

# Reelers Square Dance Club



# REELERS REPORTER

Volume 3, Issue 1

September 2010

## From the Presidents

Welcome to Fall – *cooler* temperatures and, of course, square dancing! We hope everyone had a happy and relaxing summer. We have a fun year planned with great new themes, raids, a terrific lineup of callers, and a *permanent* location! That’s right . . . we are officially back home at Ironia Elementary School for at least the 2010-2011 season. Our season kicks off with an Introductory Dance on Friday, September 17 with Fran Wadel calling and our wonderful club cuer, Mary Pickett, on rounds. Please encourage your friends to join us for that evening at no charge and give square dancing a try during special tips for non-dancers.

One of the changes the Board decided upon at the last meeting was to give Ironia School a monetary gift twice a year as appreciation for our using their facilities at no charge. Previously, we gave a scholarship to a deserving Randolph High School senior. However, Board members felt that Ironia School should receive this gift as they have been our hosts for more than 40 years. In light of all of the cutbacks made in education recently, our monetary gift was (and will be) much appreciated. This money comes from the 50/50 we have at every dance, so please support this win/win cause just as you have always supported our food pantry collections.

Another change the Board made was to conduct a Mainstream class this Fall rather than a Plus class. We’ll need to get the word out quickly, so if you know of anyone with an interest in square dancing, please send them or take them to our Tuesday night class from 7:30 to 9:30. Our own Mike Patrick is the teacher *and* we’ll be back at Ironia School for our classes as well!!!

We have always been proud members of the Reelers and rave about our club’s strengths when talking to new and other dancers. There are many reasons for this: the caliber of our dancers, the great callers and cuers we attract, the Friday dance night, the hardworking members who give so unselfishly of their time and talents, and the friendliness of our members. We can always count on Reelers to welcome new members, new dancers, and newcomers into our squares. Thank you all for helping our club stay so energetic.

We can’t wait to see all of your friendly faces at our first dance of the season!

*Av and Bear Brady (anyril.brady1@verizon.net)*

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*The Pessimist complains about the wind; the Optimist expects it to change; the Realist adjusts the sails.*

## Announcements!

★ **Mainstream class:** Tell your friends and post notices!

- Tuesdays beginning Sept. 21
- 7:30 to 9:30 PM
- Ironia Elementary School,
- Teacher: Michael Patrick
- First class free with no obligation to continue
- \$50 per person for complete program of 10 classes
- Singles and couples welcome
- Casual dress
- Snacks
- Info: Bonnie and Charlie Van Stone (908-832-5313)

### ★ **Free introductory dance:**

Our first dance of the season will be held on Friday, Sept. 17 and will include several introductory tips – dress is casual and guests are free! Bring your friends and neighbors (singles and couples) to Ironia School at 8:00 to try out the activity you’ve been raving about. They’ll learn some basic square dance moves, enjoy refreshments, and have a chance to see you dancing Plus. Fran Wadel will call and Mary Pickett will cue rounds beginning 7:30.

### ★ **Reelers jackets and caps:**

It’s not too late to order a snazzy 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. Reelers logo cap: \$12. To order: See Helen Jacobson.



**The Gathering** – Helen Jacobson is a member of the committee planning this afternoon and evening event on Saturday, Oct. 9 at Douglass College (Rutgers), New Brunswick. Theme: “Evolve ... and Thrive!” Noon keynote address: Caller John Marshall from Virginia. 4 breakout sessions: Receive and share ideas on how clubs can succeed. Evening dance: John Marshall (VA) and Mary Pickett (NJ). Tickets/ribbons: \$15 for entire event. Gourmet sandwich dinner buffet: \$10 (optional). BONUS! Attend the afternoon seminars and receive an attractive red tote bag designed to encourage passersby to ask you about square dancing. To register and see a list of speakers and topics: Pick up flyers, check *Grand Square*, or visit [www.thegathering.nnjsda.org](http://www.thegathering.nnjsda.org).

**Mini-Festival** – Save the date: Sunday, Nov. 14 is the annual Mini-Festival in Bridgewater from 2-9 PM. Callers: Jerry Story (NC), Glenn Matthew (DE), Ken Ritucci (MA). Cuer: Roy Gotta (NJ). Fee: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Star Promenade Square Dance Shop on site. See flyers, *Grand Square*, or [www.minifestival.nnjsda.org](http://www.minifestival.nnjsda.org) to register.

**Grand Square Editor** – Our own Chris Patrick is the new *Grand Square* editor. She and her team produced a great September issue!

**Patron** – Dance at 13 NNJSDA member clubs and have the form signed to earn a free ticket to the next Mini-Festival. There’s no time limit. Form: [www.nnjsda.org/nnjsda\\_documents](http://www.nnjsda.org/nnjsda_documents).

**Special Plus Dance** – The Association’s second All-Plus and Rounds Special dance will be held next May 21 with Larry Shipman from Mississippi calling. There will also be Star tips (Plus DBD and Advanced) and round dancing.

