

Midwest Polka Association Newsletter
1785 Arcadia St Shakopee MN 55379

**January
February
2023**



President's Message by Danny Fabeck

First of all happy holidays to everyone from me & all of us on the MPA board. It has been an eventful year. We are having dances again & going to festivals with just a few masks. We are feeling more like normal, but we are not out of the woods yet. We will see how the winter months go when people spend more time inside.

The MPA board has been busy trying to put our dates & bands together for the dances next year. As much as life has come back to "near normal," we have some inflation to deal with. Everything is costing more these days - that goes for putting on dances as well. Bands are faced with increased costs & they have no choice but to recoup these expenses by charging more for their dances. We have been very lucky

with our bands being willing to hold the line on their prices. We have tried to bring in a few more national bands, but most of the time the cost is just too prohibitive to be able to do so. That is why we so appreciate the big bands that do come. I have also been working with a group of leaders from other polka associations to see what they have been doing to survive, and how we could work together to promote polkas & dances.

In October we had Polka Country Musicians for our dance. We had such a wonderfully large crowd. So thanks to everyone who came out. We always have such a great time with them. We appreciate the huge effort from Wally, Richie & all the guys for once again making the trip. We celebrated the birthday of Larry Kopras - they brought 2 cakes to treat all the dancers.

On Sunday November 20 we had The Main Squeeze play for us. That dance marked a milestone for the band. It was the last dance for Don Meger the founding father of the band. Don is a tremendous horn player & a truly great guy. I'm sure the band will miss him. He was instrumental in writing & arranging a lot of the music for the band. I think now his main goal in life has something to do with a pole & a hook. His moment was celebrated with a delicious cake. Thanks to everyone who attended.

Please check the newsletters, our website www.midwestpolkaassociation.com or our facebook page for dates for the upcoming year.

Until next time..... Introduce someone new to the music - keep the heritage alive!
 Thanks for all your support - with your help, we WILL keep polka music alive.
 Hope to talk to you soon - Danny Fabeck



**SAVE
THE DATE!**

Saturday January 28
44th Annual Concertina Bowl
Noon-11pm
Brookhall at Blainbrook
12000 Hwy 65 (Central Ave)

Many Door Prizes - Main One
at 1:30pm For \$44

Tribute To Elmer Sheid
Featuring Jerry Pitzen &
Dave Sowada at 7:15

PARACHUTES ARE LIKE
 MINDS - THEY ONLY
 FUNCTION WHEN WIDE OPEN!

The trouble with life in the
 fast lane is you get to the
 other end in an awful hurry.

**A Late Valentine's Dance -
Celebrate Romance With The MPA**

Come Enjoy & Dance To
Craig Ebel's DyVersaCo

Sunday Feb 19 1-5 pm
Murzyn Hall
530 Mill St
Columbia Hts MN 55421



"The Wearin' Of the Green"
at the MPA's
St Patrick's Day Dance

Sunday March 19 1-5pm
Featuring the Music of
Live It Up!

Vocals By Larry Trojak
Bringing Back The Music of
Li'l Wally



Murzyn Hall 530 Mill St
Columbia Hts MN 55421

Admission - \$10 Per Person For Both Dances

Membership Report by Pat Eckman

We have been working on the MPA dance schedule for 2023. We have 7 dances ready to go with 3 left. A big welcome to new members Terry Czajkowski, Becky Gorman, & Anthony Kaczor. And welcome back to Corey Hibke, Roxanne Kliniski, Dave Novak, Cy Pfannenstien & Jim Szczech. **THANK YOU!!**

JANUARY-FEBRUARY RENEWALS

Members who need to renew for the months of November-December will find their renewal sheets & envelopes in their newsletters. Those of you who are overdue, those sheets are also in your newsletter 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 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 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 ARE DANCING & WE ARE HAVING FUN!!

Pat Eckman

Craig Ebel & DyVersaCo
www.itspolkatime.com

Doctor Kielbasa
www.doctorkielbasa.com

FEBRUARY

19 An MPA Late Valentines Dance
Murzyn Hall- Columbia Hts 1-5

The Main Squeeze
See Us On Facebook

The Squires
www.squiresband.com

Live It Up!
See Us On Facebook

Chmielewski's Fun Time Band
www.funtimeband.com

The Jolly Zuks Band
www.jollyzuks.com



We send sympathy to friends & family of MPA member Diane Swarmer who passed away in October. She & her husband Leo have been members of the MPA for many while living in Sturgeon Lake MN & lately in Woodbury MN. Leo & Diane danced all over MN.



