



# REELERS REPORTER

Volume 1, Issue 2

December 2008

## From the Presidents

We would like to extend a huge thanks to all the officers and chairpeople at Reelers. The club would not run so smoothly, making the job of president so much easier, without all of them. Refreshments have been delicious at every dance. Raids have been well attended and fun. Classes have also been well attended, especially since we switched to a workshop format. Treasurers are keeping an eye on all the expenses.

These are the jobs that are most visible. But could we function without the scheduling of callers/cuers, publicity, and dance locations? Would we have organization and a sense of our past without secretary, delegate, and historian? Our club is very fortunate to have capable people working in all these positions. When you see these members, please take the time to say thank you! And when you are asked to help in any way, please say yes.

The Gathering was a wonderful experience shared with square dancers concerned about where our activity is heading. The workshops were excellent. We picked up so many great ideas that we are gradually trying to put into action. Read the summaries of the workshops attended by Reelers representatives and you will see the thoroughness of topics covered.

Remember the NNJSDA dances throughout the dancing season. The "One Square is Fair" will help us financially. And the social side of the dances is priceless.

As the holiday season kicks into full swing, please continue to support the Reelers. You will get food, fun, and fitness at a terrific price.

See you in a square!

Linda and Rick Murphy (rilimicy@optonline.net)

Inside this issue:

NNJSDA News 2  
From the Exec. Com.  
Craftsman Farms demo

Reelers "Retirees": 3  
Donaldson and Slaters  
Member News

Dance schedule 4  
Officers/contact info.  
Where in the World?

## Announcements!

★ **Holiday party:** We'll get together after the Dec. 19 dance at the Murphys' home (42 Lord Stirling Drive, Morristown 07960). Directions will be available at the dance. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre, dessert, or drink to share. Let's party!

★ **Plus workshops:** No workshop on Dec. 9. After Dec. 16, workshops resume on Jan. 6 from 7:30-9:30 at Ironia School with Fran Wadel at \$5 per session. Bring your friends!

★ **Delegates Meeting:** The NNJSDA is led by elected officers and delegates from each member club (Gay and

Bill Grier represent Reelers). Delegates and officers meet three times a year to discuss matters of interest to member clubs, always beginning with an education session. Only delegates can vote on NNJSDA business, but all are invited to attend. *Next meeting:* Sunday, Jan. 11 *Education session:* ABC dancing and its benefits for clubs *Speakers:* Barbara Kanter and Kathy Keener *When and where:* 1 PM, VFW, 6 Veterans Place, Elmwood Park, NJ 07407

★ **Campers dinner dance:** Several Reelers also belong to the Garden State Square Dance Campers Association, which is sponsoring a dinner dance this weekend.

The full course meal includes roast beef, chicken, wine, and beer. *Date:* Sunday, Dec. 7 *Location:* Brownstone House, 351 West Broadway, Paterson 07522 *Time:* 11 AM – 4 PM *Caller and Cuer:* Howard and Donna Williamson *Cost:* \$40 (cash or check payable to GSSDCA) *Reservations:* Call Inars and Jean Gruntals, 973-543-7792, by Saturday, Dec. 6.

★ **New address:** Ruth and Frank Pagano have moved to a new home in the same community. On your membership list, please change their street address to 32 Witherwood Drive.



## NNJSDA News

**Nine Reelers enjoyed the stimulation of discussion topics and a great evening dance at The Gathering 2008 on Saturday, Sept. 27 at Douglass College. Their reflections ...**

*Helen Jacobson* – I thought the idea of rotating “angels” was very practical. Perhaps an angel couple would volunteer for a month or two, not commit for the entire year. Rotating would keep the angels enthusiastic.

*Matty Sharkey* – Social, social, social! We must remember that. Yes, people come to dance, but more importantly, they’re looking for fellowship. We need to make everyone feel welcome and comfortable at our club. Dancers will return if they have had a good time, and will tell other clubs how much fun they had at ours. Our students must also be welcomed into the club as soon as possible. Perhaps once they have completed the Mainstream lessons, we should have alternating tips at our dances so they will be able to dance with our club and get to know our members. Overall, the sessions were excellent!

*Lise Greene* – We could consider how to target lessons to teenagers who are being home schooled, because it would fulfill their physical education requirement. Another strategy for classes would be to offer two dance programs on the same night. For example, in the fall we might have Basics from 7:00-8:30 and Mainstream from 8:30-10:00. In January, we could have Mainstream followed by Plus. That way, students won’t have to wait a whole year to begin, and those who learn more slowly can take a program over again before moving on.

*Rick and Linda Murphy* – Remember why we started dancing; for most of us it was the social atmosphere. • Everyone works together during a tip; smile – if you’re not having fun, even when you break down, you’re doing things wrong. • Socialize after the dance: Cheesecake at the diner, anyone? Once-a-month get-togethers? We can rotate the host house and invite non-dancing neighbors. When they get to know our square dance friends, they’ll be more inclined to join in ABC/friendship dances and lessons. • Send postcards and/or call people, especially new grads, who have not been to dances.

