



IPA Newsletter

The IPA and Let's Polka USA
present the 10th Annual

UNITY DANCE

Sunday, April 3rd, 2022



Glendora Banquets

10225 S. Harlem Ave.

Chicago Ridge, IL

Doors open at 1pm

Music from 2pm—6pm



THE IPA TRIBUTE BAND

with

Polka Music Hall of Famers

John Gora

from Canada

and

Rick Rzeszutko

from Chicago, IL



Admission \$10

Visit www.ipapolkas.com for more information

It's Always Sunny in Florida...

Witamy członków!

It's so nice to see the recent increase in attendance at our Polish clubs and dances in Florida! We certainly hope it continues with Dyngus Day and Holiday celebrations planned throughout the state. It's always fun to experience LIVE music and Polish traditions first-hand.

Let's continue to support polka music in 2022 by attending our **Snow Bird Dances:**

Polish American Pulaski Club of Daytona Beach is currently having Polka dances at **The Elks Lodge, 285 Wilmette Avenue, Ormond Beach** (after selling their club). March 13th is St. Patty's Day dinner/dance with Melotones, so wear your Green! March 27th will feature Polka Classics. On April 10th, they will be celebrating Easter with Frankie K. band. April 24th is the Melotones, May 8th will be Polka All Stars, and May 15th is Joey "O" Oberaitis. They are currently working on the summer & fall dance schedule with the Elks Lodge. For more information please call (386)-258-7059. 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 Spring Fling dance on April 24th with DJ Ron "The Music Man". The Club will be celebrating their Silver Anniversary on August 14th with a dinner/dance. For all tickets/info, call Mary (352)-789-6499 or visit their website: www.gacmarioncounty.com.

General K. Pulaski Citizens Club in Belleview will be having their Easter dinner/dance with the Melotones on April 10th. The Mother's-Father's Day dinner/dance will be on May 8th, featuring the Melotones. October 9th will be an Oktoberfest event with Northern Sounds, and the annual Christmas Kolendy party is on December 11th featuring Northern Sounds. Please contact Brad for more information.

SNPJ Lodge #603 in Samsula had their annual Slovenefest festival Feb. 25-26 which featured Frank Moravcik Band from Cleveland, Ohio. They had awesome crowds both days, with a lot of out-of- state attendees. The kitchen even

ran out of their homemade food! Make plans to attend next year Feb. 24th and 25th, 2023. This is definitely an event you'll want to add to your calendar. Call Cindy: (386)-689-9454. Join their Facebook page, email the club:

snpjilodge603@gmail.com or visit their

website: www.samsulasnpjilodge603.com



By Brad Turk

website:

Polish American Social Club of Vero Beach

had a record season crowd with the Eddie Forman Orchestra on Feb. 13th. Everyone had a GREAT time! The club will be hosting the SO-FL-PA band on March 13th from 2-5pm. For more information join their Facebook page, visit their website: www.pacvbusa.org, or call the club (772)-778-0039 for more details.

Polish American Society of St. Petersburg

had an outstanding crowd of 155 people on opening day! It was so nice seeing all of our friends again. The 70th Anniversary dance was a huge success! The club is now officially a national landmark in downtown St. Pete. The lineup for March will include: Buffalo Touch from NY on the 6th, Polka All Stars on March 13th, Northern Sounds on March 20th and Frank Moravcik from Ohio on March 27th. April will feature: Northern Sounds on the 3rd, Polka All Stars April 10th, the Annual Dyngus Day celebration on April 18th with Nu Sounds from 5-8pm, and April 24th with FL. Generation. Please visit their website: www.polishsociety.org, or check out 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, email me at bradturk@cox.net or call: (352) 875-3961.

Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych.



The Frank Moravcik Band from Cleveland, Ohio that performed at the SNPJ Lodge #603 in Samsula, Florida for their Slovenefest. *From left to right: Mike Heins; Linda Hochevar; Florida IPA Director, Brad Turk; Frank Moravcik*

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.



2022 IPA Newsletter Schedule

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline for Submissions</u>
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



New Lifetime Members

Joann Sklarsky, PA
John Sklarsky, PA
Don Walser, MN
Jeff McElheney, IL
Kevin Oleniczak, IL
Patty Lesczynski, MI
Dave Slivinski, MI

Vincent Krzyzanowski, FL
John Borkowski, PA
Diana Kosinski, DE
Marianne Cramer, FL
Cindy Fisher, OH
Jack Tady, PA

Judith Ozanich, PA
Cindy Lawton, PA
Zupe, PA
Donna Carron, MD

Patrick Henry Presents!

Wisconsin Dells Polka Fest! #10 & Expo!

Chula Vista Resort



April 29 - May 1, 2022

A Great Weekend of Family FUN!

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



Polka Country Musicians

from Connecticut (Friday & Saturday)

Main Squeeze

from Minnesota (Friday)

Maroszek Brothers

from Wisconsin (Friday)

Polka Family Band

from Pennsylvania (Saturday)

Copper Box

from Wisconsin (Saturday)

New Polish Sounds

from Wisconsin (Saturday)

Doctor Kielbasa

from Minnesota (Saturday)

Energy!

from Pennsylvania (Sunday)

The Music Company

from Illinois (Sunday)

Polish/English Catholic Mass - Polka Dancing Lessons!

