

Newsletter

of the World's Largest Square Dance Organization

Published by United Square
Dancers of America



Square Dancing the Official Folk Dance of America

Fiesta 2026



76th Fiesta de la Cuadrilla Square & Round Dance Festival March 27, 28, 29 2026 in magnificent Balboa Park



Featured Callers

Featured Cuers

ERIC HENERLAU (CA)
BILL EYLER (CA)
ANDY ALLEMAO (CA)

RANDY & MARIE PRESKITT (WA)
BILL & BETH DAVENPORT (CA)
BILL HALE (CA)

Social Square Dancing, Plus & Advance levels, Round Dancing, Hex Dancing
Saturday Brunch & Dinner, Recycle Clothing Sale, Silent Auction
Come dance the beautiful floors of San Diego's Balboa Park

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Tel: (_____) _____
Club: _____ Association _____
E-mail: _____

Dance Level: SSD Plus Advanced Rounds II to III Rounds IV to V

Pre-Sale 3-day package good until 3/14/2026

No. COST SUBTOTAL

3 Day Dance Package _____ x\$50 _____ x\$60 _____
Total _____

Make Remittance Payable To:
SDSDA Fiesta
P.O. Box 81573
San Diego, CA 92138-1573

Major Credit Cards Accepted

Name on CC: _____ Exp Date: _____
CC No. _____ Security Code: _____

Days Inn By Wyndham San Diego Hotel Circle, 543 Hotel Circle S., San Diego, CA 92108 Free Parking
call (800) 227-4743 or (619) 220-5102, mention you are part of the Fiesta De La Cuadrilla, or see SDSDA.org/Fiesta website for link
\$135 / night for Thursday, March 26, 2026 thru Sunday, March 29, 2026 (taxes & fees are not included), Cutoff date: March 12, 2026

General Chairmen: Jim Maczko & Sally Bennett-Schmidt

Contact: Mo Ninteman @ 619-504-5001 Email: SgtMo127@gmail.com

Website: <http://sdsda.org/fiesta> Email: fiesta@sdsda.org

Sponsored by San Diego Square Dance Association

Ribbon # _____

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**Cover design by Paige Wolka and
Madison Campbell**

Inside this Issue

Message from our Presidents

Messages from our Vice Presidents - learn about special dances in each area.

Message from the editors - There's something magical about January.

Check out the fliers and plan your travels and new adventures. Attend conventions or festivals around the country! Many of these are listed on page 30

Make plans for the 75th NSDC in WACO Texas the 76th NSDC in Loveland Colorado and the 77th NSDC Daytona Beach FL.. Registration information is provided.

Get details about the new Insurance Rates.

See what Mike and Lisa Seastrom have to say about Social Connections. Can these ideas help your club?

Find out how you can benefit from ARTS, Alliance of Round, Traditional and Square Dance.

Find out more about the informative Beyond the Dance Floor sessions on Zoom. If you miss one, past sessions can be found on the web site: USDA.org

Learn about Centennial Award Recipients Rosezella Dietrich and Leila Zerkle.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

SCOTT AND SANDY EBRIGHT



As we write this article we are just coming off a wonderful Thanksgiving week-end filled with family, friends and way too much good food! It's now December 1st and we are in full swing planning for Christmas. If you're like us, those plans will include several square dance events with those friends who have become like a larger family to us. What a wonderful activity to be involved in all year, but especially during the holidays.

As this year of 2025 comes to an end, we reflect upon the many places we got to visit. A new adventure for us was to Aruba, Curacao, and the Dominican Republic on a cruise, then to South Florida for a long overdue reunion with high school friends, and finally to Siesta Key, Florida, our favorite place to vacation. Other travel was related to square dancing like Arizona via Amtrak; Richburg, South Carolina; Columbus, Ohio; Shreveport, Louisiana with those crazy fun-loving Gator folks; Somerset, Kentucky in the fall; a county fair in Sevierville, TN; French Lick, Indiana during Polar Express season and Greenville, South Carolina for CALLERLAB's 50th Anniversary Convention. It isn't just the places we remember, but the people as well! We have come to know and love so many people through our travels.

One month from today will be January 1 and the start of another new year! We know several dancers and callers who have made the decision to no longer dance or call this past year or, worse, had that decision made for them for varying reasons. Please keep them in your prayers and try to reach out to them as part of your New Year's resolutions. Many of them miss their square dance times and the camaraderie they enjoyed like we do. Even though they may not physically be able to dance with us any longer, we can still extend a hand of friendship with phone calls, cards, and visits. Someday we may find ourselves in the same situation.

The year 2026 is lining up to be a wild and busy one for our square dance travels – Kentucky in January; New England and WASCA in the spring; WACO, Texas in June; and helping to chair the Tennessee convention in Gatlinburg in August!

We hope the New Year brings good health and happiness to each and every one of you. We hope to see you somewhere along the way in our travels, and maybe on the monthly USDA webinars as well (yes, this is a shameless plug for our USDA "Beyond the Dance Floor" webinars held monthly on varying topics of interest – see www.usda.org for more information)!

IHS (In His Service),
Scott and Sandy Ebright

**A MESSAGE
FROM
THE EDITORS**



**ART AND LILLY
HARDIN**

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is enjoying the new year.

There's something magical about January. There are many different celebrations around the world in January that celebrate new beginnings. Nature also shows us many new beginnings in January. Here are few you may know or that may be new to you.

