

POLISH AMERICAN CITIZENS CLUB NEWSLETTER

LIBERTY HALL, 29 KLINE BOULEVARD
P.O. BOX 314, WHITEHOUSE STATION, NJ 08889



Number 1

September 2016

Balloon Festival Breakfast

Volunteers from PACC served up an all you can eat breakfast Saturday and Sunday morning to about 250 hungry balloon pilots, crew and festival goers. The event was a family affair with, delicious hot pancakes, eggs, kielbasa, bacon, sausage, ham bagels, pastries and fruit salad. To drink there was orange juice, iced tea, coffee and water.

Breakfast was served starting at 8:00 am and cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Breakfast ended at 12pm each day. "What a wonderful way to start-off my Saturday morning. All of the food so well prepared and served with a smile." said Terry Florence, a balloon pilot from New Hampshire.

"All of the volunteers worked so hard and thanks to all who came out to support our club." said Doreen Kovacs.

For the 24th consecutive year, QuickChek is returning as title sponsor of the annual New Jersey Festival of Ballooning, the largest summertime hot air balloon and music festival in North America. The Whitehouse Station, NJ fresh convenience market chain's sponsorship is the longest-running sponsorship of any festival in the United States according to sponsorship analysis firm IEG.

This year's QuickChek New Jersey Festival of Ballooning in Association with PNC Bank, an international attraction featuring twice a day mass ascensions of 100 balloons from around the world with a major headlining concert series, launched July 29-30-31, 2016 at Solberg Airport in Readington.

It holds the dual distinction of being a recipient of The New Jersey Governor's Award for Best Special Event, as well as being designated, for the 6th time, as a Top 100 Festival in North America by the American Bus Association.

QuickChek, a market leader in food service with an exceptional fresh coffee and fresh food program that has been voted the best in America in a national survey, has maximized its sponsorship of this three day event into a nine month long partnership. QuickChek stores serve as the Festival's exclusive retail ticket outlet, creating savings opportunities for consumers on food, beverages and Festival tickets in the months leading up to the Festival.

Top all "BALLOONATICS", due to the severe weather that produced a reported 6.75 inches of rain and affected the festival site and surrounding roadways in and around Readington Township, they are offering tickets replacements and refunds.

Any ticketholder with an unused, hardcopy 2016 Festival General Admission Tickets (a "2016 Unredeemed Ticket") will be able to present his or her 2016 Unredeemed Ticket for admittance to the 2017 Festival at the festival gate For an online ticket: please send an e-mail to information@balloonfestival.com for information.





KRAKOWIAK—A Traditional Polish Dance

Krakowiak is a Polish dance from the region of Kraków, the old capital of Poland (used by the Piast and the Jagiello dynasties) and the center of southern part of the country, called Małopolska (Little Poland). The common name used in English is cracovienne (from the French); in German the dance is known as Krakauer Tanz.

The term refers to a group of dances from southern and central Małopolska, which are known by their places of origin (proszowiak from Proszów), or by the particular figures used in their choreography. According to the entry in *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* (1980 ed.), "in its origins, the krakowiak seems to be connected with courtship ritual."

The dance dates back to the 16th and 17th centuries when it was included in organ and lute tablatures, as well as song-books, under such titles as *Chorea polnica* or *Polnish Tanz*.

In terms of its choreography, the krakowiak is set for several couples, among whom the leading male dancer sings and indicates the steps. According to the description in the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, the krakowiak is directed by the leading man from the first pair. As they approach the band, "the man, tapping his heels or dancing a few steps, sings a melody from an established repertory with newly improvised words addressed to his partner. The band follows the melody, and the couples move off in file and form a circle (with the leading couple back at the band). Thereafter verses are sung and played in alternation, the couples circulating during the played verses."

There are several figures which appear in the different stages of the dance: the invitation phase, the running, the shuffling, the passing, etc. The three most characteristic steps are: the galop (fast running forward), the *hołubiec* (jump with clicking the heels and stamping; pl. *hołubce*), and the *krzesany* (this term is used as a name of a separate dance in the Podhale area, but here refers to a sliding motion of the feet with stamping).

