



Fall 2014

Volume 26, No. 1

Get Ready to BLAST Again!

Chi-Town Squares will be hosting its second annual Blast weekend, teaching the entire Mainstream program over four sessions the weekend of September 19-21. Our own Michael Maltenfort will be instructing the class, which will once again replace our traditional year-long weekly classes. Following the Blast we will start again with weekly Mainstream workshops on Thursday, where people can solidify their skills.

The cost of the blast for new students is only \$75, for which people can now register for at our web site, chitownsquares.org. This includes snacks on Friday, a bag

lunch on Saturday between sessions, and coffee, fruit and

bagels on Sunday.

Now is the time to play up the Blast to all your "Square-curious" friends, lovers, Facebook, Twitter or Instagram buddies. Rich Jentzen and Jim Cosenza have been heading up the recruitment committee, trying new ways to attract people from other interest groups. In fact there is a recruitment contest going on, so please forward to them any names of potential dancers you might have.

Current members are welcome and needed, of course. However we are asking this year that they pay \$25 for the weekend, to help defray costs. This will also include the snacks on Friday, lunch on Saturday and coffee service on Sunday.

Members can pre register at workshop dances, and on the web site BLAST sign-in area (choose Member price \$25.00 at the payment area).

Helpers can attend any part of the weekend, though people are encouraged to maximize their registration by attending the weekend in full. If money is still an issue, be assured that nobody will be turned away due to lack of funds. If you would like to seek assistance, please see a Board member about utilizing the Larry Burke scholarship fund.

The irascible Therron Ricks is heading up our Blast effort, and is promising many surprises for participants. He has

sought out novel ways to advertise the classes through social media and other on line and live meet up groups, so we are hoping for a great turnout. He is working with many organizations in Andersonville, to show the public our event as professional, fun and worth the value, while also involving the local community.

Here is the complete schedule:

Friday September 19: 6 PM registration, 7-10 PM Dancing, with snacks

Saturday September 20:

9:00-12:30 PM Dancing, 12:30-1:30 PM Lunch, 1:30-5:00 PM Dancing

Sunday September 21: 1-4 PM Dancing, with coffee service, fruit and snacks

GET READY FOR A SQUARE DANCE BLAST!



LEARN TO SQUARE DANCE IN ONE FUN-FILLED ACTION-PACKED WEEKEND!

JOIN CHI-TOWN SQUARES THIS FALL!

SEPTEMBER 19 - 21, 2014

Chi-Town Squares Board of Directors

President: Rob Sierzega Vice President: Jim Cosenza Secretary: Joe Kerouac Treasurer: Chuck Pease At Large: John Wood At Large: Bob Siegel (Plus 1 vacancy) rob@sierzega.net jim@jimcosenza.com jwdk1949@aol.com chuck@CJPrinting.com woodjpat@yahoo.com brompton98@yahoo.com

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Meet Your Board...A Letter from the President

by Rob Sierzega, president@chitownsquares.org

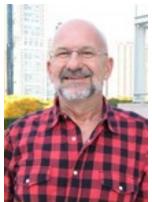
I joined Chi-Town Squares in 1993 with my partner Larry Burke at the encouragement of Phil Davis, whom you all know and love as the IAGSDC 2014 Golden Boot honoree – Yeah, Phil! (We referred to him as Phil Davis #2 since Larry and I met at a party of another Phil Davis, who became Phil Davis #1; in order of acquaintance, and to keep them straight... well, you know what I mean!) I am honored to become the 2014-2015 President of a club that has been

important in my life for the past 21 years. I have met a lot of great people who have become good friends and dance partners through all the years. I look forward to dancing and talking and laughing and drinking - after the dance, of course, with everyone in the coming year!

At the annual meeting in May, new board members were elected for the upcoming season. Our new Board of Directors: Rob Sierzega, President; Jim Cosenza, Vice-President; Chuck Pease, Treasurer; Joe Kerouac, Secretary; and board members at large: Diva Mihelic, Bob Siegel, and John Wood. (Diva recently had to resign her position due to health considerations.) We have had a few planning meetings to make 2014-2015 a banner year for the Club. Their photos our now on our website.

Chi-Town's 2014 Yellow Rock recipient was Bob Siegel, for all of his hard work and dedication to the club over the years.

