

NARÓD



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2008 PRCUA MICHIGAN STATE

February 23, 2008 began like no other day! Instead of going to Saturday morning dance classes, sleeping in or going to work, graduating seniors of the Michigan PRCUA dance schools arrived early in Southgate, MI to rehearse one last time for one of the biggest events of their lives. By 5:30 pm, everyone was dressed and ready, everything was in place and guests began to arrive for what was sure to be an evening to remember!

The 17th Annual PRCUA Michigan State Ball honored and presented to family, friends and Polonia, eighteen graduating seniors. The annual event was held at the extravagant Crystal Gardens Ballroom, in Southgate, MI.



Eighteen 2008 PRCUA Michigan Dance School graduates and their escorts

The opulent setting was befitting the formally attired honorees, who entered the ballroom with their escorts. PRCUA Dance School directors and teachers warmly welcomed national dignitaries and special guests who came to pay tribute to the graduates.

These included PRCUA National Chaplain Rev. Walter J. Ptak; National President Wallace Ozog and his wife, Joann; Resident Vice-President Anna Sokolowski and her husband, Mark; Vice President Bob Bielenda and his wife, Eleanor; National Director, District #10, Barbara Toboy and her husband, Ron; PRCUA Supervisor (Continued on page 10)

Happy Mother's Day!



"Madonna of the Lilies"
By Adolfo Simeone

Print for sale at www.inhisname.com

What makes a good Mother anyway? Is it patience? Compassion? Broad child-bearing hips? Ability to multi-task? Or is it her Mother's heart? The one that melts when she holds her baby for the first time; the heart that aches when she leaves her toddler at the daycare center to return to work; the heart that bursts with pride when hanging another precious work of art on the refrigerator door; or the heart that breaks when her precious child - who was raised to be value "life" and "peace" - goes off to war.

The emotions of Motherhood are universal and so our thoughts and prayers today are for all Mothers... young Mothers stumbling through diaper changes and sleep deprivation... mature Mothers learning to let go... working Mothers and stay-at-home Mothers...single Mothers and married Moms... Stepmothers and foster Mothers... poor Moms and wealthy Mothers... sick Mothers and healthy Moms... Grandmothers who can enjoy their grandchildren and those who have to step in as Mother a second time around... "Thank you for hanging in there. All you can do is try your best, at any given moment, in whatever circumstances you are faced with; tell your children that you love them unconditionally; place their care in the hands of the Blessed Mother; and pray."

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

PERIODICAL POSTAGE
PAID AT CHICAGO, IL

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PAID AT CHICAGO, IL

2008 PRCUA MICHIGAN STATE BALL (Continued from page 1)



(Front, l-r) Rita Cerankowski, Shirley Galanty, President Wallace Ozog, Res. V.P. Anna Sokolowski, Eleanor Bielenda, First Lady Joann Ozog; (2nd row, l-r) V.P. Bob Bielenda, Sally Klamerus, Rose Ann Lackey, Pat Steven, Colleen Bonkowski, Michelle Stechschulte, Kristi Mihalic, Robin Koyle, Elizabeth Thacker; (back, l-r) Ted Klamerus, Cindy Cervenak, Maria Jalkiewicz, Cindy Zalewski, Mark Sokolowski, Kelly Malinowski, and Dir. Tom Lisiecki

of Dist. #6, Ted Klamerus and his wife, Sally; Dean of Students of the Orchard Lake Seminary, Fr. Mirek Krol and Lajkonik Folk Ensemble Director Cyndi Zalewski. The presence of these leaders gave the graduates encouragement, inspiration and most importantly, recognition for their long-time participation in the PRCUA dance schools.

National Director of District #10 and Halka Dance Instructor, Thomas Lisiecki, served as Master of Ceremonies. The program began with the introduction of Halka graduate, Samantha Servitto, who sang the American National Anthem. Gwiazda graduate, Dominika Koper and Zajaczek graduate, Stephanie Jackowski, sang the Polish National Anthem. The invocation was given by Fr. Ptak, and a toast was made to the honorees.

The moment had finally arrived for the presentation of graduates. The audience sat with great anticipation as the Emperor's Waltz filled the room. Like princes and princesses, the PRCUA graduates gracefully promenaded up the center aisle of the ballroom exuding elegance. They proceeded to give an outstanding performance of the regal Emperor's Waltz, followed by an invigorating performance of the Beer Barrel Polka. Then each graduate received their time of recognition as their respective dance school instructors introduced them to the audience. The instructors are: Laura Hejza (Gwiazda), Thomas Lisiecki (Halka), Thomas Kielar (Mala Polska), Donna Skurski (Opole), Kelly Malinowski (Polskie Maki), Janet Vilag (Rogalin), Shirley Galanty (Syrena & Wieliczka), Karen Lubiarz (Tatry), as well as Rachel Kasperak and Tricia Zajac (Zajaczek).

