



*Polish Folk Dance Association  
of the Americas*

Dear Fellow PFDA members,

As 2022 comes to an end, it is nice to see that many groups have regained some of their footing and are back in the swing of performing and doing events to benefit their groups. Although some groups are still struggling to get back to pre-pandemic times, we hope it will not be long until they are active vibrant again.

Our understanding is that the Rzeszow Festival planned for 2023, will be somewhat shortened and that there will be the possibility of a price increase. I have heard that some of our Association groups are planning to attend, but others can't due to the criteria requirements of the amount of couples needed. The idea of a pre- Rzeszow Festival tour of PFDA member groups that can't or don't wish to attend the Festival will be discussed at the next Board meeting on December 28, 2022 and information will be sent out in January regarding this option.

We still have allocated funds from Wspolnota Polska for a PFDA workshop in 2023. The idea of a "cruise" workshop has been talked about and this will also be discussed at the board meeting and information sent out. If the cruise doesn't pan out, we will be looking for a group to host the next workshop in the near future.

Thanks to the ensembles Mazury & Tatry for hosting the workshops last fall. Both were very successful and we had two new groups join as a result. We welcomed Wiślanie from Baltimore, MD at the Atlanta workshop and Radość-Joy from Ontario, Canada at the Windsor workshop.

As mentioned previously, the PFDA board will be having a meeting on December 28, 2022 – 7pm CST to transit to the newly elected board. If anyone has anything they would like to see discussed, please send me an email. Group representatives are encouraged to attend meetings. Please send me your information or agenda items by December 28, 2022 to the [pfddacontact@gmail.com](mailto:pfddacontact@gmail.com).

Wishing you all a Safe and Peaceful Holiday Season and a Successful New Year!  
Życzymy Wam Spokojnych I Radosnych Świąt oraz Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!

Edziu , Maciej, Daniel, Duane, Donna, Yessica, Kuba & Matthew

# BILGORAJ & CHEŁM WORKSHOPS

The PFDAА would like to “Thank” Mazury Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of Atlanta, Georgia for co-sponsoring the Bilgoraj and Chełm workshop, on November 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. Their guest choreographer from Poland was Anna Iskra who led an exciting workshop.





# ŁUKU KARPAT / SPISZ WORKSHOPS

2022 Tańce Łuku Karpát Spisz Workshop - Windsor, Ontario, Canada

After attending the Warmia Workshop last October in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the Tatry Song and Dance Ensemble from Windsor, Ontario, was inspired to take on the challenge of hosting their own dance workshop. This event took place during the weekend following American Thanksgiving, from November 25-27, 2022. Our group was lucky enough to acquire the talents of Pani Maria Wnęk, a choreographer born in Krępachy, one of the many villages in the Spisz region of Poland. In addition to being surrounded by the customs and traditions of the Spisz region for her entire life, Pani Wnęk completed numerous choreography courses and dance workshops in Poland, Slovakia, and Germany, and has participated in various competitions and festivals on both regional and international levels. Her expertise and her passion for Spisz folklore made her the perfect choice to lead our workshop. It also gained her the nickname of “Pani Spisz” amongst some of our workshop attendees.

Our group had the pleasure of hosting more than 50 participants from both American and Canadian dance groups. In addition, our two oldest Tatry groups, dancers from Mazury Folk Dance Ensemble (Atlanta, GA), Lajkonik Polish Dance Group (Tucson, AZ), Wawel Polish Folk Dance Group (Houston, TX), Radość–Joy Song and Dance Group (Mississauga, ON), PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers (Detroit, MI), Wawel Folk Ensemble (Detroit, MI), Biały Orzeł (Toronto, ON), Zakopane Polish Folk Dance Ensemble (Warren, MI), and Cracovia Polish Folk Dance Ensemble (London, ON), were also in attendance. It was certainly a physically demanding weekend filled with 18+ hours of learning songs and dances that were a fusion of Polish, Slovakian, and Hungarian cultures. Although our bodies were worn down, we are forever grateful for the opportunity to add such high energy and fast paced dances to our repertoire.

