

# INTERCOM



Official Newsletter of Single Square Dancers, U.S.A. - Joe B. Ellis, Founder May 2020 Issue

## 50TH DANCE-A-RAMA

Cherry Valley Hotel, Newark, OH

September 4 - 6, 2020

If you have not already done so, NOW is the time to mark Labor Day weekend on your calendars and make your plans to come help celebrate SSDUSA's Golden Anniversary. We have a great, fun-filled 50th Dance-A-Rama festival planned for your dancing pleasure. If your schedule allows, you may want to increase your fun by coming early to go on **The Wilds Safari Tour – 8:30 am to 2:30 pm, Thursday, Sept 3 (\$75).** We will travel by motor coach to *The Wilds*, a unique safari park and conservation center in Cumberland Ohio, where we will board an Open-Air Safari vehicle reserved for our group. A knowledgeable guide will take us through *The Wilds'* open-range animal areas, where we'll see rhinos, giraffes and many other rare and endangered animals roaming in large, natural settings. Lunch at *The Wilds* is included. There is enough time to relax and rest up before our Trail In Dance starts at 7:30 PM. Jack Pladdys and Tom Davis will be the callers and Phyllis Burdette and Bonnie Lawrence will be cueing rounds at this dance.

We believe we have assembled an outstanding lineup of featured callers and cuers for our DAR:

**Jack Pladdys** (OH) calls Basic through C1. He has traveled and called extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Japan, the Middle East, and Europe. He has been a featured caller for the World Convention in Austria, numerous state conventions, and the International Singles Convention in Canada. He calls at numerous weekends, festivals, and

on square dance cruises. He has recorded music with Royal Records, Chicago Country Records, Desert Recordings, and Gold Rush Records.

**Tim Tyl** (TX) has called throughout the United States and in Germany. Tim is currently on staff at Kirkwood Lodge and has served on staff for many years at Fun Valley and English Mountain square dance resorts. He has been a featured caller for numerous national, state, and regional conventions and festivals, including multiple past SSDUSA DAR's. He is known for his humor and antics while calling a lively and energetic dance at any level.

**Tom Davis** (OH) is a nationally known caller who calls for beginners thru C1. He has called dances and festivals through most of the Mid & Eastern United States. Tom also records music for the Silver Eagle label. Tom has been the featured caller for many state conventions and festivals, including performing at multiple past Dance-A-Rama festivals.

**Travis Cook** (KY) is a popular young caller, who calls Basic through C1. He calls and teaches square dancing in Kentucky, and calls as a guest caller at clubs throughout Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio, and was well received as one of our featured callers at our DAR in Indianapolis in 2018.

**Phyllis Burdette** (OH) and her husband Doug teach rounds from Basic to Phase IV+. They are the club cuers for the Dixie Squares, and also cue rounds at many other clubs in Central Ohio.

They have hosted and cued at multiple weekend festivals: Dancers Delight Weekends at Baylor Beach, All Round Dance Weekends at Baylor Beach, Broken Straw Weekends, and Marietta Weekends. They also have cued & taught at Ohio's State Dance Conventions, West Virginia State Conventions, and at multiple past SSDUSA Dance-A-Rama festivals.

**Bonnie Lawrence** (IN) is the regular cuer for four square dance clubs and shares the cueing at three other clubs, and has cued at multiple weekend festivals. She teaches Phase II through Phase V+1 rounds and also teaches line dance classes. Bonnie will teach and cue both rounds and lines at our festival.

We will be programming for squares from Mainstream through A2 and for rounds from Phase II through IV+. Our dance halls are all on the main floor and close to each other, and none of the dancing will be on carpet. Our registration form/flyer is attached and also can be downloaded at [dar2020.ssdusa.org](http://dar2020.ssdusa.org). Please forward this information to your dancer contacts using email and social media. **We need your help to spread the word that we have a great festival planned and that ALL square and round dancers are welcome at our 50th Dance-A Rama!**

### MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Where have all our dances gone,  
long time passing?  
Where have all our dances gone,  
long time ago?  
Where have all our dances gone?  
Coronavirus cancelled them every one!  
When can we dance again?  
When will we dance again? \*

\*Thank you to friend Dave Van Dyk who paraphrased Pete Seeger's *Where Have All the Flowers Gone*.

