



Photos & Features

Your Article & Photos Here

If you'd like to see coverage of more clubs and events in this section, please help by taking a few photos wherever you dance and sending them to us with a brief description of the

event. (email photos to: promenader@rochester.rr.com)

We would love to have you join us as a regular contributor! Send us an email: promenader@rochester.rr.com.

Callers School in Gloversville

If you ever get a chance to visit the Shoelather Express in Gloversville, NY, it is well worth the trip. I attended a callers school there with Mike Sikorsky and was impressed with the love that Elaine and Dennis poured into the converted church. The alter has been replaced with a double-sized couch from a children's television show and the floor has been replaced with a beautiful hardwood floor. There are still three organs in various rooms (the pipe organ was removed) and there are two other rooms for dancing.

Submitted by Sidney Marshall





Three Squares at October Wellness Fair — Greece Ridge Mall

The October 13, 2018, demo at Greece Ridge Mall's Wellness Fair went very well. We ended up with three squares of experienced dancers and several class members participating.

The support we had from the clubs and classes to showcase modern square dancing was fantastic. We had dancers from: Copy Cats, Belles & Beaus, Silver Squares, Batavia Silver Stars, Cloverleaves and Grand Squares.

The demo scheduled before ours was cancelled so we started dancing around 11:30 a.m. Our table was adjacent to the demo area and due to an issue with power, we ended up moving Ron's table in front of ours. We did not get a lot of traffic at the table but had a constant stream of spectators throughout our entire dance time of almost an hour and a half.

Summary of materials distributed:

Invitation to Dance Brochures — 13 distributed

Cards — Modern Square Dance ... Join the Party — 14 distributed

(this listed Cloverleaves voice mail number for anyone interested in joining classes now so we could coordinate catch up classes as needed.)

Learn to Dance flyer — 8 distributed

Plus 55 Square Dance article — 3 distributed

Article: Dancing may be key to Senior Health — 3 distributed

The message was given to anyone interested in joining a class to contact the Cloverleaf's voice mail. We were planning to use their voice mail as a means to set up a catch-up class for any new dancers resulting from the demo.

One person with special needs approached us with interest but we were not sure where to direct her. She is deaf and wondered if NTID or Rochester School for the Deaf has anyone teaching or calling square dancing. Her club preference was Silver Squares. If you can provide help or have any suggestions, please contact us. [Editor's note: For several years, Tom Mallory taught square dancing for a group at NTID, using sign language. I don't know of anyone who has picked up the slack since Tom's death in 2014.]

Submitted by Jeff & Debbie Blood

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie & Jeff Blood

Vice Presidents, Rochester Federation of Round & Square Dance Clubs

Deb cell#585-880-9161
Jeff cell#585-615-9963





Village Squares Goes All-In for Halloween

Surrounded by decorations from the crypt of Angela and Tom Frantz, and munching treats conjured up by Karen Olmsted and Stephen Barkley, the Village Squares celebrated Halloween in Spooktacular style. A life-size Headless Horseman (his head waiting patiently on the coat rack), a chatty witch and a shy Skeleton, who spoke only when questioned, were strategically placed around the hall.

player skeleton duo accompanying caller Ghoul Porter. The highlight of the evening, however, was Angela's dancing broom. Channeling its inner Fantasia, the boom spun gracefully around the hall, occasionally sweeping off in random directions.

Submitted by Sally Emmel

Hands-down winners of the costume contest were the banjo-













Visitors from Belarus get Copy Cats Jumping

Recently, the Copy Cats received a telephone call from Tamara Denysenko at Rochester Global Connections. RGC works with USAID's Department of Education to effectively help Belarusian professionals understand and adopt best practices to strengthen and develop their country. This group has been in existence for over 20 years.

