

SPREAD & circulate

Winter 2014

Volume 26, No. 3

Letter from the President: Chi-Town in 2014

We had a very productive 2013 with our successful Crossfire and our exciting first ever BLAST. It is time to look ahead to the New Year 2014. Our club callers will begin teaching Plus at the Thursday night workshops starting January 9th. This way our new Mainstream students will know all of Plus by the end of May. We still need angels for the Thursday night workshop. Remember we dance every Thursday except the first Thursday of each month, so we can support the Queer Contra group that dances that night.

Our annual Chili Dance will be held on **January 11th** from 5:00-9:00 with a break for dinner. All of our club callers will be calling Mainstream through A2. Please bring chili, sides, or a dish to share.

Our February dance will be with Lynette Bellini on Saturday, February 22 from 7-10 PM. It will be an A2-C2 dance. Then Jimmy Robeson will be calling our dance on Saturday, March 22 from 7-10 PM.

Bobby Poyner will be calling our dance on Saturday, April 26 from 7-10pm. (The King's 65th birthday is April 27thhint, hint).

Our annual meeting will be on Saturday, May 3. We will have a potluck at 5:00 PM, the annual meeting at 6:00, and a dance at 7:00 with our club callers. Then on Saturday, May 17th from 7-10 Teresa and Andrew Berger will be calling a Mainstream/Plus dance.

This summer we will offer the A/C workshop every other week on Mondays. We will also offer the Plus workshop every other Thursday.

The Board of Directors has approved a Mainstream BLAST in September 2014. It will be the weekend of

September 19-21. Michael Maltenfort will be the instructor. I would like your input. I am looking for someone to chair the BLAST who is not a board member.

Crossfire 2014 will be Columbus Day weekend in October with Sandie Bryant and Mike Kellogg. Crossfire 2015 will be Columbus Day weekend in October with Sandie Bryant and Aaron Wells.

Happy New Year! Joe Kerouac, President

Winter Warnings!

As you know living in Chicago, winter weather can affect the dance/workshop schedule. Here are numbers to call in case there is a threat of a Chi-Town Cancellation.

Monday night

Rob Sierzega @ home
773-338-0436

Thursday night

Diva Mihelic @ home
773-732-8856



Please call after **3:30 PM**. If there is NOT a message indicating the dance is cancelled, then it is ON!

BLAST Weekend a Blast!

by Rob Sierzega

Chi-Town Squares first-ever Blast class was held Friday, October 11 through Sunday, October 13. Dayle Hodge taught with his winning smile and great attitude. Fifteen brave students signed up to learn (or re-learn) square dancing in one fun-filled weekend. They started learning on Friday evening and stepped out as full Mainstream Square Dancers on Sunday!

Thank you to everyone that welcomed the students, danced patiently with them all weekend, and showed them how much fun we have square dancing. Seven students have become new members of our Chi-Town Squares and are actively participating in our Thursday night Mainstream/Plus Workshop.

The Thursday night callers will



start teaching Plus calls in the new year. So, join us on our Mainstream/Plus club night on Thursday nights (all but the first Thursday of the month, when we are all invited to join the Queer Contra dancers in Logan Square.)

Our next Mainstream BLAST is scheduled for September 19 to 21, 2014, with Michael Maltenfort teaching. More details to follow.



Our worker bees feverishly set up for the BLAST!

Spread & Circulate is the newsletter of the Chi-Town Squares.

Submissions and correspondence should be sent Bob Siegel at brompton98@yahoo.com.

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Fall Into Crossfire Goes Down Into History

Over 80 dancers fell upon Chicago September 26-29, making Crossfire 2013 a success. With the change of weekends and return to our home venue Ebenezer Lutheran Church, we netted a surplus of \$1500. Thanks go to co-chairs Curtis McMillen and Jeff Hutchins and the entire Crossfire committee for a great job!

