

Grand Square

KEEPING THE SQUARE DANCE COMMUNITY INFORMED

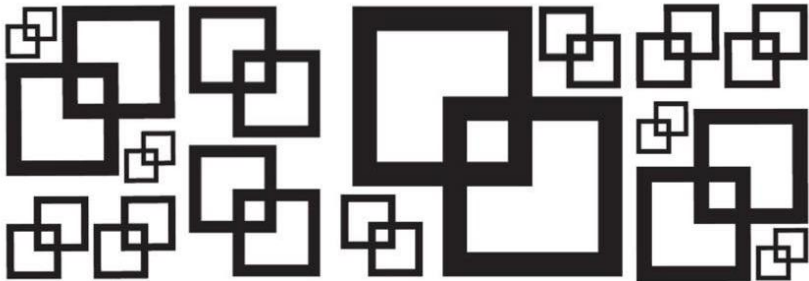
NORTHERN NEW JERSEY SQUARE DANCERS ASSOCIATION

Vol. 62, No. 1

Summer Issue

May-September 2020

When Life
Boxes You in ...



Square Dance!

www.facebook.com/SquareDanceUSA

Square dancing has been our great passion.
But sadly, it's now out of fashion.
So we'll all have to wait
For that upcoming date
When we can get back into action.

Don Schlesinger (RocklandRockytops, Motiv8ors)

Online in **color** at nnjsda.org/grand_square

Check online version and/or [NNJSDA website](https://nnjsda.org) for current information.

Grand Square

KEEPING THE SQUARE DANCE
COMMUNITY INFORMED

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Complete processes for submitting articles and ads online at nnjsda.org/grand_square

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<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Theme</u>
July 7, 2020	August 26	Fall/Winter/Spring
March 7, 2021	April 17	Summer

ADVERTISING RATES

<u>Size</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Basic Fee</u>
Full Page	7.75"	\$55
1/2 Page	3.75"	30
1/4 Page	1.75"	15
1/8 Page	1.00"	10

Table width for all ads: 5"
Use Word table with full border.

Extra charges may apply for
required or optional ad services.
Email ads for evaluation, approval, and fee.

Payment due upon receipt of invoice.
Make check payable to "NNJSDA" and
send to NNJSDA treasurer (see below).

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NNJSDA EVENTS

(MS = Mainstream, PL = Plus, A = Advanced, C = Challenge, RD = Round Dancing)

*Special Note: ALL events are tentative based upon when dancing can resume.
Check the NNJSDA [website](#) for current information.*

July

- 8 **NNJSDA Dance** (Wednesday)
Elmwood Park, 7:00-9:30
MS/RD
Jay Silva (NH)/Steve Bradt (PA)
Hosts: Circle Eights, Lakeland
- 22 **NNJSDA Dance** (Wednesday)
Elmwood Park, 7:00-9:30
MS/RD
Paul Ingis (NJ)/Ron Rumble (NJ)
Hosts: Belles & Beaux, Circle Eights

August

- 12 **NNJSDA Dance** (Wednesday)
Bridgewater, 7:30-10:00
MS/RD
Betsy Gotta/Roy Gotta (NJ)
Hosts: Bee Sharps, Y Squares
- 26 **NNJSDA Dance** (Wednesday)
Montville, 7:30-10:30
MS/PL/RD (early MS)
Mark Franks (NJ)/Mary Pickett (NJ)
Hosts: Motiv8ors, Rockytops
Grand Square distribution

September

- 13 **Delegates Meeting** (Sunday)
Bridgewater, 11:00
- 13 **NNJSDA Dance** (Sunday)
Bridgewater, 2:00-5:00
MS/PL/RD (early RD)
Dan Koft/Kathy Koft (PA)
Hosts: Middletown, Rutgers

October

- 3 **NNJSDA Dance** (Saturday)
Bridgewater, 7:30-10:30
PL/A (early A)
Doren McBroom (MD)
Hosts: Flutterwheels, Times Squares

November

- 8 46th Mini-Festival (Sunday)
Randolph (tentative), 1:00-6:30
MS/PL/A/RD-A1, C1
Mike Hogan (NE), Ted Lizotte (NH),
Matt McGovern (MA)/M. Pickett (NJ)

Notes:

- June 1 Club questionnaires due
July 7 *Grand Square* deadline

Bridgewater: PeopleCare Center, 120 Finderne Ave. 08807

Elmwood Park: VFW, 6 Veterans Pl. 07407

Montville: Senior House, 356 Main Rd. (Rt. 202) 07045

Randolph: Randolph High School, 511 Millbrook Ave. 07869

One Square Is Fair: All NNJSDA dances, including the Mini-Festival and Midterm Dance, count toward OSIF – support your club!

Dance Inquiries: Jeff Bell (972-365-6312)

ADS AND DANCE CALENDAR:

Advertisements and the Calendar of Advertised Dance Events are not included in this issue. Depending on when or if clubs and dance organizations feel confident about holding events at some point during the summer, we may create a calendar supplement to be posted as a PDF and emailed to the NNJSDA info-list, subscribers, and others. There would be no charge to member clubs or other regular advertisers for inclusion of events. In addition, member clubs may publicize upcoming events via the info-list and the website. As an exception to the general rule, regular non-NNJSDA advertisers will also be able to publicize via the info-list over the summer.



NNJSDA Presidents' Message



Our dance community has always been focused on “best practices” – most recently by creating a healthy environment through washing hands frequently, using antibacterial lotions, and

refraining from dancing when ill and potentially contagious.

The recent spread of the coronavirus worldwide has provided the opportunity to reevaluate and increase vigilance regarding healthful practices in our square dance community and beyond. Given the apparent risk to our more susceptible population as well as local, state, and federal guidelines, it became necessary to postpone and even cancel our regular activities this spring. While this action is disappointing, it is crucial in stemming the virus's spread. Further, it is absolutely critical that all of us adhere to government requirements and recommendations to keep ourselves and others safe and healthy.

As we look forward to fully reinstating our activities, please be aware that the Northern New Jersey Square Dancers Association executive board will be intent on ensuring adherence to the following guidelines at all dance events:

1. Refrain from attending any events when you are ill.
2. Maintain frequent handwashing and use of antibacterial lotion BEFORE and after each dance tip.
3. Refrain from touching your face.
4. If refreshments are offered, always use utensils provided for taking food from snack tables. NEVER use your hands directly!

We anticipate that the time required for the coronavirus to subside will cause an unusually challenging scenario for our newest dancers. We must remain committed to doing everything possible to keep our students and recent graduates actively engaged, confident, and enthusiastic. We recommend continuing communications through club officers and members to encourage current Mainstream students and recent graduates to stay involved. The best plan to accomplish this is the simple act of keeping in touch! For example, a phone call expressing personal interest in new dancers' continued involvement maintains friendship and commitment to staying “connected.” Other ideas:

1. Keep active, detailed lists of students, graduates, and newer members.
2. Stay in contact with them as well as all your members.
3. Keep everyone updated on club and NNJSDA news and future events.
4. Build friendships.
5. Invite new dancers to go with you as square dance activities resume.
6. Encourage new dancers with a “you can do it” attitude.

We urge you to remember that while things may be changing around us, the basics remain the same. We look forward to rejoining everyone on the dance floor with a renewed and vigorous commitment to building and sustaining healthy, happy, active square dance organizations throughout New Jersey and New York! We wish you safety and health.

Jean Agostinelli and Ralph Serio

How Puzzling!