Our website **www.chitownsquares.org** is fully operating and now you can sign in, check out our newsletters, check out the dance calendar, pay your membership dues (still only \$40.00) make donations, etc. Take some time to explore the site. A big thank you goes to our web designer and member, Michael Wills, who has been donating his time for the past few years to bring us our great new website. Club Express has been laid to rest.



We recently held our summer Open House dance on Saturday August 23 with Saundra Bryant calling, and it was a big success. It will lead up to our Blast class in September. Remember to invite your friends to join the Blast and sign up on our website! You can also invite them through our Facebook Chi-Town Squares community page at www.facebook.com/chitownsquares. Be sure to go to this page and "Like" it, as this will be replacing our traditional Facebook group page. Rich Jentzen is our recruitment chair, see more info in his article in this

newsletter.

We have palm cards and colorful flyers available for you to hand out, which mention our fall 2014 BLAST class, September 19-21, 2014. Pick them up at the next workshop to post at local establishments, etc. Michael Maltenfort will be our instructor. We will be teaching the entire Basic and Mainstream list in one weekend. Again, your friends can sign up and pay on our website. Therron Ricks has offered to be our chair for this event. Look for more details in this newsletter.

The Great Chicago Crossfire 2014 – "Step and Slide Down the Aisle" October 10-12, with Saundra Bryant and Michael Kellogg as the featured callers, is in the capable hands of the wonderful co-chairs Jean Shamo and Jeff Hutchins. Don't miss this fun weekend of dancing; sign up now for only \$90.00 until September 1, 2104.

Our regular fall workshops begin on Monday September 8th for A2/C1, and Thursday, September 11th for Mainstream, with a few Plus tips at the end of each evening. We will not be offering an Advanced class this year, as there were not enough interested dancers.

Remember that we have the Larry Burke Scholarship fund available for any Chi-Town member that would like to dance, but is having financial difficulties. After this past recession, who didn't? Just ask a Board member and we will be glad to work with you.

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

Submissions and correspondence should be sent Bob at brompton98@yahoo.com . Editor: Bob Siegel, Communications Chair

Contributors: Rob Sierzega, Rick Simkin, Therron Ricks, Rich Jentzen, Marge Piersen, Jeff Hutchins, Joel lott

2014 Chi-Town Membership Drive and Contest

by Rich Jentzen

Chi-Town Squares is RECRUITING! Its true! The Conservatives had our secret!

OK, really we're just recruiting for returning former members and new participants to come to our 2nd Annual Mainstream Blast Weekend to be held September 19-21, 2014.

Here is your chance to win Prizes! We're giving away a 10-dance Value Card (\$72!) for the club member who brings the most new individuals to the Blast! We're also giving away a \$25 iTunes Store gift card for the club member who supplies the most new names/emails/phone numbers for our recruiting efforts. The bonus? You get to have your friends join in the fun of Modern Western Square Dancing!

Have your friends register for the Blast at: http://chitownsquares.org/form/register-chi-townsquares-blast We would love to have the biggest Blast ever and here is how you can help.

- We are having a contest for all club member to win prizes as we try to get as many friends to come try our square dance Blast. E-mail your names, email addresses, phone numbers to Rich J. through this address: info@chitownsquares.org
- Pick up some of our palm cards and hand them out to as many folks as you know.
- Talk up how much fun square dancing is, how we dance to modern music, and don't forget to mention our special gay styling!

You know how much fun you have on the dance floor, now it is time to invite your friends to join the fun!

Yellow Rocks, Rich

Our 'Members Only' Section of our Website awaits you!

Chi-Town Squares is excited to announce the Members Only section of the **chitownsquares.org** website.

By now all current and recent members should have received an email with instructions and a link, that will allow you set your password and activate your account.

After that you will be able to log in using the Member Login link in the upper right section of the website. Your user name is the same as your email.

When you are logged in, you will have access to a new menu item called Members Only. From there, you can:

- * Edit your member profile
- * Change your password
- * View your membership status
- * Pay Membership dues
- * View and search the club roster

- * Save the club roster as a PDF
- * Download official club documents
- * Download the club newsletter, Spread and Circulate
- * Make donations to the Club or the All Join Hands Foundation

If you do not receive the activation email, check your spam folder. If you still haven't received it, or have any other questions please contact us at **info@chitownsquares.org**.