Featured caller Kris Jensen got the party started on Thursday by calling a Contra dance with live music, where we welcomed many of our friends from the Queer Contra group. Sandra Bryant joined Kris on Friday night and Saturday afternoon, highlighted with the featured evening dance "The Autumn Ball".

On Sunday we had another fabulous brunch at Sidetrack, before ending with the final dance session back at Ebenezer.

Plans are already underway for Crossfire 2014, to be held over Columbus Day weekend in October, with featured callers Sandra Bryant and Mike Kellogg. Jean Shamo will join Jeff to co-chair the committee, which has already met once. A working theme celebrating the approval of Marriage Equality in Illinois has shown to be popular.

Jeff is asking our creative members to come up with a theme name and anyone with graphic artist talent to design a logo for Crossfire 2014. (Last year we paid an outside entity to create one). You can submit your ideas to Jeff at jeffrey.h@comcast.net or call him at 773-294-4710 for more information. The next committee meeting is Wednesday January 8 at Jeff's house; 5924 Paulina St, Apt. 2W in Chicago. New committee members are welcome.



What Is a Fly-In?

by Rob Sierzega and Bob Siegel

If you are a new dancer, you may be just hearing about fly-ins. A fly-in is a square dancing weekend sponsored by an IAGSDC club. IAGSDC stands for International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs, of which Chi-Town Squares is a member.

Each fly-in is unique to the host club, but basically consists of a weekend of square dancing and special events. Great callers are brought in, and most offer a lot of eating, socializing and fun! It is also a great chance to hone your skills, offering many hours of dancing over one weekend.

All other club members in the IAGSDC (yes, this includes you!) are invited to join in on the fun. In order to make the event more affordable and enjoyable, housing with host club members is usually made available. If you planned it right, you could square dance and travel the USA (Canada, too) with free lodging. Check out a list of upcoming fly-ins on Page 12 of this newsletter, or go to www.iagsdc.org and check out their event page.

Many clubs from various cities such as Toronto, Baltimore, New York and St. Petersburg hold their fly-in on the same weekend every year, while other cities may alternate every other year. Chi-Town Squares

now host its fly-in, the Great Chicago Crossfire, on Columbus Day weekend in October. You will be hearing much more about this in the coming months! IN fact, if you want to be part of the Crossfire planning committee, talk to co-chairs Jeff Hutchins or Jean Shamo.

But what if you don't want to wait that long? My suggestion for a great first fly-would be Grand Rapid MI's "Ropin' the River" fly-in, being held Apr 11-13, 2014. Despite being a relatively small club, the Grand River Squares are most welcoming of us and do a fantastic job year after year. The callers this year are Ett McAtee and Howard Richman, and there will be sure to plenty of friendly Mainstream and Plus dancing so you will not feel intimidated. And since Grand Rapids is only 175 miles away, there will be plenty of familiar Chi-Town faces will be there!

But if you want to go to the ultimate fly-in, you should seriously consider planning a trip to Salt Lake City in July for *Squeeze the Hive*, the 31st Convention of the IAGSDC. Here is where over 1000 dancers gather together for a weekend of dancing, and so much more. Ask anyone who has been to a convention, and they will attest to the fact that it is truly the defining event of gay square dancing.

Dribs & Drabs from the Board

New Badges: The board is now taking orders for new colorful Chi-Town Squares badges. They are available for members for \$10. Sign up and pay at classes and dance before January 15.

Membership: If you have not done so yet, please pay your membership dues for 2013-2014 by February 1 to be included in the directory, which will still be on Club Express but will soon be available in a more user-friendly format. Dues are \$40 per person for local members, and can be paid at dances or classes, or through PayPal at <http://cts.clubexpress.com>. (For club event updates, the "go to" site is still chitownsquares.org.)

Social Media: In addition to our Facebook group page, our maverick young caller Therron Ricks has created a club community page at www.facebook.com/chitownsquares, which you do not have to "join" but simply "like". This is conducive for sending out regular event invitations, see who has RSVP'ed, and allows your friends outside the group to see what you are up to and perhaps generate interest (I think!). Check it out!

