



**Join the International Polka Association in
Celebrating January as National Polka Month**

Festival of Bands - Warm Up Dance

Saturday, January 15, 2022

Music by: The New Generation from Wisconsin

Polonia Banquets - 4604 S. Archer Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

Doors open at 4 pm - Music: 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm

ADMISSION: \$15 at the Door

Be sure to visit the I.P.A. Hall of Fame - Polonia's Kitchen will be open

****A Special 2-Day pass will be available for \$25****

53rd Annual Chicago Festival of Polka Bands

Sunday, January 16, 2022

I.P.A. Tribute Band

Music Company

Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze

Tri-City Drive

The D-Street Band

The New Generation

Polka Mojo



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

Doors open at 11:30 am —Music starts at Noon

ADMISSION: \$15 at the door

Mary's Kitchen will be open

It's Always Sunny in Florida...

Witamy członków!

WOW, it is hard to believe that Oktoberfest season is already over. It was really nice attending and playing for several events. I hope everyone had a Blessed **TURK**-ey day!

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!

Snow Bird Dances:

Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach

has sold their club and is currently having Polka dances at **The Elks Lodge, 285 Wilmette Avenue, Ormond Beach**. The annual Christmas Kolendy party will be on December 19th with the Melotones. Also, New Year's Eve dinner/dance is currently being planned for December 31st from 8:00 to midnight. For more information please call (386)-258-7059. They are currently working on the 2022 dance schedule with the Elks Lodge. You can email the club at pulaskidaytona-club@yahoo.com, join their Facebook page, or visit their website: www.polishamericanpulaskiclubdaytona.org

German American Club of Marion County will be celebrating their annual Christmas special event on December 19th, featuring the Tannerbaum Band. On February 27th, there will be the Fasching dance with Eva Adams band. For all tickets/info, call Mary (352)-789-6499 or visit their website: www.gacmarioncounty.com.

General K. Pulaski Club in

Bellevue will be celebrating their annual Christmas party on December 12th with Northern Sounds. February 13th will be their Valentine "Sweethearts" dance with Melotones. Contact Brad for more information.



By Brad Turk

SNPJ Lodge #603 in Samsula will be having their annual SNPJ Slovenefest 2022, February 25th - 26th, featuring Frank Moravcik Band from Cleveland, Ohio. Homemade food will be available and cash bar. Jam sessions each day, so bring your instruments! Call Cindy: (386)-689-9454. Join their Facebook page, or visit their website: www.samsulasnpjlodge603.com

Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach will be featuring a great line up of bands starting with Alex Meixner on December 5th, John Stevens Polka Band on January 9th, Alex Meixner Band on January 23rd, Eddy Forman Orchestra (EFO) on February 13th, and finally Box On will be playing March 13th. For more information join their Facebook page, visit their website: www.pacvbusa.org, or call the club (772)-778-0039 for more details.

The Polish Heritage Club at Sun City Center with host their annual Fat Tuesday Paczki Ball event on Saturday February 19th with delicious Paczki and Northern Sounds band. SMACZNEGO! For more information about this event, please contact Brad.

Polish American Society of St. Petersburg will be having their grand opening on January 9th, starting up their dinner/dancing season with FL Generations band. The club's **71st Anniversary** will be celebrated on January 16th with Nu Soundz. January 23rd will feature the Polka All Stars, January 30th is FL Generations, February 6th will feature Gerry Kryk's All Stars,

(Continued on next page)

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February 13th will be Northern Sounds, February 20th is Nu Soundz, and February 27th is the **BIG Paczki Day** dance with FL. Generations. Visit their website: www.polishsociety.org, join their Facebook page for more info.

As a reminder, Florida's favorite IJ's are: 2009 Hall of Famer Joe Oberaitis with Polkas 101 (Saturday), and Slovenian Polka Blast (Thursday), as well as, Crankin' Polkas (Fridays), with IPA member Ray Skorka.

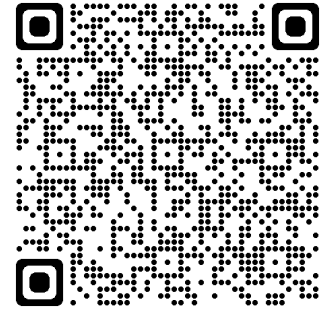
If you would like any additional information about our clubs, polka dances or special events, please email me at bradturk@cox.net or call: (352) 875-3961. Please continue to support **LIVE** polka music and all of our clubs, when you are here.

I would like to wish ALL of our IPA Members, Board of Directors and polka friends, a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2022!

Wesolych Swiat i szczeniowego Nowego Roku!



