

# SPREAD & circulate

Fall 2016

Volume 30, No. 1

## Welcome New Dancers to Chi-Town Squares!

Our fifth Mainstream Blast is coming up this weekend, September 9-11, 2016! This will kick off our 30<sup>th</sup> season of dancing, going back to our first class in 1987. We are glad you can be a part of it. Excitement is building with over 20 people signed up already.

Once again our instructor will be Arlene Kaspik, one of Chi-Town Squares' prestigious club callers, who will introduce the entire Mainstream program over the course of four sessions in one weekend. All 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 XXVI, coming up October 7-9; and the IAGSDC Convention in Palm Springs next year.

The cost for new students is only \$50, a great value.

This includes a t-shirt and a box lunch on Saturday. We are also offering new Blast students a special membership rate: \$75 includes the Blast and your first year membership in the Club. Furthermore there is special Crossfire XXVI rate for new Blast grads! What more incentive do you need? So tell your non-dancing friends to sign up now! The rate for anyone who has gone through the Mainstream program is only \$25, including the lunch and t-shirt, so that is quite a value as well.

Of course for the Blast to be a success, 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!

Go to <http://chitownsquares.org/fall-blast-2016> for information or <http://chitownsquares.org/pay-for-fall-blast-2016> to pay through credit card or Pay Pal. Registration forms are also available online and at all Chi-Town events.

Please speak with 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.



### Chi-Town Squares Fall Blast 2016



Fri Sept 9 to Sun Sept 11

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! Instructor Arlene Kaspik guidance will show you how much fun it is to strut and twirl! 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 not required.

Cost is \$50 and includes t-shirt, snacks & Saturday lunch! Register online:

[www.chitownsquares.org](http://www.chitownsquares.org)

[info@chitownsquares.org](mailto:info@chitownsquares.org)

\*Chicago's LGBTQ Square Dance Club

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, box lunch)**

**Sunday: Dancing 1-5 PM (coffee, fresh fruit, snacks)**

# Letter from the President: Looking Ahead

By Jim Cosenza

Greetings everyone! I'm honored to be writing my first newsletter report as President of Chi-Town Squares. We're a large, vibrant community with a diversity of square dancing interests. We dance on four levels and we all work hard at maintaining a very active dance calendar. The amount of member experience and enthusiasm is humbling.



## Fall Blast 2016

The Fall Blast 2016 is on September 9 to 11. Learn modern western square dancing taught by our club caller Arlene Kaspik! The new student rate is \$50, while the returning student rate is \$25. Everyone gets a t-shirt and everyone gets a box lunch on Saturday.

## Crossfire XXVI – Dancing from A to Z

Our annual Crossfire fly-in is right around the corner, October 7-9, featuring Sandie Bryant and Tom Miller. We're looking forward to a fun weekend of dancing and reconnecting with friends. The Crossfire Committee has been working very hard to ensure it's exciting and memorable. You can register at the sign-in table at any of our events, or go to our website to register and pay online. All 2016 MS Blast grads are eligible for a special \$75 rate! Come join us for a weekend of dancing Mainstream, Plus, Advanced and Challenge.

## Membership Renewal

Have you renewed your membership yet? Membership is important to maintain the vibrancy of our club. The majority of our operating costs are funded through our membership drive. Please renew your membership. You can register at the sign-in table at any of our events, or go to our website to register and pay online.

## First Thursday Dance Parties

Chi-Town Squares continues offering no experience-needed introduction into square dancing on the first Thursday of each month. Our Dance Parties are a big success. The upcoming dates are 10/6, 11/3 & 12/1. Registration starts at 7:00pm, dancing promptly begins at 7:30pm, and we end at 9:00pm. Please spread the word, ask a friend, cajole a co-worker. It's a fun time and a great way to meet new people.

## Monday Nights in Fall 2016

Monday nights in September will be limited to completing the C1 class. Beginning in **October 3**, Monday nights will resume an alternating schedule of A2 and C1 dancing from 7:30pm to 9:30pm. We're hoping to reinvigorate the A2 dancing community to come back out on Monday nights for good calling and fun dancing.

## Thursday Nights in Fall 2016

Thursday nights this fall will focus primarily on Mainstream dancing. The Education Committee wants to ensure that all MS Blast grads have ample opportunity to grow their Mainstream dancing skills. A Plus tip will be called at the end of each night. Therron Ricks will be calling MS review from 7-7:30pm! Dancing ends at 9:30pm.

## Upcoming Events

The Education Committee has been developing a rigorous schedule of events through 2017. The focus is to develop and reinforce dance skills for MS and Plus dancers. There will be both Spring and Fall 2017 Blasts. The Committee redesigned the Spring 2017 Blast to spread over two weekends in March, Saturdays and Sundays, 3/4-3/5 and 3/11-3/12. The goal is for more class time and more dance time to help solidify the learning process and increase comfort at social dances.

The Education Committee has also designed 4 Workshop and Dance events in 2017, 2 Mainstream and 2 Plus events. Each event consists of a 4-hour workshop, followed by a dinner break, then a 2-hour dance. These promise to be a lot of fun and a great way to work on our Mainstream and Plus skills. Pricing will be \$8 per session (\$16 for the day) and dinner 'on your own'. The dates for the MS Workshops are 1/21/17 and 6/3/17. The Plus workshops are on 2/18/17 and 10/21/17. These will help dancers solidify their skills and increase their comfort before the Grand Rapids fly-in and the convention in Palm Springs.

There are no plans for a Plus Series (event to learn Plus for the first time) or Advanced class in 2017. The Education Committee wants to ensure new dancers have the skills and comfort needed to successfully move along to the next dance level.

