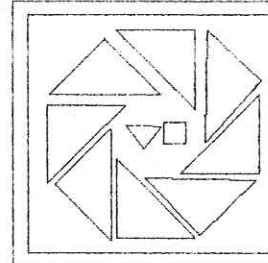


TRIANGLE SQUARES NEWSLETTER



Triangle Squares

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Newsletter of Toronto Triangle Squares

July 1993

PRIDE DAY PROUD!!

Sunday, June 27, 1993 was a proud day for Toronto's gay & lesbian community and their friends, as an incredible crowd gathered on Church Street between Carlton Street and Isabella Street. Many booths lined both sides of the street representing the multitude of services and support groups within our community -- definitely a rainbow of people, like the colours on the pride flag! And among these tables was the Triangle Squares contingent!!

Much hard work and effort went into the preparations for this event. Much thanks is due **Stephen Holmes** for the (usual) incredibly fantastic job!!!! And thanks to those who helped person the table and handed-out pamphlets to curious passers-by: **Les, Herman, Alan, Richard, and Sandy**. And thanks to our fabulous on-the-street dancers, including two fellows from **Times Squares (New York)**, and three fellows from **Cleveland City Country Dancers!** (Gosh, there were so many people involved, I hope I haven't missed anyone!) And, we can't forget our own wonderful club caller: **Don St. Jean**, who did a smashing job despite the acoustics!

PIC OF THE MONTH

Definitely not looking too pooped to party!



Our display had great signs printed with black on white background and framed in neon colours (which tastefully drew people's attention to the display) explained who we were and some of our accomplishments, including being the first gay square dance group to perform at the C.N.E.! Festive purple and pink streamers of ribbon and purple and lilac balloons added a party-like atmosphere to the energetic folks.

With no booth to the south side of us, we were able to perform a few demo squares before and after the parade in this space. We definitely stopped the traffic walking by when we performed to appreciative watchers, including a few cops who were good-naturedly amused by our stylish antics! During the parade, many of our people walked and danced their way around the route. Unlike in previous years, the parade seemed to move constantly with little stopping.

Congratulations to all who participated -- and there were a lot! We had a successful Gay & Lesbian Pride Day. We were proud! We were visible! And we had fun!

DONNA SAUNDERS RETURNS!

The charming and effervescent Donna Saunders and her husband Alan joined us on Friday, June 25 for our pot-luck dinner and club night dance. Feeling more comfortable calling for us her second time around, Donna put us through the moves from Mainstream to A-1. (Wasn't there an attempt at A-2 but we didn't know what she knew and she didn't know what we knew?)

They were able to join us for the pot-luck dinner in the earlier part of the evening and enjoyed the casual banter among some of our dancers, over a sumptuous spread of salads, entrées, deserts and other delectable delights! (She was even rumoured to have quipped one or two campy lines with great humour!) She did confess, that the first time she had called for us, she was nervous when we danced with our usual styling (weave the ring, chase right, etc.). She suddenly heard us whooping and hooting and wanted to look to see what we were doing, but since she was calling a new song she wasn't familiar with, she was afraid she'd loose her place if she looked-up at us! As a result, she added a "chase right" in another song so she could watch us! And was she surprised!

It was a fun and relaxed evening as we ate, mingled, danced and chatted, danced and chatted, danced...you get the picture! Thanks to Donna and Alan, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

TRIANGLE TRASH

(A Tasteful Gossip Column by Strawberry Dickquiri)

Wasn't Pride Day just too precious for words?! Not! This one is never stuck for words -- trust me! It was a wonderful day to say the very least, with the hunky scenery walking by. And you women had a few topless lovelies to oogle, too! And did I see a certain fellow who delivers our drinks stripping-off his shirt? Don't get too excited, friends...he put another shirt on! Was this starting another trend, as we watched a certain animal protectionist flash us his chest in an off-with-one-and-on-with-the-other move? Mon dieu! My heart goes pitter-patter!

During the handing-out of pamphlets, was there not a certain legal personage who took a momentary breather, insisting our resident graphic artist distribute some? And when a cute man approached the table, was it not this same personage snatching the pamphlets back and fairly leaping upon the unsuspecting man? Me thinks there was an unusual amount of smiling going on. Hm...mmmm....

Speaking of chests, was it not a certain legal personage who was seen chowing-down on a certain drinks delivery man's chest during Monday night class? The things that go on....

Alas, our Queen will soon be taking her farewell walk in Seattle! Barefoot or in shoes? is the million dollar question on everyone's mind. Was it not a certain Bux-um who queried yours truly on this urgent matter. Well, Carmina, your adoring fans await your breath-taking entrance. (I'm wagering \$50.00 bucks on pumps, myself!) And rumour has it that the dear's entourage is anxiously awaiting the grand entrance where they can ride their cute lil' horsies. The lips on these suckers! Another artistic classic by our resident graphic artist! Speaking of the musical ride of the entourage, was it not a certain treasurer we saw waving to the audience every time he rode centre stage? Could it be that this shy fellow isn't quite so shy as we thought? "Hi, Mom!"