President Ozog and Res. V.P. Sokolowski bestowed upon each of the graduates a medallion of achievement. It has become a custom of the Michigan State Ball to award the graduates with these medallions for their multiple contributions to their individual PRCUA dance schools and to the communities in which they live.

Next, the class of 2008 reciprocated by making a few presentations of their own. The first presentation was a charitable donation of \$500.00 to The American Polish Assistance Association, which was accepted by its President Mark Ostrowski. A few months before the Ball, the MI Dance Schools literally collected "Pennies for Poland." It is amazing how fast those pennies added up! The second donation of \$500.00 (a matching funds donation through the PRCUA) was made to Orchard Lake's SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary and gratefully accepted by Fr. Mirek Krol, Dean of Students. Thirdly, the graduates presented a matching funds donation of \$500.00 to the Polish Museum of America. Its membership Chairperson, Joann Ozog, graciously accepted their gift and invited the graduates to stop by for a personal tour! Last but not least, a very special presentation was made to Shirley Galanty, foundress of the Michigan State Ball, for her vision in initiating and organizing the Ball. The students are truly grateful to have such a beautiful and meaningful event to look forward to during their senior year.

Parents of the graduates were invited to stand with their honoree as Fr. Mirek gave a family blessing. After performing a beautiful and stately *Polonez*, the graduates had one more surprise before their presentations were concluded. To really shake things up and to show off their youthful vitality, the graduates wowed the audience with their rendition of "Shake Your Groove Thing." And so the dancing began!

An evening to remember was shared by all in attendance at the 2008 Michigan State Ball. Members of the Committee included Cyndi Cervenak (Gwiazda), Rita Cerankowski (Halka), Robin Koyle (Mala Polska), Beth Thacker (Opole), Maria Jalkiewicz (Polskie Maki), Michelle Stechschulte (Rogalin), Pat Steven (Syrena), Roseanne Lackey (Tatry), Kristi Mihalic (Wieliczka), Colleen Bonkowski (Zajaczek). Coordinators Shirley Galanty and Kelly Malinowski gratefully acknowledge Crystal Gardens for going beyond their expectations to create a truly beautiful environment for the State Ball; to PRCUA member,

Duane Malinowski for providing beautiful dinner and dance music; and to PRCUA member, Mary Ann Gruda of Marigold's Florist for the lovely flowers for our graduates, escorts and dignitaries. A special thank you goes to the PRCUA Home Office for their support and attendance and for the elegant plaque given to each graduate.

Lastly, the State Ball Committee proudly acknowledges the years of dedication and commitment of each graduate in fulfilling their requirements to partake in the State Ball. Sincere appreciation is extended to the "guests" and "escorts" who performed throughout the evening with the graduates. *Sto Lat and Bog Zaplac!*

2008 MICHIGAN STATE BALL GRADUATES

Sherry A. Alford, 17, is the daughter of Craig and Georgianna Alford. She has been a Polskie Maki Dancer for 15 years and attends Warren Mott HS. Sherry's escort for the evening was Kevin Malinezak.

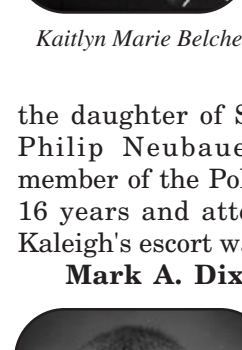


Sherry Ann Alford



Kaitlyn Marie Belcher

Kaitlyn M. Belcher, 17, is the daughter of Russ and Kathy Belcher. She has been a Tatry dancer for 15 years and attends Divine Child HS in Dearborn. Kaitlyn's escort for the evening was fellow Tatry graduate, Mark Dixon.



Mark Dixon

Kaleigh A. Borushko-Neubauer, 18, is the daughter of Suzann Borushko and Philip Neubauer. She has been a member of the Polskie Maki Dancers for 16 years and attends Hamtramck HS. Kaleigh's escort was Biaohua Yu.



Kaleigh Borushko-Neubauer

Mark A. Dixon, 17, is the son of Jim and Sandy Dixon. He has been a Tatry dancer for thirteen years and Mark attends Farmington HS. Mark's escort for the evening was fellow Tatry graduate, Kaitlyn Belcher.

Susan M. Dzbanski, 17, is the daughter of John and Chris Ann Dzbanski. She has been a Wieliczka dancer for 13 years and is a senior at Redford Union HS. Susan's escort for the evening was Sean Senkbeil.



Susan Dzbanski

Erika K. Guirey, 17, is the daughter of Tom and Kathy Guirey.



Erika Guirey

She has been a Polish dancer for 12 years, the last four with the Opole Dance Ensemble. Currently, Erika attends Shrine Catholic HS. Her escort was Thomas Schemanski.

