

SPREAD & circulate

Fall 2015

Volume 28, No. 1

Are You Ready to Blast? Third Time's a Charm!

The Blast 2015 is quickly coming upon us September 11-13, 2015! Arlene Kaspik, who teaches for two other clubs in the Chicago area, will be leading our third year of instruction in one weekend, where by the end square dance virgins will have learned Basic and Mainstream! Blast grads will then be able to fully participate in the club activities, including weekly Mainstream Workshops on Thursday nights, monthly social dances at Chi-Town Squares and other clubs, fly-ins, including our own Crossfire XXV, and of course the IAGSDC International Convention in Toronto July 2016!

Cost for first-timer's is \$75, but Mainstream grads pay only \$25!! This includes: full weekend of dance instruction, snacks, lunch on Saturday, and our first Blast T-Shirt!! Such a deal has not been found anywhere!

For the Blast to be a success, naturally we need club members' help. We're only as good as our members and experienced dancers, so we need YOU!! You can easily register and pay ONLINE now! That's what the cool cats are doing these days: Go to <http://chitownsquares.org/form/register-chi-town-squares-blast> for complete information.



Please promote the Blast and monthly Dance Parties (1st Thursdays every month) to potential dancers. Arlene will also be calling the next Thursday Dance Party on **September 3**, leading up to the Blast. Use our Dance-Cards ("Dance with me!"), posters, and flyers. These are all available at the church at all Chi-Town events.

Speak with Rich, Therron or any Board member if the \$25 is a financial hardship. We don't want that to get in the way of your participation. We need your bright shiny faces to help the new dancers along and make them feel welcome and comfortable. So feel free to

bring snacks, help decorate, and come early to meet and greet our new potential members.

All dancing will be held at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1640 W. Foster, Chicago.

The schedule is as follows:

Friday:
Registration 6 PM,
Dancing 7-10 PM
(snacks)

Saturday:
Dancing 9 AM-12:30 PM
Lunch 12:30-1:30 PM
Dancing 1:30-5PM
(coffee, snacks, lunch)

Sunday:
Dancing 1-4 PM
(coffee, snacks)



Chi-Town Squares Blast 2015



Fri Sept 11 to Sun Sept 13
Ebenezer Lutheran Church - 1650 W. Foster Avenue, Chicago
Learn modern square dance in a fun-filled weekend!
Start learning to dance on Friday evening and step out as a full Mainstream Square Dancer on Sunday! Then kick up your heels on Thursday workshops, weekend dances, or travel to other cities for dance weekends to hone your skills while making new friends and really have a BLAST! All are invited, attire is casual! Dance partner is not required.
Cost is \$75 and includes snacks & lunch on Saturday!
Chi-Town SQUARES
www.chitownsquares.org
info@chitownsquares.org

Letter from the President: Fall Forward!

By Rob Sierzega, president@chitownsquares.org

Greetings fellow Chi-Towners! I hope you been having had a great summer. Now it is time to gear up for a new season of dancing and fun!

At the annual meeting in May, the new, five member board was elected for the upcoming year. Our new Board of Directors: Rob Sierzega, President; Jim Cosenza, Vice-President; Chuck Pease, Treasurer; Joe Kerouac, Secretary; and John Wood, Vice-Treasurer. We have had a few planning meetings to make 2015-2016 a banner year for the Club.

Chi-Town's 2015 Yellow Rock recipients were Rich Jentzen and Jim Cosenza, for all of their hard work and dedication to the club. Check out the pictures and text from the award in this newsletter.

Be sure to visit our website www.chitownsquares.org. You can sign in, check out our newsletters, view the dance calendar, pay your membership dues of only \$50.00 a year, make donations to support your club, etc. Take some time to explore the site. Please review your profile and make any changes (phone, address, e-mail) as needed.



Our next big dance is **Saturday August 29**, 7:00- 10:00 PM, with a Hawaiian theme. Eric Henerlau from California will be calling. So, wear those wonderfully colorful shirts that you all have in your closets as we celebrate the end of summer.

