

Midwest Polka Association Newsletter
3069 Molina St Shakopee MN 55379

**November
 December
 2017**



President's Message *by Danny Fabek*

Welcome everyone to fall - the season of football, pumpkins & October fests. This is my favorite time of the year - it is also the shortest season in MN. I am not really looking forward to snow & a slow down of polka activity til spring.

Had the great chance to go to Buffalo NY for the IPA festival. What a great time with great bands. Huge thanks to all the IPA board members for putting on a wonderful party. We were able to sneak in an extra day to see Niagara Falls & those water works

We have all our dates for the MPA dances for 2018 - going to be lots of great times! We have invited several new bands that have never been to MN. Huge thanks to DynaBrass for coming to MN for our September dance - thanks to everyone who came for the wonderful music. Speaking of DynaBrass - I talked with my good friend Jeff Mleccko at IPA. He looked good & vows to be back performing with the band.

You go Jeff!!

I am really looking forward to our Friday October 20 dance when the Polka Country Musician band returns for their annual tour of the midwest. Sure hope everyone gets out to support these musicians as they come a long way to play for us.

Thanks to each & everyone of you for all your strong support, as that is what gives us the opportunity to continue to bring this wonderful polka entertainment here to MN.

I WILL SEE YOU AT ALL THE DANCES!!

Hope to talk to you at a dance - Danny Fabek

Introduce someone new to the music - keep the heritage alive!

Don't forget to come to the MPA dance this Friday October 20 with **POLKA COUNTRY MUSICIANS** at the Maplewood Moose, corner of English & Frost Sts 7-11pm. Come dance your socks off!!

"The Andy Zurbey Tribute Band" will continue to play on Thursday evenings 6-9pm with Craig Ebel & Bud Budzinski at Marino's in the Fridley Legion. There are meals available. Musicians, come join the jam session!!

A huge thank you to the IPA board members & all the volunteers that made the IPA Polka Fest so fantastic!!

DANCE! DANCE! DANCE!

**Saturday November 11
 7-11pm**

Craig Ebel & DyVersaCo



**Maplewood Moose Lodge
 1946 English St
 (Corner of English & Frost Sts
 in Maplewood)
 Location Info - 651-776-2830**

**Just \$10 Per Person
 \$9 MPA Members**

THESE DANCES ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

*Get Ready For The
 Holidays With The MPA!*

Start the holidays with a fun time! Come dance & listen to the music of

Doctor Kielbasa

Saturday Dec 2, 2017

**7-11 pm at the
 Maplewood Moose Lodge
 1946 English St
 Location Info - 651-776-2830**

**Admission \$10 per person
 \$9 for MPA members**



*Come share a piece of cake with
 Ted Eckman, Ben Schatz, Eloise
 Kimball, & others with
 birthdays in December!*

Membership Report by Pat Eckman

Is it really late fall already? Let's welcome our new members - Steve Niedzwiecki, Debbie Filipiak, Brady Granda (a supervisor), Jacob Langner, Joyce Greenstein, Ray Lally, Michael Kaszuba, Lois Carlson, Darlene & Jerry Kowalski, Christine Shudy, Cliff Hickok, & John Stevens Norkaitis (the leader of & accordion player in the John Stevens Doubleshot band from PA) WOW!!

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER RENEWALS

Members who need to renew for the months of November & December will find their renewal sheets & envelopes in their newsletters.

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, 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 all of you who write a note to me in your renewals -

I just love it!!!

Keep dancing & having fun! Pat Eckman

An MPA Snow Dance- Hopefully With Just A Little Snow



Saturday January 20

7-11pm



Come Dance To
THE MAIN SQUEEZE



Maplewood Moose Lodge

1946 English St

Corner of Frost & English Sts

Location Info - 651-776-2830

ADMISSION - \$10

\$9 MPA MEMBERS



More Info? 651-433-2173 or 612-788-4272

In case of inclement weather, please call the Moose Club at 651-776-2830 for dance cancellation info.

MPA 2017 Event Schedule

More info? www.midwestpolkaassoc.com

Friday October 20 - Halloween Dance 7-11
POLKA COUNTRY MUSICIANS - Maplewood Moose

Saturday November 11 - A Fall Dance 7-11
DYVERSACO - Maplewood Moose

Saturday December 2 - Holiday Dance 7-11
DOCTOR KIELBASA - Maplewood Moose

MPA 2018 Event Schedule

More info? www.midwestpolkaassoc.com

Saturday January 20 - A Snow Dance? 7-11
THE MAIN SQUEEZE - Maplewood Moose

Saturday February 24 - Another Snow Dance? 7-11
DOCTOR KIELBASA - Maplewood Moose