Match each word/phrase with a square dance term:

1. Baseball field	
2. Surfer's medium	
3. Butter (for example)	
4. Door's pivot	
5. Conservationist's credo	
6. Lengthen	
7. On a playground	
8. On Hollywood Walk of Fame	
9. Crease	
10. Use a loom	
11. London Eye (for example)	
12. Good luck symbol	
13. Exchange	
14. One of the five senses	

*Adapted from Around the Square magazine, December 2019.
Answers found elsewhere in this issue.*



*Mini-Festival 2019: NNJSDA Executive Board with callers
Bill Harrison, Ken Ritucci, and Jet Roberts.
See page 17 for information on the 2020 Mini-Festival.*

Letters from Readers

We were saddened recently to hear of the passing of Steve Koehler. After learning Plus in the 1990s, we joined Bee Sharps. Steve and Peggy, the club presidents, were great mentors and leaders. They accompanied us to dances all around the area and helped us get into squares with strong dancers. Even better, Steve would try to position himself as my corner. That's how I will remember Steve – my Special Corner. *Nancy Ammons (Bee Sharps)*

Just a suggestion: Wherever you square dance – school, recreation center, or church – please take a minute to locate the Automated External Defibrillator. If a person is not breathing and needs assistance, precious minutes might be wasted if an AED cannot be located quickly. Be prepared for an unexpected emergency. *Karen Condon (Reelers)*

At an NNJSDA dance, the call was Swing. A second after my corner and I started, he dropped both arms and walked forward, leaving me struggling to maintain balance. The next time Swing was called, the same thing happened, and it was clearly intentional. Dancers: No matter how distasteful you might find it to be with someone, please do not endanger another person's health and possibly break down the square. *Name Withheld*

We just wanted to tell you how much we appreciate being in the loop as wandering ones. We are still in the Florida Keys where our kids insist we are safer than in New Jersey. Our caller and most of our dancers have left the community. Know that we miss all of you, our northern square dance family, and look forward to dancing with you when we are able to do so once again. Hope it's sooner rather than later for us all. Thanks again for all your hard work on *Grand Square*. *Syl and Ken Kaplan (Long Key Squares)*

Fragrance-free reminder for all dancers: **Yellow Rocks should have no scent!**

Remember, dancing is a contact sport.



To ensure that fragrances are not inadvertently left on the skin and clothes of people with sensitivities, please do not use them at dances (perfume, cologne, lotion, aftershave, scented powder, etc.). *Of course, deodorant is a MUST!*

NNJSDA Officers 2020-21

At the online delegates meeting on April 18, the following Association officers were elected for the dance year from June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021.

President: Jean Agostinelli

1st Vice President: Jeff Bell, Chris Wadel

2nd Vice President: Richard Ball, Joanna Lieuallen

3rd Vice President: Janet Gerber, Merrill Hodder

Corresponding Secretary: Maureen Moynihan

Recording Secretary: Carol Casale, Mimi Corpel

Treasurer: Bear Brady, Dave Tien

Assistant Treasurer: Sig Eisele

Creativity in Confinement

NNJSDA dancers share how they are dealing with the current period of extended home confinement due to the coronavirus through exercise and entertainment, helping others or receiving help, staying connected, tackling troublesome tasks ... and keeping on their square dance toes.

A good type of therapy for me has always been to write my thoughts and feelings on my computer, and then delete the whole document when I'm finished – giving me a release of feelings. I've also been watching some of the morning talk programs, where the hosts and guests are in their own homes. I find it very comforting to see these celebrities in their own surroundings and it shows that “we are not alone” in this nightmare. We all need to realize that life is precious and we need to enjoy this beautiful planet we call Earth, through good and bad times, while we can. I've gone back to my needlepoint projects and also enjoy Daily Doses of Laughter, Daily Trivia Questions, Celebrity Quotes, and various types of puzzles, all sent from wonderful square dance friends. Thank you all, and everyone ... STAY SAFE.

Mimi Corpel (Belles & Beaux, Circle Eights, Western Wheelers/Hix & Chix)

I gave myself an assignment to find and edit a new piece of music every day! I have surprised myself with the range, which includes a mix of pop and big band and even a mambo. I put the lyric files in the cloud and then download them to my tablet, and voilà – I can rehearse them. So far, the biggest and most fun feat of matching square dance calls to the lyrics of a song is R.E.M.'s “Losing My Religion.” I sat at the keyboard and played the original with vocals line by line and counted out the beats and cadence of each lyric. Then I replaced them with the calls, trying to match the lyrics word for word. I can't wait to try it out with dancers!

Howard Richman (Caller)

I am going through many years of old photos to organize, label, and cull them – a project I had been saving for “some day when I have time.” That day arrived and is bringing back many happy memories. Doing it now has the added advantage that Hal is a captive audience if I want to show him a treasured find. Other family members and friends are also home, just an email or text away, so I can send them special photos.

Irene Stoller (Reelers, Hunterdon Flutterwheels)

I really appreciate Don Schlesinger's expertise in putting together crossword puzzles for Plus and Mainstream calls. They were eye-openers! Although I've been dancing for nearly 40 years, it's apparent that I still don't know definitions, as I needed to consult a list of calls to complete these crosswords. Thanks also to Gardner Patton for sharing the word search puzzles. During this time of social distancing, the puzzles have helped to keep square dancing fresh in my mind and to remember special dance friends.

Mark Bippes (Reelers, Kittatinny Rangers)

(continued on page 8)

Creativity in Confinement (continued from page 7)

I learned how to use Zoom to connect with family and friends and even to take a couple of yoga classes each week. I also saw the “social distancing” virtual square dances on Zoom – very clever! In addition, walking has become popular in our neighborhood, and people were asked to put stuffed animals on their property so everyone could enjoy a “zoo walk.” My dog doesn’t get too excited anymore when he sees his leash. If he could talk, he’d be saying, “Enough walking already!”

Karen Condon (Reelers)

I started walking the Middlesex Greenway by myself while listening to music, and going a little farther every day.

Ellen Ward (Y Squares)

Receiving a Daily Dose of Laughter from a caring, creative, and clever friend who sends them to an email group helps me begin each day with anticipation and a smile. The Daily Doses range from puns to funny misuses of the English language to amusing quotes from children to the somewhat irreverent or slightly racy. I pass some along to others, who also pass them on, so these Daily Doses help spread a lot of cheer to many people.

Irene Stoller (Reelers, Hunterdon Flutterwheels)

Two or three members of my outdoor club used to hike informally at least weekly. The group swelled to five or six when I found that some square dance friends also enjoy hiking and wanted more exercise after dancing was halted. We don’t have time to talk much at dances, but have gotten to know one another better during the hikes. The woods have been alive with the sound of voices – at least six feet apart, of course – savoring the emerging springtime. Although we will not be dancing through the forests, we may just skip once in a while for the sheer joy of being out again!

Paul Sanderson (Y Squares)

Our Reelers Mainstream class was interrupted because of the coronavirus guidelines. I volunteer with Eddie, another student, for Habitat for Humanity. Now when we pass each other on the scaffolding, we say “Dosado!”

Phyllis Chanda (Reelers Student)

Due to the coronavirus situation in New Jersey, we snowbirds are staying in Arizona for the foreseeable future. The biggest downside: not being back for the birth of our second grandchild. However, we have discovered upsides to the extra time here without our usual full schedule of activities. While enjoying relaxed meals, we have joyously watched birds making their nests and feeding their newly hatched young in our front yard’s saguaro cactus. Our daily walks give us the opportunity to appreciate the various cacti whose flowering season is just beginning as we are usually flying back east. Attending evening square and round dances has been replaced by reveling at the wonders of the night skies. And we have become more aware of the importance of good health, for which we are truly grateful.

Jan and Louis Thompson (Motiv8ors)

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Party Gras 2023

Using the NNJSDA Website for Finding Dances

The NNJSDA offers options for finding dances at our member clubs and the NNJSDA: announcements via the email list, ads and the calendar in *Grand Square*, flyers, and postings on our website. This article focuses on the website.

The first stop is "The Next Seven Days" section on the homepage, which is especially helpful in planning your dance week. Clicking on any date for an event in the upcoming week will show you the details. This is also a good spot to check before leaving your house to see if a dance has been canceled.

The next stop is the visual events calendar. (Select "Events Calendar" on the site menu.) You can view a month's color-coded dance events and click on any entry for details: club = **blue**, student level = **purple**, NNJSDA other than student level = **green**, introductory dance = **orange**, canceled = **red**.