Our 1st Thursday Dance Party is **September 3**, 7:00-9:30 PM, Arlene Kaspik is calling. Invite your friends to join you at this dance. You can also invite them through our Facebook Chi-Town Squares community page. Please bring treats for our guests. We have palm cards and colorful flyers available for you to hand out, post at local establishments, etc. Pick them up at the next workshop.

The handouts also mention our fall 2015 BLAST class, **September 11-13, 2015**. Arlene Kaspik will be our instructor. We will be teaching the entire Basic and Mainstream list in one weekend. Again, you and your friends can sign up and pay on our website. Check with Rich Jentzen & Therron Ricks for more details.

The Great Chicago Crossfire XXV is **October 9-11**, with Sandra Bryant and Aaron Wells as the featured callers, is in the capable hands of the wonderful co-chairs Jean Shamo and Brad Savage. Don't miss this fun weekend of dancing! The \$95.00 rate has been extended to **September 13**, the Sunday of the Blast, but sign up now! See the Crossfire article about our "Alumni Reunion Brunch" on Sunday October 11.

Invite past dancers to join us.

Our regular fall Advanced/C1 dance/workshops begin on **Monday September 14**.

We are offering a **Challenge 1 class** this year, for the first hour of the evening each Monday night, starting at 7:30 PM. Full level dancing will still be offered from 8:30-10:00 PM.

The first Mainstream workshop will be **Thursday, September 17**, with a few Plus tips at the end of each evening.

The next Way Forward Committee meeting date is scheduled for **Saturday October 24**, beginning at 12 noon, in the party room of 5455 N. Sheridan. Everyone from the club is invited to attend.

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. Just ask a Board member and we will be glad to work with you.

I have met a lot of great people who have become good friends and dance partners throughout the years. I look forward to dancing and talking and laughing (and drinking, after the dance, of course!) with everyone in the coming year.

Thank you for being a member and I'll see you on the dance floor!



The 2015-2016 Chi-Town Squares Board

Crossfire XXV Only a Month Away...Sign Up Now!

By Jean Shamo

Chi-Town Squares is gearing up to celebrate its 25th Great Chicago Crossfire event, dating back 1989 (we skipped the two years we hosted convention in 1995 and 2010). It will be held over the Columbus Day Weekend, October 9-11. This year we will enjoy Sandie Bryant and Aaron Wells as the featured callers. Some of our local callers will assist and fill out the schedule. We are offering all levels of dancing over the weekend in two rooms at the Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster. The entire fly-in including Sunday brunch will take place at the Church, thanks to the accommodation of Norm Cratty, Parish Administrator.

On Friday evening we will kick off the event with a potluck 6-7 PM, followed by an evening of dancing from 7:00-10:30 PM. There are two sessions on Saturday, 12-4 PM and 7:00 - 10:30 PM, with snacks and drinks provided (Saturday dinner is "on your own"). On Sunday we are having a catered brunch 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM, followed by the last session of dancing 12:30-3:00 PM.

Alumni members: We're hoping you will come for brunch on Sunday at a special rate of \$35 and stay for some easy tips afterwards. Sandie will lead you through those basic and mainstream calls that you thought you'd forgotten. Look for a special invitation via email in the coming days. Current members, please invite your "fallen" dancer friends!

You can register for Crossfire the old fashioned way, by filling out a registration form (available at dances or at our website) and turning it in or sending by mail with your check. You can also sign up by going to the IAGSDC.org event page and creating a profile. You can then pay online via PayPal. If you do pay online, please still download a registration form, complete and email or mail it to Jean Shamo (address is on the form) so that we have all of your information.

The admission fee is currently \$95 and was due to go up to \$105 soon. But due to popular demand, we are extending the \$95 rate until **September 13**, to give all current members a final chance to get in on the lower rate. In fact, a special offer of \$75 for the entire

weekend, or \$10 per session (normally \$15), will be made to all new Blast graduates. Several Blast graduates attended sessions last year and it really cemented their confidence and square dancing skills. Hope to see you all there!

Co-chair Brad Savage will place one more order of T-shirts on September 13, which gives a chance to Blast graduates to get one. The classy black shirt with silver letters and numbers has been well received!