Sweetheart Couple: Rich Jentzen and Jim Cosenza will represent Chi-Town Squares at the MCASD Sweetheart Dance on February 16 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 405 S. Rush Street in Roselle. Advanced tickets are available for \$7, however new dancers are admitted for free and can dance in the Mainstream room. Let's have a big group to go out and cheer them on! We are also asked to help in the set-up and take down, so if you can get there early or stay late, it would be appreciated.


Chi-Town Squares Calendar

January 2014

*Italics = Non-CTS event
All events held at Ebenezer,
unless otherwise indicated.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	7	8 C2 Class John Oldfield <i>Crossfire Meeting at Jeff Hutchin's</i>	9 MS/Plus WS Arlene Kaspik 7:30 PM	10	11 Chili Dance Club Callers 5:00-9:00 PM
12	13 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	14	15 C2 Class John Oldfield 7:30 PM	16 MS/Plus WS M. Maltenfort 7:30 PM	17	18
19	20 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	21	22 C2 Class John Oldfield 7:30 PM	23 MS/Plus WS John Oldfield 7:30 PM	24 <i>Recyclers C1 Lynette Bellini Deerfield 8:15</i>	25 <i>Importers C3B Clark Baker Deerfield 3:00 PM</i>
26	27 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	28	29 C2 Class John Oldfield 7:30 PM	30 MS/Plus WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	31	

February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	4	5 C2 Class John Oldfield 7:30 PM	6 <i>Queer Contra Dance St Luke's Church 6:30 PM</i>	7	8 <i>Pollywogs C2 M. Maltenfort Deerfield 3:00 PM</i>
9	10 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	11	12 C2 Class John Oldfield 7:30 PM	13 MS/Plus WS Arlene Kaspik 7:30 PM	14 	15
16 <i>MCASD Sweet- heart Dance, Roselle, 2:00 PM</i>	17 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	18	19 C2 Class John Oldfield 7:30 PM	20 MS/Plus WS M. Maltenfort 7:30 PM	21	22 A2/C1/C2 Dance Lynette Bellini 7:00-10:00 PM
23	24 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	25	26 C2 Class John Oldfield 7:30 PM	27 MS/Plus WS John Oldfield 7:30 PM	28 <i>Recyclers A2 Sandie Bryant Deerfield 8:15</i>	

Chi-Town Squares Calendar

March 2014

*Italics = Non-CTS event
All events held at Ebenezer,
unless otherwise indicated.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>Pollywogs C2/C3A Lynette Bellini Deerfield 3:00 PM</i>
2	3 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	4	5 C2 Class John Oldfield 7:30 PM	6 <i>Queer Contra Dance St Luke's Church 6:30 PM</i>	7	8
9	10 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	11	12 C2 Class John Oldfield 7:30 PM	13 MS/Plus WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	14	15 <i>Importers C3B Rob French Deerfield 3:00 PM</i>
16	17 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	18	19 C2 Class John Oldfield 7:30 PM	20 MS/Plus WS Arlene Kaspik 7:30 PM	21	22 MS/Plus Dance Jimmy Robeson 7:00-10:00 PM
23	24 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	25	26 C2 Class John Oldfield 7:30 PM	27 MS/Plus WS M. Maltenfort 7:30 PM	28 <i>Recyclers A2 Jim Poorman Deerfield 8:15</i>	29
30	31 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	April 1	April 2 C2 Class John Oldfield 7:30 PM	April 3 <i>Queer Contra Dance St Luke's Church 6:30 PM</i>	April 4	April 5

Chi-Town Squares at IAGSDC Convention!

Weave Your Heart in San Francisco, July 2013. Picture courtesy Michael Brown



MCASD and SCISDA Report

by Rich Sehnert

In this new year 2014, I hope to see changes with MCASD. We have picked up some younger and more forward-looking people to the board. I have been asked to be the Vice President of the organization. I just have to hear if it has been approved. I am no longer a Director of just two clubs, but a Director at large. I represent all clubs. And if for some reason, we don't have a delegate at a general meeting, I can step in and represent our club's voting interests.

