



November - December, 2020

Official Publication of the International Polka Association, Inc.®

A Note From Our President

Hello IPA Members,

I hope that you had a happy Thanksgiving and are excited about the Christmas season.

As I am sure it was for all of you, my Thanksgiving was not like any other. The 15 years prior to this Thanksgiving was hosted at our house. Hours were spent on three turkeys, a large ham, 12 pounds of Polonia dumplings, Polish sausage, and side dishes brought by family members to share. We would stay up late on Wednesday night making sure the basement was beautifully decorated for our guests the next day. Most years, we had close to 40 people and any other way was unimaginable. I was exhausted on Friday but the cleanup continued. As the last table was wiped down and the last pass of the vacuum was completed, it was then time to start decorating for Christmas. For me, Thanksgiving 2020 was celebrated with just John, Katie, Hayley and my parents, John and Cheryl Furmaniak while my brothers celebrated with their immediate families. Not celebrating Thanksgiving with my brothers was so hard for me but I know that I was not alone. We can only hope that we will be together for Christmas.



I am sure that none of us thought in March, when Covid-19 started, that we would be here in December; not attending any polka events and pretty much staying home and doing the many projects that we have wanted to tackle for years but never got around to doing; or maybe binging shows from the beginning with family members; or watching movies that we have never seen. The Krawisz's have started to watch Hawaii 5-0 from season one and it has been great. We also started watching Chicago Fire from the beginning, but our girls got tired of waiting for us to sit with them so they went ahead and are almost finished with all of the seasons - Johnny and I are still on season four. Something good has come out of all of this staying-at-home however, we are spending more time with our beautiful girls who we love so much.

I would like to take this moment to thank all of our First Responders, retail workers, and all essential workers for all they do on a daily basis and tell them how appreciated they really are.

I also like to recognize all of the small business owners and remind them that they are all in our thoughts and prayers during these extremely rough times.

Unfortunately, due to the unknown, the board and I had to make the unfortunate decision to postpone our "January is National Polka Month" Warm-up Dance and Chicago Festival of Bands. The health and safety of our members and their families are our number one priority.

(continued on next page)

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

I would like to thank Lenny Gomulka for being our special guest at our October general meeting and for sharing his stories. Fred Ziwich will be our special guest at our January general meeting, please see information inside for registration instructions.

We started a project during our Virtual Festival interviewing IPA Hall of Fame® inductees. There are currently 65 living Hall of Fame® members, and so far we have conducted 25 interviews that are either completed or in the editing room. If you are a Hall of Fame® inductee and have not heard from me yet, please email me at info@ipapolkas.com, so I can get you scheduled. I have been having difficulty getting in touch with some members due to inaccurate contact information. We will let you know as we upload new shows to our YouTube Channel, website and Facebook page. You might have seen a couple there already, so keep checking for more in the weeks to come.

In closing, however you celebrate Christmas this year, I wish you much love, lots of happiness, and God's Blessings. I hope that you have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. My hope is that 2021 will be our best year yet, and we will all see each other once again at the many polka dances and festivals throughout the year.

Stay safe, be well and keep polka music in your hearts today, and always. *Christy*



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Recognition Certificates

Mark Komar

November 16, 2020

In recognition of your efforts to preserve and promote polka music to the polka community and beyond by sharing videos of performing polka artists on social media, the Executive Board of the International Polka Association proudly presents you this certificate and thanks you.

"WOW, I was blown away when I received this Certificate of Appreciate in the mail today. Thank you so much to Christy, the officers, the directors and all of the members of the International Polka Associations for this. It is for something that I love and enjoy doing and to be appreciated for it means a lot to me. I love polka music and a big thanks to my late father who introduced it to me when I was just a kid many years ago. Once again, Thank You IPA" - Mark Komar (as posted on Facebook)

Alfred Vrazel

November 15, 2020

In recognition of your untiring efforts in the promotion and advancement of polka entertainment though your 65 years of broadcasting. Thank you and Congratulations.

From Alfred Vrazel via email 12/2/2020:

*Christy Krawicz, Officers, Directors and members of IPA;
Thank so very much for the framed Certificate of Appreciation for my 65th year of broadcasting the Polka Show, it is greatly appreciated. I will proudly display it in my music room....Alfred & Bernice Vrazel*

Ray Zalokar & 24/7 PolkaHeaven

November 3, 2020

The International Polka Association proudly recognizes Ray Zalokar and the 24/7 Polkaheaven.com family as they celebrate 20 years of providing polka music of all styles to the world via the Internet.

Congratulations and continued success!

