

Grand Square

KEEPING THE SQUARE DANCE COMMUNITY INFORMED

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY SQUARE DANCERS ASSOCIATION

Vol. 61, No. 2 Fall/Winter/Spring Club Reports Sept. 2019-June 2020

ATTENTION! NEW GRAND SQUARE FORMAT

Grand Square has now transitioned to a smaller format, and much of the content has moved to the NNJSDA website (see below). This allows Association and club information and advertising to be posted, viewed, updated, and printed as needed while helping the environment by cutting down on paper (and saving money). The magazine will continue to be posted on the GS page on the NNJSDA website, supplemented by two beautiful "flipbooks" – digital magazines in which pages can be "turned" by clicking. One flipbook (this one!) will contain club news and the other will include full-size ads for clubs, the Association, and other dance events.

In the print version of *Grand Square*, you will find special articles, class and graduation lists, letters from the NNJSDA and CCNJ presidents, dance calendars, NNJSDA contacts/announcements, and ongoing regular columns as submitted (Caller Crowd-Pleasers, Just for Fun, Where in the World Have Our Dancers Been?, Tips for Your Tips, and bios of square dance leaders).

Next Submission Deadline: March 7 – include club name in email subject line

*Email ads: ads@nnjsda.org (Ann Cavanaugh)

Email club articles: articles@nnjsda.org (Norman Kanter)

Email special features and suggestions: editor@nnjsda.org

(Lise Greene, Editor in Chief)

Ads: Email ad as a full-size 8.5 x 11" flyer, preferably using Word. Ads will be included in the flipbook on the NNJSDA website; event details will be in both the online and printed *Grand Square* calendars. Homepage banner ads are also available (extra fee). For formatting help, contact the ad editor. For rates, see page 2 of *Grand Square*.

*NNJSDA member clubs must also post their events online by the deadline.

Club articles: Email articles for the flipbook, preferably using Word.

Special features: Email contributions to the editor in chief for regular columns as noted above. Article ideas are very welcome.

Grand Square editors reserve the right to edit, correct, or otherwise modify articles and ad copy submitted for publication. However, responsibility for accuracy rests with authors and ad makers. Signed articles are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the NNJSDA.

NNJSDA MEMBER CLUBS

Clubs desiring to change their regular dance program, location, day, or time **MUST** contact the NNJSDA recording secretary for clearance. * = Round dancing included

MAINSTREAM

- Belles & Beaux** – sqrdance.org/BellesBeaux (201-264-0977) 1, 3 Wed. All Year
 VFW, 6 Veterans Pl., Elmwood Park, NJ 07407 *page 5*
- Circle Eights** – circle8s.nnjdsda.org (201-694-7797) 3 Fri. Sept.-June
 Hillsdale United Methodist Church, 349 Hillsdale Ave., Hillsdale, NJ 07642 *page 6*
- RocklandRockytops** – sqrdance.org/RocklandRockytops (914-450-2724) 2 Fri. All Year
 Congers Community Center, 6 Gilchrest Rd., Congers, NY 10920 *page 14*
- *Rutgers Promenaders** – rutgerspromenaders.org (732-485-6277) 1, 3 Sun. Sept.-June
 Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 1001 Finnegans Ln., North Brunswick, NJ 08902 *page 15*
- *Y Squares** – y-squares.org (908-612-6677) 2, 4 Thurs. Sept.-May
 Hehnlly School, 590 Raritan Rd., Clark, NJ 07066 *page 17*

ALTERNATING MAINSTREAM AND PLUS

- AleMo Squares** – alemo.nnjdsda.org (917-517-0870) Various Wed. Sept.-June
 Sts. Simon and Jude Lower Church, 295 Ave. T, Brooklyn, NY 11223 *page 3*
- Cross Trail Squares** – crosstrailsquares.org (973-618-9025) 2, 4, 5 Wed. Sept.-June
 Grover Cleveland School, 36 Academy Rd., Caldwell, NJ 07006 *page 7*
- Hunterdon Flutterwheels** – hunterdonflutterwheels.nnjdsda.org (908-458-6387) 1, 3 Fri. Sept.-June
 Echo Hill Park Lodge, 43 Lilac Dr., Flemington, NJ 08822 *page 8*
- Kittatinny Rangers** – kittatinnyrangers.com (201-787-2038) 2, 4 Fri. Sept.-May
 Long Pond School, 707 Limecrest Rd., Newton, NJ 07860 *page 9*
- Lakeland Squares** – lakelandsquares.wix.com/lakeland (973-229-0698) 1, 2, 3, 4 Mon. Sept.-July
 Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 9 Two Bridges Rd., Towaco, NJ 07082 *page 10*
- Times Squares** – timessquares.nyc (212-749-4291) Various Tues./Sat. All Year
 PS 3, 490 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014 *page 16*