As a result of the call, on October 16, 2018, the Copy Cats welcomed two guests from Belarus — Natallia Tamasenka and Vadzim Kruchkou. Natallia is the Director of Aksioma IT. Her company provides learning opportunities for children age six and older in the field of basic design and programming using educational LEGO sets in Gomel, Belarus. Vadzim is a systems engineer in the 100 Points ED Centre in Minks, Belarus. They and other delegates are visiting Rochester under the auspices of the USAID, to learn about our local STEM programs. STEM incorporates Science, Technology, Engineering and Math in education, as a way to help children build critical skills for the future. They help make these subjects fun while the children are learning.

However, not only were Natalia and Vadzim interested in technology ... they expressed an interest in American Western Square Dancing. We would like to thank Jolanta and Tom Mokranz for being Copy Cats' ambassadors to our Belarus visitors for the evening. Jolanta and Tom immigrated from Wroclaw, Poland more than 30 years ago and joined Copy Cats last year. There are a lot of similarities between the

Belarus and Polish languages.

On the evening of their visit, Ron Brown taught Tamara, Natallia and Vad — and our whole class — the basic square dance calls. To quote Tamara, they "truly enjoyed themselves and express their sincere appreciation for everyone's hospitality and American friendliness." Vad brought music to teach us a Slavic quadrille (a dance that was fashionable in late 18th and 19th century Europe). Ron reciprocated with an American quadrille, a mixer which Ron performs at our yearly Open House event. Everyone in attendance had an enjoyable evening and we hope this is the first of many interactions between RGC and the Copy Cats.

We would like to thank Ron Brown for making the evening fun for our visitors, and Jackson (Jet) Thomas for photographing the evening's festivities.

Submitted by Donna and Rick LaDonna



Batavia Silver Stars on Parade at Oakfield Labor Daze

On a sunny September 3, 2018, Jan Bencic led the Batavia Silver Stars in the Oakfield Labor Daze Parade.

Photo credits: Rocco Laurienzo/The Batavia Daily News



It's Time to Start Thinking About Leadership Award Nominations

We would not be dancing if it weren't for the extra efforts of folks who consistently go out of their way to make things happen, to welcome and encourage new dancers and to help keep experienced dancers engaged. The Daphne-Norma Leadership Award is one of the ways we recognize these special people.

The award is presented each year in May — at Dance O Rama — to honor an individual or couple who have made an outstanding contribution to dancing in our area. Recipients are selected from nominations sent in by dancers like you.

If there is someone whose consistent service to square dancing in your club or in the wider dancing community has caught your attention, please make a note of it on a copy of the Daphne-Norma Nomination Form, which you'll find in our Awards section. (Click [HERE](#) for guidelines, a list of past recipients and a link to the form.)

Send your completed form to the award's most recent

recipients, Stu & Jane Jones, at 53 Dake Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617-2835.

If that's too much trouble, simply send an email to them at Sjones102@rochester.rr.com — with the following information:

Nominee's Name(s)

Your reasons for nominating them

Your name and club affiliation

Your email address and phone number

It's that simple!

Selection for this significant honor is a cumulative process. Nominations are due by the end of February, but they are also held over into future years, and can accumulate to build a compelling case for "your" nominee. So, please don't hesitate. Send in your nomination now!

Copy Cats Halloween

On the Saturday before Halloween, the Copy Cats hosted a full floor of dancers in an astonishing array of costumes!

Photo credit: Jet Thomas











Copy Kittens — Costumes With Class

On the night before Halloween, 2018, the Copy Cats class — the Kittens — showcased their creativity at Bay Trail School in Webster.

