

November 2019

President: Ruth	Fisher	11011		4017	VOL. 1 No. 10		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2 SB/W DISTRICT HONEYCOMBERS SHARE THE BOUNTY PAT CARNATHAN Feeding the Community	
3 FALL BACK	7:00–9:00 ADVANCED CLASS A1 OR A2	5	SQUARE DANCE CLASS: 7:00-8:30 MAINSTREAM 8:45-9:45 PLUS	7	8	9 RIBBONS & SOULS VETERANS DAY ARLEN MILLER DAVID MOORHOUSE	
10	7:00-9:00 ADVANCED CLASS A1 or A2	12	SQUARE DANCE CLASS: 7:00-8:30 MAINSTREAM 8:45-9:45 PLUS	14	15	VALLEY TRAILERS ANNIVERSARY MIKE SEASTROM CHARLIE ROBERTSON CINDY MOWER	
ASQD GENERAL MEETING HAWTHORNE MEMORIAL CENTER	7:00–9:00 ADVANCED CLASS A1 OR A2	19 7:30 GENERAL MEETING FELICIA MAHOOD COMMUNITY RM 6:30 POT LUCK	20 SQUARE DANCE CLASS 7:00-8:30 Mainstream 8:45-9:45 Plus	21	22	23 RIBBONS & SOULS THANKSGIVING (MAINSTREAM) SHAUNA KAARIA DAVID MOORHOUSE	
24	25 7:00-9:00 ADVANCED CLASS A1 or A2	26	SQUARE DANCE CLASS: 7:00-8:30 MAINSTREAM 8:45-9:45 PLUS	ERRY Lianks giving	29	FABULOUS 50S	

Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough. ~ Oprah Winfrey





Thanksgiving is a holiday that is celebrated around the world with different traditions this time of the year. In general, it is about giving thanks for the bounties of Mother Nature. Today, I would like to give thanks for the cornucopia of

talent, skill, and willingness that we have in Ribbons & Souls.

Diane, you put together an amazing newsletter. It is formatted beautifully and calls attention to what is important through your use of color and icons. As club communicator, when Diane sends out emails for the club it is not just a click of the button, she makes sure it is accurate, when needed adds extra information and calls attention n to what is important.

The Honeycombers said at our October 12th dance that they came to our dance because we went to theirs. It just took 3 of us, to bring about their return. Linda Harris never misses a visitation and writes a poem honoring it for the Reporter. Since our ASqD board members have to go to the Anniversary Dances for all the clubs, it is even more important that the rest of us go to the Honeycombers on the first Saturday of the month and the Boots & Bows dances on the third Saturday whenever we are able to. Both clubs will recognize this and come to ours more often if we do. We are a small district, and this is important whether it is a visitation or not. I also appreciate Linda's total participation in dances, classes and board meetings.

We have beautiful, fun, clever fliers for every dance thanks to Nancy Lippey's creativity. Nancy also took over our Open Squares Publicity for classes and dances when Ruth Michaelson became too ill to handle it any longer. Both thought to reserve the cover for our anniversary dances over a year ahead of time. Because of Nancy, dancers are continuing to come to Arlen's advanced class.

Gratitude goes to Julie DaVanzo and Amelia Kacena for chairing the dance refreshment committee, actively approaching everyone to serve on it and making sure it runs smoothly by sending out clear instructions each time. Thank you to everyone who brings refreshments to our dances. Please do contact Amelia or Julie and sign up for 2020. If everyone does it twice, then no one needs to sign up for a third time. A reminder, if for any reason like sickness, you are unable to take your turn, it is up to you to find your own replacement, not to the chairs of the committee.