PLUS

- *Bee Sharps** – beesharps.org (908-566-7580) 2, 4 Fri. Sept.-May
 Bound Brook Methodist Church, 150 W. Union Ave. (Rt. 28), Bound Brook, NJ 08805 *page 3*
- Middletown Ramblers** – middletownramblers.org (732-319-8920) Every Fri. All Year
 Croydon Hall, 900 Leonardville Rd., Leonardo, NJ 07737 *page 11*
- *Reelers** – reelers.nnjdsda.org (929-373-3537) 1, 3 Fri. Sept.-June
 Ironia School, 303 Dover-Chester Rd. (Rt. 513), Randolph, NJ 07869 *page 13*
- RocklandRockytops** – sqrdance.org/RocklandRockytops (914-450-2724) 4 Fri. All Year
 Congers Community Center, 6 Gilchrest Rd., Congers, NY 10920 *page 14*
- *W. Wheelers/Hix & Chix** – sqrdance.org/Western.Wheelers (201-852-7514) 3 or 4 Sat. Sept.-April
 Maywood Recreation Center, 346 Duvier Pl., Maywood, NJ 07607 *page 17*
- *W. Wheelers/Hix & Chix** – sqrdance.org/Western.Wheelers (201-852-7514) Var. Thur. May-Aug.
 VFW, 6 Veterans Pl., Elmwood Park, NJ 07407 *page 17*

ADVANCED 2, CHALLENGE 1

- Motiv8ors** – motiv8ors.nnjdsda.org (551-206-7905) Various Sun. All Year
 American Legion Post 171, 17-08 River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410 *page 12*
- Times Squares** – timessquares.nyc (212-749-4291) Various Thurs. and Sat. All Year
 PS 3, 490 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014 *page 16*

See club ads/online calendar for *planned* and *last-minute* changes in regular dance schedule/program.

ALeMO SQUARES – Brooklyn, NY**MS/PL**alemo.nnjsda.org**Various Wed. Sept.-June****Sts. Simon and Jude Lower Church****Norma Cangiano: 646-641-7145 295 Ave. T (between Lake and Van Sicklen) 11223****Cell for dance: 917-517-0870**

As noted in our previous club report, the future of AleMo Squares remains uncertain. Due to our dwindling membership and lack of a graduating class in the past season, we will continue dancing month by month only as long as our treasury permits.

If you have ever thought about dancing with us in Brooklyn – and getting a signature on your Patron form – please consider joining us for the Welcome Back dance on Wednesday, September 18. After that, call in advance to see when a dance will be held.

We are holding an introductory dance for new prospects on September 25, and hope to increase our membership and keep the club going.

Connie Schiavone (bestnona@verizon.net, 917-517-0870)

DANCE WEBSITES

Where's the Dance: wheresthedance.com – click on “Events” or other links
 Square Dance Resource Net: ceder.net – click on “Event” or “Club”

Remember: Any website is only as good as the information provided, so confirm events in advance. Clubs: Please designate a member to keep your events updated on all sites, including nnjsda.org.

BEE SHARPS – Bound Brook**PL/RD-A tip**beesharps.org**2, 4 Fri. Sept.-May****Bound Brook United Methodist Church****Nancy and Vic Ammons: 908-566-7580****150 W. Union Ave. (Rt. 28) 08805****Cell for dance: 908-566-7580**

Bee Sharps congratulates our recent Mainstream graduates, James Heaphy and Christine and Butch Van Deursen, pictured in the middle below with class angels and leaders. We hope they will continue to seek out the many opportunities to dance to keep and refine their skills. Kudos to our teacher, Wes Thielke; class coordinators, Lynn and Dave Kleszyk; class treasurer, Phyllis Perlowitz; and the many angels who came out to assist.

*continued next page*

Bee Sharps (continued)

After many years of holding classes on Monday nights, Bee Sharps will change its lesson night to Tuesday for the coming year to accommodate club members who have commitments on Monday. We also are scheduling several Mainstream dances this fall so that new dancers can enjoy the excellent callers we have lined up again this year – check out our events in the calendar and our flyer in the new online ad flipbook. This is also an opportunity for Mainstream clubs to raid – we look forward to seeing you!


Thank you to Irma Huhn for once again planning and leading our dancers in another successful Raid program. Congratulations to John and Barbara Marlowe on the birth of their beautiful granddaughter, Chloe. This sweet couple actually came to the Bee Sharps dance to perform the treasurer's function on the very day that Chloe was born. Now that is dedication!

Nancy Ammons (cearnach.dannsa@gmail.com, 908-566-7580)

GIVE A DANCE COUPON AS A GIFT OR AWARD

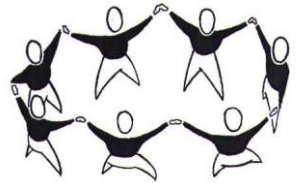
Looking for door prizes for special club events, gifts for dance friends, ways to thank hardworking club officers, or special incentives for class recruiters? Consider NNJSDA dance coupons.

They can be purchased at any NNJSDA event at the current dance fee; their value never expires; and they are accepted at all NNJSDA dances. Use your imagination ... the possibilities are endless!