Weekend AMTRAK Trip Available!

- COVID-19 information -

Due to the on-going pandemic, certain precautions will be in-place for those in attendance in order to minimize the potential spread of the virus.

This may include anything from wearing of masks to cancellation of the event itself.

Band line-up and other events subject to change without notice.

For general festival information:

Call Patrick Henry at (773)889-6811 or e-mail: polkadj@sbcglobal.net

www.dellspolkafest.com

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

Weekend Package Available: **Only \$193 p/p Double Occupancy**

Single Occupancy \$308+ tax & resort fee.

Includes:

2-Nights at Chula Vista Resort

Weekend Pass to the Polka Fest.

Buffet Breakfast Saturday & Sunday
in the Market Fresh Buffet.

Breakfast Gratuity.

*Each additional adult, \$75+tax.

*Each additional Child < 16, \$20+tax.

*Upgrades available for additional \$.

Room only prices starting at **\$116/night.**

Extend your stay! 3rd night only \$65!

Waterpark pass only \$10/person per day.

Call Chula Vista Resort direct at
(877)624-0685 promo code: **I-22108**

for our discount rates and packages!

Discount code is not available
for online reservations.

Admission: Fri: \$20, Sat: \$25, Sun: \$15
Weekend Pass: \$50, Kids Under 16: Free!
with guardian. Plus Tax where applicable.
Huge Dance Floor By: Russ Napiwocki!

Daughter of the late Polka drummer, Michael Vinecki, competes in the 2022 Olympics - Winter Vinecki

Written by Jill Arndt, used with permission

MICHAEL VINECKI of Gaylord was very special to many of us, and we continue to cherish our memories with him. Very sadly, he passed away in 2009 at the young age of 40, having courageously fought a 10-month battle against prostate cancer. Mike was a husband and father of 4. With the passing of his father in 2021, parents Theresa (Slivinski) Vinecki and Virgil have reunited with Mike. I often think about his brother Rick and sister Brenda, their love shared, the heartache felt, and the wonder of Mike's joy if he was here today to give us his wonderful smile while enjoying his growing family and many friends that miss him greatly.

Mike was a musician and spent his teens and early 20's playing polkas across the country. It began at an early age while playing drums with his dad and brother in a 3-piece local band (that's when I met them). Mike played with the Grammy-award band Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones in 1990 and toured the United States and Europe. He also performed with numerous other bands. While living in the Chicago area in the late-1990's, Mike formed a country band called "Michael Lee and the Dusters" and played in the Northern Illinois area. Auctioneering was Michael's second love, and he was an integral part of Vinecki Auction Services with his family. He also obtained his Brokers License in Real Estate.

Following Mike's diagnosis, the family became involved with Athletes for a Cure, a branch of the Prostate Cancer Foundation. "Team Winter" was founded by daughter Winter to actively raise awareness and funds for prostate cancer. Visit www.teamwinter.org

Winter is now 23 years old, having grown up in Gaylord (MI) and Salem (OR), and training in Park City (UT).

After losing her Dad at the age of 9 to an ag-

gressive form of prostate cancer, she formed TeamWinter.org, a 501(c)(3) non-profit to raise money for prostate cancer research and awareness. She has raised over \$500,000 and counting toward that effort.

We join Winter's many supporters and wish her well in her competitions and fund raising. We know there is abundant pride from Heaven.

Michigan connection: Born in Grand Rapids; lives and trains in Gaylord.

Highlights: Ranked No. 2 on World Cup circuit in 2020-21 season, 14th in 2021-22; finished first in women's aerials in a March 2021 World Cup event in Moscow. Finished second in team mixed event and fifth in women's aerials in 2021-22 World Cup event in Ruka, Finland.

The buzz: More of a runner growing up, Vinecki completed her first triathlon at 9, and was the Ironkids National Champion in 2010-11. At 14, she was the youngest person to complete a marathon in Antarctica and at 15, the youngest to complete a marathon on all seven continents. She missed all of the 2021 world championships with a bout of COVID-19.

And, yes, she will be the first Winter Olympian named "Winter."

Mike's little girl is grown and competed in the 2022 Winter Olympic. Unfortunately, she didn't win a medal.





Recipes from ... IPA Members

IPA President, Christy Krawisz, thought it would be a great idea to share some of our members favorite recipes with the membership. So, in every newsletter we will spotlight two food recipes and one drink recipe submitted to us by our members. To share your favorite recipe, please email it to info@ipapolkas.com and **include your name in your email**. Please send it in a word document or directly in the email. PDF's won't work, sorry. We look forward to sharing some great recipes with you! Enjoy.

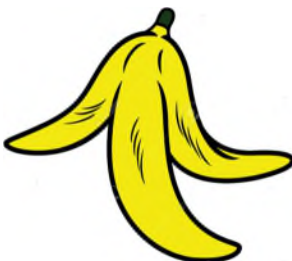
Noodle and Hamburger Casserole **Submitted By Carol Trzebiatowski**

¼ lb. Margarine
1 chopped Onion
1 chopped Green Pepper
1 lb. Hamburger
½ package Wide Noodles
1 can Tomato Soup
½ can of Water
Salt and Pepper to taste

Boil noodles in water until cooked, drain and set aside. Sauté onion, green pepper, and hamburger in margarine until meat is fully cooked. Add a dash or two of salt and pepper (to your tastes). When hamburger is brown, add 1 can of tomato soup and ½ can of water. Cook together for about 15 minutes or so. Add drained noodles to the meat mixture and mix well. Put in a 9x13 ungreased casserole dish and bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes.

