



Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas

Hello Colleagues,

My how things change! When we sent out the last newsletter, I had the optimistic view that things were getting better. Then we relapsed with the Delta variant and now the Mu variant of the virus. Depending on your part of the country whether the U.S. or Canada, rules and regulation are all different.

Many groups still have not returned to regular rehearsals, other have started the routine only to struggle with getting members to return and participate. A few groups are blessed to have returning dancers and support. There have been some Festivals cancelled, yet there are others still happening and some groups have been able to perform at those Festivals and events. These are the few bright spots in this ever-changing landscape due to COVID.

It is definitely a quagmire and the only hope is that things get better soon.

It was with sadness we heard of the passing of Ada Dziewanowska in July. Truly an icon in the world of Polish Folk dancing that was respected for her passion and knowledge of our Polish folk culture. Please see the article and photos that follow in this newsletter.

Another figure dedicated to Polish folk dancing, singing, and member of the Krakowiak Polish dancers of Boston, Alvin J. Pierce, passed in August. His passion for the Polish culture was evident and an article about his folk dancing life is also included in this newsletter.

Thanks to our treasurer, Daniel Smela, who submitted the necessary documents and forms, PFDA was granted funds from Wspolnota Polska to hold 2 workshops.

Unfortunately, the notification was not timely and the funds granted to us need to be utilized by end of year 2021. We were hoping to host 2 workshops, one in Seattle, the other in Winnipeg, but due to U.S. government restrictions, we are not able to host a workshop in the U.S.

As I write this, Canada is still currently open to European & American visitors. Therefore, we are moving forward with the Winnipeg workshop. We are grateful that the Sokół group in Winnipeg was willing to step up and host this event on such short notice. The Board of PFDA and Sokół have been scrambling to get the details of this workshop organized and information out to the membership as soon as possible.

Since the choreographer is not able to travel to the U.S., Canadian groups are the only ones that can invite and host her for private group workshops after the PFDA sponsored one. If a

Canadian group is interested in this option, please contact us immediately as we need to arrange flights and timetables.

Please keep us updated with your activities and special anniversaries and events. As always, if you have any questions, suggestions or ideas, please send us an email at: pfdacontact@gmail.com. We will do our best to answer, help resolve or at least have a discussion about your concerns.

Please stay safe in your communities and let's hope we can get back on our 'dancing' feet soon!

Edward J. Rajtar

PFDA president.





Polish Folk Dance Association
of the Americas



THE POLISH FOLK DANCE
ASSOCIATION OF THE AMERICAS
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
SOKÓŁ POLISH DANCE ENSEMBLE

2021 WARMIA WORKSHOP

*Lead by Anna Sarnowska
Director of ZPiT Jedwabno*

REGISTRATION COST

PFDA MEMBERS: \$100 CAD | \$70 USD

NON-MEMBERS: \$130 CAD | \$100 USD

OCTOBER 15-17, 2021

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

Spend the weekend learning dances from Poland's northeastern regions- Warmia and Mazury from a seasoned pedagogue- Anna Sarnowska. Learn dances like the Poloneiz, Biwat, Rainlender, Szot, Pofajdok, and differences between polkas in Warmia and Mazury!



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”



2021 WARMIA WORKSHOP

The PFDAA and Sokol Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of Winnipeg MB, Canada will be hosting a Polish Folk Dance workshop covering the region of Warmia on October 15, 16 & 17, 2021. The workshop will be led by Pani Anna Sarnowska Director of ZPIT Jedwabno. Participation in the workshop will be limited to 1-2 couples per member group initially, to accommodate representation from all member groups of the PFDAA. Those groups wanting to send more than 1-2 couples will be added to a waitlist until we can confirm participant numbers.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE – OCTOBER 9, 2021

\$100 CAD /\$70 USD – PFDAA Member

\$130 CAD /\$100 USD – Non -PFDAA Member

Sign up by clicking the link to register: [Warmia Workshop Registration](#)

Payment info:

e-transfer to pztsokol@gmail.com (when paying in CND)

PayPal: Polish Dance Ensemble Sokol (when paying in USD)

Payment Memo: Dance Workshop

(Payment for registration is non-refundable but transferable)

Workshop fee includes the following:

- Workshop led by a specialized choreographer from Poland (Anna Sarnowska) including accompanist
- Lunches and water during workshop hours
- Social (Impreza) and dinner on Saturday Evening

