

SPREAD & circulate

Winter 2015

Volume 26, No. 2

Letter From the President: Chi-Town Squares in 2015



By Rob Sierzega

Happy New Year! 2014 was great year of dancing, and we look forward to another fantastic year in 2015.

Our fall 2014 BLAST class in September was a lot of fun with Michael Maltenfort putting the new dancers through their steps. Therron Ricks chaired this successful event. Thanks to Therron and everyone who helped out.

The Great Chicago Crossfire 2014 in October had Sandra Bryant and Michael Kellogg as the featured callers, with help from our club callers. Thanks to the wonderful co-chairs Jean Shamo and Jeff Hutchins and the Crossfire Committee. Thanks also to Brad Savage for stepping up as Co-Chair with Jean for the 25th Crossfire next October 2015. In fact the first planning meeting is scheduled for **January 14** at Jean's house.

With input from the recruitment committee, Chi-Town has started our monthly First Thursday Chi-Town Square's Dance Party – "No Experience Needed" 7:30 to 9:30 PM. This exciting new event is open to all, so invite your friends to spend and evening dancing with us, with no commitment needed. We will continue this throughout 2015.

Our regular weekly workshops continue on Mondays for A2/C1, and on

Thursdays for Mainstream with a few Plus tips at the end of the evening. Come out and join the dancing, as that should keep you warm these cold nights!

Speaking of cold, if we need to cancel a weekday dance because of weather, we will make the decision at 3:30 PM of the day in question. So call after 3:30 PM- For Monday nights, my home 773-338-0436; for Thursday nights call John Wood's cell 312-375-1272.

We will have a State of the Club presentation at January's Chili Dance to let you know what's happening and give you a chance to ask questions. Don't forget that will be voting on two changes to the by-laws, so please send in your proxy if you cannot attend. (Only members as of March 1, 2014 are eligible to vote.)

Our website www.chitownsquares.org is fully operating and now you can sign in (your e-mail address is your log-in), check out our newsletters, check out the dance calendar, make donations, and even read Board meeting minutes! Take some time to explore the site; check your own information and update if need be.

Remember that we have the Larry Burke Scholarship fund available for any Chi-Town member that would

Here are numbers to call in case winter weather threatens to cancel a Chi-Town workshop:

Monday night
Rob Sierzega @ home
773-338-0436

Thursday night
John Wood @ cell
312-375-1272

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

like to dance, but is having financial difficulties. Just ask a Board member and we will be glad to work with you.

Chili Dance and Special Meeting on January 10

It's that time of year again! Warm up from the brutal Chicago chill with chili and dancing on **Saturday January 10.**

Most of our Club callers will be on hand for this special dance, which will begin at 5:00 PM. We will break around 6:00 PM for dinner and to conduct a short special meeting, which will offer a mid-year report and voting on a couple of by-law changes. Dance level will be Mainstream through Advanced, with a possible C1 tip.

This is a potluck dinner, so everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite chili to share. You can also bring side dishes such as salad or cornbread, or desserts as well.

After we are sufficiently fed, we will begin our special meeting. We will have a short "state of the club" presentation, including a club fiscal report of 2014 by treasurer Chuck Pease. Then we will vote on the proposed by-law changes.

To be eligible to vote, members must have been a paid member as of March 1, 2014, as defined in the by-laws.

§ 3.5 VOTING RIGHTS

All general and lifetime members, as defined in Section 3.1, shall be entitled to one vote, with respect to each matter presented to the members for a vote at each annual and special meeting of the members. To have voting rights at any meeting, a general member's dues must be paid in full as of March 1st of the corporation's current budget year.

The Board is recommending two changes to the By-laws of Chi-Town Squares:

1. Number of Board members

- a. Existing text - Article 4.2 The number of directors of the corporation shall be seven.
- b. Change text to read - Article 4.2 The number of directors of the corporation shall be five.
 - i. Reasons – We believe that a club with approximately 100 members would be better served with less Board members and encourage Committee chairs as needed for leadership.

2. Add Table of Contents to beginning of document

- a. Existing text – none
- b. Change text to read – See attached by-laws - first three pages including cover page.
 - i. Reasons – This will make it easier to find information within the by-laws. We have posted this example on our website also.