The krakowiak is the exhibition dance of choice of the Polish-American dance ensembles. When performed on the stage, it includes a variety of group figures, in addition to the turns, jumps, running and stamping steps. A photo of the figure of the Star (or the Cross; the dancers hook their arms and rotate around a central point in tightly-held rows of alternating men and women) as performed by the Podhale Polish Folk Dance Company in 1999 is included below, in the section about the music.

The women wear white shirts with broad sleeves and collars decorated with lace, colorful vests with sequins and rich embroidery, strings of coral beads, flowery skirts in bold patterns, partly covered with white lace aprons (plus multiple petticoats underneath), and wreaths of flowers with multi-colored ribbons in their braided hair (girls) or colorful, flowery kerchiefs (mature women). The men wear long, dark and embroidered coats over white shirts, striped pants (red-white; the pants are tucked into the high red boots), and embroidered vests.

2016 PACC Horseshoe League

It was another successful year for the Polish American Citizens Club Summer Horseshoe League. With about 20 participants, the season promised some good play. Games began in May with the season winding down in September. Accuracy, skill and luck weed out the best from the rest.

With four pairs of horseshoe pits, each session can have a maximum number of 16 players in one night, and there have been about 20 players in the league this year. PACC member Steve Tardiff helped to construct the pits.

"The camaraderie attracts the players" Tardiff said. "It's some way they can show their horseshoe ability against equal or better competition," he said. "It's fun. It's something you don't need much athletic ability for."

The competition can be intense as teams of two throw a total of 40 shoes per player over the 40-foot expanse between stakes. The team with the most points wins. Any shoe within 6 inches of the stake is worth one point, any shoe that toes the stake is worth two points and each ringer is worth three points.

The banter can sound like another language when the players start discussing their throwing styles. The turn-shoe, double-flip, single-flip and backhanded flip are just some of the many individual styles favored by the best pitchers.

Horseshoes is an easy game to learn and fun for all to play, but the serious know there is more to it than just pitching a horseshoe toward a single upright pole forty-feet away. The fundamentals of horseshoe pitching include the delivery, release and footwork.

The Delivery

Wherever horseshoe pitchers gather to play, you can see many different styles used in delivering. Some of these styles are smooth and correct. But many others are not. Merely picking up a pitching shoe and throwing it does not mean that a person can control it. On many occasions, you can hear a great deal about the importance of the delivery.

But, all too often, the fundamentals that go to make up the delivery do not receive enough attention. Even though a horseshoe may represent a symbol of luck to some people, there is little or no luck involved in pitching ringers. Nor is there any shortcut that will quickly transform a novice into an expert player. Many hours of patient and correct practice are necessary to develop a good pitcher.

The Release

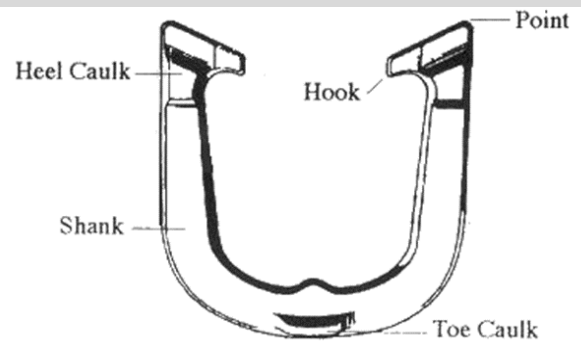
It is difficult to describe the release because it occurs too quickly for the eye to follow. The best way to study your release is through the eye of a slow-motion video camera. But video cameras are not always available for this purpose; nevertheless, you can learn a great deal about your release by employing slow-motion in your delivery during practice.

Your grip should be firm, yet flexible, neither too tight nor too loose. Holding too tightly causes undue strain on the hand and wrist. Besides, it may cause your shoe to either turn too much or flop over in flight. If your grip is not firm enough, the shot may either fail to turn enough or slip from your fingers before you are ready to release.

Footwork

The delivery-step governs the swing and follow-through to a great degree. This step serves a twofold purpose. It makes it easier for the player to swing the shoe and maintain balance. Employ a normal step, like that used when walking.

A short, easy stride is sufficient to place ample propelling power behind your shoe. A too long step will throw you off balance and cause a too low trajectory. The step is started a split second before the arm reaches the summit of its back-swing. The step is completed about the moment the shoe passes the standing leg, during the front-swing. The step must be perfectly timed with the swing.