It's Almost Time to Step & Slide Down The Aisle

By Jeffrey Hutchins

Crossfire 2014 is fast approaching! In case you have forgotten Crossfire is no longer held over the Labor Day Weekend. It will be held this year and in upcoming years over the Columbus Day Weekend in October. This year Crossfire will begin on Friday October 12 and conclude on Sunday, October 14th.

Our theme this year is called "Step and Slide down the Aisle." This commemorates our status as first class citizens in the state of Illinois. We are going to celebrate that with a wedding

theme, and the church will be decorated in a wedding theme as well. On Saturday night, we will serve cake to celebrate as well. We encourage you to dress on Saturday night as if you were going to a wedding. Of course, that is your choice, and you can do it in any creative way you can devise. It will be fun to see what everyone creates! You can be a bride, or a groom, a mother of the bride, an usher, a flower girl, father of the bride or groom, or even a stripper! It should be fun!

Sandie Bryant and Michael Kellogg are our featured callers, along with many of our club callers and other GA callers as well. We are very lucky to have such a variety of callers for your dancing pleasure! There will be dancing in two rooms, offering programs of Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, and Challenge. Something for everyone! Exact schedules will be announced soon, but the general schedule will be as follows:

FRIDAY

Potluck Dinner: 6:00-7:00 PM Dancing: 7:00-10:30 PM

SATURDAY

Dancing: 12:00-4:00 PM Dinner on your own

The Wedding Dance: 7:00-10:30 PM

SUNDAY

Brunch at the Call 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

Dancing: 1:00-4:00 PM



Like last year, Crossfire will be held at Ebenezer Lutheran Church at 1640 West Foster Avenue, which is located in the vibrant Andersonville neighborhood, which offers many great options for dining and entertainment, all within walking distance.

The Sunday brunch will be held nearby at the Call at 1547 W. Bryn Mawr, between Clark and Ashland. The Call is an easy walk from the church, or there is also an option to ride bus #22 north on Clark Street to the Call. Here we will also conduct the only 50/50 raffle of the weekend, which also includes the

opportunity to win donated fly-ins from other clubs.

As of August 27 we have registered 61 people, with that number expected to grow. The current rate for the entire weekend is \$90, but there will be a price hike on September 1st. After September 1st the registration fee will rise to \$100. This will also be the rate if you register at the door. But please register in advance, as it will help in planning the event.

Note that any new BLAST graduates will be given early bird rate of \$70, to encourage them to instantly participate in our club's premiere event of the year. Individual session rates will also be available and announced soon.

To register, fill out a registration form (available at dances, the club website or Facebook page) and send to:
Jeffrey Hutchins
5924 N. Paulina St. #2W
Chicago, IL 60660
jeffrey.h@comcast.net

773-294-4710

Please make checks payable to Chi-Town Squares. You can also pay by PayPal through the IAGSDC.org event page, if you create a profile there. We hope to have a good turnout, so we hope to see you there!

Brad Savage is heading up the Decorating Committee. To join in the planning fun, contact him at bradasavage@gmail.com

Finally, look for volunteer sheets to be put out soon at club events, to sign up to bring food for the Friday Potluck, help with decorations or work at the registration desk. Or call Jeff to volunteer in advance.

The 2014 IAGSDC Convention was called Squeeze The Hive. I never knew that Utah was nicknamed The Beehive State, so I assumed that Hive referred to Marge Simpson's hair style (which was certainly prominent enough at early registration events at previous conventions). It wasn't until I saw highway signs with beehives that I started to suspect there was more to it than just hair.

And I saw plenty of highway signs. I arrived early in Salt Lake City, in order to do a little sightseeing. A friend and I rented a car and went looking for easy walks in the nearby mountains. Easy walks do exist there, but at 8000 feet they're more like moderate walks. The day was perfect for these walks: sunny, a cool breeze in the mountains, plenty of wildflowers, mountain views, and even a little snow in some shady places.

By the time we got back to the Grand America hotel early Wednesday evening, lots of square dancers had arrived and were wandering the halls, occupying the lounges, and greeting each other. A few people admitted to me that when they saw their hotel rooms, they stopped and took pictures. I did the same thing - the rooms felt extravagant in size and decoration.