To view the current by-laws, go to www.chitownsquares.org and log in as a member. There is a section of downloadable documents where you can find the by-laws, dated April 29, 2012, as well as a voting proxy form.

If you cannot attend the dance, you can send a proxy form with your vote to our secretary Joe Kerouac at jwdk1949@aol.com by January 9. This form was sent by email on Nov.28 & Dec. 28 from president Rob Sierzega. Please send a note to info@chitownsquares.org if you need a new one.

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

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

Contributors: Rob Sierzega, Rick Simkin, Therron Ricks, Chuck Pease, Jean Shamo, Jeff Hutchins, Rich Jentzen, Jim Cosenza, Joe Kerouac, Steven Johnson

2015 Dance Parties and Way Forward Committee

by Rich Jentzen & Jim Cosenza, Recruitment Chairs

We are happy to announce that the Board has agreed to continue the First Thursday **Chi-Town Squares Dance Party** "No Experience Necessary" through at least the summer!

The first two in November and December were successful, drawing several first time dancers, plus over three squares of experienced dancers. But the common theme was that everyone had FUN. In December Arlene prepared a program that included some traditional square dancing and Virginia reel, in addition to introducing our Modern Western Square dancing. And it truly was a dance party!

So save the dates **February 5, March 5, April 2 and May 7** for our next four dance parties. That means that you can invite guests who have NO dance experience! You can also invite friends who are former dancers but are now a bit rusty in their dance skills. The callers will provide instruction and call just like they do at an Open House. And we'll all have a grand party! If there are no newcomers (at this point, that does NOT seem likely!), we will dance at the full Mainstream level.

If you wish to be part of the recruitment committee or just have some new ideas to offer, we would also like to invite you to join the "Way Forward Committee", which is an informal discussion group to explore new ways and expand growth and exposure of square dancing and Chi-Town Squares.

The next meeting will be on **January 3**, 12:00-2:00 PM at Rick Simkin's house. For information and to RSVP, contact Jim at jcosenzalcs@mac.com, or see the Facebook link at https://www.facebook.com/events/751888244858381/?context=create&previousaction=create&source=49&sid_create=1962777589

CHI-TOWN SQUARES **DANCE PARTY**

FIRST THURSDAYS
7:00 - 9:30PM

Open to the public!
NO experience needed!

- * BRING A FRIEND!
- * BRING A NEW DATE!
- * BRING A SMILE!
- * WE'LL FIND A DANCE PARTNER FOR YOU!

Dress code is casual.
Cost is only \$9.
Complimentary snacks & soft drinks.

EBENEZER LUTHERAN

**Chi-Town SQUARES**
Chicago's Gay and Lesbian Square Dance Club



1ST THURS EVERY MONTH

Please Update Your Membership Information!

The membership renewal window is just about closed for the season. We currently are at just above 100 members, about the same as last year. We thank you for your continued support. The membership dues sustain and supplement our dance events, which door fees alone generally cannot do.

If you have not renewed yet, this will be the final newsletter to be sent to you. If you are having issues signing on to your account in order to renew, please drop a note to info@chitownsquares.org and we can help you. Your login address should be the email you provided when your first joined. Steps are being made to enable non-members to join with a new email address, but right now you can only renew by first logging in.

Once you log in, you can go to the "Downloadable Documents" section and print a PDF of the club roster. However, it has been noted that many of the addresses and information list are inaccurate. It is the responsibility of members to update their own information, so please double check that it is up to date, especially if you have moved lately! In the Membership section, go to [Edit Your Member Profile](#), then [Change your email and other contact information](#).

If you prefer, just email your updated info to info@chitownsquares.org and a web administrator will update it for you.

Thanks again being a member of Chi-Town Squares!

Crossfire Thanks and Looking to 2015 *by Jeffrey Hutchins & Jean Shamo*

Crossfire 2014 has passed and is now history. Now that it is over, I want to publicly thank some good people. My husband, David Stewart did an awesome job as secretary of the Crossfire committee! His eye for detail proved to be useful and I appreciate him for that. Jean Shamo did a great job as co-chair and is primed and ready to go for 2015. Thanks to committee members Nancy Vedder, Brad Savage, Ed Siegel, and Devery Schmidt. Thanks to Rob Sierzega, his advice and duties as liaison between the Crossfire committee and the Board were needed and appreciated.

