



Sets in Step September 2020 Newsletter

A Message from your Co-Presidents

Hello Sets-In-Steps dancers. We hope you are all doing well and staying healthy during this ongoing pandemic.

The Sets-in-Steps executive board has decided that we will not be holding any square dances or any square dance classes for the remainder of this calendar year. We wanted to share this decision with you, as well as the reasons why we came to this decision. There are three primary reasons for this. First and foremost, we want to minimize the possibility of exposure to the COVID-19 virus by our club members. Square dancing involves close proximity with other dancers in the square and frequent hand-to-hand contact which is at odds with the current guidelines on social distancing. Furthermore, most of our members are in the age bracket where complications from the virus can be more severe. Since we don't expect this situation to change significantly over the next several months, we thought it unrealistic that dances or classes could resume during this time period.

Second, the venues for our dances and classes (the Knights hall in Montrose and St George's Church in La Canada), are not allowing their facilities to be used until more progress is made in combating the virus. These organizations need to respond responsibly in light of the pandemic and governmental guidelines for combatting it. So, even if we wanted to resume our dances and classes, we wouldn't be able to do so until the host organizations were comfortable reopening their facilities again.

Third, we have reviewed our club's insurance and believe that we would likely not be covered if we were to hold gatherings that were not consistent with state and local governmental guidelines.

So, for the rest of this calendar year, we have suspended all dances and classes. This is a hard decision since we miss the classes and dances and we appreciate that square dancing is a major social outlet for many of you. To do otherwise, however, would not be wise or responsible.

Whether we can resume any of these activities as the new year starts will depend on many factors including the state of vaccination technology, progress in slowing the spread of the virus, and on-going governmental guidelines. We will reassess the situation as we get closer to the beginning of 2021. Acknowledging that the virus does not respond to calendar dates we may realistically need to extend the hiatus even longer. We hope that is not the case but it is a distinct possibility. We will keep you posted as we reassess the situation.

In the interim, we do hope that you are staying healthy and getting appropriate amounts of safe exercise. If you are concerned about getting out of practice with the calls, we suggest you view some of the YouTube square dance videos and tamination files.

Stay safe!

Karyn and Jim

“What I did on my Summer Vacation...”

This month’s “Member News” is dedicated to the proposition that no pandemic can keep us down for long! Here’s what some of the Sets In Step folks have been doing lately:

Cathy and Randy Bishop trekked up to the eastern Sierras, and camped by a stream. They went hiking and had a great time. On one particularly long hike, they didn’t realize how long it would be (over six hours) and it was nearly dark by the time they got back. Their dog enjoyed a long drink at the lake – ‘guess the dog was tired too!

The Leshes and Shaws (along with a third couple they know) did an 8-day, 51 mile hike through the northeast corner of the Yosemite National Park wilderness in early August. The hike was supported by a pack train that transported tents, sleeping gear, extra clothes, kitchen and food. The hike started at the Virginia Lakes trailhead, passed over one 10000+ foot pass and one 11000+ foot pass, visited numerous swimming and fishing lakes, and ended at Twin Lakes. The weather was perfect and the views were breathtaking.

Karyn Smithson-Hughes and Don Hughes spent several weeks completely off-grid – no computers, no television, no internet – at their Virginia Lakes cabin. A lovely and refreshing way for Don to start his retirement.

Carol Grice went on a road trip in an RV with her daughter, and her niece and her niece’s three boys. They drove to Pleasant Valley, Arizona, where they rented a lovely Bed ‘n’ Breakfast house, and enjoyed a great visit together.

Connie Carper claims she’s had a quiet summer, but it turns out: she got a whole new roof over her head. Her kids did the work (one of her sons is a contractor). Connie also has a new great-grandson, born this summer: his name is Braedon, and he and his family live in Connecticut. Some of you may recall that Connie’s other new great-grandson was born in January in New Hampshire, right before the family suffered a terrible house fire. The good news is they are finally getting to move into their new home, in September. Connie hopes to be able to visit them before too long.

Joan Walker has been dancing lately -- *with seven phantoms*. Joan provided the information about Online Dancing, found on the next page of this newsletter. She encourages everyone who’s interested to give it a try.