IPA's POLKA MUSIC IS ESSENTIAL AVAILABLE NOW



Polka music is Essential is the latest IPA t-shirt designed by IPA member Hayley Krawisz. Scan the QR code to take you directly to the store to purchase yours now, or you can visit the store at IPAPolkas.com.



Wishing all of my polka friends and family from near and far a wonderful holiday season blessed with good health and polka happiness! Looking forward to a Na Zdrowie or two with many of you in 2022! Hey; that rhymes!! :)

Illinois Director
Dennis Mikolajewski



Welcome New Members

James Motyka, MA
Carol Alsheimer, NY
Dan Wolf, MI
Patty Kuzniar, OH
Sherri Ann Martin, CT
Leslie Ann O'Hara, FL
George Dums, WI
Stephen Brown, NY

Barbara Loftus, NY
Patricia Murray, NY
James Glinski, NY
Kyle Bushman, WI
Eileen Zywićiel, IL
Patrick "Polka" Wisniewski, MI
John Gajewski, NJ

New Lifetime Members

Lori Urbanczyk, NY
John Prytko, Jr., CT
Alan Andrascik, PA

Thank You

Natalie Boyd



Wesolych Swiat Bozego
Narodzenia
from
Treasurer Dan, Laura
the entire Mateja Family

Rest in
Peace

Helen Ganiec
Gene Swick
Happy Louie

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
Nowego Roku!*





Polonia throughout the world have a special fondness for Christmas, which is evident in the enormous volume and beautiful nature of our Christmas carols. While *kolędy* like *Dzisiaj w Betlejem* and *Lulajże Jezuniu* are much better known and more commonly sung throughout the season, there also exists a whole other realm of Polish Christmas carols.

Pastorałki (in English "Shepherd's Carols") are the folk carols of Poland. Like *kolędy*, they also tell of the birth of Christ, but their lyrics and melodies are much more informal. A common lyrical theme of *pastorałki* is the re-imagining of the Nativity as though it were occurring in one's own village – the shepherds of Galilee are portrayed as local shepherds or farmers, and the Mary and Joseph as fellow villagers. By humanizing and localizing the Holy Family and other characters from the Nativity, *pastorałki* make the story more relatable and understandable to the average person.

The lyrics of *pastorałki* are sometimes profoundly intimate, as though you yourself are cradling the Christ Child, making Him laugh, or playing music for Him. Other times they can be humorous and playful – such as Joseph chastising a shepherd for how he smells, or for playing his instrument too loudly. While still other *pastorałki* are almost completely secular, with lyrics about caroling and merrymaking.

The rich tapestry of Polish Christmas music would be incomplete and much less colorful without *pastorałki*. These are the everyday carols that our grandparents and great-grandparents would have sung throughout the Christmas season. It is my hope that in some small way, this recording will help to revive that musical tradition, and that these songs will bring you the same joy throughout Christmas that they brought our ancestors.

- Troy Gawlak

1) **I My Też Przychodzim Ubodzy Ludzie (We the Poor Also Worship)**

This carol imagines everyday laborers and craftsmen greeting the Newborn and offering Him their wares as gifts. In one particularly prophetic verse, the carpenter gives a cross and the blacksmith gives nails.

2) **Wstawszy Pasterz Bardzo Rano (The Shepherds Are Awakened)**

After searching for the source of the heavenly light, the shepherds are greeted by angels announcing Christ's birth. They welcome Him by playing bagpipes and flutes.

3) **Oto Stajenka (Here is the Stable)**

A simple pastoralka with lyrics describing the familiar facets of the Nativity scene, performed in the style of the Sądecki Region of southern Poland.

4) **Nie w Betlejem, Galilei (Not in Bethlehem of Galilee)**

A beautiful pastoralka that re-imagines the Nativity unfolding "not in Bethlehem... but in Poland," with the Holy Family as fellow villagers. Mary is at the spinning wheel, Joseph is farming the fields, and the Wise Men are village officials.

5) **Wesoło Jest Nam Dzisiaj Nowina (We Have Good News Today)**

A carol rejoicing in the birth of the Lord, and making a plea to the Infant that there be love in the world.

6) **Przyskoczę Ja Do Tej Szopy (I'll Jump for the Lord)**

Like many pastoralki, this carol humanizes the characters in the Nativity, with the singer describing how he jumps and dances to make the Infant Jesus laugh and smile.

7) **Zapłonęła Gwiazda (The Star Shined)**

A carol written during WWII by monks in the Mazowieckie Region that tells of the Star of Bethlehem.