Special thanks to Rich Jentzen and Jim Cosenza, who stepped up and made Crossfire hum! Thanks to Therron Ricks and Robert Siegel for their efforts selling raffle tickets, along with Devery, Rich and Brad. Thanks to Phil Davis for his efforts. He did a great job with arranging details with the Call and with our caterer EAT.

A big big thanks to Sandra Bryant and Michael Kellogg for calling. They both are awesome callers! Thanks to Curtis McMillen and Trevor Slom for providing housing and



The Wedding Chapel—calm before the storm!
Thanks to Brad for heading
the decorating committee!

transportation for Michael Kellogg. Thanks also to Therron for providing housing to an out of town guest.

I am probably missing someone who deserves thanks! I hope not, because so many were so helpful in making Crossfire a success this year. I guess I can just thank ALL of our Chi-Town dancers for attending and volunteering, and contributions to the Pot Luck dinner on Friday.

Financially Crossfire was a success, with 83 full paid registrations and numerous walk-ins. But don't get too complacent, because Crossfire 2015 planning meetings will commence soon! Jean Shamo and Brad Savage will be the co-chairs, with

myself remaining on the committee, and we will need help for next year! We plan to hold our first meeting Wednesday, **January 14** at 7 PM at Jean Shamo's place, and invite all members to join the Crossfire 2015 committee. The address is 5415 N Sheridan, Apt 4606 (Sheridan & Balmoral). It is on the #147 and #151 bus lines, close to the Red Line (Berwyn) and 3 blocks east of Broadway (#36 at Balmoral). Hope to see you there!

Blast Weekend was a Blast!

The second annual Mainstream Blast weekend, held September 19-21, was a success. Michael Maltenfort put 12 new students through their paces, in addition to some 25 experienced dancers who helped out during the three days with their time, money and patience. Nine of the students survived the weekend and graduated, with five of them (so far) joining the club. That's two more than last year!

Blast chairman Therron Ricks did a great job of organizing the event, incorporating novel advertising and Internet marketing. Because the price was higher this year it allowed for the offering of a two-for-one special. At the open house guests were given the opportunity to bring a friend or partner to the Blast when they paid full price. This gave them the opportunity to assist us in recruiting efforts. Groupon and Meet-Up were less successful, but assisted in raising awareness about square dancing and giving our club much needed exposure. Thank you, Therron, for your hard work!

In addition, Therron combed local businesses obtaining local coupons, a free continental breakfast on Sunday and a reduced rate for the catered Saturday lunch. Thank you to Starbucks,

Middle East Bakery & Grocery, Einstein Bagels, George's Ice Cream and Johnny Brown Bag for your contributions.

Though some of them have opted to dance with other clubs, we want to congratulate our new dancers for their great accomplishment. So welcome to the ranks of Mainstream dancers Rich Eide, Jim Wolf, Yakov Neiditch, Mike Rosanova, Wendy Todd, Kristina Kaminski, Jill Hansen and Janet Radcliffe. Unfortunately one of the dancers who also joined the club, Doug Wells, passed away shortly after the event. His dues have since been donated to his church, First United Methodist Church of Oak Park. Our prayers go out for him.

And of course a big thank you to our instructor Michael, our supporting "angel" members and the Chi-Town board for planning the event. Special thanks also go to secretary Joe Kerouac, who through his charming ways has obtained another \$1000 grant from "All Join Hands" to subsidize the event. Our next Mainstream Blast has been scheduled for **September 11-13, 2015**. Save the dates! We look forward to meeting your friends and loved ones that will join us in embracing our beloved sport.

Scenes From Crossfire Step and Slide Down the Aisle



Our couples take their vows at the "Wedding Dance"



Walking down the aisle!



Some scary flower girls!



The 2014 Crossfire committee



His Holiness presided



Our Bride and Groom calling team!