**Square Dance License Plates** – Publicize your love of square dancing by getting square dance license plates. The attractive plates feature a dancing couple on a beige background with the vertical letters “S D.” You will be assigned a four-digit number (requests cannot be taken for specific numbers). There is a one-time fee of \$30 for these affiliation plates. Application forms are available at NNJSDA dances or by calling Rich Delgado at 609-844-1140.

**Youth and Minority Dancers** – If you would like to be on a committee to develop ideas for attracting more youth and minority dancers, please contact NNJSDA Co-President Lise Greene.

**NNJSDA Website** – [www.NNJSDA.org](http://www.NNJSDA.org)

## From the Executive Committee

**Vice President:** For the Reelers 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance, Arlene and Tom Simansky have booked the Zeris Inn (342 Route 46 East, Mountain Lakes 07046). *Date:* Sunday, April 10, 2011. *Time:* 12:00 cash bar (with free cheese, crackers, vegetables, dip); 12:30 to 4:30 dinner and dancing. *Caller:* Tom Miller. *Cuer:* Mary Pickett. *Meal:* penne vodka appetizer, tossed salad, choice of entrée (chicken marsala, salmon, prime rib), broccoli, stuffed baked potato, soda, coffee, tea, anniversary cake, ice cream. *Fee:* \$40 per person.

**Delegate:** At the Delegates meeting on Sunday, Sept. 12 at the VFW in Elmwood Park, Ron Kapnick (president of Callers Council of NJ) will give a half-hour presentation on promoting square dancing for school aged children. Everyone is invited to attend at 2:00, prior to the All-Mainstream Special dance at 3:00 (Dave Hass, CT). Gay and Bill Grier

remind everyone that the Reelers are responsible for refreshments at the Saturday, Oct. 30 MS/PL/RD dance in Caldwell (Butch Adams, VA and Jane Styer, PA). Other NNJSDA news is reported above.

**Raids:** Vicky and Ed Proskey started the new Raid program at Hix & Chix in August. Upcoming raids in 2010: Friday, Sept. 10 - Bee Sharps, Wednesday, Oct. 27 - Cross Trail Squares, Saturday, Nov. 13 - Western Wheelers, Thursday, Dec. 9 - Y Squares.

**Refreshments:** Irene and Hal Stoller ask all members to sign up at the next dance for hosting the refreshment table twice during the coming season. Thanks.

**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.

## My Summer Adventures in Rwanda - by Helen Jacobson

This summer I had the privilege of traveling to Rwanda, in east Africa, to teach and implement a health curriculum in some villages. Most of my time was spent teaching teachers, so that they could then enlighten their students.

These teachers were fabulous women. The majority of them were widows from the genocide Rwanda suffered in 1994. They taught in difficult conditions, without electricity or running water in the village schools. They were trying so hard to help the young people in their communities. I will never forget them.

My other highlights were a fascinating safari and having lunch at Hotel Rwanda. The hotel has been restored since horrific holocaust events occurred there. (Maybe you saw the movie “Hotel Rwanda”?)

One day, I kicked a soccer ball around with some children in their schoolyard. They had made their ball out of banana leaves and clay from the dirt roads, and then wrapped it with twine. They did not seem to care that it was not a regulation soccer ball. It was the most special soccer game that I have ever played.

I returned with new perspectives, having experienced life in a developing country that is still recovering from chaos and mass murder. I am happy to be home, but part of my heart is still in Rwanda.

## Avyrl and Charles Brady

- by Lise Greene

I asked a simple question: “How did you meet each other?” And got an unexpectedly private answer: “At a motel!”

This was followed by laughter and an explanation from Avyrl: “Bear’s sister and brother-in-law owned a motel in Wildwood and hired Bear to be the short-order cook for their coffee shop. I badly needed a job during my college summer break and was hired as one of the waitresses. The rest is history!”

Charles’ nickname is a part of that history, too. “I had more hair then, including a Fu Manchu mustache and a hairy chest under a sleeveless T-shirt,” he said. “Av thought I looked like a furry bear, so she gave me the nickname.” Avyrl’s name came from her mother liking the sound of the French word for the month of April.

Av’s life started in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Bear’s early years were spent in Chicago before his family moved to Cedar Grove and West Orange, New Jersey. Bear was a printer for most of his working life, retiring from Novartis last year.

Av earned a bachelor of science in psychology from Centenary College. Her career took her from title insurance to real estate, where she is currently an agent and home stager. “And yes ... I use my psychology degree *every* day in real estate!” she said.

While living in Parsippany in the late 1970s, the Bradys had friends

who “talked and raved” about square dancing. Av – who admits to getting bored easily and is not a television fan – thought they needed to get out and do something new, so they tried square dancing. Both enjoyed it, and they joined Lakeland Squares.

“Back then, we danced three nights a week to packed halls with all age groups,” they recalled. “It was great!” After their second daughter was born and they moved to Stanhope, they took a 25-year hiatus from square dancing.