8) **Jakaż To Gwiazda (What a Star)**

A poetic recounting of the Magi and the Star of Bethlehem, written in the 19th century by priest and composer, Zygmunt Odelgiewicz.

9) **My Też Pastuszkowie (We the Shepherds)**

A more common pastoralka that tells of the shepherds hailing the Newborn. Each verse introduces a new shepherd and the instrument he plays for the Lord.

10) **Szczęśliwa Kolebko (Happy is the Cradle)**

The poetic lyrics of this carol address the humble manger itself, and how fortunate it is to hold the Infant Jesus.

11) **Kiej Maryja Wędrowała (Mary Wandered Afar)**

A pastoralka from the Podolia region that re-imagines the Holy Family's search for shelter as occurring in the nearby countryside. Mary's wandering is ended when a kind-hearted peasant offers her his shed.

12) **Witajże Dzieciątko z Panny Narodzone (Welcome the Child Born of a Virgin)**

All of creation praises the Newborn – the birds of the air, the insects on the ground, the animals in the woods, the cattle in the field, kings and monarchs, and all mankind.

13) Nie Masz Ci, Nie Masz (The Star Leads Me)

A carol sung in the first-person narrative style, in which the singer describes personally lining the crib for the Infant Jesus, keeping watch over Him, and lulling Him to sleep.

14) Nowy Rok Bieży (The New Year Rushes)

A carol with lyrics dating to the 17th century. Each verse describes the Nativity with a question-and-answer format: A kto kto? A gdzie gdzie? A co co? (Who? Where? What?)

Tracks 3 and 14 feature the trumpet, a staple instrument in the folk bands of the Kraków and Sudecki regions, from which these two songs originate.

Track 11 features the cimbalom (Polish: cymbały), a type of dulcimer more common in other parts of Eastern Europe, but often present in folk bands from southeastern Poland. This song comes from the Podolia region, which is today part of Ukraine.

Troy Gawlak – Concertina, Vocals

Steven Greenman – Violin

Ed Siwiec – Clarinet, Vocals (Track 13 and 14)

Jim Kucharski – Bass

Special Guests

Kevin Adams – Trumpet (Tracks 3 and 14)

John Jaworski – Vocal (Track 10)

Alex Fedoriouk – Bęben (Track 9), Cymbały (Track 11)

For more information visit FolkCarolsofPoland.com

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Cleveland, Ohio 44131
FolkSoundsRecords.com

*Recorded and mixed at FSR Productions Recording Studio, Seven Hills, OH.
Mastered at Peppermint Productions, Youngstown, OH.
Produced and arranged by Troy Gawlak. Artwork by Vladislav Ryndevich.*

*WARNING: All rights of the manufacturer and the owner of the recorded work reserved.
Unauthorized public performance, broadcasting and copying of this recording prohibited.*

Printed and Manufactured in the United States.

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 2022 reunite us all again as one big polka family.

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

Polka Party

FEATURING: EFO - Eddie Forman Orchestra
Saturday, February 12, 2022

\$16 per ticket in advance

\$18 at the door

Cash or Money Order

Doors and Kitchen Open at
4:30pm - Food Available

Place: Englewood Elks Lodge
401 N. Indiana Avenue
Englewood, FL



DEADLINE for AWARD **SUBMISSIONS** **JANUARY 14, 2022**

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, 2022.** Eligible recordings must have been released between January 1 and December 31, 2021. Questions may be directed to MusicAwards@ipapolkas.com.



On behalf of the Nowakowskis, we would like to wish our polka family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year!! Looking forward to a fun & exciting 2022!!

IL Director Christy and the
Nowakowski Family



Wishing my Polka Family and Friends a Joyous Christmas and Holiday Season. May you enjoy the soft glow of the lights and merriment of the music throughout your home. Hope to see everyone on the dance floor in 2022.

***Have a Merry Christmas and
Happy, Healthy New Year!!***

WI Director Jill Styczynski





Former IPA Board member and Trustee, Gene Swick, Passes

By Mike Matousek

On October 16, 2021, the polka world lost one of the most respected and loved polka promoters in the industry. Eugene (Gene) Swick passed away just two days after his 90th birthday after a long bout with multiple health issues.

Born in the Polish neighborhood of Greenpoint in Brooklyn, NY, he went on to serve his country in the Air Force as a nuclear physicist. After 20 years of service, Gene retired as a lieutenant colonel and began another phase of his career as senior staff scientist for the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). For the next 30 years, he would make frequent technical presentations to top Department of Defense officials at the Pentagon in Washington, DC.

His family life included raising seven children, four girls and three boys, who gave him two grandchildren.