The final stop is on each club's information page. (Select "Our Clubs" on the site menu and then select "Details" for a club.) On the details page, you can check when a club is holding its next dance and find a flyer listing all scheduled dances for a particular time period.

If you haven't joined our email list and/or viewed our website, I suggest you do so to get the full complement of tools for finding dance events. While *Grand Square* is an excellent source, the website and email list provide more up-to-date information such as cancellations and changes (location, caller, program, etc.).

For comments, suggestions, and questions about the website, please contact me at webmaster@nnjsda.org.

Ken Robinson, Webmaster

Caller Crowd-Pleasers

Don Bachelder, Howard Richman, Fran Wadel: Being new to square dancing, it is often a bit overwhelming for me listening to all the calls and following along. Don was very clear, cheerful, and accommodating when asked to give me a “brief tutorial” during one of the breaks. Callers such as Don, Howard, and Fran – who take into account their newly planted audience – make each tip fun and square dancing enjoyable.

Paul Ingis: I especially enjoy dancing to Paul and his son, Stephen, with their lively popular music.

Howard Richman: We always look forward to dances called by Howard. He uses a great variety of music and is always well prepared for “theme” dances. He is as much an entertainer as he is a wonderful caller. He also has a way of helping and correcting new dancers without causing them to feel embarrassed about making mistakes.

Fran Wadel: A shout-out to Fran for her expert instruction!

Howard Williamson: Have you noticed how Howard has replaced Jim Snyder in one instance? He puts us into position for Right and Left Thru and then calls Right and Left Grand at the last possible moment. Either it’s a Pennsylvania thing or Howard is taking up where Jim left off when he retired, as I do not recall this being in Howard’s repertoire a year ago! Go Jim ... oops, I meant Howard!

Greg Moore: I like his calling in other languages – one time in Italian and another time in German! Well done, Greg; your language skills are impressive.

Howard Williamson: I love Howard – he calls just under a “fast” patter, which is fun and challenging!

Ed Crowley: Ed’s commitment to working with students is exceptional. He willingly drives hours and miles out of his way to lead our classes. Thanks!

Dane Bragg: Dane is an excellent instructor, when he is actually teaching a class and when he decides to help out dancers during a tip.

Howard Richman: We invited our students to the dance Howard was calling for us and he did a really nice job of calling to their level and making them comfortable.

Clay Goss: I don’t recall dancing to Clay until this year, when we had the pleasure of seeing him three times in two months. He has a great voice and interesting choreography, and is very personable with dancers during the breaks.

Howard Richman: He is one of my absolute faves. He is *very* funny and a terrific “teaching” caller – very good with new dancers.

Mark Franks: I’m one of the fans who try to attend any dance Mark calls!

Dane Bragg: Dane was asked to fill in for the Flutterwheels’ “In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb” theme dance on March 6. Despite having only hours to prepare, to the delight of the crowd he included “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” and “The Saints Come MARCHing In” among his singing tips.

More caller crowd-pleasers coming in the next issue. Add yours!

Farewell to Our Friends

Square dancing is “friendship set to music.” We have shared wonderful friendships with many dancers, and acknowledge here current and former NNJSDA club members who passed away during the last year. *Thanks for the memories.*

Mary Alessi, Cross Trail Squares,
Mountain Squares, 2/9/20

Emily Doyaga, Times Squares,
2/12/20

Steve Koehler, Motiv8ors, 2/25/20

Bernie Koft, Rutgers Promenaders,
Merri-Eights, 9/15/19

Allen Lentz, Cross Trail Squares,
1/14/20

Sally McGrath, Kittatinny Rangers,
8/3/19

Nancy Nosker, cuer, 9/23/19

Ria Pfersch, Reelers, 2/14/20

Joseph Rasulo, Hi Taws, 6/17/19

In Memoriam: Mary Alessi

Mary and Sal Alessi were valued leaders in the NNJSDA as well as their home clubs. They served the Association as recording secretaries (1991-93), third VPs (1993-94), second VPs (1994-95), first VPs (1995-96), and presidents (1996-98). The Alessis were members of Mountain Squares and Cross Trail Squares, where they served in many different roles, including as my angels and as club treasurers. Married just shy of 60 years, their favorite pastime was square dancing; they enjoyed many cross-country travels for national conventions.

Alice De Lancey (Cross Trail Squares)

In Memoriam: Nancy Nosker

Nancy was a round dance cuer for several NNJSDA clubs beginning in the 1970s. When renowned caller Dick Jones established Bee Sharps, he selected Nancy to be the club cuer. She also cued at the many weekend programs Dick ran in the Poconos. Nancy later became the cuer at Merri-Eights in New Brunswick, where Glenn Cooke was the club caller, and Country Promenaders in Edison. She was 94 when she passed away.

Bob Nilan (Y Squares)

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. Officers should know the location of the 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.



Congratulations, Patrons!

Visited at least 10 NNJSDA member clubs; earned free dance coupon/dangle

Gary Bergman: 1	Tom Duemig: 6	Arlene Remington: 7
Mark Bippes: 5	Lise Greene: 7	Cathy Schlesinger: 2, 3, 4, 5
Mimi Corpel: 12, 13	Tony Milito: 8	Don Schlesinger: 2, 3, 4, 5
Pat Duemig: 9	Ed Mindlin: 11, 12, 13	Bob Turner: 5
	Maureen Moynihan: 3	

Download your Patron form at nnjsda.org (“NNJSDA Documents”).

How to Square Up When the Caller Makes a Mistake

If the caller gets you to the wrong partner at the end of a sequence, what do you do? Most people promenade home, keep the “wrong” partner, and wait for the caller to proceed with the next sequence. Technically, this is okay. The caller did it, so you go with it. But is this the best option?

Let’s look at how most dances are called today. Callers use “sight calling” to resolve the square to your original corner and back to your original partner for a Right and Left Grand. To do this, callers memorize two adjacent couples in a square prior to the start of a tip. Ideally, they do this for three squares, but not everyone can remember so many people.

If the caller gets everyone to the “wrong” partner by mistake or if some dancers make a mistake and finish with the “wrong” partner, and if in either case the dancers keep this partner – the caller is in trouble. All memorization of who goes with whom is out the window, and there is no time to do a new memorization. So the caller becomes nervous about how to finish the tip and get everyone to his or her “new” partner.

As a result, the caller will generally use unbelievably simple memorized sequences to get people back to their “new” partner. In other words, the caller is likely to call nothing for the rest of the tip in an effort to survive, and this can affect your enjoyment.

However, if all dancers adjust at home to get their original partners back, the caller has no problem. Not only have you done the caller a favor; you have benefited the entire floor, because now the caller can continue with the planned sequences. When callers see dancers adjusting to get their original partners back, they will wait.

Occasionally a caller may say, “Don’t fix it. I intentionally got you to a different partner.” If this happens more than once, don’t believe it. The square dance game is played by having the caller get all dancers back to their original partners at the end of each sequence. Callers who say it doesn’t matter if you get your original partner back are really saying that they are not able to do it, but they don’t want you to realize this!

Remember: It benefits the entire floor if you get your original partner back when you are home and before the caller begins the next sequence.

Ed Foote, Caller

Congratulations, Freeloaders!

*Attended at least three NNJSDA summer dances and 2019 Mini-Festival;
earned free dance coupon and dangle*

Jean Agostinelli
Jeff Bell
Mark Bippes
Larry Bugal
Carol Casale
Mimi Corpel
Pauline DuBois
Lise Greene
Diane Hennion

Joanna Lieuallen
Bonnie Jean MacYash
Lisa Mauriello
Tony Milito
Ed Mindlin
Maureen Moynihan
John Pawlo
Karen Pawlo
Donna Poyer
Arlene Remington

Morrissa Schiffman
Wayne Schroeder
Susan Short
Jim Stamets
Mary Stamets
Mike Szekula
Bob Turner
Ellen Ward
Smith Weygant

Download your 2020 Freeloader form at nnjsda.org ("NNJSDA Documents").