From Ray Zalokar via email 11/13/2020:

*Dear Christy Krawisz,
I received a very nice letter and plaque from the International Polka Association celebrating our 20 years of promoting Polka Music to the World. I just wanted to thank you and the IPA for the recognition. It was unexpected but very much appreciated. When we started on October 20, 2000, I hoped, but didn't expect the success that we have realized over the last 20 years. It's been very rewarding knowing that people all over the globe enjoy and want to listen to a variety of Polka Music. We plan to continue streaming and promoting Polka Music and congratulate the IPA in it's efforts to do the same. Thanks again, stay safe and healthy and hopefully 2021 will be a great year for Polka Music....Ray Z*

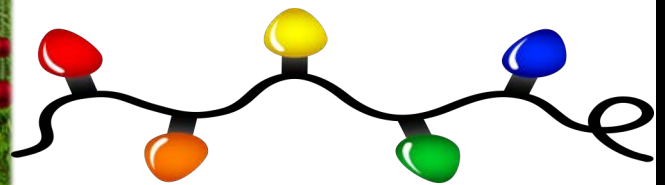


To All Our Polka Family, Stay Safe and Healthy and we wish God's Blessings on Everyone. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.

2nd Vice-President - Freddy K, Linda, and the Kendzierski Family

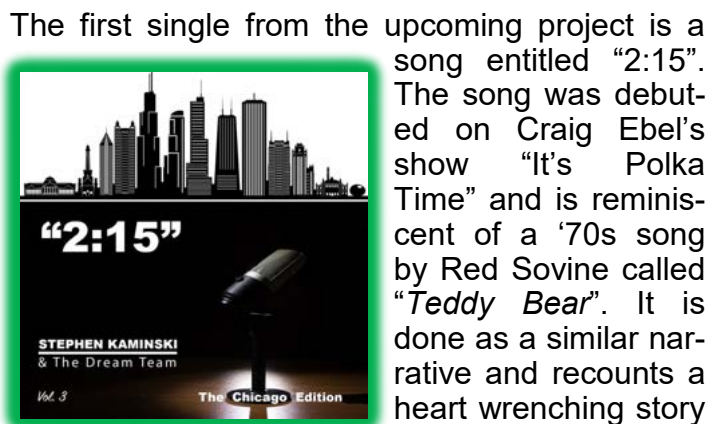
On behalf of everyone in the Bogdon Family, we would like to wish yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Although 2020 wasn't the best year, we are looking forward to seeing everyone in 2021.

Chris, Director from PA, Sandy, Emma "Polka Lovin' Girl on Polka Jammer Network, and Andrew



New Recording Coming 2021

Stephen Kaminski is pleased to announce the third installment of his solo project series to be called "Stephen Kaminski & the Dream Team, Volume 3 - The Chicago Edition".



The first single from the upcoming project is a song entitled "2:15". The song was debuted on Craig Ebel's show "It's Polka Time" and is reminiscent of a '70s song by Red Sovine called "Teddy Bear". It is done as a similar narrative and recounts a heart wrenching story

of a simple request from a little boy named Stuart to a polka DJ. The song is meant to bring back our sense of community and human kindness, and how choosing to go out of your way for someone, even a stranger, can sometimes make a difference. It also brings some new life to an old classic!

The single "2:15" is available now as a digital download exclusively on the IPA Website's Store Page. All proceeds from the sale of the single are being graciously donated to the IPA.

Once the album is released next year, it will also be found here as an exclusive download.

Please visit the IPA's Website Store, download "2:15", get a box of tissues, and enjoy Stephen Kaminski's single "2:15".



Welcome New Members

Sean Byrne, NY
Sam Roller, NY
Larry Hirschak, FL
Christy Nowakowski, IL
Ron Kalpik, MA
Annie Faucher, MA
Andrew Kozlowski, CA
Anne Loeffler, PA
Thomas Goldyn, NY
Steven Somerville, FL
Dino Lauricella, FL
Denise Lauricella, FL
Erik Bates, OH
Dennis Popiel, GA
Edward Grudi, PA
Denise Acomb, CA
SNPJ Lodge #603, FL
Sandra Pratas, Canada

Robin Pegg, NY
Geri Chadwick, NY
Bernie Koslosky, MN
Helen Ganiec, IL
Mark Slota, MD
Mark Komar, NY
Carol Lash-Budzyn, MI
Jim Etling, TX
Donna Inglos, MD
Dave Duescher, WI
Robert Brozek WI
Ken Kilgas, WI
Verna DeGreef, WI
Harry Schroeder, WI
Joyce Beilfuss, WI
Kathy Ziereis, WI
Fran Cobian, WI
Gary Huempfer, WI



New Lifetime Members

Dan Johnson, WI
Eric Korowski, WI
Cindy Koretsky, PA
Michael Frost, MO
Johnetta Vinka, OH



Thank You

Ron Zywićiel
Natalie Boyd



During this Christmas Season, we
wish you Joy, Love and Peace.

