



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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POLISH CLUB CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL MILESTONE IN STYLE

Uniontown, PA – The Uniontown Polish Club recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, and it did so in style.

In addition to receiving a certificate from the International Polka Association, the club hosted a three-day party April 25-27, to mark the occasion, with performances from a different polka band each night. On Friday, hometown band Variety Pack rocked the house. Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push took the stage on Saturday, and John Gora and Gorale wrapped up the celebratory weekend with a concert on Sunday.

"Two of the bands that played this weekend are two of the top polka bands," club President Tom Bisch said. "Lenny Gomulka is from Massachusetts, and John Gora and Gorale are from Canada."

Bisch said the weekend "went great. I mean really well."

The public was invited to the party, which drew rave reviews. Bre Paull attended Saturday's concert and said the club was "packed."

"I'm not a member, but it was quite an amazing event. It was my first time there," she said. "I love listening to polka music. My dad's mom would bake on Sundays and listen to them. I could hear the music from my house when I was little. It was quite amazing to see all the different generations out on the dance floor."

Bisch said Paull and other fans of polka can look forward to more concerts in the not-too-distant future.

"We bring top polka bands into the area at least two times a year," he said.

The weekend also included plenty of raffles, but Bisch said one element that he would have liked to have was missing. He said the club, which is still at its original South Mount Vernon Avenue location, used to be right across the street from St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

"The old-timers, after church, would end up at the Polish Club," he said. "I wanted to have John Gora lead a Polish Mass at St. Joseph's that Sunday morning."

Unfortunately, Bisch's plan couldn't come to fruition, he said, because it was First Holy Communion Week.

Aside from hosting polka bands, Bisch said the club makes donations to community organizations and, in general, promotes Polish culture.

"Mostly everything we do is ethnic-oriented," he said, noting the area is home to a sizable Polish population. "There's a Polish Heritage Club that actually has their meetings at our club. They're going to start giving Polish language classes at our club."

Bisch said those who may be interested in joining the club do not have to be of Polish descent, but it does come with privileges.

"You have to be Polish to be a regular (voting) member, but you don't have to be Polish to be a social member," he said. To be president or vice president, you have to be of full Polish descent."

For more information on the Uniontown Polish Club or its event, visit their Facebook page by searching "Uniontown Polish Club".

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.fayettecountypa.org.

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