



# Triangle Squares Newsletter

Winter 2016



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### NOTE Cancellation dates for classes:

Mar 16: no classes at Jessie Ketchum

Mar 17: No classes at The 519



## Triangle Squares The Wearing of the Green



*Caller: Tim Crawford     Basic to C1*  
*Sunday, March 13, 2:30-5:00 pm*  
*The Fabulous 519*  
*519 Church Street, Toronto*  
*\$5.00 Members \$7.00 Non-members*

*first year dancers welcome, too!*



## MAPLE LEAFS REGROUP



T O R O N T O 2 0 1 6

## CONVENTION HAPPENINGS

The 33rd IAGSDC Convention will be held at The Fairmont Royal York Hotel, July 1-4, 2016. If you've never been to a convention, and dance Mainstream or higher, you are eligible for the First-Time-Attendee rate of \$180 US, thanks to the generous support of [All Join Hands](#). [Contact us](#) for more information.

If you can't come for the whole weekend, please join us on Friday, July 1st, at 7:00pm, for the Trail-In Dance with Joe Uebelacker and Anne Uebelacker. Mainstream through C4 will be called in two rooms. Entrance is FREE. There will also be a Community Contra Dance on Saturday, July 2nd, from 8:00-10:30 pm. Entrance for non-convention dancers is \$10.00. Mark your calendars today!

## LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

- *Drew Post, volunteer co-ordinator*

When I first went to a convention, I ended up working with a friend of mine who had been in my Basic/Mainstream class, but had moved to Vancouver. I did some volunteer work with him, culminating with the removal of the dance floors from the Hotel Vancouver at the end of the convention. Of course the floors (and their removal) were a big thing back then – they even put prizes underneath the plywood to entice people into helping lift the floors! Even though I had done it to spend some more time with a friend, I really enjoyed helping out, and ended up doing a lot of floor removal over the years that I was square dancing.

So why should you volunteer at Convention this year (even if it's your first year?)

1. It's a lot of fun!
2. You get to meet people who dance other levels. If you plan on spending most of your time in a specific hall, then you can meet other people through the volunteer work.
3. It's really a lot of fun!

4. It gives you a greater appreciation of the amount of work that goes into a convention, whether here in Toronto, or elsewhere.
5. Yep, it's fun.
6. If you're shy – it gives you a reason to talk to people...
7. You guessed it...

All kidding aside, the undertaking of Convention is the accumulation of years of work, and the actual execution of the convention takes many willing hands. We have several volunteers from other clubs who will be volunteering their time to help us put on another successful convention, but we can always use more volunteers.

It would be great to hear from you! We currently need people to help with registration, and registration package building, more help to staff the women's hospitality room (women only), gofers and helpers and problem-solvers are welcome as well. Most of these jobs would be just before or at Convention Keep an eye on your emails for more specific listings the closer we get to the convention.

Please [contact me](#) to volunteer.

## GAY CALLERS ASSOCIATION CALLING ALL WOULD-BE CALLERS

You always wanted to be a caller, right? Who doesn't dream of the glory. Now's the chance for your big break. The Gay Callers Association is having its annual **Caller School** in the week prior to this year's Maple Leafs Regroup Convention. Now you can spend three days with Caller Coach Anne Uebelacker and Teaching Assistant Brian Jarvis in a concentrated effort to expand your knowledge of square dance calling. Beginning callers will benefit from this intensive exposure to some of the best callers in the business! Held June 28-30, right at The Fairbank Royal York Hotel, you will get:

- plenty of microphone time
- 3 days of instruction by our excellent coaches
- personal attention from our superb teaching assistants
- CALLERLAB New Caller Kit (beginners)
- choreographic checkers (beginners)

And all for the crazy-low cost of \$75 US, which includes 3 lunches. Subsidized in part by All Join Hands. See more info [here](#).

## JOIN THE FUN! - *Colleen Dodds*

Convention is coming! Even if you haven't registered you can still be a part of our convention weekend at the Royal York Hotel in downtown Toronto, July 1-4th, 2016. Yes, even if you are not dancing you can volunteer at the **Women's Hospitality Room**, meet other dancers, and host visitors from around the world! The Women's Hospitality Room (WHR) is a special space set aside for women dancers to rest, meet other women and have a snack ...a few minutes away from the hustle bustle of Convention. This room is staffed by the women of the host club and they traditionally bake or buy treats to offer visitors and greet visitors who come.

Holly Price and Colleen Dodds are the organizers this year and they invite the women of Triangle Squares to show our visitors a pleasant place of hospitality. Let's show them that Canadians are friendly and welcoming. We thank those few who have volunteered to spend some time helping by baking or hosting in the WHR. We especially thank a few gentlemen who have offered to bake too. THANK YOU as we say in dancing! To volunteer, please contact [Colleen Dodds](#) or 416-247-6854.

