



REELERS REPORTER

Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2010

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From the Presidents

The sun has broken through the snow clouds as we sit down to write. What pleasure it brings after two days of snow and 12+ inches across the area! By the time we are reading this newsletter, the snow (hopefully) will be melting into memory. Spring is just around the corner....

Isn't it amazing what a bit of sunshine can do? Energy grabs hold of us and plans start popping into our heads, including all sorts of possibilities for square dance weekends:

- 59th National Square Dance Convention: June 23-26 in Louisville, KY. Information: www.59nsda.com
- 17th Canadian National Square and Round Dance Convention: July 29-31 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Information: www.chebucto.ns.ca/Culture/SRDFNS/Con2010/Welcome.htm or rwvjbrown@eastlink.ca
- 19th Annual Summer Sizzler: August 20-21 in York, PA. Callers: Bill Harrison, Tony Oxendine. Cuers: Linda and Dan Prosser. Information: Billharrisonwdh@aol.com (240-681-3647, 10518 Nast Drive, Cheltenham, MD 20623)
- Summer Magic 2010: August 27-29 in Cornwall, Ontario. Callers: Jerry Jestin, Steve Kopman, Tim Marriner, Don Moger, Johnny Preston. Cuers: Jerry and Bonnie Callen. Information: avena@videotron.ca (Montreal Acey Deuceys)

The other energy that we hope is grabbing hold is how each of us can keep our club successful, strong, and alive. To that end we have a nominating committee to fill positions available for the 2010-2011 dance season. What we have found so uplifting at the Reelers club is that many hands do indeed make the work light. Please consider helping to continue that winning attitude. When a member of the committee approaches with an invitation to step up to a position, please listen attentively to what is being asked – and give serious thought as to how this one or another position may fit your outlook.

Linda and Rick Murphy (rilimicy@optonline.net)

Announcements!

★ **Dance updates:** When the weather looks iffy, please check your email to see if a dance has been canceled. We call those few members not on line, but rely on the ease of email to communicate with most of the club.

★ **Girl Scout Demo:** Join us at a Girl Scout event on Sunday, March 7 from 2-4 PM at St. Lawrence Church, 375 Main Street, Chester 07930. Let Bonnie and Charlie Van Stone know if you can make it; please arrive by 1:45.

★ **Heath Village Demo:** The demo on Feb. 12, called by John Kaltenthaler, was well attended by Reelers and

Kittatinny Rangers. Former dancers Helene and Jack Nichols, who are residents of the Village, were happy to see everyone and dance a bit.

★ **CCM Demo:** We've been invited to participate in a Freedom Festival parade on Saturday, July 3 from Mt. Fern Church to the County College of Morris, where we'll do a short demo. At least one full square is needed. Please tell Helen Jacobson if you can come.

★ **Holiday party:** In place of our usual party following the last dance of the year, we had a club party on Sunday, Dec. 13 at the Murphys' home. The food was delicious – Linda and Rick's homemade

soup (three kinds!) with appetizers and desserts provided by other members.

★ **Reelers jacket:** Sporty black nylon, zipper, hood, lined, water resistant, interior and exterior pockets, embroidered with Reelers logo in red/white (left chest). Price: \$45. Your name embroidered in white (right chest): \$3.50. Helen Jacobson will have order forms and samples at the March 5 and 19 dances for size selection. Order deadline: March 26. Checks to: Satin Stitch Embroidery.



As we enter baseball season:

"I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me."



Editors Needed – The *Grand Square* editors are retiring after 10 years at the helm of the magazine. If you enjoy writing, editing, or layout and are comfortable working via computer, please contact the editors or NNJSDA presidents (page 2 of *Grand Square*) to discuss being on the new editorial team.

Grand Square Benefit Dance – Don't forget to buy your ticket for the Sunday, April 25 dance: \$7 in advance, \$8 after April 15. Joe Landi and Mary Pickett are donating their services as caller and cuer; proceeds will be used to support our excellent magazine. (The next issue will be distributed at the Delegates Meeting earlier that day.) Purchase tickets from Delegates Gay and Bill Grier or from Jan Thompson; see cover of *Grand Square* for details.