NNJSDA EMAIL INFO-LIST

Did you ever forget about a dance you planned to attend, or 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 the NNJSDA executive board. See page 2 of any *Grand Square* for all such addresses.

NNJSDA: FOUR INCENTIVE PROGRAMS!

The NNJSDA offers four great programs as incentives to visit other clubs as well as NNJSDA dances, plus earn financial awards and dangles.

For Individual Dancers

Patron: visit specified number of member clubs

Freeloader: attend three NNJSDA summer dances and Mini-Festival

For Clubs

*(come with at least one square of members –
complete program once or twice a year)*

Raid: visit member clubs totaling 200 miles

One Square Is Fair: attend specified number of NNJSDA dances

For program rules and awards, visit nnjsda.org and click on "Documents."

Where in the World Have Our Dancers Been? *Memorable Dance Moments Submitted by Our Readers*

Sharing Their Love of Square Dancing in Japan: Rotary District #7475 has conducted a youth exchange program for the past 41 years. Last summer, it was our turn to chaperone 28 New Jersey teens in Japan for three weeks. With guidance from fellow Flutterwheelers Kathy Harvey and Heather Radcliffe-McGinnis (experienced square dance instructors in the Hunterdon County school system), we taught the teens a tip just before the trip. At the farewell banquet, three squares of happy students thrilled the Japanese host families and Rotarians with their performance of the state dance of New Jersey – square dancing. The Japanese hosts were delighted when the dancers concluded by holding up their joined hands and saying “arigatō gozaimasu!” (Thank you!)



Harry and Ruth Mazujian (Hunterdon Flutterwheels)



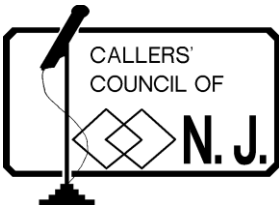
Texas Tales: In addition to square dancing with the Fun Dancers and Wheel-N-Deals clubs that I have visited on previous trips to Texas, I enjoyed being with the groups at Waterloo Squares and Canyon Lakes Club. Plans to participate in other events fell through due to the coronavirus restrictions.

Traveling back to New Jersey, I was the only one going through security and one of only nine passengers on the plane. The departure and arrival airports were practically deserted. That was great – except for the reason they were so empty.

“Jersey Bob” Turner (Reelers, Cross Trail Squares, Kittatinny Rangers)

Fun in Florida: While vacationing in Naples, Florida, during the month of February, I enjoyed sightseeing with my relatives and friends: museums, beaches, animal and plant sanctuaries, and the magnificent orchid show at Naples Botanical Gardens. Alone for a few days, I contacted the president of Happy Promenaders, and she very kindly drove quite a distance to take me to a club square dance. The program alternated Mainstream, Plus, and rounds with lively calling by Red Bates and a variety of round dance rhythms cued by Mike Alexander. Marj made sure I was in a square for each tip, and it was exciting to meet dancers from many different areas. There was a large contingent of Canadians who were members of a nearby club appropriately named Snobirds. I was given a dangle stating: “I danced in Naples!”

Gloria Lieberstein (Belles & Beaux, Western Wheelers/Hix & Chix)



CCNJ Presidents' Message

Note: For a roster of the Callers' Council of New Jersey, including contact information, see page 16 or visit ccnjcallers.com.

We would like to thank everyone who came out to Mid-Winter Mania 2020. It was a perfect sight to see so many students and angels dancing. Betsy did an amazing job as emcee. We would like to thank all the callers – and their partners – who gave their time. A special thank you goes out to Daryl Murphy for organizing, to Maryjane Clewell for enthusiastic promotion of the dance, and to Jean Agostinelli and Jeff Bell for volunteering to staff the sign-in table. Congratulations on a job well done to the teachers and class coordinators for encouraging dancers, especially the students, to attend.

Unfortunately, the square dance activity has been affected by the coronavirus. As callers, we are disappointed in the cancellation of dances and other gatherings like the Callerlab convention. Of course, we understand the need and look forward to calling for you in the near future. We all need to be accommodating in the effect this has on our community. Please be thoughtful toward new graduates attending dances who may not have completed lessons as normal.

To help all callers, remember to update websites regularly. Pay close attention to information including officers' names and phone numbers, addresses of dance locations, and dates of future events – and advise callers of any changes.

We are hoping to be able to see everyone at Mid-Summer Mania the afternoon of Sunday, July 26. The dance, scheduled at the PeopleCare Center in Bridgewater, will be an excellent opportunity for newly graduated Mainstream dancers to get experience. Please welcome all these friendly new faces into your squares!

Ed Crowley

732-600-0061

Katie Wilson, mrskwilson411@gmail.com

609-713-9419



Reminder for all dancers:

We all come to dances to have fun, get exercise, and enjoy the company of friends and visitors in a stress-free environment.

To ensure a comfortable experience for everyone, please be considerate: *Avoid wearing politically related clothing.*

Answers to puzzle on page 5:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Diamond | 6. Extend | 10. Weave |
| 2. Wave, Ocean Wave | 7. Swing, Slide, Seesaw | 11. Ferris Wheel |
| 3. Spread | 8. Star | 12. Cloverleaf |
| 4. Hinge | 9. Fold, Bend | 13. Trade |
| 5. Recycle | | 14. Touch |

CALLERS' COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY: MAY 2020

(For type of dance and program called: ccnjcallers.com)

President: Ed Crowley, Katie Wilson

Vice President: Daryl Murphy


Recording Secretary: open

Corresponding Secretary: Michael Winnick

Treasurer: Don Coy

Librarian: Bob Isaacs

Webmaster: Wes Thielke

Amesse, Tom Staten Island, NY 10301 718-448-1624 tomamesse@gmail.com	Ingis, Stephen Hillsdale, NJ 07642 201-888-1736 youthcaller@ingis.com	Push, Pat New Rochelle, NY 10801 914-813-2192 pushcaller@gmail.com
Clewell, Maryjane Hawthorne, NJ 07506 551-206-7905 Cmimigirl@aol.com	Isaacs, Bob New Brunswick, NJ 08901 732-846-6230 isaacsbob@hotmail.com	Rabe, Karin New Brunswick, NJ 08904 732-690-0604 karinmrabe@gmail.com
Coy, Don Brooklyn, NY 11209 718-238-8825 nodyoc@aol.com	<p>Live Lively-</p>  <p>Square Dance!</p>	Richman, Howard Jersey City, NJ 07302 646-596-0530 hhr9@verizon.net
Coy, Dot Brooklyn, NY 11209 718-238-8825 nodyoc@aol.com		Shipman, Larry Howard Beach, NY 11414 210-870-5067 lk1ship@aol.com
Crowley, Ed Forked River, NJ 08731 732-600-0061 eandbcrowley@aol.com	LaPlante, Ed Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 732-861-1638 edwardjlaplante@gmail.com	Tapper, Dan Gettysburg, PA 17325 201-247-9476 danieltapp@aol.com
Delgado, Rich Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 609-844-1140 richd1squarerounddancer@msn.com	Moody, Mary Branchburg, NJ 08876 908-229-6920 marymmoody@msn.com	Thielke, Wes Hillsborough, NJ 08844 908-547-0472 wthielke@gmail.com
Emory Jr., Jim Westbury, NY 11590 516-876-8704 jime987654@aol.com	Moore, Greg New Brunswick, NJ 08904 732-690-0604 moore.w.gregory@gmail.com	Wadel, Fran Dumont, NJ 07628 201-245-8256
Gotta, Betsy No. Brunswick, NJ 08902 732-249-2086 ugottadance@optonline.net	Murphy, Daryl Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 917-770-6754 kenanddaryl@msn.com	Wilson, Katie Waretown, NJ 08758 609-713-9419 mrskwilson411@aol.com
Ingis, Paul Hillsdale, NJ 07642 201-741-6050 squaredancing@ingis.com	Patton, Gardner Munhall, PA 15120 908-722-0562 gcp6@dianapatton.com	Winnick, Michael Massapequa, NY 11758 516-263-7701 squareman@optonline.net



NORTHERN NEW JERSEY SQUARE DANCERS ASSOCIATION



46th ANNUAL

MINI-FESTIVAL



Sunday, November 8, 2020, 1:00-6:30

Mike Hogan (NE)

Ted Lizotte (NH)

Matt McGovern (MA)

Rounds: Mary Pickett (NJ)

Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, Rounds

Also: All Singers Mainstream, DBD and Fast Plus, Advanced 1, Challenge 1

Randolph High School, Randolph, NJ (tentative)

Soft, non-scuffing shoes ONLY – no boots, please

“ONE SQUARE IS FAIR” EVENT FOR NNJSDA MEMBER CLUBS

For latest updates and directions: nnjsda.org/mini_fest_info

Email: minifestival.info@nnjsda.org

Call: Jean Agostinelli or Ralph Serio, 908-628-9363

Children through high school accompanied by a paying adult pay half price.