My, how different the world looks since our February *Intercom* was published! Who would ever have imagined that the majority of Americans would come under a "stay-at-home" order that basically requires that we "shelter in place"?

Across our nation most, if not all, dances, festivals, and State Conventions and even the National Convention have been cancelled. I do not have a crystal ball to foretell how long it will take for things to get back to normal. My sincere hope is that long before Labor Day weekend people will once again be safe and feel comfortable square dancing. The last time I danced was on March 11th, just before all the clubs in our area canceled all classes and dances. I am ready to dance! **After not dancing for such a long time, we should all be ready to dance this Labor Day weekend. We need your help and support. Please make your plans now to attend our 50th Dance-A-Rama festival. You can have even more fun if you bring your friends along.** Registration forms can be downloaded at:

[www.dar2020.ssdusa.org](http://www.dar2020.ssdusa.org)

A few days ago, I spoke with a dancer who said she plans to attend our DAR, even though she probably will not dance. She wants to see and spend time with friends she has known from past DAR's. Part of the fun at our DAR's is seeing old friends and making new ones. Even if you decide not to do much dancing, this is a great opportunity for a mini-vacation. If you come early, you can go on safari at *The Wilds*, and you definitely won't want to miss our Mystery Tour on Sunday, which is always a lot of fun. The Cherry Valley Hotel is a great location for our festival, and we encourage you to stay there. It is easier on you and more FUN to be close to the dancing, plus you can take full advantage of the amenities available at and near this beautiful, newly remodeled hotel. You may want to walk through the hotel courtyard and surrounding botanical gardens or relax in the indoor swimming pool or Jacuzzi. A variety of

food is available at the hotel's restaurants, coffee shop, bars and grab-n-go area, or if you prefer, there are numerous other restaurants nearby. You could visit local attractions like Dawes Arboretum, the World's Largest Basket (former Longaberger Headquarters), The Works Museum, Bryn Du Mansion, the Great Circle Earthworks, Buxton Inn, Granville Inn, Velvet Ice Cream Co, and Flint Ridge Memorial State Park. You may want to come early or stay longer.

If you have photos or memorabilia from past Dance-A-Rama festivals, please bring them along to let other dancers see them. (Of course you can take them back home with you.) We will have a couple of tables set up to display items that show the FUN we have had over the past 50 years.

Don't forget that we have an outstanding line-up of callers and cuers that we believe will make our festival a lot of FUN. We plan to make DAR 2020 an outstanding festival and go out in style!

*Velma Doyle, President*  
velmadoyle@sbcglobal.net / 614-837-6974

### ROOMMATE LOCATOR

Strange world we live in but I am here to help you find a roommate. No requests until July, please. Hopefully we will have a better idea at that time of what to expect for Labor Day. Please, all I need is name, sex, email and phone number and days planning on needing a roommate. For those of you that are new to my services, I share your requirements with others that are looking. I ask that you contact each other and decide for yourself who you would like to room with. Final step is to notify me of your roommate.

See you around the square.  
*Laurie Steward, Roommate Locator*  
lkstewa@hotmail.com / 507-685-4476

### FRANK NORRIS YELLOWROCK SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

This will be the last year that Single Square Dancers USA will be awarding scholarships to help new callers and cuers with the expenses associated with getting started. It is open to any caller or cuer age 12 or over who has three years or less experience. (Youth ages 12 through 18 need to have parental consent.) Anyone interested in applying needs to submit a demo CD or link to YouTube showing them calling patter and a singing call (for callers) or cueing two different rhythms (waltz, two step, fox trot, etc. (for cuers), along with a completed application. This is to be sent to Velma Doyle, Yellowrock Scholarship Chairperson, 3938 Crestfield Dr, Groveport, OH 43125. If you need a Yellowrock Scholarship application, download a copy from the SSDUSA Website: [www.ssdusa.org](http://www.ssdusa.org), or contact me. The deadline for receipt of the completed packet is August 1. One or more scholarships will be awarded at DAR 2020 on Labor Day weekend.

If you know of potential or beginner callers or cuers who might qualify for the scholarships, please let them know about SSDUSA's Yellowrock Scholarships and encourage them to apply.