<i>sample</i>	
	_____ NNJSDA Treasurer
Value: \$ _____	_____ Coupon Donor (optional)
<i>May be redeemed at any NNJSDA dance</i>	

Emergency Call for Medical Aid (ECMA)

1. When a dancer goes down during a tip, a second dancer attends to him/her.
2. The remaining couples join hands and take a step backward. This provides the injured person and the attendant with air and space.
3. Raise joined hands as high as possible in the form of an arched circle.
4. On seeing this signal, the caller immediately asks for medical assistance. Club officers should know the location of the AED (Automated External Defibrillator).
5. If 911 help is required, a club member calls (providing the exact address) and waits outside the building to direct responders into the hall.
6. In general, the caller and remaining squares continue dancing while aid is administered.



Another year of mysteries has passed, as Belles & Beaux had its 2019 Murder Mystery (you may have missed Richard Ball as the murderer for the first time in 20 years) and Mystery Bus Ride.

The bus ride was great fun. First we saw a mile-long mural in Newark and visited the Grammy Museum next to the Prudential Center, where we got to play different instruments and sing karaoke. We crossed from New Jersey into Pennsylvania, where we saw Navy planes from the 1930s to the present at the Wings of Freedom Aviation Museum in Horsham. We ended up at Club Sashay in West Springfield, Pennsylvania, and had a great deal of fun helping them celebrate their 65th anniversary. The picture was taken at the dance.



This was the first year that Belles & Beaux marched in two parades. The first was the Elmwood Park Memorial Day parade. Wow! That is all we could say when Chris Wadel drove up with his totally decorated patriotic truck. The caller, Stephen Ingis, traveled in style as our members marched and danced, having a grand time. The other was the Glen Rock Fourth of July parade, and this time it was Fran Wadel calling.

We hope to see you at the Belles & Beaux 40th Anniversary Dance at the Hermitage in Ho-Ho-Kus in September. It's hard to believe that five years have already passed since our last celebration. It's wonderful to be a part of such an active club!

Richard Ball (rebtama@gmail.com, 973-838-0312)



Spring swung with the annual Circle Eights luncheon at the Glen Rock Inn. After a delicious meal and socializing with current and past members, membership dangles were awarded to: Cathy and Jono Kant (five years); Barbara and Bob Graziano (10 years); and Gerry and Rick Savino (10 years). Voting for the 2019-20 Member of the Year resulted in a tie, so Janet Churchill and Terry Wunk both got free admission to next year's dances. Paul Smolen did an excellent job of chairing the luncheon.

In May, Circle Eights took part in a demo for the 50+ Club that meets at our dance location. Stephen Ingis, who just returned from college, warmed up the room with a line dance and then had participants squared up in no time.

The May club dance was called by Arizona's Rick Gittelman. It was followed by our annual membership meeting, where the following officers were elected: Pat and Tom Duemig, president; Gerry and Rick Savino, first VP; Alicia and David Weschler, second VP; Lacey and John Hill, third VP; Janet Churchill, secretary; and Arlene Remington, treasurer. The club thanked outgoing officers: Dolores and Dick Smith and Cathy and Jono Kant.

In June, congratulations were extended to our graduates: Lorraine Coppola, Larry Finucane, Rose Lisi, Vernice Miller, Karla Norfleet, Rosetta Slattery, Frieda Trichter, and Terry Wunk (who learned the lady's part). All attendees were entertained with dinner, after which the graduates earned dangles for dancing blindfolded.

Circle Eights ended the dance year with its annual Ice Cream Social, featuring an ice cream cake acknowledging caller Jonathon Weiner's high school graduation. More than eight squares, including raiders from Hunterdon Flutterwheels and Kittatinny Rangers, joined in the celebration.

On another note, two members, Janet and Walt Churchill, were featured in an article on square dancing in the spring 2019 issue of *Autumn Years*, a magazine dedicated to celebrating life over 60. Will fame go to their heads?

Excitedly, a dozen members/friends took a three-hour eco-cruise on the Hackensack River. In addition to learning about the Meadowlands and spying the "usual suspects" (blue herons, egrets, cormorants, ducks, gulls, etc.), they saw an osprey on her nest and spotted a bald eagle perched in one of the trees. This unique experience was followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Pat and Tom Duemig and Lacey Hill were among the NNJSDA members who enjoyed a square dance cruise to Alaska, which culminated at the Alaska State Square and Round Dance Festival weekend in Fairbanks.

The Circle Eights fall forecast is for a free intro dance and Mainstream lesson with Paul Ingis on September 17, followed by a second free intro dance on September 24. Both will be held at East Brook Middle School in Paramus.

Hold open Sunday, April 19, 2020, for our 60th anniversary dinner-dance.