Banana Split Jello Shot **Submitted By Angela Biskup**

Dissolve one box of strawberry Jell-O 3 ounce size, and one cup of boiling water in a large glass measuring cup. Stir until fully dissolved. Add ¼ cup cold water, ¼ cup of vodka and ¼ cup banana liqueur and ¼ cup cream de cacao. Stir well and cool before pouring into Jell-O shot cups



Spinach Dip **Submitted By Karen Hudy**

1 package frozen chopped spinach (defrost and remove excess moisture)
1 cup mayonnaise
1 cup sour cream
1 package Knorr Leek recipe mix
1 small can water chestnuts (drained and chopped)

Combine all ingredients and refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving. Use 1 loaf of rye bread. Cut bread into bite size pieces. You can also use bugles, Hawaiian bread or crackers.

Please note: **Knorr Vegetable recipe mix can be used also, instead of Leek recipe mix**



Chocolate Caramel Cream Easter Cocktail

Submitted By Lynn Kaminski

1 cup Cream
5 cup Irish cream
1oz Caramel Liqueur or Chocolate Liqueur

Shake with ice and strain into cocktail glass or hollow easter eggs or bunnies.

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**

Jack Taddy plays Kinloch as a preview for IPA Festival 2022

By Chris Bogdon

IPA 2nd VP

A few years back, I decided to start running polka dances in the Western PA Area to help continue this tradition that we all love. These dances are run at the Kinloch Firehall, north of Pittsburgh in New Kensington, PA. Kinloch was a staple of polka music for several decades in Western PA. Many IPA Hall of Famers performed at Kinloch, including Marion Lush, Stephanie, Matt Wasielewski, and others. It is great to continue this tradition of polka music.

2021 was a great year since Kinloch hosted many bands like the NuTones, Polka Country Musicians, Dynabrass, and the reunion of Energy. Due to the success, I decided to run non-polish bands at Kinloch. This experiment started with the fabulous sounds of the Alex Meixner Band, and he put on a show of a lifetime. Then in December, I brought in both Jack Tady and the Tady Bears and then The Dick Tady Orchestra. The crowds have loved Kinloch and enjoy the new place for polka dancing. What started as an experiment turned

into a new location for Slovenian dances in Western PA.

Jack Tady and the Tady Bears is one of the Slovenian pioneers in the Western PA area. He started playing polkas at the age of 14, and in 1968, IPA Hall of Famer Frank Yankovic crowned him Western Pennsylvania's Polka King. Jack had a lifetime of performing polkas, running trips, and organizing groups to help preserve Slovenian-Style polka music. Jack and his wife Peggy have been doing a Polka Radio Show since 1983 in Western PA.

Jack has performed at Kinloch twice for me, and every time he takes the stage, he energizes the crowd. Jack always calls up fellow polka musicians to end the night with an excellent polka jam session. We are excited to welcome Jack Tady and the Tady Bears to the 2022 IPA Polka Festival and Convention on Labor Day Weekend. This will be the first time Jack Tady is performing at the IPA Festival, and we are

Hello from sunny Arizona!

Hello to our Polka community! Valentine's Day was celebrated in a big way in Phoenix the weekend of February 18-20 with **Mike Costa's and his band, The Beat** – they kept everyone on their feet dancing to our favorite polkas as well as waltzes and obereks and their version of the Beatles! Everyone knew that Mike Costa had been inducted in 2021 in the IPA Hall of Fame so congratulations and well wishes were given to him – an award well deserved after producing 14 successful CDs which include 40 of his original compositions.

The club was decorated with hearts everywhere including a giant 12 foot balloon heart for everyone's picture pleasure. We started the weekend with our usual meet-and-greet on Friday welcoming the band and various guests as they came off the golf courses and away from nearby swimming pools. Thank you to IPA for sponsoring the food served during the evening. The band members checked out their equipment and played a medley of songs with guests singing harmony.

Saturday evening was busy and couples were excited to start dancing to Mike's favorite songs like "Dance the Night Away", "I'm Blue Oberek", "How a Cowgirl says Goodbye" and "Little Bit Gypsy". Mike was surprised to see **Mollie B and Ted Lange**, Joe and Chris from the **Dyna-Brass**, Dawn Rozinski from the **Polski Chicks**, **Patrick Henry** from the Wisconsin Dells Festival and **DJ Tom H** from California in the crowd cheering the band on and joining the dancers on the floor.

Sunday started up with beautiful weather and more people coming to dance the afternoon away. The rapport between band members and the guests was fun to behold; the ladies on the floor sang harmony and the band members showed off their individual talents – Mike Costa, Sebastian, Paul, Nick, Alex and Kevin Altenburg

are all magicians with their instruments. The evening ended singing Happy Birthday / Sto Lat to the Pulaski Club President, Kaz Tysiac.