Throughout his life, Gene pursued his passion for polka music. He conducted polka dance exhibitions and promoted polka dances in Southern California and Arizona, while helping to support polka bands from across the country.

A humble man who preferred no recognition, he helped to fund many polka recordings and events behind the scenes. Gene's generosity was legendary. He actually bought the first computer ever used by the IPA. Gene was also a longtime member of the IPA Executive Board and a served for many years as a trustee, and most recently, as a trustee emeritus up until his death.

A regular at all major polka festivals, he was sought out by ladies of all ages to grace the dance floor and was the first to put a beverage in your hand. A true gentleman, Gene Swick will always live in the hearts of the polka people he truly loved.

Rest in peace, Lt. Colonel Swick.

2022 IPA Newsletter Schedule

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline for Submissions</u>
February - March 2022	January 3, 2022
April - May 2022	March 1, 2022
June - July 2022	May 1, 2022
August - September 2022	July 1, 2022
October - November 2022	September 1, 2022
December 2022 - January 2023	November 1, 2022

PLEASE WELCOME

Henry Lenard

Director from Delaware



I consider it an honor and a privilege to take on this role.

I was raised in Newark, NJ and now reside in Clayton, DE. I was in my early 20's when I started following polkas, so you can say that I got a late start, but I'm doing my best to make up for lost time by being active for the last 30+ years.

Growing up in north Jersey, I attended many dances on a frequent basis at the Bayway Polish Home in Elizabeth, NJ. There I would meet many of the band leaders, band members and friends that I still have today.

I am also an active member of the Polish Falcons of America, Nest 104 in Newark/Clark, and am also a member of Nest 4 in South Bend, IN. I served a 4 year term as an officer for District 1 which was housed at the Polanka in Somerville, NJ where I ran many dances.

After my move to Delaware 24 years ago, I continued to pursue and interact with the Polish American / Polka community in Wilmington.

My goal as an IPA Director, is to continue to promote polka music, as well as work toward increasing our membership levels. Also, to provide support to my fellow officers and directors of the IPA in whatever capacity is needed as we continue to move forward as an association.

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Zyczym wszyscy Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia i Szczesliwego Nowego Roku.

DE Director Henry Lenard

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the entire Krawisz Family! We wish you Joy and Happiness this holiday season and hope you have a wonderful 2020. God Bless you all.

President, Christy; Director Johnny, Katie & Hayley



Season's Greetings to all of our IPA members! We hope you and your loved ones are enjoying the Holiday Season. Wesoly Swiat Bozego Narodzenia to all of you.

IL Director Lindsey Mateja and Jonathan Payne



Dec. 1st – Joseph J. Dembeck, Jr.;

Theresa Napiwocki;

Andrew Citkowicz

Dec. 2nd – Eileen Kumpon

Dec. 3rd – Joseph Rupnik, James Sajkowicz, Jr.;

Alice Kovarik; Josie Kidd; Richard Styczynski

Dec. 4th – Christine Kucher; M. Daniel Hakos

Dec. 5th – Chris Rose; Cherie Hafeman

Dec. 6th – Dick Zavodny; Rebecca Jurevis;

Sandy Berestka

Dec. 7th – Myrna Filipczak

Dec. 8th – Steve Coblisch; Darlene Kender;

Kathy Futa; Jack Walsh

Dec. 9th – Erma Kazmierczak

Dec. 10th – Frank Piotrowski; Hannah Yash;

Bev Koziej; Claudia Winiarz

Dec. 11th – Neil Makatenas; Richard Kujawa

Dec. 13th – John Piotrowski

Dec. 14th – Olivia Piatkowski; Larry Hirchak

Dec. 15th – Darrell Weltin; Logan Stanczewski;

Valerie Eisenman

Dec. 16th – Chet Kizewski; Daniel Warner

Dec. 17th – Mark Janson; Dennis Motyka

Dec. 18th – Ken Kendra; Marla Kunke; Ray

Budzilek, Jr.; Michael Biela

Dec. 19th – Diane Pojedynski; Thomas Goldyn

Dec. 20th – Jessica Jurevis;

Erica Bulanda-McMaster

Dec. 22nd – Paul Wanas; Barbara Dean

Dec. 23rd – John S. Mikrut, Carol Kibelbek,

Jim Busta; Michael Iwasiwka

Dec. 24th – Stanley Kunysz

Dec. 25th – Joseph Niemietz;

Leonard Schrank;

Paul Romanowski;

Paul Janeczek

Dec. 26th – Richard Wisniewski;

Linda Mitchkoski; Maria Kula; Stanley Papuga

Dec. 27th – Claude Wiatrowski; Helga Leonard;