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!

IPA Secretary Cheryl and
John "Foo" Furmaniak



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 or you can mail the VCR tapes to the following address: **International Polka Association, Inc., PO Box 1484, Plainfield, IL 60544.**



WE NEED YOUR EMAIL

In an effort to curb postage costs associated with membership renewals and to also make the system more efficient, the IPA will begin sending out Membership Renewal Notices via email beginning in January 2021. Typically, members receive three renewal reminders via postal service. Starting in January, members with email addresses on file will begin receiving their first two reminders via email with a link that takes you directly to the IPA store. The third reminder, which is the final reminder, will be sent through the postal service. Please send your email information to membership@ipapolkas.com.

As always, thank you for your support of the IPA. We wouldn't be able to do any of this without our loyal members.

DEADLINE for AWARD SUBMISSIONS JANUARY 14, 2021

Polka artists interested in possible music awards recognition now have an easy electronic method to get on the ballot! Beginning this year, all working polka artists seeking IPA awards for the current year must go online to www.ipapolkas.com/application-musicawards to submit their information. All those who register are eligible for the IPA's *Favorite Band* and *Favorite Vocalist* award categories. Recording artists have a special section to upload their musical tracks and graphics to be considered for their additional awards. In all, deserving polka artists are recognized with music awards that include *Favorite Album*, *Favorite Song*, *Favorite Band*, *Favorite Male Vocalist*, and *Favorite Female Vocalist* for Polish and International (Slovenian, Czech, German, Dutchmen, etc.) polka styles. An academy of 195 electors from across the country determines the award winners by casting their votes on annual ballots. The lists of polka artists on these ballots will be generated by the submissions received through the new electronic process. So, you've got to submit every year to win! Complete instructions are available on the website. **The deadline to submit for consideration in the next voting cycle is January 14, 2021.** Eligible recordings must have been released between January 1 and December 31, 2020. Questions may be directed to MusicAwards@ipapolkas.com.

"January is National Polka Month"

Warm-up Dance and Chicago Festival of Bands normally scheduled for the 3rd weekend in January has been **POSTPONED**.

Stay tuned for more details if we are able to re-schedule. Please know that the health and safety of our members and their families are our number one priority.

Witamy członków!

I hope all our members and families are staying healthy and safe! Time is just flying by with the holiday season upon us. I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving. Although it may seem slightly more challenging this year, it's more important than ever to count our blessings. Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks, and to be grateful for what we have; such as our health, families and polka friends. Hopefully we will be able to add multiple polka dances and festivals to our gratitude list soon!

As we look ahead to the Christmas season, the most cherished Polish tradition in our family is breaking of the Oplatek on Christmas Eve (Wigilia). This white wafer is very similar to the ones used at Holy Communion, and is shared with each person present. (Even pets are included. The pink wafer is shared with animals, who according to Polish tradition, were the first to greet the Baby Jesus). As we exchange/share the Oplatek, good wishes are expressed to each other. This is probably the most emotional time of the holiday for Polish families. Those who are no longer with us, are particularly remembered at this moment. This is the most sacred night in Polish homes, and my wife's favorite day of the year!

SNOWBIRD POLKA CALENDAR:

The Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach on December 20th, will feature the Polka Classics band for their annual Christmas Kolendy sing along. January dinner/dances will be the 3rd and the 17th of the month. You can check out their Facebook page and website, for updated information.

The General K. Pulaski Club in Belleview will be re-opening on December 13 with their annual Christmas dance, featuring Northern Sounds Band. Then on February 14th 2021, the Melotones, will be providing the music for their Valentines "Sweethearts" dance. Please contact Brad for more information.

The Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach is currently planning their New Year's Eve 2020 celebration. Additional information will be posted on their Facebook page, or you may contact the club at (772)-778-0039 for details. Currently, all of the out of state Polka bands for 2021 are being re-scheduled.

The Polish Heritage Club at Sun City Center is planning to have their annual Fat Tuesday, Paczki Ball event, on Saturday February 20th. Delicious Paczki will be served. SMACZNEGO! For more information about this event, please contact Brad.



By Brad Turk

SNPJ Lodge #603 in Samsula

will be having their annual SNPJ Slovenefest events on Friday, February 26th from 5-9pm and Saturday, February 27th from 1-6pm. Both dances will feature the Frank Moravcik Band from Cleveland, Ohio. Homemade dinners will be available along with a full cash bar. There will be jam sessions throughout each day, so bring your instruments! Call Cindy: (386)-689-9454, for more information.

