



Ribbons & Souls

Reporter



December 2019



Editor: Diane Isaacs

President: Ruth Fisher

VOL. 1 No. 12

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 7:00–9:00 ADVANCED CLASS A1 OR A2	3	4 SQUARE DANCE CLASS: 7:00-8:30 MAINSTREAM 8:45-9:45 PLUS	5	6	7 SB/W DISTRICT HONEYCOMBERS TOY PARADE PHIL FARMER
8	9 7:00–9:00 ADVANCED CLASS A1 OR A2	10	11 SQUARE DANCE CLASS: 7:00-8:30 MAINSTREAM 8:45-9:45 PLUS	12	13	14 RIBBONS & SOULS Happy Holidays HAPPY HOLIDAYS STEVE MOORE JOE SCARLATTELLA
15	16 7:00–9:00 ADVANCED CLASS A1 OR A2	17	18 SQUARE DANCE CLASS: 7:00-8:30 MAINSTREAM 8:45-9:45 PLUS	19	20 SB/W DISTRICT GUYS & DOLLS CHRISTMAS BALL SYLVESTER NEALON LARRY JOHNSON JAMES CATON	21 WINTER SOLISTICE
22 HAPPY HANUKKAH	23 7:00–9:00 ADVANCED CLASS A1 OR A2	24	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28 RIBBONS & SOULS HAPPY NEW YEAR (MAINSTREAM) NEW YEAR JAY HENDERSON JUDY KELLER
29	30 7:00–9:00 ADVANCED CLASS A1 OR A2	31 Bring on the NEW YEAR!	Calling all Angels: Our new 17-week beginner square dance class starts Wednesday, January 8.			

“ If you are feeling some December blues, or even depression, don't fight it. Instead, do something for yourself. Be reflective. Let the emotions exist. And be encouraged that, like me, you can get to a better place, but it can take time.

~Brad Feld, American entrepreneur”



President's Corner

Ruth Fisher



Abundance was the tenor of the General Meeting and Potluck. The evening started with delicious main dishes a plenty, scrumptious salads and tasty looking desserts.

Fredi presented the ASqD marketing plan which we

have been talking about since the fall, and that derived from the Marketing Manual and talks at National, etc. She reiterated that the #1 thing that keeps new dancers away and thus leads to the dwindling number of square dancers is the costumes and petticoats. We talked at length about discouraging – NOT BANNING – petticoats and square dance costumes as well as requesting more recently composed music. This dialogue brought out a wealth of feelings some expressed vociferously others more softly. I do want to say that it is unfortunate that none of us knew at the time R&S first merged that ASqD would later want us to agree to a plan of action and adopt the ASqD Marketing Plan. Many people put a lot of love and time into creating their R&S square dance costumes, and I want to recognize with compassion their sacrifice in agreeing to adopt this plan.

The discussion at our General Meeting was as robust as I've ever presided over, with some welcomed humor interjected as Lee Stillman, who is new to square dancing, described in profuse detail his own horrified reaction as he walked into a room full of petticoats at the California Square Dance Convention. Jan, who was one of the people who did not want to give up their cherished square dance costumes and petticoats, shared with me that Lee's account was the final thing that helped her to vote for the motion. Jan had been searching for days prior to the meeting to find out how new dancers felt about square dance costumes. Desiree synthesized everything into the following motion:

Ribbons & Souls moves to support and participate in the ASD marketing program so that we:

1. Have a Facebook presence
2. Have a Meetup presence
3. Have a NextDoor presence
4. Have 3 class start dates per year
5. Discourage using petticoats at dances and classes
6. Encourage and request that Callers obtain and use more recently composed music.

The motion passed unanimously, after everyone who wanted to express their opinions and feelings about clothing and music had the opportunity to do so. We can feel good about

ourselves in that we are far ahead of the curve regarding the motion, since we already have been doing #1-4.

Desiree took an abundance of photos for our website, which is already exciting; and promises to be even more so as she continues to develop it. Our domain name has changed once again, it is now: ribbonsandsouls.com.

