



Ribbons & Souls

Reporter



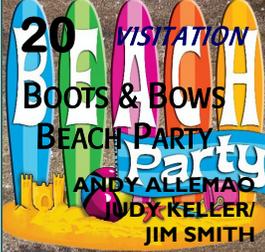
July 2019



Editor: Diane Isaacs

President: Ruth Fisher

VOL. 1 No. 7

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 SQUARE DANCE CLASS 7:00-8:30 MAINSTREAM 8:45-9:45 PLUS	4 	5	6
7	8 7:00-9:00 ADVANCED CLASS A1 OR A2	9	10 SQUARE DANCE CLASS 7:00-8:30 MAINSTREAM 8:45-9:45 PLUS	11	12	13 RIBBONS & SOULS MICKEY MOUSE  PAT CARNATHAN DAVID MOORHOUSE
14	15 7:00-9:00 ADVANCED CLASS A1 OR A2	16 7:30 BOARD MEETING FELICIA MAHOOD COMMUNITY RM	17 SQUARE DANCE CLASS 7:00-8:30 MAINSTREAM 8:45-9:45 PLUS	18	19	20 VISITATION BOOTS & BOWS BEACH PARTY  ANDY ALLEMAO INDY KELLER/ JIM SMITH
21	22 7:00-9:00 ADVANCED CLASS A1 OR A2	23	24 SQUARE DANCE CLASS 7:00-8:30 MAINSTREAM 8:45-9:45 PLUS	25	26	27 RIBBONS & SOULS BEACH BASH (MAINSTREAM)  DAVID MEE DAWN MEE
28	29 7:00-9:00 ADVANCED CLASS A1 OR A2	30	31 SQUARE DANCE CLASS 7:00-8:30 MAINSTREAM 8:45-9:45 PLUS			



I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him.



~ Abraham Lincoln

President's Corner



Ruth Fisher

I'm back from my very first National Convention. In addition to dancing and touring Atlanta, Georgia with 31 other Hi Flyers, I attended numerous educational sessions for club leaders. I'm thrilled to share with you that our club,

Ribbons & Souls, is ahead of the curve. We are doing so many things that were advocated in their presentations. Just to name a few, we have 3 new dancer classes a year (multi cycle classes) instead of the traditional 1 or 2; we have pre-class review, the classes are well attended by angels and new dancers; we have excellent communication with the club through our newsletter and emails and we not only use word of mouth and Open Squares, we also are actively marketing through social media. We encourage women to learn the man's part; we have Mainstream dances and are resuming class level dances and adding open night dancing. At our next board meeting, how we can improve our attendance at the Mainstream dances will be one of the major topics of discussion. Almost every talk I went to emphasized how important these dances are for recruiting and retaining new students. You hear a lot about the good old days. They are gone. There is a 90% attrition at National Convention between 1983 and now (4060 attendees). We must do whatever we can to build up our square dance club. People do not want to wait for a year or more to be able to dance at the Plus level. For Mainstream and class level dances to thrive, we need more of our angels to support them. That is you! If we want our club to flourish, we need to cater to the new dancers, not just ourselves.

There are some areas where we could do better than we are and chief among them is socialization -- especially with our new students. The more we get to know them, the friendlier we are with them, the more they will push through the challenging parts of learning so that they can be a part of our club. Too often we spend our time talking to each other during class rather than to the new people. Ask them what they like to do and share with them some of your interests. And let's have fun with them.

When we have a Mainstream dance, offer to partner with one of the Plus or Mainstream students for the dance or for part of the dance. When we had the great attendance at the Spring Fling a year ago, in our car were Claire, Pam, Koa, Michaelyn, and me. We had plans to meet Mike Koh at the dance.

Do you recall who either partnered, car-pooled or encouraged you? Dana convinced me to go directly on to Plus and offered to angel me. I remember how I got to my first visitation: Jan and Nancy T. persuaded me to go to the Guys & Dolls visitation and offered to partner with me. I got "hooked" on dancing when Nancy T. induced me to go with her to a Sea Breeze dance that was called by Ken Bower, and Jon and Deborah Carroll Jones. I would not have done any of this without real encouragement. At the beginning, especially for those of us who lean in the direction of being perfectionist, we often feel we aren't ready, when we are. Let's do more to reassure our new dancers. Reaching out to our new dancers and new club members is one of the most important things each of us individually can do. At our last General Meeting, our new vice president, Desiree Elliott, suggested and offered to chair a new position, called Wagon Lite, which will bring more socialization into our club. She is planning a restaurant stop on the way to our next visitation. Again, we continue to be moving in a direction which will help our club to thrive.

