



This newsletter provides promotion and marketing ideas, shines a light on people in our dance community, provides history and general information about our much loved activity, and highlights provincial and national events. If you wish to contribute an article, or see an event, topic, person, or club featured, contact the editor.



## REMEMBER WHEN - by Editor Claudia Littlefair

Remember when you first started learning to square dance? For us it was 25 years ago. I remember . . .

- Being amazed at our caller's patience and skill. How did he us back home every time?!
- That for a long time I couldn't remember the names of the calls or do them at home, but by some small miracle I could do them the following week at the next class.
- The first time we danced to a different caller - Dave and I looked at each other wondering if the caller was speaking English.
- Apologizing to everyone because I was a "new" dancer, assuming everyone in the square were better dancers.
- Thinking I was the reason the square broke down (even when it wasn't).
- The fast speed of the calls compared to the speed at the lessons.
- Being constantly reassured and encouraged by the experienced dancers.
- That the reason we kept on dancing was because of the constant reassurance and encouragement by the experienced dancers.

**Never underestimate the power of an experienced dancer.** Their role is vital and significant. They can be the reason your new dancers will continue coming – or not.

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## ADVICE FOR ANGELS

- by Bill Van Melle, Behind the Mike Newsletter, Australia, October, 2019

*This article was reprinted from the September issue of News and Notes by Stephen Noseck. With classes underway in the Northern Hemisphere and some new dancer classes starting in various areas in the Southern Hemisphere, it is a pertinent article and a reminder to all callers to "school their angels" for new dancer success. **Please read through this list and keep it in mind, even if you think you've heard it all before, as the success of the class depends as much on the attitude of the club as on the talent of the students. Much of this advice is appropriate in any square dance situation, but it's especially so with newer dancers. Your Lesson success starts here; don't blow it because of bad habits or because you did not know.***

**Callers, You are the Leader, do your part.** Share this with your Club and Class Coordinator.

**Be friendly.** We want new dancers to have a good time, so please make them feel welcome. Ask them to dance with you, rather than letting them fend for themselves. Talk to them during the breaks.

**Don't push.** This is a special case of being friendly. If a class member is unsure of a call, some of you angels may experience a great temptation to grab the person and push him or her into position. **DON'T DO THIS!** Really -- God, I hate to use all caps like that, but this is really important. At the very least, this is simply rude behavior. Remember, the object is not for you to get through the sequence; it's for the *class members* to learn. They don't learn by being shoved.

Do your best to be in the right position yourself, hold out your hand expectantly and/or exert gentle (I repeat, *gentle*) hand pressure consistent with the flow of the call, but never, never grab or shove. It is far better to let your square break down than to start shoving people around to fix it.

Squares breaking down is great feedback to the caller (you as the Caller should see this too) about what moves the dancers are having trouble with. If you observe others shoving people around (sometimes there are visiting angels who fancy themselves good dancers by the amount of pushing they do), please take them aside after the tip and encourage them to behave themselves.

If someone is already in the right position but is looking around frantically as if lost, the best thing you can do is nod and smile. Not that you shouldn't be smiling even when the square is breaking down.

**Balanced squares.** If you can do so unobtrusively, attempt to balance the number of club and class members in a square. Experienced dancers in a square help to be good examples (please do), and reduce the likelihood that one dancer's error will take down the whole square, depriving the other dancers of practice.

The problem that arises time and again is that club members remember that it's important for class members to dance, and as result neglect to square up at all until they're dragged from the sidelines to fill out the last square. Of course, that square ends up being club-heavy, while the class members in their enthusiasm have already formed very class-heavy squares.

Don't let this happen - get out there when the music starts! One of the best ways to achieve balance is to preferentially ask class members to be your partner. Just think--if every class member was partnered with a club member, we'd automatically have balanced squares.

**Class members have priority.** Remember, they're here to learn, and so they need to dance. But many are shy, or not completely comfortable yet asking for a dance. If you see a class member sitting out, offer to give up your spot in the square, especially if you're in a club-heavy square. Of course, if you all do your job of asking class members to dance with you, we won't need to go bumping club members like this.