(SEE PRESIDENT on page 3)



Hello everybody! I have an interesting position in our club as I am one of the first members who was neither a Heels & Souls nor a Red Ribbons prior to joining the Ribbons & Souls. I

am also, as it turns out, the youngest member of our club at 45 years of age. By way of further introduction, I started dancing when I was 16 years old back in 1991 when I took a Square Dance Class taught by Arlen Miller with the Sierra Hillbillies. By a bit of a fluke, that particular class had a few teenagers in it, my younger sister included, and my dance partner at the time was also a teenager that I met through that class. I went on to dance a lot for the next 10-15 years and then stopped for a while as "life happened." About a year ago, a friend of mine saw an old picture of me in square dance attire and it sparked a conversation. He joined me for the beginner class that started in January 2019 and now we are taking the A1 class on Mondays.

I am writing because I wanted to share my feelings and thoughts on the "big issues" facing square dancing today. To be honest, I have been shocked at the decline in membership and participation in this activity. We are clearly aging out and failing to fill the ranks with newer, and frankly younger, members who will be around to keep things going for a while. I am the President of another volunteer organization in Los Angeles that has national and international affiliations and we too are feeling the pinch of declining membership, volunteer burnout, and volunteer recruitment problems. This is not a problem that is unique to square dancing, but something all groups are working to overcome.

A Square D has voted to adopt a six point marketing plan that will target technical or social media updates for three of those prongs, and three additional prongs that focus on square dance attire, music, and multiple start dates for classes (the 17 week program that we currently use). We, as a club, are going to be asked to commit ourselves to this plan as a way to save this activity that we love. This may call for some sacrifice and hard choices from all of us, and I wanted to give you my perspective as someone who danced as a teen, is still dancing, and has always loved square dance attire.

(SEE RSVP on page 7)

(PRESIDENT Continued from page 2)

Jan Bartholomew keeps detailed track of and supplements the supplies when any of them run low, which allows refreshments for both dances and classes to flow smoothly. I do not even want to think of the mess it might be without her. Thankfully, she also makes sure that we always have someone taking charge of the class refreshments and is our delegate to ASqD. I am so very grateful to Jan who has agreed to take on the chair of a very needed new committee which you will hear about at the General Meeting.

Speaking of refreshments, a great big thank you to Jane Gold and Michaelyn Duboff who make sure we have wonderful goodies and serve them for our class. And we all enjoy Larry McNamee's daughter, Cathy's home-baked treats. He also assists Judy by taking over the sign-in desk and collecting money at our classes. We thank Linda Harris for always bringing Larry, and Phyllis Bass, who did until she stopped driving.

Shan Cretin does an excellent job as class coordinator both within the class in organizing squares, spotting necessary changes, keeping the students updated on the calls, making announcements etc. and through the weekly emails she sends out to both students and angels. Rick Marken as co-class coordinator has been moving more and more into this position as well as being our R & S Webmaster, with Judy's assistance. As Webmaster he is an important part of our web -based publicity as is **Diane** through Wheresthedance. We all appreciate those of you who help advertise our classes by taking around fliers and posting on Nextdoor.com. If you have any questions about how to post on nextdoor Dana Patchick is always willing to help. Bill "Tex" Gipson has kept our classes interesting and fun for both the students and angels. This is no small feat. Desiree Elliott, and Alan Lubberts when she is absent, have contributed greatly through teaching a pre-class. Classes are the lifeblood of any club, and ours is no exception. Our club will thrive with the success of the classes, so we owe a big round of applause to Shan, Rick, Desiree, Alan, and Bill, as well as all the angels who support the classes week in and week out.

Judy Fisher thankfully shows up in many places, including her positions as an outstanding treasurer and parliamentarian. She frequently volunteers when something or someone is needed. As treasurer she is not only responsible for all the funds that go in and out of our club, preparing reports but also for being the person who signs us into classes until Larry arrives, and dances until and if someone else volunteers for desk duty for dances. She is responsible for the boards at our

dances and prints all the fliers. Judy and I show up at every dance by 6:15 in order to make sure everything is set-up for the dance and places are held for the caller & cuer in the parking lot. We are grateful to Judy for fulfilling these numerous responsibilities.

As the chairs of our Installation dinner, **Judy and Claire Tucker** made sure we had enough people to enjoy the buffet for the very first time.