The Gay Callers Association (GCA) has a 3-day school before each IAGSDC convention. I was wandering with some other square dancers on Tuesday night and so we watched the end of that day's class. Tom Miller was the instructor, and struck me as a thoughtful and supportive, but not coddling anyone. No matter how good or awkward a student was at calling a sequence, getting people to home, or teaching a call, Tom was always able to give suggestions on how the student could improve. I was impressed, and on Wednesday morning I volunteered to be a dancer while students performed their assignments from Tom. It was an interesting experience, and I'm glad I did it.

This convention reinforced some important points for me: a convention is too big for one person to do it all - or even to control it all; communication is essential in large efforts; and the truly important thing about the IAGSDC convention is the people of the IAGSDC.

Let me be clear: I had a good time at Squeeze the Hive. I would have had a better time, though, if the registration packet had included a schedule of staff and non-staff callers for the weekend: I could have planned my activities in advance, rather than going from hall to hall to see who was about to call there. I would have had a better time if someone had announced to us that Salt Lake City is in a desert (so drink lots of water even if you're not thirsty) and is above 4000 feet in elevation (so rest more than you usually would). These and other shortfalls

(which I won't dwell on here) were due to one person trying to control everything.

At this convention I saw friends from all over, and had some nice one-onone conversations. I danced to some excellent staff callers, and missed some dancing when I finally realized I needed more rest. I brought swim trunks, but never made it to the pool - not for swimming, or lounging, or even the Pool Tip. I went to the Honky Tonk Queen contest, but I was so tired that I couldn't stay awake until it started. I hear that I missed an excellent show.

One show that I didn't miss was the video for next year's convention, Swing Me in St. Louis. Kevin a/k/a Lesley Gore-Tex worked long hours on the video, and convention attendees loved it

I ate a lot of meals outside of the hotel: the Grand America is a top-notch institution, and their food prices reflect that. Walking along Main Street towards the center of town provided a little bit of sightseeing and gave me a feel for the downtown area. I was glad for that - in some years, I've never left the hotel and ended up with no impression of the city that I had visited. I had breakfast most mornings at a diner called the Royal Eatery - decent food, low prices, plenty of places to sit. The most unusual meal I had was at Curry Fried Chicken, an Indian restaurant whose menu includes curry fried chicken. I had to try it - and I liked it!

Not every meal was spectacular, but the company was always excellent. After one lunch we visited Temple Square. It seems to me that the visitor experience was not designed by a tourism expert. Explanations of the buildings were not clear, and it became evident early in the free tour that the purpose of the tour was to proselytize, not inform. The Temple is closed to non-Mormons; I saw a night-time post card of the Temple which reinforced the idea that the Temple is mysterious, forbidding, separate from the rest of the world.

On one of my mealtime excursions I saw a sign "Damn Film! The Utah LGBT Film Festival" taking place 1 week after Squeeze the Hive. It reminded me that Salt Lake City is a relatively liberal area, compared to the rest of Utah. I'm sure that some people in the hotel and around the downtown area saw more LGBT people than they'd ever seen before; and we do have a tendency to change people's minds after they've talked with us and done business with us for a few days. The hotel's event liaison said they'd love to have us back there for a future event.

As with every Convention, when it was time to leave I wanted to stay. I did stay once, and was sad to watch everyone else go home, watch the magic of Convention leave in cabs and buses and train cars. So I did leave Salt Lake City when it was time, taking the TRAX light rail directly and conveniently to the airport.

Swing Me in St. Louis is coming next spring: Memorial Day weekend 2015. The web site http://

www.SwingMeInStLouis.com

is up and running. I've already registered for that convention - I hope you do, too!



Scenes From Squeeze the Hive



Enjoying the Pool at the Grand American hotel



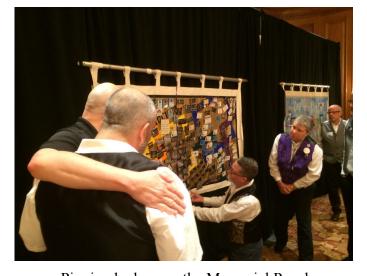
At the Trail-In Dance



Barbara, Sandie and Michael in their club finery



The former and new Honky Tonk Queens



Pinning badges on the Memorial Panel



A Peek at the Bear Tip!

