living legend. I don't think people will understand how important he is to the Polish community until he's no longer with us," said Ziolkowski-Lund.

"Uncle Chester is the strongest man I've ever known, physically and mentally, but he's always had a heart of gold. He's always been the life of the party and the man who can always make you laugh. It's very fitting that was honored with a parade to celebrate the man he is and to show how much he is truly loved."

*Czeslaw "Chester" Kowalski entered into Eternal Life on Monday, May 11th at the age of 85. He was the beloved husband of the late Judith (nee Ziolkowski) Kowalski; dearest father of Sandra (Bob) Andrews, William Kowalski and Scott (Julie) Kowalski; dear grandfather of Lauren, Brooke, Mason, Zane and Broc; great grandfather of Eli; son of the late Bronislaw and Janina (nee Kapala) Kowalski; brother of late Edward Kowalski, Irek (Rosie) Kowalski and Bernice (Henry) Barnas; brother-in-law of David (Carol) Ziolkowski and the late Donald Ziolkowski; also survived by nieces and nephews. (Published May 17, 2020—Buffalonews.com)*



May—June, 2020

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Each show features IPA officers and directors.

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](http://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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