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:

Friday - October 15, 2021

- arrive at 6:30 p.m. end 9 pm
- 9:30 pm meet and greet sponsored by Sokol Polish Gymnastics Assoc. Manitoba

Saturday - October 16, 2021

- arrive at 7:30 am ready to start at 8 am
- break for lunch (1 hour on-site)
- end around 5 pm
- Social & Supper - 7 pm

Sunday - October 17, 2021

- Polish mass is available at Holy Ghost Church at 8 am for those interested
- arrive at 9 am ready to start at 9:30 am
- lunch 1 pm and departure of groups

Additional Costs (Responsibility of Participant):

Accommodations: A special rate has been secured for event participants:

Radisson Hotel 288 Portage Avenue

Rate: \$119.00 plus taxes per night in CAD (per room per double occupancy)

The reservations can be made by calling 1-800-333-3333 or 204-956-0410 or online
<https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-winnipeg-downtown>
using promotional code SOKOL

Meals:

Meals outside of workshop hours will be the responsibility of the participants

COVID 19 Protocols:

All participants taking part in the workshop will have to provide proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test result prior to being allowed to participate.

Travel regulations between US & Canadian Boarder, please refer to the following website:

<https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/exemptions>

SUMMARY:

To qualify for the fully vaccinated traveller exemption, you must:

- be eligible to enter Canada on the specific date you enter
- have no signs or symptoms of COVID-19
- have received the full series of an accepted COVID-19 vaccine or a combination of accepted vaccines
- have received your last dose at least 14 full days prior to the day you enter Canada
- upload your proof of vaccination in [ArriveCAN](#)
- meet all other entry requirements (for example, pre-entry test)
- Accepted COVID-19 vaccines in Canada
- Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty, tozinameran, BNT162b2)
- Moderna (mRNA-1273)
- AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD (ChAdOx1-S, Vaxzevria, AZD1222)
- Janssen/Johnson & Johnson (Ad26.COV2.S)

If you're flying to Canada, you must take a molecular test within 72 hours of the scheduled departure time of your flight to Canada. Airlines will refuse boarding to travellers who are unable to provide a valid molecular test result.

If you have a connecting flight:

- the test must be conducted within 72 hours of the scheduled departure time of your last direct flight to Canada
- you may need to schedule the test in your transit city.

If you're driving or entering by water, you must take a molecular test within 72 hours of your planned entry into Canada.

When you arrive at the border, you must present an accepted test result (paper or electronic proof) that must include:

- Traveller name and date of birth
- Name and civic address of the laboratory/clinic/facility that administered the test
- The date on which the test was conducted
- The type of test conducted
- The test result

You must show proof of your test results even if you:

- have tested negative for COVID-19 previous to the 72-hour period
- have been vaccinated for COVID-19
- recovered from COVID-19 and no longer test positive
- recovered from COVID-19 and continue to test positive

Keep proof of your test results with you for the 14-day period that begins on the day you enter Canada.

At this time, travellers should have their test performed at a reputable laboratory or testing facility (i.e., one recognized by the local government or accredited by a third party, such as a professional organization or international standards organization).

All travellers must:

- provide one of the accepted types of molecular tests, not an antigen test
- keep proof of your test results for the 14-day period that begins on the day you enter Canada

WELCOME KRAKUSY POLISH FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE - Los Angeles, CA



Edward Hoffman
Current Instructor

Since its inception, Krakusy have meticulously retained the traditional costumes and authentic character of each Polish regional dance. Since 1997, the group has been directed artistically by a number of former members and dancers who began dancing in the group at a very young age. These directors have traveled to Poland and completed courses of study in Polish folklore and have brought back new and exciting song and dance traditions.

For over 45 years Krakusy has performed throughout the western United States generously sharing Polish folklore and culture with the American public. Over 500 young people have danced or participated in the ensemble over that time. That means over 1000 parents have helped with sewing costumes, music, systems and stage production, fund-raising efforts and other functions related to maintaining the smooth operation of the ensemble.



NEWS FROM OUR DANCE ENSEMBLES

CRACOVIA POLISH DANCE ENSEMBLE- ONTARIO

The day we can perform for you in person again is finally here!!! Saturday, August 21st at 4pm, we will be performing at [Nilestown Polish - Canadian Recreation Centre's picnic!](#)



Our entry into the Festival of Artistic Performances for the Cultural Center in Chorzów, Poland 🇵🇱

Thank you for voting for our entry into the Public's Favorite Competition organized by FARA Festiwal Amatorskiego Ruchu Artystycznego !



