



# Portland Polish Festival

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### How Polish Folk Dancing Changed My Life: A Love Story Born at the Portland Polish Festival

*Portland, OR - August 30, 2024* - Amidst the vibrant colors and lively music of the Portland Polish Festival, love blossomed between an immigrant from a small town in Poland and an American festival volunteer from Oregon.

Ewa, originally from a small northeastern town in Poland, was a member of POLONEZ, a Polish folk dancing group from Vancouver, BC. During a break from their performance at the festival in September 2004, Ewa met Chad Barker, an Oregonian volunteering at the potato pancake stand.

Their chance encounter sparked a lasting relationship, and they now celebrate 20 years of love and companionship, attending the festival each year with their three daughters.

Portland's Polish Festival, the oldest of its kind in the western United States, will once again celebrate Polish culture on September 14th and 15th, 2024, at 3900 N Interstate Ave. The event features authentic Polish food, live music, dance performances, exhibits, polka contests, a vendor marketplace, and a beer garden. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome.

Oregon's first Polish families primarily emigrated from the Carpathian Mountain region of southeastern Poland, establishing St. Stanislaus Church in 1907 and the Polish Hall in 1911. Over the years, waves of immigrants have organized cultural events and, in 1993, established the Portland Polish Festival, now the largest of its kind in the western United States.

For Ewa and Chad Barker, the festival is more than just an event; it's a cherished place where their love story began. For Ewa, it is also a celebration of Polish culture and a reminder of the importance of honoring one's roots. She incorporates Polish food, customs, and traditions into her family's daily life, ensuring her daughters understand and appreciate their heritage.

As the Portland Polish Festival approaches, Ewa and Chad eagerly look forward to another year of celebration, love, and memories. The festival is a testament to the enduring beauty of cultural heritage and the power of love.

"We take our girls to the festival in September every year and tell them, 'This is where mommy and daddy met,'" says Ewa. "They enjoy watching the performances, listening to the music, and eating Polish delicacies."

Mark your calendars and join Ewa and Chad on September 14th from 11 am to 10 pm and September 15th from 12 pm to 6 pm at 3900 N Interstate Ave in Portland, OR, for a weekend filled with Polish culture and community.

For more information about the Portland Polish Festival, visit [www.polishfestpdx.org](http://www.polishfestpdx.org) or follow them on Facebook and Instagram at Portland Polish Festival.

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