Jessica Agin; James Benline; Jason Anschutz;

Gary Rhamy

Dec. 28th – Danny Zapletal; Kevin Altenburg

Dec. 29th – Marsha Bulinski; Mary Masse;

Chris Doszak; Anne Stec

Dec. 30th – Tim Okrzesik

Dec. 31st – Kathy Blazonczyk; Gerry Gorak;

Peter Chunis; Maryann Jarusinski;

Kelly Grocholski





Jan. 1st – John Kaiser,
Arthur Bode

Jan. 2nd – Eugene Sadus;
Cecilia Osysko;

Donna Inglot; Lucas Yash

Jan. 3rd – Ernest Daigle; Kevin Kurdziel;
Aleya Kaminski; Bob Lynn; Dawn Rosinski

Jan. 4th – Jerry Fabian; Rick Kunke

Jan. 5th – Nancy Szmyd

Jan. 6th – John Freidhoff

Jan. 7th – Suellen Gomulka; Candy Bonnin;
Erv Wisniewski; Stephen Kaminski;

Marianne Buzinski; Pat Makuch

Jan. 8th – Laura Mateja; Eddie Rodick III

Jan. 9th – Jeff Yash; James Sefcik

Jan. 10th – Pat Stanek; Les Motyka; Brian
Chenkus; Anthony Glaza; Debora Jones

Jan. 11th – Frank Liszka

Jan. 12th – Vince Ashman; Richie Dombrowski;
Paul Brozek

Jan. 13th – Barbara Szydowski

Jan. 14th – Elaine Nowak; Stanley Raiczky;
Mike Cielecki

Jan. 15th – David Dobrzinski; Joseph Kubicar;
John Jaworsk

Jan. 16th – James Lewandowski;
Emma Bogdon

Jan. 17th – Al Piatkowski; John C. Mikrut;
Jordan Rody; Zachary Mikrut;

Mike Kocieniewski

Jan. 18th – Lucille Marsolek; Brian Kapka;
Duane Mijal

Jan. 19th – Hayley Krawisz;
Christy Nowakowski

Jan. 20th – Richard Tady;

Teresa Bagrowski; Goran Lukic

Jan. 21st – Basia Lynn

Jan. 24th – Mitchel Daubert; Michael Hakos

Jan. 25th – Craig Marsolek; Walter Maduzia;
Bill Dobrucki; Eric Brill

Jan. 26th – Laura Bethke; Wayne Machnicki;
Bren Wrona-Norris

Jan. 28th – Ray Kanoza; Don Maduzia;
RJ Bogdon

Jan. 29th – Mary Anne Robinson

Jan. 30th – Chet Dombrowski; Edward Grudi Jr.

Jan. 31st – Richard Leach



WAY OUT WEST ARIZONA POLKA DANCE FEST. 2022



WHEN:

Jan. 15th, & 16th, Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push

Feb. 19th, & 20th, Mike Costa & The Beat

Mar. 19th, & 20th, The Natural Talent (T.N.T.)

Nov. 12th, & 13th, Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men

WHERE:

PULASKI CLUB 4331 E. MCDOWELL RD PHOENIX, AZ. 85008

TIME:

FRIDAY NIGHT 6PM. FREE ADMISSION (MEET & GREET)

SATURDAY NIGHT 5 TO 9PM \$15.00

SUNDAY AFTERNOON 2 TO 6PM \$15.00

(KIDS UNDER 12 FREE)

*No B.Y.O.B. affair the Pulaski Club has a full bar menu available
and the Polish Kitchen will be open*

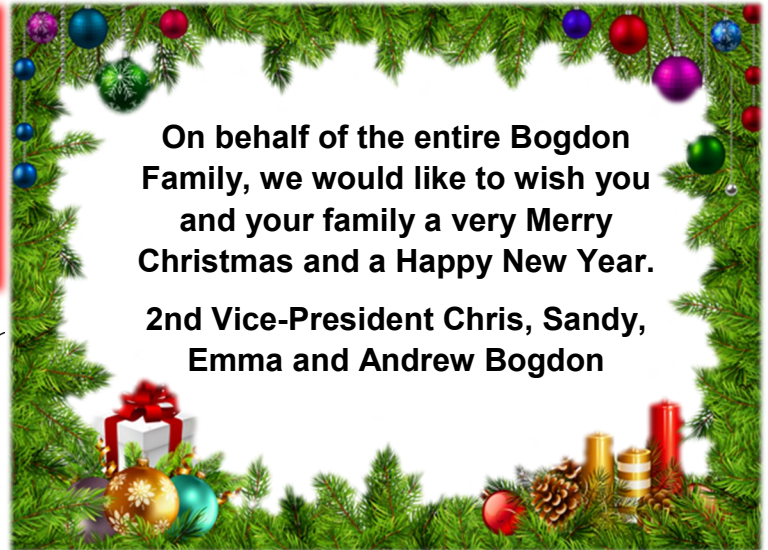
**Hotel Reservations: Holiday Inn & Suites Phoenix Airport North
1515 N. 44th St. Phoenix, Az. 85008 (p) 602-358-0908
www.hiphoenixsuites.com**