**Don't play-caller.** Sure, you can whisper small hints to people who are momentarily confused, but while a tip is in progress, don't try to do any teaching or fixing on your own (and if you're on the sidelines, don't jump into the square trying to help). There's already a caller up front with a microphone, and we'd like to train new dancers to pay attention to him (or her). Reserve lengthier problem solving to breaks - ask the caller for help with the move that was in question.

**No frills.** *Never initiate* a frill with a class member. In fact, don't even do them with club members during class tips. Frills make dancing more fun but interfere with learning, even if a class member is not directly involved in your frill. Save your frills for the club tips at the end of the evening. Class members typically don't get interested in frills until December or January.

Examples of frills are the twirl on *Weave the Ring*, the highland fling *Do Sa Do*, and the swing in the middle of *Sides Promenade Halfway Round*. And please dance hands up, at least for the class - it's still the standard styling for Mainstream and Plus in our area and across the country.

## **LEARNING BOTH PARTS**

### **Excerpt from 'SOLO CORNER' - by Marsha Sullivan, Footnotes Newsletter, November 2018**

As single dancers, to be successful we need to force ourselves onto the floor and put our crooked finger up to announce there is an opening in the square. But if you dance single often, it makes good sense to learn how to do both, the girl's and the boy's parts. The best place to practice is at your own club. Tell the square that you are learning the new position, and ask them to guide you if you end up turning the wrong way. Everybody will feel a part of your learning process, and it will guarantee some great laughs for all of you. Don't pick the square right in front of the caller. While callers appreciate new dancers being front and center so they can help them when in trouble, learning to dance opposite of what you are accustomed to is something that simply takes floor time because you already know the moves.

If you have a "young" mind that easily adapts to new situations, you can learn both positions from the very beginning of your dancing experience; however, if you struggle with remembering the definitions and applying them, it is better to become accomplished at your dance level before trying the switched position. Dancing with a caller who trains you in "dancing by definition" will make it easier to learn, because you will already be familiar with switching from left to right hands; or right to left.

## STRATHROY CLUB GROWS BY 55% IN TWO YEARS - by Tom Kahnert

*Editor's Note: In the fall of 2017, the Strathroy club in Ontario attracted 40 new dancers through their enthusiastic advertising campaign. The following is an update on their club.*

My wife, Jo, and I were honored to do a presentation on growing your Club at the 2018 Convention in London, Ontario. We essentially outlined the key areas that had to be addressed prior to marketing an 'Introduction to Modern Square Dancing' program including: forming a committee, developing a couple of marketing themes, design/develop flyers and business cards and distribution by using Club Members. Most importantly - everyone must buy into the 'growth concept' and the targeted amount of new dancers.

We followed a similar plan for our last program which ended in April of this year and will result in 16 confirmed new dancers joining our Club commencing on September 10, 2019. We started with a new dancer group of 17 at the beginning of the 20 week program and together with other dancers who wanted a 're-fresher' as well as some Angels, we had fun at every class with an average of 3 squares.

While our first program last year attracted 40 new dancers, our first program was not designed to be long enough to recognize the number of calls (ie. over 50). By the time we extended the program from January onwards, we lost a number of these new dancers to other interests that they had already booked. The end result was still very positive with 15 new dancers joining the Club last year.

So, we have grown our Club by 55% over two years with the addition of 31 new dancers.

Our main themes for the flyer, etc. last year included: "Our secret is now out ...." and "WE WANT YOU!!". We simply tweaked the flyer for the second year to include: "Our secret is out again ...." and kept everything else the same except for dates, etc.

As a result of our marketing strategies, we have a list of a possible 18 new dancers already for our next program which will start in September, 2020.

The Club wanted to take a year off to allow the newer dancers a chance to get up to speed in Mainstream which will be taught periodically at each club dance. Commencing on September 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be a 'Basic, Mainstream, Plus and Round Dance Club' again.