New Year's celebrations date back to ancient times, around 2000 BCE in Mesopotamia. New Year's festivities often involve feasts with friends and families, acknowledgment of regrets and anticipations for the year to come, and public gatherings to count down the New Year.

Lohri is a popular North Indian festival celebrated predominantly by the Sikh and Hindu communities. The festival takes place on January 13th each year, marking the culmination of winter and welcoming the longer days of sunshine as the sun moves towards the Northern Hemisphere. The festival is renowned for its bonfires, families and friends come together to toss sesame seeds, popcorn, and other munchables into the fire, signifying an offering to the gods for prosperity. Lohri is particularly special for new brides and newborns, symbolizing a joyful start to their new lives.

Epiphany Eve (also known as Twelfth Night) marks the end of the traditional Christmas celebrations and is the time when you were meant to take Christmas decorations down. During the Elizabethan era people often left greenery up until Candlemas (this is still done by some people and in some countries). Candlemas, also known as the 'Presentation of Jesus at the Temple' or the 'Feast of the Purification of the Virgin' is when some Christians remember the time that Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem to give thanks to God for giving them a son. In many Catholic churches, it's a time when people remember and renew promises they've made to the church and celebrate some of the prophecies which were given about Jesus.

In nature January is also a time for new beginnings but in Colorado it can be cold and bitter. Here the wind may howl and blow all your troubles away leaving a smooth blanket of white to start again. In other places it's the rainy season with new sprouts of crops and beautiful green grass along the roadways. In Hawaii it's whale season; during this time, thousands of humpback whales migrate to the warm waters around the islands to breed and give birth. It's fun to watch their playful mating rituals and see the new whales on their mama's back learning to dive and swim.

For square dancers January may be a time when new dancers graduate and join our clubs, it may also be time when new lessons start enabling us to expand our community. For many of us square dancing is a vital part of our lives that we want to share whenever we can.

We look forward to seeing you in a square,
Art and Lilly Hardin

CENTENNIAL AWARD FOR ROSEZELLA DIETRICH

Rosezella was born on September 10, 1925, to John and Laura Quinn in LaPorte, Indiana. At the age of 16, she attended school until noon, then went to work to contribute to the family finances.

Rosezella graduated from high school in 1944. Robert Dietrich, whom she had known since grade school, proposed twice before Rosezella said yes. They were married on August 16, 1947. They raised three girls: Beverly, Marilyn, and Linda, and were blessed with six grandchildren.

After Robert retired the family moved from Indianapolis, Indiana, to Yississinne, Florida. Within a year, he became the courthouse janitor. The girls who worked in the courthouse invited him to square dance lessons and gave him a flyer. They attended classes at the Wagon Wheel Bandits Square Dance Club in St. Cloud, Florida, in 1988. In Florida, they belonged to three clubs and danced for 11 years. They volunteered as Angels and held the President's office twice.

They moved back to Greenwood, Indiana, and continued dancing. Rosezella remembers attending two National Square Dance Conventions: Oklahoma and Indianapolis, as well as the Indiana State Square Dance Convention. They retired from dancing when they decided it was not as much fun, but continued to socialize with their square dance family. Robert died in November 2006.

Rosezella saw an ad in the Daily Journal newspaper for square dance lessons in 2007 with the Merry Mixers Square Dance Club of Greenwood, Indiana. She decided to come back dancing as a single. She became one of the founding members of the club, holding the office of vice president intermittently, while also working in the kitchen preparing food. Advertising square dancing by mouth was her specialty, as she encouraged people to try it. Currently, she serves as Vice President and sits at the club dances greeting table with the 50/50 pot.

One of her favorite memories of square dancing was of a family with a disabled child whom they brought with them. She remembers the child smiling and enjoying the dancing.

“There is no one better people than square dancers. Square dance groups are a good social group to belong to” per Rosezella.

Centennial Award Presented by:
John Cook, and Bill Garrison



EVENTS IN THE WESTERN REGION

Nina Grigsby Western Region VP

WESTERN REGION REPORT

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana,
Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming

Happy New Year to our USDA officers, committee members, and all our affiliates, associations, and clubs! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season connecting with family and friends and perhaps were also able to swing a moment or two on the dance floor. USDA also presented several new webinars as part of their "Beyond the Dance Floor" series to increase awareness and enjoyment of square dancing that I am sure inspired you and your fellow dancers.

There are more special dances/activities and festivals for the year ahead planned by several of our Western region affiliates and clubs that I hope everyone will take an opportunity to attend during your many travels.

Here are a few upcoming special dances and festivals that I am sure you will enjoy:

Jan 23 – 24, 2026 – Hummingbird Hoedown, Sierra Vista United Methodist Church, Sierra Vista, AZ
Jan 23 – 25, 2026 – Oregon Mid-Winter Square Dance Festival, Linn County Fairgrounds, Albany, OR
Feb 7, 2026 – Valentines Sweetheart Dance, Mountain View Barn, Jerome, ID
Feb 7, 2026 – Mile-Hi Sweetheart Dance, Moose Lodge 319, Prescott Valley, AZ
Feb 8, 2026 – 77th Lebanon Square Circlers Birthday Dance, Lebanon Senior Center, Lebanon, OR
Feb 20 – 22, 2026 – Southwest Super Plus, Albuquerque Square Dance Center, Albuquerque, NM
Feb 21, 2026 – Mardi Gras Costume Ball, Lebanon Senior Center, Lebanon, OR
Feb 28, 2026 – 12th Anniversary Pahrump Desert Squares, Bob Ruud Community Center, Pahrump, NV
Mar 14, 2026 – Mile-Hi St. Patrick's Dance, Moose Lodge 319, Prescott Valley, AZ
Mar 14, 2026 – Shamrock Swing Dance, Las Campanas Rec Ctr, Green Valley, AZ
Mar 20 – 22, 2026 – 2026 Spring Fling, Montezuma County Annex Building, Cortez, CO
Mar 21, 2026 – St. Patty's Day Dance, Lebanon Senior Center, Lebanon, OR
Mar 27 – 29, 2026 – 76th Fiesta de la Cuadrilla, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
Mar 28, 2026 - Spring Dance, First Presbyterian Church, Billings, MT