For those who don't know, MCASD stands for Metropolitan Chicago Association of Square Dancers, which is an umbrella organization of Chicago area clubs, in which Chi-Town Squares is the largest member. They allow us to buy liability insurance at a very low rate, host two association dances per year, and encourage clubs to visit each other through banner steals and retrievals. They also hold three meeting per year that we are required to attend. Currently our delegates are Kate Reed and Arlene Kaspik.

On the state level, I have a meeting on January 6th with the Southland Convention Association, and we will be discussing the 2015 State convention. I am pushing for it to be in Tinley Park and possibly have a "very well known local caller" as the featured caller. The other location that is being checked into is the Clock Tower Inn in Rockford, though rumor has it that it is not big enough to handle the convention.

If anyone has a suggestion about where else it can be held in the Chicago area just let me know, and I will bring the suggestion with me to the next SCISDA meeting. SCISDA is the State Council of Illinois Square Dance Associations, which decides the site of the annual Illinois State Square and Round Dance Convention. This year it will be held on July 25-27, at the Westin Chicago Northwest in Itasca.

Mark your calendars for February 16 for the MCASD Sweetheart Dance. It will be held 2:00-5:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church in Roselle. Rich Jentzen and Jim Cosenza will represent our club as our Sweetheart Couple. Chi-Town Squares broke ground back in 1998, after were accepted in the association, when we petitioned to change their old rules defining the Sweetheart Couple as "one man and one woman", and our request was approved. Since then we have been well accepted and most people are eager to join us in our square!

Finally, I know it is a whole year away, but I have suggested that our club not participate in the MCASD Toys for Tots program. The reason being is that anything collected goes to DuPage County. It seems that our club being in Cook County should collect and distribute any toys and money locally...keep it in the neighborhood! Other clubs are already doing the same by keeping it local.

Come Join Queer Contra Chicago Dances!

Many Chi-Town members have been attending the monthly Queer Contra Chicago dances, which are held the first Thursday of the month at St. Luke's Lutheran Church at 2649 N. Francisco Avenue in Logan Square. Though not an official Chi-Town event, it was co-founded by Chi-Towner John Legge, and we encourage people to attend by not scheduling any dances that night to conflict with it.

Contra dance is a form of folk dance, similar to square dancing, but with lines of dancers rather than squares. It is

"gender-free" so instead of typical male-female gender roles, dancers determine their own role as a leader or follower. The caller is also accompanied by live music, and the spins and swings are more pronounced than in square dancing.



Admission to Queer Contra is a sliding scale of \$0-10, payable at the door. No advance planning or experience is needed and no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Lessons for newcomers are held 6:30-7:00 PM, followed by two hours or so of dancing.

Halloween Chi-Town Style!

Chi-Town Squares members showed their creativity once again at the annual Halloween Dance, called by Sandra Bryant on October 31. King Joseph awarded prizes of free dance passes to about a dozen costumed dancers in many categories that he came up with on the fly (I don't recall them all, but I won for "Most Vulgar")! It was also one of the first opportunities for our new Blast grads to test their skills in a real dance setting. Thanks to all for a great time! (Pictures by Bob Siegel and Rob Sierzega)



Holiday Dance 2013

pics by Bob Siegel



King Joseph with John , Devery and Rick



Board Members Diva and John sell 50/50 tickets



A surplus of Santas!



Brad poses with David and Jeff



The sweets table was well stocked!



An antlered Sandie enjoys her coffee between tips!

Dixie's Style by Diva

Greeting fellow Chi-Town members! Dixie here, ready to dish the dirt! And what fun we've had since last we talked. Lets take a trip down memory lane, shall we?

In September, we had a blast at The Blast, with our master of ceremonies and instructor par excellence, Dayle Hodge. Dayle did such a fantastic job of keeping us motivated and learning by telling jokes and just being generally hilarious. (Strictly entre nous, your intrepid girl reporter also spied him sitting on the lap of one of the club members, hmmm...Kathy?)