Committees are now being formed and volunteer sign-up sheets are set out at the dances. We will be prodding you to add your name to one of them and help out in some small way. This includes contributions to the potluck on Friday, so start thinking about what gourmet creations you wish to share!

The informal theme of the Saturday night dance will be "Silver and Black", commemorating all 25 Crossfire events. As part of our decoration efforts we are collecting T-shirts from prior fly-ins. Please attach your name at the back of the shirt so we can return it to you afterwards. You can bring them to any dance between now and **Thursday, October 8**. We will have a dance on that Thursday night as scheduled (a "Trail-In" dance of sorts for guests arriving early), and we hope our dancers will stay around and help decorate!

If anyone has an extra room available for out-of-town guests, please contact Jean Shamo at jeanshamo@rcn.com. There are a couple of registrants who have asked about places to stay. Please consider hosting a Crossfire guest.

The next Crossfire Committee meeting is Wednesday, **September 9** at 7 PM at Jean's home: 5415 N Sheridan in Chicago. We welcome new members and especially need more people to come to this meeting. Please send Jean an email for directions and to let her know you will be there. You can also call 773.907.0665. We need some fresh members on the committee as we look toward next year's event, and this is a great way to get more involved in the club.



Memories of Pat Kurauski

By Bob Siegel and Bee Jay Douglas

On July 13 we lost beloved long-time Chi-Town member Pat Kurauski. Many of us had just seen Pat the St. Louis convention in May, where she danced and had a great time as best she could, despite battling cancer for the past two years. Her best friend Bee Jay, who considered Pat the sister she never had, recently shared some memories about her dear friend.

Pat was a life-long Chicagoan, born and raised on the South side. Though she never married, she was extremely close to her family, especially her brother, his wife, and her many nieces and nephews, who called her Aunt Patsy. She would spend the holidays with them, and plan trips over a year in advance to travel with them. She enjoyed a long career at St. Paul Federal Bank as a computer programmer. After that she worked at CPS at Lincoln Park High School in their computer labs.

Bee Jay first met Pat in the early 90's at a volleyball league, which played at St. Vincent de Paul Settlement House on Halsted Street. While Pat was always sports minded (she had taught PE at a junior high) she was reluctant to play, until Bee Jay invited her to join her team. She soon also joined a softball league in addition to a horseshoe league at Wells Park. Pat was quite a "ringer" at horseshoes, Bee Jay recalled.

Although Bee Jay had been square dancing since 1997, Pat was hesitant to try it until 2003. Once she did she loved it of course, dancing up to the Advanced level program. She met many more new friends (as we all have) and start attending fly-ins and conventions with Bee Jay. She attended her tenth one in Salt Lake City last year, and received her 10-year medallion (although an error almost prevented this. Be sure to check those books!)

But perhaps the most recent convention was the most special. She had missed her annual trip to the Grand Rapids fly-in in April, because she did not feel she could handle climbing up and down the stairs at the dancing venue. But she figured the Union Station hotel in St. Louis would be more accommodating. Plus she was quite determined to go!

On the morning of the trip, Bee Jay and Pat were waiting for the Amtrak train in Chicago



but the trip still seemed daunting, with a lot of people waiting and their luggage to deal with. But then Bee Jay noticed the "posse" of Rich J, Jim C, Rob S, Steve M, Rich E, Yakov, Puppy, Nurse Michael and Rick S, who came to their rescue. The guys helped Pat board the train, get her to her seat, and get her luggage on the racks. Upon arrival, Steve Johnson made sure there was a cab waiting to take them to the hotel and a wheelchair available to avoid the long walk. Steve also accompanied them on the return trip home.

Even at the convention, many "angels" came Pat's aid, such as Barb K, who asked during brunch that Pat get priority service so as to avoid standing in the long line. The end result was that Pat had the time of her life, and the convention was something she could not stop talking about for weeks to come. Bee Jay wanted to specifically thank all these people by name (and everyone else for that matter) for giving Pat that gift.

