



**NORTHERN NEW JERSEY
SQUARE DANCERS ASSOCIATION**
GRAND SQUARE - OFFICIAL PUBLICATION - www.nnjsda.org
Presidents

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PRESIDENTS' E-LETTER – February 2010



1. **Happy Valentine's Day!** With big yellow rocks to all our square family.
2. **“Release Your Inner Artist”** – See page 5 of the *Grand Square* for details on the annual Poster/Flyer Contest. The winning entry will be on the cover of the September *Grand Square*. Submissions are due by March 1 to Jeanne Gannon, 3rd Vice President, by email (jmg52@comcast.net) or regular mail (15 King James Lane, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716). If you have an idea and need a little design help, please contact Jeanne (732-872-2377).
3. **NNJSDA Officers** – If you are interested in serving a one-year term beginning June 1 as NNJSDA Treasurer (free admission to all NNJSDA dances) or Corresponding Secretary, please contact Roger and Maria Hoernlein (201-384-0334). Candidates must have served as a club Delegate or officer.
4. **Editors Needed** – Our wonderful *Grand Square* editors, Barbara and Norman Kanter and Jan and Louis Thompson, are retiring after 10 years at the helm of our magazine. If you enjoy writing, editing, or layout and are comfortable working via computer, please contact the current editors or presidents to discuss being a part of the new editorial team.
5. **Patron Awards** – Cross Trail Squares members are busy earning multiple Patron awards. Sylvia and Peter Collette have completed their 2nd and 3rd, while Eleanor and Steve Frank have completed their 2nd. In addition to danglers, they will receive Mini-Festival tickets.
6. **The Gathering** – This afternoon and evening event on Saturday, October 9 at Douglass College in New Brunswick is themed “Evolve, Or Die.” It will feature a keynote address by John Marshall and breakout sessions on topics relevant to club leadership, followed by an evening dance called by John Marshall and cued by Mary Pickett. Tickets (ribbons) are \$15 for the entire event. BUT! You can get them for half price (\$7.50) through your club president or representative who is attending the Presidents' Dinner on February 25. Fill out the attached registration form and give it to him or her, along with a check or cash. Half price ribbons are available *only* at the dinner.
7. **Midterm Dance** – There were 170 dancers (over 21 squares!) at the Midterm Dance for students and angels in January. Many people purchased beautiful, gently used square dance

outfits at the dance for prices ranging from \$1 to \$3, resulting in \$150 that will be used for the Gathering. Thanks to Sig Eisele for coordinating the clothing sale.

8. **Mid-Winter Mania** – The Callers' Council of New Jersey dance for students, angels, and recent graduates will be on Sunday, February 28 from 1:30-4:00 PM (note revised time) at the VFW in Elmwood Park. Dance to *nine* callers for only \$4!
9. **NJPAC** – Join us on Saturday, April 17 for our 6th annual partnership with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center – 3:15 barbecue, 4:30 square dancing with Dan Koft, 5:45 live national radio broadcast of “A Prairie Home Companion” with Garrison Keillor. Tickets are 10% off the list price and include all three events, plus parking. A flyer and registration form are online (http://www.njjsda.org/phc_flyer.pdf). The registration deadline is April 9.
10. **Grand Square Benefit Dance** – Don't forget to buy your ticket for the Sunday, April 25 benefit dance. Price: \$7 in advance, \$8 after April 15. Joe Landi and Mary Pickett are donating their services as caller and cuer, and proceeds will be used to support our excellent magazine. (The next issue will be distributed at the Delegates Meeting earlier that day.) Purchase tickets from club Delegates or Jan Thompson; see cover of *Grand Square* for details.
11. **Special Dance** – Our first All Plus and Rounds Special Dance will be on Saturday, May 15 with Ken Bower and Mary Pickett. There will also be Star tips (A and/or Plus DBD). Plus dancers, see you at St. Aloysius Church in Caldwell!
12. **Host Club Assignments** – The list of clubs responsible for providing refreshments at NNJSDA dances has been reorganized to make it easier for clubs according to location, program level, and day of the week. Check the list for 2010 to see when your club is scheduled (http://www.njjsda.org/njjsda_documents/?dl=29).
13. **Calendars** – The NNJSDA calendar is planned three years in advance. Currently, dances are held on various fifth Fridays and Saturdays, resulting in unevenly spaced events. In 2010, for example, we had a dance on January 30 and the next one is not until three months later on April 30. Therefore, beginning in 2013, we will switch to a regular schedule of the first Saturday of the month – except July (conflicts with National Convention and 4th of July holiday) and November (Mini-Fest is second Sunday of that month). First Saturdays are not used by any member club, and will ensure 11 evenly spaced dances annually.
14. **Changes?** – If there are changes in your club leadership, please notify us ASAP.
15. **Mike Jacobs** – Our good friend and caller was remembered at a memorial service and dance on January 30 in Virginia. Roy and Betsy Gotta were among the speakers, and the NNJSDA was also represented by Ken Robinson and many dancers. Mike passed away on December 2.
16. **Doc Tirrell** – Another good friend and former *Grand Square* editor was remembered at a memorial service and dance on January 30 in Vermont. The NNJSDA was represented by Shirley and Dick White and Georgi and Rich Flandera. Doc passed away on December 29.

See you on the dance floor,

Lise and Ken