## Check the Website!

Don't forget to use the calendar feature on the website, [chitownsquares.org](http://chitownsquares.org). We've made it easier to plan ahead by consolidating all events into an easy-to-read list. Everything is included there: Dance Parties, Crossfire, weekly Chi-Town workshops and dances, monthly Chi-Town dances, the Pollywogs, the Importers, Glenview Squares dances, committee meetings, Second City Country Dance Association (SSCDA), and Queer Contra. Float your cursor over "Dance Calendar" and select "Export Calendar as PDF". The list will pop up on your screen. You can save it to your hard drive, print it out, or just carry it around on your mobile device!

## The Larry Burke Scholarship Fund

It's with great honor that we can offer scholarship money to any Chi-Town Club member who may be experiencing financial difficulty. The Larry Burke Scholarship Fund exists to help our members in need. Ask any Board member for details and we'll be happy to work with you. Accessing the Scholarship Fund is confidential.

Thank you all for trusting me as your new president.

# Crossfire XXVI Only a Month Away...Sign Up Now!

By Jean Shamo

Chi-Town Squares is gearing up to celebrate its 26th Crossfire event. Again this year, it is being held over the Columbus Day Weekend, October 7-9. As in years past, we will enjoy Sandie Bryant as a featured caller. Tom Miller will also headline the event along with Sandie. 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 will take place at Ebenezer Church, thanks to the accommodation of Norm Cratty, Parish Administrator.

On Friday evening, we will kick off the event with a potluck and then an evening of dancing. There are 2 sessions on Saturday and snacks and drinks will be provided. On Sunday we are having a catered brunch and afterward the last session of dancing.

At the Saturday night featured dance, a professional photographer has been hired to shoot video and photos to use for our upcoming revamped website. So it has been suggested to wear bright colors, such as red, orange and purple. Look for a separate article about this in this newsletter.

You can now go to our club web page ([chitownsquares.org](http://chitownsquares.org)) and pay on line via PayPal. If you do pay online, please download a registration form, complete and email or mail it to David Stewart, (address is on the form) so that we have all of your information.

On September 11th, by the end of the Blast weekend, the admission fee will rise to \$100 from \$90. A special offer of \$75 for the entire weekend, or \$10 per session, will be made to all Blast graduates only. Several graduates attended sessions last year and it really cemented their confidence and square dancing skills. Hope to see you all there!



**Crossfire 2016 Featured Callers**

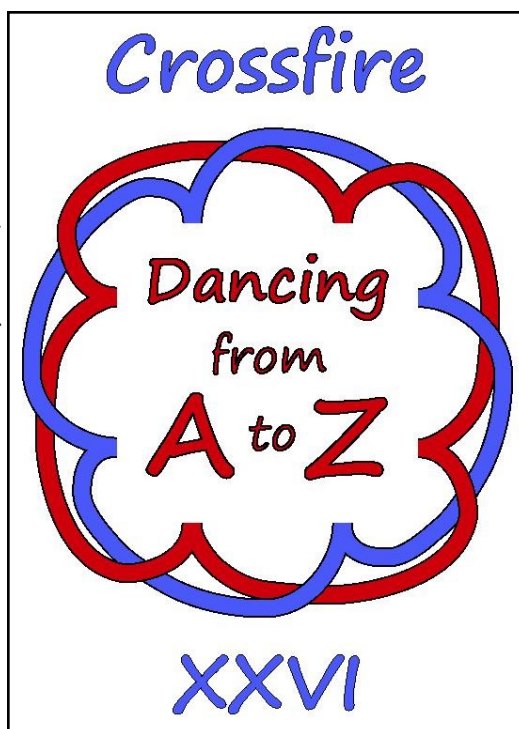
One more order of T-shirts will be placed on September 13, which gives a chance for the new Blast graduates to get one. The white shirt with red and blue interlocking circles (which actually shows the movement of the Challenge call All 4 couples – Zing) has been well received.

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. Mark Seaman is leading the decoration committee and will be working on decorations the week preceding the fly-in. So if you would like to help out, please contact him at [mdseaman@gmail.com](mailto:mdseaman@gmail.com).

If anyone has an extra room or couch available for out-of-town guests, please contact Jeff Hutchins at [jeffrey.h@comcast.net](mailto:jeffrey.h@comcast.net). There are a few registrants who have asked for places to stay. Fly-in regular Mark Ambrose from North Carolina ([markj.ambrose@gmail.com](mailto:markj.ambrose@gmail.com)) has specifically been seeking housing or a roommate to share a hotel, so contact him directly if you can help him.

The next Crossfire Committee meeting is Wednesday, September 14 at 7 PM at Rob Sierzega's home: 1218 W. Granville. We welcome new members and especially need more people to come to this meeting. Please send Rob an email for directions [rob@sierzega.net](mailto:rob@sierzega.net) and to let him know you will be there. You can also call 773.338.0436. We need some fresh members on the committee and this is a great way to get more involved in the club.





# Photography is Coming to Crossfire!

By Paul Detaege

This is an exciting time for Chi-Town Squares. Our 26<sup>th</sup> Crossfire is quickly approaching Oct 7-9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Inspired by the event's T-shirt logo, the party's theme is: **"Dancing from A to Z"**. During the dance on Saturday night between 7 and 9 PM, we will have an on-site professional photographer taking photographs and video of us dancing and having fun.

The club motivation for professional video and photography is for the sole purpose of our newly redesigned website development. We will use the model of [www.redwoodrainbows.org](http://www.redwoodrainbows.org), a square dance club in Sonoma CA. Therefore, the focus of these photos and video will be on the decorated room (the entire space will be decorated with the theme A to Z), and happy beautiful people in which photos (using angle, lighting, movement, etc.) will promote CTS.

Our goal is to capture action photos of our club dancing to singing calls with all of our flare and style! It is our intent to capture our club members having fun, as well as our callers Sandie Bryant, Arlene Kaspik, Michael Maltenfort and Therron Ricks, with all of our stylized movement, youthfulness and unique diversity.

There are a couple of significant points with which you will want to understand so we can make this endeavor successful and have fabulous pictures.