Apr 10 – 12, 2026 – 64th California State Square Dance Convention, Santa Maria Fairpark, Santa Maria, CA
May 8 – 10, 2026 – 79th Annual Silver State Square & Round Dance Festival, Reno, NV
Jun 12 - 13, 2026 – 70th Colorado State Festival, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO

Details of more amazing events are posted on affiliate websites

Hope to see you soon and dance with you sooner!

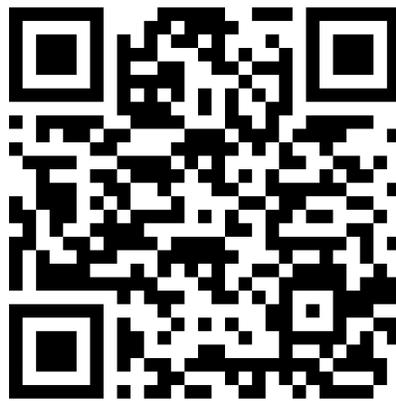
Nina Grigsby
USDA Western Region VP





***ARE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE
77TH NSDC
IN DAYTONA BEACH , FL?***

Register Now at



77nsdcfl.com

USDA INSURANCE COORDINATORS NOTES

Elizabeth Sanders

Greeting Everyone,

Can you believe this. It is already another year and our 'normal' is so very different from one year ago.

In case you have not heard the rates have been released and they are higher for 2026. The rates for 2026 will be \$6.5 per member. The insurance coordinators have received information about this. Many of you have already entered your information in the portal and submitted your payments. THANK YOU!! And a big THANK YOU to those coordinators who have used the NEW Summary Sheet. It has made it so much quicker for me.

Let's talk about Club Sponsored Classes. All Mainstream classes qualify for free insurance BUT you must complete the Class Roster form and submit it. Please make sure your clubs do not add the class members to the roster in the portal. If they do, then the students are not free. Any name entered on the roster page in the portal requires a payment unless they are paid by another club and you have placed an asterisk after their name.

Have you checked the website lately? You need to as I am updating forms often. Did you know that USDA has tuition scholarships for high school and college students. Home schoolers are also eligible. Check the website for more information.

As always, you can call or email me with questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Sanders

USDA National Insurance Coordinator

P O Box 417, Stephens, GA 30667

insurance@usda.org

706-759-3642



BigFoot Up
LittleFoot Down
Grab Your Own
and
Swing 'em Round



EVENTS IN THE EASTERN REGION

EASTERN REGION

Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia

We are looking for a representative to help us support the Eastern Region. Could this be you?

If you live in the Eastern Region and are interested in helping spread the word about USDA please contact our president's Scott and Sandy Ebright at: President@usda.org, or call 937-830-1480.

Upcoming events in the Eastern Region include:

New England Square and Round Dance Convention

April 24th & 25th 2026, Westford Regency Hotel, 219 Littleton Rd, Westford MA

Washington Area Square Dancer's Cooperative Association's Square and Round Dance Festival

March 26 - 28, 2026, Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel, Herndon, VA

EVENTS IN THE PLAINS REGION

Mark and Bina Krebsbach, Plains Region VP

PLAINS REGION REPORT

Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin

Upcoming Events in the Plains Region include:

Spring Fling on Mount Nebo, Dardanelle, AR. March 6-7, 2026 -- Callers: Jay King, Phil Moorehouse, and Tim Tyl

40th Illinois Square & Round Dance Convention, Rock Island, IL Friday, July 24 - Sunday, July 26, 2026

63rd Iowa State Square and Round Dance Convention! "A Trip to the Tropics in 2026"

March 20th & 21st, 2026, Des Moines, IA

72nd Kansas Square Dance Festival, June 5 - 6, 2026 Wichita, KS -- Caller: Eric Henalau,

Cuers : Kay & Bob Kurczewski

74TH Minnesota Square and Round Dance Convention, June 12 - 14, 2026, Rochester, MN

Annual St. Louis Spring Fling, St. Louis Area, Missouri, May 2, 2026

North Dakota Square Dance Convention, Fargo, North Dakota, April 24-25, 2026

NE Oklahoma Square Dance Festival, Claremore, Oklahoma, April 10-11, 2026

Annual State Festival - Temple, Texas, June 4- 7, 2026

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

“These days, it often feels like the world operates on a mindset of ‘*What’s in it for me?*’ instead of ‘*How can I help?*’ While this may not always be a conscious decision, it reflects a societal shift toward self-interest. Of course, this isn’t true for everyone---but let’s be honest; most people don’t begin their month by scheduling time to volunteer.

But...what if they did?

What if each one of us intentionally carved out time to give back---to help someone, somewhere, in a meaningful way? Whether it’s offering support to an animal, a person, or a cause, the impact could be life-changing---not just for them, but for us, too.