Please make a copy of this page for your records. Check payable to: NNJSDA

Mail to: Jean Agostinelli, 8 Balmoral Drive, Pittstown, NJ (908-628-9363)

Name(s) _____ Club _____

Street _____ City _____

State ____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

In advance	\$15 adult (\$20 at the door)	# _____	\$ _____
(through 11/5)	\$7.50 child (\$10 at the door)	# _____	\$ _____
1st Time Badge	\$3 each (optional)	# _____	\$ _____
2020 Bar	\$1 each (optional)	# _____	\$ _____

PLEASE ...
Enclose a stamped,
self-addressed,
legal-size envelope
with your order.

No refunds after 11/5/20.

TOTAL \$ _____

Thank you.

ALeMO SQUARES – Brooklyn, NY**MS/PL**alemo.nnjsda.org**Various Wed. Sept.-June****Location to be confirmed****Norma Cangiano: 646-641-7145****Cell for dance: 646-641-7145**

Some of our club members have had a rough time dealing with the coronavirus, both for ourselves and family members. But we look forward to being together and dancing again.

We are happy to report that we expect to have a new hall when dancing resumes in the fall. Our dance program and schedule will remain the same. When plans are finalized, we will be sure to let everyone know!

Connie Schiavone (bestnona@verizon.net)

FINDING DANCES ONLINE

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**

We enjoyed surprising Mary Pickett on her birthday at our '50s and '60s dance, with Y Squares raiding and Clay Goss calling. She was a good sport about the surprise!

Bees Sharps started a new Mainstream class in February that was making great progress, and we hope to get everyone back together when schools re-open. We have a terrific group of angels who come out every week to help, and we especially appreciate the efforts of Dave Tien and Susan Allen in helping to advertise and recruit guests at our intro dance.

We have missed the fun and camaraderie of dancing while practicing “social distancing.” But let’s resolve to be good to ourselves and others, and find some positive benefits to enforced isolation. As we planned for a very subdued St. Patrick’s Day while we were concerned about the future, I thought about a grand Irish saying: “May your troubles be less, and your blessings be more, and may nothing but happiness come through your door.”

Nancy Ammons (cearnach.dannsa@gmail.com)

908-566-7580

The Belles & Beaux 40th anniversary celebration at The Hermitage in Ho-Ho-Kus on September 15 was a fantastic social event. The weather was so beautiful that several tables were set up outside. We had 82 dancers from nine different clubs, and Howard Richman was the caller.

During dancing breaks, we heard from several different speakers. Richard Ball gave a detailed and very enjoyable history of Belles & Beaux. Many of the newer dancers were not aware of the club's history, and many of the older dancers had forgotten it. We also indulged in a delicious dessert buffet and ended with more dancing. Thank you to all who joined in our celebration of 40 years of dancing.

Belles & Beaux started its class in the fall on Thursday nights at Glen Rock Middle School. Before the pandemic, the students finished all the calls and were getting ready for graduation. They are now considered members of the club, and a graduation ceremony will be held once dances can safely resume.

If you joined us for our regular Wednesday night dance on January 15, you were probably part of our First Interactive Murder Mystery Prequel: "The Great Phone Caper." Our club president put his phone down for a moment to greet some arriving dancers, and when he turned back to get it, the phone had "mysteriously" vanished. At first the search began quietly, but pretty soon the room was abuzz as people noticed him going through coat pockets and garbage cans. He even looked in the soup kettles our refreshment hosts had brought in for Soup Night. Finally, he announced the disappearance to those in attendance and the hunt continued as people looked high and low ... but not low enough! Just when a pat-down search on everyone leaving was about to be announced, the phone was found. The case was cracked – the phone case, that is.

Andy Cilderman (crossss@aol.com)

201-797-3168

Just for Fun!

A comical situation occurred when Jonathon Weiner called for Belles & Beaux. He finally arrived half an hour late on a bus from Long Island, and we all joked that it was nice of him to show up. He explained that he had gone to the doctor before coming to the dance because of an ear infection, and we questioned how he could call without being able to hear on one side. He was puzzled, too, and we tried to figure out what he would do. He laughed at my suggestion that he "sign" his calls since he couldn't hear his own voice, and then told us he was also having back pains. One member observed, "You're falling apart at your age" (he is a teenager), which he found amusing! It was a very "interesting" night.

Mimi Corpel (Belles & Beaux, Circle Eights, WW/H&C)

If you've had a good square dance laugh, please share your anecdote!

The fall saw nine students, under the leadership of our own Paul Ingis, joining our 2019-20 Mainstream class. September brought to our monthly dance a first-time visitor to our club, the talented and entertaining caller Sandy Corey. Circle Eights welcomed raiders from Belles & Beaux as well as guests from Temple Twirlers Square Dance Club in Tampa, Florida, which Pat and Tom Duemig had previously visited.

Paul Ingis called our particularly memorable Oktoberfest dance, which featured bountiful German-style foods. We were raided by Lakeland Squares and RocklandRockytops and also visited by members of Hexcellent Squares (Raleigh, North Carolina) and Kaishi Square Dance Club (Mount Fuji area of Japan). Several of the Japanese dancers were callers, and they gave our members



and guests a special thrill dancing to their calls in two languages. Pictured are callers Christopher Schlitter (back left), Kinya Hosaka (front second from left), Sean Yamamoto (back second from right), and Yoshie Morisawa (front second from right).

The Circle Eights November dance, called by Howard Richman, included our annual food drive. We are grateful to all who contributed!

Thanks to our Raid chairs, Gerry and Rick Savino, we completed the program by visiting Bee Sharps, Cross Trail Squares, Hunterdon Flutterwheels, Kittatinny Rangers, RocklandRockytops, and Western Wheelers/Hix & Chix. Circle Eights continued to raid just for the fun of it!

Jeanne Weisman (kreider99@aol.com)

201-722-0488

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.

SEPTEMBER IS SQUARE DANCE MONTH IN NEW JERSEY

The governor annually proclaims September as Square Dance Month. It's a good time to tell your friends, neighbors, and acquaintances about this wonderful activity. In the hope and expectation of being able to start classes again in the fall, give them information about new Mainstream classes in their area (check NNJSDA website). Word of mouth is a great recruitment tool!

CROSS TRAIL SQUARES – Caldwell

MS/PL

2, 4, 5 Wed. Sept.-June

crosstrailsquares.org

Grover Cleveland School, 36 Academy Rd. 07006

Alice De Lancey: 973-618-9025

Cell for dance: 973-618-9025

The last few months have impacted how we had planned to celebrate the final dances of our 52-year history of fun, friendship, and creating memories. We thank the many members who came before us, the club officers who volunteered their time selflessly, and the many dancers from throughout the Association who have traveled to Cross Trail Squares on Wednesday nights.

As we look toward the future, we reminisce about our past. We will always value the relationships we have built and cherished with other square dancers. We will remember the many hours spent at home dances, festivals, and conventions – exercising both our bodies and minds before counting steps became a way to ensure staying healthy. And, lastly, we will take pride in the fact that our club was known for welcoming others at our dances (several even became active, loyal members) and being the first to bring to our dances many out-of-state and new callers who now appear at other Association clubs.