Co-Chairs Jean and Jeff, with the Pope

Chi-Town Schedule through Summer 2015

For those of you who like to plan ahead, we submit here the finalized Chi-Town dance schedule through the summer season of 2015.

A huge thank you goes to our caller scheduler Joe Kerouac for getting this done within the church's deadline of the end of the year. For those of you who do not know what goes on "behind the scenes", this is an arduous task trying to coordinate many people's schedules, and it is not easy to find common ground. In spring, Joe will be start scheduling for the 2015-2016 season.

A few notes about this schedule:

Our weekly workshop/dances are listed in normal type, while weekend social dances are in **bold**.

Therron Ricks and **Ken Jones** have graciously volunteered to conduct the weekly Thursday night Mainstream review 7:00– 7:30 PM. To save space these review sessions are not all individually listed. They are listed when they precede the monthly Dance Party. Thanks guys!

In the summer months, we are limited to only two hours. So there are NO Thursday review sessions and Monday night is shortened by a half hour, in June, July and August.

Note that the Annual Meeting, Dinner and Dance has been rescheduled to **May 9**, from an earlier publicized date of May 16. Note we are also not dancing between May 18-25 because of the IAGSDC convention in St Louis over Memorial Day weekend.

Finally, listed callers are subject to change. Please refer to the club web page for the latest updates.

date	name	time	caller
Jan. 5	A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 -10:00	Sandie
Jan. 8	Mainstream Review/Workshop & Dance	7:00 - 9:30	Arlene
Jan. 10	Chili Dance	5:00 - 9:00	Club Callers
Jan. 12	A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 -10:00	Sandie
Jan. 15	Mainstream Review/Workshop & Dance	7:00 - 9:30	John
Jan. 19	A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 -10:00	Sandie
Jan. 22	Mainstream Review/Workshop & Dance	7:00 - 9:30	Michael
Jan. 26	A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 -10:00	Sandie
Jan. 29	Mainstream Review/Workshop & Dance	7:00 - 9:30	Lynette
Feb. 2	A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 -10:00	Michael M
Feb. 5	Mainstream Review	7:00 - 7:30	Therron/Ken
Feb. 5	Chi-Town Squares Dance Party	7:30 - 9:30	Sandie
Feb. 9	A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 -10:00	Sandie
Feb. 12	Mainstream Review/Workshop & Dance	7:00 - 9:30	Arlene
Feb. 16	A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 -10:00	Sandie
Feb. 19	Mainstream Review/Workshop & Dance	7:00 - 9:30	John
Feb. 22	A2/C1/C2 Midwinter Dance	2:00 - 5:00	Lynette
Feb. 23	A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 -10:00	Sandie
Feb. 26	Mainstream Review/Workshop & Dance	7:00 - 9:30	Lynette
Mar. 2	A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 -10:00	Sandie
Mar. 5	Mainstream Review	7:00 - 7:30	Therron/Ken
Mar. 5	Chi-Town Squares Dance Party	7:30 - 9:30	Michael
Mar. 7	MCASD New Dancer Dance	7:00 - 9:00	Arlene
Mar. 9	A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 -10:00	Sandie
Mar. 12	Mainstream Review/Workshop & Dance	7:00 - 9:30	Lynette
Mar. 15	Wearing o' the Green Dance	7:00 - 10:00	Bobby Poyner
Mar. 16	A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 -10:00	Sandie
Mar. 19	Mainstream Review/Workshop & Dance	7:00 - 9:30	John
Mar. 23	A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 -10:00	Sandie
Mar. 26	Mainstream Review/Workshop & Dance	7:00 - 9:30	Sandie
Mar. 30	A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 -10:00	Lynette
Apr. 2	Mainstream Review	7:00 - 7:30	Therron/Ken
Apr. 2	Chi-Town Squares Dance Party	7:30 - 9:30	Arlene
Apr. 6	A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 -10:00	Sandie
Apr. 9	Mainstream Review/Workshop & Dance	7:00 - 9:30	Michael
Apr. 12	Spring Fling Dance	2:00 – 5:00	Sprosty Twins
Apr. 13	A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 -10:00	Sandie
Apr. 16	Mainstream Review/Workshop & Dance	7:00 - 9:30	Sandie
Apr. 20	A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 -10:00	Sandie
Apr. 23	Mainstream Review/Workshop & Dance	7:00 - 9:30	Lynette