Claire, Pam Szabo, Rosario Trask, Kat' Ferson and Phyllis have all added to our dances by overseeing solo sign-ups for our large dances. This has added to many dancer's experience both from our club and visiting clubs.

We have had fabulous callers & cuers during the past year, and even more in the coming years thanks to the thoughtfulness and effort of **Pamela Bailis** and **Fredi Levitt. Fredi** adds a special sense of connection in her unique knowledgeable introduction of our callers & cuers. I appreciate her assistance with the challenging situations that come up from time to time at the dances and for distributing fliers at the non-visitation club dances she attends. Fredi is also the chair of the membership committee, which consists of Fredi, Shan, Rick and me.

A great big shout-out in appreciation to all those **angels in classes and dances that give up their place in a square** so that someone who has been sitting out from R&S more than once, or any visitor who is sitting out can dance. To you, I personally am very grateful, since it is pure joy for me to be able to dance fully especially after almost 90 days of deprivation. And thank you to those who leave the break room rapidly to dance at classes & dances and those of you who come forward to fill a square even when you would just as soon sit out, so that those in the partial square are able to dance. We so appreciate the club members who show up consistently for dances and especially those who stay beyond the break. The callers are more likely to want to come to our dances when there

(SEE THANKFUL PRESIDENT on page 6)

11/8 Kathy Lovelace

11/10 Richard Wu

Birthdays & Anniversaries

11/6 Jerry & Nancy Lippey

11/10 Jerry & Suzanne Neubauer

11/12 Ken & Marion Scholtz

11/15 Desiree Elliott

ASSOCIATED SQUARE DANCERS



Jan Bartholemew,
A Square D Delegate

The 71st A Square D Anniversary dance was held on Sunday, October 20 at the Hawthorne Memorial Center. Our very own Diane Isaacs ran the dance. Pat Carnathan and Mike Seastrom called and Bev Oren cued, and it was good dancing. We were in the large ballroom, and we half-filled it up. From the Ribbons & Souls about 15 people attended. There were refreshments, a lot of which were brought by dancers. People had a good time.

The next A Square D General Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 17, at 2pm at the Hawthorne Memorial Center. All are welcome.



On the Road Again... Visitations Linda Harris WHERE WE'VE BEEN



Three of us traveled south to the Honeycombers to dance with Darren Gallina. Attending were: Ruth Fisher, Linda Harris and Diane Isaacs.

We also had a visitation to the Western Weavers in Burbank. Only two people attended. The rest of us were scared away by the smoke in the air from the fires. Attending were Diane Isaacs and Barb Schwartz.

WHERE WE'RE GOING

On Saturday November 16 we will visit the Valley Trailers in Northridge at 8956 Vanalden Ave for their 65th anniversary dance. Mike Seastrom and Charlie Robertson will be calling.





Kitchen Witch

Amelia Kacena Julie DaVanzo



A feast awaited the dancers at break of the Oktoberfest Dance on October 12. We were treated to chicken and pork brats, potato salad, sauerkraut, pretzels, apples, grapes, snicker doodles and red velvet cookies and a plethora of toppings. Thank you, **Desiree** and **Lee** for the fabulous feast and really nailing the Theme of the Dance.

A scary cat presided over a table laden with olives, salami, cheeses, filled grape leaves, pumpkin

pecan cake, cupcakes, cookies, grapes and a fruit salad of pineapple, strawberries, kiwis, cantaloupe at our Halloween

Dance on October 26. Thank you, **Rosario** and **Ben** for our Halloween treats. They were delicious and a great start to a celebration of Halloween.

Thank you to all who have volunteered for the kitchen in 2019, but we have one more opportunity this year on Dec.28 with Kat Ferson. Sign-ups are now open for volunteering in 2020 for kitchen and desk duty and the sign-up sheets will be available at dances and the Wednesday classes.

Everyone needs to sign up for two to three Refreshment assignments for the year.

Signing up for Desk does not replace doing the refreshments.