Each club member is an ambassador of and host(ess) at our dances. I know we all love to dance and want to dance every tip. However, if you see a visitor from another club or one of our own members sitting out repeatedly, please offer your place in the square and when needed, your partner to them for a tip. The same few people do this at every dance; it is not just up to the same individuals each time. This club belongs to ALL of us. We want to continue to be able to dance in the city, so please be conscious of what is going on and be considerate. It is up to each of us to offer our place to someone else, as needed. If we all did it, no one would need to sit out more than once, or maybe even more than once every couple dances.

Our most important/vital job as club members, both at classes and dances, is to make everyone feel welcome. This was stressed over and over at the different workshops I attended. Laugh, have fun, make it recreational from the beginning. If someone makes a mistake, help them to understand that we all do it -- no big deal. In classes, when Bill is teaching, let him teach, that isn't our job. The faster we can help the students feel they are a part of us, the more likely we will retain them. The panelists suggested encouraging our students to bring food, if they want, for our refreshment breaks. We want the students to fall in love with square dancing and us; then our retention will go way up. This is up to each and every one of us, not just the class coordinators and leaders in the club.

(SEE President on page 3)



Shan Cretin
Rick Marken

The fifth square dance class of the session was held on July 3, so much of the population of LA was gone to celebrate the July 4th holiday. Among those not able to attend the class was our teacher, Bill Gipson. But Charlie Fagan did a great job as substitute teacher. We had about 14 students and just enough Angels to make exactly four squares for

the Basic/Mainstream class and 2 squares for the Plus class. Because we expected that many people would be unable to attend due to the holiday, no new calls were introduced in either the Basic/Mainstream or Plus class. But Charlie kept things interesting while reviewing calls selected by the students. So the classes went very well and a good time was had by all. And we look forward to seeing everyone again at the next class on July 10.

Rick Marken, Co-Coordinator

ASD ASSOCIATED SQUARE DANCERS



Jan Bartholemew,
A Square D Delegate

Last June 3, on a Sunday, we held the Spring Fling. According to the preliminary report, there were 46 dancers, and the income was \$357. This is down from 2018 when we had 76 dancers at the Spring Fling. In 2018, the combined dancers from the Red Ribbons and the Heels & Souls was 20, and in 2019 there were 7 dancers from the Ribbons & Souls. This is something worth thinking about. Is there something that we can improve next year for this dance? Only the Inglewood Guys & Dolls brought more dancers this year than last.

Still, the Spring Fling was a lot of fun for those who attended. There were four callers: Phil Farmer, our very own Bill "Tex" Gipson, Dale Hoppers and Sylvester Nealon. There was square dancing and line dancing, and plenty of refreshments. We danced up a storm.

On the Road Again... Visitations

Linda Harris



WHERE WE'VE BEEN

Seven of us went to our visitation in Torrance which was to the Spring Fling.

The four callers alternated lines and squares which is an unusual thing.

Attending were: Jan Bartholomew, Judy Fisher, Linda Harris, Diane Isaacs, Fredi Levitt, Alan Lubberts and Barb Schwartz. Also attending was WRP Diana who is a student in our Wednesday class.

WHERE WE'RE GOING

On Saturday, July 20 we are going to visit the Boots & Bows for their Beach Party Dance. Andy Allemao will be the caller and Judy Keller and Jim Smith will cue the rounds. The dance is at the Riviera United Methodist Church at 375 Palos Verdes Blvd. in Redondo Beach. Special treat: Andy will be teaching hex squares at 6:30.



Lauren Friedman	7/7
Nancy Lippey	7/11
Pam Szabo	7/16
Desiree Elliott	7/24
Ken Pastel	7/30

(PRESIDENT continued from page 2)

As you can tell, I was inspired by the educational meetings and talking to people from throughout the U.S. at National. I do have far more to share than I can put in any one article. For me personally, I found the convention a lot of fun, loved visiting with and getting to know people in our district even better; the touring which Pamela Bailis put together so beautifully was interesting, and the dancing every night was a blast. One of my favorite sites is the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park flowing pool with a quote of his. The CNN building was fascinating.