Chi-Towners in Grand Rapids (April 2014)

































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Chi-Town Squares Calendar

September 2014

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

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------------------------|--|-----|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 Board Meeting @ Rob S house | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM | 9 | 10 | 11 MS/Plus WS Therron Ricks 7:30 PM | 12 | 13 Importers Deerfield 3:00 PM Ross Howell |
| 14 | 15 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM | 16 | 17 | 18 MS/Plus WS Arlene Kaspik 7:30 PM | The BLAST 6:00–10:00 PM | The BLAST 9:00 –5:00 PM |
| 21 The BLAST 1:00–4:00 PM | 22 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM | 23 | 24 | 25 Mainstream WS M. Maltenfort 7:30 PM | 26 Recyclers Deerfield 8:15 Barry Clasper | 27 Pollywogs Deerfield 3:00 PM Barry Clasper |
| 28 | 29 A2/C1 WS Lynette Bellini 7:30 PM | 30 | | | | |

October 2014

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

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|----------------------|--|-----|-----|---|-----------------|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 Board Meeting @ Rob S. house | 3 | 4Queer Contra Dance St Luke's Church 6:00—9:00 PM |
| 5 | 6 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant | 7 | 8 | 9 Mainstream WS John Oldfield | 10 The Great C | 11 hicago Crossfire |
| | 7:30 PM | | | 7:30 PM | The Great C | lineago crossine |
| Chicago Crossfire | 13 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM | 14 | 15 | 16 Mainstream WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM | 17 | 18 Pollywogs Deerfield 3:00 Sandie Bryant |
| 19 | 20 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM | 21 | 22 | 23 Mainstream WS Therron Ricks 7:30 PM | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM | 28 | 29 | 30 Halloween Dance Arlene Kaspik 7:30 PM | 31 HALLOWEEN | November 1 |

Chi-Town Squares Calendar

November 2014

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

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|-----|-----|---|--|---|
| 2 | 3 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Importers Deerfield 3:00 Lynette Bellini |
| 9 | 10 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM | 11 | 12 | 13 Mainstream WS M. Maltenfort 7:30 PM | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 A2/C1 WS M. Maltenfort 7:30 PM | 18 | 19 | 20 Mainstream WS John Oldfield 7:30 PM | 26 Recyclers Deerfield 8:15 Dayle Hodge | 27 Pollywogs Deerfield 3:00 PM Dayle Hodge |
| 23 T'giving Dance Dayle Hodge 2:00-5:00 PM | 24 A2/C1 WS Dayle Hodge 7:30 PM | 25 | 26 | 27 THANKSGIVING DAY | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | , | | |

December 2014

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

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--|-----|------------------------|---|-----|---|
| | 1 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM | 9 | 10 | 11 Mainstream WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM | 12 | 13 Pollywogs Deerfield 3:00 PM Sandie Bryant |
| 14 | 15 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM | 16 | 17 | 18 Mainstream WS Therron Ricks 7:30 PM | 19 | 20 Holiday Dance Sandie Bryant 7:00-10:00 PM |
| 21 | 22 A2/C1 WS John Oldfield 7:30 PM | 23 | 24 | 25 CHRISTMAS DAY | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 NEW YEARS EVE | | | JANUARY 10: CHILI DANCE Club Callers 5-9 PM |

Social Dance Schedule 2014-2015

Here is the new and improved weekend dance schedule for 2014-15. Social dance level will be Mainstream through Advanced unless otherwise indicated.

September 19-21: BLAST 2014

October 10-12: Great Chicago Crossfire

November 23: Thanksgiving Dance 2-5 PM:

Dayle Hodge

December 20 Holiday Dance 7-10 PM:

Sandie Bryant

January 10 Chili Dance 5-9 PM: Club Callers **February 22** 2-5 PM: Lynette Bellini. (A/C only)

March 15 2-5 PM: Bobby Poyner April 12: 2-5 PM: Sprosty Twins

May 16 5-10 PM: Annual Meeting & Dance June 20 Pride Dance 7-10 PM: Aaron Wells

Also remember that weekly Advanced/Challenge workshops begin September 8, and Mainstream workshops (with Plus star tips) begin September 11.

Thanks to secretary Joe Kerouac for continuing to serve as our caller scheduler.