It may sound ambitious, but we believe that if more people adopted this mindset, the world would change. Be the person who asks, ‘*How can I help?*’ The ripple effect of that one question might just change the world. Come make a difference. ***What are you waiting for?***”

These stirring, powerful words were written by Pat Craig, Director of The Wild Animal Sanctuary. This concept applies to every person and volunteer organization we can think of, and is especially relevant to our square dance organizations. Let’s see if square dancers are really above the norm---if they are indeed among the most generous people in the world.

Judy Taylor

Follow the
**Yellow
Brick
Road...**



64th California State Square Dance Convention

April 10 - 12, 2026

Santa Maria Fairpark

937 South Thornburg, Santa Maria, California 93458

CALLERS



Charlie Robertson
"The Serenading Wizard"
from Oklahoma



Vernon Jones
"The Cowboy Wizard"
from Texas



Andy Allemao
"The Dancing Wizard"
from California



Jet Roberts
"The Flying Wizard"
from Alabama

ROUND DANCE INSTRUCTORS



**Sharon & Casey
Parker**
"The Good Witch"
from California



Rikki Lobato
"The Smiling Witch"
from Oregon

TRAIL'S END STAFF



**Lawrence
Johnstone**
"The Bashful Wizard"
from California



Scott Pearce
"The Santa Wizard"
from California
Advanced Tips

Rounds with **Rikki Lobato**

Square Dancing SSD/Mainstream • Plus • Advanced
Rounds Phase II - V • Hex • Workshops

Thursday Trail's End Dance • Friday Caller Clinic with Vernon Jones • Saturday Night Tri-Tip Dinner
Opportunity Quilt Drawing & Silent Auction • and more (education, vendors, sewing corner...)

Lodging Information

Best Western Plus Big America

1725 N. Broadway • Santa Maria, CA 93454 • 805-922-5200
One King/Two Queen Beds: \$105/night
Mini-Suite: \$110/night (each plus 12% taxes and charges)
Rates applicable April 9, 2026 thru April 12, 2026
Reservation deadline: March 21, 2026



Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott

2061 Roemer Court • Santa Maria, CA 93454 • 805-925-8500
One King/Two Queen Beds: \$119/night for Thurs. or Sun. nights
One King/Two Queen Beds: \$159/night for Fri. or Sat. nights
(each plus 12% taxes and charges)
Reservation deadline: March 9, 2026

Co-General Chairmen – **Sally Bennett-Schmidt & Bonnie Abramson**
CAState2026Chair@gmail.com • www.squaredance.org/convention/2026

This event qualifies for the California Friendship Badge.
Square Dance Attire is encouraged but not required.

RV Parking

All camping reservations will be the responsibility of the camper. Please visit the convention website to link to a site where you can reserve your camping spot at the Santa Maria Fairpark. If you are interested in other local camping opportunities you can also find these on the website.
NO RV parking reservations will be handled directly by the Convention Committee.



Registration Prices

- Three-Day Ribbon** (purchased/postmarked June 1, 2025 thru March 28, 2026) 75.00
- Three-Day Ribbon** (purchased/postmarked after March 28, 2026 or at the door) 85.00
- Youth Three-Day Ribbon** (18 or under as of April 9, 2026)..... 35.00
- Trail's End Dance** (Thursday, April 9, 2026) (\$15.00 at the door)..... 12.00
- Caller Clinic** (Friday, April 10, 2026 – includes lunch) 40.00
- Tri-Tip Dinner** – Saturday, April 11, 2026 (must purchase by Friday, April 3) 25.00



Registration form

Name last _____ first _____
 last _____ first _____
 youth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Club _____ Council Affiliate _____

Check enclosed Credit card # _____ Expiration _____

CVV/CVC _____ Billing Zip Code _____ Please make checks payable to 64th CSSDC

Polo Shirts (\$30.00 each – men's/unisex-style only) – indicate # of each size/color

Color – Kelly Green XS S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL

Color – Gold XS S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL

Category	#	Total \$
3-day adult		
6/1/2025 – 3/28/2026	_____	\$ _____
after 3/28/2026	_____	\$ _____
Youth	_____	\$ _____
Trail's End	_____	\$ _____
Caller Clinic	_____	\$ _____
Tri-Tip Dinner	_____	\$ _____
Opportunity Drawing Quilt & Other Handmade Items		
one ticket (\$1)	_____	\$ _____
6 tickets (\$5)	_____	\$ _____
Polo shirts	_____	\$ _____
Grand total		\$ _____

Registration Cancellation Policy: Written request for cancellation (using cancellation form on the convention website) must be submitted to the General Chairmen and must include the return of Registration Ribbons.

Cancellation fee is \$10 per ribbon.

Cancellation deadline is March 28, 2026;

no refunds will be honored after 11:59 pm on March 28, 2026.



Mail to:

Jim Maczko, Advance Registration
P.O. Box 712918, San Diego, CA
92171-2918

EVENTS IN THE CENTRAL REGION
Dan Reedy, Central Region VP

CENTRAL REGION REPORT

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia

The Central Region has had a very busy fall , with State Festivals in Kentucky, Indiana, Georgia and Tennessee. Here are a few coming up later this Spring.

Upcoming Events

Alabama . The Yellow Rockers will be hosting their 50th Annual Mardi Gras Festival , February 27th, 2026 in Birmingham, Alabama.