In order to meet the Open Squares deadline, the executive board voted on the dance donation for the new year, rather than waiting for the next board meeting. If people have strong opinions about this in either direction, they are welcome to come to the next board meeting and be heard. The executive board felt this was a necessary increase, with 10 of the 11 members voting yes to increase the fee of dances from \$8 to \$10 with 1 abstention. Classes will remain the same at \$7. This request came initially from ASqD to all member clubs. The talks at National that I attended also suggested that we have fees that are more commensurate with what we offer and not diminish the activity by stressing how inexpensive it is to square dance. The clubs that dance at Wilkinson and the Honeycombers voted a month ago to increase their fees to \$10 starting in January. Wilkinson is in the same boat as we are, with Parks & Recreation increasing our hourly rate by \$8. Boots & Bows have not yet decided what they will do, however I have been in touch with the current president, Doug Purinton and former president, Mervis Reissig, both of whom strongly believe that it will not make any difference to their dancers who currently attend R&S dances if we do increase our fees to \$10, since \$2 is not going to matter to their "dedicated dancers".

Desiree and I met with Councilman Bonin's field representative about the parking situation. They agreed that on those few occasions when the lot at Iowa and Corinth is going to be unavailable for parking to let us know in advance. We made a couple of suggestions that they agreed to explore for alternate parking, both for us and for Jewish Family Services' vans, which do take over our lot on those occasions. Thus, at least we trust we will not be surprised in the future.

Jan is heading a very important committee which will be exploring other possible venues for our dances and classes. We do need people to volunteer to be on the committee. In the meeting we went into extensive detail conveying the reason we need to explore other venues.

We also need volunteers to fill the positions of president and treasurer for the Felicia Mahood Senior Club in order
(see **PRESIDENT** on page 3)

(PRESIDENT *Continued from page 2)*

to keep our status with the Federation. It could take as little as 4 hours a month. Nancy Howell is thankfully willing to be the President in order to save the club a rent increase we could not take on.

What a wonderful, exhilarating dance Mike Haworth called to 6 squares which included dancers from Valley Trailers, Buckles & Bows, Trailblazers, Farmers & Charmers, Western Weavers, and Guys & Dolls with a big contingency from both the Honeycombers and Boots & Bows. Let's return the favor by going to the South Bay clubs whenever we can; even when it is not a visitation. (*Check the calendar on the cover for the dates of the South Bay/Westside District dances. ~~Editor*)

We are very fortunate that Mike Sikorsky agreed to call our Anniversary Dance; since Deborah Carroll-Jones is having a hip replacement in January so needed to cancel.

On a lighter, more personal note, my son gave me his Apple Watch, so that I could track my activity level while dancing. I am pleased to note for Square Dancing alone, I am stepping from 2-3.5 miles a night. What could be better - fun for which we get aerobic exercise! The only thing I do not like about the watch is the scolding on the days that I don't dance. I prefer praise with encouragement – don't you.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays with family and/or friends and ample dancing during this festive season.



Yasue Harada 12/9
Nancy Howell 12/16
Dianne Atkins 12/17
Jean Lyon 12/24
Harvey Kamens 12/28

Member Update:

Suzanne Neubauer informs us that Kathy Lovelace is spending the month of December in Minnesota where one of her sons lives. If she likes it there, she will stay. She has her cell phone (310)-312-0410.



Just another lovely picture of Ruth Michaelson, Diane, Jan, Ruth Fisher, Michaelyn, Richard and Kinuyu.

ASSOCIATED SQUARE DANCERS



Jan Bartholemew,
A Square D Delegate



The A Square D General Meeting was held on November 17. Many issues were discussed, and information given out.

Regarding insurance for dancers, it costs \$4.60 per person to cover dancers for January 1 through December 31, 2020. This payment is due in mid-December to cover dances starting in January and February.

There are tax forms to file by January 31 for each caller whom we pay \$600 or more during 2019. There are other IRS forms to file in order for each club to keep its non-profit status. Discussions of tax information will be discussed at the General Meeting in February.

Nominations are being taken for joining the A Square D board and for a person to be in charge of insurance. We will vote on board members in the February General Meeting, and they will start their term of office in April.

We talked about the marketing plan for square dancing. We are marketing fun, social and health, but not petticoats, hats and boots, and large buckles. We need club fliers to reflect these priorities. We are asking callers to buy 2 pieces of music per year composed after 2010. We need more recent music at dances. We are marketing to the empty nesters. On club websites, we want class information to appear on the home page. We are encouraging clubs to start classes multiple (2 or 3) times per year. A Square D is asking each member club to sign a letter of commitment to the marketing plan. We will discuss at the General Meeting in February what should go into the letters of commitment.