In Memoriam: Sally, Don and Joe

It has been a tough year for Chi-Town as we endured a number of losses this summer

First Sally Hurst, the mother of Allan Hurst, died shortly before convention. She danced with us for several years while living in Chicago. We affixed her badge to the memorial quilt in Salt Lake City, (along with Ev Nobuyama). A memorial was held on July 18 at Weinstein Funeral Home in Wilmette. Donations in her name can be made to All Join Hands Foundation at www.alljoinhands.org.



Then we lost Don Drehobl who died after suffering a stroke. Don, a former Chicago fireman, and his companion Pat Reed were Chi-Town members for many years, and danced at our Monday night workshops. Services were held July 25 in the northwest side of Chicago, which was attending by many Chi-Towners and square dancing friends. Information on donations can be found at www.suerth.com/obituary/drehobl.html.

Not so long after Joe Piersen died unexpectedly. A memorial service was held on August 11. Both Joe and his wife Marge were great supporters of Chi-Town and were 10-year members. Marge was kind enough to submit the following recollection of Joe:

Joe and I took square dancing lessons at Deerfield Squares 1979-1980. In that June, Joe became diabetic so we didn't practice at all that summer and debated long before we

decided to chance a September dance. We danced for the next 32 years and were among the seven couples that closed Deerfield Squares and started Recyclers in 1982 as an Advanced Level club. The opening dance at Deerfield High School was attended by 17 squares of dancers!

In the late 1990's we started attending Chi-Town's Monday night Advanced/Challenge workshops and joined Chi-Town in 2001.

Trains were Joe's lifelong passion (aside from his family). His sister recalls that as a child he was the family photographer but came home from a typical family vacation with more photos of trains than of people. His hobby segued from model railroading to photographing the Chicago and North Western until 1995 when the railroad merged with the Union Pacific. From about that time until his death, Joe served as archive chairman for the C&NW Historical Society, actually a full time job as he did it.

He authored many railroad books. Recently he was compiling CD collections of photographs for sale and finishing a book on the architectural firm Frost and Grainger, which designed numerous C&NW depots, churches and homes.

When he died, he was spearheading negotiations for the



society to purchase a building that would be a more adequate home for its numerous collections. In this light, the family requests that any memorial donations be made to the Chicago and North Western Historical Society Building Fund, c/o Gerald L. Krug, 7635 W. Bluemound Rd., Suite 101, Wauwatosa, WI 53213.

Chi-Town Shout Outs: Congratulations Phil!

Congratulations to Phil Davis, who was this recipient of the prestigious Golden Boot award at Squeeze the Hive in Salt Lake City. Phil, who is currently serving as Chairman of the IAGSDC, was given the award by his friend JW Paulson, who lives in Seattle but maintains an out-of-town Chi-Town membership. This



actually makes three years in a row for Chi-Towners, as JW was bequeathed the award by our very own Sandie Bryant!

Here is an excerpt of his speech:

To enlighten those unfamiliar with this award, the Golden Boot Award was created in 1983 by Puddletown Squares to recognize Art Smith who founded not only Puddletown but the clubs in Portland and Vancouver as well. After the first convention proved to be a success, Art felt it would be a good way to recognize people who, or organizations which, have made on-going contributions to the continuation and success of the Association. This is, however, not an Association award; it is presented by one

year's recipient to his or her choice to be the next honoree. The choice is strictly personal; no polls or voting is involved. Previous recipients include callers and dancers, men and women, straight and gay.

Whenever we Square Dancers get together, we talk a lot about family and commitment, and never more so than during

Convention. These two concepts became the guiding principles for making my choice for this year. My choice to receive the Boot has demonstrated a years-long commitment to this activity, at both the club and national level. Whether it involves Conventions, Fly-ins, selling raffle tickets, or even sewing: "Been there, done that."

But even more, for so many of us, this recipient is there as a friend, a mentor, a host, a critic, a guide, and even refuge from a blizzard. (And no, I don't mean Lois.)

I am so excited to be get to say this...My choice as this year's recipient of the Golden Boot is my very own birthday twin, "Madame Chairman" ... Phil Davis!

Chi-Town Shout Outs: The Adventures of Kathy & Dayle

A bizarre summer continued when word came that Dayle Hodge was involved in a motorcycle accident on August 5. As posted by his daughter Erin on Facebook, Dayle was riding home from work in a residential neighborhood area. When a car swerved in front of him. He slammed on the brakes, and the next thing he knew, paramedics were waking him up on the street after being unconscious for about 10 minutes.

