



**NORTHERN NEW JERSEY
SQUARE DANCERS ASSOCIATION**
GRAND SQUARE - OFFICIAL PUBLICATION - www.nnjsda.org
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PRESIDENTS' E-LETTER – October 2009

- 1. Halloween dance** – Be whoever you choose by wearing a costume (if you'd like) at the dance on Friday, October 30. Caller: Mike Callahan. Cuers: Tom Denniston and Ellen McCabe. Location: St. Aloysius Church, 219 Bloomfield Avenue, Caldwell, NJ 07006. *Note:* The printed *Grand Square* lists the dance day as Saturday; the correct day (Friday) is in the on-line version and the on-line calendar.
- 2. Student dances** – Please check the *Grand Square* for clubs offering student level dances, and accompany your students there. You'll have a great time as they experience the excitement of club dancing.
- 3. Staten Island** – Staten Island is square dancing again! Successful summer ABC dances have led to two Mainstream classes (more than two squares in each) on Thursdays. The local historical society will continue the ABC dances on the fourth Sunday of the month in Richmond Town Historical Village. Also, the city's special education junior high/high school is planning to start a square dance club on Fridays. So if you know someone on Staten Island, put them in contact with Barbara Kanter to get in on the dancing.
- 4. Mini-Festival** – The annual Mini-Festival location has been confirmed at the Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School on Sunday, November 8 from 2-9 PM. Advance tickets (ribbons): \$15 from your club or Kay Davis, Assistant Treasurer. At the door: \$18. *Families:* At the suggestion of dancers, we are offering a family rate of \$45 in advance or \$54 at the door for one or two parents and all their dancing children through age 18. *Freeloaders:* If you had your form signed at three of the summer 2009 dances, remember to have it signed at the Mini-Festival for a free dance ticket next summer.
- 5. Patrons and Freeloaders** – Congratulations to our newest Patron award recipients, Steven and Eleanor Frank of Cross Trail Squares! Lists of dancers who have completed the Patron and Freeloader programs are being compiled on our website. The lists are currently incomplete, so please let the webmaster know of any missing names and year of completion. You can also download both forms on the website, or pick them up at any NNJSDA dance.
- 6. One Square is Fair** – *New procedure:* When arriving at an NNJSDA dance, please pay at the Treasurer's table, but sign in next to the name of your club on a new form at another table. For OSIF purposes, you can change the club for which you sign in at any time before 9 PM – as long as you're a member, of course!
- 7. Paper Mill Playhouse** – About 135 dancers signed up for the demo in Millburn last month, and lists of classes were handed out to many spectators. Remember to reserve free show tickets using your letter.
- 8. Publicity idea** – A good way to get free local publicity is to send a press release to area newspapers announcing the election of your club president(s), along with a photo and contact information. Local names will catch the attention of people in the community.

- 9. New callers dance** – There was a great turnout for a dance on September 30 cosponsored by the Callers Council of NJ and Cross Trail Squares featuring six callers-in-training. They were heartily and deservedly applauded for tackling the task of trying out their new skills with such a large group. Kudos to them all: Paul Ingis, Barbara Kanter, Joe Kwiatek, Dan Tapper, Wes Thielke, and Mike Winnick. Thanks to CCNJ president and coordinator Ron Kapnick and the caller coaches: Betsy Gotta, Mike Jacobs, and John Kaltenthaler.
- 10. January 10, 2010** – Save this Sunday date to be at the VFW in Elmwood Park for a Delegates Meeting (12:30), half-hour demo by some of our new callers whom you may wish to consider hiring (2:30), and Mid-Term dance (3:00) designed especially for students. Audrey Kerner, 2nd VP, promises a “wonderful lineup” of callers who are also teachers: Ron Kapnick (serving as MC), Wayne Applegate, Betsy Gotta, Dan Koft, Fran Wadel, and Andy Woerner. Come with your students and enjoy a great dance.
- 11. Presidents’ Dinner** – Continuing our tradition of honoring club presidents during Presidents’ Month, we are planning a buffet dinner and informal meeting on Thursday, February 25 (time and location to be announced). Presidents or their representatives will be invited at no charge, and others are welcome to participate and pay only the cost of their own meal. Mark your calendars!
- 12. The Gathering** – Next year’s Gathering will be on Saturday, October 9 with keynote speaker John Marshall, a nationally known caller. Details will be provided later.
- 13. Nominating Committee** – The committee is preparing to solicit nominations for NNJSDA officers for a one-year term from June 2010-May 2011. Send suggestions (including your own name, if you wish!) to:
 *Maria and Roger Hoernlein, chairs (Western Wheelers, RocklandRockytops) – rhoernlein@optonline.net
 *Miriam and David Gurowsky (RocklandRockytops) – jjgurumd@verizon.net
 *Nancy and Vic Ammons (Bee Sharps, Five Clubs) – vammons@gmail.com
- 14. Club websites** – Most Member Clubs have a web page on our website where you can find information on their schedule, officers, news, and so on. Please ensure that your club’s webmaster updates your page or contact the NNJSDA Webmaster, Ken Robinson, for assistance.
- 15. Dance format suggestions** – The experimental new NNJSDA dance format (early Mainstream, all singers Mainstream) is in its second year, and we would appreciate suggestions for the next dance season – with the realization that no format will suit everyone completely. For example, although both of us enjoy round dancing, the small number of round dancers at the summer dances has led us to try squares only at the dances next summer. Again, the change is experimental and we’ll solicit your views on how it works. Please give us your ideas on the NNJSDA dance format and any other matters related to the Association in the following ways:
- Email the Co-Presidents (president@nnjsda.org).
 - Click on the website Suggestion Box (nnjsda.org).
 - Place a note in the Suggestion Box on the Treasurer’s table at a dance.
 - Send a note to one or both of us at our home addresses (see page 2 of the *Grand Square*).
 - Place an NNJSDA Suggestion Box at your club Treasurer’s table and give us the notes.
 - Discuss matters at your club meetings and have the President or Secretary inform us of the members’ consensus or ideas.

See you on the dance floor,

Lise and Ken