2019 DESK AND KITCHEN SIGN UP

Date	Desk	Kitchen	Kitchen	Caller	Cuer	Theme
Jan 26★	Judy Fisher	Amelia Kacena	Michaelyn Duboff	Dale Hoppers	Joe Scarlatella	Our Debut Dance
Feb 9	Judy Fisher	Madeline Sprints	Martin Sprints	Mike Sikorsky	Joe Scarlatella	Valentine's Day
Feb 23★	Judy Fisher	Diane Isaacs	Phyllis Bass	Vic Kaaria	Shauna Kaaria	Sing-Along
Mar 9	Judy Fisher	Jan Bartholomew	Jane Gold	Dan Preedy	Linda Ashby	St. Pat's Day
Mar 23★	Judy Fisher	Linda Harris	Jim Gilbreth	Scot Byars	Erin Byars	Crazy Hat
Mar 30	Judy Fisher	Kinuyo Levin, Richard Wu	Norma Spieker	Andy Allemao	Joe Scarlatella	Denim & Diamonds
Apr 13	Phyllis Bass	Michaelyn Duboff	Pat Neal	Rod Shuping	Joe Scarlatella	Red/Black (Taxes)
Apr 27★	Jerry Neubauer	Julie DaVanzo	Frank DaVanzo	Jim Smith	Judy Keller	Spring Fling
May 11	Diane Isaacs	Pam Bailis	Brian Scanlon	Romney Tannehill	Joe Scarlatella	Mom's Day
May 25★	Linda Harris	Amelia Kacena	Diane Isaacs	James Thompson	David Moorhouse	Sports Night
Jun 8	Suzanne Neubauer	Norma Spieker	Phyllis Bass	Dick Hodnefield	Joe Scarlatella	Dad's Day
Jun 22★	Shan Cretin	Suzanne Neubauer	Jerry Neubauer	Steve Woodard	David Moorehouse	Grads Day
Jun 29	Desiree Elliott	Nancy Howell	Glen Howell	Paul Waters	Jim Spence	Red, White & Blue
Jul 13	Judy Fisher	Barb Schwartz	Ben Stegall	Pat Carnathan	David Moorhouse	Mickey Mouse
Jul 27★	Judy Fisher	Linda Harris	Kathy Lovelace	David Mee	Dawn Mee	Beach Bash
Aug 10	Diane Isaacs	Pam Szabo	Claire Tucker	Ken Bower	Joe Scarlatella	Travel "T"
Aug 24★	Norma Spieker	Desiree Elliott	Judy Fisher	Darrell Newell	Carolyn Cook	Aloha Hawaii
Aug 31	Judy Fisher	Madeline Sprints	Martin Sprints	Jon Jones	David Moorhouse	Circus Time
Sep 14	Amelia Kacena	Pam Szabo	Claire Tucker	Darren Gallina	Jim Spence	Back to School
Sep 28★		Shan Cretin	Emmett Keeler	Lawrence Johnstone	Joe Scarlatella	Big Bands
Oct 12	Diane Isaacs	Desiree Elliott	Lee Stillman	Michael Kellogg	Mel Brenham	Octoberfest
Oct 26★	Norma Spieker	Rosario Trask	Ben Stegall	Jim Smith	Judy Keller	Halloween
Nov 9		Richard Wu	Kinuyo Levin	Arlen Miller	David Moorhouse	Veteran's Day
Nov 23★		Nancy Tu	Jan Bartholomew	Shauna Kaaria	David Moorhouse	Thanksgiving
Nov 30		Kat' Ferson	Harvey Kamens	Mike Haworth	Judy Keller	Fabulous 50's
Dec 14		Lauren Friedman	Diane Isaacs	Steve Moore	Joe Scarlatella	Happy Holidays
Dec 28★		Kat' Ferson		Jay Henderson	Judy Keller	New Years

(THANKFUL PRESIDENT from page 3)

is a lot of energy on the floor. We all appreciate the dancers who plan their schedule consistently to show up for the dances even when they would rather hear a different caller or attend something else or just stay home. Thank you to those who are giving up their traditional costumes since the marketing research shows that reducing the visibility of square dance outfits is an important element in the re-branding of our activity. While we are strongly encouraging everyone to move away from traditional costumes, your presence at the dances is what is most important.