*Our secret is out again .....*  
*Looking for something FUN to do?*

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*Interested in something that allows you to*

- Laugh
- Keep fit (easy as walking!)
- Feel good
- Enjoy a great social activity
- Meet new friends
- Relieve stress

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**WE WANT YOU!!**  
**Introduction to Modern Square Dancing**



- NO experience required
- First evening FREE!!
- Under \$6/night
- Professional Caller / Instructor
- Casual attire



**Wednesday Evenings, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm**  
**Phase 1 - October 17th to December 19th, 2018**  
**Phase 2 - January 9th to March 27, 2019**  
 St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church Hall  
 34 Head Street N.  
 Strathroy, ON (lots of parking)

**To pre-register Call: Tom (519)709-8665 or Jo (519)666-2026**  
Strathroy Swingin' Duoos - SWOSDA.ca



Tom & Jo Kahnert (LHS) with the class of 16 new dancers who recently received their Strathroy club badges.

**NOTE: For the 2017 Alberta Chatter news article about the Strathroy club, or for Tom & Jo's power point presentation, 'Growing Your Club', presented at the London's Convention 2018 go to: <http://callerlabknowledge.org/?p=1677>.**

## THIRTEEN CALLERS ATTEND ALBERTA'S CALLER SCHOOL

- by Bernice Kazeil

*Editor's Note: The following article by Bernice Kazeil was submitted to the Saskatchewan Square & Round Dance Federation website under "News". Thanks to Lorne Smith's dedication and hard work, S.R.D.I.A.A. (Square & Round Dance Instructors Association of Alberta) held another very successful caller school with attendees from British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and co-instructor Jeff Priest, Brantford, Ontario.*



**Back Row:** Lorne Smith (instructor), Roger Lamotte (student), David Littlefair (student), Lane Wright, Bernice Kazeil, Kendall Smith (student), Kathy Smith, Gary Smith (student), Eileen Smith, Brendan Stevens, Travis Symington, David Symington (student), Bob Simpson (student), Dwight Fry (student), Bill Wood, Jeff Priest (instructor).

**Front Row:** Elke Lunda, Claudia Littlefair, Valerie Wright (student), Renziena Struik (student), Barb Smith, Joanda Van Dyk (student), Kelly Frizzell (student), Dorothy Simpson, Darby Love (student), Jean Wood (student).

A very successful callers' school was held July 15-19, 2019 at Lone Ridge Hall, west of Wetaskiwin, AB with Lorne Smith, Calgary and Jeff Priest, Brantford, ON instructing. 13 callers from BC, AB and SK attended, learning about calling using basic traffic patterns to recording music and much more. It was a very full week! Monday started at 1pm and went to 9pm; Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday were 9am – 9pm with breaks for coffee, lunch and supper. Wednesday, all brought food for a potluck supper at the hall. Thursday evening was a dance with all the callers calling including Lorne and Jeff with dancers attending from the area.

Each caller individually received a review of their progress from Lorne & Jeff Friday morning while the rest were dancing to each of the callers that wanted to call. All the callers attending improved immensely from the week's instruction.

The Saskatchewan callers were Kelly Frizzell, Kendall Smith, Renz Struik and Valerie Wright. The Saskatchewan Square & Round Dance Federation receive funds through SPRA (Sask. Parks & Recreation) from Sask. Lotteries. Some of these funds are used to assist callers, cuers & instructors with the costs of attending such schools.



Darryl & Rita Kerr and Linda & Mark Yablonski from Happy Hearts Club in Regina attended the Caller's School all week, taking notes and up on the floor when a square was needed for instruction. They came to support Kelly Frizzell from their club and all the other student callers.

Rita and Linda are very pleased to have become recipients of the Saskatchewan Lily Skirts that date back from about 1980. The dancers from the different provinces were making skirts with their provincial flower on so Saskatchewan joined in.

NB – If anyone still has their lily skirt and are looking for a home for it, there are dancers that would like to wear them.