**THE PULASKI CLUB 4331 E. MCDOWELL RD. PHOENIX, AZ. 85008
602-275-9329 WWW.PULASKICLUBAZ.ORG
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PULASKICLUBAZ**



On behalf of the entire Bogdon Family, we would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

2nd Vice-President Chris, Sandy, Emma and Andrew Bogdon



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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

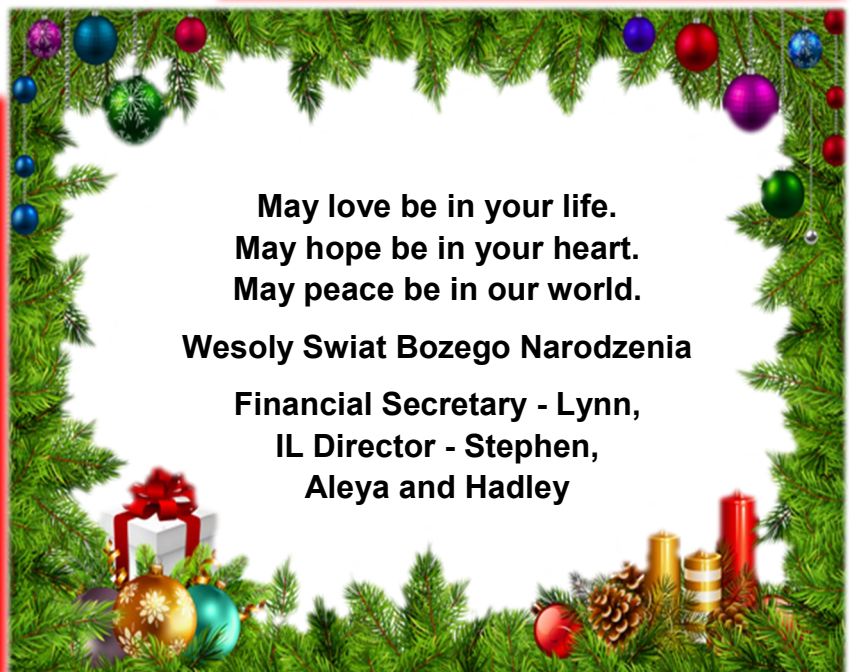
IPA Secretary Cheryl and John "Foo" Furmaniak



May love be in your life.
May hope be in your heart.
May peace be in our world.

Wesoly Swiat Bozego Narodzenia

Financial Secretary - Lynn,
IL Director - Stephen,
Aleya and Hadley



The Polka World mourns the loss of Happy Louie

By Lynn & Stephen Kaminski



One afternoon in 1972 a 6-year-old little boy was at a dance in Dover, NJ. His playing was interrupted by a commotion coming from the stage. He observed a man jumping onto a speaker while twirling his trumpet in front of hundreds of ecstatic polka fans as if they were at a rock concert. The little boy turned to his mother and asked, who is that man? His mother responded, “that’s Happy Louie” to which the little boy responded, “he certainly is.”

Fast forward forty years to an afternoon in 2012, that same little boy’s four-year-old daughter, Hadley, saw her mom watching something on her phone. The little girl’s toddler curiosity brought her to her mother’s side and after some time of watching the video, she crawled into her mother’s lap and continued observing the charismatic man with so much energy and a red hanky. She finally turned her baby blue eyes towards her mother and asked who the man was? The mother explained to her little girl that they were watching Happy Louie. It took the child a few minutes before she turned back to her mother with wonder and asked, “Mommy, why is Louie so Happy?”

Whether it was his voice that reminded you of a crystal-clear mountain lake; or his melodies that were instantly recognizable; or his musical lifts at the end of each song as if presents to lift your spirits; or that smile that could be heard in his singing; Happy Louie was the consummate entertainer for generations and will be to come.

Louie’s musical career started at a very young age. He was born August 4, 1934, in Ware, Massachusetts, to Mary (Kmon) Dusseault and Louis G. Dusseault. At the age of nine, he played his first note on a Bugle and then changed to a B-flat Trumpet. Happy Louie attended St. Mary’s Polish Grammar School in Ware, where he was taught to write and speak the Polish language.