INSTALLATION DINNER

As many of you may know, on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, Ribbons & Souls enjoyed their very first Installation of Officers Dinner for 2019-2020 at Tony P's Dockside Grill in Marina del Rey.

This was not just our Installation - it was also a fundraiser for our club. 20% of what we spent as a group was donated back to Ribbons & Souls by Tony P's.

We had 34 members/guests in attendance which was a great many more than Red Ribbons had last year according to Emmett Keeler, Outgoing Co-President. He commented during his speech that he was so glad to see how the Club is "flourishing". I think we're all pleased to see that!

Another first for the Installation Dinner was the Buffet Dinner Option. We were very glad we could offer it as an additional option to the usual three plated choices as in previous years. Almost 3/4 of the attendees chose this new option and were pleased with all the various food selections that were on it. We were even allowed to take home leftovers!

Most importantly, we want to thank our members/guests for supporting Ribbons & Souls by attending this very special event and we hope that even more of you will attend next year.

Clare Tucker and Judy Fisher

(**PRESIDENT** *continued from page 3*)

Regretfully, it may be my last time. The Polymyositis that I was diagnosed with at 57 years of age destroyed so many muscle cells that have only partially regenerated, that the entire trip was challenging. I strained the entire left side of my body from my foot and ankle through my neck after dancing on the concrete floors four nights in a row. Yet, dancing to some of the best callers in the country was thrilling. I do have a plan though. I found out the last night of the convention that there are electric scooters that fold up to the size of a piece of "carry on" rolling luggage that you can take on the plane. That would make the tours and the lengthy walks in the convention centers much easier. So I never say "never." For those of you who are thinking of going to the convention next year in Spokane, Washington and are not interested in the educational workshops, there are so many other things to do: introduction to round dancing, contra dancing, line dancing, square dancing at every level, sewing, crafts, hex squares – you name it they had it.

Those of you who stayed home made our Paul Waters dance a success. I understand that even with so many of us gone, we had four plus squares, and that the dancers who came from other clubs had a ball.

Thirty-four of us enjoyed ourselves at the Installation Dinner at Tony P's, which was beautifully organized by Claire and Judy.

Invest in our club by coming to the board meeting on Tuesday, July 16, and giving your input on how to make our club even better than it is. Don't just tell me, come and be an integral part of the discussion and the solution.



DUES ARE DUE



Thank you to all who have already paid their dues. For those who haven't, your annual \$25.00 dues are due by July 1st. You can pay at any class or dance or you can mail them to me.

My address is Judy Fisher – 1920 Pandora Ave. #6 - Los Angeles, CA 90025

Judy Fisher, Treasurer

Thank you all – looking forward to seeing you at a class and/or dance.



Thanks and kudos to Pamela Bailis for organizing the High Flyers trip to Atlanta for the 68th National Square Dance Convention.





CONVENTION WRAP UP *(with thanks to Kaye Roll, ASqD Delegate for the Boots & Bows)*

The accommodations at the Waverly Renaissance were super. We were lucky to have the convention center just a short walk thru the hotel to the exhibition halls, ballrooms and education rooms. The acoustics might not have been the best — lots of echoes in those huge cement floor halls — but we had the opportunity to dance to callers and cuers from all over the world and to give shout outs to our favorite local callers, like Ken Bower, Mike Seastrom, Pat Carnathan, and David Mee. For those of us who were without a partner, there were lots of opportunities to dance in other than a Mainstream or Plus square — contra dancing and line dancing were offered during the day as well as the seminars and leadership workshops that Ruth Fisher spoke about in her Presidents column. A total of 4060 people attended the NSDC including 74 from outside the USA. The 32 high Flyers were part of the 206 dancers from California. Only host state George, Florida and North Carolina had more attendees.

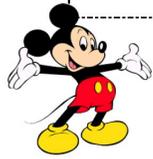
Here we are lining up for the Parade of States on Saturday evening. Good thing “California” is at the beginning of the alphabet, because we didn’t have far to march and got great seats for the evenings presentations.