*Velma Doyle*  
*Yellowrock Scholarship Chairperson*



**Cherry Valley Hotel  
Gazebo in the Garden**

**SALUTE AND THANK YOU  
TO ARBELL THOMPSON**



We have been remiss in not sending out this information earlier, and we imagine that some of you may have been wondering whatever happened to Arbell Thompson. In November 2018, Arbell resigned from all of her positions with SSDUSA and also with the Washington Area Square Dancers Cooperative Association (WASCA) and began to make preparations for a less stressful life with fewer responsibilities. In June 2019, she moved from Virginia to Idaho to be near family members, and is happy to be back in the area where she had lived in her youth.

Arbell was an important leader in our organization from 2006 through 2018. She served as our Secretary from 2006/2007 through 2009/2010, then was Chairman in charge of our Dance-A-Rama festival in the Washington, DC area in 2010. She served as Vice-President for the 2011/2012 year, President for the 2012/2013 year, and Past President for the 2013/2014 year. She was again Vice- President in 2014/2015, President in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017, and Past President in 2018 until her resignation.

She served as Vice-Chairman for our Dance-A-Rama festival in the Washington, DC area in

2016. She also served in multiple other chair positions: SSDUSA Representative to the Alliance for Round, Traditional and Square Dance (ARTS) from 2010 through 2018; Intercom Editor from 2013/2014 through 2015/2016; and Promotions Director 2014 through 2018. We certainly miss Arbell and want to publicly thank her for all of her years of service to SSDUSA and to the overall square dance community.



**Thank You!**

**4- NORTH CENTRAL EAST REGION  
Fred Moore**

There is not much to report here since virtually all dancing in our area ended starting the second week of March when our Ohio governor first started to put restrictions on assemblies of people due to the COVID-19 virus. With all dances and classes and even Ohio's State Dance Convention being cancelled we have not been able to meet face to face with dancers to promote our Dance-A-Rama festival. All we have been able to do recently is have Velma promote by sending information to her email contacts, putting posts on our SSDUSA Facebook page, and sending information and ads to several publications.

If you plan to be in Central Ohio, you can find information about opportunities for dancing in our area at [www.ColumbusSquareDance.com](http://www.ColumbusSquareDance.com). This site also has links to other websites in Ohio and a lot of other interesting and helpful information in this and other areas of our country.

I am excited that our 50th Dance-A-Rama festival on Labor weekend will be at the Cherry Valley Hotel, right here in my region, just thirty miles from home! I hope to see lots of you there!

*Fred Moore, Regional Director*

## **2- ATLANTIC EAST REGION**

**Helen Jacobson**

I really have nothing to report to you from the mid-Atlantic Region because no one is dancing now. Many mid-Atlantic area dancers have been doing "virtual square dancing" with a live caller online. You can do it in your own living room, but it is more fun with a partner! We are eager to get back onto the dance floor, especially at the DAR !!!!

*Helen Jacobson, Regional Director*

## **8- SOUTH CENTRAL REGION**

**Art Ritter / Jan Alders**

This dance may still happen:  
Branson Square Em Up - August 14 - 16 2020,  
in Branson Missouri. Contact: Lisa Schreiber,  
714.608.3736

With today's national constraints, the best we can do is refer you to the information found at the various state federation web-sites:

Arkansas: <http://www.theassdf.org>

Louisiana: <https://louisianasquaredance.com>

Missouri: <http://www.squaredancemissouri.com/Missouri/Directories/>

Kansas: <http://www.kansassquaredance.com/m-clubs.html>

Oklahoma: [http://www.Oklahoma-square-dance-federation.org/p\\_stateclubs.php](http://www.Oklahoma-square-dance-federation.org/p_stateclubs.php)

Texas: <http://www.squaredancetx.com>  
See below:

### **HSRDC 72<sup>nd</sup> Houston Hoedown**

**Date:** October 16 & 17, 2020

**Location:** Lone Star Convention Center  
9055 Airport Drive, Conroe, TX

Caller: Lee Hailey – Glendale AR

Cuer: Peter & Chama Gomez – Berthoud, CO

FMI: Jan Albers- 281-875-7372

Jerry & Linda Edwards – 713-202-8800

Website: [www.squarethru.com](http://www.squarethru.com)

This is a "singles friendly" event with approximately 400 people in attendance. HSRDC President Jan Albers is also an appointed officer for SSDUSA and TASSD. Caller Lee Hailey is well known for calling "Progressive Squares". It is amazing how he can move you all over the dance floor and return you to your original spot.

