



TORONTO TRIANGLE SQUARES

SILVER BELLES & BEAUS

Triangle Squares Celebrates 25 Years!

To help preserve the comments posted to our 2012 Fly-In Website, we have gathered them all in this newsletter. Thank You to all who shared their memories and continue to dance with us.



Bob and Niall staff the Registration Desk

I vividly remember my first introduction to Triangle Squares. It was in 1996, and I had just moved to Toronto after 6 years in northern Saskatchewan, where I was a school teacher on an isolated Indian reservation. It was in this community of 700 souls that I learned to square dance. Traditional or Old Time Square Dancing was this community's form of collective celebration, be it a wedding, anniversary, or New Year's Eve dance. I really enjoyed those few times a year when we met at the band hall and danced the night away.



Then I moved to Toronto and I thought my square dancing days would be over, but I was wrong. I noticed an ad in one of the gay newspapers that there was going to be an introduction to square dancing for Gays and Lesbians at Jesse Ketchum School. I went by myself, a little self-conscious, because I was still pretty much in the closet. There was a very nice and friendly gentleman there with a microphone, his name was Joe, and he had us all get up and form a circle. The circle was made up mostly of men, with a few women here and there. Joe then told us to form pairs and take the hand of the person beside us. I reached out and took the hand of the man beside me.

Holy #&*%! It was electric! My immediate reaction was: "This feels so natural!" It was the first time that I held the hand of another man in public. I don't remember who the man was, but that electricity has stayed with me all these years. I am never happier than when on the dance floor with fellow square dance enthusiasts. Thank you Triangle Squares!

Come dance with me!

Bob Hynes, Triangle Squares, 2012 Fly-In Chair

Volunteer Opportunity

The 2013 Fly-In Committee is looking for a new member who is willing to commit for two-three years, to ensure continuity from Fly-In to Fly-In. Responsibilities will include caller liaison and in-class sales promotion. Please contact Terri for more info or to express interest:
trothman@sympatico.ca

2012 Fly-In Committee

Bob Hynes

Terri Rothman

Paul Kivisto

Susan C., Triangle Squares, President



The Silver Belles:
Susan and Colleen

Keltie and Yvette handed me a flyer at Pride. (Hello, out there on the island!)

I thought, “Huh?” And then, “Hey, why not? That’s something I’ve never tried.”

Costa was the Basic/Mainstream caller that year. First night, first tip, I was hooked, and that was that. (And thank you, Costa!)

Now, of course, as Bob always says, it’s...“Hello, my name is Susan... and I’m a square dancer.”

Going to that first night was a life-changer, as it turned out. I have made many great friends in the club – people I wouldn’t have otherwise met.

The cliché is absolutely true: Square dancing is friendship set to music.

Thanks, everyone, for all these years of fabulous fun... and I can’t wait for our big party in May!

P.S. I almost forgot – I joined the club in 2001.

The next year, we hosted the IAGSDC convention. To my eternal regret, and because I knew nothing about Convention, I thought that I was too new a dancer to go to it – I thought I’d mess up too badly – so, although I volunteered at the event for all kinds of things, I missed out on all the fabulous dancing. Smacking-of-forehead to this day!

Colleen D., Triangle Squares

At a time in my life when I was looking for something new and different, I heard about Triangle Squares. It sounded perfect, as you didn’t have to have a partner to dance with, or any previous experience. It wasn’t expensive compared to joining a gym, and you didn’t have to buy special clothing.

I met people who were friendly and encouraging when I thought I’d never be able to do “swing through,” which for some reason I just could not seem to “get”. Of course it finally “clicked” but there was always another challenge.

There were “Angels”. Wow! I was so impressed that people called “Angels” volunteered their time to come out just to help me get through those dance nights. Now one of my greatest satisfactions is to be an angel myself, and it helps me to relearn those calls too. When our club hosted the International

Convention in 2002 we worked very hard to make it a success. It was amazing to see it all come together. When I was on the Fun Badge Bus Tour, one place we stopped to dance was at the Don Valley Brickworks. We quickly paired up and my partner was a young Japanese dancer who spoke very little English but understood all the calls. There we were, dancing outside in a beautiful natural setting, early on a Sunday morning, and I thought, “I’ll remember this when I’m 104 and in a rocking chair!”

As one of the “elder” dancers in the club, I’ve made lots of friends, get great exercise, both physical and mental, and I’ve travelled to Fly Ins and Conventions where I’ve met even more folks. The best part is that it doesn’t matter if you are young or old, gay or straight, single or partnered, everyone comes out to dance and have a good time.