## **CONTRA: SQUARE DANCING FOR HIPPIES** **- by Keegan Hempill, CDSS Newsletter, Summer 2019**

*This article was adapted from an English composition essay submitted by college student Keegan Hempill.*

*It has been edited for length.*

I cup my face in my hands and let out a low groan as the caller announces the next dance. Thirty or so baby boomers stomp across the wood dance floor, some in hard-bottomed dance shoes, some in tennis shoes, some in sandals, some simply in socks — all trying to find a partner. I look up to see Mom with her hand outstretched in the universal nonverbal invitation to dance. “Come on,” she says. “You have to dance at least half.” I let out an overly-long sigh. Though I'd managed to avoid contra dancing for the better part of a decade, this college writing assignment has whisked me back into the petronella twirls of my childhood.

I reluctantly take Mom's hand. I haven't danced with my mother since I was 10 and the idea makes me a little embarrassed, but I gather my resolve. I'm here for research; to reacquaint myself with contra dancing so I can write a decent paper.

We walk out onto the dance floor and join the two long lines of dancers facing each other up and down the hall. The caller walks us through the first dance. It's Jacob's Potato, one of the simplest contra dances, perfect for beginners and dropouts like me. The band plays the four potatoes intro, then begins the 64-counts of the old-timey tune "Turkey in the Straw." We do-si-do and allemande, sashay and peel the banana. I try to hold my solemn demeanor through the dance, but by the time it's my turn to sashay down the line I can't help but break into a smile.

As far as unique form, it's hard to differentiate from square dancing and other types of folk dancing, as it borrows heavily from them. It's the community aspect that really sets contra apart from more synchronized dances, however. Contra dancers are a nation-wide federation of incredibly happy people that come together to swing each other around and stomp on a wood floor with childlike joy. The best way I can describe it is: imagine the most upbeat, non-judgmental church congregation you've ever seen, then take out the religion and add dancing.

Mom painted a tee-shirt that says, "CONTRA DANCING — BETTER THAN PROZAC!" She's been proclaiming it for years, but recent studies like that of Duke University are now finding that aerobic exercise produces the same brain chemicals as anti-depressants, without the drug side effects. There are only two requirements for joining this community: 1) have fun, and 2) be able to walk forward. (Though I have seen people in wheelchairs do it, so perhaps there's only the one requirement. There are also blind dancers, who always knows where they're supposed to be.) Beginning can be a little intimidating. To an outsider the dances look complicated and rehearsed, and it's not uncommon for new dancers to try to sit out because they think they'll embarrass themselves. Experienced contra dancers make a point of getting new people dancing and feeling successful, and they offer a lot of encouragement. My father, a nationally-recognized caller says: “When we get a new couple we always try to break them up so they can learn with an experienced partner.”

My parents are part of the Childgrove Country Dancers, a group that organizes dances in the greater St. Louis area. They communicate at dances, over the phone, and through their Facebook page. This group is quirky and whimsical, even for contra dance groups. According to my mom, theme nights include: Talk Like a Pirate Day, Bat Girl's Birthday, Polka Dots on Parade, and New Year's Eve Tuxedo Ball. And the Funky Contra Sock Club is always cheering on the latest crazy sock discoveries. When I was entering my teenage years the whimsy made me cringe, but now I realize it's just good harmless fun.

For the most part, the contra community is open and accepting of all things, but there are a few unspoken rules. 1: if someone asks you to dance, and you do not have a partner already, you can't straight out deny them, instead if you really do not wish to dance with them you must sit the dance out. 2: be conscious of body sweat, use a towel and change your drippy shirt. (This one needs no explanation, it's just gross and you shouldn't subject your fellow dancers to it.) 3: be polite and safe. 4: Do all the flourishes and twirls you like as long as you get to the next move on time.

Mom says contra is easy and fun for people from 4 to 94. It's a community of happy people who love to dance, hug, share great music and welcome new dancers. Whoooo!

