



Dates to Remember:

- **Are you missing dancing over the summer?**
Join the remaining workshops at the 519 Community Centre, \$5 Members \$7 Non-Members
 - 1) **August 14, 7:00 PM** = B/MS workshop
 - 2) **August 21, 7:00 PM** = B/MS workshop (last one)
 - 3) **August 28, 7:00 PM** = Plus / A1 / A2 workshop
- **Free INTRO Night** on **Thursday September 4th, 7:00 PM** at the 519 Community Centre.
Come on out and bring friends/family.
- **Free INTRO Night** on **Thursday September 11th, 7:00 PM** at the 519 Community Centre.
Come on out and bring friends/family.
- **Plus & A1/A2 Classes** start **September 17th 7:00 PM** at Jesse Ketchum School.
- **Basic Class** start **September 18th 7:00 PM** at the 519 Community Centre.
- **C1 Classes** start **September 18th 7:00 PM** at 15 Maitland Place.

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All Join Hands Canada has been issued a challenge!! If they can raise \$1000 between now and the end of the year, a silent benefactor will match it.

You can send cheques to All Join Hands Canada, 165 Kingslake Rd, Toronto, ON M2J 3G4



ALL JOIN
HANDS
CANADA

Adventures in Guatemala By Colleen Dodds

In 1991 my partner and I were asked if we'd like to work with a newly formed humanitarian group to improve the lives of the Mayan indigenous peoples of the highlands of Guatemala.

Xela Aid (pronounced Shay-la) is a charity that has no political or religious affiliation. Until 1996 the country was engaged in a brutal civil war and any affiliation would be dangerous. For the first five years the group worked out of tents dispensing medical aid and travelling from village to village.

The benefits of settling in one place with a permanent building became obvious and San Martin Chiquito is the location of a large two story clinic that opened in 2006.

A women's weaving cooperative had been formed to support the school that was built. The illiteracy rate among the indigenous is over 90%. The clinic now serves a wide area with "in country" medical staff, birthing center, lab, optometry, dental, pharmacy, and education components. All volunteers pay their own way. This past June was my 17th trip. We've watched children grow up and we have become part of the fabric of the village.



What a privilege to be allowed to step into another culture!

On this last trip I had been asked to teach some of the women to bake some treats that they could sell to earn a bit of extra money. All winter I tried out recipes for candies and cookies using various ingredients based on what was available in Guatemala, not too expensive, and could be cooked on top of a very primitive wood stove which is the only cooking source they have,

Many of the square dance classes on Wednesday and Thursday nights tasted the results of my experiments. My thanks to Jorge Velasquez (B/M class) who translated all my recipes into perfect Spanish.

On this trip I also was in charge of a reading glasses clinic as the women who sew or weave for a living needed near sight glasses.



The first week was the baking class and what fun we had! They had never seen a rolling pin! Their kitchens have no running water or sink and the wood stove heat is pretty variable so there were challenges. The women loved the opportunity to just be together, laughing, mostly at my terrible Spanish. One recipe called for one cup of grated "panela" which is rock hard sugar that you dissolve or grate as a sweetener. When I told them what I needed I must have said "panyela" and after a shocked silence followed by hilarious laughter they told me that "panyela" means

diapers! Everyone in the village heard about it within an hour.

The Welsh Cakes, cookies, sponge toffee and especially the fudge were all new tastes for them and they just loved it. Our director will work out pricing and packaging with the women and hopefully the baking project production will be in operation by this August. We have an on site little store where the women sell their weavings and other craft items as well as a few retail outlets in some nearby towns.



Back in the beginning my partner and I sponsored a brother and sister to go to the school. They were the first children in their village to go to high school and then university. Now in their twenties Adelberto is the director of education in his district and Rosa is also a teacher. She has just had her first child so I met my first Guatemalan grandchild.

My adventures in Guatemala have been life changing. If you ever have the opportunity to work in a third world setting; do it!

Kevin's Capers

So it was the first weekend of the Caller's School in Peterborough and I was coming back to Toronto. Joe had dropped me off at a street corner in Bowmanville where we were both relatively certain a GO bus was going to pass by. So I was waiting by the side of the road, choreographing a square dance -- as one does. I'd been



doing this for about 6 minutes, when I heard a voice behind me...

"Is everything alright, sir?"

I turn around and, sure enough, there are 3 police officers standing there waiting for an explanation.

"Can I help you, officers?" I asked, terrified.

"Well, we got a call about a strange man waving and shouting at traffic. What brings you to Bowmanville today, sir?"

Oh, god.

