



Midwest Polka Association Newsletter

1118 Rosemary Lane Chaska MN 55318

March
April
2021



President's Message by Danny Fabek

Greetings again. This is getting odd I can't believe it's been almost one year we have been battling covid 19 & not being able to have a dance. Things seem to change with baby steps. Now we have the vaccine, the change maybe faster. I know there are plans for festivals coming up, like Holy Toledo, WI Dells & USPA.

I must say I am very impressed with what the IPA has been able to do through out the challenges. Not only their virtual fest last fall, but more recently the virtual Festival of Bands last month. They also open their general meetings via ZOOM so anyone can attend. "Try it, you'll like it" as someone once said. They now have a

collection of interviews with Hall of Fame musicians to give everyone a chance to get up front & personal with them. I recently watched interviews with John Kras & Ted L & Molly B which were very enjoyable. They talk about their "journey" - you will see they are just normal people like all of us with a passion for the music. Stash Bulanda gave an interview & had some interesting stories about going to the Grammys when he was nominated. There are many other interviews the IPA have archived - check them out. You can view them at www.ipapolka.com.

It is still winter here in MN! I keep looking outside & hoping, but nothing changes. It's difficult to have a dance. Our only hope is making it to spring/summer, then find an outside venue. Maybe we will switch to Sunday afternoons in the park.

With not having live events, I know it makes it a lot harder to pay your MPA membership dues. I really appreciate the effort you all make to mail your dues to Pat or to me to stay current. Your continued support keeps us going. Pat is looking for old pictures to put in the newsletters. So search the boxes in your closets & if you find any interesting pictures, please send them to us. Thank you!

Thanks for all your support - with your help, we WILL keep polka music alive

Hope to talk to you soon - Danny Fabek

Introduce someone new to the music -

keep the heritage alive!

WI DELLS POLKA FEST

Fri-Sun Apr 30-May 2

Chula Vista Resort

Weekend Package Available

877-624-0685 Code H25539

Polka Family John Gora

Polka Country Musicians

Craig Ebel's DyVersaCo

Squeezebox Steve Meisner

New Generations

More Info? Email: Patrick Henry

polkadj@sbcglobal.net

IN BUSINESS, AN EXECUTIVE
KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT
EVERYTHING, A TECHNICIAN
KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT
SOME THINGS & THE
SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR
KNOWS EVERYTHING!

CASIMIR PULASKI DAYS

TUESDAY • MARCH 2ND

CASIMIR TRIVIA W/OLIVIA • 6-9 PM
COBBLESTONE HOTEL & SUITES

THURSDAY • MARCH 4TH

KARAOKE NIGHT • 6-9 PM
JEN'S KNAUGHTY PINE BAR & GRILL

FRIDAY • MARCH 5TH

POLISH JAM SESSION • 2-5 PM
WICKA'S BAR • FREE

FRIDAY • MARCH 5TH

TNT BAND • 7-11 PM
MOUNTAIN BAY BAR & GRILL
SPONSORED BY TRIVERT FINANCIAL

SATURDAY • MARCH 6TH

Featuring:
MAROSZKIDROS
AND THE NU Tymes
6-11 PM • \$15 ADMISSION
ZIELINSKI'S BALLROOM

casimirpulaskidays.com

920.822.0822 • staycobblestone.com/wi/pulaski

HOLY TOLEDO POLKA DAYS

- APRIL 15, 16 & 17, 2021 -

Renaissance Toledo Downtown Hotel

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



And who are these two youngsters?



Denny Lally, Vaughn Gralla, Dick Jazdzewski & Bob Jazdzewski

Our President Danny still plays this concertina



Membership Report by Pat Eckman

What a bummer!! Cancelling all the dances. Keep your fingers & toes crossed we can dance again soon!! Let's welcome our new members - Elaine Kirchoff, Sandy Strogny, Lavonne Ollila, & Brian Biernier. Thank you to all members - new & old! WE WILL BE BACK!

MARCH-APRIL RENEWALS

Members who need to renew for the months of March & APRIL will find their renewal sheets & envelopes in their newsletters. Those of you who are overdue, those sheets are also in your envelopes.

Please consider renewing for 2 years by paying \$12 every other year, which is ONLY \$.50 a month. I will be at all the dances, WHEN they start up again, so find me with your dues or send your check in the envelope provided. A huge thank you to all who have paid for 2 years and in a timely fashion! Thanks also to the MPA members who when they renew, they also enroll their significant others in the MPA! Thank you also to those who send a little more than their dues. We are so very grateful to all of you!

So many of you have written a note to me in your renewals - I just love it!!! Thank you so much! Seeing your names on renewals makes me miss all of you even more!

WE WILL DANCE AGAIN & WE WILL HAVE FUN AGAIN!!!