Our "Dances from Limanowa" suite... WON 3RD PLACE!!!

Thank you for all of your love and support, both virtual and in person. We couldn't have done it without you!

DOLINA POLISH FOLK DANCERS

Minneapolis, MN



Dolina 2022 Calendar Fundraiser Order Form

Please complete this form and enclose a payment in the amount of **\$10.00** for each calendar.
Calendars may be purchased by cash, check, or M.O.

Please make any checks / M.O. payable to:

Dolina Polish Folk Dancers

2634 McKinley St NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL _____

I prefer to:

☐ Pick up my order ☐ Have my order mailed to me (additional fee per calendar)

Item	Quantity	Price	Total
Calendar		\$10.00	
Mailing Fee		3.25 (US) 6.50 (CA)	
Total Amount Due			
Payment type: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> M.O.			



****Pick up will be held on November 30th, December 6th, and December 13th in the Holy Cross Catholic Church gym from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Final pick up will be held at the Dolina Appreciation Dinner (date and location TBD).**

marketing@dolina.org

<https://dolina.org/>

dolina.mn@dolina.org

KARPATY DANCE ENSEMBLE

Salt Lake City, UT



Our dancers recently participated in recording a Polish midsummer song "Tam u Marysi" from Łuszczów, Lublin region. Kupała Night (Noc Kupały), is a traditionally pagan holiday celebrated on the shortest night of the year, generally the night of June 21/22. The night is dedicated to the elements of fire and water, the moon, the sun, love and fertility while the occasion is also a day for perspective lovers to celebrate.

<https://fb.watch/6cNywMTdqf/>

This project is in collaboration with,

- ✧ Fundacja Borówek 27 – Poland
- ✧ Inisowiacy Polish Folk Group – Ireland
- ✧ Polskie Kwiaty PMK Wuppertal, Germany

Special thanks to Przemyslaw Lozowski from Fundacja Borówek 27, for Polish traditional singing & instrumental workshop.



ROOTSTECH

Last weekend, Karpaty professionally recorded a session for the world's largest family history technology conference known as RootsTech. Our dancers had a fantastic time dancing on set and recording commentary about what Polish folk dance meant to them and how it connected them to their families here and in Poland. The conference video premieres in March 2022, we can't wait to see the final results!



LAJKONIK POLISH FOLK ENSEMBLE

Tucson, AZ

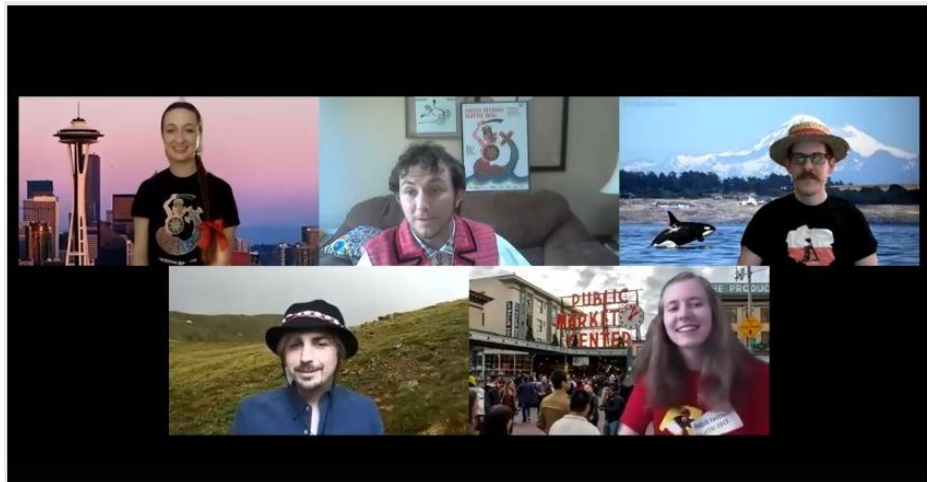
Lajkonik in Tucson was very happy to participate this summer in on-line version of Polish Festival in Seattle. We are even more happy that our first live performance will be in October as we were invited to be part of the inaugural Arizona Ethnic and Traditional Dance Festival-



companies ” The selected artists have invested years researching and performing their respective forms and this event honors their rigor and craft with a professionally produced stage performance at Tucson’s Fox Theatre”. We also will hold our first fundraising, so come to Arizona for Polish pierogi and kielbasa, at Tucson Meet Yourself Festival Oct.8-10th. We cannot wait to get on the stage again!