Bee Jay recalled some other stories about Pat outside of square dancing. They were very close to each other's families, and Bee Jay helped her brother plan a surprise birthday for Pat a few years back. They would also go to the annual Old Time Circus Parade every July in Milwaukee; first just with each other, then with a bigger group including Pat's nieces and nephews, whom she loved dearly. They also attended an occasional Chicago Bears game together...how butch!

Pat's ashes were interred with her parents at a south suburban cemetery in a private service. But some of the ashes were saved and recently scattered in Hawaii! This was a trip Pat had helped planned herself to go on with her family, but unfortunately she ran out of time. But her family made sure she did make it to Hawaii in spirit.

Thank you Bee Jay for sharing your memories of our cherished friend. She will be remembered for a long time. Next year we will affix her badge to the memorial panels at the 2016 Toronto convention, as we have for the many other Chi-Towners who have died over the years.



Eric B. Calimag Yellow Rock Award

Since 1995 the Eric B. Calimag Yellow Rock Award has been presented to a Chi-Towner who has member gone “above the call of duty” for the betterment of the club. Each year’s recipient decides whom to pass it on to the following year. At the annual meeting in May, last year’s recipient Bob Siegel presented the award to a couple, Jim Cosenza and Rich Jentzen. The text of the award read as follows:

In recognition of their unparalleled dedication to Chi-Town Squares, this couple, one a member since 1995, the other a member since 2011 and a current board member, has instilled a new enthusiasm to our little club that has not been seen for many years, by offering new ideas for the two unenviable tasks of recruitment and fundraising, including but not limited to development of the Way Forward committee, the proposal for the wildly popular First Thursday Dance Parties, novel recruitment efforts such as Shoot The Moon, organizing and appealing for donations for the Silent Auction, and a kind and inclusive presence every Thursday night, preserving the idea that we are first and foremost a social club where everyone should have fun and feel welcome. They complement each other, and their love for the club shows as much for their love for each other. Therefore, the **2015 Eric B. Calimag**



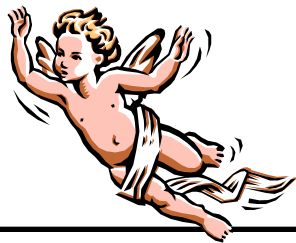
Way Forward Committee Report *by Jim Cosenza*

A lot has been happening at the Way Forward Committee! Our next meeting date will be Saturday **October 24**, beginning at 12 noon, in the party room of 5455 N. Sheridan.

We’ve been working on cooperative marketing relationships with other dancing groups, Meetup and Facebook marketing, subscription-pricing models, development of a Demonstration Dance which is choreographed and well practiced to use at demonstrations at different venues like The Call. Please join us and share your ideas! Feel free to contact Jim at 773-633-6643 or jim@jimcosenza.com, or check the club website <http://chitownsquares.org>, Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/chitownsquares>, or listen for announcements at a dance.

The most recent Way Forward meeting was on August 21 at Rich & Jim’s home.

Thinking of You...



Condolences go to Jean Alesi, for the recent loss of her brother-in-law Richard George. Our thoughts are with you Jean during this difficult time.

Get Your Name in Print!

Contribute to your club newsletter! Send photos, reports, fly-in stories, events around town, advice, dancing tips, recipes, anything that may be of interest to your fellow club members! Send to Bob at brompton98@yahoo.com



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

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

Editor: Bob Siegel, Communications Chair

Contributors: Rich Jentzen, Rich Sehnert, Therron Ricks, Rob Sierzega, Jean Shamo,

Bee Jay Douglas, Rick Simkin, Jim Cosenza, Joe Kerouac

Chi-Town Squares Calendar

September 2015

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 DANCE PARTY! Arlene Kaspik 7:00 PM	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 NO DANCE!	11 The BLAST 6:00–10:00 PM	12 The BLAST 9:00 –5:30 PM
13 The BLAST 1:00–4:00 PM	14 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	15	16	17 MS/Plus WS Arlene Kaspik 7:30 PM	18	19 Pollywogs Deerfield 3:00 M. Maltenfort
20 <i>David Boyer's Country Dance @ the Call 1547 W. Bryn Mawr 4PM-8PM</i>	21 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	22	23	24 Mainstream WS Therron Ricks 7:30 PM	25	26 Queer Contra Dance 656 W Barry 6:30 PM
27	28 A2/C1 WS Lynette Bellini 7:30 PM	29	30			