A big **"Thank You"** to Don and Gail Haderle for supporting the polka bands at our club (we look forward to thanking you in person when COVID ends). Also, a big thank you goes out to David and Princess Bonczkiewicz for working on the details of the weekend, Halina and Basia for cooking the fabulous Polish meals, Maciej and Shawnessey for decorating the club, and the bartenders and volunteers who helped organize and clean the club.

Best wishes to Mike Costa and The Beat as they head down the polka road to their next event in Toledo, Ohio on April 9th and 10th. The Phoenix family now awaits the arrival of **TNT "The Natural Talent"** the weekend of March 18th-20th, 2022.



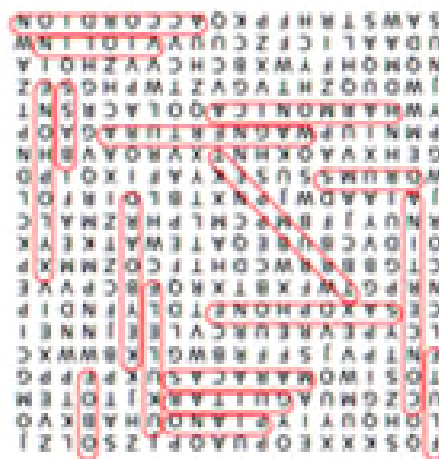




1st – Helenrae Budzilek
 2nd – Joseph Witek;
 Krystyna Chunis
 3rd – Ed Krause
 4th – Timothy Haselow; Mary Lou Czerniak;
 Felicia Reilly
 5th – Steven Smith; David Straup Slick
 6th – Richard Szuflita
 7th – Betty Downey; Barbara Ann Adams
 8th – Tom Reznickervitz; Steven Somerville;
 Carol Lash Budzyn; Fran Cobian;
 Jerry Soliwoda
 9th – Michelle Genrich; Sara Zelasko
 10th – Valerie Janson
 11th – Roger Malinowski; Paul Chichin
 13th – Louella Kundert; Stephen Brown
 14th – George Walker; Larry Trojak;
 Debbie Horoschock
 15th – Daniel Prigge
 16th – Tamara Waner
 17th – Steve Meisner; Diane Nowakowski;
 Mack Martin; Tyler Zawatski; Ron Biskup;
 Kelly Jeau Larson; Margaret Zotkiewicz
 18th – Peter Wendlinger; Jackie Libera;
 Dave Slivinski
 19th – Mitch Gorz
 20th – Michael Blaskowski; Sam Sokolik
 21st – Jane Siuda; Tootsie Sobolak;
 Richard Matuszczak; Mark Slota
 22nd – Maria Szymanski; Debbie Rymanowski;
 Johnetta Vinka; Susan Krysa
 23rd – Brian Szumigalski; David Heise

25th – Sally Rzeszutko; Brian Urbanczyk;
 Marie Brado; Robert Gawryla;
 Stephen Zelenak
 26th – Phyllis Videtich; Jennifer Okrzesik
 27th – Michael Schrader; Debbie Rymanowski;
 Linda Walczynski-Louie; Linda Plantz
 28th – Joseph Price; John Sakal;
 Michael Bednarz; Eric Kurowski
 29th – Kim Cielecki
 30th – James Goplin; Marlene Werwas

concertina
 mandolin
 harmonica
 accordion
 guitar
 drums
 bass



instruments



HAPPY BIRTHDAY May



- 1st – Roscoe Dick Powell; Matthew Martin
- 2nd – Judy Del Pozzo; Gary Rozak;
Rita Sajkowicz; John Kostecki
- 3rd – Jennifer Pietranczyk
- 4th – Harold Otto; Stanley Dobrowolski;
John Stanky
- 6th – Frank Gubala; Mashelle Pavey;
Robert Mazur
- 7th – Ray Pasinski; Richard Kozacko;
Sharon Goldyn; Hadley Kaminski;
Tom Zak; Ray Chojnacki
- 8th – Grace Mikrut; Kevin Oleniczak;
Lorraine "Travers" Truskolaski
- 9th – Janice Lochner; Colleen Van Ells
- 10th – Mike Surratt; Jill Czerniak;
David Nowatzki; Bini Husain
- 11th – Eleanor Grudi; Bill Horodecki
- 12th – Minnie Florio; Chester Sterczek
- 13th – Julia Figura; Connie Shemansky;
Bob Raica;



- 14th – Stacey Morris; Carolyn Blajda
- 15th – Krystin Benkowski; Bryan Koslosky;
Darlene Arneson; Patricia Kaminsky;
Dorothy Styczynski
- 16th – Christopher Bogdon; Eddie Korosa, Jr.;
Bob Zukowski; Bob Wojtowicz
- 17th – Edmund Burdzy; Mike Nowakowski;
Linda Chesky-Fernandes; Alina Horodecki
- 18th – Larry Stec; Fran Russo; Alex Vinecki
- 19th – Jayne Szymczak; Stuart Popp;
Stan Soltys
- 21st – Edwin Rajewski; Linda Barragliola
- 22nd – Raymond Skorka; Linda Kendzierski;
Scott Davenport
- 23rd – Ruth Lietz; Melanie Ellis; Roger Hartwig;
Joan Stepzinski
- 24th – Mary Saber; Ron Palkowski
- 25th – Robyn Mrozinski; Arlene Talbot;
Jim Letnicky; Greg Griffin, Jr.;
Robert Szymczak
- 26th – Timothy Winiarz; Thomas Lewandowski;
Kathy Ziereis
- 27th – Rick Zarek, Jane Piotrowski
- 28th – Pauline Adelman; Jessica Adkins
- 29th – Martin Olshanski; Peter Siuda;
Bonnie Sergel; Kim Hedrich;
Gregory Stepanek
- 30th – Eric Krupski
- 31st – Bill Popek; Mary Freehling;
George Dums