Kat' and **Jim Gilbreth** have a challenging job as co-secretaries recording the minutes at our meetings so that everyone can be aware of what is going on in the business portion of the club.

Thanks to **Madeline Sprints** and her phone committee of **Michaelyn, Phyllis,** and alternates **Annie Nimmo** and **Claire,** who assure that those members of our club who do not have email are kept up to date on the events.

We are all looking forward to our first Anniversary Dance with Pamela Bailis coordinating the refreshments which will be provided by the past presidents, Madeline's exquisite decorations and Jan's making sure that people will be helping in the numerous jobs that will make our Anniversary Dance something that other clubs want to support. Our club fabric looks beautiful, thanks to Babs Schwartz in all the different ways it is showing up in our outfits. We will have an opportunity to show them off at our November 16th visitation to the Valley Trailers Anniversary Dance. Let's all have our outfits before our own R&S First Anniversary Dance on January 11th, 2020 with Deborah Carroll-Jones calling and Zena Beaulieu cueing. Linda Hoffman, as photographer, will make sure we have a group photo in our new outfits. Babs' extraordinary talent is noticeable at the Sweetheart Ball where she represents R & S by donating one of her amazing quilts for the raffle.

Ilene Martin sends out cards to those of us who are having health challenges. However, she relies on everyone in the club to keep her informed: floilene@att.net

Gratefully **Alan** is a gigantic sunshine success. He is cured of a rare and potent cancer. Continuing to dance and be active certainly contributes to healing in so many of our members. Congratulations! **Alan** is our notable representative to the monthly Senior Club Federation meetings. He also proofreads the newsletter for dates and other details so that there are an additional set of eyes on it prior to Diane distributing it.

Desiree, as Vice President, is assuming a greater and greater role in the club. She brings a unique and much needed perspective to us for several reasons, among them is she was away from dancing for many years, was never a member of RR or H&S and is the youngest among us. She is amazing in her skillfulness at sizing up situations in their totality as well as thinking outside the box. Desiree will be coordinating the publicity committee and giving guidance in the updating of our website.

There are two people whom I would like to thank who work largely behind the scenes: Adrienne and Art Omansky. Adrienne because of her Senior Scam group is aware of what is going on politically that may affect us and sounds an alert. Art is my good friend, and trusted "Yoda". I noticed right from the beginning that Art, who was a former club president and who still knows most of the R&S members, and I had a similar perspective on the workings of the club. So, if I want to dig deeply into something that is going on in the club, he is often the person I turn to. I believe that the R&S has benefited greatly from his unbiassed, deeply committed and yet one step removed perspective.

I am grateful to each one of you who participate in R&S in your own unique way.

Personally, I appreciate the way we have come together as One Club. We have all worked hard to bring this about. As the year has gone by, we have more and more shed our past club alliances and grown into our new merged identity. There has been less "bickering" and more cooperation and looking for new solutions. This is our third General Meeting as R&S, and feels to me like a victory celebration for each one of us who have all made accommodations to make this idea real. We now can not only continue to envision dancing on the Westside; it is a reality.

Hopefully a vast majority of you will attend our General Meeting on Tuesday, November 19th. Please come and help set up for our Pot Luck by 6:15 p.m. and we will start eating the scrumptious dishes by 6:30. The General Meeting will follow around 7:30. There are some extremely important issues that we need to discuss and vote on at this meeting so I hope everyone will arrange their schedules so that you can attend this meeting and participate in the running of our club. I will be sending the agenda to Diane for distribution approximately a week prior to the General Meeting- WATCH FOR IT.

With Gratitude, a tribute to all Ribbons & Souls members.