Saturday March 17 - St Patrick's Day Dance 7-11
CRAIG EBEL'S DYVERSACO - Maplewood Moose

Sunday April 22 - MPA Anniversary Dance
CYNOR CLASSICS - TBA

Sunday May 6 - MPA Appreciation Dance
THE JOLLY ZUK BAND - TBA

Saturday June 9 - A Summer Dance 7-11
DYNAVERSASTICKTONEAIRES - Maplewood Moose

Sunday July 15 - Annual Picnic Pot-Luck Bash!
JAM SESSION - Aquatore Park - Blaine

Saturday September 22 - A Fun Dance 7-11
TRI CITY DRIVE - Maplewood Moose

Friday October 27 - Halloween Dance 7-11
THE BOYS (From Baltimore) - Maplewood Moose**

Saturday November 17 - A Fall Dance 7-11
POLISH CONNECTION - Maplewood Moose

Saturday December 1 - Holiday Dance 7-11
DOCTOR KIELBASA - Maplewood Moose

MPA BOARD MEMBERS - 2018

President - Danny Fabeck - 763-244-0152
Vice President - Dorothy Jones - 612-788-4272
Secretary - Rose Kopras - 651-491-6648
Treasurer - Connie Duellmann - 612-804-0632
Communications - Dorothy Jones - 612-788-4272
Members & Contracts - Pat Eckman - 651-433-2173
Paper Supplies - Carol Pevovar - 715-386-9645
Paper Supplies - Fred Rgnonti - 612-850-2347
Board Member - Ted Eckman - 651-433-2173
Board Member - Aggie Zawada - 651-483-1984
Board Member - Julie Partyka - 612-781-1115
Board Member - Kim Knickerbocker - 612-803-4453
Board Member - Ken Duellmann - 612-743-0344
Board Member - Larry Kopras - 715-354-9874
Board Member - Maxine Nowacki - 763-424-6938
Board Member - Len Nowacki - 763-424-6938
Call a board member for info or to share info!



Doctor Kielbasa's Appointment Book

DECEMBER

- 2 Saturday **MPA START THE HOLIDAYS DANCE & DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS PARTY 7-11**
Maplewood Moose - Corner of Frost & English Sts
doctorkielbasa1@aol.com www.doctorkielbasa.com

Florian Chmielewski's Fun Time Band

OCTOBER

- 26 Thursday Cromwell MN Community Center 1-4

DECEMBER

- 4 Wednesday Forest Lake American Legion 1-4

NOTE: Check the Band's Website For Info On the Hoopla Trains
www.funtimeband.com

Nathan's Old Time Band

OCTOBER

- 28 Saturday St Mary's Oktoberfest Alexandria MN 6-9

NOVEMBER

- 4 Saturday Kahler Hotel Polka Party Rochester MN
9 Thursday Country Manor Sartell MN 7-8:30
10 Friday Osakis MN VFW 7-10
25 Saturday Pine Co Historical Museum Askov MN 1-4

DECEMBER

- 7 Thursday Good Shepard Nursing Home 2:45-3:45
12 Tuesday St William's Living Center Parkers Prairie MN 6:30-7:30
sites.google.com/site/nathansoldtimebandmn/

The Main Squeeze Band

NOVEMBER

- 19 Sunday Fridley American Legion 1-5
7365 Old Central Ave NE

JANUARY

- 20 Saturday **MPA SNOW DANCE 7-11**
Maplewood Moose Corner of Frost & English
mainsqueezepolkas@gmail.com

Marie and the Boys

Please call Marie at 320-293-4323 for her schedule.

Bobby Z & Polka Joy Band - Omaha NE 402-203-7796

NOVEMBER

- 12 Sunday St Peter's Parish Family Dance 3-7pm
27th & Leavenworth Omaha NE

Craig Ebel & DyVersaCo



NOVEMBER

- 11 Saturday **MPA FALL DANCE 7-11**
Maplewood Moose Corner of Frost & English
www.itspolkatime/dyversaco.html

Dave Sowada

OCTOBER

- 21 Saturday Sidetrack Bar Oktoberfest Roberts WI 4-8

DECEMBER

- 3 Sunday Forest Lake VFW 1-4

The Squires Band

Please check the The Squires website for any public events that have come up. The Squires band played 16 October fests this year!
www.squiresband.com

Squeezy Wes Miller & Friends

e-mail at squeezywesmiller@gmail.com

The Barry Boyce Band - Omaha NE

NOVEMBER

- 4 Saturday Kahler Hotel Polka Party Rochester MN
5 Sunday Kahler Hotel Polka Party Rochester MN
10 Friday Huber Haus German Bier Hall 8-1
Omaha NE

