

# THE GATHERING

(Dancers Working Together To Keep  
the Fun in Square Dancing)



**Evolve ~~or die...~~ and thrive**

Saturday, October 9, 2010

12:00 noon – 10:00 PM

**Co-sponsored by**

Northern New Jersey Square Dancers Association  
Square Dance Council of New Jersey  
Callers' Council of New Jersey

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# THE GATHERING COMMITTEE

Thank you to the clubs who sent us representatives:  
Belles & Beaux, Kittatinny Rangers, Lakeland Squares, Reelers,  
Western Wheelers. (Without their support, The Gathering would never  
have gotten off the ground!)

**Rusty Ball**, Gathering Chair, NNJSDA Treasurer (Belles & Beaux)  
**Richard Ball**, NNJSDA Past-President (Belles & Beaux)  
**Maryjane Clewell** (Belles & Beaux, Western Wheelers)  
**Kay Davis**, NNJSDA Assistant Treasurer (Kittatinny Rangers)  
**Sig Eisele**, NNJSDA Assistant Treasurer (Lakeland Squares)  
**Betsy and Roy Gotta**, SDCNJ Chairs, CCNJ Past-Presidents,  
CALLERLAB  
**Lise Greene**, NNJSDA Co-President (Reelers, Kittatinny  
Rangers, Hix & Chix)  
**Helen Jacobson** (Reelers)  
**Kathy Keener** (Lakeland Squares)  
**Audrey Kerner**, NNJSDA Vice President (Belles & Beaux)  
**Donna Poyer**, NNJSDA Vice President (Kittatinny Rangers)  
**Arlene Remington**, Registrar (Belles & Beaux, Western  
Wheelers)  
**Ken Robinson**, NNJSDA Co-President (Rutgers Promenaders)  
**Mike Szekula**, NNJSDA Insurance (Kittatinny Rangers)  
**Bonnie Van Stone** (Kittatinny Rangers, Reelers)

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We are also grateful for Education Grants from

**ARTS  
CALLERLAB**

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The Resource Tables with hundreds of  
handouts will be open throughout the day in  
Trayes B

**1:00 – 2:00 INTRODUCTIONS AND  
KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**Square Dancing and the 6 Senses – The Role They Play In the  
Activity and Its Promotion**

**John Marshall, Caller, Square Dance Leader, Recording Artist**



John was raised in Baltimore, Maryland. He began his calling career there in 1969. Four years later a change in his day job brought him to Northern Virginia. He currently resides in Sterling near Washington, D.C. John regularly calls every program from Basic through C-3B as well as party nights.

John has worked to develop a strong program in his community. The program includes home clubs ranging through Challenge 2. In addition to these clubs, John also teaches classes and workshops to support the continued growth of these groups.

This home program is accented by John's out of town calling commitments which have taken him all over the United States, Canada, and overseas to Sweden, Denmark, Germany, England, and Australia.

Becoming a full-time caller in 1979 gave John more time to work at his chosen profession. Consequently he has chaired committees as a CALLERLAB member, is currently serving an elected term on the Board of Governors, and enjoys serving as a clinician, panelist, and presenter at workshops and schools for callers.

During his career he has been a regular contributor to various square dancer and caller publications, he has appeared on television a variety of times, and as a talented singer has served as a recording artist for Sets in Order, 4 Bar B Records, and Red Boot Records.

John is always working to expand his music and choreographic knowledge, as well as his showmanship abilities in order to bring you the best square dancing possible.

John's Website is [johnmarshallsquaredance.com](http://johnmarshallsquaredance.com).  
His contact email is [mary.hutchinson13@comcast.net](mailto:mary.hutchinson13@comcast.net)

**Scatter**

2:15 – 5:00

**4 Breakout Sessions—they'll come to YOU!  
Speakers will rotate from room to room so you get to  
participate in all the sessions**

**Growing the Square Dance Family**

**By DAN KOFT**

- ✓ How do we get into the schools to introduce dancing?
- ✓ How do outsiders approach school district; what if school district approaches YOU, the dancer?
- ✓ Dancing with kids—what to do and what not to do to keep them coming back
- ✓ Attracting/encouraging families:  
Factors that attract/prevent family participation (time of dances/classes on school nights, non-alcoholic, dancers who know how to deal with height and attention span issues)
- ✓ Home-schooling ins and outs; list pros and cons of home-schooling program
- ✓ How do outsiders approach the home-schooling network?

**Dan Koft** is a square dance leader and caller from N.J. He started dancing in 1977 with a high school group in East Brunswick called PiR Squares run by Dick Jones. While attending college, he became a member and then officer Rutgers Promenaders which was then a college club. He served in all offices as a member dancer. In 1979, he decided to learn to call and began learning to call from Betsy Gotta. In 1980 he attended a caller school run by Earl Johnston and Al Brundage on a scholarship provided by Y Squares to honor their former club caller Bob Kellogg. Subsequently he worked very closely with Betsy Gotta who mentored him as he learned to call.

In 1987 Dan met Kathy through a member of Rutgers Promenaders at a contra dance. Kathy had signed up for lessons at Rutgers (13 weeks to mainstream!). Kathy and Dan married in 1989 and in 1993 Kathy decided to try cueing and worked closely with Roy Gotta.

Kathy and Dan are members of CALLERLAB, ROUNDALAB, and CCNJ. Dan served as officer of CCNJ and served for many years on the New Jersey Square Dance convention and other dance convention committees. Currently Dan is the club caller for Y Squares, Dan and Kathy are club caller/cuers for MR Squares and they are co-caller/cuers for Rutgers Promenaders with Betsy and Roy Gotta. Their daughter Julie (15 on 10/12) is a member of Rutgers Promenaders and MR Squares. One of Julie's favorite partners is her grandfather Bernie Koft.