He was rushed to shock trauma in Baltimore and suffered a broken shoulder blade that will require physical therapy,



numerous broken ribs, a partially collapsed lung, and a broken ankle requiring surgery to fix. Without his helmet, he might not be here with us now. Dayle is home now but in rehab/physical therapy.

Then a few days later, while leaving the hospital, Kathy fell and broke bones in both of her feet, which required

surgery this past week.

An outpouring of help came through from the square dance community, starting with a group who quickly built a ramp to their home in Columbia, MD. A Facebook community page has also been set up which gives updates and provides a central place where people can offer their help with the various needs that they have during their recovery. That page can be found at https://

www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Dayle-and-Kathy/1450984771845749.

Upcoming National Events

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, Oregon

Callers: Sandie Bryant, Bill Eyler, Kris Jensen, Scott

Amspoker

Wilde Bunch, Albuquerque, NM

10-Oct - 12-Oct The Great Chicago Crossfire

Step and Slide Down the Aisle

Callers: Saundra Bryant and Mike Kellogg

Chi-Town Squares, Chicago, IL

17-Oct – 19-Oct Peel Off in Palm Springs 2014

Callers: Bill Eyler Peel Off Canyon Club

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

Callers: Vic Ceder, Jet Roberts and Gary Monday

Rosetown Ramblers, Portland, OR

07-Nov – 09-Nov Harvest Festival Hoedown 2014

Callers: Tom Miller, John Marshall, Tim Marriner,

DC Lambda Squares, York, Pennsylvania

2015

16-Jan – 18-Jan **Promenade Down Peachtree**

Callers: Hunter Keller, Mike Kellogg

Hotlanta Squares, Atlanta, GA

Information taken from the IAGSDC.org event page.

30-Jan – 01-Feb **SWING THRU THE PALMS**

Callers: Mike DiSisto, Bill Eyler, Hunter Keller

Boots In Squares, Palm Springs CA

13-Feb – 16-Feb Flip the Flamingo 8 - Take 2

Callers: Todd Fellegy, Chris Phillips, Mike Cox

Suncoast Squares, St Petersburg, FL

27-Feb – 01-Mar Silver Star Over the Alamo

Callers: Dayle Hodge, Darren Gallina, Gary Monday

Alamo City Wranglers, San Antonio, TX

20-Mar – 22-Mar Wheel Around the Saguaro V

Callers: Michael Kellogg and Dayle Hodge

Old Pueblo Dance Hall

T Squares, Tucson, AZ

20-Mar – 22-Mar PHILADELPHIA FREEDOM

Callers: Saundra Bryant, Bill Harrison, Anne Uebelacker

Independence Squares, Suburban Wilmington, DE

17-Apr – 19-Apr **Promenade the River**

Callers: Anne Uebelacker & Aaron Wells Grand River Squares, Grand Rapids, MI

01-May – 03-May **Pass The Ocean, Hon! 2015**

Callers: TBD

Chesapeake Squares, Rehoboth Beach, DE

22-May – 25-May Swing Me in St Louis

IAGSDC Convention. Callers: Saundra Bryant, Anne Uebelacker, Deborah Carroll-Jones, Betsy Gotta, Vic Ceder, Barry Clasper, Bill Eyler, Dayle Hodge, Gary Monday, Michael Kellogg, and 2 Special guest Callers

Gateway Squares, Saint Louis, MO

2015 CONVENTION EXPRESS TO SWING THRU ST LOUIS!

Steven Johnson has done some preliminary research to organize a group take Amtrak to the 2015 St.

Louis Convention:

Arrive in time for the trail in dance on May 22nd. Stay through final

dancing on May 25th.

Reserved seating on the train allows ALL THE CHI-TOWN GROUP members to sit together.

Groups are boarded before other passengers on the train.

Schedule:

Friday, May 22, 2015, Chicago to St. Louis, 9:25 am - 3:00 pm,

Tuesday, May 26, 2015, St. Louis to Chicago, 3:00 pm - 8:40 pm

Round trip Rail fare: \$80 per person

\$70 over 62 years of age

Payment deadline is March 30, 2015 or until sold out!

So look for sign up information on our website soon.