



Triangle Squares

Toronto's LGBTQ Square Dance Club

June 2013 - in this issue:

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- NB. each photo shown below is "clickable": you'll see a larger version, additional photos/video, or relevant website)
- Fly-In participants: please **complete this [survey](#) by June 30, 2013**
- For **up-to-the-minute** club news, check our [Facebook page](#) and the news section on our [homepage](#).
- Thanks to those who contributed to this issue: Terri Rothman.

Upcoming

- **June 30:** This year's theme for the June 30th Pride parade is **superqueer!**. We'll be marching in the parade, dressed as our own, invented Queer Super Heroes. You do not need full Tart regalia. If dressing up is totally not your thing, bring your mild mannered alter ego and join us for the fun! Susan is bringing music and if the situation allows we will square up. More details: email [Steve](#).
- **July 4-7:** WeaveYour Heart in [San Francisco](#) (IAGSDC's annual convention). If it's your first time, this [online convention guide](#) may be handy (a slightly less current [PDF version](#) also available). Also see [additional suggestions](#).
- **July 11 - Aug 19** (every Thursday): summer dancing with ?! (see [details below](#))
- **July 21:** [contra dancing](#) on Ward's Island
- **Aug 23-25:** [Summer Magic](#), Cornwall.
- **July 1-4, 2016:** [Maple Leafs Regroup](#) (IAGSDC convention, in Toronto!), in the historic Fairmont Royal York Hotel.



Want more dance events?

- Check out Toronto & District [event list](#) as well as IAGSDC [event list](#).
- Click here for events in [2014 and beyond](#)
- The latest bi-monthly mailing from IAGSDC contains these [flyers](#): July 1-3 (Gay Caller School), Sept 13-15 (San Diego), Sept 27-29 (Chicago), Oct 3-6 (Denver), Oct 4-6 (New York), Oct 11-13 (Seattle), Oct 18-20 (Palm Springs), Nov 8-10 (York, PA); 2014:

Jan 31 - Feb 2 (Palm Springs), Feb 14-16 (Washington), Feb 14-16 (Phoenix)

Another good source of info is our club's [event calendar](#).

Weave the Ring

Who could forget Dayle Hodge's flights (from Baltimore, then from Philadelphia) being cancelled and him so determined to call on Saturday and Sunday that he **drove** all Friday night to get here? Vesta Bule's wardrobe malfunction? Josh from Philadelphia's luck in winning the 50/50 plus two auction prizes? Dancers from Ontario, the US, and Germany all had a great time at "Weave the Ring in 2013."

Thank You to the following members who volunteered their time and energy for the 2013 Fly-In

Bill Eadie	Don St. Jean	Niall O'Reilly
Bob Hynes	Holly Price	Peter Brych
Brittany Harris	Joanne Laplante	Susan Cox
Christine Oliver	Jack Budd	Tom Earle
Dan O'Neill	John Bailey	Byron Godfrey
Darren Higgins	Lee Godfrey	(club photographer)



Thank You to all the club members who helped throughout the weekend, especially Don St. Jean, who, on short notice, called on Friday night, while Dayle was still in transit. Many hours of planning and preparation were expended over the past year by Fly-In Chair Terri and Committee members Paul and Steve M; their hard work produced a successful and enjoyable weekend. Thanks! Byron took some great photos throughout this fun 4 day event: click for pics from [Thursday](#) | [Friday](#) | [Saturday](#) | [Sunday](#). (Check these links again in a few weeks; Byron is part-way through editing and uploading all of his photos.)

To help us plan for next year, **please complete this [survey](#) by June 30, 2013**. Don't miss the fun at our next Fly-In: Scoot Back to the 60s, **May 22-25, 2014**. Mark your calendars!

Summer Season

?! has planned weekly dancing again this summer; all events are 7-9 pm. Please indicate on this [sign up sheet](#), at least 3 days prior, which night(s) you plan to attend. We need a minimum of 8 confirmed dancers; otherwise that night will be cancelled. NB. If your plans change and you **cannot** make it, please remember to **remove** your name from the [sign up sheet](#).

519 Community Centre (Thursdays)

- **June 20**: Free, Mainstream Funshop, with Susan Cox

- **July 11:** \$5 pp, A1 / A2 / C1 dance, caller Joe Uebelacker
- **July 18:** \$5 pp, Mainstream + Plus dance, caller Don St. Jean
- **July 25:** \$5 pp, A2 focus (All 8 / All 4), with Tim Crawford
- **Aug 1:** \$5 pp, Plus Skills Workshop, with Costa Roussakis
- **Aug 8:** \$8 pp, Mainstream + Plus dance, caller Tim Crawford, includes fresh fruit
- **Aug 15:** Free, Intro to square dancing, caller Barry Clasper
- **Aug 22:** Free, A2 / C1 FunShop, with Susan Cox
- **Aug 29:** Free, Mainstream Funshop, with Susan Cox
- **Sept. 5:** \$10 pp, all-level club dance, caller Don St. Jean, includes pizza

Callers, steering committee (take a peek)

The callers and the steering committee met for a few hours on May 18, to plan next season's dance schedule. As [explained last issue](#), it's a complex process to determine the best combination of classes for the fall: given constraints of finances, and differing skill levels of dancers. Here is the team of people that help keep run the club.



From left to right:
 front row (callers): Don St. Jean, Joe Uebelacker, Barry Clasper, Andy Chong
 back row: Osamu Miyabe (caller), Colleen Dodds (co-secretary), Michael Moores (treasurer), Peter Brych (IAGSDC rep), Susan Cox (president), Brittany Harris (co-secretary), Bill Eadie (treasurer)

Thanks! Congratulations!