Dan can be reached at [koft@comcast.net](mailto:koft@comcast.net).



## Dancers with Limits—Together We Can All Have Fun

By MICHELLE MABIE

- ✓ Declining dancers:  
How do we keep our loved ones involved?  
Coping with physical problems--the halting step, one-handed dancer, failing sight and/or hearing, dancers with limited stamina needing to be replaced during a tip, etc.
- ✓ Including everyone at their own limits (not insisting everyone dance, but making it possible for them to dance when they want to and sit out when they want to do that)
- ✓ Using cultural awareness to promote square dancing (encourage diversity)--  
How to encourage different cultural groups to embrace American square dance?

**Michelle Mabie** is a square dance leader and caller, formerly from N.J. and now from N.Y. She began dancing when she was 15 years old. Her feet haven't stopped dancing since! She has been the caller for the Mercer ArcAngel and Hunterdon Stars Square Dance Clubs for 17 years.

Michelle has been calling party nights and has called some Mainstream Dances over these past 17 years. Michelle has a beautiful daughter, Brittany, who has been dancing since she was 5. Brittany has helped her Mom chaperone many of our Handicapable Square Dance trips and helped her run the 12<sup>th</sup> US Handicapable Square Dance Convention.

Michelle is the Chairman of the CALLERLAB Handicapable Committee, (CALLERLAB.org) and is the President of the US Handicapable Square Dance Association (ushandicapable.org). Michelle has helped many of the National Square Dance Conventions organize and run their Handicapable Square Dance programs.

Michelle lives in Gansevoort, New York, with her husband Rickke, who just finished taking Mainstream lessons, Brittany, her stepdaughter Morgan and stepson Matt.

Michelle can be reached at [mmichbritt@aol.com](mailto:mmichbritt@aol.com)



## **Square Dancing is not a “Singles Activity,” But Solos are Welcomed Here!**

**By EILEEN OKOLOWICZ**

- ✓ Attracting solos--ways a club can be solo-friendly  
Solo dancing (OK, you've attracted solos, now how do you make them feel welcome?)
- ✓ Fashion “police” or open arms --dress code and lack thereof:  
How to make wording for attire attractive and understandable--how to encourage suitable attire without requiring it?

**Eileen Okolowicz** is a square dance leader and cuer from Rochester, N.Y. She began square dancing in 1986 with Cloverleaf Squares, singles' square dance club of Rochester, NY. She took a hiatus in the late 90's, then returned to Cloverleafs in 2001 and has danced continuously ever since. She's held several local offices in both her club and in National organizations: Vice-President and President of Cloverleafs, 2005, Promotions Chairman of Rochester Area Federation, Co-chairman of the very successful 36th National Singles Dance-A-Rama in Rochester, 2006. She has served on Single Square Dancers USA (SSDUSA) Board of Officers for 3 years as Vice President, President, and Past President.

Eileen now dances Plus and Advanced levels and travels whenever and wherever possible to dance and promote square dancing. She attended the 53rd NSDC in Denver, 2004 and has not missed one since. She joined ROUNDALAB and learned to cue in 2009.

Professionally she retired from Eastman Kodak in 2002 as a Systems Analyst with 30 years of service, and retired again from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester in 2010 as Bookkeeper at St. Lawrence Church with 6-1/2 years of service.

Eileen's hobbies are golfing, sewing, and spending time with her 3 grown children and 9 grandchildren (soon to be 10!)

Eileen can be reached at [eileenok@gmail.com](mailto:eileenok@gmail.com).



**History and Horizons... Traditions and Techno in a New-Fangled World!**  
**By HOWARD RICHMAN**

- ✓ Many different aspects of square dancing from Traditional Music to Pop and House.... From Traditional Couples to the "we're here to dance now get in a square!"
- ✓ Not being concerned (or judgmental) if they don't "fit the mold" of traditional square dancers.
- ✓ What does "judgmental" behavior look like and how can it be avoided?
- ✓ Presenting a wide variety of music for all ages/ groups--examples
- ✓ Attracting same-sex couples: 3 ways a club can be same-sex-friendly
- ✓ OK, you've attracted same-sex couples, now how do you make them feel welcome?

**Howard Richman** is a square dance leader and caller from New Jersey. He began his training with classes in ballet and jazz at the Alvin Ailey, Steps and Broadway Dance studios. Howard then began calling Square Dances and teaching Western Dance in 1989. He attended numerous classes and seminars with CALLERLAB, CCNJ and the GCA organizations. He has choreographed for numerous performance groups including the New York Silver Spurs, The Times Squares Dancers and New Jersey's Red Rose.

Howard calls and teaches for over 30 square dance clubs in the tri-state area and has called in England, France, Switzerland, Holland, Norway and toured Germany. He has instructed and dance hosts for Norwegian and Holland America Cruise lines since 2005. Parlour Productions is Howard's theatre company where he produces yearly theatrical events benefiting local organizations.

Howard's Website is [www.cateringcowboy.com](http://www.cateringcowboy.com); his email is [hlr9@verizon.net](mailto:hlr9@verizon.net)

**Scout Back**

**5:15 – 5:45 WRAP-UP**

**By John Marshall**

**WIIFM (What's in it for me?)**

**ARTS (Alliance for Round, Traditional and Square-Dance, Inc.):  
Its Impact On Dancers**

Trayes Hall B

**Did you fill out your evaluation? That's the feedback that really counts!**