We send sympathy to friends & family of Retired Lt Colonel Edward Sink who passed away in November. His wife, Marlene Sink, has been an MPA member for many years.

MPA 2023 Tentative Schedule

More info?

www.midwestpolkaassociation.com

****Sunday February 19 - Valentines Dance****

DyVersaCo - Murzyn Hall 1-5

****Sunday March 19 - St Paddy's Day Dance****

Live It Up! - Murzyn Hall 1-5

****Sunday April 30 - Early Spring Dance****

LIVEwire - Murzyn Hall 1-5

****Sunday May 21 - A Mother's Day Dance****

Jolly Zuks - Murzyn Hall 1-5

****June - Maybe a June Dance****

To Be Announced

****Sunday July 9 - Pot-Luck Picnic Bash****

Aquator Park - Blaine MN Noon-??

****Sun September 17 - Late summer Dance****

To Be Announced

****October - Halloween Dance****

To Be Announced

****Nov 19 - Before Thanksgiving Dance****

The Main Squeeze - Murzyn Hall 1-5

****Sunday December 3 - Birthday Dance****

Doctor Kielbasa - Murzyn Hall 1-5

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CONCERTINA BOWL

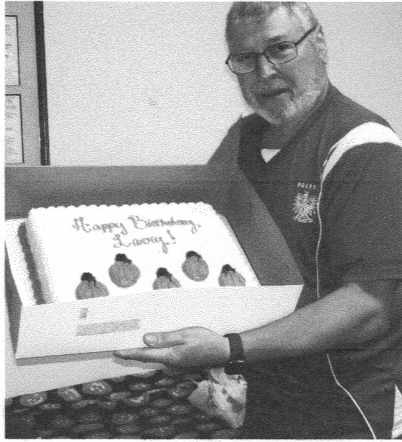
In the fall of 1978, a man by the name of LeRoy Lewandowski said, "Let's have a concertina bowl." So LeRoy, Chet Gapinski, Donny Andersen & Art Ohotto put it together for January 1979 at the KC Hall on Foley Blvd. It was an immediate & total success with many top players. We charged \$1 admission. Slim Maser had the concertina display. We were there 10 years & starting to fail as the hall was way too small, so we moved to the Fridley KC Hall. The first year we used only the main ballroom & the place was packed.

LeRoy had passed away in the 3rd year, so now it was Chet, Donny & Art. The 2nd year in Fridley we used both floors. Joe Czerniak took over the concertina display. Bill Czerniak's Concertina Band played in the evening downstairs. The music was unbelievably good with great crowds. We had many years with over 700 admissions. In the 10th year the Fridley KC decided they wanted to use the lower level, so we moved to Blainbrook where we have been ever since. Chet had dropped out by then so it was Donny & Art. That was the time when the name "Concertina Bowl" became official. This was also the time when Bob Novak & Mike Smieja took over the concertina display.

Donny Andersen moved away about the 5th year in Blainbrook so Art has been doing most of the programming with help. Craig Ebel has been a great help doing a fine job as emcee & with the door prizes. Ben Welinski has also helped with the bull work. We also have the great support of the KCs. Dick Dols also is a very valuable man who coordinates many behind the scenes details.

Going back we used to run until 1am. Later we decided to run until midnight as people did not want to quit. When midnight came there would be 15 or more box players on the stage & many fans cheering them on. Things have changed but we are not ready to quit. We send out 1100 flyers & the internet has spread the word far & wide. No ending yet as we plan to go on & on.

Sure hope you were at Murzyn Hall Friday night October 28 & enjoyed the fantastic music of Polka Country Musicians. The 200 dancers there sure had a wonderful time! Concertina player Chris Bogdon was at home recovering from hip surgery, so Christopher Ebel took his place in MN, WI & Chicago & played his heart out.



We celebrated the birthday of Larry Kopras. He & his wife Rose Kopras brought 2 cakes to make sure everyone at the dance would have a piece of yummy cake.