Jeanne Weisman (kreider99@aol.com, 201-722-0488)

Cross Trail Squares enjoyed a wonderful start to 2019 by offering free admission to a dance featuring the always entertaining Howard Richman. Paul Ingis, Jonathon Weiner, and Doug Kauffman were the spotlight callers for dances that kept us going through the winter and into March, including our Presidents Dance and gently used clothing swap, which allowed dancers to update their wardrobes at no charge.

Alice De Lancey, Betsy Knudsen, Gary Martins, and Liz Zazzi reported that they had a terrific time at the WASCA convention. They danced and socialized with other friendly NNJSDA faces and met dancers from across the country.

We were happy to welcome back Laurel Fastow after her recovery from an ankle sprain that kept her off the dance floor for some time. Ted Lizotte was the caller for Laurel's return dance. A comment was directed to Ted from the dance floor: "You make Mainstream hard." Without missing a beat, Ted responded, "Thank you!" Mark Franks, the caller at our next dance, workshopped the call Crossfire from various positions, which proved to be an interesting and challenging experience.

Raids by Bee Sharps and Rutgers Promenaders were part of our dance with national caller Rick Gittelman. We enjoyed marches by both clubs and celebrated Eddie Mindlin's 93rd birthday, even though he was out celebrating somewhere else without us. Eddie did join us for the next dance, which again featured Rick as our caller due to a last-minute cancellation by the scheduled caller from Tennessee. A big thank you to Rick for filling in on such short notice.

We wrapped up our 51st year of dancing with the annual Ice Cream Social in June. To work up an appetite for vanilla and chocolate ice cream along with all the toppings, Betsy Gotta first made us work hard on the dance floor.

Due to relocation and retirement from dancing for various reasons, our membership has declined. In addition, fewer dancers from the Association drive at night, further lowering the attendance. So the upcoming season will be our last at CTS, with an exciting schedule to close out our 50+ years of dancing. To thank those who have supported our club, *all dances will be free!* Dancers are asked to bring their own refreshments. We hope you will join us and some great callers, including two from western Australia.

Alice De Lancey (delanceyal@aol.com, 973-618-9025)

HANDHOLDS: EASY DOES IT

When taking another's hand during a call, please take hold loosely and gently ... and then release quickly. Never grip a hand or continue holding while going on to the next dancer or call. Very loose holds will keep hands happy and the square moving.

HUNTERDON FLUTTERWHEELS – Flemington

MS/PL

hunterdonflutterwheels.nnjstda.org

1, 3 Fri. Sept.-June

Echo Hill Park Lodge, 43 Lilac Dr. 08822

Jeff Bell: 908-458-6387

Cell for dance: 908-458-6387

Flutterwheels brought in spring with our Derby Day dance. Betsy Gotta held the reins as caller. We cheered so hard for the Kentucky Derby Hat contestants that we all became a little “horse.” Mary Moody had us howling at the moon during our Balance Awhile Blue Moon Style dance where we congratulated 19 Plus dancers on the successful completion of their lessons. A sellout crowd made a big splash with the Ingis duo, Paul and his enthusiastic son Stephen, calling for our Life is a Beach dance. Beach attire, chairs, towels, and coolers filled with watermelon made us think we were down the shore. Virgil Forbes brought our squares alive with his contemporary dance music for our golf-themed Ice Cream Social: LPGA Birdies, Bogeys, and Box the Gnat.



Members also participated in community outreach. There was a terrific club turnout for a windy but sunny Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation Earth Day celebration at Echo Hill Park. We had a display, talked to many prospective square dancers, and provided games and seed planting for the children. We also staffed a booth at the annual Buffalo Watch fundraiser in Readington. Mary Moody called squares and the public joined in for a Virginia Reel. Our annual club picnic was held at a new venue, the Perlman residence. Our hosts did a wonderful job and everyone had a great time.

Summer and Mainstream Extreme workshops were held to make sure there was no dust collecting under anyone’s feet. Mary Stamets led the charge to get our Raid schedule under way and we raided several clubs over the summer. Mary and new grad Bonnie Jean MacYash even took Oscars at the Lakeland Squares Movie Night.

We thank all those who raided or visited our dances and workshops.



Mark Kubinak (markkubinak@embarqmail.com)

Greetings from the Kittatiny Rangers! We have a new dance location, not far from our former home: Long Pond School, 707 Limecrest Road, Newton.

It has been a wonderful summer highlighted by our annual picnic at the home of our gracious hosts, Lise Greene and Mark Bippes. It is always fun to see everyone as members of Kittatiny and our sister club, Reelers, relax and visit overlooking Lake Hopatcong.

We also participated in NNJSDA dances, and appreciated the welcome we received while raiding Reelers for their graduation dance, Lakeland for a Night at the Movies, Circle Eights for an Ice Cream Social (see photo below), and Belles & Beaux for a Blueberry Festival.



It is a joy each summer to see square dancing presented to Mainstream graduates as they experience the fruit of their labors. They also see the dedication of angels in every club who work to sustain the fun and friendship that is the foundation of square dancing. Lest you think that your contribution is not appreciated, Karen Alonge, one of our 2019 graduates, has given permission to share part of her speech delivered at the Kittatiny Rangers graduation.