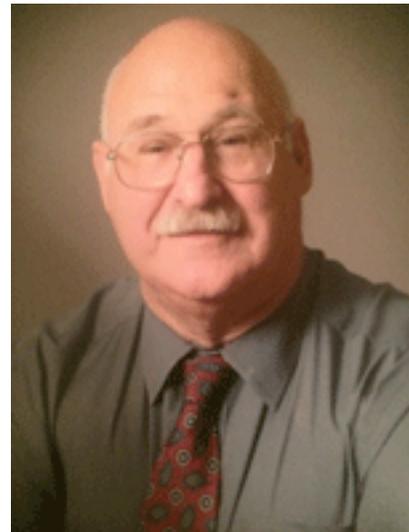
The 73rd Alabama Jubilee , March 27-28th, 2026 in Fultondale, Alabama.

Louisiana. The Louisiana Square Dance Association is hosting their Party in the Pines, April 10-11th, 2026, at the Kees Park Community Center, in Pine like, Louisiana.

Mississippi. The Mississippi State Festival has a new location , Woolmarket City Center , March 6-7, 2026 in Biloxi, Mississippi.

South Carolina. South Carolina is hosting the 49th Annual Festival, April 24-25th, 2026, at the Gateway Conference Center in Richburg, South Carolina.

God Bless you all and more info next issue.
Dan Reedy



 *Make a Difference* 

Support Our Youth with Your Donation to the
FOUNDERS MEMORIAL YOUTH FUND

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

visit our website for details—www.usda.org (then Programs—Youth Dancer Information)

Register for the 75th NSDC!

June 24-27, 2026 • Waco Convention Center
www.75nsdctx.com

Sights & Sounds of Texas Fashion Show

Dinner & Malpass Bros. Show

Dance to Live Music

Classroom Education & Dance Leader Classes

Have you heard the 75th National Square Dance Convention® is coming to Waco, Texas? There will be our classic, favorite events with several new education classes and exciting events to celebrate the NSDC's Diamond Jubilee and 75 years of convention dancing! Plus, wear we should wear our red, white and blue for a special event Friday night to celebrate the United States of America's 250th birthday! Make sure we sign up for the 75th NSDC today!

Exciting After Parties

Vendor Shopping

Not Your Ordinary Opening & Closing Ceremonies

Educational Roundtable

Guided & Self-Guided Waco Tours

GSI/NSDC Callers School

NEC Archives Room

Fellowship, Food & Fun

Parade of States Dance Workshops

Keynote Speaker – Ted Lizotte

Sew & Save



JOIN DAN NORDBYE ON THE EMERALD PRINCESS

16 DAY CRUISE TO HAWAII AND BACK - NOV 8 THRU NOV 24, 2026
Not a Square Dance Cruise, but a Cruise with Square Dancing



Catch the Aloha Spirit the moment you come aboard a Hawaii cruise

Itinerary-

Nov 8	Depart Los Angeles	Nov 16	Honolulu
Nov 9 to 13	At Sea	Nov 17	Kauai
Nov 14	Hilo, Hawaii	Nov 18 to 22	At Sea
Nov 15	Kahului, Maui	Nov 23	Ensenada, Mexico
		Nov 24	Return Los Angeles

TRAVEL AGENT - Call, Text or Email to book or any questions.
He can arrange flights and hotels as well.

John Manning Phone - 954-674-2521

Email - jmanning@cruiseplanners.com

Inclusions and Rates-

Group Cocktail Party, Open Bar, Canapés, Each Room will get a \$50 onboard credit, Rates Include all Taxes, double occupancy

Inside Cabin (their pick)- \$1619 p/p **Huge DISCOUNTS available off these prices.**

Inside Cabin (we pick)- \$1789 p/p **>>Available as of October. 2025<<**

Balcony Cabin- \$2889 p/p **Call John Manning for NEW PRICES!!!**

Deposit is \$400 per person double occupancy refundable until final payment due date August 10, 2026.

>Flyers and updates at- **AZ-SquareDancers.com**

Arizona Federated Square Dancers will host a Luxury MotorCoach from Mesa to the Port and return to Mesa, check the website above for info and costs, no driving, no \$300 parking fees, no hotel fees, just sit back and relax.



Dance in the Heart of the Rockies

June 23 - 26, 2027



There's a lot to  in Loveland, Colorado!



SAVE THE DATE

Mt. Nebo

Spring Fling

March 6-7, 2026

LOCATION:

**Mt. Nebo State Park,
16728 W. State Hwy. 155,
Dardanelle, AR 72834**

For information go to:
www.ArkansasSquareDance.com

FEATURED CALLERS:

Jay King, Tim Tyl & Phil Moorehouse

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

4-5:30 p.m., 7-10 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

10 a.m.-12 p.m., 2-5 p.m., 7-10 p.m.

Sponsored by the Arkansas State Square Dance Federation

Hosted by the Twirling Lariats & Maverick Mixers



MT. NEBO SPRING FLING REGISTRATION FORM

Save money and register early, \$25 per person by March 1. Price increases to \$30 pp after March 1. Registration includes dancing both days.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Send reservation form & check made out to ASSDF to ASSDF Treasurer:

ASSDF

1533 Hwy. 300

Houston, AR 72070

Questions? Call Phil Moorehouse at 501-960-4476

or email: philmoorehouse@aol.com

LODGING

For information about Mt. Nebo State Park visit:

<https://www.arkansasstateparks.com/parks/mount-nebo-state-park>

Limited cabins and campsites are available at Mt. Nebo State Park.

For cabin reservation information go to:

<https://reserve.arkansasstateparks.com/mount-nebo/lodging>

For camping reservations go to:

<https://reserve.arkansasstateparks.com/mount-nebo/camping>

Additional lodging is available in Dardanelle and other nearby towns.