(RSPV Continued from page 2)

Let me be clear - I love square dance attire. I love petticoats and fluffy skirts. I had a custom made 120 yard petticoat I wore with my outfits for years. I actually wore square dance attire to my very first beginner class when I was 16 years old because I borrowed from my mom--I was so excited to do it! Some of my favorite memories are making square dance costumes with my mother as we both sewed and creating outfits for ourselves, my dad, my partner, and my sister was something we did together...trust me, hand gathering a 7 ½ yard ruffle to pin onto a skirt is only something you do as a labor of love. My wedding dress from five years ago had a crinoline and I have worn my dress since then on a couple of occasions as a "costume" and paraded around in a ginormous skirt that almost doesn't fit in my SUV. I LOVE big fluffy skirts.

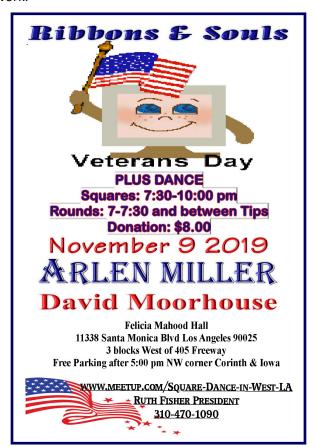
Today? I don't have a square dance outfit or a petticoat that fits. I have issues with my legs and weight and really cannot wear square dance attire. Around the time I stopped dancing, Square Dancing had decided to embrace a "Square Dance Attire ONLY" policy that meant I could not have participated right now. I was actually quite relieved to discover when I came back that the costume was not going to be a bar to my participation...because the truth is, as much as love square dancing attire - I love dancing even more.

That is really the issue - what is more important? The costume or the dancing. They have done the research and the statistics are clear that square dance attire is the #1 reason people are not willing to give it a try. We love this activity. It is social, active, fun, challenging, and a work out all at the same time. There is nothing else quite like it out there. It can engage the most weakened of couch potatoes and through the class slowly bring about improved physical conditioning while still requiring you to use your brain and not just "zone out." I remember that people talked about dancing a few miles a night for an average dance and I have to think with all of the Fitbits out there that we have solid information about just how many steps you might be getting in.

So the real question is - what do we want to do? Are we willing to step back from some of the traditional costumes and give this marketing plan a try? Nobody knows if it will work, but we *do* know that continuing as we are is not working. The decline in membership and participation is striking to me as someone who stepped away and is now coming back. The only way this activity is going to survive is if we do manage to evolve and present an attractive and welcoming package to a society that does not do long term commitments or spend money on something "unknown" (like a traditional 9 month class or that specialized costumes would require). The more people we attract

means the greater chance of finding those who truly love the activity and will stick around for more than a few months.

Despite being a confirmed petticoat person, I must throw my support behind this marketing plan and urge you all to do the same. I love Square Dancing too much to let the activity die because we are too afraid or too stubborn to try something truly new and see if it will work.





Ben "crazy legs" Stegall dresses the part at our Oktoberfest dance.







HALLOWEEN DANCERS in the spirit at our October 26 Mainstream Dance. Back row: Rick & Irma, Fredi, Lauren, Nancy, Linda, Joe, Babs, Judy Keller, Jan, Ruth, Jane, Julie. Front row: Judy, Diane, Marty, Michaelyn.. Thanks to Jim Smith for snapping the photo.



One of the pictures on display. Left to right: Charlie, Evelyn, Julie, all at rest and peace now.



The Celebration of Evelyn Maggiore's life at the Annenberg Beach House was beautiful and moving. Dozens of pictures of Evelyn's family, volunteer work and square dancing were presented around the terrace dining room. After offering a beautiful buffet of sandwiches, cheeses and dried fruit, and salads, family and friends shared moving and funny stories of Evelyn's most interesting life. Jan spoke beautifully about Evelyn's contributions to our square dance club. Attending were Jan Bartholomew, Julie & Frank Da-Vanzo, Michaelyn Duboff, Ruth Fisher, Diane Isaacs, Kinu Levin, Ruth Michaelson, Marilyn & Martin Sprintz, Ben Stegall, Rosario Trask, and Richard Wu.

Photos courtesy of Michaelyn.



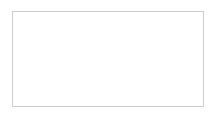














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