The Polish American Society of St. Petersburg unfortunately, will be closed until March 1st, 2021. The club's 70th anniversary events are being re-scheduled for early 2022. Please check their website and Facebook page, for the latest updates.

As a reminder, Florida's favorite IJ's are: 2009 Hall of Famer Joe Oberaitis with Polkas 101 and Slovenian Polka Blast Show; Crankin' Polkas with Ray Skorka, and Dick Ozimek with Cousin Ozzie's Basement.

If you would like any additional information about our clubs, polka dances or special events, please email me at bradturk@cox.net or call: (352) 875-3961.

May you all find special ways to celebrate the Christmas season. I wish ALL of our IPA Members, Board of Directors and polka friends, a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2021!

Wesolych Swiat i
szczęśliwego
Nowego Roku!



IPA MEMBERS: (front)
Eddy Meyers; Dave
Swiderski; Ray Skorka
(back) Director, Brad
Turk

International Polka Association	
Annual Income and Expense Report	
Fiscal Year 6/1/2019 - 5/31/2020	
Income Categories	
2019 Blackhawk Game Sales Revenue	2,809.00
Annual Festival Revenue	30,981.00
Calendar Raffle Sales Income	10,950.00
Chicago January Dance Revenue	6,488.00
General Donations - Income	274.00
Hall Of Fame Income - Banquet Sales	5,720.00
Investment Income	2,256.71
Ludlow HOF Dance Revenue	3,726.00
Membership Dues Income	14,970.00
Newletter Ad Revenue	611.00
Picnic Revenue	1,736.00
Radio Show Revenue	6,560.00
T-Shirt Sales	72.00
Texas Benefit Dance	55.00
Total Income Categories	87,208.71
Expense Categories	
2019 Blackhawk Game Tickets	2,784.09
2019 Fall Dance in Pulaski Expense	240.00
2020 South Bend Dance	61.64
Accounting Fees	625.00
Advertising - General	1,445.91
Annual Festival Expenses	26,646.29
Award Expenses	114.00
Bank Charges	176.83
Bills - Telephone, Office Expenses	1,480.31
Calendar Raffle Expense	577.75
Calendar Raffle Payout	5,120.00
Charitable Donations	210.00
Chicago January Dance Expenses	4,128.32



Hall Of Fame Operational Expense	19,629.66
Insurance	3,861.00
Ludlow HOF Dance Expense	527.00
Membership Expense	1,151.58
Newsletter Expense	7,722.69
Picnic Expenses	2,115.67
Postage General	585.80
Promotion Expense	2,467.83
Radio Show Expense	10,615.00
Sponsorship Expense	4,925.00
Unity Dance Expense	256.96
Total Expense Categories	97,468.33
Net Loss For Year	(10,259.62)



First set of IPA Hall of Fame® Interviews Released

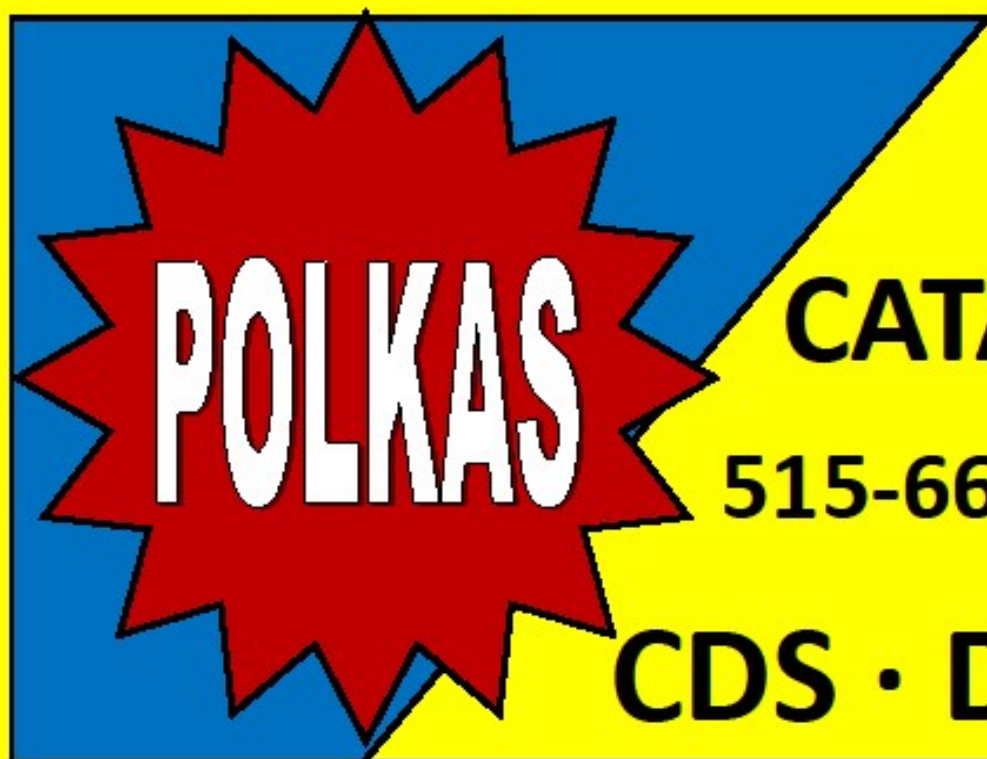
The IPA embarked on a project this year to interview IPA Hall of Fame® Inductees. The stories and memories have been fantastic and we are excited to bring them to all of our members. The first set of interviews have been published and can be viewed on the IPA YouTube page. In addition, we also have videos that were shown during the IPA Virtual Festival this year.