As CTS president for more than a decade, I thank those who have reached out to me with kind messages about the decision to make this our final dance season. I will always hold tightly to the wonderful relationships I have formed through square dancing, and look forward to being at many events.

Since our season ended unexpectedly, we will wait until the square dancing community is once again enjoying our activity and find a way to hold one last blowout CTS dance. Stay tuned and stay safe!

Alice De Lancey (delanceyal@aol.com)

973-618-9025

LOOKING FOR NEW DANCE HALLS

Do you know of a church, civic group, school, etc., that might have a great dance hall – especially one in an area generally central for our member clubs? Let us know and we'll check it out. Please email firstvp@nnjsda.org.



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*.

The Flutterwheels have had a very busy year, going out into the larger community before the dance season even began. Reaching into west New Jersey along with several other clubs, we participated in the Warren County Farmers' Fair and Hot Air Balloon Festival by performing a demo in which the public was invited to participate. We did the same with the Alexandria Township Community Day. We also attended the Volunteer Guardianship event at the Readington River Buffalo Farm to demonstrate square dancing with the group's participants as part of the entertainment.

We opened the dance season with our Batter's Up dance. Jay Silva hit a home run with his calling, and the Flutterwheels scored big with an enjoyable night. Dancers came in baseball attire, including Bob Wolfe, who wore an original old-time wool uniform.



We welcomed another booming class of 25 enthusiastic Mainstream students (many pictured here with instructor Mary Moody).

As part of fulfilling our commitment to the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation, about 20 Flutterwheels volunteered to help out with

Touch-a-Truck parking and support in early November.

The Flutterwheels once again collected more than 400 pounds of food for the Flemington Food Pantry in conjunction with our December Share the Goodness dance, called by Paul Ingis.

The best turnout of the season was at our Ho-Ho-Holiday and Hanukkah dance with caller Ted Lizotte and a record high 11 squares. With the new year came our Souper Bowl dance with Mary Moody, where we scored big by offering 15 soups that were enjoyed during pregame, halftime, and postgame wrap-up. Our Heart Healthy dance with caller Michael Winnick had us in stitches for most of the night with his unique calling style. The first dangle dance of the year, American Bandstand, was a chart-topping night with all attendees dancing to the tunes of Mary Moody and receiving a "record" dangle. After winter's doldrums, we headed into spring with Dane Bragg's upbeat and contemporary calling.

Our Plus class started in February with 41 excited students and instructor Dane Bragg, but was waylaid due to the coronavirus.

Like everyone around the world, the Flutterwheels family is anxiously awaiting the time when we can get back to a more normal way of life and begin square dancing again. Stay healthy and we will see you in a (virtual) square, until we can be together again.

Mark Kubinak (markkubinak@embarqmail.com)

KITTATINNY RANGERS – Newton**MS/PL**kittatinnyrangers.com**2, 4 Fri. Sept.-May****Long Pond School, 707 Limecrest Rd. 07860****Beth Benson: 201-787-2038****Cell for dance: 201-787-2038**

Greetings from the Kittatiny Rangers. Returning to Farmstead Country Club in January for our annual holiday party was bittersweet, as it represented a farewell to members who have been our longtime friends. We will sincerely miss Jacqui and Bruce Berringer and Pat and John Sheppard, who were always willing to serve well in so many positions over the years.

Although old friends cannot be replaced, we welcomed two of last year's graduates, Karen Hartman and Trevor Johnson, in joining Ken Smith to coordinate the new Mainstream class. Some of the other 2019 graduates are active angels, and some also work with publicity, host dances, and more.

In January, we welcomed enthusiastic graduates from our first Mainstream class and began the second. Although the latter class was interrupted in March, all the students expressed the desire to continue with lessons when possible.

As the Kittatiny Rangers experience downsizing and rebuilding, raids and visitors from other clubs are appreciated for the camaraderie and energy you bring to our dances. We want to give special thanks to Reelers, Lakeland Squares, Cross Trail Squares, Circle Eights, and Belles & Beaux for their enthusiastic welcome when we raided them.

We look forward to meeting graduates from other clubs during the summer and seeing all our comrades in dancing throughout the 2020-21 season.

*Connie Smith (casglass@gmail.com)**973-383-9430***LAKELAND SQUARES – Towaco****MS/PL**lakelandsquares.wix.com/lakeland**1, 2, 3, 4 Mon. Sept.-July****Good Shepherd Episcopal Church****5 Mon. Dance Party****9 Two Bridges Rd. 07082****Kathy Keener: 973-366-8064****Cell for dance: 973-229-0698**

Ahoy, from Lakeland! It has been a good year. We dance every Monday from September through July, and only two dances had to be canceled due to weather. The entire club is eagerly waiting for dancing to resume.

Janet and Steve Eid guided our successful Raid program for another year.

This year, our club had three hardworking students: one experienced dancer learning the leading lady position and two new dancers, Fred Mendez and Aleta Schulien. They honed their skills by going to many student dances, completed learning all the calls, and have made us proud.

Our two student-level dances were well attended by students and angels from other clubs. Raids and visitors plus our own members have kept our numbers good all year.

Special themes such as our Halloween dance attracted many visitors, and our square dance parties gave a nice introduction to non-dancers. Fran Wadel (student dances) and Howard Richman (square dance parties) are super!

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

We welcome our new Mainstream graduates, listed in the order that they appear in the picture below: Betty Brock, Joe Torrence, Chris Elio, Candace Steffle, Margaret Tomasello, Linda Lin, and Lawrence Tsai. This class was the first to use new teaching material from Swedish callers Tomas Hedberg and Stefan Sidholm and American Bronc Wise. Thanks to last year's graduate, Paul Jansen, for discovering this tool.

Our intro dance called by Ed Crowley was a success with more than 100 members and guests. The Halloween dance brought out a plethora of unusual costumes. Pat and Joe Ross won for scariest, Maureen Crist for funniest, and Ester Carballo-Jane for most attractive.



Larry Sherwood obtained a bus and drove the following 21 Ramblers to the NNJSDA Mini-Festival, making the trip a pleasure: Cyndy Allan, Mary Batistick, Harriet Button, Lynn Case, Fran and Len Freeman, Dennis Hunsberger, Elaine Lukacs, Mary Lundin, Jane Mastrolia, Marilyn Mihalic, Mike O'Farrell, Matty and Bernie Sharkey, Patty and Larry Sherwood, Joe Vapnar, Dave Woodward, Rich Yackel, and Gina and Ted Zbikowski. Everyone had a great time.

The covered dish holiday dinner-dance was very enjoyable with 66 members and guests. We elected the following officers for the new year: president Joseph Vapnar, vice president Cyndy Allan, secretary Ester Carballo-Jane, and treasurers Mary Batistick and Rich Yackel.

Mary Trossello awarded Gold Stars to Ruth Romeo and Mike O'Farrell, both of whom always seem to be there when needed the most, going the extra mile and making our dances successful. The new president then awarded Mary Trossello a Gold Star. She accomplished much in her brief tenure as president by updating our bylaws (no small task) and working well with committees. Come dance with us!

Joseph Vapnar (joevapnar@gmail.com)

732-500-0391

LET'S HELP OUR NEW DANCERS

Suggestion from a caller, for experienced dancers: *Invite* new dancers to ride with you to a dance. Switch partners with the new dancers a few times and go to different squares. This will help them become more confident, more quickly.

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**

We hope the coronavirus pandemic has left our friends reasonably unscathed. We are so looking forward to returning to “normal” and once again dancing with you all.

Last August, two squares of Motiv8ors raided the RocklandRockytops Plus dance. After a tutorial from Fred Meyer, we entertained with our raid march. The enjoyable evening included an Advanced tip called by Mark Franks.