If you're into crafts, and want to sell your wares at a table during the convention, please [contact me](#) to make arrangements. No charge for club members.

**MAPLE LEAFS REGROUP**



T O R O N T O 2 0 1 6

## PEDAL TO THE METAL *-Silke and Danny*

Hi Triangle Squares Members,

We want to say HELLO from the German outpost of the Triangle Squares....

Some of you might not have seen us, and some of you will remember directly! It was not possible for us to join the 2015 convention, but of course we will be there for the 2016 event! We are very excited and looking forward to see the newbies and old friends, and as I'd like to say, my oversea family!

We are not just coming for the convention, we will stay around for 10 to 14 days afterwards and explore the eastern provinces of Canada: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland.

And now this is the part where we want to ask for your help. Do you have any tips, hints, secrets, best restaurants, favourite Bed & Breakfasts, cottages (maybe you have one and we can rent it?), or even locals we could meet and not the normal touristic places to see. Of course we will be on the touristic route, but something special from local people is mostly more interesting!

If you have something like this for us – we would be very happy and thankful if you could email us: [silke.heunisch@yahoo.ca](mailto:silke.heunisch@yahoo.ca). Thanks in advance and save us a dance at convention!

[Silke danced with the Triangle Squares in 2008-9 when she was scouting Toronto for job prospects. She and Danny have been members ever since, and give our Fly-ins some international cred. Their home club is the Friendship Squares, Würzburg, Bavaria].



## DO YOU HAVE AN IAGSDC PROFILE? – Dan Gagnon, IAGSDC Rep

Attention first-time convention attendees! Not sure what to expect? The IAGSDC website has all the answers you need. Visit the [IAGSDC website](#) and create a profile.

Once you have access, familiarize yourself with the information available. Here you can see a list of events, clubs and members, upcoming/past conventions, or update your profile, etc.

You can also visit the "**Convention**" section and have a look at the [Convention Guide](#). Here you will find information on what to expect at conventions, what to prepare for, what to bring, what to wear, and in some cases what *not* to wear, specialty tips, and many other topics.

The Convention is an experience not to be missed! Guaranteed you'll make memorable memories, and meet wonderful people from all over.

## THE ELEPHANT DOESN'T FORGET

Several years back, Don, one of our club's founders and callers, was cleaning house. He lives in a condo at Carleton and Yonge, which is spacious enough, but condos can be unforgiving that way. Over the years, he had gathered a not-so-small collection of elephant figurines. Many were gathered from his travels, starting from when he lived and taught school in Africa for two years in the 70s, later collected or given to him from destinations as diverse as South Africa, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand. They ranged the gambit from children's toys to artistic carvings and sculptures.

Each has a distinct story and personality. It pained him to have to part with them, but part with them he must. He hit on a plan of giving them away to anyone who would adopt one to a good home. In order not to lose the attachment completely, he photographed each one, with the person who adopted it. Taken together, the photographs afford a whimsical view into our club. Most members are still dancing. Some, sadly, have passed away. Others have moved on to other activities. Oh, and checking with Don, size does count.



## IN THE FRAME: THE VILLAGE



For most of the fall and spring dance sessions, classes and dances of the Triangle Squares take place behind closed doors. But once the hot weather arrives, our activities spill out onto



Church Street, and we take our place among the revellers during the short summer festival season. During this time, The Village - the gay village - forms a backdrop in our photos, and gives us a colourful stage on which to showcase ourselves to a large audience of potential dancers. Many club members live in the neighbourhood, and downtown dwellers form our most significant pool of new prospects.

The Church-Wellesley area began as a Victorian neighbourhood carved out of the estate of Alexander Wood (whose statue sits at Church and Alexander). Gay culture started to focus in the decades prior to the 1970s, based primarily on the public bathhouses on the area and several bars on



Yonge, most famously the St. Charles Tavern. The gay community became politicised in the 1970s and 80s following a series of widely-publicised bathhouse raids. In parallel with the hippy culture of Yorkville, and red light district on Yonge, Church Street took on a recognizable character with same-sex dance clubs and drag reviews. Vestiges of The Village in its heyday can still be seen in places like Steam Works, Pegasus on Church and Northbound Leather. To get the full flavour of the



neighbourhood in all its bacchanal glory, one only has to visit Church Street on Saturday night.