Poster/Flyer Contest – The deadline has been extended to March 12. Your winning entry could be the cover of the September *Grand Square!* See page 5 of the current issue for submission details.

NJPAC – The registration deadline has been moved up to March 12 for the 6th annual partnership with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center on Saturday, April 17 – 3:15 barbecue, 4:30 square dancing with Dan Koft, 5:45 live national radio broadcast of Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion." Tickets are 10% off the list price and include all three events, plus parking. Download a flyer and registration form from the website (www.nnjsda.org/phc_flyer.pdf).

Rockaway Dance – A new hall will be tried for the Friday, April 30 dance with Bill Mager (CT) and Russ Booz (PA). Location: First Presbyterian Church, 35 Church Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866.

Special Dance! – Ken Bower (CA) will call an *all-Plus* dance with Star Tips (Plus DBD or Advanced) on Saturday, May 15 in Caldwell. Mary Pickett will cue, including half an hour of early rounds.

The Gathering – Helen Jacobson is a member of the committee planning this afternoon and evening event on Saturday, October 9 at Douglass College (Rutgers), New Brunswick. Themed "Evolve, Or Die," it will feature a keynote address by John Marshall and breakout sessions on topics relevant to club leadership, followed by an evening dance called by John Marshall and cued by Mary Pickett. Tickets (ribbons) for the entire event: \$15. Gourmet sandwich buffet (optional): \$10.

Calendars – The NNJSDA calendar is planned three years in advance. Currently, dances are held on various fifth Fridays and Saturdays, resulting in unevenly spaced events ranging from three weeks to three months apart. Beginning in 2013, the NNJSDA will switch to a regular schedule of the first Saturday of the month – except July (conflicts with National Convention and 4th of July holiday) and November (Mini-Fest is the second Sunday of that month). First Saturdays are not used by any member club, and the new schedule will ensure 11 evenly spaced dances annually.

Website – Check NNJSDA.org for special events and other clubs' dances.

From the Executive Committee

Vice President: Arlene and Tom Simansky have booked the Zeris Inn (Route 46, Mountain Lakes) for the Reelers 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance. *Date:* Sunday, April 10, 2011. *Time:* 12:00 cash bar (with free cheese, crackers, vegetable dip); 12:30-4:30 dinner and dancing. *Caller:* Tom Miller. *Cuer:* Mary Pickett. *Meal:* penne vodka appetizer, tossed salad, choice of entrée (chicken marsala, salmon, or beef), broccoli, stuffed baked potato, soda, coffee, tea, anniversary cake, ice cream. *Fee:* \$40 per person. Thanks to Arlene and Linda Murphy for scouting out a great facility!

Historian: Ruth and Frank Pagano would appreciate receiving photos and articles from the past few years for inclusion in the club's scrapbook. The historical information will be used in planning the 50th anniversary celebration. Please label all photos on the back to identify the people, place, and event.

Treasurer: Mark Bippes reports that there has been a profit on each dance in the first half of this season.

Class Coordinator: Bonnie and Charlie Van Stone report that the free introductory square dance with Fran Wadel on Tuesday, Jan. 19 was great with five new couples present at the Ralston Firehouse. Our attempts to start classes at the YMCA and Mt. Olive Community School did not work out at this time, but may be reconsidered.

Refreshments: From Irene and Hal Stoller: "We are all set with our refreshment schedule for the rest of the year, thanks to all who stepped forward to sign up for your two turns. Our club is growing, which helps in many ways, including limiting the number of times we each must do refreshments. We decided that our new members do not have to take a turn this year since we have enough prior members to fill the schedule. As usual, if

everybody can continue to bring some kind of contribution to the refreshment table at each dance, it makes for varied and delicious treats to enjoy between tips."

Raids: Jean and Inars Gruntals thank everyone for helping with the raid program. Our last raids of the season will be to Bee Sharps on March 26 (Mark Franks/Dave Roberts) and Kittatinny Rangers on April 9 (Dennis Reardon). Note the change in Kittatinny's location that evening to Halsted School, 59 Halsted Street, Newton. We appreciate your support!

Program Chair: Mary Jane and Greg Roome request suggestions for callers and cuers in 2012-2013. Please let them know when and where they can dance to the suggested callers before contracting with them.