In closing for this month, I must correct myself on an item from my last column. I had committed a gross indecency when I mis-spelled the name "GALA". Apparently, it is now correctly spelled "GAYLA". But, of course, we still won't say who the member is. Ta! Ta! 'Til next month!

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Basement apt. for rent, near Donlands subway. Beautiful garden, laundry facilities.

Call Jeff Schmidt at 463-8274

WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT SO THAT WE MAY MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION! PLEASE CALL ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND VOICE YOUR OPINION:

Chris 960-5458
Alan 266-4634 Richard 266-4634
Andy 925-2602 Stephen 761-1807

FALL CLASSES & TEACHING

A number of our dancers are asking what are the plans for teaching and classes in the Fall, especially at the Plus, A1, A2 and C1 levels. On July 15, the Steering Committee will be discussing this situation again and attempting to obtain the best solution for the maximum number of dancers in the light of recent developments. **WE NEED YOUR INPUT, SO READ ON!**

The picture is quite complex: 1) The reasons why people attend square dancing are varied from socializing with friends, to the challenge of learning new moves. 2) Classes have been 90 minutes in length, on Mondays and Thursdays. We've had a permit for Wednesday nights, that has been under-utilized by the club. 3) It has been suggested that longer classes would allow more time for teaching, review and position practice. 4) Space at the 519 is still free and we've traditionally had a professional caller for our Thursday night classes, the cost being covered by initial enrolment from the Basic class, which as subsidized the cost of the caller on that night over the length of a full season.

Other twists have been added: 1) the Board of Education is now starting to charge for the rental of school space at a rate of \$55.00 per night. This would require 14 dancers (at \$4.00 per night) to cover that charge alone. 2) To pay a caller for more than one night a week would incur an ongoing deficit for the club, making it financially impossible. 3) Several dancers have been anxious to learn new moves after having danced at the same level for two years (even though some of them still have occasional difficulties with moves from all positions at their current level of dance). 4) In a recent poll, the graduating Mainstream class members have opted to continue their classes on Thursday nights, suggesting that (for the first time ever) the Basic class be moved to Wednesday night.

A suggested solution could be: 1) Have a professional caller teach the Basic class, in order to give them a thorough groundwork on Wednesday evenings, 2) Utilize the calling of Chris and Drew (club callers) to teach the Plus class on Thursday evenings from 7:00 - 9:30. This class would consist of the graduates from the Mainstream class, as well as the present Plus dancers who would Angel the Plus class. Mixed into this class would be 2 tips of A1 teaching. If there were enough dancers, the time from 9:30 - 10:00 could be used for A1 dance review or teaching. If there were not enough for A1 work, the time could be utilized for further Plus dancing, 3) Use our present club callers (Don and Andy) on Monday at Orde St. Public school to teach an A2 class, with tips for C1 moves mixed in. This class would consist of graduates from the present A1 class as well as the present A2 dancers. If enough C1 pupils wanted it, the first 30 minutes, from 7:00 - 7:30, could be exclusively for C1 dance and review. Otherwise, this time would be utilized for whichever level the first 8 dancers wanted.

DANCING AT THE C.N.E.!!

That time of year is fast approaching, so don't forget to mark your calendars for **Sunday, August 29!** It will be an afternoon of "modern square dancing" with demonstrations from various clubs in the Toronto and surrounding area -- including **Triangle Squares!** We made history last year when we were the first gay club to dance at the C.N.E., and we want to be there, again, this year. The registration forms for the event specified that "only smiling, happy people need apply". I think we fit the bill: we're definitely smiling, and not only are we happy...but, we're also happy and gay!

The level of dance will be Mainstream. The actual time has yet to be determined, but it will definitely be sometime after noon (for those who like their morning beauty rest!). The people participating will receive **free admission** to the C.N.E. grounds! And we're invited to stay for the Jamboree Dance from 7-9 p.m., where all the square dance groups will dance!

If you're interested in dancing with us at the C.N.E., please let Chris Homer know by July 22. You can either speak to Chris in person, or call him at 960-5458.

JULY CLUB NIGHT

Another not-to-be-missed event to mark on your calendar is the Club Night in July: **Thursday, July 22!** **Joe Uebelacker** will be calling from **7:00** until **10:00** p.m. at the **519 Church Street Community Centre auditorium.** Come on out and have fun dancing with your friends and class-mates!

WE NEED MORE DANCERS FOR THE FALL SEASON!!