Photo credit: Jet Thomas









Special Dance honors memory of Jerry Carmen

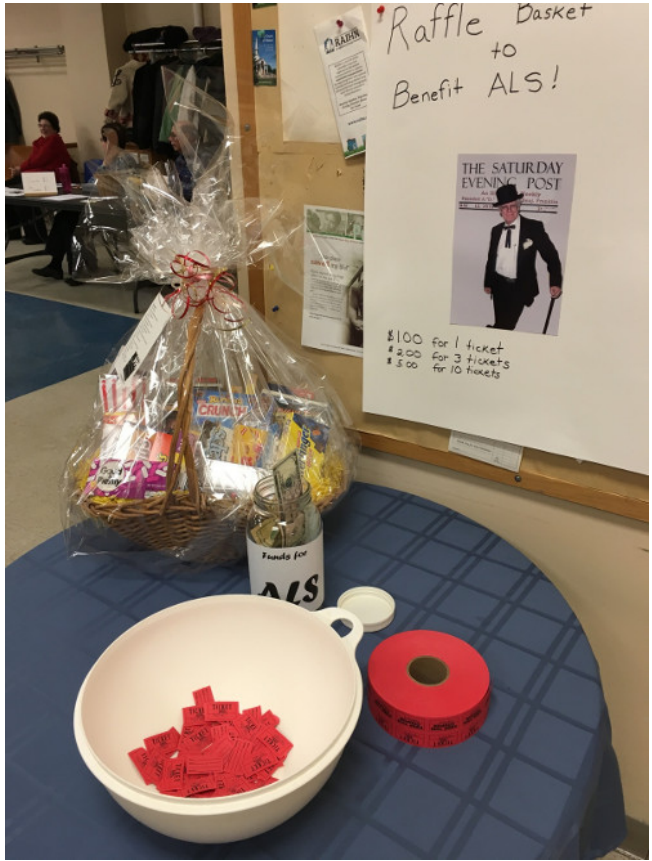
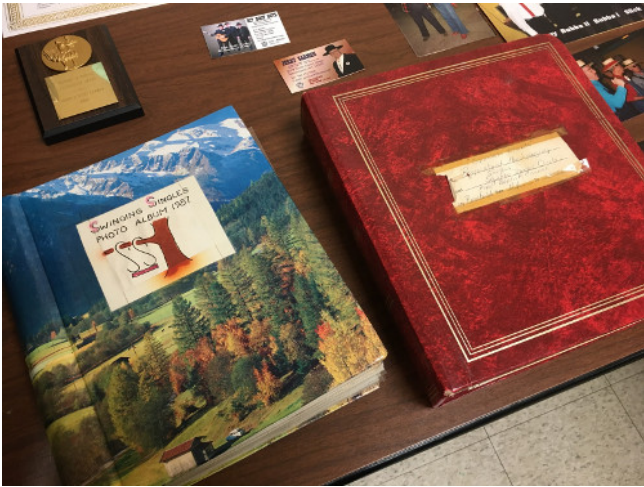
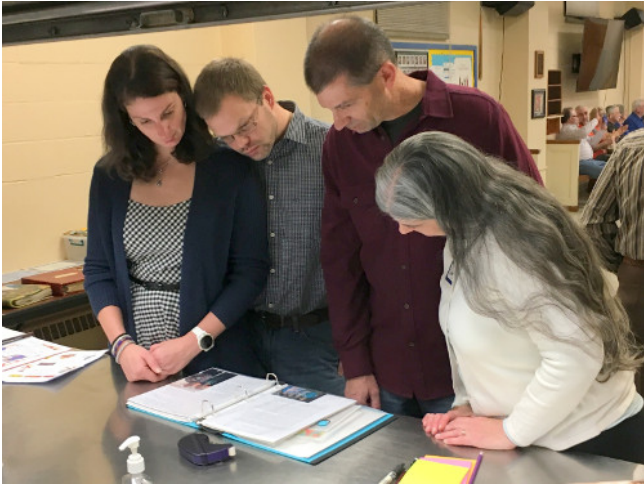
On November 7, the Village Squares welcomed six squares of dancers to honor the memory of their long-time caller Jerry Carmen. A binder filled with anecdotes and messages of appreciation for Jerry was presented to his family, and several folks came to the microphone to offer their own "Jerry stories." The dance was attended by Jerry's wife, Betty, and three of their children plus one son-in-law.

Callers included Gil Porter, the Hip Boot Boys and even Jerry himself on tape. Will Herzog cued a line dance. A basket of movie-related items was raffled off for the benefit of the ALS

Association, and Betty brought in numerous memorabilia items to exchange for ALS donations.