***Continued on p. 4***

## From the Executive Committee

### Vice Presidents

Because Ironia School is not available on Feb. 6, our dance will be held at Mt. Fern Church. As in the past, the church’s youth group will cook a delicious dinner prior to the dance as a fundraiser for their missions project. Details will be provided shortly.

*Dinner dance,  
raids, and  
refreshments*



Bonnie and Charlie Van Stone led a Reelers demo at Craftsman Farms Fall Harvest Family Day on Sept. 20.

*Arlene and Tom Simansky*

### Raids

Thanks to all of you who have participated in raids this season. We’ve had great turnouts at our raids to Lakeland Squares, Hix and

Chix, Kittatinny Rangers, and Western Wheelers. We have three more raids planned: Y Squares in Clark on Feb. 27 with Mark Franks, Mountain Squares in Whippany on March 4 with Joe Landi, and Cross Trail Squares in Caldwell on April 8 with Howard Richman. Save the dates! We’ll start reminding you about them in 2009.

*Jeanne and Inars Gruntals*

### Refreshments

Scheduling – Thanks to everyone who has signed up to take care of refreshments and also to those who have brought food for the dances. We have had a great-looking and well-decorated table with a big of variety of yummy food at all our dances, which helps make our events even more enjoyable for us and provides a nice welcome for our guests.

Just a reminder to those of you who have not yet signed up: All Reelers members are expected to sign up as refreshment hosts at two dances during the year, so if you have not yet done so, please sign up on the sheet that is on the re-

freshment table at each dance. It’s easy – it involves primarily bringing ice and two bottles of soda or juice, arriving at the dance by 7:30 to help set up the table and make the drinks, and cleaning up the table during the last tip. You will be given a written reminder before the dance detailing exactly what should be done. Thank you.

*Irene and Hal Stoller*

Supplies – The theme dances are a big success. The couples who are hosting have been decorating the table to correspond with our theme. Our members have also been bringing goodies that go along with the theme in some way. Please remember cookie night on Dec. 19!

The theme for our Feb. 6 dinner dance is “Where in the World?” Members can bring in pictures of places to which they’ve traveled, which will be posted on a board for others to guess the locations. Please limit photos to two per person or four per couple. Dancers are invited to wear outfits representing a

## Reelers “Retirees”

Inevitably our club membership changes as some people leave and others take their places. Last year, two longtime couples had to “retire” from dancing for health reasons.

We hope to see our dear friends at future social events. In the meantime, they can be contacted by e-mail: Marie and Jack Slater (forcmagnum@aol.com) and Erma and Bill Donaldson (ermabill@aol.com). They graciously provided the following information.

**Erma and Bill Donaldson** met during high school at a barn dance in Bill’s hometown, Marcella, NJ. In 1969-70 they were among the 16 couples who took modern western square dance lessons from Wilson Hoff, sponsored by the Reelers. Erma and Bill joined the club upon graduating and became leaders – vice presidents in charge of classes, presidents, and delegates to the NNJSDA for

“more years than we can remember.”

The Donaldsons and fellow graduates John and Laura Schoebel became square dance travel partners. They were the first Reelers to earn the NNJSDA Freeloader badge for attending all eight summer dances; the Patron badge for visiting most of the member clubs; and the Century Club badge for dancing to 100 different callers within three years.

Their best memories of square dancing are from being with people from many clubs and other areas, including at the National Conventions. They enjoyed a special Reelers raid with 10 couples to Keene, NH to visit a past club president’s new club. “The looks of non-dancers when we would stop for coffee-and after a dance, in our fancy outfits!” they recalled.

Erma and Bill have three daughters, three grandsons, and two granddaughters.

**Marie and Jack Slater** met at the end of their senior year in Dover High School, and have been married for 51 years. They enjoyed eastern style square dancing, wearing matching outfits to the dances. Then Bill Donaldson – the husband of Marie’s aunt Erma – heard about western square dancing. “The rest is history,” said Marie. The Slaters joined the Reelers after graduation in 1970 and became involved in leadership as presidents and treasurers (several terms).

The best part about square dancing for the Slaters was meeting wonderful people, many of whom they still keep in touch with. They also liked going to conventions and seminars and dancing to great callers. “You can go anywhere in the USA and Europe and square dance,” said Marie. “Language is no barrier.”

The Slaters have four children and two granddaughters who are “the apples of our eyes.”

*“You can go anywhere in the USA and Europe and square dance. Language is no barrier.”*  
- Marie Slater

## Member News

**Linda and Wes Jacobus** are the adoring first-time grandparents of a beautiful little girl named Alabama. After taking early retirement in the spring, Linda moved to their new house in South Carolina. Wes is handling the sale of their New Jersey home. “We would love to see our Reelers friends if they get close to Charlotte,” said Linda (linda\_jacobus@hotmail.com).

**Early retirement is catching!** Irene Stoller and Nancy Caufield have also joined the ranks. Congratulations!

**Harry Graveman**, a long-time member, died in early September of complications from internal bleeding. We have missed his excellent dancing and wry humor.