Fliers were available on Google phone numbers, which A Square D suggests clubs use. By having a Google phone number for a position in the club, the same number continues as the people in this office change over time.

District reports told interesting information. The Valley/Ventura/Santa Barbara District will hold their Student Stomp on January 26. The Western Weavers will begin 2 class starts per year. In Orange County, the OC Fair

requests participants in a demonstration to wear square dance attire. We need to decide how to handle this. In the South Bay/Westside District, Shoreline Squares is a new member, and they dance on the 4th Saturday in Long Beach.

The A Square D Anniversary Ball was held on October 20. The number of dancers was about the same as for last year, with sales made for 138 dancers, and 152 people signed in including club presidents who got in for free.

The Sweetheart Ball will be held on Sunday, February 9, at the Hawthorne Memorial Center. Packets were passed out to the clubs, including ribbons for pre-sale at \$10, a form for our sweethearts (as yet unknown) to fill out by January 10, and poster board for making sweetheart posters to put up on the wall at the dance.

Our next A Square D General Meeting will be held on February 16, 2020.

On the Road Again... Visitations

Linda Harris



WHERE WE'VE BEEN

Five of us drove on the 405
Which on Saturday night was an easy drive.
The Valley Trailers' dance was lots of fun.
I'm sure it was enjoyed by everyone.

Attending were: Ruth Fisher, Linda Harris, Diane Isaacs, Kinuyo Levin and Richard Wu.

WHERE WE'RE GOING

We have no visitations for December. But consider supporting our district clubs and join the Honeycombers (no rounds club) at their December 2 dance with Phil Farmer. The Inglewood Guys & Dolls dance on Friday December 20 with Sylvester Nealon and Atlanta cuer Larry Johnson, rotating with James Caton on lines.

Kitchen Witches

*Julie DaVanzo
Amelia Kacena*



For our November 9 Veteran's Day dance a jello cake decorated as an American Flag was the centerpiece of refreshments of assorted vegetables, cheeses and crackers, cream puffs, chocolate cake, cheesecake, and assorted fruits prepared and beautifully laid out by **Kinu and Richard**.

Jan and Nancy T. presented pumpkin pie, apple pie, cookies, crackers, tangerines and grapes for the dancers at our November 23 Thanksgiving dance. They were assisted by Michaelyn.

For the November 30 dance, **Kat and Harvey** prepared egg salad sandwiches, cheese puffs, chips and dip, assorted

vegetables, assorted fruits, cookies and donuts for our eating pleasure during the break.

A very big thank you to all the above persons for volunteering to feed us at our November dances.

Lauren Friedman and Diane Isaacs will be serving refreshments at our December 14 dance; Kat'Ferson and John Rockford are scheduled for our December 28 dance.

Reminder: Dance kitchen signups are open for 2020. Please refer to the chart on page 6

Contact Julie (juliedavanzo@outlook.com) or Amelia (akacena@yahoo.com) to reserve your preferred dance date.