- 18 Saturday Hessen Haus Des Moines IA 6-10

DECEMBER

- 3 Sunday German-American Society Omaha NE 2-5
"Christmas in Germany"
20 Wednesday Huber Haus German Bier Hall 5-9
"Mug Club Christmas Party" Omaha NE

Blue Top Bar & Grill 3425 Church St Stevens Point WI

OCTOBER 21 Saturday - Polka Country Musicians 8-12

Sunday Afternoons 1-5

NOVEMBER

- 5 Polka Confetti
12 Hauser Hotshots
19 Deer Hunting No Music
26 Polish Connection

DECEMBER

- 3 Chad Przybylski
10 Music Connection
17 TBA
24 No Music
31 No Music

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day Polka Pac

WITHROW BALLROOM

The ballroom in Withrow MN was built in 1928 by Ben & Anna Zahler. It was originally called the Zahler Dance Hall. This ballroom is considered to be the oldest ballroom in MN. Three generations of Zahlers, including Ben, Ed Sr & Ed Jr, owned the property & ran the ballroom from 1928 to 1983, when the ballroom was sold to Marvin Babcock. He renamed it the Withrow Ballroom after the little town of Withrow. In 2001 Kim & Scott Aamodt purchased the ballroom & ran it til 2008, when Paul Bergman took over. Unfortunately this lovely piece of history will close at the end of October. An interesting bit of history - Zahler' Dance Hall was awarded the first BYOB or set-up license in MN in 1950 for a trial of 1 year. Because more business was generated by this trial, the MN legislature approved the BYOB or set-up law for all the ballrooms in MN the very next year!

Many people have fond memories of the great bands that have played at Withrow over the years. Many local bands & many famous out-of-state bands have been featured. We sincerely hope someone will buy this wonderful ballroom & continue the tradition of great music at Withrow.

The MPA has had several Sunday dances at Withrow for the past 4 years. Now we need help - we need a new place or places to have our Sunday dances. Does anyone have any ideas where we might go? Let's put our thinking caps on & come up with some ideas. The MPA board thanks you!

Doctor Kielbasa announces they have a new member in the band. Fabulous horn player Gary Hagen has retired & Nathan Neuman will be the new horn player. Welcome Nathan!

There's this crazy fellow from WI who had his application to join the MPA on his dresser for an entire month - oh! no stamp! So he drove 2 hours to the Twin Cities Polish Fest to give me his application. Now that's determination!!
Thanks, Mark!



Four MPA members having fun at the IPA Polka Fest in Buffalo NY. Dan McNamara, Tyler Wysomski, MPA Pres Danny Fabeck & Zach Piatkowski. Dan, Zach & Tyler are all from the great state of New York..

JIMMY K POLKAS
POLKA CDS / FREE CATALOG
PO BOX 10
UNION LAKE MI 48387
1-866-454-6695

VALENTINES DANCE
Hosted By Russ & Theresa Napiwocki
Friday Feb 16 & Saturday Feb 17
Admission - \$12 Fri & \$15 Sat
Friday - 6pm - Midnight
Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
The Main Squeeze
Saturday - Noon - 6pm
Music Connection
Nathan's Old Time Band
Saturday - 6pm - Midnight
Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
Dynaversasticktoneaires
The Plaza Hotel & Suites
201 N17th Ave - Wausau WI
Call 800-754-9728 or 715-845-4341
"Code 3415" for \$85/night Hotel Pricing



Chmielewski
Int'l
Polkafest
May 18-20, 2018
GRAND CASINO HINCKLEY, MN

FUNTIME POLKA PARTY

Patty Chmielewski & Michael Bell

Premiere begins October 7th, 2017!
Saturdays 5 & 5:30pm, Sundays 5 & 5:30pm & Mondays 2:00pm

10 WAYS TO VIEW PIONEER

1. Over-the-air Antenna	6. iPad or Tablet
2. Online (www.Pioneer.org)	7. Apple TV
3. Cable TV	8. Roku
4. Satellite TV	9. Xbox
5. Smart Phone	10. Chromecast

Visit our website for more information & merchandise!
www.FuntimePolkaParty.com

Eddie Biegaj is the "Bad Boy" on
The Polkajammer Network
Thursdays 5-8 EST & Sundays Noon-1 EST.
Right After Jimmy Sturr
Visit Polkajammernetwork.org

A TRIBUTE TO ANDY ZURBEY



Andy Zurbey was born Nov 12, 1934 & died Sept 15, 2017. Andy was a man who loved people & entertaining on his concertina. He was an avid sports fan enjoying baseball & football, especially the Gophers. He enjoyed playing golf. Andy & Phyllis loved to travel, visiting Alaska, Hawaii, Europe, the Caribbean Islands & Canada.