By the age of 13, his love for Polish music caught the attention of many musicians and he was invited to play along. When Louie reached fifteen, he started his own band and performed for many weddings and other social func-

tions. He played for the St. Mary’s Drum Corps of Ware. Louie attended Berklee College of Music in Boston Massachusetts where he perfected his arranging and playing, graduating in 1956.

After graduating Berklee, Louie entered the U.S. Army and was stationed at Ft. Dixon, New Jersey. After completing basic training, he auditioned for the United States Military Band and was selected to play during his remaining tour of duty at West Point, New York. During this time, Happy Louie married Julcia Midura.

After his discharge from the Army, Happy Louie’s orchestra began to play on a larger scale, backed by the Polka Sweethearts (Jack and Sophie Midura) of Radio Station WREB of Holyoke, Massachusetts. They were signed to play numerous engagements in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and radio and television.

Happy Louie and his musicians recorded three albums in less than a year and later recorded three more albums for Rex Records. Soon after, Happy Louie would receive a call from Metro Goldwyn Mayer (MGM) of New York. The band recorded four albums for MGM. One of Happy Louie’s MGM recordings, “Accordion A Go-Go” was used in the movie: “The Subject Was Roses” with Patricia Neal. This recording was written by Richie Woloss and arranged by Happy Louie.

Happy Louie and Julcia eventually launched, Ha-Lo Enterprises, Inc. in 1968. One of his first recordings on the label was “Love and Peace” and it explains how Louie felt about Polish jokes.

Happy Louie, Julcia, and the band toured extensively going as far as Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Chicago, Michigan, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont; not to mention their international travel to Canada, Amsterdam, Bermuda, Paris, France, Poland.

The band also appeared at the 1968 New York State Fair in Syracuse for the entire week with other top billings as the Four Saints, the Lennon Sisters, and the Grand Ole Opry. Repeat dates at the fair were also in 1974 and 1981. Happy Louie and the band played in Poland for the first World Polka Festival in 1977.

Happy Louie received many awards throughout his career from various polka organizations. He took home the very first trophy in the IPA Favorite Recording category in 1968 for Red Hot Polkas. In 1982 Happy Louie was inducted into the Polka Hall of Fame® and in 2012 he received the Lifetime Achievement award from the United States Polka Association, just to name a few. However, it is rumored that his biggest thrill came in 1995 when he received the Grammy® Nomination for "Your Polka Sweethearts", along with fellow nominees Eddie Blazonczyk, Jan Lewan, Jimmy Sturr, and Walter Ostanek.

Happy Louie's successful career spanned decades and today, many of Happy Louie's songs have become standards played by other polka bands across the country. Medleys of his greatest hits are still played today by bands such as Polka Country Musicians, Polka Family, the Eddie Forman orchestra and many more.

Since his retirement from performing, Happy Louie struggled with Parkinson's for several

years debilitating him, however, that did not stop him and Julcia from promoting and hosting several Parkinson's Research benefits in the New England area.

Then, on Friday, November 26, 2022, Julcia made the heartbreaking announcement that her Beloved husband; father to Denise, Diane, Dr. Louie, and David; grandfather to Amanda Marie, Gabby, Eva, Sophie Grace, Thomas, Matthew, Daniel, Michael, and Henry; and great-grandfather to Clair and Mile, had passed away.

Polka Heaven may have gained another of our legends, but Happy Louie's legacy lives on through the recordings of that special sound of his that will forever flow through our veins.

And it is comforting knowing that sometime in the future, there will be a young child who will come across a recording of an energetic, charismatic, trumpet twirling entertainer with a red hanky and that child will question the identity of the individual, and the answer will STILL be, "That's Happy Louie."

"Join me in this song and sing it loud and strong. Love on in Peace and harmony. Stop those Polish jokes and love those Polish folks, Polish blood is flowing though my veins." ~Happy Louie 1934-2021



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Pulaski Club of Arizona dedicates weekend “The Boys” weekend to Gene Swick

News from sunny Arizona; Fall is in the air and polka music is in the house! Pulaski Club of Arizona held their first Polka weekend event to kick off their 2021-2022 season.

The weekend was dedicated to one of our sponsors, **Mr. Eugene John Swick**, who passed away on 10/16/21 (2 days after his 90th birthday) after a long illness. Gene was well loved in the polka community and especially the Pulaski Club of Arizona where he was a frequent guest. We were proud to consider Gene part of the Pulaski Club family, **“keep on dancing in Polka Heaven Gene”**.