Pat Carnathan

Saturday July 13, 2019
 Rounds 7:00 - 7:30 pm
 and in between tips
 Squares 7:30 - 10:00 pm
 Plus Level and A1 Tip
 Donation: \$8.00



David Moorhouse

*Ribbons & Souls
Mickey Mouse Dance*

Felicia Mahood Hall
 11338 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90025
 3 blocks West of 405 Freeway
 Free Parking after 5:00 pm NW corner Corinth & Iowa



www.meetup.com/Square-Dance-in-West-LA
 Ruth Fisher, President
 310-470-1090



Ribbons & Souls Beach Bash

Saturday July 27

Caller

Cuer

David Mee

Dawn Mee



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 W OF 405 FRWY
 RUTH FISHER PRESIDENT
 310-470-1090

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

KEN BOWER Joe Scarlatella

Saturday August 10

Ribbons & Souls

Travel "T" Plus Dance



Squares: 7:30-10:00 pm
 Rounds: 7-7:30 & between Tips
 Donation: \$8.00

WWW.MEETUP.COM/SQUARE-DANCE-IN-WEST-LA
 RUTH FISHER PRESIDENT
 310-470-1090

Felicia Mahood Hall
 11338 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles 90025
 3 blocks West of 405 Freeway
 Free Parking after 5:00 pm NW corner Corinth & Iowa

Saturday August 24 DARRELL NEWELL

RIBBONS & SOULS

Aloha! Hawaii

Carolyn Cook

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 W of 405 Frwy - Free Parking after 5 pm
 NW corner of Corinth & Iowa
 Ruth Fisher, President
 310-470-1090
www.meetup.com/square-dance-in-west-LA

JON JONES David Moorhouse



Circus Time Square Dance

Saturday August 31

**Rounds 7:00-7:30 pm and between Tips
Squares 7:30 - 10:00 pm - PLUS LEVEL**

Ribbons & Souls

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
Ruth Fisher, President 310-470-1090



Back-to-School Dance

Saturday September 14

Darren Gallina Jim Spence

Plus Level Dance

Squares: 7:30-10:00

Rounds: 7-7:30 and between Tips

Donation: \$8.00



FELICIA MAHOOD HALL

11338 SANTA MONICA BLVD, LA 90025

3 BLKS W OF 405 FRWY

FREE PARKING AFTER 4 PM

NW CORNER CORINTH & IOWA

RUTH FISHER, PRESIDENT 310-470-1090

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



New A1 Class

Begins Monday,
September 16, 2019

Felicia Mahood Center
11338 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA
Corner Corinth & Santa Monica Blvd.
7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Arlen Miller, Instructor
Information: 818-705-8350

Sponsored by Ribbons & Souls

Ribbons & Souls Mainstream Dance



September 28

Lawrence Johnstone

Squares: 7:30-10:00

Rounds: 7-7:30 and between Tips

Donation: \$8.00

Joe Scarlatella

Felicia Mahood Hall

11338 Santa Monica Blvd Los Angeles 90025

3 blocks West of 405 Freeway

Free Parking after 4:00 pm NW corner Corinth & Iowa

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

RUTH FISHER, PRESIDENT - 310-470-1090

ASD ASSOCIATED SQUARE DANCERS

71ST ANNIVERSARY

Come dance with us!



Pat Carnathan



Bev Oren



Mike Seastrom

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019

HAWTHORNE MEMORIAL CENTER

3901 W. EL SEGUNDO BLVD. ★ HAWTHORNE, CA

1:30 PRE-ROUNDS ★ 2:00 - 4:30 SQUARES & ROUNDS

A-1 TIP

\$10 PRE-SALE

★ \$12 AT THE DOOR

SPECIAL RIBBONS FOR CLUB PRESIDENTS ★ THEY DANCE FOR FREE!

Information: Diane Isaacs 323-939-1478 or Fredi Levitt 310-287-1434

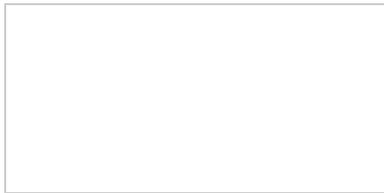
Live Lively-



Square Dance!



www.RibbonsandSouls.org



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