“I didn't quite understand why you were called angels until those lessons started! Who knew we would have an angel as a partner, at the corners, and across the way to push us forward and to spin us around, and there were always those wings to take us home. Sometimes it was a long trip and sometimes I was home and didn't know it. As angels you taught us the other right and left we didn't know about. And somehow you kept us in the square we should be in. You taught me. I could listen and pay attention and dance at the same time. I graciously and humbly thank you for your constant encouragement, patience, dedication to the dance, passion for paying it forward, and spreading something you love and enjoy to newcomers. I hope you know that you brought more than joy to our lives. You gave time, spirit, lectures, and smiles.”

We look forward to your visits and raids, appreciate your friendship, and love dancing with each and every one of you. You will find current information on our Facebook page and website, kittatinnyrangers.com.

Connie Smith (casglass@gmail.com, 973-383-9430)

1, 2, 3, 4 Mon. Sept.-July**Good Shepherd Episcopal Church****Dance Party 5 Mon.****9 Two Bridges Rd. 07082****Kathy Keener: 973-366-8064****Cell for dance: 973-229-0698**

It has been a good year for Lakeland. Our traveling members and dancers who were not able to participate for a while have returned. Our eight recent graduates have continued to join us at dances along with visiting graduates from other clubs. We welcome and enjoy these new dancers.

Our 46th anniversary potluck dinner-dance was well attended, including many old friends and visitors. We have also been seeing new faces at our dance parties and other special events.

We completed last season's One Square Is Fair and Raid programs. Our contingent was especially huge in the raids to Hunterdon Flutterwheels, RocklandRockytops, and Rutgers Promenaders.

The most outstanding dance this summer was our Night at the Movies, with all participants receiving a dangle. There were 72 paid dancers and many spectators. Approximately one third of the dancers were in costume, many of which were quite elaborate and creative. The Oscar winners: best animal character, Gil Collins as Goofy; best cartoon characters, Taimi and Bob Reip as Miss Piggy and Kermit the Frog; best child star, Mary Stamets as Shirley Temple; best screen couple, Ed and Vicky Proskey as Perry Mason and Della Street; best actress, Diane Hennion as Annie Oakley; and best costume, Bonnie Jean MacYash as Cruella de Vil. Judges were Kathy Keener, Gerri Van Dyke, and Fran Wadel. Howard Richman emceed, also in costume, and provided exceptional entertainment for all.

Janet and Monte Montagnino (montebearsden@aol.com, 973-546-3092)

USE THE NNJSDA EMAIL INFO-LIST

Did you ever forget about a dance you planned to attend, go to the wrong location, or arrive to discover that an event was canceled? It's easy to keep informed about updates to club, Association, and other events in our area. Simply subscribe to the free NNJSDA email info-list.



Subscribers may send and receive messages (on dance-related topics only). The list of members is never shared, although your address will be visible when you send a message. To subscribe, go to the website and click on "Join Our Email List" at top right.

New dancers: This is a great way to find out about events throughout the region, as well as cancellations or changes in location, caller, time, etc. Please subscribe!

There are also generic email addresses you can use for communicating with NNJSDA officers. See page 2 of any *Grand Square* for all such addresses.

Middletown Ramblers has had a busy season with great callers and super themes. We welcomed eight new Plus graduates: Patricia Bottone, Ester Carballo-Jane, Lynn Case, Dennis Hunsberger, Paul Jansen, Kathleen Kelley, Teresa Levy, and Agnes Shanley.



Ten of us participated in the annual Saint Patrick's Day parade in Keansburg: Mary Batistick, Buddy Franklin, Kathleen Kelley, Jane Mastrolia, Marilyn Mihalic, Mike O'Farrell, Larry Sherwood, Patty Sherwood, Joe Vapnar, and Richard Yackel.

We had some memorable dance themes. Crazy Hats brought out (what else?) crazy hats; Wear Green (Saint Patrick's Day) saw a sea of green; Superheroes produced a plethora of shirts and costumes; Petticoat Junction led the ladies to outdo themselves; and the hose at Crazy Sox were indeed crazy.

Our annual dinner-dance at Jumping Brook Country Club was terrific. Howard Richman was his usual great self. Many thanks to committee chairs Nancy Cagliostro and Patty Sherwood for a fantastic job – delicious food, good friends, and a fun evening for everyone. Special thanks to Joyce and Jim Henry, who made all the arrangements at Jumping Brook.

Two intro dances were held at our air-conditioned Croydon Hall. The annual free intro dance is slated for September 27 with Ed Crowley at Thompson Park.

As we approach our 50th anniversary, we are recognizing special members with a Gold Star award. On March 10, president Mary Trossello presented the award to Patty and Larry Sherwood. Larry, who served as club president three times for a total of six years, and Patty have been Ramblers since 1982. Larry began as our club instructor in 1983, making his 37 years of service to the Ramblers very deserving of the award.