- There will be a square available for those dancers who choose not to be in photo or video during this time.
- All dancers attending Saturday night of Crossfire are encouraged to wear comfortable clothes that reflect FUN, SPLASHY/BRIGHT. Think red, orange and purple. These colors will show up well on video, and will help augment our generally low lighting in the grand dance hall. These colors will be as photogenic or reflect our unique spirit as an LGBTQ+ Club.
- Please avoid wearing solid white shirts as they tend not photograph as well. If you like white, add a vest...or boa!
- Please avoid Pastel Colors such as green, yellow and lavender; these colors have a soft, subdued shade in photos.
- All photography and video will take place in the Auditorium and not downstairs.

During this period of dancing we hope to have multiple singing calls with upbeat music to generate a natural feeling of lightheartedness and enthusiasm.

Note this is meant to be a relaxed experience filled with many good times. Let's just Savor, Enjoy and **have FUN**.

If you have any questions, thoughts or ideas to make our weekend even better, please feel free to find me at 773-988-4965 or [paul@pauldetaege.com](mailto:paul@pauldetaege.com), on Facebook or at any CTS event.

Yellow Rocks, Paul

## Shout Out to the Education Committee!

Many people may not know about the Education Committee, who has been responsible for making recommendations and putting together the Blast programs, weekend Plus workshops, and monitoring and guiding the direction our monthly Dance Parties. Kudos to The Education Committee, including Paul Detaege, Marlon Lyles, Rich Jentzen and Joe Kerouac, are also planning a Mainstream Workshop for the winter. This will include several hours of workshop level instruction and a social dance. Thanks guys!



**Dance Party! No Experience needed!**  
**First Thursday of every month!**  
Check out our calendar!

# Chi-Town Squares Annual Meeting Highlights

We wrapped up Chi-Town Squares 29<sup>th</sup> season on May 14, with our annual meeting, potluck and dance. After a sumptuous variety of food was enjoyed (for which our members never disappoint) we conducted the usual business.

Board elections were held for one vacancy we had, to fill departing treasurer Chuck Pease's position. Jeff Hutchins will join the five-member board as a Vice-President. Jim Cosenza was elected president, with Rob Sierzega remaining on the board as Past-President. John Wood will become the new club treasurer, with Joe Kerouac remaining as secretary and caller scheduler. A big thank you to these guys for doing so much volunteer "behind the scenes" work to keep the club running smoothly.

Various reports were given, including an encouraging treasurer's report, which appears as a separate article in this newsletter. Milestone memberships were recognized, including the following people: 25 years: Barb Jarvis, Jerry Hutchison and Rick Simkin; 20 years: Kate Reed and Scott Hawkins; 15 years: Alan Hirsch, Allan Hurst, Glenna O'Doul, Kathy Zottmann and Marge Piersen; 10 years: Barb Klein, Jim Valancius, Joel Iott and John Hockman; and 5 years: Alice Valancius, Dayle Hodge, Daniel Olsson, Diva Mihelic, Jim Cosenza, John Legge. Congratulations to all!

Since 1995 the Eric B. Calimag Yellow Rock Award has been presented to a Chi-Towner who has 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. This year, 2015 recipients Jim Cosenza and Rich Jentzen presented the award to another couple, Jeff Hutchins and David Stewart. The text of the award read as follows:

*This couple demonstrated unparalleled dedication to Chi-Town Squares since joining in 2010. They have served the club in both formal and informal capacities. They actively served on several Crossfire Committees.*

*They show up early to set up, stay late to take down, and bring a warmth and infectious appreciation for square dancing. David & Jeff have represented our club as Sweetheart Couple at the MCASD Valentine's Dance.*

*Jeff & David are a warm & engaging presence. They draw new dancers into the fold at dances and after-dance gatherings. They regularly are seen at annual conventions, fly-ins and club outings to visit other regional clubs. They know Chi-Town Squares is first & foremost a social club.*

*They make everyone feel welcomed and special. Their love for square dancing is only exceeded by their unmistakable love for each other. Therefore, the **2016 Eric B. Calimag Yellow Rock** is hereby bestowed upon **Jeff Hutchins & Dave Stewart***

Finally we wrapped up the year the way we always do, by eating cake and dancing to our wonderful club callers! We look ahead to our 30<sup>th</sup> season this fall!

*Our well-deserved recipients surrounded by past Yellow Rock honorees!*



# Update on Club Finances *by John Wood*

I am pleased to report that after a difficult 2013 and 2014, the turnaround in club finances that we saw in 2015 has continued into 2016. Year to date our overall income is covering our ongoing expenses; as such we are no longer spending into our cash reserves as we were in 2013 and 2014. Specific positive developments for 2016 are:

- Revenue from our Thursday night events which includes First Thursday as well as Mainstream/Plus workshops is up 32% for 2016 vs. 2015.
- 2015 Revenue from Club Dances is up 15% for 2016 vs. 2015.
- Crossfire 2015 turned a profit for the club, and if current trends continue 2016 will also be profitable.
- The expenses and revenue for First Thursday/Blast are essentially equal. This is a significant improvement from the historic approach where expenses of lessons were greater than revenue.

There are a few negative trends for 2016 vs. 2015

- 2016 Membership renewals are down 23% compared to the same time last year
- In 2014 and 2015 there was a donation from All Join Hands to assist with the cost of our Mainstream Blast, this has not continued for 2016
- Membership expense has increased in terms of advertising and overall dance expenses. However, the increased spending on these items may be partially responsible for the increased dance revenue that we are seeing.

The above is a result of the hard work of a great many people in our club, our club callers, Crossfire Committee as well as many new approaches from our Way Forward and Education Committees, and generous donations from our loyal members. The Board wants to thank everyone for their efforts.