In November, our president, Maryjane Clewell, masterfully coordinated a wonderful dance event to honor John and Mary Aquino, founders of J & M Squares (precursor of Motiv8ors). A lifetime club membership was bestowed upon the special couple. The evening had everything: fun and enthusiastic Advanced and Challenge dancing called by Ed Foote, delicious and plentiful refreshments, a few dancers sharing their remembrances, and even two intro-to-Advanced tips. Both past and present NNJSDA board members and club members expressed gratitude for the Aquinos’ tremendous contributions to square dancing in New Jersey. Former NNJSDA presidents Dick and Shirley White made the trek from New Hampshire to participate in the tribute. See page 30 for a photo from the event. For a full biography of John and Mary, visit the *Grand Square* [bio page](#) on the NNJSDA website.

In September, Susan and Frank Dreifus celebrated his 80th birthday by hosting a potluck lunch at Cherry Ridge Campsites, their summer home away from home. The party also celebrated two other Motiv8ors, Vicki Sherman and Chariss Smith, who share Frank’s birthday. We enjoyed the food and time for extended conversations, rather than the usual brief words between tips. Two months later, the Dreifuses celebrated their older granddaughter’s marriage.

In November, Arlene Remington and Maryjane went sightseeing in Virginia. It was a week of reliving history from the 1600s to the present: historic Jamestown and Yorktown; Colonial Williamsburg; the USS Wisconsin, one of the largest battleships built by the US Navy; and Naval Station Norfolk.

During Fred Meyer and Rochelle Honigsfeld’s annual *Queen Mary 2* cruise, they visited Stonehenge while the ship was docked in Southampton.

We welcome Maryjane back to the dance floor after her surgery. Motiv8ors members send positive energy and healing thoughts to Don Schlesinger and John Hill, who have been facing ongoing medical challenges. After Louis Thompson’s surgery to repair his torn Achilles tendon, our club wishes him a full recovery and speedy return to the dance floor.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Diane Coffman on the passing of her beloved father. Our hearts also go out to Peggy Koehler on the unexpected passing of her husband, Steve. Peggy and Steve have long been members of our square dance community, and their absence has been felt.

Jan and Louis Thompson (ltp1@yahoo.com)

732-577-9413

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**

In December, we welcomed the 13 graduates of our Plus class as members of Reelers. Our current Mainstream class, begun in January, had more than 20 students. The success of our classes is attributable in large part to the superb marketing and management skills of our class coordinators, Janet and Alan Gerber, the organized and effective teaching of Ed Crowley, and our angels. We hope all the students will continue when we are able to resume the lessons.

Our annual holiday party was again graciously hosted by Bob Turner in his beautifully decorated home. The Yankee Swap is always a big hit with much laughter as members decide whether to take a gift selected by another member or chance an unopened package.

The beginning round dance class held prior to each club dance by our cuer, Mary Pickett, is providing the opportunity for people eager to learn round dancing to combine the lessons with a regular square dance night. Mary ensures that the students get a chance to practice what they learn in each lesson during the round dances she cues that evening.

Everyone had a “soup-er” time at our February Souper Bowl dance, enjoying the wonderful calling of Clay Goss. We collected many cans of soup to donate to the local food pantry.

Our members keep on the move. Cindy Whalen and Lisa Mauriello biked 150 miles through the Allegheny Mountains in Pennsylvania and Maryland. Irene and Hal Stoller went on a river cruise in France. Lise Greene and Mark Bippes enjoyed trips to several national and state parks out west, and then to Costa Rica and Panama. Florida was a popular destination with six members spending time there: Nancy and Jim Anderson, Av and Bear Brady, and Arlene and Tom Simansky. Carla and Stephen Holusha logged many miles running races, winning awards and donations for charities. Several members went to scenic Cacapon Lodge in West Virginia, dancing to Howard Williamson and Denny Steiner and the cuing of Tim Eum. Helen Jacobson’s travels often entail utilizing her expert nursing skills as a volunteer for Red Cross, such as her recent work in Nashville at a shelter for people displaced by tornadoes.

We hope you will join us for a good time square dancing to a variety of callers, many from out of state, plus round dancing, delicious food, and friendship. Please visit our website at reelers.nnjsda.org and our [Reelers Square Dance NJ](#) Facebook page.

Irene Stoller (histoller@live.com)

908-823-4565

FREELOADER 2020 ALERT (if dances held this summer)

Pick up a new Freeloader form at your club, an Association dance, or the website (nnjsda.org – click on “Documents”). Attend three summer NNJSDA dances AND the Mini-Festival in 2020, have the form signed at each event, and earn a dangle plus a free dance coupon. Write your name on the form!

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 has had an exceptional season with great attendance, stimulating callers, an enthusiastic Mainstream class, and our always outstanding refreshment table. Our class, scheduled to produce 10 graduates, was, sadly, suspended due to the coronavirus. We plan to resume as soon as we all get back to dancing, hopefully in the near future.

Our well-attended dances this season included August Plus called by Mark Franks to four squares, thanks to a raid from Motiv8ors. In December, we sponsored a hoedown for Clarkstown. Seven squares – among them the grandchildren of our presidents, Cathy and Don Schlesinger, and Circle Eights presidents, Pat and Tom Duemig – enjoyed the fun calling of Fran Wadel.



The most exciting Rockytops event of the season was our Student/Valentine's Day dance, expertly called by Fran Wadel. The 64 attendees included 15 students – eight from Rockytops and seven visitors. Thanks to contributions from many club members and students, our refreshment table was more spectacular than ever, and featured a beautiful cake honoring the Schlesingers and wishing Don well (see photo).

Unfortunately, this season also has been one of challenging health issues for some members, particularly John Hill and our president, Don. Luckily, both John and Don are blessed with supportive wives, Lacey and Cathy, who are sharing their husbands' difficult journeys. Somehow, these strong women also manage to fill active roles in keeping their square dance clubs going.

Happily, through much of his treatment, Don felt very well and was able to attend dances. He began the final process of stem cell transplant in February and is now in the recovery phase. Don promises that he will see us soon in a square, and we hope keeping that promise will be imminent.

After many housebound months, John Hill was sighted in February at Circle Eights, looking trim and healthy. Although not yet dancing, John did help with setting up chairs and tables. Wishing all a healthy and happy summer.

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

HOW TO ATTRACT NEW DANCERS

"Somehow we have convinced ourselves that people will be drawn to square dancing when they see how much fun we are having. No. People will be drawn to square dancing when they see how much fun **THEY** are having." (Scott Bryce)

"We had hoped to lose weight square dancing, but instead we gained – friendships!" (Cindy Whalen, Reelers)

1, 3 Sun. Sept.-Junerutgerspromenaders.org**Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 1001 Finnegans Ln. 08902****Matica Bierstein: 732-485-6277****Cell for dance: 732-485-6277**

Our new dance season started off on a great note with an intro dance. We had three squares in attendance and a few prospective students in the mix. Due to unforeseen circumstances, our original caller, Dan Koft, was not able to attend, but we enjoyed the great calling of Mary Moody. Thank you so much, Mary, for kindly stepping in to make this such a pleasant event.

Sadly, we learned about the passing of Dan's father, Bernie. He was a longtime Promenader and a very kind soul who will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

On October 6, we proudly held a very special 65th anniversary dance and tribute to Betsy Gotta's stellar 60-year calling career. Much fun and joy was experienced by all in attendance!

Our Raid season included journeys in the fall to Belles & Beaux, Bee Sharps, and Hunterdon Flutterwheels – kudos to chairs Maureen Moynihan and Tony Milito for stepping up once again. (Belles & Beaux returned the favor in March and Lakeland Squares raided in November.) We held our traditional November Food Bank Drive and December Toys for Tots events.

One of our beloved longtime members, Jeff Lewis, has been valiantly fighting ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) for a few years. He has been able to attend occasional dances, and on February 15 participated in a tip wheeled by his wife, Karen. If there isn't a dance available for this, there should be!