Illinois Polkafest back at the Hyatt Regency in Schaumburg, Illinois in 2022

By Christy Krawisz

After a year off due to Covid, the Illinois Polkafest celebrated its 33rd year supporting polka music the weekend of February 4-6, 2022. The Polka Jammer Network had a live broadcast for three hours and it was hosted by IPA & Broadcast Hall of Famer Keith Stras, IPA Polka Hall of Famer Rick Rzeszutko, IPA President Christy Krawisz, along with IPA Media Advisor and PJN DJ Keith Pietranczyk. It was a great weekend with music by the Steve Meisner Band, Klancnik & Friends, Ron Likovic Band, Eddie Rodick Orchestra, and the Bob Doszak Band. Congratulations to Bob, Chris and the entire Doszak family on such a successful weekend.



Grab Your Balls! IPA goes Bowling

By Christy Nowakowski, Illinois Director

On February 19, 2022, nine of the Illinois International Polka Association Board Members, along with other IPA members, family & friends, attended the 15th annual Candlelight Bowl fundraiser held by the Knights of Columbus New Lenox Council #10926. My dad, Mike Nowakowski, is a Past-Grand Knight of this council and, along with my family, has been involved in this effort from its onset. This is a wonderful event loaded with fun and purpose. In 2005, a young brother Knight in my dad's council lost his battle with cancer and left his wife and 3 young children behind. The idea for this Candlelight Bowl fundraiser was created by the brother Knights wanting to do something to lend financial support to this family. The "Fallen Knights Fund" was created to do just that. It would guarantee funds would be available annually for clothes, books, etc. until the children turned 18 years old. In 2007, the first Candlelight Bowl was held. Since then, the Knights have raised over \$50,000 and have supported 10 children so far, 3 of which entered the program under the age of 5.

The Candlelight Bowl begins each year with a catered dinner, followed by 3 games of bowling - 2 games of scotch doubles, and 1 crazy game - bowl with opposite hand, bowl between your legs, bowl using your feet, etc. Oh, the laughs we have during the third game! There are also 50/50 raffles and basket raffles.

This is not the first year that International Polka Association Board Members and members have supported this amazing fundraiser. The attendance of the IPA Board and Members throughout the years has meant a lot to me, my dad, the Knights, and the families of the children benefitting from the Fallen Knights Fund. Thank you for your support!



The Beat visits The Heat!

By Annie Stec, Michigan Director

Arizona sure has its reasons for visiting, but when I told people I was headed there for a polka dance, they thought I was crazy! "Polkas in Arizona? I've never heard of that!" Well thanks to David & Princess Bonczkiewicz, Donald & Gail Haderle, Bo & Darrel Swick, and the Phoenix Pulaski Club, I have every reason to go back once a month January through March, right? The IPA hosted The Beat 'Meet and Greet' Friday night, with music from DJ Nickelcity Dave. The hot Phoenix sun went down, but the music was just getting started! The Beat played Saturday night and boy did they bring it! The hall was filled with polka music fans from Massachusetts to California and everywhere in between. Most of us northerners were sporting our sun burns from that thing we forget about during these months (the sun!) but apart from that, The Beat really brought the heat! With the addition of Sebastian Pucowski and Nick and Alex Yash, The Beat has gained a whole new generation of fans. Sunday Funday began at 2 PM back at the Phoenix Pulaski Club, and boy did it make that flight home Monday a rough one. In all seriousness, Phoenix had a welcoming crowd and smiling faces and I cannot wait to head back soon! Keep an eye out for the Way Out West Polka Dance Fest 2022-2023 bands and dates!

You were not the only one to miss HTPD
the past 2 years, don't let it happen again,
Make Plans to Attend...



- APRIL 7, 8, 9 & 10, 2022 -

Renaissance Toledo Downtown Hotel

444 North Summit Street, Toledo, Ohio

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

www.holytoledopolkadays.com

Joe Zalewski - 419.351.5031 - joez@holytoledopolkadays.com



The Polka World mourns the loss of another Legend

Dan Gury
1951-2021

By Mike Matousek

It was another polka legend on December 15, 2021, with the passing of Dan Gury. Born in MI, Dan would become an accomplished pianist and accordionist, as well as the leader of the popular Dyna Dukes band for over 50 years. He wrote over 40 original songs featured on 10 recordings. He was noted for covering songs from other genres with his unique embellishments and novelty lyrics. Dan's "Polka Joe and Waltzing Wanda" polka, recorded at Bel-Aire Studios, became the theme song for the polka radio show of the same name for many years until the program's end. After a successful tour in Western Pennsylvania, Dan was inspired to write the "Pennsylvania Hills" polka to show his appreciation for the hospitality the band experienced while on the road. That song went on to be performed and recorded by other top polka bands and was featured in a PBS Special program. He also penned "With This Ring" that was released on a Grammy-nominated album. After his performing days ended, Dan focused his polka energies on hosting an Internet polka show on the Polka Jammer Network and creating PolkaVision videos that are still seen on YouTube. In addition to his polka endeavors, Dan had a successful career working in the airline and casino industries. Mr. Gury, you accomplished much in your short 70 years.