In 1979 they bought a bar in Northeast Minneapolis - Zurbey's Bar, which they enjoyed for 19 years. After retiring, Andy started to put his love of polka music into action by playing the concertina for parties & other gigs. He was also involved with the MPA (served on the board), The Eastside Old Timers, & The Goldbricks.

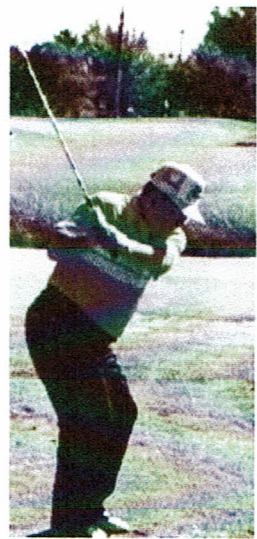
Craig Ebel writes, "I met Andy shortly after high school in the early 1980's. I played every Sunday at his bar for 2&1/2 years until I took a radio job in northern Minnesota. He liked me & I liked him. We have maintained a great relationship ever since. As much as we picked on one another, we still respected each other as friends.

Andy loved polka music so much. He called me 8 years ago & said a friend of his wanted to start a Polish night on Thursdays at the Fridley Legion (Marino's) & wanted him to play concertina music for it. Andy said if I would drum for him, he would take the gig. It was only supposed to last for 4 weeks. Eight years later, I am still playing every Thursday from 6-9pm thanks to my buddy Andy.

Even though Andy's not with us anymore, I feel his presence each & every time I play at Marino's on Thursdays. Andy Zurbey was one of my true friends, bandleader, father figure & one of my polka heroes."

Ed Budzinski writes, "Andy was my friend & fellow musician. My time with him started with the bus trips to Sobieski MN with the MPA. He would bring his concertina & entertain us on the trip. I invited Andy to serve on the MPA board during my tenure as President of the MPA. Needless to say, Andy was an active & vocal member of the board.

Andy heard I played drums & asked me to fill in for Craig on occasion at Marino's on Thursday evenings. So after a 45 year absence, I was back in the music. Craig filled in for Andy on concertina when Andy couldn't make it & I filled in for Craig on drums. For that I am forever grateful to Andy & I am now proud to be a member of the Andy Zurbey Tribute Band, playing Thursday evenings at Marino's at the Fridley Legion"



The MPA sends sympathy to the family & friends of MPA member Joe Siwek, who passed away last April.



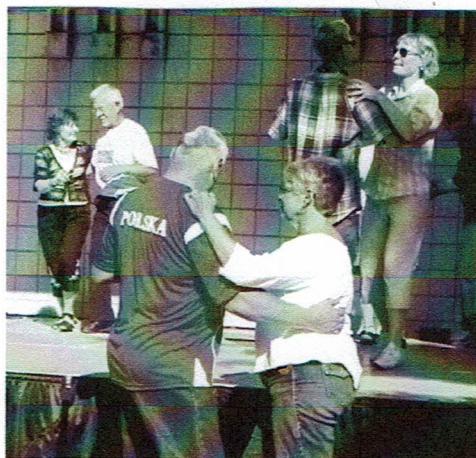
The MPA sends sympathy to the family & friends of MPA member Gerald Budą, who died last June.



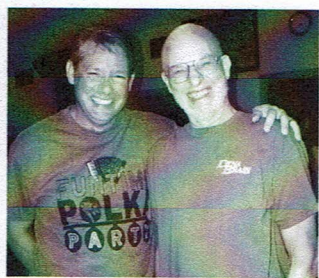
The MPA sends sympathy to the family & friends of Nancy Tomczak, wife of MPA member Ted Tomczak & aunt of MPA member Jeff Tomczak. Nancy died in September.



Yes, we danced again at the MN State Fair, danced on a new stage & had a blast! A big thank you to Aggie Zawada for taking pictures!!



And then DynaBrass came back to MN - WOW! Did they rock the place!



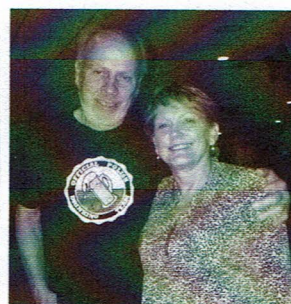
Mary Lou Czerniak sang several songs with Joe Zalewski & DynaBrass. The whole band sounded so fantastic!



MPA member Lisa Peaslee came all the way from Bend OR to come to the dance!



Bernie Koslosky won this plaque for being "Dad of the year."



Ken & Connie Duellmann celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary!



Daniel Czerniak celebrated his 30th birthday!