There are so many people that deserve recognition for making our first time hosting a workshop so successful and we are thankful to each and every one of them. The Tatry Song and Dance Ensemble would like to thank Maria “Pani Spisz” Wnęk for sharing her many artistic talents with us. Secondly, we would like to thank PFDAA for your guidance in helping us organize and advertise this event to your many members. Thirdly, we are extremely grateful for Wspólnota Polska for their support. And finally, we would be nothing without our incredible Polish community in Windsor. A huge thank you to all the event volunteers, the parents, the dancers, the choreographers (Kinga Rudnicki and Patrycja Mroz), Dom Polski (who allowed us to use their hall for this workshop and whose kitchen staff kept us well fed), and Polonia Centre (Windsor) Inc., who have been our biggest supporters from the get go.

Thank you to all the participants who travelled to Windsor eager to learn about Spisz. We hope that the workshop lived up to expectations. We certainly hope that everyone was able to enjoy themselves in our humble little city, whether it was going out for a night on the town or just sitting around reminiscing with old/new friends over a shot of vodka or some homemade malinówka. We invite you all to join us again for Tatry’s 50th anniversary concert in April 2023.

Do zobaczenia!

Written by Julia Kulesza











TATRY SONG & DANCE ENSEMBLE  
WINDSOR, ONTARIO, CANADA



## SAVE THE DATE

The Tatry Song & Dance Ensemble of Windsor, Canada will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2023. Their Concert will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2023.

They will be celebrating their Thanksgiving mass on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm.

More information to come.



## 2023 RZESZOW FESTIVAL INFORMATION



The Festival is being held from July 13 – 19. For more information regarding the Festival, please use the link below.

[Program and organizational assumptions – Rzeszów Branch of the POLISH COMMUNITY Association. Accommodation Rzeszów, accommodation in the center, conference rooms in Rzeszów. Welcome! \(wspolnota-polska.rzeszow.pl\)](https://wspolnota-polska.rzeszow.pl)





# WELCOME OUR NEWEST GROUP MEMBER



Wiślanie Polish Folk Song and Dance Ensemble, Inc. was established in 2019 as an independent, 501c3 non-profit, educational, and cultural organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the Polish heritage through artistic expression of song and dance for the communities we serve.

Wiślanie traces its roots back to the post-World War II era (circa 1950) when the Polish National Alliance's Women's Division began a Polish Folk Dance Group. Over the years, the group existed under several names and rehearsals took place at various locations. Membership varied from eight members in its earliest days to fifty members around 1971, when the group, then known as Krakowiaki Dance Group, became primarily sponsored by PNA.

In 2018, our dance group, at 26 members strong, saw an opportunity to expand as there was interest from the Polish School at Holy Rosary Parish in Baltimore, where we grew to 32 members. This is when we saw it in the Wiślanie's best interest to seek 501c3 status to support our growing group. In 2019, the global COVID-19 pandemic brought that momentum to a screeching halt, along with the rest of the world. We had to cancel our annual fundraiser and sustain ourselves on the few funds that we were able to raise pre-pandemic. The health and safety of our dancers, families, and the community always comes first! Early in 2022, we began meeting and rehearsing once again. Though our group looks a bit different now, together, we move forward in excitement and anticipation of what the future holds- we cannot wait! Our members range from 2 1/2 years old through adults. We perform traditional Polish folk songs and dances, incorporating the instrumental and vocal talents of our members.

Our name "Wiślanie" (pronounced Vish-lon-nyeh) comes from a settlement community that settled around the Vistula River or Wisła before Poland became a nation. This was one of the first communities that evolved the Polish culture throughout the centuries. As the Wisła flows throughout most of Poland, it provides life to those who relied on its resources. Just as in the folk song, *Phynie Wisła Phynie*, as long as the Wisła River flows, Poland will not perish. Similarly, as long as there are people willing to use their God-given dance, vocal, and instrumental talents to preserve our rich history, our group will continue with strong and persevering Polish pride. Membership is open to any person who is sincerely interested in supporting the mission of Wiślanie. Any person, young or young at heart, who wishes to dance, sing, or play an instrument, or their friends or family members may apply by declaring his/her intention to support Wiślanie's mission. We invite you to join us as we perform traditional Polish folk songs and dances.