A good time was definitely had by all, and Dayle is a great teacher and fun guy. And it's been amazing how well the new people are dancing given the short time they've been doing it. Starting in January, we'll be teaching Plus-level calls, and I know these great new dancers will soon be dancing up a storm at that level, too! Especially with Therron's help as he starts offering his pre-class reviews again at 7:00.

Earlier in the fall we all enjoyed another successful edition of Chi-Town's annual fly-in, Crossfire! And who could forget the highlight of the event? The grand entrance of our very own Honky Tonk Queen Leslie GoreTex, breaking out...in song! Escorted to the stage by the very dapper Rob Sierzega, wearing matching outfits, Her Highness Royale was wildly received by her adoring subjects. (Miss Dixie reports these events, not withstanding her deep affection for His Majesty, King Joseph II)

Speaking of deep affection, you know you can tell Miss Leslie is a REAL lady by how tastefully she does her hair, clothes, and makeup. (More on that in a minute.) But her performance was outstanding in so many ways. A wholesome family act. None of this half-naked gyrating and twerking for Miss Leslie, no sir! A class act right down the line! And of course with real talent, who needs cheap gimmicks?

After the show we chatted tete-a-tete, and she informed me that SHE would be penning her OWN gossip column (like mine, of course, but COMPLETELY different). I think she calling it something terribly clever and dreadfully recherché... like *It's my Column and I'll Write what I Want to*.

Well, I suppose it's true what they say, "imitation is the sincerest form of larceny." Miss Leslie probably thinks she can write a better column than Miss Dixie. Ha! Did you know Dixie's sources report that Ms. Gore-Tex sets that

cheap wig of hers in used toilet-paper rolls? And rumor has it she walks around with her CD at the ready, hoping someone along the way will ask her to perform.

But we gals have to stick together and support each other in all our little projects, so Miss Dixie offers her very best wishes! She even tossed off a little verse for the occasion! We'll soon learn if it's Leslie's turn to cry!

How sad, Miss Leslie, how sad
That you crave attention so bad!
If it seems that I care
About the scribbles you'll share
Believe me, Miss Dixie is GLAD!

Dixie also hears from some of the, shall we say, longer-term members of the club that this isn't Leslie's first ride at the gossip rodeo. Let's see if she lasts longer than eight seconds this go-round. But enough of Dixie's encouraging words, let's all welcome Miss Leslie to our newsletter family and show our support, cause it might not be very good and we'll all have to be there to pick up the pieces if she fai...well, let's not use that nasty F word.

On to newer business! And before I write another word, big air kisses to Bob Sundal from the decorating committee. Sorry if you've heard the story, But it's amusing and worth retelling.

The decorating committee arrived at the church with the decorations, but without so much as a clue about how to hoist them up to where they belong, but loads of discussion about who would climb the scary ladder. A moment of panic set in and we all looked at each other. (Yes Dixie was there, too!). Can you believe those strong, virile young men wanted Miss Dixie to scale that ladder? Anyway just as panic was escalating, who walks in but Bob to save the day! He got all the decorations hung quickly and efficiently and saved the day! Quel homme! Yours truly didn't have to climb the ladder and the decorations were spectacular!

A confidential word to the wise: If you'd like to be part of our coming Crossfire, see our wonderful committee co-chair Jeff Hutchins. We can use all the enthusiastic help we can find, and it's always a good time!

Well, Miss Dixie is simply exhausted. That is all I have for now, but you know that, just like Santa, Miss Dixie has her elves reporting the amusing antics of our club and, just like Santa, Dixie takes notes and checks them twice!
Kisses!