Come dance with us.

Joseph Vapnar (joevapnar@gmail.com, 732-500-0391)



Various Sun. All Year

American Legion Post 171

Maryjane Clewell: 551-206-7905

17-08 River Road 07410

Rich Baumeister: 845-735-3222

Cell for dance: 551-206-7905, 845-629-5032

In March, Susan Adam, Maryjane Clewell, and Marie Gower ventured to The Inn at East Hill Farm, in New Hampshire, for their Canada Meets USA weekend. Callers Don Moger and Ted Lizotte challenged them with interesting choreography at lightning speed. Horseback riding and a swimming pool were also available. The adventurous were given the opportunity to gather their own eggs for breakfast, or milk the cows. Our dancers chose to enjoy the family-style meals made without their help.

In May, Sue and Rich Baumeister were fortunate to visit the Holy Land and Jordan. They consider their trip truly amazing, especially when one realizes that Israel is the center of three major religions. Sue and Rich visited all the main sites in Jerusalem, floated in the Dead Sea, and dunked their feet in the Jordan River. After an inclusive tour of Israel, they spent several days in Jordan, where they visited Roman ruins and Petra. The Baumeisters returned home from the Middle East with many great memories.

Several of our members had a ball in July when they attended the annual IAGSDC Convention. This year's festivities, named Belles Run, were held in nearby Philadelphia. Other square dance events enjoyed by our members included Pass the Ocean, Hon! (Delaware); various offerings at Cherry Ridge Campsites (Pennsylvania); Star Spangled Banner Festival (Maryland); and a C1 Camp (Ontario, Canada).

Our members' families continue to expand. In April, Jan and Louis Thompson were ecstatically happy to announce the marriage of their younger son. Their older son and his wife joyfully welcomed a baby boy, making Jan and Louis grandparents for the first time. Vicki and Craig Sherman were busy celebrating two children's weddings in the space of three weeks, on two different coasts no less! Two of our couples, Barbara and John Marlowe and Hillela and Bob Ward, and Maryjane Clewell, were thrilled to welcome a granddaughter to their families. Susan and Frank Dreifus celebrated two special events in May: the engagement of one of their granddaughters and the college graduation of another.

Jan and Louis Thompson (ltpt1@yahoo.com, 732-577-9413)

CLUB PRESIDENTS – CLEARANCE FOR NEW EVENTS

If your club plans to hold a dance event outside its regular dance program, location, day, or time, *you must request clearance from the NNJSDA.* (For details, see the [NNJSDA Constitution and Bylaws, section 8, page 8.](#)) This helps to avoid conflicts. Please check with the recording secretary for clearance; contact information is on page 2 of every *Grand Square*.

1, 3 Fri. Sept.-June**reelers.nnjsda.org****Ironia School, 303 Dover-Chester Rd. (Rt. 513) 07869****Helen and Bruce Haskell: 929-373-3537****Cell for dance: 929-373-3537**

Have you ever thought about taking round dance lessons but were uncertain about where to take them or if you could commit another night a week to a dance activity? We have the solution. Join the beginning round dance class from 6:30-7:30 before every Reelers dance. The talented Mary Pickett is a wonderful teacher – very patient and well organized – and she will quickly have you dancing to some of the rounds that she cues during the dances following each lesson.

Our June 2019 dance celebrated the graduation of our Mainstream class (see photo). Their teacher, Ed Crowley, called a fun and lively dance and the new graduates did an excellent job keeping up on the dance



floor. Thank you to Ed for his successful teaching; to our class coordinators, Valerie Lehnert and Victoria Solecki, for their efforts in organizing and working with the class; and to all the angels who came out to assist the students.

Our annual summer picnic, held jointly with Kittatinny Rangers, was once again generously hosted by Lise Greene and Mark Bippes at their lovely home on Lake Hopatcong. It is the perfect setting with scenic lake views, a large deck, and sailboat rides given by Captain Mark. Mark had recently returned from a ministry trip to Belize where he has gone previously to assist at a home for needy girls with various building and other projects. On this trip, the volunteers in Mark's group taught some of the girls and local ladies how to sew. They brought the needed equipment and supplies, thereby offering them a skill that can help them now and provide them with a potential livelihood.

Some of our members are dealing with difficult medical issues. We extend our wishes for good outcome and recovery to Paul Olsen and Judy Smith on their surgeries and Lillian Kinney on her treatments.

As a small way to give back to the community, Reelers collects food for the local food bank at every dance. This results in our donating several hundred pounds of food over the course of a year. We encourage our members and guests to bring a food donation. Although it is strictly voluntary, it is very easy to develop the habit, after getting out your dance shoes, of going to your cupboard to grab a can or box of food.

In addition to a varied roster of callers from far and near, our dances will include a "special feature" tip of the caller's choice, which should be an interesting and challenging addition to a fun evening of square dancing. We hope you will join us for our dances.