## THE LIGHTER SIDE OF DARKNESS - by Dee Jackins

*Dee is an avid square and round dancer, and enjoys writing. She shares the lighter side of some of her experiences, challenges and near disasters as a sight impaired person. See issue #2015-6 for her complete story under "Chatter Close-up".*



*Dee and her husband square danced from 1969 to 1971. In 1975, she lost sight in her left eye, and by 1989 her vision was completely gone. While trying to cope with her blindness, Dee's husband was diagnosed with cancer. He died 10 months later in October, 1991. A friend suggested that she try square dancing again, and in 1995 she joined Calgary's singles club. Dee has been dancing ever since. She dances by visualizing the calls and positions, and with the gentle guidance of dancers' hands for no-hand calls such as weave the ring.*

Thank goodness for talking I.D. Callers, it sure simplifies matters. So many of these calls were telemarketers and now many have removed my number from their list. I used to enjoy having fun with some of these characters, especially when it was regarding a special sale on newspapers. After confirming that I was the lady of the house, they would proceed with their fantastic sales pitch. I listened very patiently and agreed with all that was offered so they continued to read off the entire spiel. Sometimes they rattled off for a good five or ten minutes. When they were finally finished, the question was then asked "So can we start delivery this Friday?" In their minds, they must have thought this was a sure sale until I had my own question in reply. "It sounds like a good deal all right but do you have it in Braille?" One could just about hear that 'Whoosh' - like a balloon deflating, with, "Oh, I'm sorry. You have a good day!" It took a few times but the result was positive.

Another time a broker with an investment company was calling in and he was not interested in discussing such topics with me. He was adamant on speaking to my husband. I made every excuse possible, "No, he was not home at the present time", and, "No, he wouldn't be in this evening either", "No, he was not in town", and "No, he wouldn't be here tomorrow or even next week". In frustration he then inquired about a phone number which was out of the question, so after this little episode he finally decided to give up. I was picturing this very aggravated man, it was so tempting to give him the phone number and address of the cemetery and let him explore this expedition and wish him all the best of luck. As far as I know he never called back again, he probably thought I was out there in another world and for his own sanity; he had better just leave it alone.

Then there's the iPhone. After some encouragement to take lessons, I finally decided to give it a try. After a few lessons at the C.N.I.B. I was told to practice, practice and practice some more. With the assurance that I can't break anything on this phone I started to do this so-called practice. Within a few days I had managed to cause a little bit of havoc. While waiting in the Medical Clinic, the phone rang. I proceeded to answer as I was taught but nothing was working according to plan. The voice over gave it's instruction and so did the message from Access - trying to decipher between the two is a bit difficult but it was Access calling to inform me that they were on their way to pick me up when I must of accidentally cancelled my trip home or as I found out later, the driver sat in the parking lot for five to seven minutes waiting for me to walk out to the vehicle. Now whether it was his problem or whether it was mine, I don't know but after sitting around for an extended length of time, I contacted them to find out what the delay was, only to be told that they had been there twenty minutes earlier and were not coming back this way. So much for that booking. A cab was called and it was another day of 'hurry up and wait.' Next day I contacted Access and questioned them about what had taken place. They didn't even know themselves and had no idea why this had happened. More info was needed so these drivers know exactly what to expect. There's no way a blind individual can keep an 'eye' on what's going on outside, let alone what's happening inside.

The next day with phone in hand, I was trying to find a certain App but I was unable to locate the proper button. It was chattering away, no matter what button was pressed. It seemed to have a mind of its own. What a kerfuffle! When suddenly I heard it dialing out. Lifting the phone to my ear, I didn't know what to expect, and wondered who's going to answer? The most unforeseen reply was "9 1 1 - what is your emergency?" Oh no! Now what did I do this time? I knew I hadn't dialed 911! This man was not easy to convince. It took five minutes or more to explain to him that I was just fine and, "No, I was not being threatened in any way, shape or form." It took a bit of explaining but we finally got it resolved. What a way to find out where the emergency number is. Of course, being a true Canadian, I apologized profusely.

What a mess! I may be unable to break anything on this phone, but one can sure get into strange situations. Weekly lessons are still a part of my routine (probably forever). It's been a few months now and with the Seeing AI App, it really helps the visually impaired in many ways. With this App, it will describe currency, documents, lights on/off, products, bar codes and even facial recognition which told me that I was seventeen years younger than I actually am. Hmmmm - maybe I'll get to like this phone after all! I'm sure hoping to overcome some of these problems in the near future. In the meantime, if you get a call from a strange number, don't be alarmed - it might be me. What a challenge!