UPCOMING NATIONAL & REGIONAL EVENTS

17-Jan – 19-Jan **Promenade Down Peachtree 12**
Callers: Darren Gallina, Gary Monday, Aaron Wells Hotlanta Squares, Atlanta, Georgia

31-Jan – 02-Feb **SWING THRU THE PALMS**
Callers: Darren Gallina, Charlie Robertson, Cliff Simpson
Boots In Squares, Palm Springs, CA

14-Feb – 16-Feb **ACDC A/C Weekend - East Coast**
Callers: Lynette Bellini, Saundra Bryant, Rob French, Betsy Gotta
DC Lambda Squares, Washington, DC

4-Feb – 17-Feb **FLIP THE FLAMINGO VII**
Callers: Chris Phillips, Todd Felleggy, Michael Cox Suncoast Squares, St. Petersburg, FL

28-Feb – 02-Mar **SHOOT THE LONE STAR**
Callers: Sandie Bryant and David Heffron
Lone Star Lambdas, Austin, TX:

07-Mar – 09-Mar **Rain Festival 2014**
Callers: Vic Ceder and Sandie Bryant
Puddletown Squares, Seattle, WA

28-Mar – 30-Mar **Hey World, Allemande What I Am**
Callers: Darren Gallina, Betsy Gotta, John Marshall
Independence Squares, Philadelphia, PA

11-Apr – 13-Apr **Ropin' The River 2014 - Cast a Shadow on the River**
Callers: Mike DeSisto & TBA
Grand River Squares, Grand Rapids, MI

02-May – 04-May **Pass The Ocean, Hon! 2014**
Callers: Sandie Bryant, Dayle Hodge, Mike Kellogg, Anne Uebelacker
Chesapeake Squares, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

22-May – 25-May **Scoot Back to the 60s**
Callers: Tim Marriner and Barry Clasper
Triangle Squares, Toronto, Ontario

18-Jun – 21-Jun **AACE**
Academy for Advanced and Challenge Enthusiasts
Callers: Sandie Bryant, Vic Ceder, Barry Clasper, Todd Felleggy, Ross Howell, Anne Uebelacker, Sue Curtis, Ian McConnell
AACE, Indianapolis, IN

03-Jul - 06-Jul **Squeeze the Hive -**



31st Annual IAGSDC Convention

SQUEEZE THE HIVE
squeezethehive.com

**Salt Lake City
JULY 3-6, 2014**

31st Annual IAGSDC Convention
Callers: Vic Ceder, Tom Miller, Saundra Bryant, Randy Dougherty, Gary Monday, Ett McAtee, Eric Henerlau, Bill Haynes, Anne Uebelacker
Temple Squares, Salt Lake City UT

05-Sep - 07-Sep **Do The Funky Monkey - A/C Weekend - West Coast**
Callers: Anne Uebelacker, Saundra Bryant, Vic Ceder, Bronc Wise, Jet Roberts
Prime 8's, Sacramento California

12-Sep - 14-Sep **Pass the Sea 2014**
Callers: Eric Henerlau, Darren Gallina, Andy Allemao
Finest City Squares, San Diego

19-Sep - 21-Sep **Square Dance Women Weekend**
Callers: Anne Uebelacker & Kris Jensen
Square Dance Women, Silver Falls State Park Conference Center Oregon

03-Oct - 05-Oct **Chase the Chile 2014**
Callers: Sandie Bryant, Bill Eyler, Kris Jensen, Scott Amspoker
Wilde Bunch, Albuquerque, NM

10-Oct - 12-Oct **Crossfire 2014**
Callers: Saundra Bryant and Mike Kellogg
Chi-Town Squares, Chicago, IL

23-Oct - 26-Oct **Peel the Pumpkin "Cast A Royal Shadow" (30th Anniversary)**
Callers: Anne Uebelacker, Betsy Gotta, Sandie Bryant, Tim Marriner, Howard Richman, Nick Martellacci, Dayle Hodge, Dan Koft, John Marshall, Bill Harrison, special guests Howard Richman as Lady Di-Amal and Roy Gotta who will be leading round dancing.
Times Squares, New York, NY

Information taken from the IAGSDC.org event page. Please check there for updates.