

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WOLEK'S GRANDSON BRINGS WORLD CLASS BEARD CONTEST BACK TO SALT CITY FOR 70th ANNIVERSARY.**

The event is organized by Ronald Harold Wolek, the grandson of the accomplished Syracuse athlete, Henry "Hank" Wolek.

**SYRACUSE, NEW YORK February 1, 2023:** On April 8th, 2023, Honest Amish and MustacheParlor.com are collaborating to bring back the Hank Wolek's Mustache & Beard Contest to Syracuse, New York. The world-class facial hair competition will be held according to NACBMA competition guidelines, and all proceeds will go towards supporting our host venue's non-profit organization, the Syracuse Polish Home. The contest is open to everyone, with categories for both real and creative facial hair. The whiskers deemed Best In Show by our judges will receive the Hank Wolek Memorial Cup.

Competitors can register in advance at the Syracuse Polish Home Members Bar or online at MustacheParlor.com. The day's festivities will begin with Judging at noon on April 8th, followed at 7:00 pm by a Polish buffet banquet dinner and Whisker Awards Ceremony, and culminating in a victory party from 8:00-10:00 pm to celebrate the winners of the competition.

In 1953, Hank Wolek started a mustache growing contest that became famous after appearing in the Syracuse Post Standard. Contestants were given eight weeks to grow their best mustaches, with the event concluding at a clambake in their honor from Hank's Cafe. On April 9th, 2023, in addition to the revival of the mustache-growing competition and banquet, there will be over a dozen additional facial hair categories for participants to enter. This year's competition is presented by Honest Amish, an American company famous for their philanthropic sponsoring of charitable beard events around the world.

The event's mission is to raise money to refurbish the Polish Home's Brunswick Bowling Lane and the room that houses it, including flooring and seating. The competition hopes to honor Hank Wolek's legacy of supporting local athletics by donating the proceeds to the Syracuse Polish Home. "My grandfather had a legacy of giving back to local sports, and the Syracuse Polish Home Lanes were an essential resource for many city athletes to become champions," says Ronald. "It's time to reopen the lanes and honor his legacy." Yola Brzostowski, Syracuse Polish Home President recalls, "One of the first questions from our board of directors was, can women compete too?". The Whiskerinas are ladies who compete in facial hair competitions wearing realistic or creative build-a-beard false facial hair pieces and are welcome to enter the April 8th event.

The Wolek family has a rich history in Syracuse as fourth-generation Polish-American immigrants who utilized the American Dream to become leaders in the beauty industry. [MustacheParlor.com](http://MustacheParlor.com) is a third-generation Wolek business, specializing in Santa Claus Beards-in addition to handmade hair pieces, including beards, mustaches, toupes, sideburns, chest hair, and even merkins and for people who can grow their own whiskers; [MustacheParlor.com](http://MustacheParlor.com) also sells Honest Amish handmade highest quality beard soaps, balms, waxes, and oils, salves, and lip balms using only 100% natural, organic, and sustainable ingredients.

The April 8th, 2023 competition presented by Honest Amish aims to welcome and bring the Syracuse community together to celebrate and preserve the cultural heritage of the city and to honor the legacy of Hank Wolek, a city champion, war veteran; and sponsor of local athletics in the 1950s.

- Henry "Hank" Wolek (1914-1979) was an all-star Syracuse athlete and war veteran who sponsored local city athletics in the 1950's. The family ran a cafe, beauty cottage, and later a mustache club that was the inspiration for [mustacheparlor.com](http://mustacheparlor.com)

- Janet Wolek(1954-2014), Ronald's mother, was a hair and makeup artist for big stars such as Sylvester Stallone, Hulk Hogan, and many others, later retiring as a legendary wig designer for Disney.

- Hank's grandson, Ronald Harold Wolek, known professionally as Capt. Ron Wolek, is a famous artist in Hollywood known for his makeup work in films and TV shows. He also organizes the Key West, FL Fantasy Fest Beard contest.

- Honest Amish is the world's most trusted manufacturer of organic men's facial hair products and makes everything by hand and from scratch using original recipes in a small town in Pennsylvania.

#### IMAGE LIST:

1. Hank's Mustache Club in 1953, credit Syracuse Post Standard.
2. Hank Wolek Bowling at Syracuse Polish Home Historic Brunswick Lanes, credit Ron Wolek Family Archive.
3. Hank's Cafe also known as Sportman's Club clambake on Marcellus Street in Syracuse, NY; credit Ron Wolek Family Archive.
4. Contest Organizer Ron Wolek, CEO of MustacheParlor.com; photographer credit Greg Anderson.
5. Contest presenter Aaron Johnston, Honest Amish Marketing Director; photographer credit Aaron Johnston.
6. Natalie Johnston, multitime Whiskerina champion; who is attending the Honest Amish 70th anniversary Hank Wolek Beard and Mustache Contest in Syracuse, NY; photographer credit Jeffrey Moustache.
7. Santa Tom of Denver, Colorado gets his beard measured by an Official from the Honest Amish Presents 2022 National Beard Championships in Casper, Wyoming; photographer credit Ron Wolek.
8. 2022 Key West Wolek's Famous Beard Champ; credit FantasyFest.com and Nick Doll Photography.
9. MustacheParlor.com display at the 2022 National Beard Championships; credit Ron Wolek.
10. Honest Amish organic handmade facial hair products at Stonehenge; photographer credit Aaron Johnston
11. Syracuse the host city of the 70th anniversary Beard & Mustache contest; credit visitsyracuse.com
12. Honest Amish 70th Anniversary Hank Wolek Beard & Mustache Contest Logo
13. Honest Amish Logo
14. Syracuse Polish Home Logo
15. Wolek's Famous Beard Championship Logo
16. MustacheParlor.com Logo
17. Visit Syracuse Logo



**SPROUT MUSTACHES.**—Members of Hank's Mustache Club give the cameraman their "new look." They've been growing the adornments for seven weeks, and plan to shave them off Saturday. Front row, from left, Robert Harmer, Henry M. Wolek, Jack Canage; second row, Harold Layaw, John Allen, David Harmer, Lou Allen; back row, Tim Crowley, Yogi Ballard, Loren Jackson, Peter Topolski.

## Mustache Club In Full Bloom, Faces Razors

Hank's Mustache Club is in full bloom.

The 14 members have been growing the facial adornments for seven weeks, and the results range from the proud handlebar type to "peach fuzz."

Henry M. Wolek, who operates Hank's Cafe, 205 Marcellus st., organized the club seven weeks ago, and the mustaches have been sprouting ever since.

Two dates loom big on the Mustache Club horizon.

The first is next Saturday when a mass shaving bee is scheduled. Then, razors will whisk away the whiskers. And once again the members will be recognizable as they step out in their Easter finery Sunday.

The second special date is a week from Saturday. That's when Hank and his friends will throw a party for themselves to officially bring down the curtain on the mustache venture.

The party will be financed by club dues. Each member is paying 50 cents a week for eight weeks.

Members, besides Wolek, are Elmer, Elia, David and Robert.









SPORTSMAN'S - CAFE CLAM BAKE "19  
T. To RIGHT - B. VAN DUSEN - J. ORZELL - BERNIE - HAPPY - RUD  
IE - BOB - JOHN - HANK WOLEK PROP.













JeffreyMoustache  
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# WOLEK'S FAMOUS BEARD CHAMPIONSHIP