FOOD OPTIONS

No restaurant is available in the state park, but there are food options in Dardanelle and nearby towns. Additionally, we hope to offer a meal option.

We plan to offer dinner on March 6 as well as lunch and dinner on March 7 for an additional small fee. Check here if interested ____.

Check the ASSDF website and Facebook for details as they develop.



The United Square Dancers of America's *Zoom Series*

Beyond the Dance Floor

Dancing! — While we are so excited to be back dancing after the Covid epidemic, we lost many of our dancers, clubs, callers, and cuers during that time. The great news that came from the pandemic is how well the square dance community all over the World has adapted to and benefitted from the challenges we've were facing and continue to face. How have we benefitted? Remote networking platforms such as Microsoft Teams and Zoom have introduced us to new friends and dance experiences we might never have enjoyed before — from Zoom dance sessions with international participation to opportunities to participate in State, National and International dance events, conventions and workshops.

In October of 2020 the **United Square Dancers of America — USDA** — your National dancers' organization, introduced a monthly series of web-based programs via *Zoom* to support clubs on the business and marketing end of our activity. The programs were used to introduce more dancers across the country to who/what USDA is, the programs and services we provide, and a way to keep square and round dancing in the forefront of people's thoughts even if they weren't able to get together on the dance floor. Since the introduction of the initial workshops, topics have evolved to include Marketing & Promotions, the SSD dance program, square dance resources, promotional information about our National Square Dance Conventions, Social Connections and the recruitment and retention of callers. We've been lucky enough to partner with CALLERLAB, ROUNDALAB and ARTS on several of these programs and look forward to partnering with other national organizations for future program offerings. We've had participation from dancers, callers cuers from all over the world, sharing ideas, program guidelines and coping strategies.



Beyond The Dance Floor – It takes a lot of effort and organizational skills to keep our favorite activity alive and USDA is here to help. From bylaws to event planning, club officer duties, promotion, communications, newsletters, youth and handicapable programs – this series is designed to help groups across the country and across the World build and grow your clubs.

Want Direct Notification of the Next Session? Watch your email, our website and Facebook for links to the actual, **FREE** workshops. If you would like to be added to our email notification list send us your name and email address to Education@usda.org.



For more information or to check on scheduling updates, please contact us at:

USDA Online Education: Bonnie Abramson — Education@usda.org

Or visit our Facebook page and join our Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/314405916617> (United Square Dancers of America—USDA)



CENTENNIAL AWARD FOR LEILA ZERKLE



Leila Zerkle was born October 28, 1925

Leila grew up on a farm near North Hampton, Ohio in Clark County and had 4 brothers and 3 sisters. She is number 6 in the order.

Leila married Dwaine Carroll Zerkle on January 1, 1947. They were married for 44 years and together they had 3 children.

They lived on a dairy/grain farm near St. Paris, Ohio.

Leila and Dwaine started square dancing in 1973 in Bellefountain, Ohio.

Dwaine Zerkle passed away on March 28, 1991 at age of 64.

Leila enjoys sewing and taught sewing in the 4H clubs.

She worked at Grimes Manufacturing for a while.

Leila also worked at her daughter's grocery, known as The Rosewood Mall.

Leila was one of the founding members of the Concord Cloverleaf Square Dance Club in 1994.

She traveled out west several times for square dancing, going to a couple national conventions. One trip was done as a club group, taking a couple vans. I believe they had a square dance caller with them and would stop most anywhere and do a square dance, no special venue.

Some things she did from her "bucket List":

- Went on 2 cruises

- Went on some motorcycle rides

- Went on Hot Air balloon ride

- Went snow sledding with grandchildren in Michigan (2023)

To this very day, she dances weekly and does better than many of the other dancers.

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

The Key to Growth, Success, and Fun

Presented by: Mike and Lisa Seastrom

Why is it essential to have social connections?

- Social connection is crucial for improving physical, mental, and emotional well-being.
- Strong social connections increase longevity by 50%.
- Social connections fulfill the need for belonging and acceptance.
- Social connections are essential to nearly every aspect of health and well-being.
- Frequent dancing can result in a 75% lower chance of developing dementia.
- Regular dancing reduces the risk of heart disease death by 46%

What's the most important factor for happiness?

“The best predictor of happiness (and often health), is the quantity and quality of a person’s social ties.”
-Christine Carter

Connections go beyond the individual level

Connectedness has profound benefits for both individuals and for society.

Can we improve physical and mental health in our communities?

Our dance activity can help foster and build connections with the people all around us.

Keys to Growth , Success , and Fun in your Club and Association

- Create an atmosphere of enthusiasm and fun at all meetings and events
- Each event is a party, and fun is the primary goal
- Assign host couples or dancers to greet and bid farewell to members and guests at each event
- Assign dance leaders to arrive early to decorate or set things up
- Recognize the special efforts of club members and guests
- Recognize visiting dancers, special guests, area and state officers
- Officers and members dance with caller and cuer partners, singles, new dancers, and guests
- Club members make an effort to dance and converse with new dancers and shy guests
- Every club member treats each guest as if they were a guest in their own home
- Food is always served or available
- Plan occasional open parties around dances or club events
- Club leaders support and respect the decisions of the majority
- Club leaders find their replacement halfway through their term and offer to mentor them
- New dancer promotion and events occur all year long
- Each club and association supports at least one social cause a year
- Keep a list of “Friends of Your Club”
- New dancers are treated like royalty because they are
- New dancers are included in as many club events as possible
- Have “Sunshine Officers” contact those who may have missed events and dances
- All club events are publicized in club newsletters, dance publications, social media, and with fliers, postcards, or business cards
- Create an atmosphere of acceptance
- Fun, friendship, fellowship, and “exercise” are always a focus of each event

See the complete video at <https://youtu.be/I6pKIIBIomk> or go to; [USDA.org/WEBinar/Videos.php](https://www.usda.org/WEBinar/Videos.php)

Finalize Campground Reservations for 75th NSDC

It's time to finalize your camping reservations! We have negotiated discounted rates with two Waco-area campgrounds. You will need to make a reservation directly with the campground of choice, request the *"Square Dance Convention"* discount and pay directly to the campground.