Polish Festival Seattle 2021: Dressed for Celebration

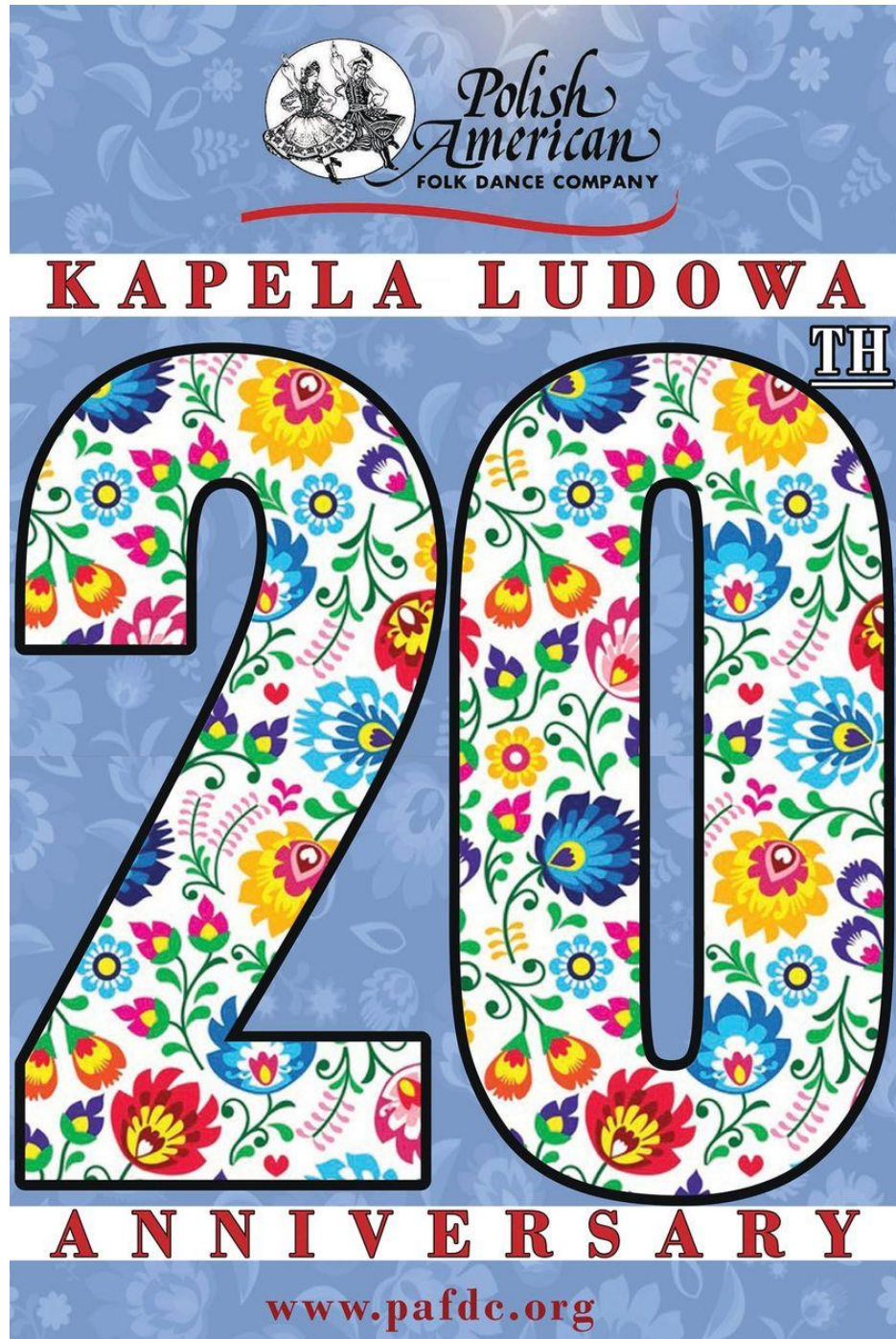


[Polish Festival Seattle 2021: Dressed for Celebration - YouTube](#)

We couldn’t celebrate in person for 2021, but we can still have a little fun! Polish Festival Seattle presents beautiful national costumes from different regions of Poland through Polish Festival Seattle memories, a costume exhibit, and dances.