# WELCOME OUR NEWEST GROUP MEMBER



Zespół Pieśni i Tańca

# RADOŚĆ-JOY

Polish-Canadian Dance Ensemble



Zespół Pieśni i Tańca Radość-Joy, now in its 30<sup>th</sup> season, presently has approximately 100 members, ranging in ages from 4 to 26+ and consisting of 4 groups; Mini-Juniors, Juniors, Intermediates, and Seniors.

As a cultural and folklore dance company, Radość-Joy provides a place where children and youth of Polish descent have the opportunity to learn about their heritage and traditions, to share their talents with local and international communities, and to make new and lasting friendships.

The last 10 years have seen many changes: new authentic costumes, new innovative dances, a higher level of performance standard, and participation in International Folklore Festivals. The representative senior group, as a member of CIOFF (International Council of Folklore and Folk art), represented both Canada and Poland at the International Festivals in Taiwan, Colombia, Mexico and Greece. Both the Intermediate and Senior groups have traveled to Festivals in the United States, while all of the groups participate in the yearly Christmas and spring concerts, as well as at Carassauga, the International Cultural Festival held in Mississauga. Radość-Joy participates in many local events, fundraisers, and festivals, as well as events at the John Paul II Centre, and Kopernicus and Wawel Villa Senior Homes. Some of our Senior members have “graduated” to the level of choreographers.

Radość-Joy also contributes to the life of St. Maximillian Kolbe Parish in other ways. Members in folk costumes participate in church and patriotic events such as processions and special Masses. On the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Radość-Joy, 2 altar cloths and accessories were purchased by the Parish by the group. In the past, Radość-Joy contributed to collections for orphanages in Poland. We have also purchased a stage extension and have shared in the payment of the new stage drapery. We have also donated costumes to a Polish dance group in the Ukraine.

We are proud to continue to promote our Polish Culture and traditions.





# ***RADOŚĆ continued***



**Mini Juniors -**  
youngest members 4 - 6 yrs old



**Juniors**  
Largest group 7 - 12 years old



**Intermediate**  
13 - 17 years old



**Seniors**  
Most diverse age group. Finishing High school and/or  
on to secondary or post careers



**Sokoły-Joy**  
Parent division of Radość



## **NEWS FROM – ISKRY WINNIPEG, SK**

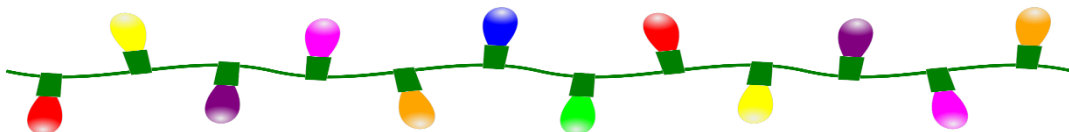
On November 13, 2022, SPK Iskry was presented with an award for their group's commitment to showcasing Polish Heritage and Culture for 55 years and counting!

They were delighted to accept the award during the SPK and KPK's joint Remembrance Day and Polish Independence Day event.



## **SAVE THE DATE**

Iskry will be celebrating the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert on November 5, 2023. More information regarding the concert will be forthcoming.





# NEWS FROM – LAJKONIK – TUCSON

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11:00 am – 6:00pm Lajkonik will be performing at the Taste of Hungry Picnic on the OSLC Campus, 1212 E. Glendale Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020. Admission is only \$5.



**TUCSON** meet  
**YOURSELF**  
*a folklife festival*

**October 7-9**  
Downtown Tucson, AZ

Another successful Tucson Meet Yourself is in the Books.

Lajkonik not only performed on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, they also had a food booth, serving delicious



Polish food.