As you know, ?! has some incredibly talented callers and the group of callers has recently grown. Our president **Susan Cox** has gone to caller school and is now starting to call under the co-mentorship of Barry Clasper and Joe Uebelacker. During the past year, Joe and Barry each missed teaching class for a few weeks because of other commitments. Susan has been developing her skills as a square dance caller, and she was able to be a substitute caller for both Basic and Plus classes. Good calling experience for Susan, this also helped the club. Thanks, Susan!

Congratulations to **Bob Hynes** for completing the 75 km [Becel Ride for Heart](#) fundraising ride, on June 2.

Lee Godfrey recently got her second degree black belt; step on her toe when dancing at your peril!

Discussion of member survey

We sent out a [survey](#) on March 1, asking everyone for their ideas how to improve our club. The survey consisted of 4 questions:

1. **Classes:** What would make classes more appealing to you? Are you planning on coming back to classes next year? If you're not sure yet, is there something we could do to make it likely you'd return?
2. **Dances:** how could club dances be improved?
3. **One-level workshops:** What kind of instruction would you want?
4. **Grow the club:** how to attract new members? Retain more of our current members? Get our past members to rejoin the club? Any ideas on how to get our club better known in the community?

From a total membership of 92, we received 13 replies. Here are some *survey responses*, along with feedback from the steering committee (**Comm**).

- *"[dancers should be] allowed to pay \$10.00 per class as a drop-in rate"*
Comm: Drop-ins would be problematic for "teach" classes: we wouldn't know how many angels needed each evening to complete the square. Occasional dancers who miss learning several new calls, would impact the progress of persons who attend regularly. Our club is small and we need dependable income (\$110 per 16 week session from each class member), to cover our costs, which are fixed (eg. caller fee, room rental). Paying the session fee in advance gives dancers an incentive to attend regularly. For larger clubs where 3 or more squares of regular attendees come to a "dance class" (not a "teach" class), drop-ins are more feasible. Starting in Sept, ?! plans to implement a revised fee schedule, to accommodate class members who know they will be missing a few months (eg. "snowbirds"), also a formal refund policy for dropouts.

- "I feel the basic/mainstream classes were more successful when ... they were integrated with the Plus [class]." Another person commented "I prefer to split classes and have two levels for 2.5 hours on at the same night, rather than dancing with only one or maybe two squares at almost every level."*

Comm: The club has done this in the past. There are benefits of teaching two different levels simultaneously (eg. mainstream and plus): possibly cheaper (since only 1 caller needed), more fun/sociable with more persons in the class, experienced dancers can "angel" the newer ones. Disadvantages: neither level gets enough practice time to become really proficient; 2.5 - 3 hour classes are long so some persons tend to come late or leave early. The club focuses on dancer proficiency; where we have the numbers and resources to do so, we like to offer separate two hour classes for each level. Our monthly club dances provide an opportunity to socialize, meet with dancers in other levels and have tips containing several squares.
- "The 519 might also have a bit more cachet than Jessie Ketchum." Another person commented "I prefer to dance at the 519."*

Comm: In September, basic/mainstream classes will be on Thursdays at the 519: a new day and convenient location, which will hopefully help attract new members to our club. The 519 is a very busy facility, in demand from many other groups, so we're only allowed to reserve 1 room, 1 night per week. The club has used Church Street Junior Public School in the past, but it only has a single gym. Jessie Ketchum School (only 1.3 km from the 519) has a double gym and free parking. We have danced there for several years and so we have a very friendly relationship with custodial staff, who permit us to store sound equipment at the school. We always welcome your suggestions of other reasonably priced, centrally located facilities to consider for our classes.
- "... have a learn C1 class on ANY other nite than Thursday"*

Comm: We need a a minimum of a square and two spares in order to "teach" any level; there hasn't been sufficient numbers to teach C1, for past few years.
- [Dancers have noticed that sometimes a second square in the room is not noticed and will break down and be left stranded]*

Comm: Callers tend to focus on one square at a time, so sometimes a caller may lose track of time, or fail to realize that dancers have waited a long time to tag in. Dancers shouldn't be shy; speak up, and draw the caller's attention to the issue at hand. Callers appreciate it if you offer constructive suggestions. It is perfectly acceptable to specifically ask the caller to change the speed of the tip, to workshop a problematic call, or request that a difficult sequence of calls be repeated.
- "It would be nice to see more people out [for club dances], ... but weekends are always difficult [in] that not everyone's available."*

Comm: From Sept to May, Tuesday or Friday are the only weekdays when we don't have classes. We have a club dance planned for Thursday Sept 5, and our Halloween dance on Thursday October 31. If you would like more club dances on a weeknight, please [contact Susan](#).
- "[numerous suggestions concerning recruitment]"*

Comm: This year, we've scheduled 2 "intro" nights this summer (June 13, Aug 15), in addition to our traditional 2 intro dances in September. We've emailed 57 LGBT groups

and invited their members to these intro dances. We're contemplating a compressed 12 week session for basic / mainstream classes, which means that new dancers could start either in September or January. One of our younger club members recently approached the LGBT student association at OCAD, about co-hosting a square dance party for university students. ?! has gained many club members who have a personal connection with existing dancers. To encourage this, we're once again offering \$25 dollar rebate to existing club members, for each referral who signs up for classes.

Next issue

Deadline for contributions to this newsletter is the 10th of each month. This newsletter is emailed monthly to all current ?! members, and is posted on our [website](#). Hope you enjoy reading it. All links are current at the time of newsletter publication.

Previous 2013 issues: [Jan](#) | [Feb](#) | [March](#) | [April](#) | [May](#) | [prior years](#)