## Way Forward Committee Report *by Jim Cosenza*

The Way Forward Committee needs your input! For the past 2 years the committee has developed innovative strategies to grow Chi-Town Squares. The Committee developed and nurtured the successful First Thursday events. By increasing the number of access points into square dancing we

have been able to reach out to more people.

We are prioritizing square dance education. We're also working on

redeveloping the Dance Party model to keep it fresh and interesting. The committee researched and developed a subscription model for members, Facebook marketing, recommendations for Thursday nights, the development of the 2016 Plus Series, volunteer coordination, and some of the club's first discussions of the Club 50 model.

The Way Forward Committee is a great place for members to discuss ideas and develop projects for implementation. Please come out and help your club.

The next Way Forward meeting is Saturday 10/29, from 10 AM-noon in the Ebenezer Church Parlor.

### CTS Board of Directors 2016-17

President: Jim Cosenza  
Vice President: Jeff Hutchins  
Secretary: Joe Kerouac  
Treasurer: John Wood  
Past-President: Rob Sierzega

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

Submissions and correspondence should be sent Bob Siegel at [brompton98@yahoo.com](mailto:brompton98@yahoo.com) .  
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Contributors: Rich Jentzen, Jean Shamo, Paul Detaege, Rick Simkin, Jim Cosenza, Joe Kerouac, Jeff Hutchins, Jacob Tobia, John Wood, Michael Maltenfort



# Monday Night Schedule Going Forward

The Board of Directors has made the decision to shorten the Monday Night Advanced/C1 Workshop to two hours, 7:30-9:30 PM. This will keep it in line with our other weekday dance/workshops, and avoid the late night fatigue we often see, on what is a school night. Every effort will be made to start promptly at 7:30 PM each week, and maximize the number of tips, to maintain value for your dancing buck.

Note that the three Mondays in September (12, 19, and 26) will be C1 only lessons, with at least one full C1 tip offered. Our dedicated C1 students will receive their graduation certificates on September 26. Starting October 3, the normal Advanced and C1 rotation will be in effect.

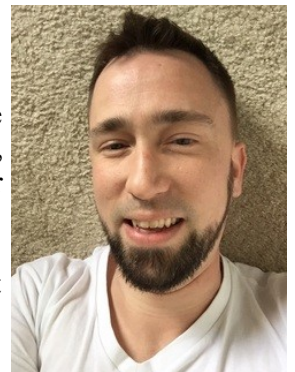
## Advanced Dancing Returning October 3!

We know it has been since July that Monday night workshops have offered Advanced Level dancing. Starting October 3 the C1 class will be done and we will return to the traditional rotation of Advanced 2 and C1. So get there by 7:30 PM on Mondays so you can dance the first A2 tip of the evening. A2 and C1 will alternate tips. Sandie and Michael will be the callers for Monday night workshops. So, come back on Mondays starting in October. (Note, there will be NO Monday night dancing on October 10, following the Crossfire weekend)

## Thursday Night MS Review with Therron

Club Caller Therron Ricks will resume his Thursday night review session on non Dance Party Thursday nights, beginning on September 8. The review will be held 7-7:30 PM, followed by the workshop/dance 7:30-9:30. So come out early for this opportunity for extra floor time.

The Board decided to give more emphasis to the Mainstream program on Thursday, but there will be at least one full Plus tip to end the evening



## Social Dance Schedule 2016-2017

**September 9-11, 2016:** Fall Mainstream Blast

**October 7-9, 2016:** Crossfire XXVI

**November 20, 2016:** Thanksgiving Dance, Anne Uebelacker, 2-5 PM

**December 18, 2016:** Holiday Dance, Michael Maltenfort 2-5 PM

**January 7, 2017:** Chili Dance, Club Callers 5-9 PM

**January 21, 2017:** Mainstream Workshop & Dance

**February 12, 2017:** A2 to C2 Valentine Dance, Sandie Bryant 2-5 PM

**February 18, 2017:** Plus Workshop & Dance

**March 3-4 & 11-12, 2017:** Spring Mainstream Blast

**March 19, 2017:** Wearing o' the Green Dance, Bobby Poyner 2-5 PM

**April 30, 2017:** Spring Dance, Ken Ritucci 2-5 PM

**May 13, 2017:** Annual Meeting & Dance 6-10 PM

**June 3, 2017:** Mainstream Workshop & Dance

**June 10, 2017:** Pride Dance, Aaron Wells 7-10 PM

Here is the new and improved weekend dance schedule for 2016-17. Social dance level will be Mainstream through Advanced unless otherwise indicated.

Note that our annual **Halloween Dance** will be held on the Thursday workshop night of **October 27**, dancing

Mainstream and Plus, with Arlene Kaspik 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.

# Facebook Gurus Sought for Chi-Town Squares

As you may know, Chi-Town Squares has a community page on Facebook, at <https://www.facebook.com/chitownsquares/>. It is open to all, and can easily be found by typing Chi-Town Squares into the Facebook search bar.



Facebook is the most popular free social networking website that allows us to communicate with one another and our communities. Facebook members can post their thoughts and activities, Facebook Groups allow group members to communicate about activities, and Facebook Events help keep us all informed about what's happening. All of these things strengthen and grow communities.

At the 2015 IAGSDC convention in St. Louis, the All Join Hands Foundation hired a Marketing Professor to consult with all IAGSDC member clubs to help promote LGBTQ square dancing. The consultant recommended the development and active use of Facebook as our principal marketing tool.

Chi-Town Squares has been using Facebook successfully for the past 2 years. We've been able to let other Facebook members know about our events, about square dancing, and about our Blasts. People outside our club find out about us on Facebook. We've grown as a result of using Facebook.

**Chi-Town Squares needs volunteers to create square dancing posts and to list and promote our events.** Our previous Facebook volunteer has moved into another role; Jim is keeping busy now with his presidential duties! A few minutes of your time while you're noodling on the Internet can realize tremendous benefits for our activity and our club. We'll even provide a little training. Please contact Jim at *president@chitownsquares.org* if you can help!