Member Spotlight — Helen Gwozdz Miller

After her grade school years, Helen Gwozdz Miller graduated from St. Stanislaus Kostka School in Adams, MA. This is where she received her formal Polish education. (She later also studied Latin, French, and German.) After her high school years, she graduated from St. Joseph's High School in North Adams, MA. She graduated from Elms College in Chicopee, MA with a B.A. in Mathematics and a Minor in Chemistry; she also studied Philosophy and Theology at the Elms. She has 30 graduate credits in Mathematics at Fordham's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

She has been a parishioner in several Catholic parishes throughout her life, and is currently a parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes, Whitehouse Station, NJ where she has been for more than 35 years. She previously taught CCD there and was a member of the adult choir, and is currently a member of a women's spiritual reading and faith sharing group.

She is now retired, after a career in Information Technology. She has three grown children and seven grandchildren, and resides with her husband, Frederick, in Clinton Township, NJ.

OVERVIEW OF 'THE CHRISTMAS MIRACLE IN "KOLENDY"'

Author: HELEN GWOZDZ MILLER

This is a Nativity Play, written in English, with Kolendy/Hymns sung in Polish. Basically a tabloid is created, with actors/carolers still and statuesque, except when they are singing or acting. In the words of the 2 Interpreters, it highlights the deep meaning and significance of the Polish Kolendy/Hymns. It was inspired by a Polish American Club, whose membership was interested in singing the "Kolendy" of its founders. Most of the members did not know Polish, but remembered the melodies and struggled with the lyrics. Lyrics were syllabicated (in section 4) and were successfully taught to the members in rote fashion. Scripture readings from the New Jerusalem Bible are used to set the scene and to highlight the deep religious meanings of the Kolendy.

This Nativity Play can be used by Polish Americans, Polish British, Polish Australians, Polish Canadians, Polish New Zealanders and Polish South Africans in their parishes or clubs. It can also be used by students in English schools in Poland, particularly for those in middle schools or high schools.

PACC New Members

Juli Bachir
 Leon Bachir
 Jeni Casale
 Walter Boszczuk
 David Costlow
 Paula Costlow
 Janet DePaolo
 Adrianna Hekiart
 Swavek Hekiart
 Lauren Rush
 Tim Young





2016 High School Scholarship Presentation—Through the hard work and dedication of our club members we were able raise enough money to give two applicants - Gwendolyn Krol and Paige Brown, a \$500 scholarship each towards their 1st semester of college in the fall. (Pictured with Debbie Libero, PACC President)

PACC Officers and Board Upcoming Meetings and Events

President	Debbie Libero
Vice-president	Dave Gilliam
Treasurer	Liz Systo
Recording Secretary	Aurora Gilliam
Financial Secretary	Ed Jankiewicz
Marshall	David Kovacs
Board Members	Amber Campbell
	Connie Gilliam
	Dave Gilliam
	Doreen Kovacs
	Floyd Campbell
	Joe Systo
	Santo Libero
	Don Stieh

Friday, September 23, 7:30pm - Club General Meeting

Sunday, September 25, 1-5pm—Oktoberfest

Saturday, Oct 1, 7-10pm, Billy Joel tribute band

Friday, October 28, 7:30pm – Club General Meeting

Sunday, November 13, 2:00pm – Club General Meeting

Thursday—Sunday, November 17-20 — Readington Community Theater production of "Inherit the Wind"

Sunday, December 18, 2:00pm - Christmas Party

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY & STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
TELEPHONE # _____ CELL# _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____
BIRTH DATE: _____ ETHNICITY (Podhodzenie): _____
CITIZENSHIP: _____ FILED INTENTION FOR CITIZENSHIP: _____
MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME: _____
FATHER'S NAME: _____
PARENT'S ETHNICITY: _____
WILL YOU ATTEND AT LEAST THREE (3) MEETINGS A YEAR? _____
PROPOSED BY: _____ DATE: _____

APPROVED BY MEMBERSHIP: _____ ACCEPTED DATE: _____
APPROVED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS: _____ ACCEPTED DATE: _____
NOTIFIED/ DATE TO BE SWORN IN: _____
COMMENTS: _____

SIGNED _____
FOR P.A.C.C.

Polish-American Citizens Club Newsletter

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