Chi-Town Schedule Continued

Apr. 27 A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 -10:00	John
Apr. 30 Mainstream Review/Workshop & Dance	7:00 - 9:30	Arlene
May 4 A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 - 9:30	Lynette
May 7 Mainstream Review	7:00 - 7:30	Therron/Ken
May 7 Chi-Town Squares Dance Party - No Experience needed	7:30 -10:00	John
May 9 Annual Meeting, Dinner and Dance	5:00 – 9:00	Club Callers
May 11 A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 - 9:30	Sandie
May 14 Mainstream Review/Workshop & Dance	7:00 -10:00	Michael
May 28 Mainstream Review/Workshop & Dance	7:00 - 9:30	Arlene
Jun. 4 Chi-Town Squares Dance Party - No Experience needed	7:30 - 9:30	John
Jun. 8 A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 - 9:30	Sandie
Jun. 18 Mainstream Workshop & Dance	7:30 - 9:30	Michael
Jun. 20 Pride Dance	7:00 – 10:00	Aaron Wells
Jun. 22 A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 - 9:30	Lynette
Jul. 2 Chi-Town Squares Dance Party - No Experience needed	7:30 - 9:30	Arlene
Jul. 6 A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 - 9:30	Sandie
Jul. 16 Mainstream Workshop & Dance	7:30 - 9:30	Lynette
Jul. 20 A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 - 9:30	Michael
Jul. 30 Mainstream Workshop & Dance	7:30 - 9:30	Arlene
Aug. 3 A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 - 9:30	Sandie
Aug. 6 Chi-Town Squares Dance Party - No Experience needed	7:30 - 9:30	Sandie
Aug. 17 A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 - 9:30	John
Aug. 20 Mainstream Workshop & Dance	7:30 - 9:30	John
Aug. 31 A2/C1 Workshop & Dance	7:30 - 9:30	Lynette

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, the first meeting is January 14!


But what if you don't want to wait that long? My suggestion for a great first fly-would be Grand Rapids Michigan's "Ropin' the River" fly-in, to be held April 17-19, 2015. 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 Anne Uebelacker and Aaron Wells, 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, the trip usually takes less than four hours, and plenty of familiar Chi-Town faces will be there, often outnumbering the host club!

But if you want to go to the ultimate fly-in, you should seriously consider planning a trip to St. Louis in May for *Swing Me in St. Louis*, the 32nd 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. In fact, club member Steven Johnson is organizing an Amtrak excursion for Chi-Towners who want travel there together without having to drive. Look for more details inside this newsletter.

Chi-Town Squares Calendar


January 2015

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 	2	3
4	5 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	6	7	8 Mainstream WS Arlene Kaspik 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	9 <i>Recyclers A2</i> <i>Sandie Bryant</i> <i>Deerfield 8:15 PM</i>	10 Chili Dance Club Callers 5:00-9:00 PM
11	12 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	13	14	15 Mainstream S John Oldfield 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	16	17 <i>Queer Contra 6 PM</i> <i>St. Luke's Lutheran</i> <i>Church of Logan Square</i>
18	19 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	20	21	22 Mainstream S Michael Maltenfort 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	23	24
25	26 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	27	28	29 Mainstream WS Lynette Bellini 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	30	31

February 2015

*Ken Jones and Therron Ricks
conduct a Mainstream Review
every Thursday 7:00-7:30 PM.!*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 A2/C1 WS Michael M. 7:30 PM	3	4	5 CTS Dance Party! No Experience Necessary! Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	6	7 <i>Pollywogs C2</i> <i>Lynette Bellini</i> <i>Deerfield 3:00 PM</i>
8	9 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	10	11	12 Mainstream WS Arlene Kaspik 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	13	14 
15 <i>MCASD Sweet- heart Dance,</i> <i>Roselle, 2:00 PM</i>	16 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	17	18	19 Mainstream WS John Oldfield 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	20	21
22 A2/C1/C2 Dance Lynette Bellini 7:00-10:00 PM	23 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	24	25	26 Mainstream WS Lynette Bellini 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	27 <i>Recyclers C1</i> <i>Michael Malten.</i> <i>Deerfield 8:15 PM</i>	28