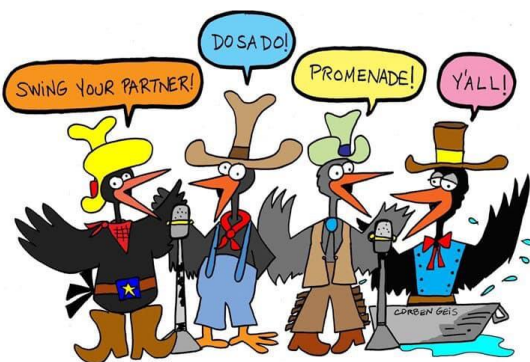
When you're up for a great dance experience, please keep us in mind – especially if you're planning raids!

Mary Ann Ryan-Erdek (merdek56@gmail.com)

908-745-1659

SECRET FOR NEW DANCERS

As you venture from your home club to other club and Association dances, here's a secret for good dancing: *Try to square up with experienced dancers rather than with your classmates and other recent graduates. They will help you!*



FOUR CALLING BIRDS?

*Well ... three calling birds
and one cuer:
coming to the
2020 Mini-Festival!
See page 17 for details.*

In 2019, the club drew in more dancers, increased membership, offered more opportunities to dance, and had a wider offering of callers than the prior year.

Like many organizations today, we are trying to remain viable and draw new participants. The club changed the format of our Saturday combo events to “all-skate” dancing (alternating levels throughout the whole day), which resulted in an equal or increased attendance. Adding potluck dinners to these events also met with a favorable response.

Another change instituted to increase opportunities for new people to try out square dancing was the creation of monthly open dances. Different calls were taught at each one to create variety. This approach has been used by other members of the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs.

We also changed the format of Mainstream instruction from weekly lessons to a Blast Weekend, which has been effective with other clubs. Condensing the teaching time in order to present all the calls in one weekend is challenging, but allows for a focused attention and attendance from students. The downside seems to be decreased attendance by current members on Tuesday club nights when there are no longer lessons on the same night. While we were able to bring more people through the doors, we do have the continued challenge of keeping them actively participating after graduation. Of the 20 new members from the 2019 Mainstream class, only four are still dancing, while three of the six Blast Weekend graduates are still here.

In the spirit of fostering friendships off the dance floor, we organized nine events that included a lecture on “Rediscovering New York,” Chinese dinner followed by Balkan dancing, public library exhibit “Love and Resistance” focused on the Stonewall Uprising, Pride Night with the Mets, karaoke night, and three very popular wine tastings hosted by Jonathan and Cindy Uejio.



Something else is new: our “subway” club T-shirt! The material used for the legacy black dress shirt with the NYC skyline is no longer available. Making its debut at the Pride Square Dance last June, the subway T-shirt, designed

by our own Jennie Jones, recreates a unified look, while still letting us be quite fashionable. The images show the front and back of the new shirt. For larger images showing the “subway” design, see the club’s [website](#).

Warren Livesley (wllivesley@gmail.com)

917-705-5243

3 Sat. Sept.-April**Maywood Recreation Center****Various Thur. May-Aug.****346 Duvier Pl. 07607****Georgi Flandera: 973-427-2889****Cell for dance: 201-852-7514**

Raiders are always welcome! We dance the Plus program, alternating with rounds when available, along with an Advanced tip if possible.

We were pleased to welcome our new Plus graduates, Alicia and David Weschler, at our Valentine dance. With our very own NNJSDA sweethearts Betsy and Roy Gotta calling and cuing, it was a wonderful evening of romantic music and passionate dancing. The picture below was taken at the dance.



Our jet-setting vice presidents, Georgi and Rich Flandera, spent three weeks cruising the Adriatic Sea and visiting Slovenia, Croatia, and Montenegro.

Claudia and Doug Reid enjoyed a Lancaster quilt show and a flower show in Philadelphia.

Please mark your calendars for our lone summer dance at the Maywood Recreation Center on July 9. If we are back to dancing by that time, it will feature the dynamic duo of Howard and Donna Williamson.

Lacey Hill (laceyjhill@gmail.com)

201-358-2629

Mary and John Aquino Honored at Motiv8ors



At Motiv8ors on November 3, Mary and John Aquino were honored with lifetime membership. The tribute was fitting since the couple founded the club as J & M Squares.

They graduated in a class of 100 at Hix & Chix in 1981, and then became presidents in 1982. The following year, they were elected first vice presidents of NNJSDA (1983-85) and then presidents (1985-87). They also chaired four Mini-Festivals.

The Aquinos have been married for 68 years. See page 25 in this issue for a report on the celebration at Motiv8ors. To read a full biography of Mary and John, visit the *Grand Square* [bio page](#) on the NNJSDA website.

Eight students began our Mainstream class this year. After lessons had started, two others expressed interest. Our angels came to the rescue with a two-tier lesson so the newer students had extra time to catch up. The club is so thankful to class coordinator Susan Short and caller Ed LaPlante for their unmatched efforts and diligence in keeping the class on track. Our students are doing so well that they attended our dances with special class tips to get the feel of regular dances. They also attended the NNJSDA Midterm Dance.

The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club honored our president, Paul Sanderson, as Volunteer of the Year. Paul, the chapter president and group chair, has been involved with the club for many years. Way to go, Paul!

Y Squares continued its Raid program with enthusiasm. Our coordinators, Barbara Kuhne and Wayne Schroeder, found fun and interesting restaurants where we could eat prior to dancing. With these get-togethers, our attendance increased. We raided Bee Sharps (see photo), Cross Trail Squares, Hunterdon Flutterwheels, Middletown Ramblers, and Reelers.



Several of our members attended special dances including the Five Clubs New Year's Eve dinner-dance and the Lehigh Valley B&Bs Presidents Weekend at Cacapon State Park. We enjoy these special events, but it's always good to return to our own club with its fun themes and supportive members. We look forward to dancing with you.

Ellen Ward (reporter@y-squares.org)

856-514-0713

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.

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NNJSDA MEMBER CLUBS

Clubs desiring to change their regular dance program, location, day, or time **MUST** contact the recording secretary (listed on page 2) for clearance. *Round dancing included.

MAINSTREAM

- Belles & Beaux** – sqrdance.org/BellesBeaux (201-522-4778) 1, 3 Wed. All Year
VFW, 6 Veterans Pl., Elmwood Park, NJ 07407
- Circle Eights** – circle8s.nnjsda.org (201-694-7797) 3 Fri. Sept.-June
Hillsdale United Methodist Church, 349 Hillsdale Ave., Hillsdale, NJ 07642
- RocklandRockytops** – sqrdance.org/RocklandRockytops (914-450-2724) 2 Fri. All Year
Congers Community Center, 6 Gilchrest Rd., Congers, NY 10920
- *Rutgers Promenaders** – rutgerspromenaders.org (732-485-6277) 1, 3 Sun. Sept.-June
Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 1001 Finnegans Ln., North Brunswick, NJ 08902
- *Y Squares** – y-squares.org (908-612-6677) 2, 4 Thurs. Sept.-May
Hehny School, 590 Raritan Rd., Clark, NJ 07066

ALTERNATING MAINSTREAM AND PLUS

- AleMo Squares** – alemo.nnjsda.org (646-641-7145) Various Wed. Sept.-June
Location TBA, Brooklyn, NY
- Hunterdon Flutterwheels** – hunterdonflutterwheels.nnjsda.org (908-458-6387) 1, 3 Fri. Sept.-June
Echo Hill Park Lodge, 43 Lilac Dr., Flemington, NJ 08822
- Kittatinny Rangers** – kittatinnyrangers.com (201-787-2038) 2, 4 Fri. Sept.-May
Long Pond School, 707 Limecrest Rd., Newton, NJ 07860
- 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
- Times Squares** – timessquares.nyc (212-749-4291) Various Tues./Sat. All Year
PS 3, 490 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014

PLUS

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

ADVANCED 2, CHALLENGE 1

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

CANCELLATIONS AND INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSURES:

Contact clubs and/or see nnjsda.org for information.

Club Presidents and Web Contacts: Remember to mark canceled events on the NNJSDA website and email squaredance_info@nnjsda.org.