POLISH AMERICAN FOLK DANCE COMPANY

Brooklyn, NY



On June 13th, 2021 we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of our Kapela Ludowa (folk band) with a concert that was live streamed on Facebook.

Here's a link to the concert: <https://www.facebook.com/pafdc/videos/483687042739843>

Congratulations to the PAFDC Kapela!

POLISH HERITAGE DANCERS

Buffalo, NY

The Polish Heritage dancers have been very busy this summer!




Our Lady's street fair
and heritage blessing

FOR KIDS: crowns, balloons, caramel corn, old world biscuit Rosaries, knights, a general and their Lady. pin wheels.

YOUTH: Hussar Knights, General Casimir Pulaski, Heritage Art & Harvest Queen Contests, Madrigal music, Polish Harvest Customs, Audience in Saint's room.

FOR ADULTS: Booths with, Herbalists, local honey, beeswax candles, ~~made~~ Ye ol' Book & Polish Imports, *Pollilla* Food Truck Fresh Ham Roast on rye or potato pancake, *Potts Xpress* food imports, beetroot smoothies, homemade *Placek*, WNY farmer's citrus cooler.

FOR ALL: Harvest Mass, Herb & Flower Blessing, Ladies anointed with Blessed Rose oil — 7pm
Not a church fund raiser. All donations 4 St Casimir's Food Pantry

Saturday, August 14, 2021 4-9pm 160 Cable St, Buffalo 14206

C U here!

More Info coming July 1 on stcasimirbuffalo.com



Sunday, Aug. 15th, 2021 - 1 - 9 p.m.

First Annual Summer Polka Fest

The Stage - 8166 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221
(3 miles east of Transit Road and Main Street intersection.)
featuring the Music of Buffalo's Top Polka Bands....

THE BUFFALO TOUCH
PHOCUS
SPECIAL DELIVERY
HOCUS POLKAS BAND

Only \$10 Admission

Rain Or Shine, Outdoors or Indoors,
Dancing, Food Trucks, Outdoor Cash Bar.

A SUMMER SPECTACULAR of "LIVE" Music,
Cocktails, Food & More!
See YOU! SUNDAY AUGUST 15th!




PKM POLISH FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

Philadelphia, PA



The Polish American Family Festival and Country Fair at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa is a 5-day celebration of family, fun and heritage.

This year, the Dolina Polish Dancers from Minneapolis, were guest performers at the Festival, and this is what happens when Minneapolis & Philly get



together!



SOKOL POLISH DANCE ENSEMBLE

Winnipeg, MB



Yesterday evening Poles celebrated the Wianki Festival, a national Polish tradition, connected with the summer solstice. This event usually takes place on the banks of the rivers. Young women would weave together herbs and flowers to make beautiful Wianki (flower garlands). These garlands were then traditionally placed in the river with candles and floated downstream, where young men would attempt to grab them in hopes of catching the interest of the young woman it belonged to. Nowadays, the emphasis is on enjoyment with concerts under the stars, food and fireworks. Wonder if our ladies will get lucky and find a lover? 🌸



With Covid restrictions putting a pause on our dance practices, we've had time to catch up on some costume repairs. And of course, plan for the following dance year with new restrictions lifting later in the week. We're excited to finally soon dance again and see all our friends. What have you been up to this summer? 🌻

SYRENA POLISH FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

Milwaukee, WI

After a long 15 months, we are so thrilled to be back doing what we love, Polish folk dance. Syrena was proud to celebrate the beautiful, fruitful life of our artistic director Pani [Ada Dziewanowska](#) in our performances at the [Polish Center of Wisconsin](#) the weekend of July 23-25, particularly with our performance of her Kurpie suite.

For 104 years, she shared the beauty of Polish folk culture, and we are proud to carry that on for the next hundred years and beyond.

In memory of our dear
Pani Ada Dziewanowska
Jan. 19, 1917-July 3, 2021



TATRY SONG & DANCE ENSEMBLE

Windsor, ON



Join us as we restart for the 2021-22 dancing season post-COVID!