DESK AND KITCHEN DUTY 2020

<i>Date</i>	<i>Desk</i>	<i>Kitchen</i>	<i>Kitchen</i>	<i>Caller</i>	<i>Cuer</i>	<i>Theme</i>
1/11		Pamela Bailis	Past Presidents	Mike Sikorsky	Zena Beaulieu	Anniversary Dance
1/23*		Julie DaVanzo	Frank DaVanzo	Paul Waters	Jim Spence	Sing-a-Long
2/8		Amelia Kacena		Mike Sikorsky	Joe Scarlatella	Let Me Entertain You
2/22*		Diane Isaacs		Darren Gallina	Jim Spence	Superheroes
2/29		Amelia Kacena		Michael Kellogg	Judy Keller	Movie Themes
3/14		Marion Scholtz	Ken Scholtz	Dan Preedy	Judy Keller	St. Pat's Day
3/28*		Linda Harris	Ruth Michaelson	Dale Hoppers	David Moorhouse	Beatles
4/11		Shan Cretin	Emmett Keeler	Rod Shuping	Joe Scarlatella	Red/Black Taxes
4/25*				Dick Hodnefield	Judy Keller	Let a Smile Be Your Umbrella
5/9				Romney Tannehill	Judy Keller	Mother's Day
5/23*				Bill Gipson	David Moorhouse	Circus Time
5/30				Mike Haworth	Joe Scarlatella	Tiki Dance
6/13 (Nationals)		Diane Isaacs		David Mee	Dawn Mee	Flag Day
6/27*				Steve Woodard	David Moorhouse	Father's Day
7/11				Eric Henerlau	Joe Scarlatella	Favorite Team T
7/25*				Casey Parker	Sharon Parker	Travel T
8/8				Ken Bower	Joe Scarlatella	Fabulous 60's
8/22*				Darrell Newell	Carolyn Cook	Denim, Diamonds & Flair
8/29				Jon Jones	Joe Scarlatella	Roaring 20's
9/12				Andy Allemao	Judy Keller	Animal Companion
9/26*				Jim Smith	Judy Keller	Western Wear
10/10				Mike Hogan	Judy Keller	Elvis
10/24*				Scot Byars	Erin Byars	Crazy Hats
10/31				Johnny Preston	Joe Scarlatella	Halloween
11/14 (Indio)				Arlen Miller	David Moorhouse	Mickey Mouse
11/28*				Lawrence Johnstone	Joe Scarlatella	Big Band
12/12				Pat Carnathan	Judy Keller	Home for the Holidays
12/26	Dark					

* = Mainstream dance



Ben Stegall, Diane Isaacs, Frank & Julie DaVanzo, Judy Keller, Michaelyn Duboff, and Kinu Levin got into the swing of our wonderful Fabulous 50s dance called by Mike Haworth.



Steve Moore Joe Scarlatella

Squares: 7:30-10:00 pm
Happy Holidays PLUS DANCE
Rounds: 7-7:30 and between Tips
Donation: \$8.00

Ruth Fisher, President
310-470-1090

Saturday December 14, 2019

Felicia Mahood Hall
11338 Santa Monica Blvd LA 90025
3 Blks W of 405 Frwy

Free Parking after 5 pm, NW corner Corinth & Iowa
www.meetup.com/square-dance-in-west-la

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Ribbons & Souls

NEW YEARS DANCE

Jay Henderson

Judy Keller

Saturday December 28, 2019

Mainstream Dance

Squares: 7:30-10:00

Rounds: 7-7:30 and between Tips

Donation: \$8.00

Felicia Mahood Hall
11338 Santa Monica Blvd
Los Angeles 90025
3 Blks West of 405 Frwy
Park Free after 4:00 pm
NW corner Corinth & Iowa

Ribbons & Souls

RUTH FISHER PRESIDENT
310-470-1090

WWW.MEETUP.COM/SQUARE-DANCE-IN-WEST-LA

Ribbons & Souls NEW BEGINNINGS Plus Dance

MIKE SIKORSKY ZENA

1st ANNIVERSARY DANCE

Squares: 7:30-10:00

Rounds: 7-7:30 and between Tips

Continuous Light Buffet \$12.00

Saturday January 11, 2020

RUTH FISHER, PRESIDENT
310-470-1090

WWW.MEETUP.COM/SQUARE-DANCE-IN-WEST-LA

Felicia Mahood Hall
11338 Santa Monica Blvd
Los Angeles 90025
3 Blks West of 405 Frwy
Free Parking after 4:00 pm
NW corner Corinth & Iowa

Sing Along

Paul Waters

Jim Spence

Saturday January 25, 2020



Plus Dance

Squares: 7:30-10:00

Rounds: 7-7:30 and between Tips

Donation: \$10.00

Felicia Mahood Hall
11338 Santa Monica Blvd
Los Angeles 90025
3 Blks West of 405 Frwy
Free Parking after 4:00 pm
NW corner Corinth & Iowa

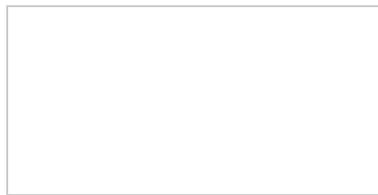
RUTH FISHER, PRESIDENT
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