Our deepest sympathies to his wife Carol, children Matt, Marie, and Andy, and the rest of the Gury family and all of his many polka friends. Rest in peace.

So Much Fun with the SoFlaPa

By Annie Stec, MI Director

The South Florida Polka Association really we all know and love! Saturday afternoon, the knows how to throw a party! Back in January, polkas continued out on the pool deck. Although they hosted their Polka Fun in the Sun getaway it was the coldest weekend in Florida of 2022 so down in Fort Lauderdale. I missed the Thursday far, the SoFlaPa kept us warm with the drinks, jam, but I finally got down there Friday afternoon food, and hospitality! Saturday night, the band and boy was I greeted with hoots and hollers! played in the hotel lobby, bringing down other The SoFlaPa jam band, featuring George Bor- hotel guests that were amazed by our music! suk, Jimmy Weber, Danny Mateja, Billy They stayed and listened for a while, and asked Horodecki, Wally Dombrowski, and Andrew me, "how do you do that dance?" The SoFlaPa Krystapolski, was in full swing! With polkas on Jam Band ended the night with 'Dobranoc,' the pool deck overlooking the beach, how can while everyone in the crowd sang along. It sure you be down! Ralph Sabatini, Mike Costa, Ken- was a beautiful way to end a beautiful weekend. ny Yash, Jeff Yash, Steve Rodgers, and Laura I'm definitely looking forward to another SoFlaPa Mateja were all featured as well this weekend, event soon, in that (hopefully warmer) South getting up on the band stand to play that music Florida Sun!

Instruments

F Q S K X X E O P U A O P J Z S O L Z J
L O H Q U Y I Y P I A N O U H A B K V O
U C Z G M U A G U I T A R K J T O T E M
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J W D U Q Z H T V G V Z T W P H G S E Z
N Q M Q H F Y W X B C H C V V Z H Q I A
U D A A L I C F Z C U U V V I O L I N W
S A W S T R H F P K Q A C C O R D I O N

concertina

wagner tuba

accordion

harmonica

saxophone

xylophone

keyboard

trumpet

maracas

violin

guitar

piano

ukulele

drums

flute

bass

oboe



\$1000 FREDDY K JR MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The **Freddy K Jr. Music Scholarship Committee** is now accepting requests for applications for the 2022 Scholarship award. Applicants must be high school seniors who have been accepted to an accredited college and play a musical instrument. Anyone who is interested in applying for this year's award can download an application on our website at www.freddykjrmusicscholarship.com or contact the Scholarship Committee at the following address:

The Freddy K Jr. Scholarship Fund
23850 Via Italia Circle, Apt #1104
Bonita Springs, Florida 34134

Freddy K Jr. played trumpet in his father's band, **The Freddy K Band**, when he died in an automobile accident in July of 1997. Music, especially Polka Music, was Fred's life and passion. His personality, sense of humor and love of Polka Music affected all who knew him. The Music Scholarship Fund was set up to carry on where Fred left off by promoting polka music through the gift of a \$1,000 Scholarship to a deserving student every year. Each award will be given at one of the polka Festivals during the summer.

WINNERS OF \$1000 SCHOLARSHIPS

2021- Syrena Prytko, Millbury, Massachusetts

- 2020 – Lucas Yash, Webster, Massachusetts
- 2019 – Emma Bogdan, Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania
- 2018 – Zachary Piatkowski, Canastota, New York
- 2017 – Veronica Prytko, Millbury, Massachusetts
- Joseph Blackburn, Troy, New York
- 2016 – Olivia Piatkowski, Canastota, New York
- 2015 – Adam Winiarz, Norton, Massachusetts
- 2014 – Jenna Libera, Charlton, Massachusetts
- 2013 – Eva Snyder, South Hadley, Massachusetts
- 2012 – Justin Kohan, Orchard Park, New York
- 2011 – Stephen Piatkowski, Canastota, New York
- 2010 - Kassandre Dardzinski, Saugus, Massachusetts and
Anita Marie Thomas, Balto, Maryland
- 2009 – David Raccis, Wilbreham, Massachusetts
- 2008 – Christopher Wanyo, Shillington, Pennsylvania
- 2007 – Kevin Martin, Hudson, New Hampshire
- 2006 – Lanelle Raccis, Wilbreham, Massachusetts
- 2005 – Nick Koryluk, Hicksville, New York
- 2004 – Michael D. Riel, II, Chicopee, Massachusetts
- 2003 – Ryan Ogrodny, White Oak, Pennsylvania
- 2002 – Brian Romianik, Millville, New Jersey
- 2001 – Melissa Mocadlo, Stevens Point, Wisconsin
- 2000 – Andrew Krystopolski, Wilmington, Delaware
- 1999 – William Lomnychuk, Reading, Pennsylvania
- 1998 – John Daigle, Chicopee, Massachusetts