Thank you to all of the Hall of Fame® members and the interviewers that participated in this project.

COMING SOON to IPA YouTube Channel: Queen Interviews

Beginning January 2021, the IPA will begin organizing and conducting interviews of the IPA Queens who reigned from 1968 through 1994. We look forward to catching up with these women who, for one year, represented the IPA with poise and honor. Be on the lookout for more information coming soon.





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Joe Zalewski - 419.351.5031 - joez@holytoledopolkadays.com



December 1 - Joseph J. Dembeck, Jr.;
Theresa Napiwocki

December 2 – Eileen Kumpon

December 3 – Joseph Rupnik,
James Sajkowicz, Jr.; Alice Kovarik;
Karl Koch

December 4 – Christine Kucher

December 5 – Chris Rose;
Cherie Hafeman

December 6 – Dick Zavodny;
Rebecca Jurevis; Sandy Berestka;
Kathy Raczowski

December 7 – Walter Nowak;
Myrna Filipczak

December 8 – Steve Coblisch; Darlene
Kender; Kathy Futa; Jack Walsh

December 10 - Frank Piotrowski;
Hannah Yash; Bev Koziej

December 11 – Neil Makatenas;
Richard Kujawa

December 12 – John Springer

December 13 – John Piotrowski

December 14 – Olivia Piatkowski;
Larry Hirschak

December 15 – Darrell Weltin;
Danny “O” Okrzesik; Logan Stanczewski

December 16 – Chet Kizewski;
Daniel Warner

December 17 – Mark Janson; Dennis
Motyka

December 18 – Ken Kendra; Marla Kunke;
Ray Budzilek, Jr.; Michael Biela

December 19 – Diane Pojedynski;
Thomas Goldyn

December 20 – Jessica Jurevis;
Erica Bulanda-McMaster

December 21 – Pam Drust

December 22 – Paul Wanas; Barbara Dean

December 23 – John S. Mikrut, Carol
Kibelbek, Jim Busta; Michael Iwasiwka

December 24 – Stanley Kunysz

December 25 – Joseph Niemietz

December 26 – Richard Wisniewski;
Linda Mitchkoski; Maria Kula;
Stanley Papuga

December 27 – Claude Wiatrowski;
Helga Leonard; Jessica Agin; James
Beline; Jason Anschutz; Gary Rhamy

December 28 – Danny Zapletal

December 29 – Marsha Bulinski; Mary
Masse; Chris Doszak; Anne Stec

December 30 – Tim Okrzesik

December 31 – Kathy Blazonczyk; Gerry
Gorak; Peter Chunis; Maryann Jarusinski;
Gail Cerva



January 1 – John Kaiser;

January 2 – Eugene Sadus;
Cecilia Osysko; Donna Ingot;
Lucas Yash

January 3 – Ernest Daigle; Kevin Kurdziel;
Aleya Kaminski; Adam Hembel; Bob Lynn

January 4 – Jerry Fabian; Rick Kunke

January 5 – Nancy Szmyd

January 6 – John Freidhoff

January 7 – Suellen Gomulka;
Candy Bonnin; Erv Wisniewski;
Stephen Kaminski; Marianne Buzinski;
Pat Makuch

January 8 - Laura Mateja; Eddie Rodick III

January 9 – Jeff Yash; James Sefcik

January 10 – Pat Stanek; Les Motyka;
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; John Jaworski; Bob Koziel

January 16 – James Lewandowski;
Emma Bogdon

January 17 – Al Piatkowski; John C. Mikrut;
Zachary Mikrut; Mike Kocieniewski

January 18 - Brian Kapka;
Lucille Marsolek;
Duane Mijal;
Virgil Kazmierski

January 19 – Hayley Krawisz;
Christy Nowakowski

January 20 – Richard Tady;
Teresa Bagrowski; Goran Lukic

January 22 – Ann Marie Matousek;
Jim Pietranczyk; David Korch

January 23 – Basia Lynn

January 25 – Craig Marsolek; Bill Dobrucki;
Walter Maduzia

January 26 – Wayne Machnicki;
Laura Bethke

January 28 – Ray Kanoza; Don Maduzia;
Kenny Habrack; RJ Bogdon

January 29 – Mary Anne Robinson

January 30 – Chet Dombrowski;
Edward Grudi Jr.