Chi-Town Squares Calendar


March 2015

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	3	4	5 CTS Dance Party! No Experience Necessary! Michael Maltenfort	6	7 MCASD New Dancer Dance Arlene Kaspik 7:00 PM
8	9 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	10	11	12 Mainstream WS Lynette Bellini 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	13 Recyclers A2 Jim Poorman Deerfield 8:15 PM	14 Pollywogs C2/C3A Michael Maltenfort Deerfield 3:00 PM
15 Wearing o' the Green Dance Bobby Poyner 2:00 PM	16 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	17	18	19 Mainstream WS John Oldfield 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	20	21
22	23 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	24	25	26 Mainstream WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	27 Recyclers C1 Lynette Bellini Deerfield 8:15 PM	28
29	30 A2/C1 WS Lynette Bellini 7:30 PM	31				

April 2015

*Ken Jones and Therron Ricks
conduct a Mainstream Review
every Thursday 7:00-7:30 PM!*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 CTS Dance Party! No Experience Necessary! Arlene Kaspik 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	3	4 
5	6 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	7	8	9 Mainstream WS Michael Maltenfort 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	10 Recyclers A2 Sandie Bryant Deerfield 8:15 PM	11
12 Spring Fling Dance Sprosty Twins	13 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	14	15	16 Mainstream WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	17 Recyclers C1 Ben Rubright 8:15 PM <i>Ropin' the River, Grand Rapids, MI</i>	18 Pollywogs C2/C3A, Ben Rubright, 3 00 PM
19 <i>Ropin' the River</i>	20 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	21	22	23 Mainstream WS Lynette Bellini 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	24	25

MCASD Pumpkin Ball and Sweetheart Dance by Rick Simkin

The Metropolitan Chicago Association of Square Dancers (MCASD) held its annual Great Pumpkin Ball in late October, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Roselle. As in past years, there were two halls of square dancing and one hall with round dancing. New to me this year was a focus on new square dancers: many tips at the Basic and Mainstream levels, including some for people who were interested in trying out square dancing for the first time.

With three halls dancing at the same time, it's impossible to see all the dancing that's going on. And there was more than dancing: raffles for cash or baskets of goodies, sale of traditional square dance attire, light meals.

A couple dozen people took up the MCASD's invitation to wear Halloween costumes to the Great Pumpkin Ball. It was fun to see what people came up with, and everyone had a chance to vote on which costumes they thought were the scariest, most imaginative, and other categories. The costume awards ceremony was fun and quick.

MCASD encourages people to dance with their home clubs and with other clubs as well. So we have dancing friends in many clubs in the Chicago area. At the Great Pumpkin Ball I saw several of these people, and enjoyed talking with them and dancing with them.

All the square dance callers and round dance cuers volunteer their time for this dance. It gives them a chance to reach a wider audience of dancers, and keeps costs down for the dancers. Before and after the dance, the dancers set up and take down the dance halls (tables, chairs, sound equipment).

This dance was one of 2 dances that the MCASD puts on each year, to help fund the insurance that all member clubs take advantage of. The other dance is the **Sweetheart Dance**, to be held on **February 15, 2:00-5:00 PM** at the same location. Our own Sandie Bryant is one of the featured callers, along with Tom Davis. Kate and Arlene will be representing us as our "Sweetheart Couple". Look for more information and discounted tickets at classes and dances soon.

Take the Convention Express to St. Louis!

Steven Johnson has arranged a group rate to take Amtrak to St. Louis for the 32nd IAGSDC Convention. Arrive in time for the 'trail end dance' on May 22nd. Stay through final dancing and closing ceremonies on May 25th. GROUP reserved seating on the train allows all convention travelers to PREBOARD the train before other passengers and to sit together in same train car. Have fun traveling together!

AMTRAK is holding a block of 22 seats for people attending the convention on train 303 departing Chicago's Union Station at 9:25 AM on Friday, May 22 and arriving in St. Louis at 3 PM. They are holding the same block of 22 seats on train 304 departing St. Louis at 3 PM on Tuesday, May 26 and arriving at Chicago's Union Station at 8:40 PM. This train features a Cafe Car and Wi-Fi Onboard.