In addition to The 519, other iconic institutions mark out the area's LGBT focus, including the Aids Memorial in Barbara Hall Park, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Glad Day Bookshop, and the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives. While the neighbourhood has changed again, gradually giving way to gentrification and changing demographics, some business still maintain a gay-themed marketing focus, most noticeably the Out on the Street clothing store. Social networks such as Out and Out anchor the social scene. In fact, Triangle Squares was created after a successful Out and Out dance event.

Among the activities we have taken part in over the years are the Church Street Village Fair, which was formerly the Fetish Fair. Last Year the Pan Am Games had a series of cultural activities coinciding with the sporting events, centred around "Pride House," which was at the temporarily rebranded 519. Open Streets is a new initiative we took part in last year, which from our own marketing perspective was not that successful, but the initiative looks like it will expand to more Sundays this coming summer. No doubt the queen of the summer festivals for the neighbourhood is the Annual Pride parades, which tops off what was called "Pride Week," and looks like it will expand to Pride Month. More on that in my next instalment.



**Thanks to everyone who has Angelled or signed up for the Thursday night Basic Class. Only a few more spots to fill!**

**Sign-up sheet [here](#),**

## "BIG TENT DANCING" FROM BARRY CLASPER

*As many of you know, Barry used to be an important guy, namely Chairman of Callerlab. He gave a [keynote speech](#) at their 2014 Convention. In it, he outlined some of the realities all Modern Square Dance clubs are facing, and how they will have to adapt and change, or fade into history. With his permission, here are three [excerpts](#).*

There are many who would like to go back to better times – the good old days. They believe our goal should be a return to the way things were when we had a convention with 40,000 dancers. But – realistically - that will never happen. The world has changed – transformed really – since those days. We are starting from a different place, and even if we are wildly successful in reinvigorating square dancing, it will assuredly look much different in the future than it did in the past. It will be shaped by many factors, some within our control, but many not. In fact, it will undoubtedly be strongly influenced by things that do not even exist now, and which we cannot even imagine.

[...]

The realization dawns widely that MWSD, as we conceive it today, is actually more complicated than we admit. It requires more training and experience than most people are willing to invest in a casual recreation. We return to our roots and start to offer more “big tent” dances that allow anyone to walk in off the street and have a fun evening. They could be patterned on the ABC idea or the Community Dance program, perhaps

the Nest experiment presented at last year's convention, or maybe something entirely new. These dances are run on a weekly basis but do not require regular attendance. There is no emphasis or pressure to move on to taking a “class” and learning more complicated stuff. Many callers call nothing else, but are nevertheless viewed as full-fledged and respected members of the community of square dance callers. People who attend these dances are considered to be full-fledged square dancers. The re-establishment of “big tent” dances serves to build a growing population of people who have experienced and enjoyed something called “square dancing”. Most of these people have no idea that square dancing might have additional elements, although a few will, of course, be curious. And we do indeed have something for the curious and the restless. Maybe we call it “Mainstream” - or maybe we come up with a more engaging name for it.

[...]

We realize that the people who want something “more” than what they find in the “big tent” square dances are relatively scarce and we become more insightful about sifting them out of the general population. We realize that MWSD (as we currently practice it) requires a certain degree of fanaticism – a willingness to commit to regular weekly lessons over a period of several months, then a willingness to attend as many dances and festivals as possible to hone the skills imparted during lessons. We get better at recruiting the ones who will do well without making the rest feel that enjoying “big tent” dances represents some sort of failure.

## GUERRILLA MARKETING: REFRESHING OUR WEBSITE

It's an open debate in marketing circles how relevant websites are in the age of Twitter and Facebook. Either way, ours was in need of refreshing. Rolling up their sleeves, Susan C. and Bill E. set to work crafting a new site on Wordpress. Among the objectives were: make the new site smartphone-friendly, speak more directly to perspective new dancers, and present an image that's fresh, lively, and fun. We've kept the existing club [URL](#), so no need to update your links. As mentioned earlier, photos of people having fun, *lots of them*, are a key part of our message. This means you may well see a