**Joan Anfinen** had two knee replacements at the end of July and is already 75% recovered. She had hoped the knee surgeries would alleviate her back pain, but unfortunately she still requires a back brace to be on her feet for long periods. “If it were just my knees, I’d be dancing again!” said Joan. She’s faithfully doing physical therapy exercises at home.

**Alberta Van Luvender** had successful surgery in the summer to reattach a detached retina in one eye. However, the surgery made an existing cataract problem worse, so the cataract was removed two weeks ago. “I can see better than in months,” she reported. **Harry** is still dealing with a condition (bursitis or sci-

atica) that makes walking and dancing difficult. The Van Luvenders are going to Florida after Christmas.

**Frank Pagano** slipped on some ice and broke his ankle while golfing on Black Friday. Although the break didn’t require a walking cast, it’s still too painful to walk. “This will put me out of commission for probably four or five weeks, not including therapy,” said Frank. What a way to end the golf season!

**Mark Bippes** flew to Belize on Thanksgiving to spend a week building a house for needy young girls.

**Have news to share?** Let Lise Greene know for the next newsletter.



*What are Greg and MaryJane Roome looking at, anyway?*



## Reelers Square Dance Club

Ironia Elementary School  
303 Dover-Chester Road (Route 513)  
Randolph, NJ 07869

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We're on the web!  
[www.reelers.nnjdsda.org](http://www.reelers.nnjdsda.org)

*Member of Northern New Jersey  
Square Dancers Association*



1st & 3rd Fridays  
Early Rounds 7:30, Plus and Rounds 8:00-10:20  
Cell for dance night: 201-572-5073

### 2008-2009 Dance Schedule

*RD Cuer: Mary Pickett unless noted*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller</u>	<u>Theme</u>
12/19	Mike Jacobs	Cookie Night
01/16	Dennis Reardon	Everyone's Birthday
02/06*	Jim Snyder	Where in the World?
02/20	Mark Franks	Pie Night
03/06	Betsy Gotta (cuer: Roy Gotta)	Green Night
03/20	Roy Leber	Spring Fling
04/03	Dennis Reardon	Play Ball!
04/17	Joe Landi	Black Friday
05/01	Mark Franks	Cinco de Mayo
05/15	Len Anfinson	Ice Cream Social
06/05	John Kaltenthaler	Potluck Supper

\*Mt. Fern Methodist Church, 443 Quaker Church Road,  
Randolph 07869-1399 at intersection of Dover-Chester Road  
(Route 513) - dinner planned before dance - details later!

### Reelers Officers/Committee Chairs 2008-2009

<b>President:</b> Linda and Rick Murphy	973-539-9315
<b>VP:</b> Arlene and Tom Simansky	973-984-0009
<b>Secretary:</b> Lise Greene	973-663-4396
<b>Treasurer:</b> Mark Bippes	973-476-8844
Nancy Caufield	973-537-8021
Jim Anderson	615-830-8448
<b>Class:</b> Bonnie and Charlie Van Stone	908-832-5313
<b>Delegate:</b> Gay and Bill Grier	973-543-9698
<b>Historian:</b> Ruth and Frank Pagano	973-827-3134
<b>Program:</b> Mary Jane and Greg Roome	973-543-4109
<b>Publicity:</b> Avyrl and Bear Brady	973-347-1675
<b>Raids:</b> Jean and Inars Gruntals	973-543-7792
<b>Refreshments:</b>	
Irene and Hal Stoller (Schedule)	973-744-1969
Matty and Bernie Sharkey (Supplies)	908-852-7931

## Where in the World?



Sandstone homes in  
Cappadocia, Turkey

*Reelers members  
are avid travelers,  
and we'll feature  
some of their jour-  
neys in each news-  
letter.*

**"Tour of Turkey"**  
by Ruth and  
Frank  
Pagano

Recently, we took a 15-day land tour of Turkey and visited Istanbul, Ephesus, Cappadocia, Troy, Ankara, the Bosphorus Sea, Pergamum (where we saw the house where John the Evangelist and Mary lived), and Gallipoli. I am sure most of you recognize the names of some of these Biblical sites.

Turkey was a much more prosperous and friendly country than we had imagined. It is a secular state, even though the citizens are more than 99% Muslim.

Cappadocia was one of the most interesting places we have ever visited (see photo on left). Some people still live in the sandstone homes pictured, which were carved out of the mountainside with very basic tools. The government has offered the residents a free apartment, but they refuse. It's cheaper not to pay the taxes and they are happy where they are.

### ***NNJSDA - continued from p. 2***

- Work together on lessons with other clubs rather than competing.
- Adopt-a-library: Create book-marks to advertise the club and ask local libraries to make them available for patrons.
- Make a calendar and include club contact info on the back.

## **Contribute to Reelers Reporter**

This is the **club's newsletter** and all ideas for articles are welcome. Please send information, suggestions, and photos to Lise Greene at [lise.greene@montclair.edu](mailto:lise.greene@montclair.edu).