



CPA Early Days at Hillside Supper Club

By: Frannie Russo

That's Frannie on the right with a gaggle of CPA'ers. Seven Springs several years ago.

In the fall of 1975 we purchased Hillside Supper Club and Catering Center on E.71st in Cuyahoga Hts.. A Polka DJ (I believe his name was Jack O'Brezy) approached us about having polka music broadcasting from our lower hall. Rose and Joe Frejofsky of the Polka Diamond Dancers heard the broadcast and came to see what this was about. With their suggestion we began having live music in our lower hall on Wednesday evenings. We started with local bands such as Mike Stevens Pezo, Mike Turek, Eddie Potoniec, Chuck Strajnowski and more. We began to be noticed by the polka community. In the spring 1976 we started having out of town bands, the first was Andy Fenus and the Trel Tones. People started arriving two hours early. To our surprise, we had almost 400 smiling, laughing, hugging, dancing, drinking (a bit) and singing for 4 hours!! Our love affair with polkas had begun!!

The CPA also came into existence in 1975. Sometime in 1976 we joined the CPA. I believe the President was Steve Holochak. The 2nd Annual Anniversary Dinner-Dance was held on October 16th 1977 at Hillside. It started with cocktails at 3:30 with dinner to follow. Dinner was Family Style consisting of Roast Beef, Stuffed Cabbage, Rigatoni with Meat Sauce, Relish Tray, Rolls & Butter and Pastry. Cost for dinner and dancing \$7.50. Cash bar. Dancing starting at 6pm with the Mike Stevens Orchestra. Interestingly, \$2.00 admission at the door for those just coming for dancing. Yearly dues of \$2.50 due on January 1st.

Through the years we've had many different events and dances for the CPA. Our last was the traditional Christmas Dinner-Dance just before Covid at St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church. These events have always been well attended, immensely enjoyable and friendship for all. I for one have made life long friendships that have enriched my life!!

Many organizations of 50 years and more had to have a solid foundation. CPA is it's members, joy of music, camaraderie, respect and a strong commitment to continue! May we all enjoy another 50 years together!!

Side note, I received a little help from my friends, Helenrae, Mike and Linda Pezo and Linda Swiderski!!