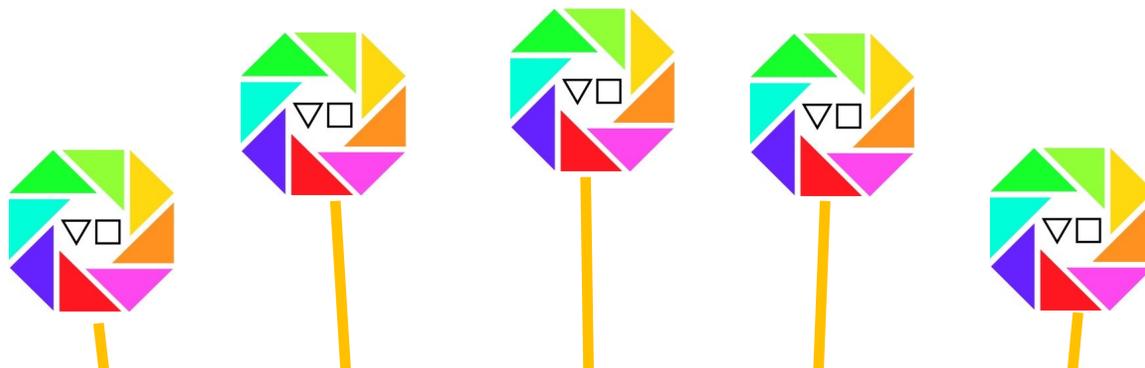
photo of yourself. If you're uncomfortable with a particular image, let us know and we'll replace it. Comments are always welcome. A big thanks and yellow rocks to Susan and Bill from all of us for their hard work.

Also, in case you were wondering, the **Sidewinder String Band** sat in for the opening part of our Open House on January 28th. They, and Susan, will be featured in a series of Summer Dance Parties at The 519 in July and August. Stay tuned...

Email me anytime: [publicity@trianglesquares.com](mailto:publicity@trianglesquares.com)



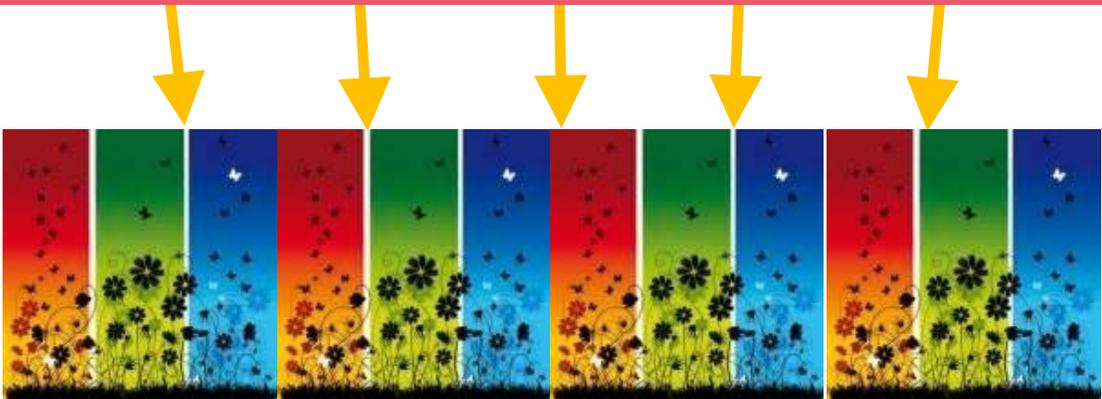
# SUNSHINE AND RAINBOWS DANCE



**Triangle Squares  
Sunshine and Rainbows**

*Caller: Joe Uebelecker      Basic-C1*  
*Thursday, May 26 7:00-9:00 pm*  
*The Fabulous 519*  
*519 Church Street, Toronto*  
*\$5.00 members \$7.00 non-members*

*first year dancers welcome, too!*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Joint T&D Dance, Guelph**  
 Saturday, March 6, 2016, 2:00-9:00pm.  
 Callers: Jeff Priest, Dave Williamson [details](#)
- Club Dance: The Wearing of the Green**  
 Sunday, March 13, 2016  
 2:30-5:00pm, The 519  
 Caller: Tim Crawford [details](#)
- Joint T&D Dance, Waterdown**  
 Saturday April 2, 2016, 2:00-9:30 pm  
 Callers: Jim Lee, Wayne Hall [details](#)
- Grand Rapids Fly-In**  
 April 15-17 2016, *Dancing With The Thars*  
 Callers: Tim Marriner & Gary Monday  
[details here](#)
- Spring Spree, Peterborough**  
 April 16, 2016. Basic–A2 dancing all day  
 Callers: Joe Uebelacker, Don Moger,  
 Dave Hutchinson, and Jack Pladdys  
 Details [here](#)
- Club Dance: Sunshine and Rainbows**  
 Thursday, May 26, 2016  
 7:00-9:00pm, The 519, Free!  
 Caller: Joe Uebelacker [details](#)
- July 1-4, 2016 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel:**

### MAPLE LEAFS REGROUP



T O R O N T O 2 0 1 6

Click [here](#) for upcoming IAGSDC Events,  
 and [here](#) for T&D dances.

## Contact Us

If you want to write  
 an article for the newsletter,  
 please feel free to contact us:

[Newsletter Editors](#)

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*Stay tuned in to the scene*