October 2015

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 DANCE PARTY! Sandie Bryant 7:00 PM	2	3 Pollywogs Deerfield 3:00 Barry Clasper
4	5 A2/C1 WS M. Maltenfort 7:30 PM	6	7	8 Mainstream WS Therron Ricks 7:30 PM	9 The Great Chicago Crossfire	10
11 Chicago Crossfire	12 NO DANCE!	13	14	15 Mainstream WS Arlene Kaspik 7:30 PM	16	17
18 <i>David Boyer's Country Dance @ the Call 1547 W. Bryn Mawr</i>	19 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	20	21	22 Mainstream WS M. Maltenfort 7:30 PM	23	24 Way Forward Committee Meeting Rich & Jim's 5455 N. Sheridan
25	27 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	27	28	29 Halloween Dance Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	30	31

Chi-Town Squares Calendar

November 2015

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	3	4	5 DANCE PARTY! John Oldfield 7:00 PM	6	7
8	9 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	10	11	12 Mainstream WS Lynette Bellini 7:30 PM	13	14
15 <i>David Boyer's Country Dance @ the Call 1547 W. Bryn Mawr 4PM-8PM</i>	16 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	17	18	19 Mainstream WS M. Maltenfort 7:30 PM	20	21 <i>Pollywogs Deerfield 3:00 Dayle Hodge</i>
22 Thanksgiving Dance Dayle Hodge 2:00-5:00 PM	23 A2/C1 WS Dayle Hodge 7:30 PM	24	25	26 THANKSGIVING DAY	27	28
29	30 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM					

December 2015

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 DANCE PARTY! Arlene Kaspik 7:00 PM	4	5
6	7 A2/C1 WS John Oldfield 7:30 PM	8	9	10 Mainstream WS John Oldfield 7:30 PM	11	12 <i>Pollywogs Deerfield 3:00 PM Sandie Bryant</i>
13	14 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	15	16	17 Mainstream WS Lynette Bellini 7:30 PM	18	19 Holiday Dance Bobby Poyner 7:00-10:00 PM
20 <i>David Boyer's Country Dance @ the Call 1547 W. Bryn Mawr 4PM-8PM</i>	21 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	22	23	24 NO DANCE!	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26
27	28 NO DANCE!	29	30	31 NEW YEARS EVE		JANUARY 9 CHILI DANCE & MID-YEAR MEETING 5:00-9:00 pm

Illinois State Convention a Success! *By Rich Sehnert*

The 31st Illinois State Square and Round Dancing Convention in DeKalb was a success, everyone had fun. We went into the convention with 470 paid attendees and ended Sunday night with 638...not too shabby! One of the successes was providing transportation to and from the convention. We will be looking to have shuttles again next year as the convention returns to the Chicago area. It will be at the Westin in Itasca **July 28-31, 2016**. Room rates are \$92.00 a night. "**Aviation is the Scene in 2016**" is the theme, the reason being that the Featured Caller next year is Jet Roberts of California. (get it?)



openings; either contact Janice Cha @847-309-1329 send a text or Rich Sehnert @708-209-0901 send a text. Quick note: On August 21 another club closed its doors. Country Bumpkins held its last dance.

Editor's note: I want to commend Rich for doing a fantastic job at chairing the State convention, and praise him for taking on the task once again next year! I had a great time in staying at the NIU Student Center hotel where the convention took place, which was a true homecoming for me, having graduated there sometime back in the mid 80's! Hopefully with it coming back to Itasca next year, Chi-Town can make a greater presence.

The 2016 convention planning has already started, and I will once again chair the event. Interested in helping with the state convention? There are many committee

Here are a few pictures I took around town.



Social Dance Schedule 2015-2016

Here is the new and improved weekend dance schedule for 2015-16!
Social dance level will be Mainstream through Advanced unless otherwise indicated.