It was a memorable evening and a fitting tribute to our departed caller and friend, who brought music and dancing to folks all across Upstate NY for over fifty years.

Submitted by Peter Emmel



Three Grand Squares

On November 29, Mike Callahan and the Grand Squares in Henrietta drew three squares! You can't see the clock in the photo, but that's the final tip of the evening. Everyone stayed for the whole dance!

Submitted by Peter Emmel



Mary Lee Schweitzer — September 12, 2018

Mary Lee Schweitzer, 77 of Manor House Drive, Auburn, passed away Wednesday, September 12, 2018, with her family by her side. Mrs. Schweitzer was born in Preston, NY on July 25, 1941 to the late Otto L. and Alice M. Barse Shaw.

After 34 years of teaching, Mary Lee retired from Auburn School District. Whether it was teaching, volunteering with the Scat Van or donating more than 20 gallons of blood to the Red Cross, Mary Lee loved to help those in need.

She was a member of the alter guild at Saints Peter and John Church and enjoyed square dancing, lawn mowing and canoeing.

Mary Lee is survived by her loving husband of 30 years, Richard Schweitzer.; her children Ronald (Stephanie) Rulis, Stephen Rulis, Gerald Rulis and Leigh Ann (Thomas) Richards; her step children, Richard (Vikki Le) Schweitzer Jr. Robert (Donna) Schweitzer, Ronald (Julie) Schweitzer, Raymon (Sheila) Schweitzer, Charisse (Paul) Tarnacki, and Holly (Angelo Rivizzigno); seven grandchildren; Two great grandchildren and her brother, Lawrence (Marcia) Shaw.

A graveside service was held on Friday, September 21 at 1:00 pm in Sampson Veteran Memorial Cemetery, Romulus NY.

In lieu of flowers donations in Mary Lee's memory may be made to Saints Peter and John Episcopal Church, 169 Genesee St. Auburn or The Scat Van 17 Nelson St. #3 Auburn.

Arrangements were with White Chapel Funeral Home Inc., 197 South St Auburn NY.

Mary Lee and Dick are familiar to square dancers all across Upstate New York, where Dick has been an active caller for decades.



Submitted by Dick Halstead



Remembering Mary Lee Schweitzer

Irma and I spent the afternoon yesterday, Monday, the 5th of November, 2018, with our long-time friend, and now, "Widower", Richard "Dick" Schweitzer, at his home in a nice Retirement Community of individually owned homes near Auburn, NY. He readily agreed.

Of course, we had called earlier, explaining that we would like to do this tribute to Mary Lee ... further explaining that I had already sent a copy of her Obituary to Peter Emmel, for inclusion in the Promenader; however, that it alone just did not seem sufficient to cover all that this warm and wonderful person had meant to many of us, and especially to those of us that have had the good fortune of becoming especially close friends.

Especially close friends as in: Afternoon and evenings playing our favorite, "Bid Euchre" games; then those Big Dance Weekends, like "Autumn Leaves" in Bennington, Vermont; Or, wintering together in South Texas; and of course those many weekends at "Rocky's", near your Family Camp in Boonville, NY, where Dick, often with Red Bates, did the biggest weekends there, as well as his own busy calling schedule all over upstate.

First, we asked Dick to refresh our memories of dancing together, the first of which was when he was calling for the Geneva Friendship Squares, and later, when we had progressed to that level, with Bob Stern's A Club in Geneva.

Dick first reminded us that he thought we had met at Dottie Reed's Round Dance Club in Newark ... or had it been "Doc" Newman's Round Dance Club in Geneva ... wherever, with Dick often calling, I then occasionally had the opportunity to dance with Mary Lee, and being an excellent Round as well as Square Dancer, it was always a rare joy, and Irma usually took

these rare occasions to "Kibitz", making new friends with others ... an "Art Form" for her, just being herself, often sensitive to people not dancing that needed a friend to chat.