Stephanie M. Jaczkowski, 17, is the daughter of Joseph and Donna Jaczkowski. She has been a Polish dancer for 14 years, currently with the Zajaczek Dance Ensemble. (Continued on page 11)



Stephanie Jaczkowski

(Continued from page 10) Stephanie is a home-schooled senior. Her escort was 2006 Zajaczek graduate Alex Wolicki.

Patricia K. Kopacz, 17, is the daughter of Jozef and Aleksandra Kopacz. She has been a PRCUA Polish dancer for 12 years, currently with Mala Polska, and attends Cousino H. Her escort for the evening was fellow Mala Polska graduate, Jonathan Organek-Conell.

Dominika M. Koper is the 17 year old daughter of Renata and Wieslaw Koper. She has been a Gwiazda dancer for 7 years and attends L'Anse Creuse HS North. Dominika's escort for the evening was Peter Szatkowski.



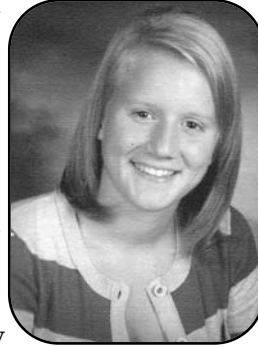
Dominika Koper

Ashley R. Krotkiewicz, 17, is the daughter of Terry and Debra Krotkiewicz. She has been a Halka Dancer for 12 years and attending Lakeview HS. Her escort was Andrew Wright.



Patricia Kopacz

Bre'Anna M. Lisiecki is the 17 year old daughter of Robert and Kathy Lisiecki. She has been a Halka Dancer for 11 years and attends Cousino HS. Bre'Anna's escort for the evening was fellow Halka Dancer Victor Servitto.



Ashley Krotkiewicz

Jonathan Organek-Conell, 17, is the son of Robert and Donna Organek-Conell. He has danced with Mala Polska for 12 years and Pope John Paul II for 1 year. He attends Bishop Foley Catholic HS. Jonathan's escort was fellow Mala Polska graduate, Patricia Kopacz.



Bre-Anna Lisiecki

Julianne R. Puroll, 17, is the daughter of Dan and Rose Ann Puroll. She has danced with the Halka Dancers for 15 years and attends Livonia's Churchill HS. Her escort was Brandon Herber.



Jonathan Organek-Conell

Kristen R. Samuel, 17, is the daughter of Randolph Samuel and Michelle Deacon. She has been a member of the Tatry Dancers for 14 years and attends Annapolis HS. Her escort for the evening was fellow Tatry Dancer, Drew Ansel.



Julianne Puroll

Nicole C. Schmidt is the 18 year old daughter of Andrea Schmidt (Ed Coatney) and Rodney Schmidt. She has been a member of the Rogalin Dance Troupe for 15 years and currently attends Roosevelt HS. Nicole's escort for the evening was David Yaeger.



Kristen Samuel

Samantha B. Servitto is the eighteen year old daughter of Victor A. and Susan Kay Servitto. She has been a Halka Dancer for 14 years and attends Mt. Clemens HS. Her escort for the evening was Billy Antrikin.



Nicole Schmidt

Matthew J. Steven, 18, is the son of James and Patricia Steven. He has been a member of the Syrena Ensemble for 15 years and attends Crestwood HS. His guest was fellow Syrena Dancer, Kaitlyn Burbank.



Matthew Steven

Justyna I. Troczynski is the 17 year old daughter of Joanna and Marek Troczynski. She has been a Halka Dancer for 10 years and attends Adlai E. Stevenson HS. Justyna's escort for the evening was Damian Troczynski.

The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America salutes the Michigan Dance School graduates for their perseverance through many years of dancing and for maintaining their pride in their Polish culture. Our appreciation is extended to the Dance School directors, choreographers and teachers for their excellent instruction of students and administration of the schools, as well as their participation in the Michigan State Ball.

The parents of the graduates are also to be commended for instilling in their children a love for Polish heritage. All the parents have devoted much time over many years to drive their children to and from all the classes, rehearsals and dance school events - something they, no doubt, did out of love for their children and their Polish heritage. Their dedication is inspiring!



Samantha Servitto

We are wishing all the graduates and their escorts much success in the future.



Justyna Troczynski

Submitted by Kelly Malinowski



Michigan Dance School Directors
(Front, l-r) Pat Steven, Rose Ann Lackey, Rita Cerankowski, Elizabeth Thacker; (Middle, l-r) Cindy Cervenak, Colleen Bonkowski, Michelle Stechschulte, Robin Koyl; (Back, l-r) Maria Jalkiewicz, Cindy Zalewski, and Kristi Mihalic



Kelly Malinowski; Master of Ceremonies District #10 National Director Tom Lisiecki, who is also the Halka dance instructor; and Michigan State Ball Foundress Shirley Galanty, former Director of District #10