September 11-13: BLAST 2015

October 11-13: Great Chicago Crossfire

November 22 Thanksgiving Dance 2-5 PM:
Dayle Hodge

December 19 Holiday Dance 7-10 PM:
Bobby Poyner

January 9 Chili Dance 5-9 PM: Club Callers

February 28 2-5 PM: Sandie Bryant

March 13 2-5 PM: Jimmy Robeson

April 9: 7-10 PM: Aaron Wells

May 14 5-9 PM: Annual Meeting & Dance

June 11 Pride Dance 7-10 PM: Nick Martellacci

Also remember that weekly Advanced/Challenge workshops, with C1 lessons for the first hour, begin **September 14**, and Mainstream workshops (with Plus star tips) begin **September 17**, the week following the Blast. Note that our annual **Halloween Dance** will be held on the Thursday workshop night of **October 29**, with Sandie Bryant calling.

All workshops and dances are listed (with scheduled caller, subject to change) at our website, <http://chitownsquares.org>. Thanks to secretary Joe Kerouac for continuing to serve as our caller scheduler.

AACE is the Place! *By Rick Simkin*

For years I've gone to the event called the Academy for Advanced and Challenge Enthusiasts (AACE). In recent years it's been held in Indianapolis, and we've learned how to get there, and how to navigate the hotel and the nearby roads to get us to good places to eat. But still, every year is different.

This year, I traveled to and from Indianapolis with a friend of a friend. Our mutual friend introduced us by e-mail, we sent each other pictures of ourselves, and we arranged to meet at an easy-to-find public landmark. At times all this seemed to resemble dating, at other times it felt like a spy story.

We left Chicago on a sunny, pleasant mid-day and were well into Indiana when we encountered strong storms, rain so heavy that it was hard to see the markings on the highway. Traffic slowed (sometimes it stopped), and the most visible thing was the lights of the truck in front of us. Eventually we got through the storms, and when we got to Indianapolis the weather was hot and humid. It stayed that way all weekend, which made me especially glad for air conditioning in the hotel.

We saw many familiar faces at AACE. Some people we looked forward to seeing couldn't come because of conflicting schedules or unfortunate financial situations. On

the other hand, we also met new people who were lots of fun to dance with, and we could hope to see them again.

The calling staff at AACE is some of the best callers in the world, and the guest callers (generally invited to call for one year) are also excellent. It's interesting to see the different styles of the callers, and even how some callers seem to have different styles at different events.

One of the things I've most appreciated about AACE is that there are educational sessions. The dancing in the morning is called "focus" sessions, where the callers pay special attention to one call or concept. Many times a focus session will explain a usage or detail that confuses a lot of people; I'm usually in that large confused group, and when the focus session breaks me out of the confusion, it's a very good feeling.

AACE is moving again. Next year it will be in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Visit Fort Wayne had a table at AACE with information about the city and the dance location, and a representative who was excited to talk about AACE and Fort Wayne to everyone who stopped by. Knowing that we wouldn't be in Indianapolis next year, we made sure this year to visit restaurants that we really liked.

The next AACE will take place **June 15 to 18, 2016**. For more information about AACE, see <http://www.ceder.net/aace.php4>. For information about Fort Wayne, see <http://www.visitfortwayne.com/aace>.



A square of Barbs!



A picture from the party room



The 2015 AACE Calling Staff

Time for a Change?

The Chi-Town Squares board of directors is considering a change. We would like to see if there is an interest in a new club uniform. Many of our dancers do not have the vest uniform. So we would like your suggestions on what you would like to see as our new club uniform. Maybe a fancy T-shirt? Maybe a colorful polo-type shirt?

The board would like you to submit all ideas and designs to Joe Kerouac, secretary, by December 1. A vote will occur at our annual Chili Dance in January to either keep the present vest uniform or go with something new. Let us hear from you!