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Charlotte and the Dancing Baby, Beatrix

Guy B., Ottawa, ON (formerly Ottawa Date Squares)



The Silver Beaus:
Guy and Jules

The Triangle Squares 1999 fly-in was my first event outside of Ottawa, after learning with the Ottawa Date Squares...I remember I had finished all of mainstream, but just barely, so was rather nervous. It was there that I learned to RELAX and not to worry too much about making a mistake. And, of course, I really enjoyed the fly-in experience, and here I am, 12 years, later looking forward to your 25th Anniversary fly-in!

Jules B., Cornwall, ON (formerly Ottawa Date Squares)

I learned square dancing with the Ottawa Date Squares (which was the other gay club in eastern Canada). I have attended several Toronto Fly-ins. I cannot remember which year was my first, maybe in 1999, same time as Guy B.

Here are the reasons why I keep coming back to Toronto:

1) The Friendships I have developed throughout the years with several Toronto club members.

2) The Fun times I have had in Toronto. I love dancing.

3) Now that the Ottawa Date Squares doesn't exist anymore, Toronto Triangle Squares is the closest gay club for us in Cornwall and Ottawa, where we can do the styling.

I now dance with the straight clubs, and believe me, it is more fun dancing with a gay club because of the styling, and the dress code is not so rigid.

And just getting up to dance with or without a partner, if I don't have a partner I simply get up and square up, lift my hand either for a right hand dancer or a left hand dancer. In the straight clubs one cannot do that. Well I have tried it, but very hard to get someone to dance. The caller has to intervene.

4) The Pot Luck on Friday night of the fly-in is always a success, excellent food. Thanks to all the members who participate in bringing food for the potluck. We the outsiders appreciate this very much. There is always a good variety of food.

5) Most of all, the good callers your club seems to bring at every Fly-in.

So in my final remark is the following:

Wishing The Triangle Squares club and members another 25 years of success. Keep it going. You can count on my support.

*It is more fun dancing
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Bob R., Independent Squares, Ardsley, PA

I have many fond memories of dancing in Toronto. Over the years, we've danced to some great callers at Jesse Ketchum, the Y, and St. Luke's (not to mention the Royal York). But some of my best memories are of the wonderful hosts that have welcomed me (and Mary Kay) into their homes. I fondly remember walking the Beaches with Steve and Ken, the South Asian markets with Dan, and the parks with Jo-Ann. We especially owe a debt of gratitude to Jo-Ann for introducing us to Colleen's wonderful glass art. Thanks to Colleen, a very special lady now adorns our home. Good memories all around. Thanks, Triangle Squares!

Lee G., Triangle Squares

I first joined Triangle Squares in 2008, at the suggestion of my beloved Byron (...yet another thing that I have to thank my husband for). I can't believe that I've been square dancing for four years! There have been many unforgettable moments, but I'll limit it to this list of highlights:

2008 - The "thrill" of Warren E.'s surprising (and unavoidable) contact with my left breast...a new experience for him, and a wake-up for me!

2009 - The shock of being the subject of dance-related homophobia, while partnered with my good friend Silke H.

2010 - The fun of being a member of the Fly-In Committee for the first time.

2011 - The excitement of attending my "virgin" convention in Atlanta.

2012 - The delight at finding that I'm no longer a complete f**k-up at A.

Ongoing - Meeting new people and building wonderful new friendships!

These brief points don't do the experience any justice at all, but I'm glad to have a forum to share them anyway. I look forward to seeing dear friends and making new acquaintances at the Silver Anniversary Fly-In.

See you in a square!



Lee and Ed



Pat and Ed

Dan C., Triangle Squares

I joined in 1993, when my first marriage had just broken up and I thought I needed something new to fill my time.

I started out dancing the boy's part, but it turned out we had too many dancing that part, so I started switching to girl when needed. (Because I had previous experience with old-time square dancing, and was a Scottish Country Dancing teacher, I figured I would be competent enough to do so, despite the quite sensible warnings against doing so in your first year.)

Then one day the club president came out to "angel", and said to me, "So, I hear you're bisexual!". I didn't know what to say - I wasn't very out as straight in the club, and have in the past viewed myself as bisexual at times. After a moment of confusion, it turned out what he'd meant to say was "bi-dansual", i.e. able to dance both parts! (I actually can't remember what I answered to him at first.)