On Sunday, August 15th Tatry organized a family picnic at the Polska Plaza in Colchester.

The start of dance classes is pending, but hope to start late September / early October.



WAWEL FOLK ENSEMBLE

Detroit, MI



Friday Happy Hour, August 13 from 5 - 10 p.m.

Ages 21+. Come enjoy the beer tent with live music from the Polish Muslims and the best in Polish food from Polish Village Café and Srodek.

Saturday, August 14 12 - 9 p.m.

with reverent Polka Mass at 4 p.m.

Live music from the Steve Drzewicki Band (day) & Kielbasa Kings (evening)

Sunday, August 15 12 - 5 p.m.

with Holy Mass at 10 a.m.

Live music from New Brass Express

For the whole family!

Delicious Polish Cuisine

Beer Tent

Olde School Resale Shop

Specialty Vendors

Bake Sale

Church Gift Store

50/50 Raffle



Sweetest Heart of Mary Church

4440 Russell, Detroit MI (Canfield near Eastern Market)

313-831-6659 | www.motherofdivinemercy.org

Facebook: MotherofDivineMercy No pets | No soliciting

Date	Approx. Time	Event
Fri. 8/13	6:00 - 10:00	Polish Muslims
Sat. 8/14	12:00 - 4:00	Steve Drzewicki Band
	4:00 - 5:00	Reverent Polka Mass (SHM)
	5:15 - 5:45	Halka Dancers
	6:00 - 9:00	Kielbasa Kings
Sun. 8/15	10:00 - 11:00	Holy Mass (SHM)
	12:00 - 1:00	Tridentine Mass (St. Josephat)
	12:00 - 4:00	New Brass Express
	1:30 - 2:00	Wawel Dancers
	3:00 - 3:30	Church Tour (SHM)
	3:40 - 4:00	Benediction & Blessing (SHM)
	4:00 - 4:15	Pick-A-Prize Drawing
	4:15 - 4:30	Grand Raffle Drawing

It was great performing once again! On Sunday, August 15th, the Wawel Folk Ensemble performed at the Pierogi Festival in front of a very enthusiastic and appreciative crowd. This is our 1st performance since March of 2020, just like many of the other dance groups who weren't able to perform during Covid.

It was a special performance because this was the first time our newest members were on stage as a Wawel Dancer. Although they weren't able to perform, they were introduced as they modeled the different costumes of the regions the Wawel dancers performed. The audience loved seeing each of the costumes and learning about that region.

We're all excited to have so many new members in the groups and they are

Also, a big "Thank You" to the Zakopane Polish Folk Dance Ensemble, for letting us borrow their beautiful Lublin costumes.



WAWEL POLISH FOLK DANCERS

Houston, TX

Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria's live virtual (via Zoom) public program on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, highlighting: "Traditional Polish Dancing in Texas"



After 454 days... we are back! Time to prepare for the Polish Festival in Houston in the Fall. Come see us debut new dance and skills at the Polish Festival in Houston!

Are you ready?! October 1-3, see you there! 🍄💃



WESOŁY LUD POLISH FOLK DANCE COMPANY of the PRCUA – Homer Glen, IL

Polish Roman Catholic Union of America - PRCUA is attending White Sox Polish Heritage Night, July 1 at 3:42 PM ·

It was an evening full of emotions, impressions and accents of Polish culture everywhere you looked. The most important thing, of course, was the result - the Chicago White Sox soundly defeated the Minnesota Twins 13-3!

During this night of Polish heritage, the Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Company of P.R.C.U.A. performed at the stadium, presenting a suite of Rzeszów dances in the rain, which cleared out in time for the main event. The energetic crowd warmly welcomed Natalia Kawalec, who sang the American national anthem to start the game.

PRCUA Wesoły Lud with PRCUA President James Robaczewski & Elaine Robaczewski, Wesoły Lud Artistic Director and Choreographer Richard Jamiński, District 8 Director Mirek Cisło, PRCUA Sales Coordinator and Wesoły Lud dancer Michael Dziadkowiec and White Sox Liaison Scott Gbur.



WICI SONG & DANCE COMPANY

Chicago, IL



The photos are from Wici's recent concert in Florida which was a big success. They received a standing ovation and saying without exaggeration the audience were in tears.