### **KELLY'S KORNER - by Kelly Thompson**

*Kelly started square dancing in 2016 after being coerced by his sister. He admits that he would have never walked into the club on his own. He has since found a whole new way of looking at life, a whack of new friends and personal confidence that didn't exist before.*



### **MY FAVOURITE CORNER**

As with a lot of things we all have a favourite part of something. I think we all find something about square dancing we would call our favourite, our favourite caller, our favourite move, our favourite partner but for me it is my favourite corner. My first few nights of square dancing though, I would have to say my favourite corner wasn't the "man-lady" I had to dance with or swing, but the corner I could hide in. Lately though I think my favourite corner has become the one where we hide the snack table. Even there I find it difficult to avoid the favourites.

I have met a lot of people through the last four years and have danced with several I could call favourites. I think there is none other than a very special lady, who even though is blind, can always say something as we meet during a dance that would almost break a person up with her comments. To hear her comment about the color of your shirt or how glad she is to see you certainly brings atmosphere into the square and a sense that she can see better than most. "Glad to see you", especially when you are expected to be there - is there a better time to say such a thing?

We recently had our first dance and dessert night to help introduce new people to square dancing with a pretty good turnout. It is obvious our advertising campaign is starting to take effect. For myself, although we have many levels we can achieve I prefer to remain at the basic level with hopefully enough proficiency to help guide the new dancers. Of course, with that I am on the front lines to meet new people but it also gives me a sense of what we could try to do as a group. I am not a great organizer of things, but I do have some thoughts.

With our first dessert night I partnered with a young lady who is obviously special needs. I had no idea this was the case until we started the first dance but as the evening progressed, this young lady had started to develop trust in me. I would perhaps say her initial fear was the same as I had my first night of dance. She was even surprised as I walked up to her for the second tip, while still eating my cookie.

As we danced through the evening, and her trust level became stronger, this beautiful young lady seemed to convey to me, "I'm glad to see you" after every time she had gotten lost. After several times she started to understand I would be there to take her home. That is something we all need and for those with special needs perhaps even more so.

It has been suggested we help these people set up a group to allow them to square dance at a level they can do, because it is when it is at your personal level that the fun starts. Even if your personal level is only from the sidelines or your favourite spot is the snack table, square dancing should be all inclusive. It shouldn't matter which corner you are in, but rather, who it is that is in your corner. We all like to have fun and that is what it is all about. It could be a very interesting experience to attend a dance where throughout the night the entire evening is done with only three calls.

I can't say that the young lady is my favourite corner, she was never in my corner. I can say she is my newest favourite partner. I can say that because she was there. If she hadn't come to square dance with me I would have never met her at all. Who is my favourite corner? They all are (even the "man-lady" Larry).

## A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

*This column features excerpts from the book "As I See Saw It –Bob Osgood", reprinted with permission from the author and square dance caller, Paul Moore. Jim Mayo, First Chairman of CALLERLAB, states in his review: "This is truly the only book about the whole of Modern Western Square Dance and it is certainly the most complete (and accurate) book that will ever be written about this huge activity." Paul had access to all of the material that crossed Bob Osgood's desk at Sets in Order/American Square Dance Society. For additional information, contact Paul Moore at paulmoore@wildblue.net or look for this 600+ page book on Amazon.ca (\$26).*

### SQUARE DANCING BRIDGES NATIONAL BARRIERS

There have been some truly unique square dance demonstrations. Some of them are different because of how they were done and others because of where they were done. So here comes a kind of strange mixture of stories about square dance shows.