Delegate: Gay and Bill Grier report that on March 19, the NNJSDA Executive Board will "raid" us in appreciation for our completing One Square is Fair in 2009. The Reelers are responsible for refreshments at the Saturday, Oct. 30 dance in Caldwell. Other NNJSDA news is reported above.

Ruth and Frank Pagano

Two families lived on the same street in Haledon, NJ, and each had a two-year-old. The families did not know each other and soon both moved away. When the toddlers became teenagers, each of them enjoyed eastern square dancing. The boy also played football for Hawthorne High School and the girl was in the color guard for Passaic Valley High. The schools competed in football games, but young Frank and Ruth never met. Until ...

Ruth graduated from Sherwood Secretarial School and worked for Kearfott Company. Frank was going to New Jersey Institute for Technology in the evenings while working as a technical writer for Kearfott. He often needed information on various files from Ruth. "We started having lunch together in the park across the street from the company," she recalled.

After Frank graduated with a degree in chemical engineering, he entered an engineering training program with General Electric. The young couple married, honeymooned in the Poconos, and then continued on to Cincinnati with everything they owned in Frank's car. GE then transferred Frank to Syracuse, where they lived for five years and had two sons. The next move was to Schenectady, where their third son was born.

Frank's boss invited them to take square dance lessons at the club where he and his wife belonged. They knew about western square dancing from Ruth's brother and his wife, who were members of Cross Trail Squares, and thought it would be a good way to make friends.

The Paganos joined the Electric City Twirlers in 1961, and attended a joint dance with several clubs. "Dick Jones was the caller and we had a wonderful time," said Ruth. They also square danced on television a couple of times. "Everything went well until the people started clapping and we could not hear the caller – and our square disintegrated!" After five years, the activities of their three young sons took precedence over dancing.

Frank left GE to help start a company involved in space simulation. He also co-authored a book on vacuum technology, which was used as a textbook for graduate students until a few years ago. After the company was sold, he worked in the environmental sciences in Reston, Virginia.

The Paganos moved back to New Jersey when Frank took a position as division manager at Nuclear Research in Dover while obtaining his MBA at Rutgers.

When their oldest son went to college, Ruth started working full time as a transportation specialist for the school system. She also started college in the evenings at age 40. After 10 years, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, majoring in accounting. During five of those years, she worked as a buyer for Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, which provided free tuition for both Ruth and their youngest son. After graduating, Ruth spent 15 years as a Weichert real estate agent.



Frank and Ruth also made time for refresher lessons with Wilson Hoff through the Reelers, and joined the club in 1983. They knew that, once again, square dancing would be a good way to make friends. They also jumped right in to club leadership.

First they were raid chairs, and Ruth bought the club's first raid outfits. They also served as secretaries, refreshment chairs, program chairs, and presidents, holding most of the positions more than once. The Paganos are currently the club's historians. "We have never been without a position since we first started," said Ruth. "I feel the more you put into the club, the more you get out of it."

The Paganos have many other interests as well. Ruth was a Sunday School teacher for 15 years and worked with Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts for many years. Frank volunteered his time doing taxes for AARP and is currently involved in remediation for the county court system. He also enjoys mind puzzles – and, of course, reliving his high school days by watching football.

Both of them like golfing, reading, and playing bridge; when they moved to

Hamburg, NJ, Ruth started a bridge group and a book club. Frank takes an annual fishing trip to Canada with their sons, and both Paganos have traveled extensively all over the world.

"One of our most exciting trips was to Russia in 1984, during the Cold War. We were able to get into the country with the American Wives Club of The Hague because our son and his wife were living in Holland at that time. When the plane took off to return home, everyone started clapping in relief. We could tell many stories about that trip!"

On 9/11, the Paganos' middle son was on the 83rd floor of the World Trade Center. He was able to exit and was only a block away when the building collapsed. Shortly thereafter, Frank and Ruth went to Egypt to meet their oldest son and his family, who were then living in Brussels. Tensions were high, and an armored guard accompanied their rental car. As they approached Alexandria, they were escorted by two trucks – one in front of the car and one behind with blue lights flashing – each with six soldiers holding rifles.