Wici was sponsored by organizers from Polish center of John Paul II Clearwater Florida, who greeted them with their warmth and generosity.



The Links below are a preview of the WICI Song and Dance Theater film production we are working on:

Spisz: <https://vimeo.com/570068487>

Kujawiak/Oberek:

<https://vimeo.com/576289302>



Magdalena Solarz
Art Dir. & Choreographer
[Wici Song & Dance Theater](#)



ZAKOPANE POLISH FOLK ENSEMBLE

Detroit, MI

OK - Let's dance. PRCUA Zakopane is coming BACK! Put on your dancing boots and get ready to sweat. We will be starting on the first Wednesday in October. See yah soon 🇵🇱🇺🇸





PANI ADA DZIEWANOWSKA

January 19, 1917- July 3, 2021



Syrena is mourning the loss of their beloved artistic director Pani Ada. Words cannot begin to describe the impact she had on all of our lives, fostering a love for Polish folk dance, teaching us kindness and compassion and most importantly, to live a life full of passion.

Pani Ada is the legend of the Polish Folk Dance communities.

Ada taught Polish at Harvard

University and danced at the Boston Conservatory of Music. In 1961 Ms. Ada became the dance director and choreographer of the ensemble Krakowiak Polish Dancers in Boston, and in 1975 she formed the Polish Dance Ensemble, Syrena in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who she had been artistic director for decades.



[Ada Dziewanowska - Born to Dance - - A tribute from 2021 NFO Conference. - YouTube](#)





MEMORIAL MASS & RECEPTION

Friday, September 24, 2021

Celebration of Life Mass

2:00 pm - St. Josaphat's Basilica
2333 S. 6th Street - Milwaukee

Reception To Follow

Polish Center of Wisconsin
6941 South 68th Street – Franklin

DONATE TO PANI ADA DZIEWANOWSKA'S MEMORIAL FUND

In lieu of flowers, the family of Ada Dziewanowska kindly asks donations to be made to Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble in her honor.



IN MEMORY OF ALVIN J. PIERCE – 1925-2021

submitted by: Andrea Haber



Longtime board member of the Krakowiak Polish Dancers of Boston (KPDB), Alvin Pierce, age 95, died peacefully in his sleep at his home in Framingham, MA on August 5, 2021. Al was the last surviving member of the four Pierce family directors of the group that also included his wife Mary, brother Len, and Len's wife Genia.

He was instrumental in the development of the KPDB. He was the first male member of what had been Krakowianki (Women's) Club. In 1947 Mary had been cast as a boy in the group. When she complained, the then director, Mrs. Felicia Kuten, told her to go out and find some men. She approached Al, who was president of the Polish Students' Club at the time. As he told it, he returned to the (all male – how times have changed!) members, saying "Guys! All the pretty Polish girls are there!" Overnight there were eight mixed couples, and the group name was adjusted to reflect that.

When Mrs. Kuten retired, he served as instructor for a time. He had no knowledge of Polish dance beyond what Mrs. Kuten had taught, nor in the midst of the Cold War, any way of learning more. He was pleased to pass on that responsibility to Ada Dziewanowska when she became available to serve in that capacity. It wasn't until 1977 that he graduated with honors from the Course for Instructors of Polish Folk Dance Groups in Lublin.

He enthusiastically promoted KPDB's participation in the first Rzeszów Festival in 1969. Unhappy with the transportation arrangements for the group's trip that year, he organized a charter flight, direct from Boston to Poland for the second festival in 1972. That permitted very easy transportation of costumes for that festival, since the entire cargo hold of the plane was available for KPDB to use.

After seeing the kapelas that accompanied some European groups, he was adamant that KPDB needed a kapela of its own. With Ada's help, he recruited members of the Cambridge Folk Orchestra to play with us in '72. There wasn't a single Polish American member of that first group. After seeing the advantages of live music, the group then went on to recruit local Poles and other folk musicians into a permanent kapela.

By the late 70's, after attending the "Kurs" in Lublin, it became clear to Al that the best way to improve the quality and authenticity of Polish folk dance in America was to give choreographers from Poland the means and incentive to come here to teach us. Because of this he was a strong proponent of the formation of an organization of Polish Folk Dance groups that would host Festivals and workshops in the U.S. and Canada. This organization would become known as the PFDA.

He also became convinced that KPDB should hire a Polish choreographer. After meeting many in Poland, he settled on Jacek Marek as the best candidate for the job, but the question arose – how to pay him?