I explained to them that I was waiting on a GO bus, and that I was practicing Square Dancing while I was waiting. That I was a Square Dance Caller-in-training, and that I had just come from Peterborough where I had been taking my class that weekend.

Fortunately I was wearing my club badge, which validated me.

At this point they asked me what I could possibly have been doing to attract the attention of the police. So I showed them.

I demonstrated a square thru 4, trade by, swing your partner and promenade -- you see, as I had been choreographing I had been dancing with a square of phantoms. In hindsight it's easy to see how I could have attracted attention.

Oh, by the way, it was pouring rain. And also I was wearing short-shorts and a white dress shirt, the latter of which had completely soaked through by that point.

Well, they were still not entirely convinced. They ran my passport to see if I had any record of police involvement or mental health issues and then, at length, they left.

The GO bus never did come.

By Kevin Leask

World Pride 2014

Triangle Squares is proud to have had a significant presence at Toronto World Pride 2014. Thank you to all those who participated and volunteered their time for the various events. Check them out over the next couple of pages.



RISE UP!

On June 29th, the Triangle Tarts and their allies (aka "other Triangle Squares members") took to the streets to "RISE UP!". Armed with protest signs and our club banner, we marched proudly in the World Pride Parade down Yonge Street to spread the word about Square Dancing and to invite the crowd to come dance with us and join in the FUN!!!!!!

YMCA Pride Dance Festival by Colleen Dodds

On June 27, 2014 Triangle Squares did a demo dance and intro at the Central YMCA (20 Grosvenor St. Toronto) as part of the YMCA co-sponsorship of World Pride. Ten dancers representing all levels of Triangle Squares rehearsed through June and presented (twice) a great demo dance to the old song YMCA with the arm moves to the letters. The folks at the Y were delighted and made a video to send to their other branches around the world.

Our callers were Joe Ubelacker (who arranged the choreography) and Don St. Jean. The afternoon was shared with Swingin' Out who danced from 2-3 pm followed by our club from 3-4pm. The event was well attended and we thank the many other club members who joined us and danced for the intro sections of the afternoon.

We were also able to accommodate a profoundly deaf dancer who wished to join us. Thank you Joanne Leplante for your help.



Thanks to Susan Cox and Steve McKeown for their help with this event.

May I Have This Dance? By Steve McKeown

On Friday June 13th, Triangle Squares joined forces with 4 other LGBT Dance groups to present an evening of dance to over 150 attendees.

Swingin' Out, Toronto Wranglers, LGBT Dance, Rainbow Ballroom, and Triangle Squares hosted the evening that highlighted all the different dance genres. There were lessons and demos from each group interspersed between periods of mixed playlists.

May I Have This Dance?
A community dance celebrating WorldPride

Friday, June 13th, 2014
6:00-10:30pm

Try out new dance styles! Dancing and mini lessons in:
LINE DANCING . . . MERENGUE . . . SWING
SALSA . . . SQUARE DANCING

Enjoy demos and performances! Guest appearance by Ill Nana!
Come dance with us!

The 519 Church Street Community Centre
519 Church St., 2nd Floor Ballroom
\$7 or PWYC (pay what you can)

Wheelchair accessible. Scent-free space. All ages.
Please contact us for access and accommodation requests.
For more info: www.swinginout.ca/pridedance
pridedance@swinginout.ca @PrideDanceTO bit.ly/PrideDanceTO

Presented by LGBT Dance, Rainbow Ballroom, Swingin'OUT, Toronto Wranglers & Triangle Squares.

LGBT DANCE RAINBOW BALLROOM SWINGIN' OUT TORONTO WRANGLERS

Don St. Jean was the caller to an enthusiastic group of dancers. Thanks to Don and to the Triangle Squares members who attended and danced with the potential new dancers.

It was an amazing site to see how music can unite groups. I was dancing the 2-step with Don Cheff and at one point looked around the dance floor to see that there were couples dancing salsa, swing, and ballroom all to the same song.

Each group provided some prizes for a raffle. Triangle Squares generously gave a session of Basic/Mainstream Lessons and a one year membership to a lucky winner. We will be contacting her to encourage her to bring her friends out to introduction nights.

Between the door proceeds, a bake sale, and the 50/50 and prize raffle, the committee was able to cover most expenses, and donate a portion to the 519 for the use of the ballroom. Through the generosity of All Joins Hands Canada, Triangle Squares was able to cover the rest of our expenses.

The event was a great success and Triangle Squares is looking forward to working with these other groups in the future to promote dance to the LGBT community.