How May I Help? *By Rich Jentzen*

There is nothing like a convert to stir the pot with enthusiasm, excitement, new ideas, and question the status quo. The curiosity, vitality and hopefulness can also be tempered with a bit of nervousness, concern about 'over-stepping' and unfamiliarity with a group's history. I invite all current club members... and those who have let their connection to Chi-Town Squares become more distant in the last seasons or years... to take a moment and consider ways they might draw our newer members into our square dance community.

I have heard it said: "back in the day, we had 60 or 70 people at the dance..." and "do you remember when there were She-Devils..." and "whatever happened to (insert the name of your recollection here)..." and "remember that Advice Column 'Ask Ursula'..." All of these questions speak to hearts and memories that recall fine and energetic days when we first connected with our club and square dancing. We have been looking for ways to rekindle that excitement!

Chi-Town Squares is a member driven, volunteer organization. It will only be vibrant and grow with *your* participation and enthusiasm. "But I'm not very extroverted..." and "I have been dancing for years and already asked everybody I know..." and "The economy has been hard on us lately and I can't afford all of the activities... membership... donations..."

What are some things you might be able to do to help?

- Freshen up the snacks table.
- Get more ice.
- Check to see who might be coming to the dance and reach out to them on Facebook.
- Take a few moments and say hi to everybody that you don't know at the dance. Especially the ones who don't look like they are from the club!
- Consider a cash donation to Chi-Town Squares.
- Consider participating actively on a committee: Way Forward, Crossfire, or the Blast.
- Come to an event a half hour early and help set up.
- Bring a treat.
- Share pictures from a dance event you have attended. Fly in? MCASD? Queer Contra?
- Write an article for our newsletter.
- Consider organizing a banner steal. If you're not sure what that is, check in with any board member or long time dancer.
- Organize a non dancing social activity and invite a mix of long-term club members and newer club members.
- Organize a fund raising activity.
- One of the easiest ways to help the club? Attend more Dance and Workshop activities. You know you'll leave with a smile!



Look for More Convention Pictures!

Views from a Convention Virgin *by Rich Eide*

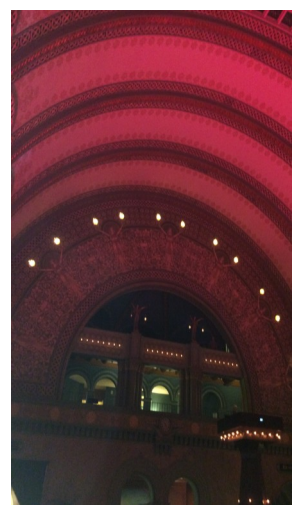
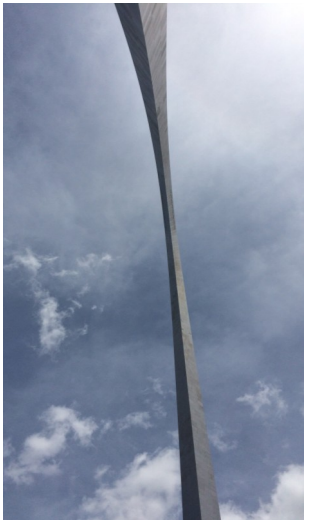
Over 50 Chi-Towners attended Swing Me in St. Louis, the 32nd IAGSDC convention this past May. While most of us have been to many conventions, each one is unique, and St. Louis certainly did not disappoint. I thought it would be interesting to ask a first time convention goer for his thoughts of Convention. Here are some of his impressions.

"When Michael Mosier described the take no prisoners tips (and kilt, bear, etc. tips) it helped me to expect variety. It was still impossible for me to imagine so many callers cycling through Mainstream. I always enjoy watching higher level tips and having dancers from all levels join in with Mainstream."

"Favorite memories for me were:

- Opening ceremony with anthems of Japan, Canada and US (I've felt not much from Star Spangled Banner since President W; was surprised to find all anthems very touching in a Family-filled hall)
- Grand (Colonel) Spin (with music RPMs starting slow, then faster)
- Adjacent Mainstream "move-on" squares interacting (and "almost" getting back to the original square!)
- Honky Tonk Queen Contest - what a fun, elaborate show, including the Rainbow Minions (or whatever they were called)!"