On another trip, they were challenged by the weather during a cruise around Cape Horn. "There were winds of 90 miles per hour and gigantic waves. The captain kept announcing that we were experiencing 'extreme conditions.' That was obvious when the spray from the waves washed into the balcony on the eighth floor!"

The Paganos' oldest son now lives in Virginia and works for Exxon Mobil; his daughters are studying medicine and engineering. Son #2 lives in London and is a partner with Deloitte Touche; his daughter is studying medicine and his son will enter the Air Force as an officer after graduating from college this year. Son #3 lives in New Jersey and works for Pathmark.

Ruth's favorite saying: "You are responsible for making yourself happy." Frank's: "If you're going to do it, just do it." (He said it before Nike, according to Ruth.) So what was the happiest thing they *just did*? "Marry Frank and have our three sons," said Ruth. "And Frank says the best thing he ever did was marry me. (He'd better!)"

But square dancing is also a high point of their lives together. "We still visit someone we took lessons with over 49 years ago. Square dancing has brought us many years of pleasure and exercise," reflected Ruth. "And food," added Frank.

Reelers Square Dance Club

Ironia Elementary School
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We're on the web!
www.reelers.njdsda.org

Member of Northern New Jersey
Square Dancers Association



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

2010 Dance Schedule

RD Cues: *Mary Pickett (except as noted)*

Date	Caller	Theme
03/19	Mark Franks	Franks and Beans
04/16	Jim Snyder	Going Nuts
05/07	Roy Leber/Dave Roberts	Ice Cream Social
05/21	Dennis Reardon	Vacation Tees
06/04	Joe Landi	Potluck Supper
09/17	Fran Wadel	Welcome Back Reunion
10/01	Glenn Matthew	African Safari Adventure
10/15	Jim Snyder	Fall Fruit Festival
11/05	Joe Landi	Guess Who? (bring photos!)
11/19	D. Reardon/K. Kushla	Thanksgiving Food Drive
12/03	Len Anfinson	Cruise-Wear Night
12/17	Glenn Matthew	Winter Wonderland

Email will be sent if dance location changes.

Reelers Officers/Committee Chairs 2009-2010

President: Linda and Rick Murphy	973-539-9315
Vice President: Arlene and Tom Simansky	973-984-0009
Secretary: Lise Greene	973-663-4396
Treasurer: Mark Bippes	973-476-8844
Nancy Caufield and Jim Anderson	862-397-4034
Class: Bonnie and Charlie Van Stone	908-832-5313
Delegate: Gay and Bill Grier	973-543-9698
Historian: Ruth and Frank Pagano	973-827-3134
Program: Mary Jane and Greg Roome	973-543-4109
Publicity: Avryl and Bear Brady	973-347-1675
Raids: Jean and Inars Gruntals	973-543-7792
Refreshments:	
Irene and Hal Stoller (Schedule)	973-744-1969
Matty and Bernie Sharkey (Supplies)	908-852-7931

Where in the World?

Reelers are avid travelers, and their journeys are featured in each newsletter.



Dallying in the Dominican Republic

Mark and I spent a wonderful week in the Dominican Republic last March. While a snowstorm blasted New Jersey, we were blissfully swimming, sailing, riding horses, snorkeling (see Mark to right), seeing waterfalls, taking a safari jeep through the mountains, grinding coffee beans direct from the tree, hiking, reading, and eating delicious local food.



We stayed at the Albatros, a timeshare resort on the south coast in Juan Dolio. It was fun taking the local bus to the nearest city to shop for food and see the sights. (A man on the bus was holding his pet rooster on his lap.) I got to practice my Spanglish because almost no one spoke English.



Just mix some fresh fish and papaya smoothies with sunshine, warm water, flowers, palm trees, and exotic fruits to create an earthly paradise!

Lise Greene

Member News

- Welcome back to the dance floor, *Ruth and Earl Philhower!* It was great to see you at the February 19 dance after such a long absence.

- Lots of get-well wishes to *Nancy Hayden, Sue Wright, John Baxter, Ed Proskey, and Joan Anfinson.* We look forward to squaring up with all of you (and your spouses) soon!

- Please note the following new email addresses:

David Vnenchak
davevnen3039@yahoo.com

Ruth and Frank Pagano
pag1060@msn.com