Kay Goeden’s fig tree had a bountiful crop of fruit this year, which she has been sharing with friends. Delicious!

If you have something to share in next month’s Member News, please drop a note to susan.collins.5of5@gmail.com or call 818-396-5707.

Celebrations

We have just one Sets in Step birthday in September:

Happy Birthday to Bill Reardon, on 9/4 !

2020: While performing do-it-yourself home manicures during the pandemic, square dancers accidentally discover a new way to tell their left from their right..



A message from the Open Squares:

Some of you already subscribe to the Open Squares, a monthly publication put out by Lea and Jim Veronica. Here is the kind message they sent out this past month:

“... I wish everyone to be safe and well. Don't forget all the wonderful people you have met and know in this amazing activity. Keep in touch. We will get through this and will all be dancing again holding hands and circling left with some of the most wonderful people in the world.”

They also passed along news about a caller some of you might know: Mike Sikorsky, who was in the hospital for many weeks, first with pneumonia, then double pneumonia, and shortly after that he was diagnosed with MRSA... he was on antibiotics but went into sepsis, and slept for 20 days. His short-term memory is only now starting to come back. He also suffered a torn retina in his left eye. A Zoom benefit dance was held for Mike on Aug. 15th, and he is grateful for all the support and prayers.

Online Dancing

If you are able to Zoom on your home computer, and you'd like to try a little “virtual dancing,” Darren Gallina, and other callers including Mike Seastrom, are hosting online gatherings to do just that!

Here is Darren's official info:

A weekly virtual 2-couple square dancing, trivia questions, and socializing. Darren will be calling mainstream & plus. You can dance if there are 1 to 4 dancers. (Feel free to share this with other dancers)

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89957220612?pwd=a2xQWXVHUHk1RVFBR2ROVFMxR3UxUT09>

Meeting ID: 899 5722 0612

Passcode: DGdance

Or YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/DarrenGallina/Live>

Use this option if you can't get on Zoom or don't want to be recorded.

And/or Like & Follow his Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/DarrenGallinaSDCaller>

And/or join the Gallina's Groupies FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GallinasGroupies/>

If you'd like to get on the mailing list for future dances, email Thom Dang with your name and email address: tc_dang@yahoo.com

(Note: Darren has a “Virtual Tip Jar: where you can leave (purely voluntary) tips, via PayPal or Zelle.)

A Square Dance Word-Search

Rumor has it that not very many of you did the August cross-word puzzle – in fact, Bob Keiter is the only one who has admitted to doing it. Kudos to Bob: he got all but one of the answers... a near-perfect score!

This month, you have a different challenge. Find the square dance calls in the Word Search below. There are 17 of them, and watch out... it's harder than it looks:

D	O	S	A	D	O	A	D	O	P	A	S	O	S	X	R
R	I	L	L	O	A	D	T	H	E	B	O	A	T	W	E
O	U	A	A	T	T	X	Q	I	E	C	N	M	T	P	W
U	A	B	M	C	D	E	U	F	L	G	H	I	E	E	R
W	J	K	A	O	L	M	Z	O	O	M	N	O	A	P	O
R	H	S	N	T	N	U	V	W	F	Y	A	V	C	B	N
C	A	E	D	D	E	D	F	G	F	H	E	I	U	J	G
K	L	L	E	M	N	O	C	N	P	T	Q	R	P	K	W
S	F	T	L	L	U	V	U	I	H	X	X	Y	C	C	A
Z	T	A	E	B	A	R	C	E	R	D	E	D	H	A	Y
F	A	G	F	H	S	R	R	I	J	C	N	K	A	B	G
L	G	M	T	S	N	I	O	O	P	E	U	R	I	N	R
S	T	U	O	V	N	W	Y	U	T	A	B	L	N	R	A
C	D	R	E	G	F	G	H	X	N	I	J	K	A	U	N
A	C	E	Y	D	U	C	E	Y	L	D	M	N	O	T	D
E	V	A	W	E	H	T	E	D	O	L	P	X	E	U	E

Can you find the 17 square dance calls hidden in this WORD SEARCH?? (hint: the words can go up, down, diagonally, and even upside down and backwards!)

Answers at www.setsinstep.org on the “newsletters” page