BECKSTER FEST

Amana Colonies RV Park & Convention Facility - Amana, IA

Located in the NW corner of Hwys 151 & 220

19th
Annual

June 3-5, 2022

19th
Annual

Always the weekend after Memorial Day

Friday June 3 4pm - 10pm

Barefoot Becky & the Ivanhoe Dutchmen - IA
4-5:30 / 7-8:30

Zweifel Brothers - WI
5:30-7 / 8:30-10

Saturday June 4 12 - 10pm

Zweifel Brothers - WI
12-1:30/3-5

Malek's Fishermen - IA
1:30-3/5-7

Gary's Ridgeland Dutchmen - WI
7-10

Sunday June 5 12 - 6pm

Gary's Ridgeland Dutchmen - WI
10:30am Polka Mass
12-1:30 / 3-4:30

Barry Boyce Band - NE
1:30-3 / 4:30-6

For RV Reservations:

319-622-7616 / amanarvpark.com

80 acres of level campground

450 campsites: dry, electric & water, full hookup.

Showers, Restrooms, Laundromat

Shopping, Dining, Bike Trails, Theater, Golf

Lodging w/ Distance To Fest

Hotel Millwright - 1 mile

Amana - 319-838-5015

Guest House Motel - 1 mile

Amana - 877-331-0828

Rose's Place Bed & Breakfast - 1 mile

Middle Amana - 877-767-3233

Dusk to Dawn B & B - 1 mile

Middle Amana - 800-669-5773 / 319-622-3029

Die Heimat Country Inn - 3 miles

Homestead - 319-622-3937

Zuber's Homestead Hotel - 3 miles

Homestead - 888-623-3911

Rawson's B & B - 3 miles

Homestead - 319-660-0390 or 319-225-8011

Ramada Wasserbahn Waterpark Resort - 10 miles

Little Amana - I80 Exit 225 - 319-668-1175

Americinn - 15 miles

Cedar Rapids - 319-632-1800

Country Inn & Suites - 15 miles

Cedar Rapids - 319-363-3789

Sudbury Court Motel - 15 miles

Marengo - 319-642-5411

Crest Country Inn - 15 miles

Williamsburg - 319-668-1522 or 866-819-8329

More Available Upon Request!!

Single Day Pass: \$15

3 Day Pass: \$40

*Wooden Dance Floor
Air Conditioned Building
Food & Drinks Available!!*

Beckster Fest 2023: June 2-4

For more info or questions:

Becky Livermore

Toll Free: 877-499-7133

1257 Ivanhoe Rd

Mt Vernon, IA 52314

www.barefootbecky.com

New Source for Polka Dances in Western Pennsylvania

IPA 2nd Vice President Chris Bogdon saw a need for better communications between polka promoters, bands, and fans. So many times, promoters inadvertently schedule multiple dances on the same day, which is never good for our industry. In addition, many dances like Church Festivals are not advertised to the polka public. To help better facilitate communications, he pioneered a new website, Western PA Polkas. You can find this website at:

www.westernpapolkas.com

This website is entirely free for bands, promoters, and anyone who wants to advertise their dances locally. If you have a polka dance, please mail **chris@westernpapolkas.com** with the information about the dance or festival. The

only requirement is that the dances are in the Western PA area. As of right now, this website has over 46 Polka Dances scheduled in the Western PA Area. That is a polka dance a week until the end of the year.

Chris also expanded this website to include a local directory of DJs in the western PA area. Although many people listen to polkas across the Internet, there is still a considerable presence of terrestrial stations in Western Pennsylvania. There are currently about 17 terrestrial polka radio shows in Western PA.

If you would like to join Chris' mailing list, please go to the website and click on "Sign Up For Mailing List" and you will automatically be added.

You
can
pay
your
IPA
membership
using

zelle

2022 Kinloch Fire Hall

"Pittsburgh's Polka Hot Spot"

Polka Schedule

Sunday Feb 27 th , 2022	Join us for the Fun Energy	2:00pm - 6:00pm \$17.00 per person
Sunday Apr 10 th , 2022	IPA & USPA Award Winning Polka Country Musicians	2:00pm - 6:00pm \$17.00 per person
Sunday May 15 th , 2022	IPA & USPA Award Winning DynaBrass	2:00pm - 6:00pm \$17.00 per person
Saturday Sep 10 th , 2022	Join Chris Bogdon with PA Musicians Burgh Boys	5:00pm - 9:00pm \$12.00 per person
Sunday Oct 2 nd , 2022	IPA Hall of Famer Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push	2:00pm - 6:00pm \$17.00 per person
Sunday Nov 13 th , 2022	The hottest band in the nation The Beat	2:00pm - 6:00pm \$17.00 per person
Sunday Nov 20 th , 2022	Special Thansgiving Dance Jack Tady and JTB	2:00pm - 6:00pm \$12.00 per person
Sunday Dec 18 th , 2022	DTO Christmas Celebration Dick Tady and the DTO	2:00pm - 6:00pm \$12.00 per person

Schedule is subject to change

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

Food and drinks will be available for purchase. No BYOB!
For table reservations or more information contact:
Chris Bogdon - 412-260-9725 or **chris@westernpapolkas.com**

For a list of all polka happenings in Western PA, and sign up for our mailing list, go to: <https://www.westernpapolkas.com>



Exciting Changes Coming For the 3rd Annual IPA Young Songwriter's Competition

We are pleased to announce a few changes coming this year to the Young Songwriter's Competition. The deadline for submissions will be earlier this year and even more exciting, we are increasing the first-place award amount!