I loved it from the start - one of the things I loved, as well as the dancing of course, was the ability to do meaningless flirting with men, which I enjoy, and there aren't many places where a straight guy can do that! I also still enjoy it when periodically newer members of the club find out I'm straight and have a hard time believing it.

A top experience was attending caller school after my first year of dancing. A bit early in general, but as I said, I did have relevant experience. I recommend caller school to anyone who really enjoys dancing and likes to better understand what they are doing, whether or not they seriously expect to take up calling. By learning some of the theory behind calling, you understand your dancing much better, as well.

So, I hear you're bisexual!...What he'd meant to say was bi-dansual, i.e. Able to dance both parts.



Finalnet Funicello, who is Bidansual

Stephen K., Triangle Squares

I had the pleasure of joining Triangle Squares after seeing a flyer for an intro lesson. My first thought was go and see how it goes and after that there was no commitment to going but to my surprise I enjoyed it. Dancing with other gays/lesbians was nice and felt good holding hands in a square.

Time has gone by fast since I joined 4 years ago and during the course I had the pleasure of meeting strangers, who became friends.

Looking forward to May to meet new acquaintances.



Callers Joe Uebelacker and Anne Uebelacker

Pam C., Triangle Squares



Don St. J. and Patrick A. wearing the latest in square dancing fashion

We started dancing in 1973, and Barry started calling in 1984. I think the first person from Triangle Squares that we met was Don St J. - he came to our C2 dances. I remember one time when Barry and Norm Wilcox were planning an Advanced dance (probably in the mid-90s) and Don suggested that he might bring a square of dancers from Triangle Squares. This was before there was much mixing between the straight and gay square dance communities. Barry told Norm, whose attitude was "we put out flyers so it's an open dance - they'll all be very welcome". The dance was lots of fun and they even did a singing call at the end. A few straight men preferred to do an arm swing rather than a proper swing, but no one left a square. I think that was one of the first "ice-breakers" for the Toronto square dance community.

Barry was invited to call at Crack the Crab in Baltimore in 2000, as well as at our own Cloverleaves and Maple Leafs in 2002. In Baltimore, I helped with the early morning "early bird" registration for our convention and very proudly marched with our club in the Grand March. I still march every year at the IAGSDC conventions and love the feeling of family and camaraderie. Barry had called a few dances for Triangle Squares before 2000, but we joined the club that year and have been proud members ever since.

Don C., Triangle Squares



Silver Belle and Donna-Marie

We were exuberant in our silliness , which helped transcend our simple outfits and allowed recognition as Most Comical Duo!

The first [International] convention I attended was Peel The Apple in NYC in 1989. I had been dancing for nearly 2 years by then, and I felt secure enough that I'd be able to dance at the Plus level. Even if that may not have been the case, the more proficient dancers were amenable to helping those of us who were less experienced at that level.

In these early years of convention, attendance was still at a modest level, which was quite fine as it made the event feel a bit more intimate. I think I still felt a bit overwhelmed by all the activity, and by what seemed like throngs of dancers in the various convention rooms and hallways, though that sense was probably heightened by the rooms being maybe a bit smaller.

Geremy and I had brought some costumes with us, and we participated in the Honky Tonk Queen Contest, which was great fun. We were exuberant in our silliness during the Queens' March around the room, which helped transcend our simple outfits and allowed recognition as Most Comical Duo!

I remember feeling that there was great camaraderie at this convention, and I have a sense that it can still be the case today. This is especially so when I allow myself the chance to be gregarious and chatty, as we're all hoping to experience a fulfilling dance event,

as well as a chance to connect with like-minded dance enthusiasts.

I have fond memories of the performance groups that I worked with, which seemed to hit its heights in the mid-90's.

There were a few years where practice sessions were pretty intense, yet at the same time, satisfying and rewarding. We practiced a lot, which allowed for a crisper and more professional edge to our demos.

The demo group has been led by a number of very dedicated and visionary leaders, and in these decades included Sandy Z. and Les H. Though our practice sessions never felt like a chore, they were certainly serious, yet brought me a sense of great accomplishment and pride knowing that we could succeed at some very intricate moves and choreography.

This was epitomized when we presented a demo at the Track To Chicago convention in 1995, pairing our dance with music along the theme of the event. We meandered and moved around the floor like a train, with inter-cutting of dancers across 2 lines, as if 2 trains could collide any time! Fortunately it all worked out very well, and we won respectable applause and recognition, as our choreography was a pretty unique form of what one usually saw at these performances.