**Taste of Hungary Picnic**

Admission/Donation \$5  
Free Parking  
**Saturday, December 3, 2022**  
11am - 6pm | Food From Noon  
Entertainment  
Jozsi Baky | Lajkonik Polish Dance Group

Authentic Hungarian Foods!  
Sausage | Gulyas | Stuffed Cabbage | \*Langos (From 1pm)

**Location:**  
OSLC Campus | 1212 E Glendale Ave | Phoenix, AZ 85020  
(NE Corner of Glendale Ave & 12th St.)  
hrtemplom72@gmail.com | 602-943-2539



# NEWS FROM – POLISH AMERICAN FOLK DANCE COMPANY - NY



Polish American Folk Dance Company is shared a photo on Facebook, taken with the Consulate General of Poland. The dancers took part in a meeting on the occasion of Polish Independence Day at the Polish Consulate in New York



On Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, the dancers performed at the Polish Heritage Day in Brooklyn Borough Hall.





# NEWS FROM – POLISH AMERICAN FOLK DANCE COMPANY – NY

*continued*



On Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> the PAFDC had the honor of participating in the “Cracovia Manor 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball, in New Jersey. They performed the Krakowiak, Polka and Polonez.





# NEWS FROM – SYRENA - MILWAUKEE

Syrena participated in the 2022 International Institute of Wisconsin (IIW), Holiday Folk Fair International, Nov 18 – Sun Nov 20, celebrating the cultural heritage of the people living in southeastern Wisconsin, on. The three-day event featured the All-Nations Theater with traditional music and dance; the World Café offering traditional dishes; the International Stage where young people perform their ethnic dances





# **PFDAA WEBMASTER ASSISTANCE**

We are looking for additional help with the tech side of our organization. Our webmaster is looking for someone in a member group that has experience with the following tech stack.

Qualifications:

- VueJS
- Javascript
- Firebase (Firestore, Auth, Storage)
- SCSS



If you or someone in your organization is interested in a bit of volunteer work for our organization, please let us know, [PFDAAcontact@gmail.com](mailto:PFDAAcontact@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 [PFDAAcontact@gmail.com](mailto:PFDAAcontact@gmail.com).

## **PFDAA WEBSITE**

Please don't forget to visit our [pfdaa.org](http://pfdaa.org) website for access to our library of videos, and music from past workshops and the costume Market Place. The website also includes book and costume resources. *Also, our most current Workshop videos from Warmia and Wielkopolska (2021), will be available on the website in the very near future.*

## **FESTIVALS IN YOUR AREA**

We would like to create a Polish Festival Database to post on our website. Please use this link to submit your Festival(s). <https://forms.gle/trdbKtvNTMjCwiuMA>

## **NEW LOGIN FOR PFDAA.ORG**

Our website has a new login method. Even if you created an account before, you will need to reregister using the following link: <https://www.pfdaa.org/register>. If you find that you can't access our member materials, please contact our webmaster at [maciejsmusz@gmail.com](mailto:maciejsmusz@gmail.com).



# COSTUMES FOR SALE

If you're looking for beautiful Spisz costumes look no longer. Maciej from Mazury is selling these costumes to help purchase a new set for the current dancers.

- 12 Ladies Vests and Skirts available: \$75.00 a set.
- 4 Men's Vests: \$75 a vest.
- 4 Men's Hats: \$15 a hat.

Shipping is separate, willing to negotiate on price. Various sizes available. Costumes were purchased in 2018, they're still relatively new-ish.

If you are interested, please contact Maciej directly via [maciejsmusz@gmail.com](mailto:maciejsmusz@gmail.com) or phone/text (206-465-1308)





## **ANNUAL PFDAА DUES**

Your PFDAА Annual Membership for 2023 is due by **January, 2023**. 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:

**PFDAА - Treasurer  
c/o Matthew Schmidt  
5708 E 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Tucson, AZ 85711**

For groups wishing to send money via PayPal, (there is an additional charge of \$2.00), please use the following link and indicate on your payment the Name of Group and City and how many members are in your Ensemble. <https://www.paypal.me/PFDAАannual>

If you have any questions about the online payment option, please send an email to Matthew Schmidt to [PFDAАcontact@gmail.com](mailto:PFDAАcontact@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](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month of publication.

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### **PFDAА BOD**

*Edziu Rajtar*  
*President*

*Duane Tomka*  
*Vice-President*

*Maciej Smusz*  
*Secretary*

*Daniel Smela*  
*Treasurer*

*Donna Skurski*  
*Sargaent-at-Arms*