Each passenger may board with two carry-on size pieces of luggage, 28x22x14 plus two personal items. Checked baggage is not available on the Lincoln Service trains. Round-trip Rail fare is \$80 up to 61 years of age, \$75 over 62 years of age. This is a great discount over the usual \$140 round trip rate!

In addition, there is an optional tour before returning on Tuesday, May 26th. Get acquainted with the popular sights that St. Louis has to offer during a PRIVATE fully narrated 75 minute tour aboard an authentic, air-conditioned trolley with brass rails, bells and all! Some of the highlights of what you'll see, learn about, be surprised by and laugh about along the way are: Laclede's Landing (Historic/Entertainment District), The Mighty Mississippi River, the St. Louis Arch, Busch Stadium, Millionaire's Row and Forest Park (Zoo and Museum Center). This tour departs from Union Station at 11 a.m. and returns to the same location at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$29 per person for this PRIVATE ST. LOUIS TOUR. Space limited to 22.



Payment made by CHECK ONLY, payable to CARDER TRAVEL LTD, 2410 Sycamore Road, DeKalb, Illinois 60115. No refunds (name changes acceptable until Friday, March 27, 2015 at no AMTRAK fee). Contact: Steven Johnson 815-756-1547, travelsociety@hotmail.com. Payment deadline, March 30, 2015 or until all seats are sold.

Note that transportation from St. Louis train station to the Convention hotel NOT included. The Hilton is 4-5 long blocks away, but taxis are readily available. Price does not include items of a personal nature such as gratuities to AMTRAK personnel or meals. Please fill out the form below, or look for pre-printed forms at our dances. All

aboard!

☐ YES, reserve space for "Convention Express" ☐ \$80, ☐ \$75 (over 62)

☐ Add PRIVATE TROLLEY TOUR, May 26, 11 AM., \$29/person

Name (as it appears on your government issued I.D.) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code (+4) _____

Day phone (____) _____ Evening phone (____) _____

Email _____

Total: \$ _____

No refunds (name changes acceptable until April 23, 2015).

☐ Enclosed is a check payable to CARDER TRAVEL LTD.

Return to CARDER TRAVEL LTD, Attn: Steven Johnson, 2410 Sycamore Road, DeKalb IL 60115, 815-756-1547.

☐ I have read and understand the terms and conditions.

Spooky Halloween Pics! *by Bob Siegel and Rob Sierzega*



**HALLOWEEN DANCE WITH
ARLENE KASPIK
OCTOBER 30, 2014**



Upcoming National Events

Information taken from the IAGSDC.org event page.

2015

16-Jan – 18-Jan **Promenade Down Peachtree**
Callers: Hunter Keller, Mike Kellogg
Hotlanta Squares, Atlanta, GA

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 Felleggy, 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: Sandra 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: John Marshall, Betsy Gotta and Dayle Hodge
Chesapeake Squares, Rehoboth Beach, DE

22-May – 25-May **Swing Me in St Louis**
IAGSDC Convention. Callers: Sandra 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

17-Jun – 20-Jun **AACE**

(Academy for Advanced and Challenge Enthusiasts)
Callers: Sandie Bryant, Vic Ceder, Barry Clasper, Todd Felleggy, Ross Howell, Anne Uebelacker, Ben Rubright, Bronc Wise
AACE Website: <http://www.ceder.net/aace.php4>

24-Jul – 26-Jul **Pioneer Promenade V**
Callers: Derek Page Darren Gallina
Temple Squares, Salt Lake City, UT

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 Felleggy, Anne Uebelacker, Bronc Wise, Kris Jensen
Wilde Bunch, Albuquerque Marriott, Albuquerque, NM

09-Oct – 11-Oct **Chicago Crossfire 2015**
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

16-Oct – 18-Oct **Peel Off in Palm Springs 2015**
Callers: TBA
Peel Off Committee, Palm Springs, CA

06-Nov – 08-Nov **Harvest Festival Hoedown 2015**
Callers: TBD
DC Lambda Squares, York, Pennsylvania