January 31 – Richard Leach





Get Well Wishes

Get Well wishes go out to IPA Director from New York, **Mark Trzepacz** who underwent triple-bypass open heart surgery on Friday, December 4th. Mark has quite a few weeks of recovery ahead of him so we want to extend our thoughts and prayers to him and Cherie.



Deepest Sympathies... to Hall of Fame member Bill Shibilski on the passing of his son, Justin, who passed away suddenly on Thursday, November 5, 2020. Justin is also survived by his wife, Amy and young children, Carson, Alaina, and Logan; mother, Denise and sister, Christina ; and Grandmother, Katharine Zawol.

A Go Fund Me page has been set up for the family at <https://gf.me/u/y72xkw>.

Introducing ... *Zupe* and The Polka Commandos Na zdrowie! (Nostrovial!)

One of the BEST CDs in a long time! I'm playing it on all my shows to great reviews.

- Joe Godina, 247 PolkaHeaven.com

Could there possibly be a more joyful antidote for strange times than *Na zdrowie! (Nostrovial!)* ...?

- Dan Kimpel, Song Biz, Music Connection Magazine

Zupe's record doesn't sell music, it sells fun, happiness, and celebration!

- Bobby Borg, Musician & Educator, UCLA, USC

... this is total polka funtime that had me bouncing in my chair!

- Jim Price, Pennsylvania Musician Magazine

With Special Guests
Alex Meixner
Tommy Halla
Christian Fabian
and Mollie B

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Kabir Sehgal
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Menthol Bees
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May your Krupnik be spiked
with plenty of JOY to get you
through this holiday season.

Wishing everyone a very Merry
Christmas and a Blessed New
Year!

Na Zdrowie,
FL Director Brad, Corinne,
& Bella Turk



To all of our Polka Family and
Friends, we wish you a very Merry
Christmas and a Happy and
Healthy New Year. May 2021 reu-
nite us all again as one big polka
family.

With God's Blessing,
1st Vice-President Lori
and Jim Lewandowski

IPA GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, January 20th

8pm est/7pm cst

Thank you to all the members who attended the IPA General Meeting in October. We will be hosting the next General Meeting on Wednesday, January 20th, at 8:00est/7:00cst. The IPA Board would like to invite all members to this event, which will be broadcasted virtually using WebEx. Our special guest for this meeting will be **Fred Ziwich**.

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.

Copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://www.ipapolkas.com/go/jangeneralmeeting/>. 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.**

\$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 web-site 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

2020 – Lucas Yash, Webster, MA

2019 - Emma Bogdon, Pittsburgh, PA

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 Ogradny, 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

Seasons Greetings



We would like to wish you and your families
a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New
Year. Hope to see you all in 2021.

Happy Holidays,

President - Christy, IL Director - John,
Katie, Hayley and Shawzee Krawisz



Seasons Greeting to all IPA Members! We hope
your Thanksgiving was full of love from whatever
family members you were able to gather with.
These are difficult times, but the joy of the holi-
day season is always sure to brighten spirits.

Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia from
Treasurer - Dan Mateja,
IL Director - Lindsey Mateja,
and the entire Mateja Family