On Friday, November 12, 2021, the IPA sponsored our “Meet and Greet” to kick off our weekend with Mike Matousek and “The Boys” from Baltimore, Maryland. The band (and equipment) arrived safely to a warm welcome from our club members and out-of-state guests. The local hotel was able to accommodate guests arriving from California, Wisconsin, Nevada, Michigan and Illinois; we created so much excitement at the hotel that other guests decided to walk over to the club to join in the fun.

Guests started the weekend feasting on “Buffalo style” chicken wings and working their way through gołabki (stuffed cabbage rolls) and kielbasa (Polish sausage) and sauerkraut created

by our very creative cooks. We were lucky enough to stock our coolers with different varieties of Polish beer to our guests’ delight and, of course, introduced many to our famous **“Jezy Bombers”** made from jeżynówka / blackberry brandy and RedBull™.

Once the music started, feet started flying to the tunes that are perfect for the “Chicago style” of polka dancing. During the weekend we were blessed to have visitors from across the US that either sang or played with “The Boys” and a surprise visit from **IPA 2017 Hall of Famer, Fred Ziwich**. We may remember Fred Ziwich over the last 40 years of entertaining groups with his band International Sound Machine.

Our thanks go out to Don & Gail Haderle (and we do miss your infectious smiles) for making the weekend possible; David & Princess for getting the band to the local eateries and working on the sightseeing itinerary while enjoying the Arizona weather; as well as Halina & Basia for cooking their delicacies in the kitchen.

If anyone is planning a vacation in January head on over to Phoenix the weekend of January 15th and 16th when we host **Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push!**

From Kaz Tysiac, President

On behalf of my family, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I hope this next year brings you good health, happiness, and blessings! Na Zdrowie!

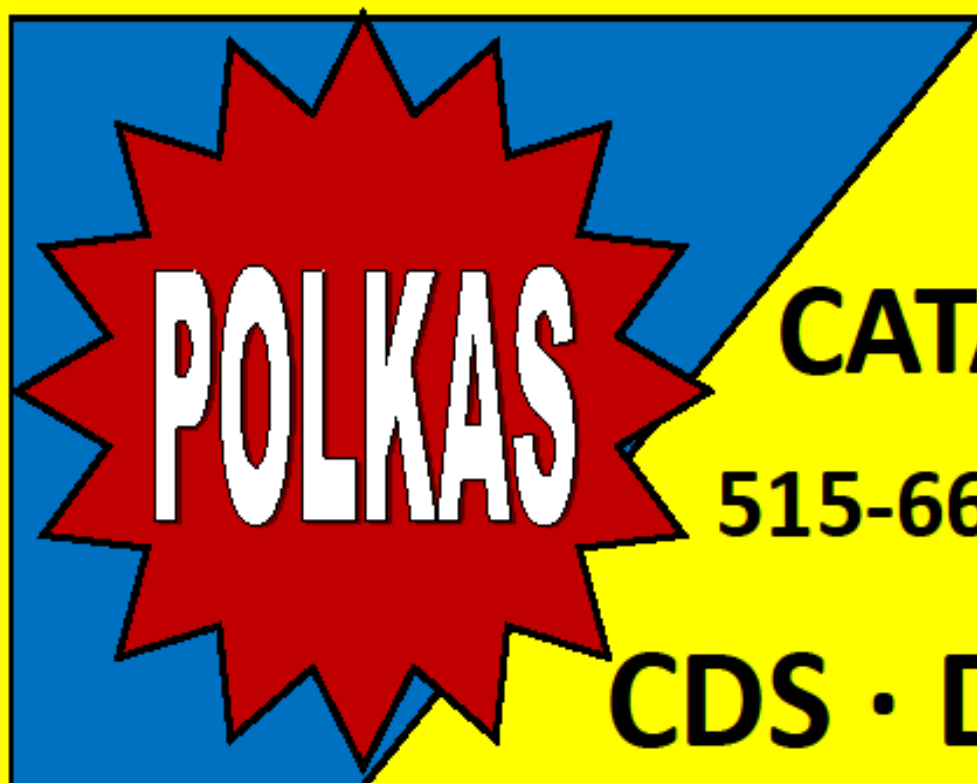
MI Director Anne and the entire Stec family



To all polka families, wishing you the warm and wonderful blessings of Christmas!
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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
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January 15th -	Festival of Bands Warp Up Dance
January 16th -	53rd Annual Chicago Festival of Polka Bands
March 5th & 6th-	IPA Hall of Fame Benefit Weekend in Ludlow, MA
April 3rd -	IPA/Let's Polka USA Unity Dance

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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