Japanese Dancers July 2014

Attending the Festival 2014 Convention in Ottawa July 16-19, 2014 there were five dancers from Japan. They came to Canada to dance at the Convention and to visit Osamu Miyabe whom they knew from his calling in Japan.



A few of them had attended the 2012 Convention in Spokane Washington where Wendy Vander Muelen, the Chair of Festival 2014, met them and invited them to come to Canada to attend this Festival to be held in Ottawa.

Osamu held a dance party in their honour on Monday July 21st at 15 Maitland and invited all members of Triangle Squares to come for a free dance. A great time was had by all and the following interview was made for our newsletter.

Thanks to Eleanor Batchelder, Don St. Jean, and Hitomi Igasaki for translating.

Keiko Tamatsukuri

Keiko went to the Convention in Spokane, Washington two years ago. She came to Canada to dance at Festival 2014 and also to visit with Cynthia, a Canadian lady from Nova Scotia who was traveling with the Japanese dancers. She had lived in Japan and danced with them for 7 years before returning to Canada two years ago.

Keiko has danced for 15 years and dances C3B level with the Swingers H Club in Hokkaido, Japan. She was surprised that in Canada there are such beautiful flowers.

She has been to Western Canada in the winter and saw Lake Louise frozen which she thought was very beautiful. She also thought that the trees with no leaves were dead but they told her the leaves would grow back in the springtime.

Katsuko Oya

Katsuko came to Canada for the Ottawa Convention. She has been dancing for 25 years and dances C3. She also knew Cynthia in Japan and met Osamu when she took A2+ in Hokkaido, Japan.

She was surprised by how big everything is in Canada; bigger houses, roads, and especially bigger portions in restaurants. She goes to conventions in Sapporo Japan.

She said that some calls have different styling in North America which was a bit confusing but she likes that everyone has a good time dancing here.



Hitomi Igasaki

Hitomi wanted to come to Canada and see Ottawa. She met Osamu for the first time at the dance he held for them July 21st. She has been dancing for 3 years and dances Mainstream.

She said that she went to a Convention in Sapporo but this year could not get the time off from her job. She noted that in Canada everyone enjoys dancing even if they make a mistake. She likes that they keep on dancing even if they make a mistake. She noticed the happy attitude about dancing here.

Yukiko Watanabe

Yukiko has been dancing for 15 years and dances C2 level. She came to Canada for the Ottawa Convention and met Osamu in April 2014 at her club's 22nd anniversary. She commented that we have big cities and very beautiful parks. She found that sometimes the calls are confusing when the caller talks a lot and then puts in a call and goes on talking. (Remember that these ladies speak almost no English!)

Nobuko Nakamura

Nobuko has danced for 30 years and dances C3B level. She came to Canada to see Osamu whom she met 10 years ago at Shizuoka Prefecture at Goten BA Convention, and also to dance at the Ottawa Convention.

She thinks Canada is very big and spacious and she loved Niagara Falls. She goes to Conventions in Japan sometimes. She finds the dancing styles are different in Canada for some calls.

The ladies all said that in Japan dancing is taken very seriously and you would be embarrassed to make a mistake. No one goes to a higher level until the people in that class ask you to join them. Your club allows you to go to a Convention when they think you dance well enough that you will not embarrass your club.

They all enjoyed visiting Canada and were delighted to be able to dance with us at Osamu's party.

By Colleen Dodds

MAPLE LEAFS REGROUP



T O R O N T O 2 0 1 6

Features of the Month: Registration and 50/50

Registrations for Maple Leafs Regroup opened at the Salt Lake City convention, Squeeze the Hive, at the beginning of July. We managed to sell over **300** registrations for our event, thanks to the enthusiastic response to the club video and presentation by **Lee Godfrey**. Toronto attendees received much praise from IAGSDC members on how slick, compelling, and professional the video and website looked. If you haven't yet checked out the video, you can view it from our website www.toronto2016.com. We are very grateful to **Terri Rothman, Christiane Galley, and Bill Eadie** for all of their work on the video and the website. A big thank you also goes to all of the volunteers who helped sell 50/50 tickets in Salt Lake City, as everything we raise will be crucial to us being able to cover the expenses of the convention, in addition to registrations sold.

The registration price is currently US\$210. However, we will be offering a **Volunteer Rate of US\$160** to club members who are willing to help with all the tasks that need to be completed between now and the end of the convention in July 2016. **This reduced rate will be available until May 31st, 2015.** Look for registration forms at club events over the next year or write to info@toronto2016.com for more info.



Who wouldn't buy a 50/50 ticket from Terry with such a great smile?