Pat Eckman

MPA 2021 Schedule

More info?

www.midwestpolkaassociation.com

Nothing Scheduled Yet!!
Keep Your Fingers & Toes Crossed!
Let's Hope We Can Schedule
Some Dances In The Fall!
Keep Watching!!!

**Work like you don't need
the money, love like you've
never been hurt & dance
like nobody is watching!**



The MPA
sends love
& sympathy
to the
family &
friends of
long time
MPA
member
Marion
Fitzgerald.

Marion passed away in January 2021 at the age of 99.. She was at all the dances with her wonderful smile. She was a staple at the Sunday dances at Mayslacks, she even had her own table along with Annie Ballot & Chris Bossany.



We send sympathy to long time MPA member Lloyd Mavis, who passed away last July. He was 97 years old. Lloyd was an avid accordion player & enjoyed polka dancing throughout the midwest.



We send sympathy to family & friends of Ed Bartczak of Chicago IL. Ed & his wife, Dorothy who passed away several

years ago, were long time members of the MPA. They came to a dance in MN when the MPA hired Stas Bulanda, to play for us. The dance was held at the KC hall in Fridley. He & Dorothy were at the Polish Days in Milwaukee WI every year. Ed was the vice president of Let's Polka, USA in Chicago

Check your favorite band website & the best websites for up-to-date info.

Doctor Kielbasa
www.doctorkielbasa.com

Florian Chmielewski's Fun Time Band
www.funtimeband.com

Craig Ebel & DyVersaCo
www.itspolkatime.com

Blue Top Bar & Grill
3425 Church St Stevens Point WI
715-340-3546

The Squires Band
www.squiresband.com

The Barry Boyce Band
www.barryboyce.com

The Main Squeeze Band
face book page

The Jolly Zuks Band
www.jollyzuks.com

Dear MPA Members:

Got a drum set collecting dust in your house?

I like to buy, restore and play vintage American drums & cymbals.

Please give me a call. Thanks!



Paul Creager
#651-226-5046
creagz@gmail.com

Dear MPA members - If you are a fan of polka music, you can definitely understand the importance of the drums to energize the music & get people dancing. Though I am a public school teacher in St Paul by trade, after playing drums my whole life, I have developed a passion for collecting, playing & restoring vintage drums. If you have an older drumset you would like to sell, I



would drive more than a reasonable distance, follow proper CV 19 precautions & offer you a fair price in cash. The old drums were special. Most of the respected brands were made right here in the midwest. "They don't make them like they used to," but I bet you already know that! I am particularly interested in American-made vintage drums like Slingerland, Ludwig, Gretsch, Rogers, WFL, Leedy & others that were made before the 1980's.

I imagine that within this group of polka enthusiasts & music lovers, there are musicians who want to see their drums continue to be played for another 50 years. Or maybe you just have an unused older drum set, cymbals or single drums in your house that you would like to sell. If so, think of me.

It can take me hours of patience to gently get the older drums back into playing shape, but it is worth it. I think music is one of humanity's finest creations & it has the power to bring people together. Therefore instruments are very important tools for the process.

Music runs in my family. On my mother's side there were many musicians, on my father's side woodworkers. I guess my work playing & restoring vintage drums puts me right in the middle! In addition to my work on drums, my family & I have organized the Square Lake Film & Music Fest (www.squarelakefestival.com) every year since 2002. When Covid 19 restrictions are lifted, we hope to have this fest in 2021.

If you have drums you are interested in selling, please reach out to me at 651-226-5046 or at creagz@gmail.com. Thanks!

The MPA board would like to thank "Jimi the Pirate." Because of his gift, in our honor, a tree is being planted in one of America's forests. What a thoughtful way to honor the MPA. Thank you again, Jimi!!

THANK YOU TO OUR MPA MEMBERS

The board of the MPA is happy to share a few notes from members when renewing their memberships.

Bev Lau wrote, "Just a note to let you know my husband, Marv, passed away. The last couple of years, we didn't get to many dances but before that we were at all the dances. We have so many memories of the fun times. The Polish music is so great, we both loved it.

Thanks for all the good times."

Patty Warzecka wrote, "What a nice surprise to open the MPA newsletter & find our picture in print. Thank you, I appreciate it. Cornelius sure did enjoy the old time music."

Don Wayerski wrote, "Thanks MPA for adding my radio program information in your newsletter. It is very much appreciated."

Jim Grygelko wrote, "Thanks for the memories in the newsletters. Keep it up!"

Bob & Sharon Sibinski wrote, "We so enjoyed all the photos in the last newsletter!"

Darlene & Dory Kazmierczyk wrote, "Keep putting the newsletter out. We look forward to it. You're doing a good job."

FOR ALL POLISH PEOPLE, TO MAINTAIN
SOCIAL DISTANCE



Yup - here are more pictures of more of you!