Massachusetts had just established a program of charity Bingo games. Al convinced the group that as a charitable organization it would be eligible. He organized a hall, recruited outside helpers, and set up the Bingo game which, for a time, made the KPDB one of the wealthiest self-supporting Polish folk dance groups in the world. The income was sufficient to pay the salaries of Jacek, a choral director and an orchestra leader, as well as the musicians, and visiting choreographers, in addition to rehearsal space, costume purchases and other group expenses.

Alvin J. Pierce continued

When group alumni and parents expressed interest in somehow performing with the group, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Krakowiak Polish Singers, singing with them separately, and later, after he retired from dancing.

He was co-costume director of the group for 50 years, together with his wife, Mary, overseeing the accumulation and creation of a magnificent collection of folk costumes.

In recognition of their lifetime work promoting Polish folk culture, Al and his wife were awarded the Oskar Kolberg Award by the government of Poland.

As part of the KPDB, he met with Pope John Paul II three times, including receiving Holy Communion in costume on Boston Common, and in Rome when the Children's Group run by Mary, performed for him.

Born in Hyde Park, MA, to Alvin and Mary (Putnicki/Krezolek) Pieczkowski, he graduated from Boston Latin School in 1943. As part of an accelerated wartime program, he attended Boston College and matriculated early to Tufts Dental School, graduating in 1948. In 1950, he married Mary J. Sinkiewicz of Dorchester. Al and his wife settled in Sherborn, MA in 1957, where they lived for 37 years before moving to Needham, and later Framingham.

In addition to his service to the Polish community, he loved skiing and was a founding member of the Boggestow Ski Club. He was also a member of the Sherborn Grange, Sherborn Yacht Club, the Rotary Clubs of Hyde Park and Needham and as an avid gardener, of the New England Hosta Society.

He was always a forward-looking and innovative dentist, as a fellow of the American Endodontic Society, and an early adopter of many new techniques. He practiced in Hyde Park and Sherborn, MA.

Al is survived by sons Eric, David, Donald, and Adam Pierce, daughters Andrea Haber and Aleta Deyo, their spouses, and twelve grandchildren. Al was preceded in death by his parents, wife Mary, brother Leonard, and granddaughter Haley Pierce.

Interment will be held on October 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. at Pine Hill Cemetery, Sherborn, MA. In lieu of flowers, tax deductible contributions to KPDB, P.O. Box 852, Sudbury MA, 01776, will be used to supplement a memorial fund for the upkeep and storage of the costume collection, a passion Al and Mary shared for most of their married life.



NEW POLISH FOLKLORE PORTAL



There is a link to the new Polish Folklore portal provided by Wspólnota Polska for the membership

<http://www.wspolnotapolska.org.pl/polskifolklor/index.php>

The new portal includes instructional videos and professionally recorded music for three of the national dances- Polonaise, Krakowiak, and Kujawiak, as well as music and videos for Żywiec. There are also e-books available in Polish from Kaszuby, Lublin, Żywiec, and the national dances.



ANNUAL PFDA A DUES

It's time to renew your PFDA A Annual Membership. The fee is \$35.00 USD. Payment can be made by Check or via PayPal.

For groups wishing to pay by check please send the payment and attached form to the following address:

**PFDA A - Treasurer
c/o Daniel Smela
5143 Boswell Cres
Regina, SK S4X 4S4
CANADA**

For groups wishing to send money via PayPal, please use the following link and indicate on payment the Name of Group and City and how many members are in your Ensemble. <https://www.paypal.me/PFDA Aannual>

If you have any questions about the online payment option, please send an email to Dan Smela @ dansmela@gmail.com



GROUP CONTACT & EMAIL ADDRESS

To keep our membership contact list current, please send us any changes your group may have had within the last 3 months to a year, regarding your Board of Directors or adding an additional contact person. Please send their name(s), home address(es), phone number(s) and email address(es) to PFDAcontact@gmail.com.



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

If your group is celebrating a special event or would like to get the word out about an event, please feel free to submit a newsletter article to: donnaskurski@gmail.com and it will be published in our next newsletter. Newsletters are published every 4 months - March, June, Sept, and December. Please email your event information by the 15th of the previous month of publication.



*Polish Folk Dance Association
of the Americas*

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