Then came my question: "How did you two meet?" (already being aware theirs was a second marriage for each of them.)

Dick recalled: (Paraphrasing here), As you know, I worked for GE in Syracuse, and like you, had spent time in the remote Northern Regions working on the DEW Line (Defense Early Warning System), protecting the United States from hostile, 'Over the Pole', incursions during that very 'Hot' time of the Cold War. Thus we were living in Syracuse, NY; however, I was also calling for the Spinning Wheels in Auburn.

As you know, my wife had died in the mid 80's of cancer, and our children were all grown, when in 1986, friends, John and Barb Komariski asked if I would go to a dance with them; that they were bringing someone along that needed a partner. I agreed, and when I saw her, I realized that I had seen her before: One night while calling for the Spinning Wheels, this strikingly attractive tall blond lady came in one time; danced, and then left.

But, back to our "Dance Date", that was it! No hand holding, just an enjoyable evening of dancing. Then, polite amicable good-nights when they drove off: That was it!

Next year, 1987, the Komariski's asked me again, but this time, with that level of "Knowing", we, after three or four subsequent, "dates" of our own, progressed to Hand-Holding!

Of course by this time our conversations revealed that she lived on Lime Kiln Road, just off Route 20, East of Auburn, and that I had a home in Syracuse, that had a Swimming Pool.

Roving Reporter

Dick Halstead
dickhalstead@gmail.com



Mary Lee wanted to see my place. We saw it. We went swimming, appropriately attired! ... and, about to leave, she asked:

“Do you think we could live together?”

Simple as that! My almost immediate response was:

“Yes, but only if we were Married!”

Dick smiled at Irma and me, and said in conclusion: John Komariski stood up for me at our wedding at St. Peter/John’s Episcopal Church in Auburn.

They decided after appropriate discussions to both move into “Her Home” on Lime Kiln Road, being close to her teaching duties, and many of Dick’s calling jobs, which as most of you now reading this know, includes almost all clubs in up-state New York over the past forty or more years, notably including long term weekly, “gigs”, at the Pen Yan Friendship Squares, the Cayuga Cut-Ups, etc.

Mary Lee retired from her Remedial Reading teaching job in the Auburn School System at the conclusion of the 1996/97 school year; and told us shortly before she succumbed to cancer: I Danced; Exercised; Never Smoked; was largely a practicing “Vegetarian”; and hand-mowed our lawn ... until shortly before we bought our retirement home, with no lawns to mow! How did I get cancer???

None of us can answer that, Mary Lee, but know that we love you, and pray, along with Hubby Richard, who was continuously by your side, Holding Your Hand, the last three days of your life, comforting you and himself with the thought that, as Children of God, and certain in the knowledge that with the Atoning Grace of the very Son of God, Jesus Christ, we are Eternal Beings, and this is not the end, rather a glorious beginning.

Love You

Dick and Irma Halstead, Roving Reporters, and, Your countless Family and Friends

By Dick Halstead, Roving Reporter



At Their Boonville Log Home



With Red and Ginny Bates



At Rocky’s

Robert (Bob) Otto — November 22, 2018

Robert Otto passed peacefully on Thanksgiving morning, November 22, 2018. He led a long life of faith, which he taught to his children and grandchildren.

As one of the founding parents of Heritage Christian Services, he was a blessing to thousands of men and women with developmental disabilities, one of whom was his daughter.

Robert owned his own company, Trebor Supply, serving hardware stores locally and in the Southern Tier for 34 years until his retirement at age 84. Customers appreciated his care, expertise and strong work ethic.

His grandchildren will always remember Bob's humorous stories, which they will surely share with their children.

Bob's family expressed appreciation to the Highlands at Brighton, citing their excellent care and the way they went "above and beyond" to make his last days comfortable.

For many years, Bob & Gail were members of Shamrock Squares, where Bob was instrumental in obtaining the club's current dance location at the Pieters Family Life Center.

Adapted from Rochester D&C

Photo credit: Dick Halstead