This story, which comes from Jinx Weskie of Lakewood, Colorado . . . *There was one command performance that occurred during the height of war in the very heart of Germany. The location was a prisoner of war camp just a few miles south of Berlin. Jack Bennett, a square dance caller from Denver and a prisoner of the Germans, along with other prisoner/officers were frequently requested to attend a performance of the imprisoned English officers of the RAF who were barracked in the same camp. Eventually it came time for the imprisoned American officers to perform and Bennett came up with the idea of putting on a barn dance and inviting the English prisoners of war to be their guests.*

*But where were the girls? Naturally there was a shortage (an actual dearth you might say) of lady prisoners, so, on orders of the commanding officer, a group of the American officers were selected and persuaded to dance the part of the ladies.*

And Louise Roundtree of Florida tells of the most exotic square dance she and her husband, caller Bill, had been in. *Our most memorable experience in our 10 years of teaching and calling was on the evening of February 9, 1961, when we took 14 square dancers to dance at Mrs. Herbert May's estate in Palm Beach when she was entertaining King Saud of Arabia and his entourage.*

*. . . We were to enter the ballroom in single file, caller first, pass the couch of honor upon which were seated King Saud, his host, Mr. May and the King's two sons, the Princes.*

*. . . After that we squared up and danced for about 15 minutes while the King tapped his feet in time to the music and the young Princes tittered with their hands over their mouths each time the healthy swings showed an exposure of colorful pantalettes! Incidentally the guests were all men; not even Mrs. May was present, as befits an Arab gathering.*

Square dancers also headed east across the pond to Eastern Europe. Rod Blaylock writes, *"We had one estimated crowd of 10,000 in a market place in Krakow. We had 4,000 in an outdoor theatre in Wroclaw. Moscow was a full house in a tremendous ballroom in a hotel. Leningrad and Minsk were in Student Centers and Club houses, packed to capacity. Polish television taped one show."*

And square dances went to the West, that is to the Far East, Japan to be exact. On an American Square Dance tour, 76 square dancers traveled to the Orient where they were feted at a dance in Tokyo. Planned and executed by the Tokyo Callers Association and the Far East Square Dance Association, the event was held at the Meguro Park Lanes bowling alley. Over 600 dancers from all parts of Japan were on hand to welcome the Americans. . . . The group was also honored by the presence of Prince Mikasa who participated in the dancing with the Japanese and Americans.

Prince Mikasa was not the only royalty entertained by square dancers. Before she was crowned, Princess Elizabeth made a tour of the domain, including Canada. She was royally entertained by Canadian square dancers who wrapped her up in a square. From the smile on her face in the pictures, she had the time of her life.





## SQUARE DANCERS SERVE UP 700+ POUNDS OF SALMON!

- by John Godzman

The highlight of our summer of square dancing and RVing was the Salmon BBQ held at the Western Square Dance Center, Spokane, Washington on the weekend of August 22 - 25, at a cost of \$25 per head, excluding the Trail-in Dance, and Sunday's lunch. It started with the Trail-in Dance, called by Rick & Kathy Utter, Moyie Springs, Idaho on Thursday, followed by Joe Saltel of Texas on Friday evening, Saturday morning, afternoon and evening. There were 23 squares on the floor on Saturday night!! More square dancing held on Sunday afternoon, to local callers.



On Sunday, August 25 came the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Salmon BBQ, with 700 to 750 pounds of fresh salmon being ordered from 'Pacific Seafoods'. Volunteers from the square dance community light apple wood fires between 6:30-7am in a 50-foot long trench, under a 50-foot long table, with a moving surface. The fresh salmon is slowly barbecued as it moves down the line, being basted frequently with a 'secret sauce'. It is barbecued until around noon, then served to members of the square dance community and general public, who gladly pay \$12 for the lunch which is eaten at tables set amongst the trees in the park, beside the dance hall. The meal includes salmon, bread roll, choice of salads, baked beans, ice cream, coffee, tea, soft drinks and cookies. They average 600 to 650 meals sold, and any extra salmon is cooked and sold per pound. There is never any salmon left, uneaten or unsold! What a wonderful way to raise funds!

## 21<sup>ST</sup> CANADIAN NATIONAL SQUARE & ROUND DANCE FESTIVAL July 29 - August 1, 2020

Held at the Sheraton Guildford, Surrey, B.C.