Our club consistently posts events on Facebook. This lets you RSVP to a specific event. Others get to see who is going to the event. It generates excitement. In addition, it allows you to invite your Facebook friends to an event.

The marketers from Facebook tell us that successful events have a few things in common.

#1) Invitations are sent out in a timely manner. Don't send too late that folks can't squeeze it into their schedule. Don't invite too soon that the event gets 'stale' and loses momentum too far in advance. This is more art than science. Also, 'regular event participants' can typically receive an event invite earlier than 'new participants'.

#2) Spread the wealth! It works better for an event if 25 people send out invites to 20 Facebook friends (total 500 invitations) than for one person to send out 500 invitations solo.

#3) Follow up with people who RSVP to an event. It strengthens their commitment to attend an event.

Please help our Club by taking a moment. Review the calendar of events. RSVP yourself as soon as possible. Send out Invites to 1st Thursdays about 2-3 weeks before the event. Send out invites to Weekly Club Nights 3-4 weeks in advance. Send invites to 'big events' like Crossfire or the Blast in time to allow people to adjust their schedule (6 - 12 weeks).

Finally, look at the event RSVP list 1-2 days before the event. Send a personal instant message (Facebook, text, e-mail, or voice-call) to let each other know you look forward to seeing them at an event that night or next day.

Thanks! Your help and enthusiasm really make a difference!

## Membership Reminder!

Have you renewed your membership? Memberships for the 2015-16 expired on May 31, and we are now in our renewal drive for the 2016-17 season. Our webmaster Michael Wills has made it easy-peasy to renew online, right from our club home page! Dues are currently \$50 per person, (\$25 for out of town members) which go toward club operating expenses.

If you are a current member you can log on with your email address. Or you can pay the old fashioned way, by filling out a form and paying at club events or by mail. Send renewals to the club treasurer John Wood at 421 W. Melrose St. #19D, Chicago, IL 60657. Thanks!

Website issues - send a note to: [info@chi-townsquares.org](mailto:info@chi-townsquares.org) and we can help you.



# Chi-Town Squares at IAGSDC Convention in Toronto

Toronto's Triangle Squares hosted Maple Leafs Regroup, the 33rd IAGSDC convention this past July. Fifty-four Chi-Town members attended! We had a great time dancing to Sandie Bryant, Dayle Hodge, Vic Ceder, Anne Uebelacker, and a whole bunch of other fun, experienced callers. We even had new Spring 2016 Blast grads attend! The dancing was non-stop. It was a beautiful event in the heart of downtown Toronto, over Canada Day and Gay Pride. Everyone was warm and welcoming, and we all were enchanted by beautiful Toronto.

The Bathing Beauties reappeared at convention. To no one's surprise they made a spectacle of themselves flouncing around the hotel convention center, disrupting callers and dancers, attempting to dance in shoes that aggravated their bunions. They've threatened to return at

next year's convention. Let's all pray they learn comportment by then!

The 2017 IAGSDC convention, Swing & Mix, will be in Palm Springs, CA June 30 to July 3. The Boots in Squares and Windmill Twirlers, two local clubs, will be hosting. They're promising a fun time in the desert. They're also offering air conditioning. :D You can watch their wonderful presentation on YouTube by going to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4JRB2Iwx60>. You can also find more information and registration at <http://palmsprings2017.org>. Talk with other club members about going. It will be a lot of fun!



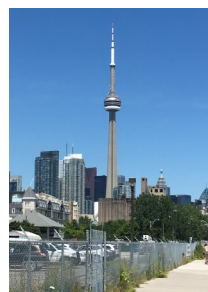
Leslie seems perplexed!



Bee Jay affixes Pat Kurauski's badge to the Memorial Quilt



A unique picture of 18 Golden Boot recipients on Barb Klein's bed!



# Chi-Town Squares Calendar

## September 2016

*Therron Ricks will conduct a Mainstream Review on Non Dance Party Thursdays 7:00-7:30 PM*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Mainstream WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	9 Fall BLAST 6:00-10:00 PM Arlene Kaspik	10 Fall BLAST 9:00 AM-5:00 PM Arlene Kaspik
11 Fall BLAST 1:00-5:00 PM Arlene Kaspik	12 C1 Lesson/Dance Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	13	14 Crossfire Meeting @ Rob S. 7:30 PM	15 Mainstream WS Michael Maltenfort 7:30 PM	16	17
18	19 C1 Lesson/Dance Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	20	21	22 Mainstream WS Therron Ricks 7:30 PM	23	24 <i>Pollywogs Deerfield 3:00 PM Sandie Bryant</i>
25	26 C1 Lesson/Dance Michael Maltenfort 7:30 PM	27	28	29 Mainstream WS Arlene Kaspik 7:30 PM	30	October 1

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

## October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 A2/C1 Workshop Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	4	5	6 DANCE PARTY! Therron Ricks 7:00 PM	7	8
9 Chicago Crossfire	10 NO DANCE TONIGHT!	11	12	13 Mainstream WS Michael Maltenfort 7:30 PM	14 The Great Chicago Crossfire XXVI	15 <i>Pollywogs Deerfield 3:00 PM Dayle Hodge</i>
16	17 A2/C1 Workshop Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	18	19	20 Mainstream WS Therron Ricks 7:30 PM	21	22
23	24 A2/C1 Workshop Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	25	26	27 Halloween DANCE! Arlene Kaspik 7:30 PM	28	29 Way Forward Comm. Meeting 10:00 AM
30	31 A2/C1 Workshop Michael Maltenfort 7:30 PM					