Have you enjoyed learning the Basic/Mainstream levels of square dancing? do you enjoy dancing with familiar faces at the Plus, A1, A2 levels? Do you feel as though you've had a bit of an aerobic workout as well as a mental challenge remembering all the moves you know and responding to the Caller's neat choreography? Does it give you a sense of satisfaction and a feeling of cooperation with a group when you get through a difficult "tip" without breaking down? For any or all of these reasons, square dancing is a truly enjoyable and satisfying pastime.

We were very visible on Gay Pride Day with our booth, showing aspects of square dancing activity in photos and demonstrations. Pamphlets were handed-out and people chatted with. In August, we'll be equally as visible at the Out & Out Jamboree, where we usually get a large drawing. **BUT WE NEED YOU TO TALK IT UP AMONG YOUR FRIENDS, TOO!** If everyone of the Triangle Squares dancers were able to convince a friend to join us in the Fall, our class numbers would grow. More dancers...more energy...more fun!

QUEEN'S QUORNER

Well loyal (?) subjects, where were the **rest** of you on Memorial Day Weekend?

One-hundred & twenty-three registered and participated in our largest, to-date, "Toronto Triangle Squares" annual fly-in!!

Dancing started on Thursday evening, and seemed to be non-stop until Sunday evening.

THANK YOU **Joe Uebelacker, Paul Waters,** and several **Club Callers,** for "keeping us on our toes", except for a brief moment in time on Saturday evening, when a few of us were "in heels" at Carmina's Cantina!

Entertainment at the Cantina commenced with the entrance of the **Cleveland Bux-um Beauties,** with their new and improved version of "Swine Lake". (Wasn't that "Dying Swine" superb in that supine position?!)

Then, Queen Carmina and her **Triangle Tarts** staged a brief demonstration against North American Free Trade...we just cannot compete with those prices, unless we start "giving it away"!! The **Tarts** certainly **tried** to sell it, then, realizing the futility of it all, fought over a pinata, staged a bull-fight, and square danced with gay abandon (Who's she?? A new drag princess?), and started giving it away inside the Cantina.

Carmina Putanna then made a spectacle of herself (and, we have the photos to prove it!) as the "Lady in the Tutti Frutti Hat". (And, poor Carmen Miranda thought it could only be done by her - **Ha!** - fooled her, didn't we?!

We, then, regally retired to our throne, for a tribute from the **Bux-um Beauties.** Being conga-lined to exhaustion, spun about on our throne (and you thought we were dizzy before!), and pelted with artificial fruit by "real fruits" brought the Cantina to a close.

THANK YOU **Tarts** and **Bux-ums** for your adulation and homage!

THANK YOU to our **Fly-In Committee,** for a successful weekend, culminating with that **Treasure** (read: Scavenger) Hunt on Monday morning.

There were the usual tears among the cocktails upon departure, but, there's going to be a next year...!

Alas, dear subjects, there will be no next year for us, as queen, Dio Gracias! The crown was heavy, but, thanks to you all, it was not a burden!

Hope you'll be as adoring to the new aspirant, chosen in Seattle, at **Remake The Circle,** celebrating 10 years of the IAGSDC. See you at **her** crowning...

Regally, Royally & Finally Yours,

Carmina Putanna, HJQ'92

JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--------|---------|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 HOLIDAY-CDN REMAKE THE CIRCLE, SEATTLE | 2 REMAKE THE CIRCLE, SEATTLE | 3 REMAKE THE CIRCLE, SEATTLE |
| 4 HOLIDAY-U.S. REMAKE THE CIRCLE, SEATTLE | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 STEERING COMMITTEE | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 CLUB NIGHT WITH JOE UEBELACKER | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-------------------------------|-----------|---------|--|---------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| 1 | 2 HOLIDAY | 3 | 4 STEERING COMMITTEE (TENTATIVE) | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 CLUB NIGHT WITH TIM CRAWFORD | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 DANCING AT THE C.N.E.I. | 30 | 31 | | | | |

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--|---------|---|---|--------|--|
| | | | 1 STEERING COMMITTEE (TENTATIVE) | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 HOLIDAY | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 7:30 INTRO NIGHT/ DANCE PARTY |
| 12 | 13 A-2/C-1 REVIEW 7:00 ORDE ST. SCHOOL | 14 | 15 BASIC INTRO NIGHT 7:00 CHURCH ST. SCHOOL | 16 PLUS REVIEW NIGHT 7:00 519 CHURCH STREET | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 A-2/C-1 CLASSES BEGIN | 21 | 22 BASIC INTRO NIGHT | 23 PLUS CLASSES BEGIN | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 A-2/C-1 CLASS | 28 | 29 BASIC CLASSES BEGIN | 30 PLUS CLASS | | |