[Festival2020Registrations@hotmail.com](mailto:Festival2020Registrations@hotmail.com)

Trail in Dance: Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Opening Ceremonies - Thursday morning, July 30, 2020

Hosted by Fraser Valley Square & Round Dance Association, Vancouver and District Caller Teacher Association

Sponsored in part by B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation and Canadian Square & Round Dance Society

**Official Colours:** Blue, White & Green: The blue represents the Pacific Ocean and the many rivers and lakes in BC. The white eyelet represents BC's snow-capped mountains, ocean and lake whitecaps and clouds. The green represents BC forests (and possibly golf courses). The fabric and colours should be relatively easy to find. The design has been kept simple so any level of seamstress should be able to achieve success. Men could wear shirts, vests or ties that use the colours.



ATTORNEY: What is the first thing your husband said to you?	ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?
WITNESS: He said, 'Where am I, Cathy?'	WITNESS: July 18 <sup>th</sup> .
ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?	ATTORNEY: What year?
WITNESS: My name is Susan.	WITNESS: Every year.
ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of impact?	ATTORNEY: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?
WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks	WITNESS: Are you qualified to ask that question?
ATTORNEY: Now Doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?	ATTORNEY: ALL your responses MUST be oral, OK? What school did you attend?
WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?	WITNESS: Oral.

## 'MARDI GRAS' BECKONS YOU TO THE 52<sup>ND</sup> ALBERTA DANCE CONVENTION!

### An Open Letter to All Dancers and Dance Leaders

On Labour Day weekend, in 2020, the CDCDA (Community Dance Capital District Association) will once again host the Alberta Square and Round Dance Federation Convention, September 4-7, 2020 in Edmonton Alberta Canada. We are returning to the Central Lion's Centre near Kingsway Mall, where CDCDA hosted the 2017 Alberta Convention.

We are planning some pre-convention activities for Thursday September 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a Trail-in dance at the convention centre Friday September 4th hosted by SRDIAA (Square & Round Dance Instructors Association of Alberta), separate fee. Included in the weekend package is dancing all day Saturday, a Mardi Gras theme dance on Saturday evening, a church and memorial service Sunday morning, dancing Sunday afternoon, and after dancing Sunday evening, an after-party with entertainment. The Monday Trail-out dance is also included in the package price.

We hope you will join us at the 2020 Alberta Convention! It's a great chance to renew acquaintances, and make new ones! Dance to your favorite regional callers and cuers, as well as callers and cuers from outside our region! We will be offering square dancing, choreographed ballroom (rounds), clogging, line dancing, and some contra dancing. We welcome all dancers and dance leaders, from across North America, and the world!

You can find out more information on our CDCDA website: [www.communitydance.org](http://www.communitydance.org), where you can register online, or look for a colour brochure at your club.



See you across the dance floor!

*Gary & Eileen Smith*

Chair couple of the 2020 Alberta Convention Committee

### 2020 Alberta Convention Committee Membership

- Gary Smith, Chairperson and Squares Program
- Eileen Smith, Chairperson and Recording Secretary
- Barbara Rehn, Entertainment Liaison, Treasurer and Registration Specialist
- Darlene Hilts-Schlotter, Assistant to the Treasurer and Registration Specialist
- Harold Schlotter, General member
- Mary Nelson, Choreographed Ballroom Program
- Bruce Nelson, Choreographed Ballroom Program
- Birgit Blizzard, Clogging Program
- Tracy Walters, Line Dance Program
- Dave Patterson, CDCDA Representative
- Allan Serra, Silent Auction and Facilities
- Norma Serra, Silent Auction
- Doug Kariel, Church and Memorial Service
- Heather Kariel, Church and Memorial Service
- Ron McIntosh, Facilities
- Sylvia Colleton, General member
- Ray Duffy, General member
- Pat Duffy, General member
- Terry Coulbourn, General member



## 52<sup>ND</sup> ALBERTA DANCE CONVENTION - EDMONTON

Information & Registration  
[www.communitydance.org](http://www.communitydance.org)