Irene Stoller (histoller@live.com, 908-823-4565)

2 Fri. All Year: MS-PL tip**Congers Community Center****4 Fri. All Year: PL-DBD Plus tip****6 Gilchrest Rd. 10920****Mal Blotner: 845-638-4393 (alt.: 845-553-5002)****Cell for dance: 914-450-2724**

RocklandRockytops is delighted to be having exceptional attendance at our recent dances. Our Mainstream Ice Cream Social, with fun-loving Ed Foote calling, boasted five squares including many new dancers. We indulged in a delicious assortment of ice cream flavors and toppings, thanks to Sue Ehnenn, Susan Greenstein, Cathy Schlesinger, and all the others who bought, set up, and served the fabulous fare. We wished a happy May birthday to a number of Rockytops members including our president, Don Schlesinger, and our guest, Eddie Mindlin (a member of several clubs), who is 93 years young and one of the liveliest dancers on the floor. Way to go, Eddie!

The May Plus dance featured our annual visit from Arizona's Rick Gittelman. Guests came from a number of clubs and there was a raid from Circle Eights. Rick concluded the evening with a beautiful medley of patriotic tunes.

Our June Mainstream dance, called by Sandy Corey, was our fifth annual Las Vegas Night. Sixty attendees participated in the fun, including two squares of raiders from Lakeland Squares. Our resident croupier, Don Schlesinger, once again provided a winning evening for all. Thank you, Cathy and Don, for all your hard work in setting up this spectacular night of games and dancing.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Don, our president, as he undergoes treatment for multiple myeloma, a somewhat rare form of cancer of the blood and bone marrow. Undergoing chemotherapy is always a challenging ordeal, but knowing Don's love of square dancing, missing out on dances probably will be even more traumatic for him. Please add your prayers and positive vibes to ours to help Don and his family through this very difficult time.

To begin the new Raid season, two squares of Rockytops members descended on Belles & Beaux on June 19 to dance to melodious Mary Moody and partake of more delicious ice cream and toppings.

We rounded out our spring and summer programs dancing to the always popular Howard Richman, Mark Franks, and Sandy Corey. It has been gratifying to see so many new graduates coming out to the dances. We look forward to seeing all of you in the fall, and don't forget to bring friends and prospective square dancers to our intro dance in September, called by faithful Fran Wadel.

Joan Schierlitz (dancinggrandma@verizon.net, 845-353-2987)

The secret to doing **Grand Square**

Is always to stay with your pair.

Walk forward, then back;

Keep changing your tack.

In 32 beats, you'll get there!

Don Schlesinger (RocklandRockytops)

RUTGERS PROMENADERS – North Brunswick

MS/RD

1, 3 Sun. Sept.-June

rutgerspromenaders.org

Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 1001 Finnegans Ln. 08902

Matica Bierstein: 732-485-6277

Cell for dance: 732-485-6277

We finished our season with a multi-club raid. Special thanks to Lakeland Squares, RocklandRockytops, and Y Squares for making the trip to join us. This was followed by a “show tunes” extravaganza at which the Gottas provided squares and rounds with extraordinary Broadway flair.

As in past summers, we had two dance sessions and the annual club picnic (graciously hosted once again by the Bergmans). Also, our new slate of officers will be reprising their roles: Matica Bierstein, president; Gary Bergman, vice president; Margery Atwater, first treasurer; Bobby Bergman, second treasurer; and Mary Ann Ryan-Erdek, secretary.

We're all looking forward to another fantastic season of dancing pleasure. Please make sure you keep us in mind if you're looking for a great way to spend your Sunday afternoons!

Mary Ann Ryan-Erdek (merdek56@gmail.com, 908-745-1659)

69th National Square Dance Convention

Spokane, Washington

June 17-20, 2020

Keep the “Vision” Alive in 2020



This eagerly anticipated annual event will take place in downtown Spokane at the Convention Center on the river, which is within walking distance of hotels, restaurants, and shopping – no need to drive after you have checked in! A shuttle will be provided for campers.

The registration fee is still only \$60 per person through April 30, 2020. All square dance programs will be offered along with variations such as DBD, hexagons, youth, and high/low energy. Other dancing: rounds, clogging, contra, lines, country western, and handicapable. Participants can also attend a fashion show, seminars, clinics, and educational sessions.

Take advantage of opportunities for add-on events (additional charges): Longhorn Barbecue in the Park, Joe Stoddard's high-energy music and comedy show, and post-convention cruise to Alaska with caller Tony Oxendine. Local tours include Glacier National Park, Grand Coulee Dam, rafting, wineries, gold and silver mines, lunch cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene, historical trips, and more.

Washington is a wonderful vacation destination to explore on your own before or after the convention. To register and get the latest updates, visit 69nsdc.org.

Join fellow New Jerseyans in the Parade of States! To get ideas for a green and white state outfit, visit njsdca.org and click on “About Us – NJ State Outfit.”

The weekend for which we had been planning more than a year has come and gone. We created opportunities to honor the original Stonewall Uprising of 1969, celebrate the dancers who keep the art and joy of modern square dancing alive, and inspire new folks to learn and become dancers themselves.