Chi-Town Squares in St. Louis! *Pics by Bob Siegel, Rob Sierzega, & Carrie Meyer*



Upcoming National Events

Information taken from the IAGSDC.org event page.

11-Sep – 13-Sep **Pass the Sea 2015**
Callers: Darren Gallina, Charlie Robertson, Andy Allemao
Finest City Squares, San Diego, CA

18-Sep – 20-Sep **Square Dance Women Weekend**
Callers: Kris Jensen, Anne Uebelacker, and Diana Wedel
Square Dance Women, Silver Falls State Park Conference Center

25-Sep – 27-Sep **Turquoise Trail Thru A/C Weekend - West Coast.**
Callers: Barry Clasper, Todd Felleg, Anne Uebelacker, Bronc Wise, Kris Jensen
Wilde Bunch, Albuquerque Marriott, Albuquerque, NM

02-Oct – 04-Oct **Mountain Mix 2015**
Callers: Bear Miller, Bronc Wise, Dayle Hodge, Michael Kellogg
Rocky Mountain Rainbeaus, Snow Mountain Ranch - Granby, CO

09-Oct – 11-Oct **Chicago Crossfire XXV**
Callers: Sandra Bryant and Aaron Wells
Chi-Town Squares, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1640 W. Foster Ave, Chicago, IL



15-Oct – 18-Oct **Star Track: An Alien Encounter**
Callers: Don Moger and Dave Hutchinson
Triangle Squares, Toronto, ON

16-Oct – 18-Oct **Peel Off in Palm Springs 2015**
Callers: Darren Gallina
Peel Off Committee, Palm Springs, CA *_for men*

16-Oct – 18-Oct **Peel the Pumpkin 2015**
Callers: Todd Felleg, John Marshall and Nick Martellacci
Times Squares, Hotel Woodbridge, Iselin, NJ

23-Oct – 25-Oct **Scares & Squares 2015**
Callers: Mike De Sisto, Chris Phillips, Gary Monday
Rosetown Ramblers, Portland, OR

13-Nov – 15-Nov **Harvest Festival Hoedown XXII**
Callers: Ett McAtee, Ken Ritucci, and Michael Kellogg
DC Lambda Squares, York, Pennsylvania

15-Jan – 17-Jan **Promenade Down Peachtree**
Callers: Gary Monday, Chris Phillips and Justin Russell
Hotlanta Squares, Atlanta, GA

05-Feb – 07-Feb **SWING THRU THE PALMS #7**
Callers: Darren Gallina, Gary Monday, Cliff Simpson
Boots In Squares, Palm Springs, CA

04-Mar – 06-Mar **SHOOT THE LONE STAR**
Callers: Sandie Bryant and Vic Ceder
Lone Star Lambdas, Austin, TX

11-Mar – 13-Mar **2016 Rain Festival**
Callers: John Marshall, Anne Uebelacker, Gary Monday
Puddletown Squares, Seattle, WA

01-Apr – 03-Apr **It's the Great Flyin Charlie Brown**
Callers: Mike Kellogg, Tom Miller, Betsy Gotta
Independence Squares, Wilmington, DE

15-Apr – 17-Apr **Ropin The River 2016 - Dancing With The Thars**
Callers: Tim Marriner & Gary Monday
Grand River Squares, Grand Rapids, MI

22-Apr – 24-Apr **The Far Out, Groovy, Cool Cat, Nifty, Tie Dye, Hippy, Square Dance Weekend!**
Callers: Darren Gallina, Derek Page
Temple Squares, Salt Lake City, UT

22-Apr – 24-Apr **Pass the Ocean, Hon! 2016**
Callers: Deborah Carroll-Jones, Hunter Keller, Ett McAtee and Dayle Hodge
Chesapeake Squares, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

01-Jul – 04-Jul **Maple Leafs Regroup: 33rd Annual IAGSDC Convention**
Callers: Sandie Bryant, Vic Ceder, Barry Clasper, Tim Crawford, Dayle Hodge, Osamu Miyabe, Mike Kellogg, Don Moger, Anne Uebelacker
Triangle Squares, Toronto, Canada