A LITTLE HISTORY OF PCM COMING TO MN

Let's get into the trips PCM made to MN over the years. The first time was Saturday-Sunday June 15-16 1996. That was "Jeff Chmielewski's Party At His Place" in Rogers MN. He invited 3 bands - PCM, TBC & Crusade. Do you remember that weekend? Were you there? Fantastic music!

Polka Country Musicians then came again in April 2005 & have been back almost every year since. The MPA hired them at that time & each time they have come back to MN. They played at the Blainbrook Bowl Blaine MN in 2005. They have also played at the KC Hall in Fridley MN & the Moose Club in Maplewood MN. Lately they have been playing for us at Murzyn Hall in Columbia Heights MN. And we have high hopes PCM will be back again in October of 2023!



Polka Country Musicians played at Murzyn Hall in Columbia Hts MN on Friday for the MPA. Then they traveled

to The Weston Lanes in Weston WI where they played on Saturday to a 200 plus crowd. Early Sunday morning they left for Chicago where they played for Patrick Henry before heading for home back east.

Meanwhile on Sunday in MN The Main Squeeze was playing at the Star Club in Kettle River just a little west of Moose Lake to a very enthusiastic crowd! We were there along with a number of dancers who danced to PCM both Friday night & Saturday night. What a fantastic dancing weekend!



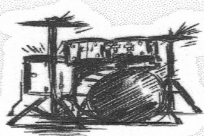
**Eddie Biegaj is The "Bad Boy" on
The Polkajammer Network
Thursdays 6-8 EST & Sundays Noon
to 1 EST.
Visit Polkajammernetwork.org**

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!

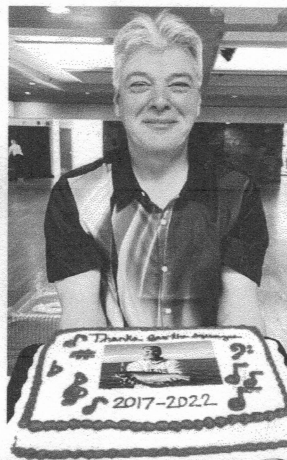


**Paul Creager
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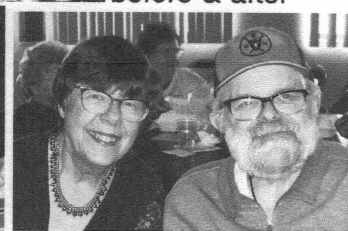
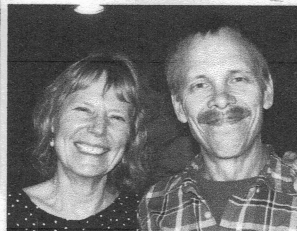
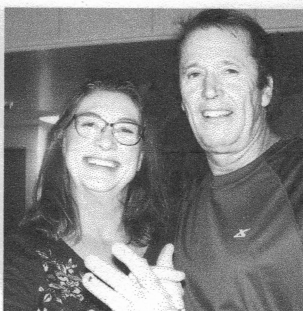
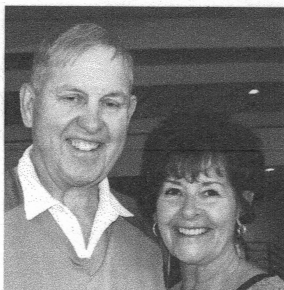
**JIMMY K POLKAS
POLKA CDS / FREE CATALOG
PO BOX 10
UNION LAKE MI 48387
1-866-454-6695**

**DON WAYERSKI - Y 106.5
Saturday Morning Polka Party
7am - 10am
E-mail polka@y1065.com**

The Main Squeeze band played for us Sunday November 20 at Murzyn Hall - they sounded so good!
It was the last gig with MainSqueeze for Don Meger & he said good bye with a yummy cake!.



before & after



On Sunday December 4 Doctor Kielbasa played for the December birthday dancers. This year it was Ted Eckman & Nancy Arbiter celebrated with nummy cupcakes. The bad news is this was Tommy Schmid's last official gig with Doctor Kielbasa, but he promised he would still play with the band once in awhile. Several of the original Doctor Kielbas's musicians sat in - Don Meger, Todd Jurek & Mike Pilarski. And another musician sat in - Nicky "D" from MD. What a treat! We sure had a great time as the music was perfect, the weather was perfect & the Vikings won again!