“Couples can drift apart in their interests after the kids grow up,” Av reflected. “We needed some activity to bring us back together again.” At church one day, Av noticed Paula Lawrence (of Mountain Squares) wearing what appeared to be a square dance skirt. Paula directed the Bradys to the Reelers, where they began with Mainstream lessons again.

“Just like riding a bike and typing, it all comes back to you,” they said. “It was the best decision we ever made to keep us together.”

Following Plus graduation, they joined the Reelers due to the club’s proximity to their home, the level

and caliber of the club and its dancers, the dance night, and the friendliness of the members. They have served as class coordinators (two years), publicity chairs (two years), and president (three months so far!).

Av’s most memorable (?) dancing experience was being swung and twirled right out of the square back in 1982. “I was about seven months pregnant and my balance was off ... or was I off-balance?” she wondered.

The Bradys love living on Lake Lackawanna. “It’s like having a science project in my own backyard every day!” said Av.

They have two daughters, Emily who is married and Becky who lives at home. Their house is also shared with three cats (Felix 17, CallieCat 4, and Oscar 3) and Av’s father, who is 92. Emily has blessed them with three grandkitties and one grandpuppy.

Av and Bear enjoy kayaking, gardening, cooking, reading, skiing, hiking, and playing games with the family. Bear is a deacon in his church and Av plays the organ in her church.

Bear, who said the best thing he ever did was to marry Av (she claims to have paid him to say that), shared his favorite words of wisdom: “This is the day the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Av’s motto: “Life is short. Enjoy it.”

They agree that square dancing has truly enriched their lives with fun, friendship, and activity and has kept them young. “It sounds corny, but it’s so true and we are blessed to be part of the Reelers ... the *best* club out there!!”

## Reelers Square Dance Club

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

Editor: Lise Greene  
133 New Jersey Avenue  
Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849  
Phone: 973-663-4396  
Email: lise.greene@montclair.edu

We're on the web!  
[www.reelers.njnsda.org](http://www.reelers.njnsda.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: 201-317-0073

### 2010-11 Dance Schedule

RD Cuer: Mary Pickett (except as noted)

Date	Caller	Theme
09/17	Fran Wadel	Introductory Dance
10/01	Glenn Matthew	African Safari
10/15	Jim Snyder	Fall Fruit Festival
11/05*	Joe Landi	Guess Who? (bring photos!)
11/19	Dennis Reardon/Karen Kushla	Thanks. Food Drive
12/03	Len Anfinson	Cruise-Wear
12/17	Glenn Matthew	Cookies
01/07	Roy Leber	Baubles/Bangles/Beads
01/21	Jim Snyder/Karen Kushla	Chocolate Delight
02/04	Dennis Reardon	Super Bowl Party
02/18	Mark Franks	Pie and Presidents

\*Location TBA.

### Reelers Officers/Committee Chairs 2010-2011

<b>President:</b> Avyrl and Bear Brady	973-347-1675
<b>Vice President:</b> Matty and Bernie Sharkey	908-852-7931
<b>Secretary:</b> Jean and Inars Gruntals	973-543-7792
<b>Treasurer:</b> Chris and Michael Patrick	973-998-4505
<b>Asst. Tr.:</b> Nancy Caufield and Jim Anderson	862-397-4034
<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> Joyce and Jim Kelly	908-658-4271
<b>Raids:</b> Vicky and Ed Proskey	201-337-7321
<b>Refreshments:</b>	
Irene and Hal Stoller (Schedule)	973-744-1969
Helen Jacobson (Supplies)	973-442-0836

## Where in the World?

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

Zorro! - Leo and Corinne Eckmann



In April last year, Corinne and Leo Eckmann were on a caravan tour through the Copper Canyon in Mexico. This photo was

taken in El Fuerte at the Posado del Hidalgo, which is proclaimed as the original site of the house of the legendary Zorro. The masked man seems to have used his sword to pilfer something from the Eckmanns....

Dear friends,

As many of you know, I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005. During my treatment and recovery, I came to realize that I have an amazing circle of family and friends. I am also fortunate to have a good health-care plan and live in a city where great doctors and quality care are readily available.

On October 16 and 17, I will be walking in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer as a five-year survivor. I walk for those who are not as fortunate, those who cannot afford proper medical care, and those who seek a cure.

I will walk a marathon and a half (almost 40 miles!) and plan to raise at least \$2,000 – hopefully more. To do this, I am training and fundraising to help others get the same chance at survival that I had. Please help me, and all who are impacted by breast cancer, by making a tax-deductible contribution. Visit my fundraising page at [www.avonwalk.org/goto/Linda.Murphy](http://www.avonwalk.org/goto/Linda.Murphy). If you prefer to write a check, please make it payable to **Avon Walk for Breast Cancer** and send it to me at 42 Lord Stirling Drive, Morristown, NJ 07960. On behalf of those whose lives may be saved by your donation, thank you.

Linda L. Murphy [rilmicy@optonline.net](mailto:rilmicy@optonline.net)