★
have
YOURSELF
a
merry
LITTLE
Christmas



Joseph “Joe” Jozwiak Special Achievement Award

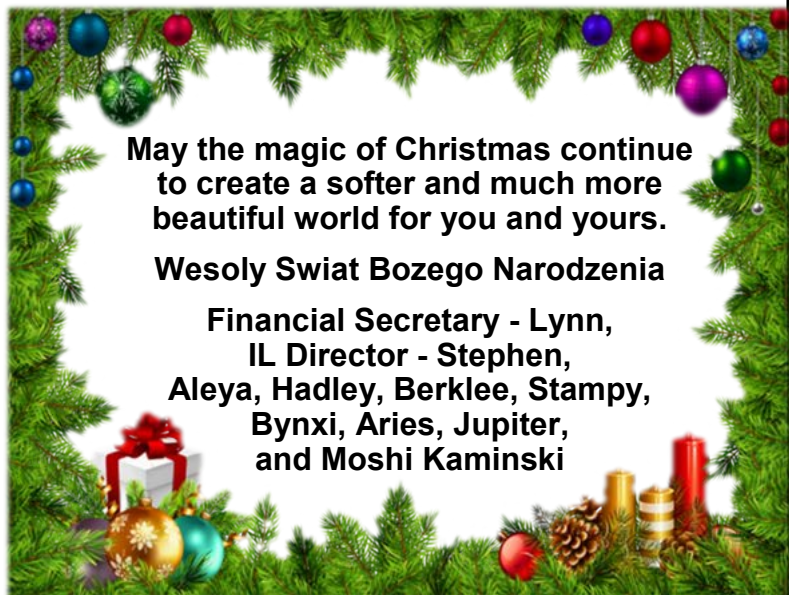
It's that time of year again to get your nominations in for the annual Joe Jozwiak Special Achievement Award. How did this award get started? Who does this award honor?

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

Members of the IPA are invited to send in their nominations to recognize polka personalities who might not otherwise be acknowledged for their dauntless contributions. Nominees can include DJs, IJ's, polka writers, promoters, ballroom operators, etc. **Bands and musicians are excluded.**

To submit a nomination, simply copy and paste this URL <https://www.ipapolkas.com/joe-jozwiak-nomination/> and fill out the submission form. You may also mail in a short biography of the nominees' accomplishments that qualify the nominee for this award along with the form below.

Nominations **MUST** be received **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31**. The IPA Board of Officers and Directors will then determine a winner.





By Chris Bogdon
PA Director

THE RETURN

One can look back in 2020 and find out that there weren't too many good things that happened. However, there was definitely one bright spot in 2020. Those polka fans who have been patiently awaiting a return of the early-90s award-winning polka group, Energy, will soon get their wish. After a 25-year hiatus, the western Pa.-based band has announced their return to live performances in 2021 for the first time in a quarter-century.

"We are extremely excited to begin performing and connecting with fans again," said Randy Koslosky, the group's co-founder. "We hope to bring our brand of high-level polkas, not only to fans from our past, but also to a new generation of polka fans — those who've probably never had the Energy experience. And, rest assured, the excitement will be mutual."

Formed in 1989, Energy recorded three CDs (winning the IPA's "Favorite Album" award for their 1992 CD release, *Pure Energy*), as well as several popular single releases. The band toured extensively through 1996, performing at many of the nation's top polka music festivals as well as dance halls and ballrooms throughout the East Coast and Upper Midwest. The band also achieved notoriety outside traditional polka music circles with the release of a song they wrote and recorded for the Pittsburgh Penguins hockey team. "It's A Great Day for Hockey" was played over the PA system at Penguins games and was featured on many Pittsburgh radio stations. The band was even featured in the ESPN highlight film for the 1992 Stanley Cup finals, and in the Penguins' documentary series *Pittsburgh is Home*.

Energy's 2021 lineup will consist of six musicians, all previous members of the band. They are:

- Bernie Koslosky — trumpet, saxophone, and clarinet
- Randy Koslosky — accordion and bass
- Chris Bogdon — concertina, accordion, and bass
- Eddie Kaczmarczyk — drums
- Joe Baranowski — bass, fiddle, saxophone, and clarinet
- Rickie Kois — trumpet and clarinet



You can find more about Energy at our new website: <https://www.theenergyband.com>. The website lists our latest schedule as well as song snippets for every song that Energy recorded. We have also posted links to videos of Energy from the past. More features will be added to our website in anticipation for 2021.

We look forward to seeing all our fans in 2021!

I'm Colleen Van Ells, creator, editor, and producer of the television show "Polka! Polka! Polka! TV with Colleen Van Ells". Recently I gave a warm welcome on our show, and at a taping, to one of our newest sponsor's "IPA". I am delighted that they have become a part of my television show.

The show has been broadcasting for over 11 years since it came back on the air in 2009. To date, I do not have a footprint in social media because of the time that must be devoted to bringing a new show to the viewers each Sunday throughout the year. Plus, up until the pandemic, I have been offering tours to many places in the US, European destinations, South American countries, etc. Putting these tours together is a full time commitment alone. When it is deemed safe, I plan to offer tours once again. Broadcasting over the air, on Dish, Direct TV, and cable carriers, I am in the process of producing programs to air on the internet.

Follow through is extremely important to me. With over 600 polka shows that I've produced and delivered to the networks over the years, credibility has been established. Even though I have created and produced several other national and regional television shows, unrelated to the polka show, this music has long been important to me. I will be happy to share the story of the "Polka! Polka! Polka!" television show in another newsletter; such as what motivated me and gave me the strength to bring it back on the air after devastating losses in my family. I will let you know. For right now I will say, "To God be the Glory!"