# Chi-Town Squares Calendar

## November 2016

*Therron Ricks will conduct a Mainstream Review on Non Dance Party Thursdays 7:00-7:30 PM*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 DANCE PARTY! Michael Maltenfort 7:00 PM	4	5
6	7 A2/C1 Workshop Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	8	9	10 Mainstream WS Therron Ricks 7:30 PM	11	12
13	14 A2/C1 Workshop Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	15	16	17 Mainstream WS Anne Uebelacker 7:30 PM	18	19 <i>Pollywogs Deerfield 3:00 Anne Uebelacker</i>
20 T'giving Dance Anne Uebelacker 2:00-5:00 PM	21 A2/C1 Workshop Anne Uebelacker 7:30 PM	22	23	24 THANKSGIVING DAY	25	26
27	28 A2/C1 Workshop Michael Maltenfort 7:30 PM	29	30			

## December 2016

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 DANCE PARTY! Arlene Kaspik 7:00 PM	2	3
4	5 A2/C1 Workshop Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	6	7	8 Mainstream WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	9	10 <i>Pollywogs Deerfield 3:00 PM Sandie Bryant</i>
11	12 A2/C1 Workshop Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	13	14	15 Mainstream WS Therron Ricks 7:30 PM	16	17
18 Holiday Dance Michael Maltenfort 2:00-5:00 PM	19 A2/C1 WS Michael Maltenfort 7:30 PM	20	21	22 NO DANCE TONIGHT	23	24
25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 NO DANCE TONIGHT	27	28	29 NO DANCE TONIGHT	30	JANUARY 7 CHILI DANCE & MID-YEAR MEETING 5:00-9:00 PM



# Changes to Callerlab Dance Programs *by Michael Maltenfort*

Although we often think of the CALLERLAB dance programs as fixed, they do change over time. You may find it helpful to know what has changed in recent years. (These changes are made by committees that don't publish their reasons, so don't ask for any!)

For definitions, most dancers use Taminations, which also has animations, (<http://www.tamtwirlers.org/tamination/info/index.html>) or the Cedar Chest definitions ([www.cedar.net/def.php](http://www.cedar.net/def.php)). The official definitions are available from the CALLERLAB Web site at [www.callerlab.org/Dance-Programs](http://www.callerlab.org/Dance-Programs), these have the advantage of listing what changes occurred when—they appear in a table at the beginning. Here are the recent changes:

## Basic

### Extend

Previously limited to start from a 1/4 Tag formation below Plus. Now allowed from all formations (especially Ocean Waves, but also Beginning Double Pass Thru, 3/4 Tag, Box Circulate, etc.) Note: although this change has occurred, the official definition does not yet reflect the change.

## Mainstream

No changes

## Plus

### Extend

Removed from Plus list, because all uses of Extend are now on the Basic program

### Follow Your Neighbor

Now permitted from a 1/4 Tag formation (from this formation, everyone Extend and Cast Off 3/4). E.g., Heads Pass the Ocean, all Follow Your Neighbor

## Advanced

### Half Breed Thru

Name changed to Brace Thru

### Split Square Chain Thru

Moved from A2 to A1

### Triple Cross

Added to A1 (previously at C1)

### Section on Left and Reverse revised (in preface of official CALLERLAB definitions)

In particular, dancers are expected to know how to use Reverse with the following calls: Rollaway, Half Sashay, Wheel Around, Courtesy Turn, Flutter wheel, Dixie Style to a Wave, Circle To A Line, Single Circle to a Wave, Swap Around, Recycle (from Facing Couples). Note that use of these calls below Advanced is not prohibited.

## C-1

### Cross Your Neighbor:

Now allowed from a 1/4 Tag (definition: all Cross Extend and Cast Off 3/4)

### Cut the Galaxy

Moved from C2 to C1

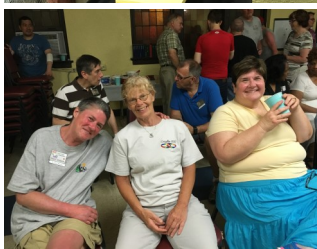
### Flip the Galaxy

Moved from C2 to C1

### Triple Cross

Removed from C1 list, as it is now on the A1 list

## Pride Dance with Nick Martellaci *Pics by Bob Siegel*





# Illinois State Convention Wrap-up *by Bob Siegel*

The Illinois Square & Round Dance Convention welcomed nearly 700 square, round and line dancers, along with callers, cuers, line and contra dance leaders through the doors of the Westin Chicago Northwest, July 29-31, 2016. Featured caller Jet Roberts had everyone moving from the moment he picked up the mike.

Thanks go out to the co-chairs Rich Sehnert and Janice Cha of Glenview for a job well done. Other Chi-Towners were also present, with our own Arlene Kaspik on the caller

staff. Plus Rich Jentzen and his posse came out on Saturday to give an educational seminar and dance as well.

Mark your 2017 calendar now! **The 34th Illinois Square & Round Dance Convention** will take place July 21-23, 2017, at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre, Springfield, Ill., with Featured Caller MIKE HOGAN, of Vista, NE



**Bobby Poyner and Arlene**



**The inimitable Bob Carpenter**



**Janice and Richard preside**

## Chi-Towners at Chase the Chili in Albuquerque



**Staff callers Scott, Bill, Kris, and Anne**



**Get Your Kicks...**



**Barb, Bob, Peter, and Joel**



**We tried the local sopapillas!**



**San Filipe church in Old Town**



**At the Georgia O'Keeffe museum in Santa Fe**

# IAGSDC Changes and an Article about Gender

The IAGSDC amended Articles I and II of their bylaws to embrace more gender inclusive language at the July 2016 convention in Toronto. These changes specifically includes transgender, queer, questioning, and intersex people, as you can see in their bylaws language below.

## ARTICLE I- NAME

The name of this Association shall be the "INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GAY SQUARE DANCE CLUBS, An LGBTQ\* Organization." LGBTQ\* = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex and their friends.

## ARTICLE II- PURPOSE

This Association is a non-profit organization of square dance clubs whose purposes are:

- A. To promote Modern Western Square Dancing.
- B. To enhance the image of LGBTQ\* people, especially in the international square dance community.
- C. To provide an opportunity for the social and dancing interchange of individual members as well as to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas among the member clubs.
- D. To support and encourage the growth of its membership.