Photos by Byron Godfrey



Danny, Lee, and Don investigate the 50/50 tickets

Ray offering Canadian whiskey samples with each 50/50 purchase

FESTIVAL 2014: A CAPITAL EXPERIENCE

Over 1200 dancers from across Canada, the US, Europe, Australia, and Japan gathered in Ottawa for Festival 2014, the 18th annual Canadian Square and Round Dance Convention, July 16-19. Triangle Squares was represented by 13 dancers and two callers: Joe Uebelacker and Barry Clasper.

Since this was our first Canadian national convention, Niall and I were determined to get a “Capital Survivor” dangle, so we attended the [1] Trail-In dance Wednesday night with Don Moger, Tim Crawford, and Betsy Gotta. (We were pleasantly surprised to discover Michael Priser in a square and there were lots of hugs all around.) Thursday morning we proudly marched in the banner parade with the [Ottawa Date Squares](#) to [2] Parliament Hill and danced on the same parade grounds as the Changing of the Guards. We danced in the [3] Basic hall with children from Quebec and wore [4] Red & White with our club shirts to the Friday evening sessions. Niall got up early on Saturday morning for a [5] Rise & Shine dance at 7:00am with people in their robes and PJs. The final activity was attending the [6] closing dance on Saturday evening. Unfortunately, there wasn't time to attach dangles at the convention; we are still waiting to receive them by snail-mail.

First-time experiences for us included: Dancing in the Plus hall with a blind woman, who knew where to go, even when she was the “Pretty One” for Spin Chain and Exchange the Gears. Dancing in the A1 hall with a vision-impaired man, who also knew the calls better than everyone in the square. The [Steel City Wheelers](#), who came all the way from Hamilton, danced with both motorized wheelchairs and chairs accompanied by “Pushers”. And Susan loved the Rainbow Room: “...where fun and nonsense reigned supreme. Dancers crammed into the room to learn styling for Weave the Ring and Grand Square (a bit of crashing inevitably occurred, but it was a friendly room!), as well as our Highland-flingy Do-Sa-Do. Much whooping and



hollering, in contrast to what was going on in the other rooms, so we took the precaution of closing the hall door TIGHTLY.”

CTV and Radio-Canada provided media coverage of the festivities from start to finish. Niall and I appeared on Canada AM and the [CTV National News](#) dancing on Parliament Hill and in the Ottawa Convention Centre. [CTV Morning Live](#) hosts danced in Byward Market with Wendy VanderMeulen and friends, while Roger Frappier and Barry Clasper [explained](#) square dancing with the Newmarket Happy Hoppers on Sparks Street (7:50). Niall tweeted photos and reports from his [@Scoot_n_Swing](#) account.

We're looking forward to the next convention in July 2016 in Regina, but we may be exhausted from our own IAGSDC convention in Toronto happening a few weeks before.

Terri Rothman & Niall O'Reilly

Win a Starbucks Gift Card!

What country did Colleen visit to teach some of the women to bake?

Email the country name to publicity@trianglesquares.com and all correct answers will be entered in a draw for a \$5 Starbucks gift card.

Upcoming Fly-Ins and Dances

- **Summer Magic**, Plus, A1, A2, rounds, C1 sessions; in Cornwall, NAV Canada Centre, Aug 22-24, 2014 Callers: Don Moger, Tom Miller, Tony Oxendine, and Jet Roberts. Contact: avena@videotron.ca
- **A2 After Blast**, in Cornwall, Oct 4-5, 2014 Caller: Don Moger Contact: avena@videotron.ca
- **The Great Chicago Crossfire 2014 "Step & Slide Down The Aisle"** in Chicago, Oct 10-12 Callers: Sandra Bryant and Mike Kellogg
- **Fall Magic**, in Peterborough, Nov 7-8, 2014 Caller: Don Moger Contact: avena@videotron.ca

Dare to be Square!

INTRO Nights

Spread the word! Bring your friends, family,
co-workers!

Thursday September 4th 7:00 PM

Thursday September 11th 7:00 PM

519 Community Centre

Help us poster!

Print out the [full length poster](#)

Or the [half-page poster](#)

Post them up in your neighbourhood!

Libraries, Coffee Shops, Grocery Stores, any-
where there is a bulletin board!

Contact Us

Do you have any-
thing you wish to
share with the club?

If you want to write
an article for the
newsletter, adver-
tise your community
event, or share ide-
as on how to get the
word out about
square dancing and
our club, please feel
free to contact us at:

[Newsletter](#)

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Special Thanks to
Colleen Dodds, Kev-
in Leask, Terri Roth-
man, Niall O'Reilly,
and Byron Godfrey
for their contribution
to this newsletter!

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