It has been a joy working with director Jill Styczynski of the IPA, who came out to greet people and hand out brochures at Gatherings 43 during a dance featuring the sounds of "Dave Duescher's Musical Brass". Two other band leaders joined us, Jim Pekol, and Mark Jirikovec. Jill's bubbly personality personifies IPA's which has done and continues to do so much for the genre of polka music.

She was also with us in June for one of Donna Gudex Kamrath's fundraising events. It took place at the KC's Hall in Fond du Lac. We celebrated June dairy month which has been a tradition for years here in the dairy state of Wisconsin. Donna Gudex Kamrath has successfully developed fund raising events in both Mayville and Fond du Lac, WI for many years. These dances are held for non profit groups such as the Lions, Lioness, KC Fundraising Charity, etc. The profits go directly back into the community to help people that desperately need it, especially at this time.

Jill was there to reach out to the people and help

them become familiar with the IPA. She provided brochures inviting them to visit IPA's website for details. They did, and many decided to join. This was Jill's idea and I feel it was a great decision. She will continue to be present at many of the television tapings as we go forward, when it is safe.



submitted by Jill Styczynski
IPA Director from WI

Many of the people who immigrated to the United States from Europe brought with them memories and this happy sounding music. We must keep it going, growing together, while introducing it to many who are not familiar with it. Enjoy the traditional sound and see how it has evolved. There are so many types of Polka music and styles within each. Enjoying all of these is fabulous. Watch, listen, and see how it has developed and varies in the US and Europe.

Working non stop seven days per week all these years was worth it. Many of us never imagined the 2020 pandemic and the negative impact it would have on societies throughout the world. Just remember everybody...the roaring 20's came about after the 1918 epidemic. We will survive and flourish. People began calling me in March of 2020 to let me know how very much they needed the program and how much it has meant to them, telling me "I was an essential worker". It was a holding force to them and I was honored to be viewed as an essential worker in their eyes. I have never viewed myself and the show in that respect.

Keeping a positive attitude is very important in many aspects of our mental and physical health and now I have learned what they mean by their remarks. Viewers are dancing at home, in their garages, or on their patios when the programs air; or while they are reliving the ones that they have taped. The show is real, Real Places, Real People, Real TV. And now from the feedback I have received, far more real, and required, than I had ever believed it could be.

With a passion I have embraced the need to reach out to so many of the people who have danced to, loved, written, played, and enjoyed this happy music throughout the world for generations. Young and young at heart together enjoy the...

"The Wisconsin State Dance of the Polka"

Know history, live in the moment, and embrace the future.



*On behalf the Pietranczyk family
(Keith, Jen, JP, Remy and Dobby) we
would like to extend a very Merry
Christmas to all of our polka family!
We miss you all and hope to be able
to see you soon in the New Year!
Stay safe and enjoy time with your
families over the holidays. *Wesołych
Świąt i Szczęśliwego**



Pictures from the **POLKA!**
POLKA! POLKA! TV Show with
Colleen Van Ells taping in
Wisconsin



Rejoice

In the **Spirit** of Christmas which is **Peace**.
The **Miracle** of Christmas which is **Hope**
And the **Heart** of Christmas which is **Love**
Wishing you the joy of family, and the gift of
friends during the Christmas Season
and Health and Happiness in the New Year.
**Merry Christmas and Happy New
Year!!**

Jill Styczynski
WI - Director



November - December, 2020

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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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Lynn Kaminski

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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:

Lynn Kaminski, Financial Secretary

International Polka Association

PO Box 1484

Plainfield, IL 60544

Email: membership@ipapolkas.com

Renew your membership online!

Visit: www.ipapolkas.com/store**2020 IPA Officers and Directors****Officers:**

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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 **news-letter@ipapolkas.com**.

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.

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 Dates to Remember**Advertise in the IPA Newsletter**

January 16th January Warm-up Dance **POSTPONED**
(more information to follow)

January 17th Chicago's Festival of Bands **POSTONED**
(more information to follow)

One Issue

Full Page.....\$75.00 per issue
Half Page.....\$55.00 per issue
Quarter Page.....\$40.00 per issue
Eighth Page.....\$25.00 per issue

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Email ad files to Lynn Kaminski: newsletter@ipapolkas.com

****DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE IS: JANUARY 27, 2021 ****

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!!

As reminders for membership renewals are mailed out, it would be greatly appreciated if these could be returned as soon as possible. Not only are these fees used to allocate printing and mailing expenses, but for various other causes. **So please return your renewals in a timely matter.**

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