### **47<sup>th</sup> TASSD ROUND-UP 2021 (Texas Association of Single Square Dancers)**

**Date:** March 12 & 13, 2021

**Location:** Allemande Hall, 106 Westlake Drive,  
Waco, TX

**Callers:** Nelda Eaton (New Boston, TX)

**Cuers:** Martin Philyshaw (Greenwood, LA)

**FMI:** Curtis Linscomb – 409-893-5570

**Website:** [www.tassd.org](http://www.tassd.org)

We honor our veterans and welcome couples too. Come experience real southern hospitality by the TASSD family members.

**And reserve your slot at our # 50 D A R !**

<http://ssdusa.org/dar.html>

*Art Ritter, Regional Director*

*Jan Alders, Texas Liaison*



I know and trust that the Universe will only bring me loyal supporting and loving relationships.

## 5- NORTH CENTRAL WEST REGION

**From the Heart of America Singles** (Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas) -- unfortunately the HASSDA Festival that was to be held July 24th-25 in Manhattan, Kansas in the Union Ballroom at K-State has been cancelled due to the decision by the University to cancel all events through the end of July.

The 2021 festival will be held in St Joseph, Missouri. They are in the process of getting the 2021 flyers put together and will get them in circulation. Here is the link for their website: [www.HASSDAFestival.WeSquareDance.com](http://www.HASSDAFestival.WeSquareDance.com)

*Susan Lee, SSDUSA treasurer  
(Iowa HASSDA representative)*



**The Wild's Safari (Thursday Tour)**

## 3- NORTH EAST REGION

**Nancy Maribal**

Hi there from Springtime in the Northeast. During this pandemic we still need to be promoting the 50th and final DAR. One never knows what's going to happen. Don't GIVE UP!

I've sent flyers to New England States, New Jersey, New York and South Carolina. Do your part and Keep Promoting. Use your social media; talk about it!! We all need to stick together while also doing our part.

We are all shut down here in the Northeast, but phone calls and computers keep us aware. Our club is doing conference calls and planning to hopefully dance by June 4. Of course we will be using precautions: people at the door with hand sanitizer and maybe even gloves. We used to have a black light dance every year and supplied white cotton gloves which we still have and can be washed and reused **STICK TOGETHER ALL**. Make masks if you can and **STAY SAFE ALL**.

*Nancy Maribal, Regional Director*

Need a Partner for a dance? Try this site.  
[www.dancepartner.com](http://www.dancepartner.com)



This building to the left, former headquarters the Longaberger Company, is located near Newark, OH. It was built in 1997 in the shape of the company's most popular Longaberger Medium Market Basket.

In 2017 it was sold to new owners, who have stated: "This will stay a basket. It's going to be a basket forever." Plans are underway for it to become a Marriott Hotel sometime in the future. It has been nominated to the National Historical Register.

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**6-NORTH WEST**  
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I have the strength to remain calm in the face of change  
 because I have managed it before and I can manage it again.

SSDUSA INDIVIDUAL Membership Application	
Name:	
Address:	
City:	
State:	Zip:
Phone:	Email:
Annual Dues \$6.00	
Membership Badge \$7.00 (Plus \$4.00 for shipping and handling)	
Make checks payable to SSDUSA, Mail to: Ailene Picheco, 345 Hula Circle, Merritt Island, FL 32952 Phone: 321-652-0680 Email: <a href="mailto:apicheco@att.net">apicheco@att.net</a>	

**AILENE PICHECO**  
**345 Hula Circle,**  
**Merritt Island, FL 32952**

**The Official Newsletter of Single Square Dancers, USA**  
**First Class Mail**  
**Address Correction Requested**

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<b>SSDUSA CLUB Membership Application</b>	
Name of club:	Number of members:
Contact Name:	
Address:	
City:	
State:	Zip:
Phone:	Email:
Club Website:	
Annual Dues: \$10 per year for clubs up to 50 members (1 club delegate)	
\$15 per year for clubs with 51-100 members (2 club delegates)	
\$20 per year for clubs with 101 or more members (3 club delegates)	
Delegate names:	
Please check one: New membership _____ Renewal _____	
If renewal and address has changed, please include old address.	
Make checks payable to <b>SSDUSA</b>	
Mail to: Ailene Picheco, 345 Hula Circle, Merritt Island, FL 32952	
Phone: 321-652-0680 Email: <a href="mailto:apicheco@att.net">apicheco@att.net</a>	