Sometimes names, pronouns, and assumptions about gender can trip up the best of us. I've included an article that I've come across recently that I hope helps us understand our own thinking and what we can do individually to be more inclusive. I wrote the author for permission to reprint it here in full. They gave us full permission to reprint it, and they admitted to me that they "LOVED" square dancing. Please take a moment to read the article below. Jim Cosenza, president Chi-Town Squares

## Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Gender Neutral Pronouns

*By Jacob Tobia*

By now, the cultural visibility of the transgender, gender-queer and gender nonconforming community has seriously expanded the way that we view gender. And while general awareness about gender diversity has increased, there are still some technical aspects that many people continue to struggle with, chief among those being the use of gender-neutral pronouns.

As a genderqueer advocate and media personality who has used gender-neutral pronouns for years, I have quite a few pointers and tips to share. But don't just take it from me; I also spoke with Nick Adams, director of GLAAD's transgender media program, about his thoughts on the issue. With our guidance, you can show up to that gender-fabulous dance party with confidence.

Let's get to it!

### Why do people want to use gender-neutral pronouns anyway? What's wrong with gendered pronouns?

It's not that there is something *wrong* with gendered pronouns; it's just that the pronouns "he" and "she" come with a certain set of expectations about how someone should express their identity and relate to the world. For many people, gender normativity can get in the way of self-expression—so the words "he" or "she" can feel limiting. "Some people have a gender identity that is non-binary, and conventional pronouns have the effect of assigning them a binary identity," says Adams.

Take me, for example. I was assigned male at birth, but I've spent a good portion of my life trying to get away from the expectations that have been placed on me because of that. Asking people to use the gender-neutral pronoun "they" instead of "he" to refer to me has been a big step in my journey toward self-love and self-acceptance.

### If someone doesn't want to be referred to as "he" or "she," what should I use? What are the options?

In my experience, the most common gender-neutral pronoun used by genderqueer and gender nonconforming people is "they/them/their," but that doesn't mean it's the only option. Some people choose to use the gender-neutral pronouns "ze/hir/hirs" (pronounced "zee/here/heres") or "ey/em/eir" (pronounced "ay/em/airs"), among others. There are lots of gender-neutral pronouns out there, and they can certainly get confusing. That's where Google comes in handy!

### My fifth grade teacher always told me that using "they" as a singular pronoun was grammatically incorrect. Is my fifth grade teacher wrong about that?

While I'm sure your fifth grade teacher meant well when they were teaching you the rules about pronouns, the rules you learned in fifth grade are most likely outdated by now. In fact, the 200 linguists at the American Dialect Society declared the singular "they" the 2015 word of the year. Merriam-Webster and the Oxford dictionary both also include the singular "they."

Whether your fifth grade teacher likes it or not, "they" is now a recognized and *grammatically correct* singular pronoun.

Also, I don't know the gender identity of your fifth grade teacher, which is why I used "they," rather than "he or she." Not only is "they" a more streamlined option, "they" also allows room for the possibility that your fifth grade teacher didn't identify as a man or a woman at all!

Maybe they were genderqueer. Maybe they were nonbinary. I don't know their gender, so I'm not going to artificially limit your fifth grade teacher's gender identity to one of two options. It's a more inclusive, fabulous way to go about it.



### **So we can just make up any words we want now?**

Kind of! Like gender, language is necessarily a creative enterprise that changes over time. The honorific “Ms.” is a great example. “At some point in the past, ‘Ms.’ was a new honorific to recognize a woman who didn’t want to be addressed solely on the basis of her marital status,” says Adams. “Now, we don’t even question its use.”

Language changes; it grows, expands, morphs and adapts to meet the needs of the modern day. That’s part of what makes it fun. The addition of gender-neutral pronouns in the English language is just another part of that evolution.

### **O.K., fine. I guess gender-neutral pronouns are grammatically correct. But how do I conjugate them?**

It changes with each type of gender-neutral pronoun, but the conjugation for the singular “they” is fairly intuitive. Take me, for example. I use “they” as my pronoun, so you could talk about me like this:

Jacob went to the store to get some guacamole supplies. They were having a lovely time until they lost their temper when they couldn’t find any ripe avocados. They shouldn’t be too hard on themselves, though. They’ll probably have better luck on their guacamole quest next time.

For more practice, check out this nifty guide written by students at MIT.

<http://web.mit.edu/trans/GenderNeutralPronouns.pdf>

### **What about Ms., Mrs. and Mr.? Are there gender-neutral options for those?**

Fortunately, there are! If you need to refer to someone who prefers gender-neutral pronouns in a formal context, you can use the gender-neutral honorific “Mx.” If you’re inviting me to your fancy dinner party, you can address the invitation to “Mx. Tobia.”

### **Are gender-neutral pronouns only for transgender and gender nonconforming people?**

Not at all. While gender-neutral pronouns are often used by genderqueer and gender nonconforming people, you don’t have to identify that way in order to use them. If you feel more comfortable navigating the world without gendered expectations, then gender-neutral pronouns can work for you. There’s no identity you *have* to claim in order to use genderless language. “Anyone who wants to use gender-neutral pronouns can use them,” agrees Adams.

### **I saw someone who looked like they may have been genderqueer the other day. Should I have used gender-neutral pronouns?**

Perhaps, but that’s not the right question to ask. You can never make any assumptions about what pronoun someone uses based off of their appearance. There’s no such thing as “looking like” a he, a she or a they. The only way you can know what pronoun someone prefers is by *asking them*.

In practice, you should ask everyone what pronoun they use if you don’t know. When you don’t know someone’s pronouns and can’t ask them, it’s always safe to use the gender-neutral “they” until you hear otherwise.