These are the campgrounds offering the Square Dance Discount:

- 1) Waco Creekside Resort: 15% Square Dance discount. The campground is about 11 miles from the Waco Convention Center. Campsites, cabins and tree houses are available.
1972 Leroy Parkway
Elm Mott, TX 76640
(254) 651-3999
<https://wacocreeksideresort.com>
- 2) Magnolia RV Resort offers you 10% off your stay. There's a pool in addition to a complimentary breakfast Saturdays and Sundays. The campground is



about 8 miles from the Waco Convention Center.

3096 New Dallas Hwy.

Waco, TX 76705

(254) 799-3105

<https://magnoliarvresort.com>

Please note that camping fees will not be collected through the Hotel Booking Portal.

For 75th National Square Dance Convention[®] camping details in Waco, Texas, go to <https://75nsdctx.com/campground-information/> or contact Janet and Jeb Jonas at NSDC75Campers@yahoo.com.

75th National Square Dance Convention[®]



June 24-27 2026

DIAMOND JUBILEE



76th

National Square Dance Convention®
June 23-26, 2027

*Dance in the **heart** of the Rockies*

Visit our Website 76NSDC.com



Loveland, Colorado

You 2 Can Dance

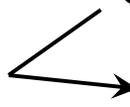
**A BRAND NEW MARKETING WEB SITE
PROMOTING
SQUARE, ROUND, AND CONTRA DANCING**

*High Definition Video Clip of Each Dance Form
with professional voice-overs*

- Detailed Descriptions of Each Dance Form
- Find a Caller, Find a Cuer, and Find a Club sections
 - High Definition Pictures

This site was created by ARTS-Dance to be a tool for promoting Square Dancing, Round Dancing, and Contra Dancing. Rather than trying to describe each activity on a flyer posted on a bulletin board, you can direct the *potential dancer* to this site to **show them**. They can watch video, read detailed descriptions and then find a leader or club in their area using either the resources page of the web site, or the contact info you have provided on your advertising

check it out

 www.You2CanDance.com

To learn more about using this web site as part of a nation-wide marketing plan go to the Facebook page (You 2 Can Dance) or the ARTS-Dance web site (arts-dance.org). It doesn't cost you a thing and is there for you to use to help promote our dance forms.

LEADERS and CLUBS

Email info@You2CanDance.com to have your info included in the site.



GOING AWAY FOR THE WINTER? SUMMER? HAVE YOU MOVED?

We don't want you to miss a single copy of USDA NEWS, so please notify us of any change of address as soon as possible. If you go away for an extended period of time let us know the new address and the dates involved and we will see that you continue to get your copy wherever your current address might be.

When you plan a move please send your new address to News@usda.org as soon as possible.

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We also welcome articles of interest to the square dance world in general. When submitting articles for use in USDA NEWS please include your name, address, phone number and email address and also indicate the author of the article. The editor does reserve the right to reject, edit, omit, or rewrite all material submitted.

The opinions expressed within the publication do not necessarily reflect that of the USDA or the Editorial staff.

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USDA NEWS prefers ads and fliers in digital format. To avoid distortion use 8 1/2" x 11" format with margins for a full page and 8 1/2" x 5 1/2" for a half page.

Make check payable to United Square Dancers of America and mail to the editor. Name and address can be found on www.usda.org/Officers.php. Checks must be received by the publication deadline listed below. Unpaid ads will not be printed.

Deadline Dates are one month before the quarterly. Issue date.

USDA NEWS has two editions; a printed edition and an on-line edition. The printed edition is a black and white copy except for the cover and the four center pages. The four center pages are available for purchase for your fliers. The color ads are sold on a first-come basis. The on-line edition is a full color copy. When submitting copies for black and white advertising in the printed edition you can send a color copy for use. It will be printed in black and white, but the on-line copy will be in color.

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Full Page	\$50.00	\$40.00

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USDA NEWS

The USDA NEWS publication is a quarterly publication covering all aspects of the Square Dance activity. Each issue of USDA NEWS, which averages 32-36 pages, is provided FREE to all known dance publication editors; leaders of national, and international organizations; and USDA Affiliate, presidents, vice presidents and insurance coordinators.

USDA NEWS is available to all others at a yearly subscription rate of only \$6.00. The subscription rate does not pay for the newsletter but does assist in the postal costs. To keep abreast of square dance events, leadership and education articles, and to maintain your awareness and knowledge of the total activity, you should be reading the USDA NEWS.

If you would like to receive notice when a new issue is posted on our website, go to www.Subscribe.USDA.org and follow the instructions. As soon as a new on-line edition is posted you will receive an email with a link to the website.

For your own personal copy of the quarterly USDA NEWS, complete the form below and return it with a check made out to United Square Dancers of America and mail both to the USDA NEWS Editor.