The Pride Square Dance at the end of June welcomed dancers from across the United States, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Anne Uebelacker called a wonderful evening at John Jay College. Many thanks to all Times Squares members and friends who helped organize, transport, decorate, promote, and welcome dancers.

The WorldPride/Stonewall 50 New York City Pride March a few days later was memorable for so many reasons. About 78 dancers, ready to show the world what fun square dancing can be, had to wait an astonishing four hours (for reasons likely unknown)! While not everyone could stay, we had a blast dancing down Fifth Avenue past the Stonewall Inn and AIDS Memorial. And we know now that people do remain to watch the end of the march.

Knowing they are irresistible, we passed out 5,000 Mardi Gras beads attached to an information card about the benefits of square dancing. Gratitude goes out to all the fine folks who made their way to Kian and Warren's apartment to assemble them and all the fabulous dancers who handed them out.

STONEWALL



NYC PRIDE · WORLD PRIDE



Special thanks to those who worked on both projects: Jim Babcock, Larry Caputo, Michael Coan, Michael “Ping” Dibella, Jeff Eisner, Ray Emerich, Seth Feinberg, Susan Gill, Thomas Grasso, Howard Handler, Ken Herskovits, Kian Lam Kho, Greg Leake, Warren Livesley, Larry Petterson, Dom Ponsades, Nadine Posner, Gabriel Rivas, Alan Teicher, Cindy Uejio, Jonathan Uejio, Jonathon Weiner, and JinJin (Kian and Warren's cat, who kept us entertained).

Beyond the march-dancing and bead-passing, thanks to Fred Loehr and Ed Zeigler for facilitating an information page on the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs (IAGSDC) website (<https://iagsdc.org/stonewall50>).

After all our hard work was finished, it was great to attend the IAGSDC Convention in Philadelphia, where all we had to do was dance and have fun!

Jim Babcock (bigjim567@yahoo.com, 631-790-6917)

WESTERN WHEELERS/HIX & CHIX – Maywood/Elm. Park PL-A tip (RD)sqrdance.org/Western.Wheelers**3 or 4 Sat. Sept.-April****Rec. Center, 346 Duvier Pl., Maywood 07607****Various Thur. May-Aug.****VFW, 6 Veterans Pl., Elmwood Park 07407****Georgi Flandera: 973-427-2889****Cell for dance: 201-852-7514**

Although our club did not hold dances during the months of April, May, June, and August, our members have been busy dancing in other fun ways.

Arlene Remington and her daughter, Margie, enjoyed the National Convention in Atlanta. Claudia and Doug Reid raved about the dancing at the convention and also had a wonderful time driving down, visiting sights along the way. Debbie and Jose Obarrio, Pat and Tom Duemig, and Lacey Hill took the Alaskan square dance cruise, joined by Debbie's mother and her friend.

Some good news: Debbie Obarrio advised that Jose finally retired! Georgi and Rich Flandera will be great-grandparents, again. John Huettemann is healing well after two shoulder surgeries. John Hill has medication to help with his health issues.

We have a great lineup of callers and cuers this season: Jay Silva, Betsy and Roy Gotta, Mark Franks, Matt McGovern, and Dan and Kathy Koft. Please join us for a Saturday night of Plus dancing.

Georgi Flandera (RGFlandera@gmail.com, 973-427-2889)

Y SQUARES – Clark**MS/RD-PL tip**y-squares.org**2, 4 Thurs. Sept.-May****Hehny School, 590 Raritan Rd. 07066****Jan and Paul Sanderson: 908-233-2414****Cell for dance: 908-612-6677**

We had an unplanned Plus class this spring. Congratulations to our graduates: Doreen Camardi, Kathy LaMaster, and Kathie and Rick Poland. Kudos to Ed LaPlante, our instructor, and to Karin Rabe and Greg Moore, who helped out in Ed's absence.

We completed the Raid and One Square Is Fair programs for the past dance season. Our first event of the new season was a barbecue at the home of Jan and Paul Sanderson, our presidents. Paul did all the cooking and everyone brought a dish. At a meeting following the barbecue, we discussed new ideas for the coming year. There is a lot of enthusiasm for our small but mighty club.

Leo Eckmann has been ill for some time and is recovering. Many club members visited him in rehab and were encouraged by his upbeat attitude. We hope to see him at our lessons and dances in the upcoming season.

Jan and Paul Sanderson, Barbara and George Kuhne, and Karin Rabe and Greg Moore attended the National Square Dance Convention in Atlanta. The Sandersons stayed additional days and visited the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park as well as the Atlanta History Museum.

We look forward to our first dance of the new season on September 12, with Mike Sikorsky calling and Mary Pickett cuing. The club will provide hot dogs and other snacks. With fun food, a fun caller, and a fun cuer, you don't want to miss it.

Ellen Ward (reporter@y-squares.org, 856-514-0713)