With the 3rd annual competition for 2022, the first-place award will be increased to a whopping one thousand (\$1,000) dollars! The second-place prize will be one hundred (\$100) dollars.

The deadline will come earlier this year as well. The new deadline for submissions will be by July 1st! This will allot more time for judging and enable the winner to be honored at the IPA Awards Banquet at the IPA Festival and Convention in September.

The competition is open to anyone between the ages of sixteen (16) and thirty-nine (39) years of age as of the July 1st, 2022 deadline. It is open to amateur and professional songwriters of any polka genre.

More information will be coming soon on the IPA website.



21st Annual Polka Mania

The Hammond Mohawks

4040 Calumet Avenue
Hammond, IN
(219) 933-9823



Sunday, June 5, 2022

Gates open at 11:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

\$15.00 - Adults
Under 12 - Free

Authentic Polish Food,
Desserts, and Beverages
Plus Raffles and Polish Memorabilia
Available at an Additional Cost

Absolutely no BYOB or BYOF

FEATURING

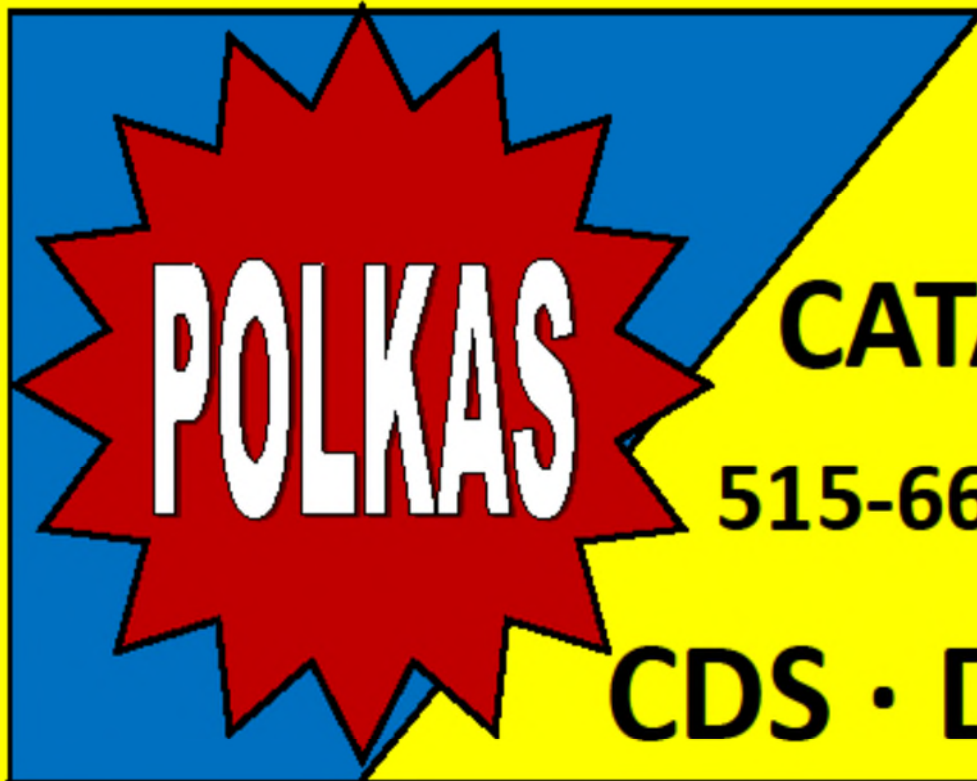


And...



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For Additional Information Contact:
Alan Pala - (219) 677-3586



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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.

Editor:

Lynn Kaminski
newsletter@ipapolkas.com

Contact us:

International Polka Association, Inc.®
PO Box 1484
Plainfield, IL 60544
1-800-TO-POLKA
(1-800-867-6552)
Website: www.ipapolkas.com

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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

2022 IPA Officers and Directors

Officers:

President: Christy Krawisz (IL)
1st Vice President: Lori Lewandowski (IL)
2nd Vice President: Chris Bogdon (PA)
Treasurer: Dan Mateja (IL)
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Dennis Mikolajewski (IL)
Christy Nowakowski (IL)
Anne Stec (MI)
Jill Styczynski (WI)
Sue Szela (MA)
Mark Trzepasz (NY)
Brad Turk (FL)

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:

newsletter@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!**



April 3rd - IPA/Let's Polka USA Unity Dance

Advertise in the IPA Newsletter

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

Three Issues

Full Page	\$67.00 per issue
Half Page	\$45.00 per issue
Quarter Page	\$36.00 per issue
Eighth Page.....	\$22.00 per issue

Six Issues

Full Page	\$60.00 per issue
Half Page	\$40.00 per issue
Quarter Page	\$32.00 per issue
Eighth Page.....	\$20.00 per issue

DEADLINE FOR JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER: May 1

Email ad files to Lynn Kaminski using:

newsletter@ipapolkas.com

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.**

International Polka Association, Inc.®
PO Box 1484; Plainfield, IL 60544
1-800-TO-POLKA (1-800-867-6552)
Website: www.ipapolkas.com