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The ALLIANCE of ROUND, TRADITIONAL and SQUARE-DANCE, INC. (ARTS-Dance) is a cohesive group of nine major National Dance Organizations representing all facets of our Dance activities. Leaders from these groups have come together to generate public awareness and promote the growth and acceptance of contemporary Square, Round and Traditional Folk Dance.

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All Join Hands Foundation, Ltd.

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CONTRALAB – The International Association of Contra Dance Leaders

IAGSDC – International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs

NEC – National Executive Committee of the National Square Dance Convention®

NSDCA – National Square Dance Campers Association

ROUNDALAB – The International Association of Round Dance Teachers

USA WEST – USA West Square Dance Convention® Policy Board

USDA – United Square Dancers of America

Auxiliary Governing Board Members

Canadian Square & Round Dance Society,(CSRDS), Guild of Pride, Lloyd Shaw Foundation, Square Dance Foundation of New England

Find more information at

www.ARTS-Dance.org

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Send your State Association/Federation Convention dates to News@usda.org and will list it here at no charge.

<p>Jan 23 – 25, 2026 Oregon Mid-Winter Square Dance Festival Linn County Fairgrounds, Albany, OR https://midwinterfestival.org/2026/</p>
<p>March 6-7, 2026 Mississippi State Festival Latimer Community Center, Biloxi, MS Contact: Bettie Millis 601-260-9133 for more info.</p>
<p>March 20th & 21st, 2026 63rd Iowa State Square and Round Dance Convention!! “A Trip to the Tropics in 2026” Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines, IA Visit: http://iowasquaredance.net/</p>
<p>April 10-12, 2026 64th California State Square Dance Convention Santa Maria Fairpark, Santa Maria, CA Visit: www.squaredance.org/convention/2026</p>
<p>April 24 - 26 2026 New England Square & Round Dance Convention Westford Regency Hotel, Westford MA Visit: https://nesrdc.org/</p>
<p>May 8-10, 2026 Nevada Silver State Festival Circus Circus Reno - 500 N Sierra St, Reno, Visit: https://squaredancenevada.org/ssf/</p>
<p>May 14-17, 2026 New Mexico Square & Round Dance Festival Civic Center, Truth or Consequences, NM More info: www.NMSRDA.ORG</p>
<p>Jun12-13, 2026 Colorado 70th State Square Dance Festival “Triple Scoot Salute” University Center, 2101 11th Ave., Greeley, CO Visit: http://coloradosquaredancefestival.com/</p>
<p>June 24-26, 2026 75th National Square Dance Convention® The Diamond Jubilee in Waco Texas Several fliers in this edition</p>

<p>July 2-5, 2026 Celebrate 250 years of American Independence 2026 Alaska State Square and Round Dance! Anchorage Moose Lodge #1534, 4211 Arctic Blvd, Anchorage, Alaska.</p>
<p>July 15-18 Canadian National Square, Round & Clog Festival Penticton British Columbia, CA More info at: squaredance.bc.ca</p>
<p>July 16-18, 2026 Maryland State Star Spangled Banner Festival Double Tree 1726 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville MD Visit: https://www.marylandsquaredancing.com/ssbf</p>
<p>July 16th - 19th, 2026 78th Arizona Square & Round Dance Festival White Mountain Square Dance Hall 1105 Old Hwy 160, Show Low, Arizona</p>
<p>Don't See your state festival? Send an email with details to: NEWS@usda.org Need more information? Many State Events are listed at: https://www.usda.org/Database/Links/Conventions_USA.php</p>
<p>July 23-26, 2026 40th Illinois Square & Round Dance Convention Holiday Inn, 226 17th Street Rock Island, IL Visit: www.ilsdc.dance</p>
<p>August 5-8, 2026 USA West -- Circle 8 in the Beehive State The Festival Hall 105 N 100 East, Cedar City, Utah Visit: Utah.USAwest.net</p>
<p>Aug 7– 9, 2026 66th Wisconsin Square & Round Dance Convention “Get Your Kicks in 2026” Sheraton, Brookfield, WI Visit: wisquaredanceconvention.org</p>
<p>August 20-22, 2026 62nd Michigan Square & Round Dance Convention “Where all the dancer mix” Sheraton, Grand Rapids, MI. Visit: www.squaredance-michigan.com</p>

Charlie Brown Squares Boatnik Square Dance Festival



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KELLER**



**MARYANN
CALLAHAN**

May 22-24, 2026

Sat 23

Fri 22

6-7PM A-1 \$5
7-7:30PM Pre-Rounds
7:30-10:00PM
SSD/Mainstream
Every 3rd tip Plus
Evening Dance \$15

9:30-11:30AM High Level RD Teach \$5
1:30-2:30PM Mainstream & More
FunShop \$5
2:30-3:30PM Plus \$5
3:30-4:30PM Advanced \$5
7-7:30PM Pre-Rounds
7:30-10:00PM Mainstream
Every 3rd Tip Plus
Evening Dance \$15

Sun 24

9:30-11:30AM RD Workshop
Phase 2-3 \$5
12-1:00PM Advanced
1-3:00PM
Alternating Mainstream/Plus
with Rounds
Afternoon Dance \$10

**Pre Register For Only \$40 by May 9th
Or Pay \$45 At The Door**

**Square Dance Attire Admired, Not Required
Josephine County Fairgrounds Square Dance Center
Grants Pass, OR**

Call/Text Rikki (541)295-5270 or Jeanne (541)554-9261

www.charliebrownsquares.com

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