### **Isn’t that awkward to ask when you first meet someone?**

Meeting new people is always awkward. But using the wrong pronoun to refer to someone is more awkward because pronouns are about respect. “By using the right pronoun, you can show that you see and respect their identity,” says Adams. Really, it’s about creating a culture where asking people about their pronouns is just a normal, natural part of introductions. Like this:

“Hello, new person that I’m meeting at a cocktail party. I’m Jacob.”

“Nice to meet you. I’m Andre. What pronouns do you use Jacob?”

“I use they. What about you?”

“I use he, thanks for asking. Anyway, um, some weather we’re having today, huh?”

Asking about pronouns will not solve your social awkwardness issues, but it will definitely make you a nicer, more empathetic human being.

### **Are you sure that I have to ask? Won’t someone just tell me if they prefer a pronoun other than he or she?**

Someone might proactively tell you if they prefer gender-neutral pronouns, but if you make an assumption about their pronoun without asking, then the onus will fall on them to *correct you*. And we all know how awkward it is to have to correct an erroneous assumption that a stranger makes about you.

It’d be like living in New York City, assuming that *everyone* celebrates Christmas and then expecting people who celebrate another holiday to correct you. They might still tell you that they are Jewish or Muslim or atheist and don’t celebrate Christmas, but it’s pretty inconsiderate and will most likely make you look like a jerk in the process.

### **So I now have to ask everyone that I meet what their pronouns are?**

Correct.

### **Really?**

Yeah. It’s the only way to ensure that we’re building a gender-inclusive world where people are allowed to determine their gender identities for themselves.

### **Ugh. But what if I don’t want to?**

It’s 2016. You need to know how to use email, and you need to know how to ask people what pronouns they use.

### **O.K., fine. You win. I’ll start asking people about their pronouns and get over my old-school grammar issues.**

Great. Glad we could clear that up. Wanna get a cup of coffee?

*Jacob Tobia is a Brooklyn-based writer, speaker and performer.*

(Tobia, Jacob, 8/21/16, [http://motto.time.com/4327915/gender-neutral-pronouns/?utm\\_content=28834261&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook](http://motto.time.com/4327915/gender-neutral-pronouns/?utm_content=28834261&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook))

# Upcoming National Events

*Information taken from the IAGSDC.org event page.*

## 2016

### 09-Sep -11-Sep **Pass the Sea 2016**

Callers: Darren Gallina, Michael Kellogg  
Finest City Squares, San Diego, CA

### 23-Sep – 25-Sep **Square Dance Women**

Callers: Anne Uebelacker, Kris Jensen and Diana Wedel  
Garibaldi, Oregon (new venue)

### 30-Sep – 02-Oct **Patch the Bay Bridge**

**A/C Weekend - West Coast.** Callers: Lynette Bellini \* John Bowman \* Vic Ceder \* Rob French \* Michael Kellogg \* Harlan Kerr \* Fen Tamanaha \* Bronc Wise  
Midnight Squares & Redwood Rainbows, San Francisco

### 07-Oct -09-Oct **The Great Chicago Crossfire XXVI "Dancing from A to Z"**

Callers: Sandra Bryant and Tom Miller  
Chi-Town Squares, Chicago, IL

### 14-Oct – 16-Oct **Peel Off in Palm Springs 2016**

Callers: Gary Monday  
Peel Off Canyon Club

### 28-Oct – 30-Oct **Peel the Pumpkin 2016**

Callers: Sandra Bryant, Jeremy Butler and Betsy Gotta  
Times Squares, Metro Park/Woodbridge New Jersey

### 28-Oct – 30-Oct **Scares & Squares 2016**

Callers: Mike Kellogg, Gary Monday, Bronc Wise  
Rosetown Ramblers, Portland, OR

### 11-Nov -13-Nov **Harvest Festival Hoedown**

Callers: Sandra Bryant, Dayle Hodge, Darren Gallina,  
DC Lambda Squares, York, Pennsylvania

## 2017

### 13-Jan – 15-Jan **Promenade Down Peachtree**

Callers: John Marshall; Dayle Hodge, Michael Maltenfort  
Hotlanta Squares, Decatur, Georgia

### 03-Feb – 05-Feb **Swing Thru The Palms #8**

Callers: Andy Allemao, Charlie Robertson, Romney Tannehill  
Boots In Squares, Palm Springs, California

### 17-Feb – 20-Feb **Flip The Flamingo X, The Wild, Wild West**

Callers: Chris Philips, Gary Monday, Michael Cox  
Suncoast Squares, St Petersburg, FL 17-Feb  
Squares

### 03-Mar – 05-Mar **Scout Back to Big D - 2017**

Callers: Sandra Bryant, Darryl Lipscomb  
Pegasus Squares, Dallas, TX

### 31-Mar -02-Apr **Silver Belles & Beaus, 25th Fly-In Anniversary**

Callers: Sandra Bryant, Chris Phillips, and Jet Roberts  
Independence Squares, Wilmington, DE

### 21-Apr – 23-Apr **Pioneer Promenade VI**

Callers: TBD  
Temple Squares, Salt Lake City, UT

### 21-Apr- 23-Apr **Ropin' The River, Reload the Boat**

Callers: Johnny Preston and Justin Russell  
Grand River Squares, Grand Rapids, MI

### 28-Apr- 30-Apr **Pass the Ocean, Hon! 2017**

Callers: Anne Uebelacker, Bill Harrison, Dayle Hodge  
Chesapeake Squares, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

### 26-May – 28-May **Rainbow is the New Black**

Callers: Barry Clasper, Todd Felleggy  
Triangle Squares, Toronto, Jesse Ketchum School

### 14-Jun – 17-Jun **AACE - Academy for Advanced & Challenge Enthusiasts**

Callers: Sandie Bryant, Vic Ceder, Barry Clasper, Todd Felleggy, Ross Howell, Anne Uebelacker, Sue Curtis, Bronc Wise  
Fort Wayne, IN