Paul K., Triangle Squares, 2012 Fly-In Committee



Emma and Vesta Bule

This is only my second year of square dancing and Thursday quickly became my favourite night of the week! I was first exposed** to square dancing at an afternoon beginner session that Don St. Jean was calling at Out & Out's Jamboree in 2010 (** it was square dancing *au naturel*). When I got back to the city, I made sure to try out the September introductory sessions. I was hooked!

It is such a fun, social activity, and at the same time, I find it to be a mental and physical challenge.

I still can't believe I am going to the July convention in Vancouver this year!! I am even thinking of trying out for the Honky Tonk Queen (with a little creative twist).

I am happy and proud to be helping to organize the 2012 Fly-in. It's going to be F-U-N!

Triangle Tarts Reunion



From left to right: Vesta Bule, Finalnet Funicello, Patty O’Furniture, Liz Tureen, Eileen Dover, Donna-Marie, Tiara Del Fuego, Deb Auchery, and Crystal Chandelier



Nick Martellacci, New York caller

Where to begin...

- Loved the precision dance team’s performances at fly-ins past
- The Triangle Tarts are all luscious... well, except for that vicious Crystal (just kidding Steve... maybe!!)
- Fondly remember eating myself into a coma at the sumptuous brunch buffets at the restaurant across town (don’t remember the name... just remember the person ahead of me in line taking the last slice of white chocolate mousse cake when he didn’t even want it in the first place !@(\$&@#(*\$&(#@#^#@ !!!!!))
- Had a WTF moment when one of your fly-in staff callers asked if he could “research” some of my Plus singing call figures back when I was just beginning to call
- TTS offered me my first IAGSDC Convention calling slot when you hosted in 2002 - something for which I’ll be forever grateful
- And who could possibly forget the fossilized dinosaur turd displayed during our museum tour???
- Last but not least, your club members are all lovely people... well, except for that vicious Crystal (just kidding Steve... maybe!!) and attending your fly-in gives me a reason/excuse for visiting the beautiful city of Toronto!!!

The Triangle Tarts are luscious....



Tiara Del Fuego and Deb Auchery

*Some guys get me
laughing so much,
I can't stop...*

Terri R., Triangle Squares, 2012 Fly-In Committee

My husband, Niall, and I joined Triangle Squares because:

1. It's the only square dancing club in downtown Toronto and accessible by TTC
2. Partners rotate
3. We don't have to wear traditional matching outfits
4. It's great exercise (if we avoid the tempting snacks people bring to class)
5. We've made new friends in this club and many others in the GTA
6. Gay square dancing is lots of fun! Some guys get me laughing so much, I can't stop, but I have to keep dancing, because we're in the middle of a tip!

Meghal P., Triangle Squares

I joined the club in 2009. It seemed tough for a couple of weeks, but then I got the "hang" of it - mainly due to Joe's teaching style, Susan's workshops between breaks, and Bob Hynes's encouragement. And in August 2010, I was already dancing at the Plus level at the Detroit fly-in.

I joined the club with no specific purpose - I was just trying out a new activity. However, I realised that it was a chance to flex my analytic muscle - it was fun to analyse the geometric patterns created by the caller. And the classes and other events gave me a reason to come down to the Village and socialise with other club members. Now as I look back, it is funny to think that dancing is perhaps the last reason that I square dance!

I look forward to the 2012 fly-in and much more dancing in years to come.

Christine O., Triangle Squares

When I think about Triangle Squares, I think about our **angels**. From my very first lesson to the lesson I had this week, there has always been an angel there somewhere, guiding our dancing and refraining from justifiable mockery of our Mainstream missteps! Look up **angel** in the dictionary and you'll see phrases like 'celestial attendants' and 'guardian spirits.' The Triangle Squares' angels are precisely that, though I'm sure they fly around the room with much more gusto and agility than any mere godly angel ever could! Triangle Squares' angels are the absolute best!



Chaz and Jimbo
from Washington, DC



Elegant Bev

Dare to be Square!



TORONTO TRIANGLE SQUARES

www.trianglesquares.com

Fly-In Info: satb@trianglesquares.com

We Want Your Feedback!

Please complete a short survey to help us plan next year's Fly-In.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7SDFZX5>



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT FLY-IN!

weave the RING in 2013

May 23-26, 2013

Callers: Tim Crawford and Dayle Hodge